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***THE
NEW ANNALS
OF THE CIVIL WAR***

***Edited by Peter Cozzens
& Robert I. Girardi***

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Jefferson Davis' Week at Danville

WILLIAM D. COLEMAN,
18TH VIRGINIA INFANTRY, C.S.A.

Philadelphia *Weekly Times* 5, no. 14, May 28, 1881

When the chief officials of the Confederate States fled from Richmond on the memorable night of April 2, 1865—taking with them the hurriedly gathered archives of the Confederacy—they proceeded as rapidly as the worn-out rails and burned-out locomotives of the Richmond and Danville Railroad would permit to the then small town of Danville, on the south side of Dan River, within three miles of the state line dividing Virginia from North Carolina, by the ancient survey of Col. William Byrd, of Westover. Here they halted with the purpose of establishing anew the capital of the Confederacy, hoping for General [Robert E.] Lee to realign his army along the Staunton River, and resolved (as their president, Jefferson Davis, proclaimed) to “meet the foe with fresh defiance, with unconquered and unconquerable hearts.”

About 3:00 P.M. on Monday, April 3, five trains of cars reached Danville, bringing President Davis, several members of his cabinet and other government officials, some members of the Virginia legislature and a few private citizens of distinction. In the forenoon of the same day, some hours before the arrival of these trains, but when it was known that they were en route, the citizens of the town in general had assembled at the call of James M. Walker, then mayor, and appointed a committee to make all necessary arrangements for throwing open the houses in the town for the hospitable reception and entertainment of President Davis and the other government officials and the private citizens accompanying him. The committee was

composed of the following citizens: Captain W. T. Clark, the Rev. C. H. Hall (Methodist), the Rev. J. M. Kirkpatrick (Presbyterian), the Rev. C. C. Chaplin (Baptist), William Ayres, Dr. J. M. Smith, Dr. J. M. Waddill, and Messrs. C. W. Watkins, P. W. Ferrell, and E. N. Sorey. At the same meeting of citizens the mayor and the president and members of the town council were appointed a committee to meet the distinguished refugees on their arrival at the depot and tender them the hospitalities of the town.

Both of these committees zealously discharged the duties assigned them. On the arrival of the trains President Davis and several members of his staff, after their formal reception by the mayor and the town council, were invited by Mr. [William T.] Sutherlin, then the post quartermaster at Danville, into his private carriage and conveyed to his elegant residence near the head of Main Street, where they became his guests. All the other refugee Confederates were also received with cordial hospitality, and that night there were but few families in the town which had not some of them as guests.

It is quite foreign to my purpose in preparing this paper to attempt any description of the scenes and incidents of the week succeeding the arrival of the Confederate officials at Danville—"the last capital of the Confederacy." The excitement and apprehension among the resident population, the anxiety and solicitude among the recently arrived were, in truth, almost indescribable. All the telegraph lines had been cut down or otherwise rendered unavailable for the transmission of information, and there was no mode of communication between the town and the armed forces of the Confederacy in any direction. The railroad bridges between it and Richmond had nearly all been destroyed, and no trains were running or could run any considerable distance in that direction. Southward there was limited communication with Goldsboro, fifty miles distant, by the Piedmont Railroad and thence toward Charlotte, North Carolina; but this limited means of communication was entirely monopolized by the Confederate officials, and was, moreover, hourly threatened with immediate destruction by a cavalry raid which [Maj. Gen. George] Stoneman was then making from the direction of Southwest Virginia through Northwest North Carolina, which [Maj. Gen. William T.] Sherman's army, having accomplished its famous "March to the Sea," was known to be approaching from southeastern North Carolina. No communication could be had with General Lee's army and even its exact location was unknown, while the whereabouts of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and his army were altogether conjectural among the people in Danville at that time. But right nobly did they stand the test of such a situation. Old

and young, men, women and children, their hearts were in the cause and they deemed no sacrifice too great, even then in the waning fortunes of that cause, for them to make in its behalf. But my purpose is simply to embody herein a narrative of facts touching the last days of the Confederacy which may interest those who wish to know what was the conduct and bearing of the chief actors in those historical events.

