

## **APPOMATTOX COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

By: Cora V. St. John

Although formed in 1845 from the counties of Buckingham, Prince Edward, Campbell and Charlotte, the Appomattox County Clerk's office only retains records from 1892 forward. In 1892, a suspected chimney fire destroyed all courthouse records, excluding land tax records, resulting in a 47 year gap. Some records of ancestors prior to 1845 can possibly still be found in one of the parent counties.

Appomattox claimed National attention when in 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia at the McClean House in Appomattox Court House to Union General Ulysses S. Grant marking the end to the American Civil War.

Your research efforts in Appomattox County can also be focused on the Appomattox Historical Society Museum and Library which is housed in two locations, the old Appomattox Jail and Clover Village. The Museum and Library is located in the third Appomattox County jail building in the Courthouse Square. The address is 337 Court Street. For 2018, they are open Friday to Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The genealogy and local history library was added in 2016. While there is a small fee for the Museum, use of the library is free.

Clover Hill Village is a living history museum located at 5747 River Ridge Road, Appomattox, VA and located off of Hwy 24 just past the National Park. Clover Hill contains The Vermillion General Store, the Poor House Farm Cabin, the Martin / Grady Family Log Cabin, Civil War Winter Quarters, the Wesley Chapel, the Privy, the Hardy School, the Dixon Memorial Farm Equipment display, Hamilton's Blacksmith Shop and the Pole Barn. You can visit their website at [www.appomattoxhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.appomattoxhistoricalsociety.org) for more information and times of operation.

For those researching an ancestor who may have served in the Civil War, there are two places in Appomattox that should not be overlooked. The Appomattox Court House National Park (described further in this newsletter), and the American Civil War Museum (originally named the Museum of the Confederacy). More information on both can be found online.

## APPOMATTOX COUNTY, VA PLACES OF HISTORIC AND GENEALOGICAL INTEREST

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In continuing to research the genealogical information found in The National Register of Historic Places archives, I found that while Amelia County had many homes with family information listed, Appomattox is poorly lacking. Though formed over 100 years after Amelia County, there were certainly people living in the area now known as Appomattox County. Yet, not one home is on the list. There are only six sites presently listed, the last of which was added in 2012.

The **Appomattox River Bridge** is located on Route 24 and within the Appomattox Court House National Park. Built in the 1930's to commemorate the ending of the War Between the States, the bridge spans across the Appomattox River. The unusual design of this bridge incorporates the designs of both the Confederate flag and the stars and stripes of the Union flag. Though some changes have been made since its original construction, it remains a tribute to the sacrifices of the brave men on both sides.



The **Appomattox Court House National Park**, also located on Route 24 about three miles from the town of Appomattox, was created in 1935, and added to the Historic Register in 1966. At that time, the park consisted of 1325 acres, but has since increased to 1770 acres. Originally known as “Clover Hill”, the village was a stagecoach stop between Richmond and Lynchburg. On April 9, 1865 in this small village with a population of approximately 100 Robert E. Lee surrendered his Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant, thus ending the War Between the States.

A man by the name of Hugh Raine owned the property from 1842 when he obtained it from his brother, John Raine, who had defaulted on his loans.

**Buildings within the park include:**

**Clover Hill Tavern**, the kitchen and guest house were all originally built in 1819 by Alexander Patterson for stagecoach travelers. Restoration took place in 1954.

**The Mariah Wright House** was built in 1823 by her husband Pryor Wright. Upon his death in 1851, the house was inherited by Mariah.

**The Bocock-Isbell House** was built 1849-50 by brothers, Thomas S. and Henry F. Bocock. Thomas was speaker of the Confederate House of Representatives. Henry was Clerk of Court for Appomattox County between 1845 and 1860. Another brother, Willis, was Virginia Attorney General in 1853. However, it was Lewis Isbell who was Commonwealth Attorney for Appomattox County during the Civil War, who was living in the house at the time of the surrender.

The Bocock-Isbell smokehouse and outside kitchen were also built 1849-50.

**The Plunkett – Meeks Store** was built in 1852 by John H. Plunkett. In the early 1860's the store was purchased by Francis Meeks who served as postmaster and druggist. It later became the home of a local Presbyterian minister who gave it to his church as a manse.

