On April 17, 1865 General Joseph Eggleston Johnston and Major General William Tecumseh Sherman met at the farm of James and Nancy Bennett to begin negotiations of the terms of surrender for all troops still fighting in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Their negotiations would continue on April 18th and were finalized on April 26, 1865. As a result of this peace treaty, 89,270 Confederate soldiers laid down their arms and returned home. In the end, this was the largest surrender of the American Civil War.
The following risk management plan outlines potential hazards and how to decrease those hazards. This is only a list of potential hazards and does not include everything. You are responsible for your own safety and use your best judgment when making decisions. It is recommended to carry a first aid kit and inform a friend or family member of your planned location, activity, and when you will return.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Hazards</th>
<th>Safety Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor weather conditions including but not limited to thunderstorms, lightning, rain, wind, and/or snow</td>
<td>• Check the weather forecast before starting the activity and be prepared for changing weather conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to the Elements</td>
<td>• Heat/Sun – Wear sunscreen and reapply frequently. Drink hydrating liquids, get in the water to cool down, and take breaks in the shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cold – Wear appropriate clothing, stay hydrated, and warm up in sheltered areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Hazards</td>
<td>• Always check trail conditions and stay on the trail. Be aware of dead branches and tripping hazards such as roots, rocks, and stumps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flora and Fauna</td>
<td>• Be aware of poison ivy, wear bug spray to deter mosquitos, chiggers, and ticks, and be conscious of copperhead snakes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nearest Emergency Facilities**

- Duke University Hospital | 2301 Erwin Road | Durham, NC 27710
Historic Information

James and Nancy Bennett are an example of a typical family living in America at the time of the American Civil War. Average middle class, they were considered at that time to be “yeoman” farmers, farmers who owned small acreage, working the land themselves, and providing for themselves through their skills of sewing, making and repairing tools, and other aspects of self sufficiency. The Bennett Family never owned slaves as this was a very expensive business endeavor. Less than 20% of the American population could afford to enter into this type of agricultural economic structure.

James and Nancy had three children. Lorenzo Leigh, Eliza Ann, and Alphonzo Jackson. All grew to adulthood. When the American Civil War erupted in April 1861, the Bennett family was reluctant to get involved in the conflict. They owned no slaves, and much of central North Carolina had voted secession down. However, on May 12, 1862, Lorenzo answered the call enlisting in the 27th North Carolina Infantry, Company G out of the neighboring town of Hillsborough. It was not long after his regiment went to Virginia that he died of typhoid pneumonia in October 1862 in a Confederate Army hospital in Winchester, Virginia. He is buried in the Mount Hebron Cemetery in Winchester, Virginia.

Alphonzo, who is believed to have remained on the homefront during the war also died in 1862. It is unknown as to where he is buried. Perhaps in the Bennett Family Cemetery on the Bennett Family property. Research continues on his personal background.

Eliza married a local fellow named Robert Duke, who went off to war. During that time Eliza remained home with her parents. She was with her parents at the farm when General Johnston and Major General Sherman met at their home. Following the war, her mother and she made efforts to maintain the family farm. However, with the passing of James, the women moved to what was then becoming the thriving tobacco city of Durham. She is buried in Maplewood Cemetery in Durham, North Carolina.

As for James and Nancy, after the war, they like so many Southerners had to rebuild their lives through the period of Reconstruction. Life was even more challenging than before the war with new laws and a change of lifestyle. James died in 1878, and Nancy could no longer maintain the farm with her daughter.

It is believed that James and Nancy are buried on their farm just down the street from their family home in the Bennett & Neal Family Cemetery. Preservation work of the family cemetery is still in progress.
Packing List

This is a suggested packing list. Please use your best judgment and check the weather when deciding what to pack.

- Reusable Water Bottles
- Map of the Area
- First Aid Kit
- Medication if Needed
- Camera
- Sun Hat
- Sunscreen
- Rain Jacket (weather dependent)
- Insulating Layer (weather dependent)
- Day Pack
- Food/Snacks
- Sunglasses
- Bennett Place Website
- North Carolina Historic Sites
- Leave No Trace Seven Principles

Resources
On April 17, 1865 General Joseph E. Johnston and General William T. Sherman met at the farm of James and Nancy Bennett to begin negotiations of the terms of surrender for all troops still fighting in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Their negotiations would continue on April 18th and were finalized on April 26, 1865. As a result of this peace treaty, 89,270 Confederate soldiers laid down their arms and returned home. In the end, this was the largest surrender of the American Civil War.

