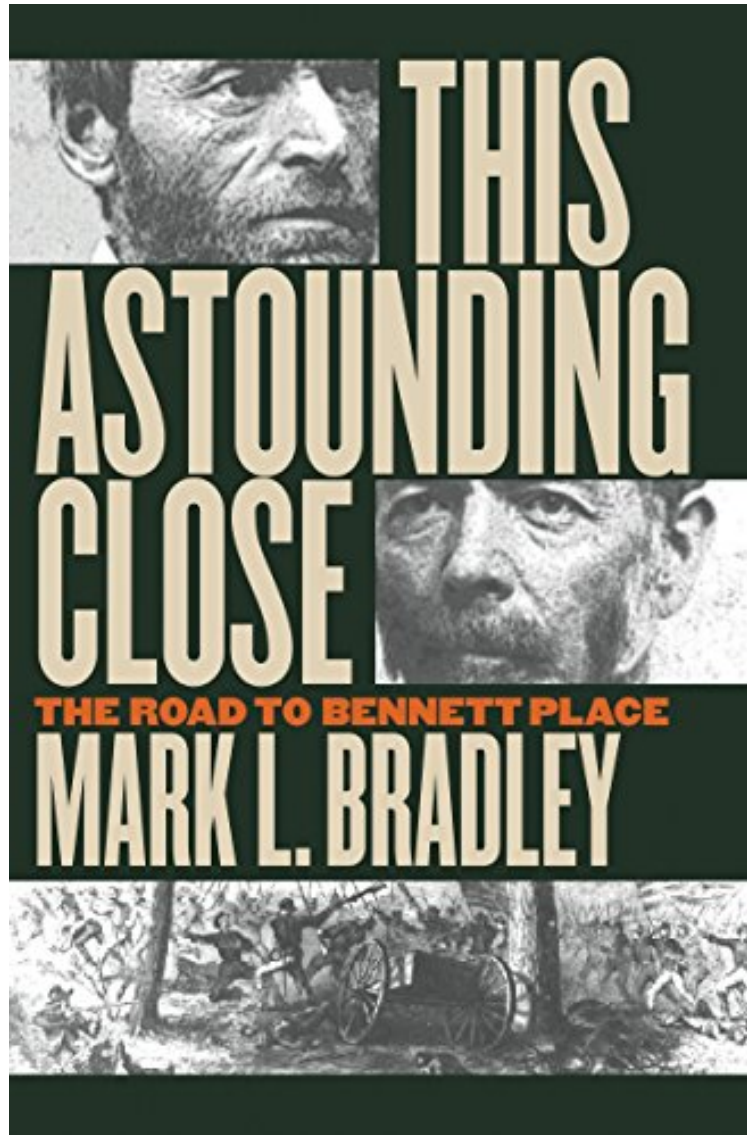


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This Astounding Close: The Road to Bennett Place

Mark L. Bradley

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Mark L. Bradley : This Astounding Close: The Road to Bennett Place before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Astounding Close: The Road to Bennett Place:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. and I recommend it to everyone with an interest in the conclusion ...By LostMarbleThis is a masterful account of the last days of the Civil War in North Carolina, analyzing the battles, conflicts, and negotiations between Confederate General Joseph Johnston and Union Major General William Sherman and their armies. The content is thorough, wide-ranging, and detailed. The style is engaging and fluent. The author is a

professed admirer of General Johnston and The Army of Tennessee, and gives them a glowing accolade. He is less favorable to Major General Sherman, whom he frequently criticizes, but his overall account is scrupulously fair. For a serious academic study, this one is remarkably entertaining, and I recommend it to everyone with an interest in the conclusion of the Civil War. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Helps put Appomattox into proper perspective. By Blackville As a companion to Bradley's earlier work on the Bentonville battle, 'Last Stand in the Carolinas', 'This Astounding Close' creates an extremely satisfying conclusion. But, as a stand alone work, 'This Astounding Close' is a tremendous asset in its own right. Most of us grew up believing that the Civil War ended the moment Robert E. Lee surrendered to U.S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. One can only assume that his came about as a part of the deification of Lee and the promotion of the 'Lost Cause' doctrine that was so popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Historically, most things regarding the Confederacy have always begun and ended with Lee. Thanks to the scholarship and hard work of Mark Bradley, we now have a much more accurate picture of how the war ended and the major roles played by Joseph Johnston and W. T. Sherman well after Lee's surrender. If you want a comprehensive blow-by-blow description of the battles of Aversboro and Bentonville, read 'Last Stand in the Carolinas'. For a valuable capsule summary of the battles, combined with a complete historical account of the negotiations leading up to the surrender, 'This Astounding Close' fills the bill wonderfully! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. MUST HAVE CIVIL WAR STORY. By Bill If you have any interest in the final days of the Civil War, this is a MUST for your library. Bradley traces the many events forgotten in the story of the end, i.e. Appomattox, and fills in the real story of how the real end occurred. Easy read, but filled with fascinating facts and stories about the efforts by the Confederate generals to convince the president that it was, indeed, over.