On the morning of April 4, being the next day after his arrival in Danville, President Davis prepared an "Address to the People of the Confederate States of America." This address was published in but one newspaper of the period because there was no way by which it could be sent to any other. From a copy of the *Danville Register*, dated April 5, 1865, now before me—a little 12x18 sheet, printed on the dingy substance known as "Confederate printing paper," and now still dingier from age—I transcribe as follows:

To the People of the Confederate States of America:

The general-in-chief of our army has found it necessary to make such movements of the troops as to uncover the capital, and thus involve the withdrawal of the government from the city of Richmond. It would be unwise, even if it were possible, to conceal the great moral, as well as material, injury to our cause that must result from the occupation of Richmond by the enemy. It is equally unwise and unworthy of us, as patriots engaged in a most sacred cause, to allow our energies to falter, our spirits to grow faint, or our efforts to become relaxed under reverses, however calamitous. While it has been to us a source of national pride that, for four years of unequalled warfare, we have been able in close proximity to the center of the enemy's power to maintain the seat of our chosen government free from the pollution of his presence; while the memories of the heroic dead, who have freely given their lives to its defense must ever remain enshrined in our hearts; while the preservation of the capital, which is usually regarded as the evidence to mankind of separate existence, was an object very dear to us, it is also true and should not be forgotten, that the loss we have suffered is not without compensation. For many months the largest and finest army of the Confederacy, under the command of a leader whose presence inspires equal confidence in the troops and the people, has been greatly trammled by the necessity of keeping constant watch over the approaches to the capital, and

has thus been forced to forego more than one opportunity for promising enterprise. The hopes and confidence of the enemy have been constantly excited by the belief that their possession of Richmond would be the signal for our submission to their rule, and relieve them from the burden of a war which, as their failing resources admonish them, must be abandoned if not speedily brought to a successful close. It is for us, my countrymen, to show by our bearing under reverses how wretched has been the self-deception of those who have believed us less able to endure misfortune with fortitude than to encounter danger with courage.

We have now entered upon a new phase of a struggle, the memory of which is to endure for all ages, and to shed ever increasing luster upon our country. Relieved from the necessity of guarding cities and particular points, important but not vital to our defense, with our army free to move from point to point, and strike in detail the detachments and garrisons of the enemy, operating in the interior of our own country, where supplies are more impossible, and where the foe will be far removed from his own base and cut off from succor in case of reverse, nothing is now needed to render our triumph certain but the exhibition of our own unconquerable resolve. Let us but will it and we are free, and who, in the light of the past, dare doubt your purpose in the future?

Animated by that confidence in your spirit and fortitude, which never yet has failed me, I announce to you, fellow countrymen, that it is my purpose to maintain your cause with my whole heart and soul; that I will never consent to abandon to the enemy one foot of the soil of any one of the states of the Confederacy; that Virginia—noble state, whose ancient renown has been eclipsed by her still more glorious recent history; whose bosom has been bared to receive the main shock of this war; whose sons and daughters have exhibited heroism so sublime as to render her illustrious in all time to come; that Virginia, with the help of the people and by the blessing of Providence, shall be held and defended, and no peace ever made with the infamous invaders of her homes by the sacrifice of any of her rights or territory. If by stress of numbers we should ever be compelled to a temporary withdrawal from her limits or those of any other border state, again and again will we return, until the baffled and exhausted enemy shall abandon in despair his endless and impossible task of making slaves of a

people resolved to be free. Let us, then, not despond, my countrymen, but relying on the never-failing and protecting care of our God, let us meet the foe with fresh defiance, with unconquered and unconquerable hearts.

Jefferson Davis.

Danville, April 4, 1865

This address appeared on Wednesday morning April 5, 1865. Its effect upon the public mind as far as it could be disseminated among the people was exciting, reassuring, and encouraging. The impression prevailed universally, or at least as far as I could observe, that President Davis intended to maintain the Confederate government to the bitter end, and that under no circumstances would he consent to the removal of the capital of the Confederacy and the archives of the government beyond the Virginia state line. That this impression was erroneous the swiftly coming subsequent events too plainly showed for comment now. But the prevalence of this impression created great popularity for President Davis, and praises of his presumed determined purpose were to be heard on every hand. Still there was great anxiety among the people, which became greater and greater as day after day passed and nothing could be heard from Lee's army. Wednesday and Thursday passed in this terrible uncertainty and anxiety, and day after day in like manner, until at last on the Monday evening following, as will be shown in the sequel, came at last, not "news of battle," but of overthrow. More than one party of volunteer scouts went forth from the town, going in the supposed direction of Lee's army, hoping to bring back intelligence there from, but none of these parties had succeeded up to Friday morning. That morning Capt. [William P.] Graves, formerly commanding Company A (Danville Blues) 18th Regiment Virginia Infantry, was sent for by Col. [Robert E.] Withers, then commanding the post at Danville, and by him requested to report to [Brig. Gen. Henry H.] Walker for a special service. Captain Graves had just returned from a voluntary scouting expedition into North Carolina, west of the Piedmont Railroad, which he had made at the request of Colonel Withers, in order to ascertain the facts in relation to the reported raid of Stoneman in that section of the country.

