

Adj. Gen. A. N. V. Jr.
Adjutant Gen. A.
April 10th 1865.

Gen Order }
No 9 }

After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage & fortitude the Army of N. V. has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers & resources. I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard fought battles who have remained steadfast to the last that I have consented to this result from no distrust to them. But feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuance of the contest I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whom past services have endeared them to their countrymen. By the terms of the agreement officers and men can return to their homes and remain until exchanged.
You will take with you ^{the satisfaction that proceeds from} the consciousness of

duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly
pray that a merciful God will extend to
you his blessing & protection with an unceasing
admiration of your constancy & devotion to
your country and grateful remembrance of
your kind & generous consideration for myself
I bid you an affectionate farewell.

{Signed}

R. E. Lee Genl.



William S Pilcher, 13th Battalion Virginia Light Artillery Co. A Otey Battery



APCO 11591 William Pilcher Coat

Reading to accompany W. S. Pilcher items.

This letter was sent by John Hampden Chamberlayne to his family following the Appomattox Court House Surrender. Chamberlayne and Pilcher belonged to the same Artillery Bsttery. Both chose not to participate in the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. Unlike Chamberlayne though, Pilcher did not make it very far from Appomattox Court House before deciding it best for him to turn himself over to Union authorities. Pilcher was paroled in Lynchburg Virginia, only about 30 miles west of Appomattox Court House by April 12th. Chamberlayne had plans of joining up with General Johnston's Confederate army in North Carolina but eventually surrendering in Atlanta Georgia on May 12 1865.

Chamberlayne, C. G. editor Ham Chamberlayne- Virginian: Letters of an Artillery Officer, A. N. V. Richmond,VA. The Dietz Press. 1932

Halifax Co. 12th April {1865}

. . . My dear brother & sister,

I am by no means conquered yet- Behold me here, so far safe & well-McIntosh with me- We refused to take part in the funeral at Appomattox C. H. & cut or crept our way out. Fatigued to death-Farewell- No body killed that you know or love but Willy P. I am off for Miss-No notion of laying down my arms-Probably make Texas during the Summer- My last request-Get letters certifying to my Captaincy & my character Charles Venable-Waltor Taylor- H Heth-Malone or any body whose rank will give weight-My Commissions were burnt in the wagon-I am going off with what I have on- I shall make it, never fear-My love to Daniels Sue & all friends- Haxalls-

My brother, you must look after those stocks getting Mr. G. A. Myer's aid-Try your best to save them-It can be done with aid of Myers & Robinsons-Specially young John.

Also you might try to recover the farm now in Horace West's hands. I shall never see you again Farewell to Virginia and to you to (sic) both.

Love to Geo.- & the chap_ To Gordon McCabe & Mrs. Harry Heth.

God protect you

as always your

most affect- bro-

J. H. C.