

BENNETT PLACE



The End of War

CAROLINAS CAMPAIGN



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On April 17, 1865, Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and Union Gen. William T. Sherman met under a flag of truce midway between their lines on Hillsborough Road, seven miles west of Durham Station, to discuss surrender terms. Johnston suggested that they use this nearby farmhouse – the home of James and Nancy Bennett – for privacy.

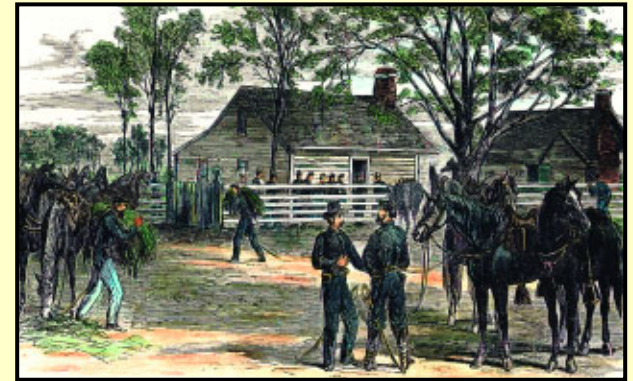


Interior of James Bennett's House, Scene of Johnston's Surrender, April 26, 1865 (Johnston resting his elbow on the table while Sherman faces the clock).

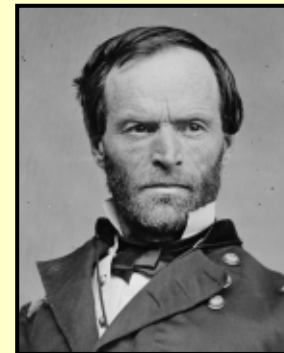
Inside the Bennett house, Sherman informed Johnston of President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination. Uncertain of the consequences of this murder, the generals

began negotiations, with Sherman offering terms similar to those that Gen. Ulysses S. Grant had given Gen. Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on April 9. Johnston countered with a plan for “a permanent peace,” including political terms. At their second meeting on April 18, Sherman submitted a “basis for agreement”: disbanding remaining Confederate armies, recognizing existing state governments, establishing federal courts, restoring political and civil rights to former Confederates, and a general amnesty. Confederate President Jefferson Davis approved the agreement, but U.S. Secretary of War Edwin C. Stanton rejected it summarily. U.S. general-in-chief Grant ordered Sherman to meet again with Johnston and offer him the Appomattox terms.

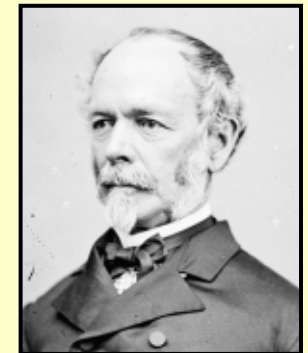
On April 26, Sherman and Johnston met here for the last time, and Johnston accepted the terms, surrendering the armies under his command including those in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida – some 89,270 Confederates. It was the largest surrender of troops in the war.



“James Bennett’s House, Where Johnston Surrendered,” *Harper’s Weekly*, wood engraving, 1865.



Gen. William T. Sherman
– Courtesy of Library of Congress



Gen. Joseph E. Johnston
– Courtesy of Library of Congress

DUKE HOMESTEAD



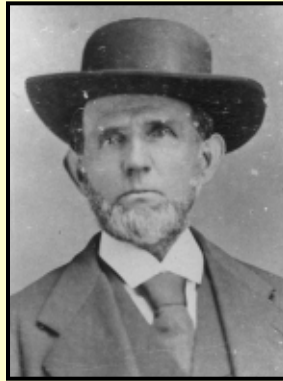
Prosperity from War



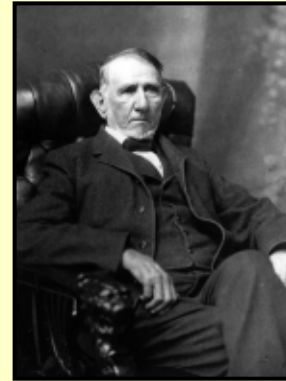
When North Carolina became the last state to secede from the Union in May 1861, Washington Duke's small farm and homestead here consisted of more than 300 acres. He grew typical crops such as corn, wheat, oats, and sweet potatoes, and had raised cotton as a cash crop until it failed late in the 1850s, when he began cultivating bright-leaf tobacco. Drafted into the Confederate Navy in September 1863, Duke was soon captured and imprisoned in Richmond, Va. He was



Washington Duke with his first tobacco factory. – Courtesy of Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University



Washington Duke (1880) – Courtesy of Duke Homestead State Historic Site and Tobacco Museum