At this point I might describe the situation of affairs in Danville at the time under consideration; how President Davis with his cabinet ministers was in almost continual consultation; how the heads of departments were busily at work reorganizing their clerical corps and getting the government "in working order" at this newly chosen capital of the Confederacy; and how, above all, not a whisper of a suspicion even that Lee would ever sur-

render, or that his army could ever be vanquished, was heard from any quarter. But I shall refrain from any extended digression and conclude this paper with a simple narrative of how the news of Lee's surrender was obtained and brought to President Davis, and how it was received by him. And this I will do as nearly as I can in the words of Captain Graves, who obtained and delivered this crushing intelligence to Mr. Davis in person, and who has related the story to me.

Captain Graves is herewith quoted:

I reported to General Walker, as requested by Colonel Withers, and he asked me if I would undertake an important service which it was necessary should be promptly performed. I readily consented, of course. General Walker then told me that President Davis desired that the present location of the Army of Northern Virginia should be ascertained at once and a line of couriers established between General Lee's headquarters and the nearest point from which telegraphic communication could be had with Danville. The telegraph wires along the line of the Richmond and Danville Railroad had been repaired as far, I believe, as Roanoke Station, on Staunton River, and it was proposed to continue the repairs on to Drake's Branch in Charlotte County, some fifteen miles further on, and establish telegraphic communication from that point to Danville. General Walker then directed me to proceed at once to Drake's Branch and take command of a company of cavalry which he was informed had been raised in the neighborhood and which he said I would find there.

With this company of cavalry he directed me to go and find General Lee's headquarters and establish the line of couriers from there to Drake's Branch. He gave me authority to take a special train—consisting of a locomotive and a single car—from the Richmond and Danville Railroad to carry me over the line of that road to Drake's Branch.

Accordingly, on the afternoon of the same day (Friday, April 7), I left Danville on my "special train," no one attending me except the engineer and fireman. We made the run from Danville to Clover Depot, a distance of some forty-six miles, in pretty good time, and on arriving there I reliably ascertained that there was no such company of cavalry at Drake's Branch as General Walker had told me I would find there, and in consequence I saw I would have

to change the plan of operations I had in mind on starting from Danville.

At Clover Depot I was joined by Captain R. L. Henley, the enrolling officer (generally called "conscript officer") for that district, and he accompanied me on to Drake's Branch at once. Here we met Maj. Richard V. Gaines, who lived near by and had enlisted a small party of volunteers, consisting in part of citizens of the neighborhood and in part of soldiers belonging to the army who happened to be at home (on sick leave, I believe), with purpose to go through the country in search of information touching the whereabouts and movements of General Lee's army. Some of these volunteers were pretty well mounted and others but poorly so. Major Gaines agreed to turn this party over to me for the expedition I had been sent upon by General Walker, but they could not be gotten together and made ready to set out until next morning, as it was then already night.

Upon this understanding I concluded to return to Clover Depot with Captain Henley and spend the night there, as I could find no place at Drake's Branch to stay at. I accordingly returned to Clover Depot and remained there quiet until next morning.

On Saturday morning, April 8, I took my special train at Clover Depot again and, accompanied by Captain Henley, proceeded to Drake's Branch and there took charge of the party of volunteers which Major Gaines had gotten together. The party consisted of about fifteen men, but I can now recollect the names of but a few of them. Those whose names I recollect were John H. Redd, Isaac Overbrey, Ben Franklin Jenkins (a Northern man, who was on a visit South when the war commenced and volunteered as a Confederate soldier), and Luther Jeffress, a lad only seventeen or eighteen years old. The names of the others, all of whom were entire strangers to me, I cannot now recall.

