

In the winter of 1865 the last winter of the war of the rebellion the field Hospital at City Point Virginia which was large enough to accommodate 10,000 sick & wounded soldiers was filled to overflowing after the last battles just before Richmond fell and Gen. Lee surrendered. The tents or rather stockades were built with parallel walls of upright logs with a canvas roof like a tent & each stockade held fifty soldiers after Richmond fell Mr Lincoln came down to City Point (which was the head quarters of Gen Grant at that time) to visit the Hospital and the officers in charge ordered the convalescents to be placed at the doors of the tents to save Mr Lincoln the trouble of going through the long wards but after shaking hands with those at the entrance he went through every ward & said some pleasant word to each one - as he went a long from one to the other, one man said to him Mr Lincoln "that man whom you shook hands with last, is a Johnny" (meaning a Rebel) so he said Mr Lincoln & he went back & shook hands with him again & told him he would soon be sent home to his family & friends

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Date: ca. 1870

Description: Nurse Rebecca Usher of Hollis wrote this account of President Lincoln's visit with to a military hospital at City Point, Virginia, just before Richmond fell and Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered in 1865.