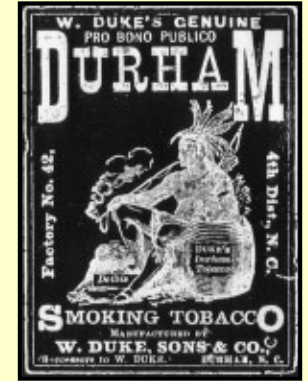


Washington Duke (1900) – Courtesy of Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University

released after the war and sent to New Bern, N.C. He then walked 134 miles back to his homestead. Duke discovered that soldiers encamped here had consumed most of his stored tobacco while Gens. Joseph E. Johnston and William T. Sherman negotiated the Confederate surrender nearby at James and Nancy Bennett's farm, now Bennett Place State Historic Site. Fortunately, the soldiers left enough tobacco for Duke and his family to produce "Pro Bono Publico" ("for the public good") brand smoking tobacco. Its popularity encouraged

the Dukes to manufacture other, equally popular brands, largely purchased by former soldiers who introduced bright-leaf tobacco to their communities. The Duke family soon prospered, and W. Duke, Sons and Company eventually grew into one of the largest trusts in the world, the American Tobacco Company.

Within a decade of the end of the war, Duke and other local entrepreneurs, such as Julian S. Carr and Brodie L. Duke (Washington's eldest son), established the Durham tobacco factories and textile mills that fueled the recovery of war-stricken North Carolina. Now renovated into shops, restaurants, and offices, the red brickwork and architectural details of the century-old facilities contribute to Durham's unique sense of place.



"Pro Bono Publico" logo – Courtesy of Duke Homestead State Historic Site and Tobacco Museum



DURHAM'S STATION



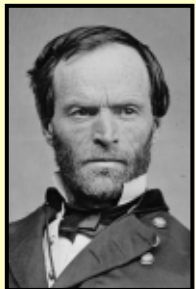
Prelude To Peace



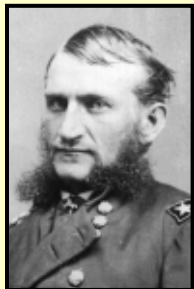
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On April 17, 1865, Union Gen. William T. Sherman arrived by train at Durham's Station (two blocks northeast of here) at the culmination of his Carolinas Campaign to discuss terms of peace at the request of Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, headquartered in nearby Hillsborough. Carrying a telegram in his pocket that announced the assassination of

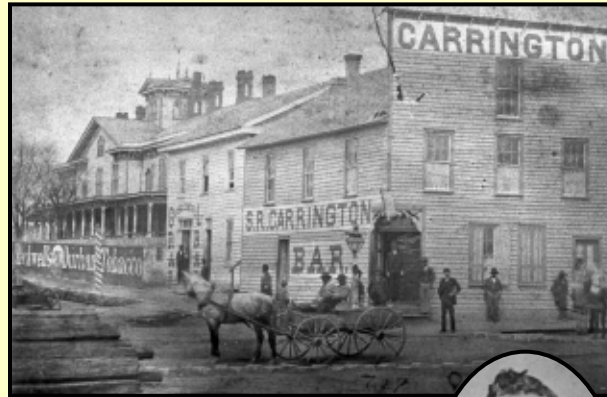


Gen. Sherman
Library of Congress



Gen. Kilpatrick
Library of Congress

of President Abraham Lincoln, Sherman spoke with his cavalry commander, Gen. H. Judson Kilpatrick, near



Durham, ca. 1880 - Courtesy of Durham County Library, Durham, N.C.

here at the Durham home of Dr. Richard Blacknall. Then Sherman rode three miles west to meet Johnston at James and Nancy Bennett's farmhouse to open negotiations for the Confederate surrender.

Since the 1820s, the U.S. Post Office Department had assigned this community various names. It was officially named Durham in 1853, after



Dr. Bartlett Durham
Courtesy of Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University

Durham residents comprised the Flat River Guards (Co. B, 6th North Carolina Infantry) and saw heavy action at the First Battle of Manassas in July 1861. The Durham Light Infantry (Co. C) participated in "Pickett's Charge" against the center of the Union line during the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863.



Henry S. Harris, Flat River Guards (Co. B, 6th N.C. Regt.), killed in Va. on May 20, 1863
Courtesy of UNC North Carolina Collection



William T. Redmond, Co. C, 6th N.C. Regt., wounded at Gettysburg, 1926 photograph
Courtesy of Durham County Library

Dr. Bartlett Durham donated four acres of land for a North Carolina Railroad station and the Durham's Station post office was established. About 100 people called the hamlet home in 1865, and the community grew rapidly around the station. After the Civil War, Durham developed rapidly as a tobacco and textile manufacturing center. Durham County was established in 1881, and by 1900 its population was more than 26,000 (a century later, the metropolitan area totaled more than 450,000).

