

Address
delivered at the
Annual Meeting
of the
Legal Legion
at
Cincinnati Ohio
May 11th 1894

No. 8.

Duplicate no 8 War Campaigns

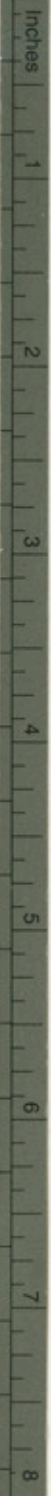
Subject
Sherman's March into the Carolinas & Savannah

Address
Ministry of the
Interior
Lepel Lepel
at
Piscataway, N.J.
May 11, 1874

No. 8

Superintendent
of
the
Bureau of
Land
Office

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land



1. Sherman's Campaign Through the Carolinas & Savannah.

Before the movements of our armies thro the Carolinas in the Spring of 1865, the troops were regularly encamped in reasonable proximity to the city of Savannah. The headquarters of army commanders were in the city. General Geary, commanding what was called by the soldiers "the White Star Division," occupied the town in a military way, and became in fact its civil Governor for the time being, after his entry the 21st of December 1864. Geary was a phenomenal civil Governor. His experience in San Francisco as Mayor and also as Governor of Kansas in troublous times, stood him well in hand at this juncture. Probably Savannah had never been better regulated than under his short administration, when you add our armies with their addenda of all sorts to the population that Hardee had left behind on his evacuation, Savannah and vicinity numbered over 100,000 people. The army during these days of occupation, did not forget that those were holidays, and many, even Generals and their imitative staff officers, gave way to considerable hilarity. On New Year's Day we visited each other quite extensively, and though Geary kept the wine cellars closed, causing them to be strongly nailed up, yet when I visited Gen. Frank Blair's quarters, and was shown to the room of feasting, a host of officers around a large, high table arose and showed tearful eyes and some redness of face at my finding such an abundance of wine which had somehow escaped from the cellars. Instantly I felt myself in the wrong place and withdrew, gently closing the door.

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I. Sherman's Campaign through the Carolinas & Savannah.

Before the movements of our armies into the Carolinas in the Spring of 1865, the troops were regularly engaged in various expeditions to the city of Savannah. The headquarters of my command were in the city. General Geary, commanding that was called by the soldiers "the White Star Division," occupied the town in a military way, and became in fact the civil Governor for the time being after his entry the 1st of December 1864. Geary was a prominent civil Governor. His experience in San Francisco as Mayor and also as Governor of Kansas in frontier lines, stood him well in hand at this juncture. Probably Savannah had never been better regulated than under his short administration, when you add our armies with their abundance of all sorts to the population that had been left behind on his evacuation. Savannah and vicinity numbered over 100,000 people. The army during those days of occupation, did not forget that those were holidays, and many, even Generals and their respective staff officers, gave way to considerable hilarity. On New Year's Day he visited each other quite extensively, and though Geary kept the wine cellar closed, allowing them to be strongly called up, yet when I visited Gen. Frank Blair's quarters, and was shown to the room of foaming, a host of officers around a large, high table upon and around several cases and some reduction of tone as by finding that an abundance of wine which had somehow escaped from the cellar. Instantly I felt myself in the wrong place and withdrew, gently closing the door.

Gen. Blair came out, and laughingly remarked, "The boys are having a New Year's blow out." I made my call short; it was during that call that I told Gen. Blair of the new orders that Sherman was devising. General Sherman's orders came to me in various forms, by an orderly, an officer of his staff, verbal and written, but when he could, he loved to drop in upon you pleasantly and say as he did that first day of January, 1865, "Howard, I am going to resume the march for Goldsboro." (The very objective he had pointed out on the chart before we left Atlanta) He now showed me on his map Pocotaligo, and off to the left of it some 3 miles, Robertsville. "I want your head of column to be at Pocotaligo by the 15th of this month, and Slocum's to be at Robertsville at the same date." "Pray, how are we to get there?" "Well," he replied, "the navy and the quartermaster transports will take your wing by water to Beaufort Island, and thence you go to Pocotaligo, crossing from the Island by pontons. Slocum will march up the Savannah and take a convenient place for crossing the river and work his way. What of your trains you cannot get over to Beaufort in time can go by Slocum's route." After a little thought, I said that the time seemed to me too short, but he could count on my being there.

