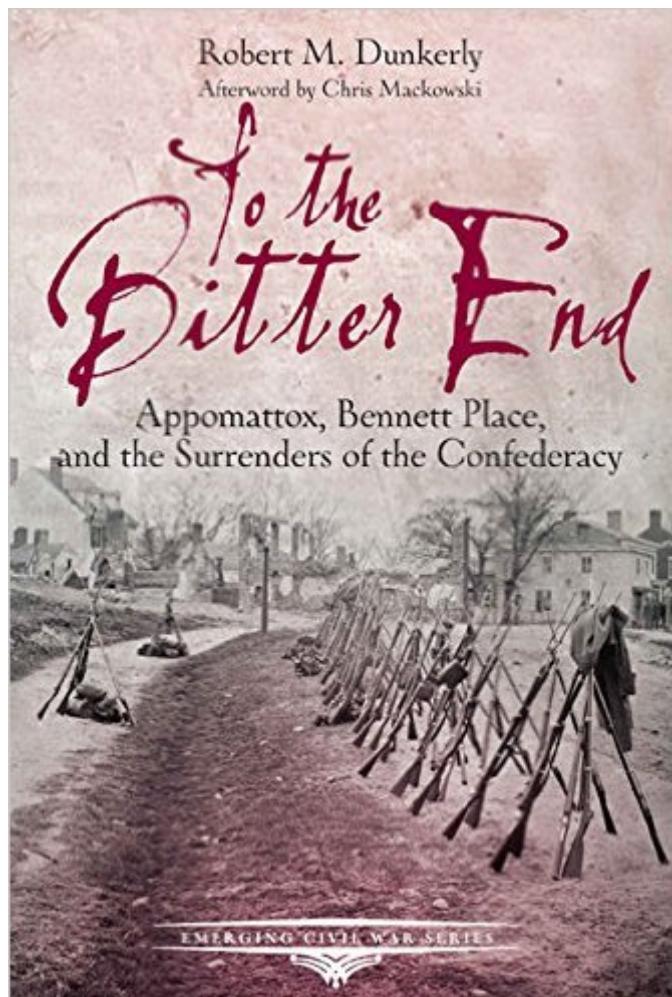


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To The Bitter End: Appomattox, Bennett Place, And The Surrenders Of The Confederacy (Emerging Civil War Series)



Synopsis

Across the Confederacy, determination remained high through the winter of 1864 into the new yearâ•yet ominous signs were everywhere. The peace conference had failed. Large areas were overrun, the armies could not stop Union advances, the economy was in shambles, and industry and infrastructure were crumbling. The Confederacy could not make, move, or maintain anything. No one knew what the future held but uncertainty. Civilians and soldiers, generals and governors, resolved to fight to the bitter end. Myths and misconceptions abound about those last days of the Confederacy. There would be no single surrender or treaty that brought the war to an end. Rather, the Confederacy collapsed, its government on the run, its cities occupied, its armies surrendering piecemeal. Offering a fresh look at the various surrenders that ended the war, *To the Bitter End: Appomattox, Bennett Place, and the Surrenders of the Confederacy* by Robert M. Dunkerly brings to light little-known facts and covers often-overlooked events. Each surrenderâ•starting at Appomattox and continuing through Greensboro, Citronelle, and the Trans-Mississippiâ•unfolded on its own course. Many involved confusing and chaotic twists and turns. Misunderstandings plagued many of the negotiations. Communications were problematic. Discipline often broke down. Tempers flared. It was anything but a nice, neat ending to the war. How did the war finally end? What was the status of former Confederate soldiers? Of slaves? How would everyone get home? Was there even a home to go to? As the surrenders unfolded, daunting questions remained. Appomattox was just the beginning.