LAST SHOTS



The Creek of New Hope

CAROLINAS CAMPAIGN

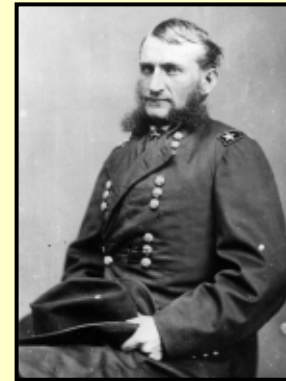


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Union forces occupied Raleigh on April 13, as Gen. H. Judson Kilpatrick pursued retreating Confederates. The next day, he divided his cavalry command, sending two brigades north along the railway past Brassfield Station toward Durham's Station while Gen. Smith D. Atkins led his brigade westward. Atkins pursued the retreating

Confederates to New Hope Creek in what is today southwestern Durham. The opposing forces clashed three times near here – the third skirmish being the last of the Civil War in North Carolina.

The first engagement, the final picket fight of the war, occurred when seven Confederates ambushed and killed twelve Union pickets in present-day southwest Durham. The other Federals marched through Richard Stanford Leigh's 1,000-acre

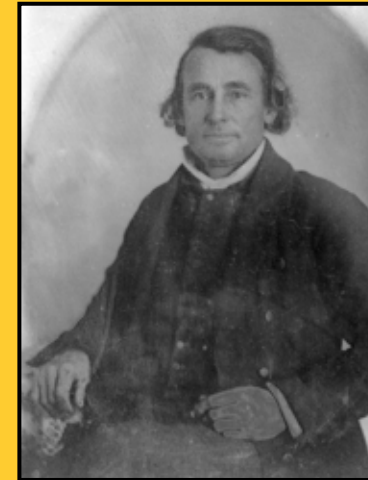


Gen. H. Judson Kilpatrick
– Courtesy Library of Congress

plantation on present-day Stagecoach Road to New Hope Creek, where they found that the Confederates had destroyed the bridge. As they forded the creek, Confederate forces attacked with pistols and single-shot carbines. Although the Confederates held the high ground, their weapons were no match for the Union soldiers' new Spencer repeating rifles, and they withdrew, leaving three dead.

About a mile upstream, the Confederates, with artillery, held the high ground and blocked

the way. Union Col. William D. Hamilton ordered covering fire as his 9th Ohio Cavalry advanced. Suddenly, the gunfire stopped when news of a truce declared by Gens. William T. Sherman and Joseph E. Johnston at James Bennett's farm, less than 10 miles north, reached both sides almost simultaneously. The last shots of the Civil War in North Carolina had been fired.



Richard Stanford Leigh owned and farmed most of this land in 1865. A Leigh cousin, Nancy, and her husband, James Bennett, hosted Gens. Sherman and Johnston as they debated the terms of the Confederate surrender at what is now Bennett Place State Historic Site.

Richard Stanford Leigh – Courtesy Curtis Booker





WEST POINT TRUCE LINE



Waiting, Looting, and Shooting



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On April 19, 1865, Union Gen. William T. Sherman released Special Field Orders No. 58, suspending hostilities and identifying West Point as the northern end of a truce line separating his forces from those of Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston.

As the two commanders negotiated Confederate terms of surrender approximately seven miles southwest at James Bennett's farm, Union Gen. H. Judson Kilpatrick positioned his cavalrymen here, near the West Point mill village, just uphill from the Eno River.



Gen. Kilpatrick
- Library of Congress

Despite the truce line, it was common for army stragglers and hungry civilians to



McCown-Mangum House - Courtesy of West Point on the Eno City Park

prowl the line in search of food, shelter, and vulnerable livestock. At one point, a Union patrol dispersed a group of looting Confederate strays. Federal soldiers were also noted for harassing West Point landowners and damaging private property, usually in search of food.

West Point was one of the most prominent mill villages in the region in 1865. During the war, the village had several dwellings, a gristmill, a blacksmith shop, a cotton gin, a general store,

and a post office for the 300 or so inhabitants. Local miller John Cabe McCown's Greek Revival-style farmhouse was a favorite target for



Union cavalrymen testing their marksmanship with their new, seven-shot Spencer repeating rifles, for which they traded their single-shot Burnside carbines late in March 1865. Today, West Point on the Eno City Park features a reconstructed 1778 gristmill, the historic McCown-Mangum House, the Hugh Mangum Museum of Photography, hiking trails, and an amphitheater.

The Eno and Occaneechee Native American tribes occupied the site of Durham until Scottish, Irish, and English settlers constructed several gristmills along the Eno River and other nearby watercourses. Durham is also thought to be the site of an ancient Native American village named Adshusheer, glowingly described by John Lawson in *A New Voyage to Carolina*, an account of his 1700-01 expedition through the Carolinas.