



## *Voiture 1379 Communiqué for May 2024*

REPORTS: It is that time of the year for preparing the annual reports. If you would please take a moment to make a list of your activities for the last year (HOURS, MILES, DOLLARS) and turn them in so they may be added to the annual V#1379 reports.

Its close to time to elect new Voiture officers. If you are interested in an office please let us know.

The Chef de Gare elect will be looking for people to fill directure positions.

The Voiture is looking for fundraising ideas to help raise funds for the various programs we want to support.

CIVIL WAR: The surrender terms presented at Appomattox Court House it is interesting to note that the final draft was written by an American Indian, Ely Parker. Parker had been born on the Tonawanda Reservation in western New York, part of the League of Haudenosaunee (also known as Six Nations or Iroquois). He was taught at a nearby Baptist Mission school where he took the name Ely Parker. Parker studied law but could not sit for the bar because he was an Indian. He then studied engineering and worked as an engineer during the construction of the Erie Canal. At the age of 29 he moved to Galena, Illinois, where he was supervising the construction of a U.S. Custom House. At this time he met an ex-US army officer who was wasting time and bored with the work in his father's general store. The man was none other than Ulysses S. Grant. Grant and Parker became friends and three years later Parker served under Grant during the war. When it came time for the final draft of the surrender, Parker was considered the man to turn to since he was a sound wordsmith and a man with beautiful penmanship. At the actual surrender, General Lee remarked to Parker, "I am glad to see one real American here." Parker later stated, "I shook his hand and said, 'We are all Americans.'"

One other thing to know is to be careful if two great armies ever want to negotiate in your parlor. They may end up taking your furniture. The McLean household lost many items after the surrender, including the chairs where the two generals sat as well as the spindle-legged table that was placed between them. The chair that Lee used, a high cane-backed chair, was taken by Union General E. W. Whitaker where it made its way to an organization of Union veterans. The chair was awarded as a prize to the top ticket seller for a benefit and for many years was part of the collection at the Connecticut Historical Society where every veteran was encouraged to sit in it. The chair was donated to the Smithsonian in 1915. Grant's chair was claimed by a Union officer, General Henry Capeheart, who later gave it to another general, who bequeathed it to the Smithsonian. According to Kurin the chair bears an inscription: "This is the chair in which Genl. U.S. Grant sat when he signed the Articles of Capitulation resulting in the surrender of the Confederate Army by Genl. R. E. Lee at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, April 9th, 1865."

This months Promenade will be on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Post 61 with dinner at 18:00 HRS and the Promenade will begin at 19:00 HRS.

Thank you for your service to Our Great Nation, your service to 40et8 through Voiture 1379. If we all work together we can and do make a difference.

**Robert C. Emery, Correspondant Locale, Voiture 1379**