

Appomattox

by John Cantey Knight

I know how Lee struggled
between the Army of the Potomac
and the fall of the Confederacy.
Walking the Appomattox road,
I understand how each foot
was fought. Rearguard
actions are tactics to prolong
the inevitable with duty, honor,
and country. Each sun setting
ends on the long, weary
road to the inevitable. Now, all
that remains is simply, I gave
my best. Nothing else matters
but holding each diminishing
step till a man subtracts
in inches all that is left, always
drawing out the final surrender.
In defeat let men be measured!
Let nothing more than duty,
honor and country endure.

Note: "Duty, Honor, Country" is the
Motto of the U. S. Military Academy.