With this party, some of whom were but poorly mounted, I left Drake's Branch on Saturday morning (April 8), intending to proceed by the most direct route practicable to reach some point on the South Side Railroad, above Farmville, hoping by so doing to obtain the intelligence I was seeking in the speediest manner. We proceeded by way of Charlotte Court House, which is a little village called Marysville, five miles from Drake's Branch, and here we were detained several hours in getting together some better horses,

which were needed for those of the party who were poorly mounted; but we got our needed horses and got away from Marysville about noon, intending to go by way of Chickentown and make directly for Pamplin's Depot on the South Side Railroad, about twenty miles west of Farmville. On reaching Concord on Sunday I found I could not there obtain any reliable information as to the whereabouts of General Lee or the situation of his army. Strange that there, within less than twenty miles of the spot on which at that very hour the supreme transaction of the whole four years' war was being enacted, the people whom we encountered could tell us nothing of what was going on. But most of the few people whom we saw seemed to be dazed and bewildered and hardly able to give intelligent answers to simple questions.

Getting no satisfactory information at Newlin's Store we proceeded along the line of the South Side Railroad in an easterly direction, intending to keep on to Farmville, if necessary, but determined not to turn back until I had gotten the information I had been sent to obtain or was captured by the enemy in trying to do it. But we had proceeded but a few miles along the line of the railroad when we encountered [Brig. Gen.] Thomas L. Rosser, who was attended by and in command of a remnant of his Confederate Cavalry Brigade. I was personally acquainted with General Rosser, having formed his acquaintance at the first battle of Manassas, when he was in command of one of the batteries of the Washington Artillery from New Orleans, and I had also met him several times subsequently after he had gone into the cavalry arm of the service. After our mutual recognition and the exchange of salutations, I informed General Rosser of the mission on which I had been sent, of my anxiety to accomplish it and of the importance of my being able to return to Danville with the required intelligence for President Davis as speedily as possible. Thereupon he took me aside, with Captain Henley, who was accompanying me, and in a sort of confidential manner imparted to us the most disastrous intelligence I could possibly bear to President Davis. He told us of the overthrow of the Army of Northern Virginia. He also related an astounding story to the effect that General Lee had disappeared the previous night and that [Lt. Gen. James P.] Longstreet was at that hour, while we were speaking, at [Lt. Gen. Ulysses S.] Grant's headquarters making a total surrender of the Confederate army.

He went on to say further that, with the remnant of his command of cavalry accompanying him, he intended to go on to Lynchburg and there join in with [Maj. Gen. Lunsford L.] Lomax and whatever cavalry General Lomax might have, and having united their forces, he and General Lomax would push on and make their way into North Carolina, there join Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's army and continue the fight. With great animation, General Rosser exclaimed at this point: "By God, sir, the cavalry ain't whipped!"

After some little further conversation General Rosser counseled us that it would be futile to attempt to proceed onwards, for that if we did we would most certainly be captured by the enemy. He urged this dissuasion upon me with great earnestness. Upon this advice I returned to my party, whom I had left at some paces distant, and informed them that I had learned that if we proceeded any further we should probably all be captured by the enemy. I told them that as to myself, I intended to go on and take the risk of capture, for I was unwilling to turn back, without fuller information than I had as yet obtained, but I did not wish any man of the party to go on with me unless by his own free will and accord he, knowing the risk, was willing to take it with me. I then directed that all who wished to turn back and go home should fall out of ranks and go at once. The whole party thereupon fell out of ranks and turned back except Captain R. L. Henley and Mr. John H. Redd. Captain Henley had been with me when General Rosser was telling me what he did, as I have related, and knew it all as well as I did, but it was different with Mr. Redd, so I took him aside and told him exactly and in detail just what information General Rosser had imparted to me, and added that I was unwilling to take him along with me under any possible misapprehension of the situation; but that if, with full knowledge of the risk to be run, he was still willing to go with me I would be glad to have him do so. He said he would go.

All my party except Captain Henley and Mr. Redd having thus turned back and left me, I bid General Rosser farewell, and he went on his way toward Lynchburg. With Captain Henley and Mr. Redd, I proceeded further along the line of the railroad for a mile or so and then we met [Brig. Gen. Thomas T.] Munford, who was coming along alone, though at that time I believe in command of [Brig. Gen. Williams C.] Wickham's old brigade of cavalry. With

him, also, I was personally acquainted and on meeting we exchanged salutations. After a few moments' conversation in the nature of inquiries and answers, I informed him also of the mission on which I had been sent, as I had previously informed General Rosser. General Munford then told me that General Lee (and not General Longstreet, as General Rosser had said) was at that hour at General Grant's headquarters surrendering the Army of Northern Virginia. He advised me to go on and try to get full information to take back to President Davis, and said that two miles further down the railroad I would come to our picket, in sight of whom was also the Yankee picket. He further advised me, if possible, to get under convoy of one of the flags of truce he said I would find frequently passing between General Grant's headquarters and our own lines, and by that means I might get access to General Lee. On getting access to General Lee I could inform him of the president's presence in Danville and of the mission on which I had been sent.

