Appomattox County, Virginia

History & High Tech Merge in Metal

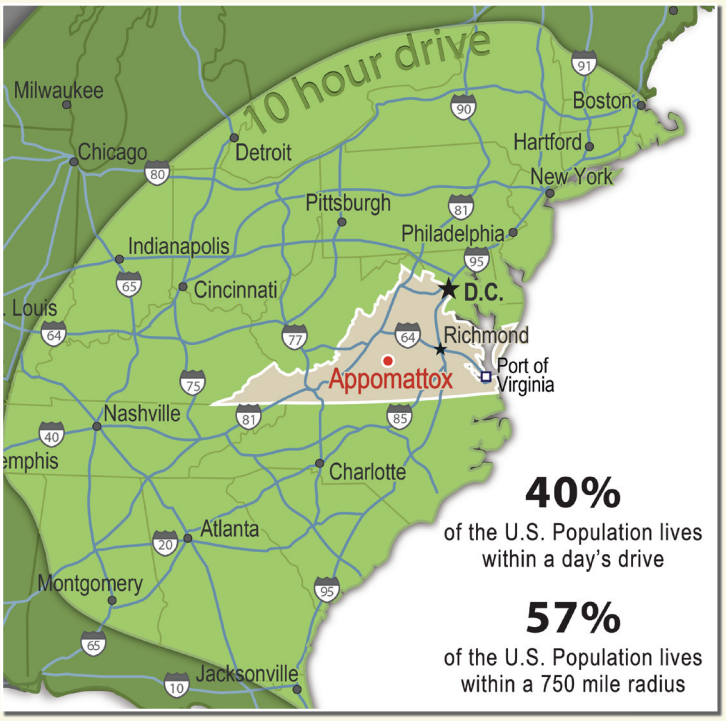
Nestled in the heart of Virginia, just a few miles south of the geographic center of the state, lies the historic community of Appomattox. One of the most important locations in American history, Appomattox is arguably the most familiar place in all of Civil War history.

Nearly 150 years ago, on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, this nation's deadliest war ended at the Appomattox Court House when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union General Ulysses S. Grant. But this moment was just as much a beginning as it was an end.

While history is important, Appomattox has an eye on the future as well. With companies like Craneworks Inc., Virginia MetalFab/StallWorks LLC, Quality Pattern Works, and now TriTech Solutions of Virginia, Appomattox has several metal-based firms growing in a high-tech way.

In late 2012, three young entrepreneurs resurrected an old textile manufacturing building, turning it into a high-tech metal shop. These career metal fabricators quickly grew TriTech's client list to include conveyor manufacturers, food processors, packaging companies and the nuclear industry firms, just to name a few.

TriTech recently purchased a state-of-the-art five-axis water-jet metal cutter. Most metal fabricators use three-axis jet cutters that can cut materials along length, width and height axis, but then a separate tool is used to create a beveled edge. TriTech's new machine can do all the needed sculpting at once, maximizing efficiency by cutting down on time spent per job. More clients can now be served, and new clients will mean more employees for TriTech.



A major benefit of an Appomattox location is the easy commute into the County from other localities in Central Virginia. Appomattox County offers a labor force of more than 7,000 people, but easily draws from a surrounding area with more than 114,000 additional people. Whereas urban and suburban commuters often spend long hours traveling short distances, Appomattox area commuters quickly travel greater distances for more rewarding daily commutes.

Appomattox is strategically located within a day's drive of most of the United States east of the Mississippi River, an area home to more than 40 percent of the nation's population.

Historic Appomattox County and the Commonwealth of Virginia make a winning economic team. Only a few locations can guarantee the right combination of resources crucial to the success of your business, and Virginia is one of those places.

Recently *Forbes.com* named Virginia America's "Best State for Business." Virginia finished in the top five in four of the study's six categories, the only state with such a strong across-the-board showing. The Commonwealth's unique combination of assets has encouraged businesses to prosper for over 400 years, resulting in several of these awards over the past decade.

Both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Appomattox community have pro-business values. Highly-skilled workers, access to domestic and global markets and a wealth of local and regional training opportunities make starting or expanding a business less stressful than elsewhere.

And due to relatively low taxes, low insurance rates, a customer-friendly development process, low-cost utilities, and other business-friendly policies, there's great potential for substantial profits.

For more information about Appomattox County, contact Jeff Taylor, Director of Economic Development of Appomattox County at (434) 352-3989 or Jeff.Taylor@AppomattoxCountyVA.gov.