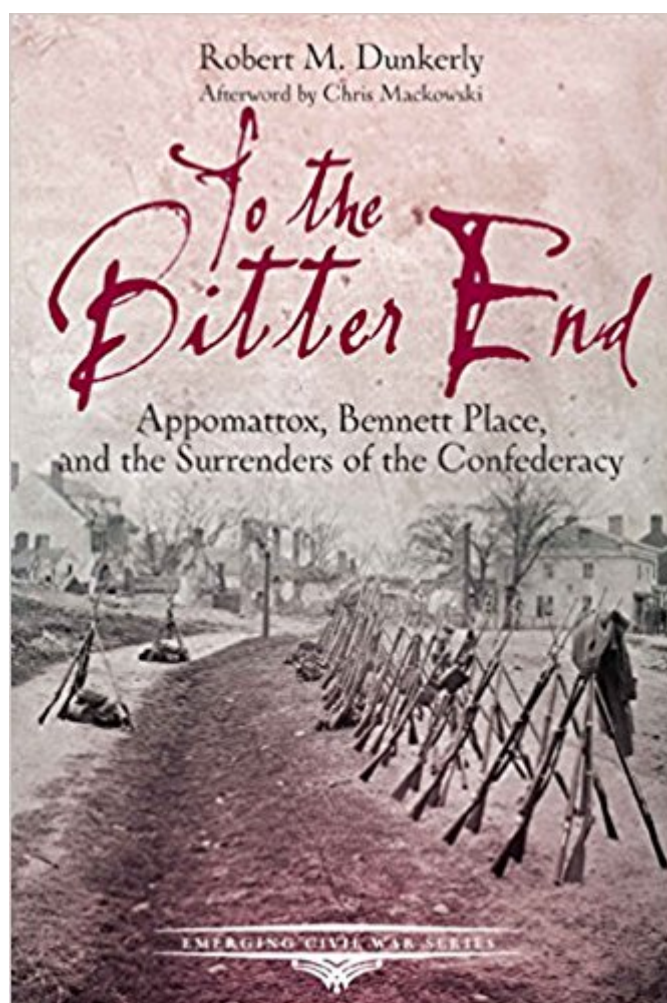


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To The Bitter End: Appomattox, Bennett Place, And The Surrenders Of The Confederacy (Emerging Civil War Series)



Synopsis

Across the Confederacy, determination remained high through the winter of 1864 into the new year. 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 surrender starting at Appomattox and continuing through Greensboro, Citronelle, and the Trans-Mississippi 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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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.

Our men's book club read the book and then visited Bennett Place. None of knew more than 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.

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.

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.

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.

Didn't like the style of writing. If I was there I would have been able to follow the tours of the battle ground. Can't do it by reading.

Covered the end of the war as I've never found before.

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