I at once determined to take this advice, and parting with General Munford I pressed on with Captain Henley and Mr. Redd until we came to the picket station which General Munford had mentioned. We found it a short distance off the line of the railroad track and upon a country road running parallel thereto. On reaching the camp of this picket station I asked for the officer in command. He appeared and we introduced each other. His name I cannot now remember, but I do remember that he had the rank of colonel, I informed him of the mission on which I had been sent from Danville, mentioned my meeting with General Rosser and General Munford, and the advice which the latter had given me, and then requested him to allow me as quickly as possible to accompany a flag of truce to General Grant's headquarters, so that I might obtain an interview with General Lee. But he positively refused to allow me to do so. I then remained at this picket camp several hours entirely inactive, a mere looker-on, because I could do nothing further. During this time I saw several flags of truce passing and re-passing between our lines and the Yankee lines, but could get no information as to the particulars of what was going on.

About 4:00 P.M., I had utterly despaired of being able to communicate with General Lee at all and was pondering in my mind as to what I had best do under the circumstances. But I concluded to demand a further conference with the colonel who was in command of the picket post. He readily accorded it. At this conference

the colonel urged it upon me that it was entirely impracticable for me to see General Lee; that I had obtained full and perfectly reliable information of the fact that the surrender of the army was taking place and in a few hours would be completed, and that if I remained longer I would also be embraced in the surrender and detained as a prisoner. He suggested that it was best for me to set out at once on my return to Danville and report to President Davis the information I had obtained. After considering the matter I concluded to adopt the colonel's suggestions, and accordingly at four that Sunday afternoon I, together with Captain Henley and Mr. Redd, set out to return to Danville, bearing the tidings I had obtained.

We retraced our way back along the line of the railroad a short distance, and then leaving the railroad to the right, made directly by way of the country roads for Campbell Court House, which we reached about sunset. On arriving at Campbell Court House we heard a rumor that a considerable body of Yankee raiders were advancing upon the village. Surmising that this party of raiders was the same which had made a foray upon the village of Chickentown the previous day, and which we had made a detour to avoid, I considered it best to get away from Campbell Court House as quickly as possible so as to avoid them again.

At Campbell Court House we were joined by Colonel R. W. Withers; we left that village very speedily and went on, making our way by the most direct route, over the country roads to Danville. From Campbell Court House we went directly to the residence of Mr. Payne, who was the father-in-law of Colonel Withers, our guide. This house was about four miles from Pannill's Bridge, across Staunton River, and we reached it about an hour before daybreak. Here we were hospitably entertained, Captain Henley, Mr. Redd, and myself, provided with a good supper, comfortable beds in which we slept for an hour or two, and then after breakfast, about sunrise, proceeded on our way to Danville, leaving Colonel Withers at the house of his father-in-law.

We proceeded rather leisurely until we got to Pannill's Bridge and Pannill's Store, which are in sight of each other, but here we learned that no one had crossed Pannill's Bridge with news of Lee's surrender, and I therefore decided that it was highly important for us to hurry on and bear the news to Danville as quickly as possible. Previously, we had presumed that intelligence of the surrender

would have reached Danville long before we could get there, and, therefore, had made no great haste. But now I came to a contrary conclusion and consequently we spurred up and hastened on. At Pannill's Store I procured a fresh horse, that [which] I had ridden from Drake's Branch being pretty well exhausted.

Shortly after passing Pannill's Bridge Captain Henley parted from us and turned to make his way by a different route to Clover Depot; the point at which he first joined me. Accompanied now by Mr. Redd alone I hastened on to Danville. Our route lay along the country roads from Pannill's Bridge by way of the residence of the Rev. Joel Hubbard, a famous Baptist preacher in Pittsylvania County, and through Riceville, thence on by Spring Garden and Beavers' to Danville—the distance from Pannill's Bridge to Danville being about fifty miles, which we accomplished in a little less than nine hours. After we had gotten a short distance beyond Riceville we overtook a party of horsemen, comprising Dr. E. D. Withers, Captain W. Hayes Otey, and Mr. F. G. Claiborne, who had been sent out from Danville on a mission somewhat similar to my own. They were returning to Danville, and upon inquiry I found that they had not heard of General Lee's surrender. I gave them that information and then pushed us ahead of them with Mr. Redd, making still more urgent haste to reach Danville as soon as possible.