The Plunkett – Meeks Store storage building and stable were both built circa 1850 by John H. Plunkett.

**The New County Jail** sits directly across the street from the first jail. Though the building of this facility began before 1860, it was not completed until after the War in 1870. It served as a jail until the county seat was moved in 1892. From then until 1940, it served as a polling station for Clover Hill. It was restored in 1959.

**The Woodson Law Office** was built circa 1851 and purchased by John W. Woodson, one of several lawyers practicing in the village, in 1856. It served him until his death from typhoid on July 1, 1864.

**The Peers House** was built prior to 1855 when it was sold by a Mr. McDearmon to William Abbott who in turn sold it to Mr. D.A. Plunkett in 1856. George Peers,

Clerk of Court for Appomattox County for 40 years, lived there at the time of the surrender and later purchased it at public auction after Mr. Plunkett died in 1870.

**The Kelly House** was probably built between 1845 and 1860 for Lorenzo D. Kelly who was a wheelwright. After the War, the house was inhabited by a black shoemaker and his wife who are buried in a small graveyard behind the house.

**The Sweeney Prizery** is one of the oldest buildings in the park, with an assigned build date of approximately 1790. It was a residence and prizery (a tobacco packing house) for Alexander Sweeney. In 1865 it was owned by Major Joel W. Flood.

**The Charles Sweeney Cabin** was believed to have been built around 1840 by Mr. Charles Sweeney.

**The Sweeney – Conner Cabin** Is believed to have been built by Jennings W. Conner and his bride Missouri Sweeney between 1860 and 1865.

**The J.N. Williams Cabin's** exact build date is unknown, but believed to have been in place in 1865.

**The Original Courthouse** was constructed in 1846, the year after Appomattox was formed. However, because it was closed on Palm Sunday, it played no part in the surrender. It was this courthouse that burned in 1892 and resulted in the loss of county records from 1845. With the loss of this courthouse, the citizens voted to move the county seat to nearby Appomattox Station (now Appomattox). The Courthouse well house was reconstructed over the original well.

**The McLean House** was built in 1848 as a Tavern by Mr. Charles Raine and purchased by Mr. Wilmer McLean in 1863. This was the site of Lee's surrender to Grant on April 9, 1865. It was dismantled in 1892 with plans to be an exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, then it was to be reassembled in Washington D.C. as a Civil War Museum. Neither came to fruition. So in 1948 it was finally reconstructed on its original site and opened to the public in 1950.

The McLean well house, ice house, privy, outside kitchen are all reconstructions of the original 1848 structures as are many other buildings that help tell the story of the surrender.

**Cemeteries and Gravesites** within the park. The grave of:  
Lafayette Meeks, Son of  
Francis and Maria Meeks  
Born March 2, 1843  
And died in the defense of his country  
October 4, 1861 at Fairfax C.H., VA

**The Confederate Cemetery** property is owned by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. There are 19 soldiers buried in this cemetery.....19 Confederate and 1 Union who died on the last day of fighting. Only 8 of these soldier's names are known. This list is available on our website at [www.scvgs.com](http://www.scvgs.com) .

**The Raine Cemetery** is marked by a monument erected around 1910 by C. Hunter Raine, son of Charles James Raine. Raine served as a Captain in the Lee Battery of Virginia Artillery and was killed on November 30, 1863 near Mine Run, east of Culpepper, Virginia. Nine graves are identified. A slave plot has been identified just east of the family cemetery.

**The O'Brien Cemetery** contains markers mostly of the O'Brien family. Two former Confederate soldiers, Jennings Conner and John H. O'Brien are buried there.

**The Robinson Cemetery** is surrounded by a board fence behind the Kelly House. This is a post-Civil War family plot.

**The Wright Family Cemetery** is reportedly located south of the west porch of the Mariah Wright House. Contains no marked graves.

**Herman Methodist Church Cemetery** is located at the entrance of the North Carolina monument. The Church was relocated at the turn of the century, but the cemetery is still in use.

**The Presbyterian Church Cemetery** is located southeast of the Kelly House. Once difficult to locate, it is now marked.

