

Parole signed by the officers and men in Johnston's army

As you read...

On April 17 Johnston and Sherman met at the Bennett farm. Negotiations between the two men lasted several days, but on April 26, the Generals agreed on the terms of Johnston's surrender. As part of this agreement, the Union would not take any prisoners, but the men in Johnston's army would sign paroles, agreeing to not take up arms in support of the Confederacy. As long as each soldier abided by the terms outlined in this document, he would be free to return to his home.

Was this parole fair? Was it lenient? (Did it let the soldiers off too easily?) What other options might the victorious Union army have had?

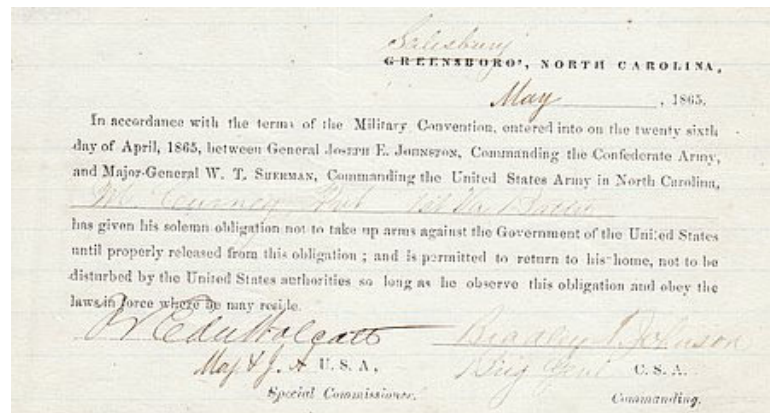


Figure 1.

GREENSBORO SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA,
May _____, 1865.

In accordance with the terms of the Military Convention, entered into the twenty-sixth day of April, 1865, between General Joseph E. Johnston, commanding the Confederate army,

and Major-General W. T. Sherman, commanding the United States Army in North Carolina,

[soldier's name]

has given his solemn obligation not to take up arms against the Government of the United States until properly released from this obligation, and is permitted to return to his home, not to be disturbed by the United States authorities so long as he observes this obligation and obeys the laws in force where he may reside.

*[Signed by Special Commissioner, U.S. Army, and the soldier's commanding officer,
Confederate Army]*

On the web

Bennett Place State Historic Site

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/Bennett/>

Bennett Place, where Johnston surrendered to Sherman, is now a state historic site and provides a number of historic documents on its website.

Mustering out of the Confederate army

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/4884>

Confederate General Joseph Johnston surrendered his army to William T. Sherman on April 26, 1865, at Bennett Place in present-day Durham, North Carolina. Soldiers under Johnston's command received paroles from Union authorities and were sent home. Includes video of a Civil War reenactment.

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