SELF GUIDED TOUR

Step back in time as you walk the original Hillsborough Road upon which these two generals rode to meet at the Bennett farm to put an end to the horrific war, which cost America more than 700,000 lives.

This was one significant step in the road to the reunification of our country.
A. Hillsborough Road — this is one of the remaining original roadbeds of the old Hillsborough Road which connected Hillsborough from the west to Raleigh in the East. This is the road in which the two generals traveled to meet at the Bennett Farm.

B. Morgan Bench — honoring Mrs. Sarah T. Morgan, wife of Samuel T. Morgan, who with her husband, contributed funds to create the Bennett Place Memorial Park. They purchased 30.8 acres known as Bennett Place from the Duke Land and Improvement Corporation. The granite bench is a place of respite and reflection. It stands on the approximate location of the original barn.

C. Well with Sweep — this is the site of the original well, which was hand dug and lined with stone. This reconstructed well box and sweep protect the well and provide a clear visual of how the well may have appeared when the Bennett family lived on the farm.

D. Bennett House — Although efforts were made to preserve the house, a mysterious fire destroyed the house in 1921. The house that stands today is an original house built circa 1840 that belonged to the Proctor family who lived about 4 miles from the Bennett farm. In the 1960’s, the house was moved and placed on the original foundation of the house site. Through slight modifications, the house was restored to resemble an almost exact duplication of the original Bennett home. The rock chimney is the only surviving artifact of this historic landmark. A plaque on its wall tells its incredible story.

E. Kitchen House — this building was also reconstructed from original materials from the Proctor farm site. On many small farms and large plantations, the kitchen was separate from the main house due to frequent fires and the intense heat from the constant cooking. The family retired here during the negotiations.
F. Dairy house—this building was where families would store their milk and dairy products such as butter, cream and cheese. The clay floor would allow the building to remain cooler than outside temperatures and sometimes families would store ice covered with straw in the summer months to add additional cooling.

G. Smoke House—this small log building is a representation of the original smokehouse which stood on this location. The smoke house was used by the family to cure meat as well as store it along with gathered vegetables and food supplies. This building was reconstructed in the 1960’s using materials from the Proctor house.

H. Ash Hopper—a small wooden structure similar to this was used to hold cold ashes from the fireplace. Water was poured into the hopper, which leached through the ashes and collected in a bucket placed at the end of the trough. Potash was produced by boiling the ash and water mixture. Potash could be used as fertilizer, an ingredient in making soap, hominy and even paint.

I. Kitchen Garden—this fenced area was used to grow vegetables and herbs the family needed to cook with as well as to be used as medicine.

J. Bandstand/Gazebo—originally erected for the Durham Rotary club in 1916 it was in jeopardy of being torn down due to downtown development. The organization had it moved to this location to enhance the Memorial park. It served as a wonderful venue for ceremonies & concerts.

K. Unity Monument—erected in 1923 by the Morgan family it symbolizes the reunification of the country after 4 bloody years of fighting. An inscribed tablet explains the historic events which occurred on this hallowed ground in 1865. The single top crosspiece that joins the two columns represents the reuniting of the North and the South.
Mission of Bennett Place State Historic Site
To preserve and interpret the history of the largest surrender of the American Civil War and the lives of the 19th century yeoman farmers such as the Bennetts.

In addition to being funded by the state of North Carolina, Bennett Place Historic Site is supported by the Bennett Place Support Fund, Inc., a 501 c3 nonprofit organization, which provide financial support through our museum gift shop and donations as well as staff volunteers.

Bennett Place State Historic Site
4409 Bennett Memorial Road
Durham, NC  27705
Phone: 919-383-4345
E-mail: bennett@ncdcr.gov
Website: www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com

HOURS OF OPERATION
Tuesday through Saturday 9am until 5pm
Extended hours for special Events
CLOSED SUNDAY AND MONDAY AS WELL AS ALL STATE
AND
FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

Please visit our other Durham historic sites:
Duke Homestead & Tobacco Museum
Historic Stagville
A land acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory you reside on, and a way of honoring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. It is important to understand the long standing history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history.

Therefore

We acknowledge that this space gathers on land that has long served as the site of meeting and exchange amongst a number of Indigenous peoples, historically the Shakori, Eno, and Catawba people.

It is also important to recognize the 8 tribes that currently reside in North Carolina, these include the Coharie, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi, Haliwa Saponi, Waccamaw Siouan, Sappony, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee. We honor and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this territory on which we gather.

For more information please visit Native Land, Whose Land, and the Native Governance Center.