Mr. Redd and I arrived at Danville at 3:00 P.M., and immediately reported to General H. H. Walker at his headquarters. We found him in an upstairs room of a house known as the old Price building, at the corner of Main and Union Streets (since burned down), where he had established his headquarters. I gave him the information I had obtained, and this was the first time the dreadful tidings was told in Danville, then the capital of the Confederacy. Mr. Redd parted with me here, and General Walker requested me to go with him at once to see President Davis.

The executive offices for the president, the secretary of state and, I believe, some other departments of the government had by this time been established in a large brick building on Wilson Street. Here General Walker and I went to find President Davis and to communicate to him the news of the surrender. On arriving at the house we were informed that the president was at dinner. General Walker directed the messenger in attendance to tell him that we desired and respectfully requested an immediate audience. The messenger returned presently and reported that the president said he

was at dinner and suggested that if the general's business was not very pressing he might wait until the dinner was over. General Walker sent word back that his business was very urgent and that he must see the president at once. Thereupon President Davis came out of the dining room into the reception room to meet General Walker and myself. He had the appearance of having just arisen from the dinner table. He spoke to General Walker and the ordinary salutations were interchanged between them.

General Walker then presented me to the president and informed him that I was the officer who by his direction had been sent to establish a line of couriers for communication with General Lee and that I had important information to communicate. The president merely bowed or nodded his head and invited us to be seated. I took a seat on a sofa and the president came and took a seat beside me, General Walker taking a chair near by us. As soon as we were thus seated President Davis again bowed his head to me as a signal for me to proceed. I then, in as few words as possible, gave him a full statement of the information I had obtained of General Lee's surrender. During my recital of this information President Davis rested his elbow on the side of the sofa and kept his hand on the side of his brow, listening with the profoundest attention but uttering not a word, either of comment or inquiry. After I had finished the telling of my terrible news he still sat for a few moments resting his brow upon his hand, as if in profound meditation.

Presently, still without one word of comment upon the news I had brought him or of inquiry as to further particulars, he turned to General Walker and myself in a most courteous manner and inquired whether we had dined. The general replied that he had, but I had not. In fact I had not tasted food since leaving Mr. Payne's that morning at sunrise and had ridden over fifty miles since. "Then," said President Davis to me, "walk in, Captain, and take some bread and meat with me." As he said this he arose from his seat on the sofa. I did likewise, thanked him for his invitation and followed him as he led the way to the dinner table.

On entering the dining room I found seated at table a number of gentlemen who were members of the president's official family, including several of his cabinet ministers, but there were no ladies present. He invited me to a seat at the table, took a seat himself and recommenced eating his dinner. As this was to me a memorable "state dinner" I have well remembered the "bill of fare" and

can give it now. It consisted of a boiled ham of bacon, some Irish potatoes and some fried eggs; no pastry, no dessert and no wines or liquors of any kind, but bread and water in plenty. While we remained at the dinner table President Davis uttered not a word in relation to the news I had brought him and made no allusion to the subject whatever. He seemed to be profoundly meditating all the time, and when addressed by any of the gentlemen around him always made very courteous replies, but in the fewest words possible, and took no other part in the conversation. On rising from the table, however, he accompanied me back to the reception room, where we rejoined General Walker, who had been waiting for me.

We resumed our seats in the reception room as before, and then President Davis turned to me and made the most careful and special inquiries touching the news I had brought him and all that I had seen and heard during my expedition to the lines of the army. All these inquiries I answered fully and explicitly. When he had gotten through questioning me and seemed ready to close the interview I arose to leave, as did General Walker also. As I was taking leave of him I said: "Mr. President, if there is anything further I can do to serve you, please command me." As I said this he seemed for the first time to exhibit any emotion, but he answered me with considerable feeling, saying; "Ah, Captain, I fear there will be but few now who would make such an offer." With this we shook hands and General Walker and I left the president and I saw him no more.

That night at 10:30 P.M. all the Confederate officials left Danville, taking the archives of the government with them and went southward by way of Greensboro, North Carolina.