Even after Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox, the Civil War continued to be fought, and surrenders negotiated, on different fronts. The most notable of these occurred at Bennett Place, near Durham, North Carolina, when Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered the Army of Tennessee to Union General William T. Sherman. In this first full-length examination of the end of the war in North Carolina, Mark Bradley traces the campaign leading up to Bennett Place. Alternating between Union and Confederate points of view and drawing on his readings of primary sources, including numerous eyewitness accounts and the final muster rolls of the Army of Tennessee, Bradley depicts the action as it was experienced by the troops and the civilians in their path. He offers new information about the morale of the Army of Tennessee during its final confrontation with Sherman's much larger Union army. And he advances a fresh interpretation of Sherman's and Johnston's roles in the final negotiations for the surrender.

"Bradley's book is readable, interesting, and informative." "Journal of American History" "A superb study that incorporates the best of new military history." "Civil War Book" "A remarkable book of painstaking research. Serious scholars of the Civil War will find "This Astounding Close" a valuable study." "On Point" "A well-documented and careful analysis. Bradley is to be commended for a well-written and impressively researched monograph." "Civil War History" "Belongs on the shelf of every Civil War buff." "Blue Gray" A well-documented and careful analysis of the political and military situation within which Sherman and Johnston maneuvered and negotiated in the six weeks after Bentonville. It is an interesting story, told with considerable skill. . . . Bradley is to be commended for a well-written and impressively researched monograph on a long ignored subject.--Civil War History By casting his lens on the final days of the Army of Tennessee, [Bradley] sheds light on a neglected chapter of the Civil War story. . . . Thoroughly researched.--Our State This volume sweeps aside a shelf of studies previously done on the end of hostilities in North Carolina. It is going to be a basic reference on the subject longer than the works it replaces. In addition, the book is a fascinating read.--Richmond Times Dispatch A remarkable book which shows years of painstaking research and a talent to weave the essence of the situation into an easily read and followed story. . . . Serious scholars of the Civil War will find This Astounding Close a valuable study.--On Point A superb study that incorporates the best of new military history.--Civil War Book Belongs on the shelf of every Civil War buff.--Blue Gray Magazine Well-written, and covering a significant but neglected topic, this book is a worthy sequel to Bradley's earlier study of Bentonville.--North South Bradley's book is readable, interesting, and informative.--Journal of American History [Bradley] paints a very different picture of the soldier known to his men as 'Uncle Billy.' . . . Even though we know the outcome of the story, Bradley manages to imbue his tale with moments of high drama. . . . Fascinating.--Durham Herald-Sun A fine piece of work that really helps us understand the last of the great, decisive western campaigns that began in 1861 in Kentucky and Missouri and ended in 1865 in North Carolina.--Richard M. McMurry, author of Two Great Rebel Armies One of those truly outstanding works that no casual reader will fail to enjoy or serious student of the Civil War want to miss.--Civil War News No one has ever placed the Sherman-Johnston surrender negotiations in their military context as thoroughly and clearly as has Mark Bradley. This pathbreaking book will long stand as the best account of the Civil War's final moments. It is must reading for anyone trying to understand the conclusion of the terrible conflict.--John F. Marszalek, Mississippi State University From the Inside Flap Drawing from a number of sources that reveal both Northern and Southern points of view, Bradley details of one of the last campaigns of the Civil War, in

which the Army of Tennessee surrendered to Sherman at Bennett Place in North Carolina, weeks after the official surrender of Lee at Appomattox.