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Customer Reviews

Most will answer Appomattox, with the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. Some might answer Bennett Place with the surrender of Joe Johnston's army. Good answers but what about the CSA that surrenders in the Magee's parlor? Or for that matter, do we need to talk about Jefferson Davis being captured at Irvin or the Confederate units holding Mobile and General Forrest's command? What about Texas and Arkansas and the Battle of Palmito Ranch or is it Palmetto Ranch? When all of this is said, should we ignore the CSS Shenandoah? The Civil War did not have a clear cut, clean ending. Local governments and military authorities are cut adrift when the government collapsed after Richmond fell. Larger cities and military formations negotiated surrenders but many towns just waited for the new government to show up. Many military units simply disappear, the men simply going home while a few marched home flags flying as a unit. This book looks at the dissolution of the Confederacy primarily as a military force. The first half of the book looks at Appomattox, Bennett Place and the flight of the CSA Government from Richmond. The second half looks at the surrenders of the multiple military commands and the few unoccupied major cities. This is a very interesting and much needed look at how the war really ends. It is not the clean clear process we see at Appomattox or even the reworking of terms that Sherman did. The author has an excellent grasp of the subject, telling the story in a lively easy to read text. This book fills an important gap in most libraries and is badly needed. This is an "Emerging Civil War Series" book with all the illustrations and maps we expect from this series.

This book describes the numerous surrenders of the various Confederate States armies. Appomattox and Bennett Place are well known, but this volume also informs us of the lesser known surrenders at various points across the south over the ensuing months.

There was a wealth of information regarding each site, including what is there "to see" today. This was great. A lot of work was done to include all that was there. I do wish a better effort would have been made regarding footnoting and sources for much of the information. I was able to find what I was looking for elsewhere but would have appreciated having it at my fingertips while reading. Still, in all, a good read and well written.

I'm sure the author is an expert on the end of the war. I just found the flow to be a bit choppy and

inconsistent. It provides a good coverage of the various locations and armies that surrendered throughout the South after Appomattox.

I love the book "To the Bitter End" because I have always wonder how did the armies of the South surrender to the North. Once General Lee surrendered everybody gave up. The South had plenty of men but I think that they lost the will to fight on. They had like 252,000 thousand men in the field but losing men everyday who simply just quit and when home. The book was very enlightening about what happen at each surrender were it was possible. Plus the different landmarks across the South was nice to know about. Pictures were nice also. The book is easy to read.

Our men's book club read the book and then visited Bennett Place. None of knew more then Appomattox, and assumed the war ended with Lee and Grant. The book describes the difficult decisions generals and politicians had to make to end the Civil War. Armies in each region of the South had to lay down arms. The impact of the war on the citizens became very clear. There is no political statement in the book, just a well researched description of the events.

D. is a curator interested in developing and preserving sites. for those who are unfamiliar with the data, he well illuminates the chaos into which the C.S.A. was descending by early 1865. Grant's variation of the old Anaconda Plan worked. with the various surrenders came lawless bands and dissenters, who begin the violence that long plagued the former Confederacy. took a while to work out a romantic lost cause. D. believes that the plan accepted by Sherman represented Lincoln's vision. Lincoln rejected vengeance. As his 10% wartime plan and even brief his consideration of allowing "the gentlemen who had been acting as the Virginia legislature" to meet to withdraw its armies reveal, he would not permit governments of states in rebellion to remain intact. in the post-war, even moderate Republicans required that former slaves vote. they needed those votes. good appendices improve the historical quality.

I thought this was a good book, but I expected a little more detail on units remaining to the end. The move from Petersburg to Appomattox did not contain enough information that would give you the feeling of a Confederate Army having to hurriedly evacuate from an entrenched position to escape being captured or destroyed. The Confederate Army was larger just before the order given to retreat and not enough information on CSA units who just vanished as they escaped to parts unknown. Maybe there is no information on the CSA units that just left and maybe headed home. The rear

guard units were not written well enough so that you could feel the excitement of the evacuation, who chose to stay and who chose to go with General Lee. From reading the book I could not feel the terror that individual Army men or commanders felt on the move from Petersburg. Otherwise I enjoyed reading this book.

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