**The Patteson – Hix Cemetery** is located in a fenced in area beyond the Clover Hill Tavern Slave Quarters and contains members of the family of Alexander Patteson and Wilson Hix. William and Lucy Hix graves are marked as well as those of 2 children of Edward Hix. One grave is marked A.E.H. Five fieldstones mark other graves.

The **Appomattox Historic District** is a large area of downtown Appomattox (once known as Nebraska) containing 306 contributing 144 non-contributing resources. While far too numerous to mention them all, this area contains the Courthouse Square, several commercial blocks surrounding the railroad tracks and 1923 depot, as well as many homes in many architectural styles, with most of these homes owned by prominent members of the town and county.

**Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center** is surrounded by 19,808 acres of forest land and adjacent to the 150 acre Holliday Lake. The 4-H Camp was originally built by the Worker's Progress Administration (WPA) in 1937, but not used as such until 1941. These camps were intended to be temporary facilities and most were

disassembled in the 1950's. It is therefore remarkable that many of these buildings are still in existence.

**Holliday Lake State Park** is a state park located within the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest. It contains a 150 acre recreational lake known for swimming, fishing, and boating. There campsites, playgrounds and picnic areas also available. (Notice the State Park and the 4-H Center spell their names differently.)

**Pamplin Pipe Factory** sits on 2.96 acres of land in the town of Pamplin. The factory was built in 1879 and has also been known as Merrill and Ford, the Akron Smoking Pipe Company and the Pamplin Smoking Pipe and Manufacturing Company. Presently located on the property are a wood framed building, a deteriorated brick kiln and a collapsed brick chimney. In its day, it was the largest clay pipe manufacturer in the United States. Pipes manufactured here have been found in many archaeological sites and some are actually on display in the Smithsonian.



### **CONFEDERATE CEMETERY**

Ashby, John William, of Stone Bridge, Clarke County, d. 9 Apr 1865, Co. I. 12th Virginia Cavalry

Demesme, Oscar, enlisted 13 Sep 1861, Co. D. Donaldsonville (Louisiana) Artillery  
Douglas, J. W.

Hicks, Alanson B., d. 9 Apr 1865, Co. D. 26th Virginia Infantry, enlisted 28 May 1861 at Mathews Court House, Virginia

Hogan, John A., d. 10 Apr 1865, Co. E. 26th Georgia Infantry, enlisted on 20 May 1861 in Brunswick

Hutchins, Jesse H., d. 8 Apr 1865, Co. H. 5th Alabama Battalion Infantry, enlisted 15 Apr 1861 at Livingston, Alabama

Macon, Miles Cary, d. 8 Apr 1865, 38th Battalion Virginia Artillery, enlisted 25 Apr 1861 at 23 yrs. in Richmond

Winn, Francis M., d. 9 Apr 1865, Co. E. 9th Georgia Artillery, enlisted 6 May 1862 in Atlanta

There are 11 graves of unknown soldiers, one being a Union soldier.

### **PATTESON – HIX CEMETERY**

There are indications of at least thirteen people who may be buried in this cemetery. Only those listed below are known.

Lucy H. Gouldman Hix, 13 April 1813 – 26 Jan 1872

Wilson Hix, 12 Oct 1795 – 26 Mar 1875

Adam Mozelle, (dates unknown)

Alexander Patteson, 9 Jan 1785 - 23 Jan 1835

Claudius Oscar Patteson, 29 Dec 1824 – 2 Jul 1825

Lillborn Patteson, 6 Oct 1783 – 1 Apr 1817

Martha Ann Patteson, Unknown – 5 Apr 1835

Mary Diuguid Patteson, 1 Nov 1810 – 28 Feb 1836

### **RAINE MONUMENT AND CEMETERY**

Ann Eliza Raine 12/23/1848 to 8/10/1850

Charles Clifford Homer 1850 to 4/17/1851

Eliza D. Raine 1J/04/1805 to 8/3/1856

John Raine 4/12/1795 to 4/17/1851

Ezekiel Adelbert Horner 1845 to 4/16/1855

Sarah Ann Eliza Horner 4/12/1828 to 6/16/1853

[Infant] Raine 4/16/1855 to 8/16/1856

John F. W. Raine 12/20/1853 to 10/05/1861

Charles J. Raine About 1834 to 11/30/1863