2. Beaufort and Vicinage.

Gen. Howard then gave a brief account of the transfer of six of his grand divisions to Beaufort, S. C. He showed how such a visitation fretted the new Southerners of that Island. Here is where Howard

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a New Year's blow out." I made myself scarce; it was during that
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verse the march for Goldsboro." (The very objective he had pointed
out on the map before we left Atlanta) He now showed me on
his map Petersburg, and off to the left of it came Salisbury, Peters-
ville. "I want your head of column to be at Petersburg by the 15th
of this month, and Blount's to be at Salisbury at the same date."
"Try, how are we to get there?" "Well," he replied, "the navy
and the quartermaster transports will take your wing by water to
Newport Island, and thence you go to Petersburg, crossing from
the island by pontons. Blount will march up the Savannah and
take a convenient place for crossing the river and seek his way.
That of your train you cannot get over to Newport in time can you
by Blount's route." After a little thought, I said that the time
seemed to me too short, but he could count on my being there.

2. Petersburg and Virginia.

Gen. Howard then gave a brief account of the remainder of six of his
grand divisions to Newport, S. C. He showed how such a visitation
fringed the new Government of that island. Here is what Howard



saw his first colored school under Gen. Saxton's care. He asked the scholars who was the Saviour of mankind. One bright lad cried out as he held up his hand, "Abam Lincoln, ash, Abam Lincoln."

3. Garden's Corner and Pocotaligo.

The General described the crossing to the mainland over a bridge that had to be pieced out by boats made on the spot. He told an incident of the capture of a fort at Garden's Corner, when a sharp shooter 600 yds away fired upon Captain Beebe and himself, who couldn't be restrained from repeating his shots by the General taking off his hat and saluting him. "Our skirmishers," the General said, "were watching us, and shouted joyously as we ran back under cover of the trees." Secretary Stanton reproved Gen. Howard for such personal reconnoitering when he heard of it. Gen. H. says there are times when the soldiers are greatly helped by feeling that their Generals share their dangers and exposures with them.

Garden's Corner fort fell--and all Hardee's confederates then ran back to the queer fort at Pocotaligo. Our men rushed on so fast and began such a cannonading and fusillade, that the Pocotaligo confederate commander made discretion the better part of valor, and during the night of the 14th spiked his guns and retired.

"The morning of the 15th of January, 1865, I put my feet upon the S. R. track at the Pocotaligo station, and so literally fulfilled my promise of New Year's Day."

inches 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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5. Garden's Corner and Fort Mifflin

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that had to be passed out by boats made on the spot. He told an
incident of the capture of a fort at Garden's Corner, when a sharp
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confederate commander made distraction the better part of valor,
and during the night of the 14th spiked his guns and retired.
"The morning of the 15th of January, 1865, I put my feet
upon the N. E. bank of the Potomac River, and so literally
fulfilled my promise of New Year's Day."

4. Sister's Ferry and Robertsville.

The Savannah was so high that Slocum had great difficulty to cross the river at Sister's Ferry, and it was not till after the first of February that he came up abreast of Howard.

Gen. Howard then gave a few pictures of the struggles thro the cypress swamps--showed how the cavalry and the four and five infantry columns, miles apart, marched against ever increasing foes. Lieut. Taylor of his staff was struck by his side. By holding the lips of his wound together, Gen. H. was able to save his life till a surgeon came.

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5. River's Bridge and Orangeburg.

The story of Col. Swayne's losing his leg at River's Bridge over the Salkehatchee, and how he was able to alleviate his sufferings, and how Swayne's fortitude and Christian sentiments on that occasion, impressed him. "That interview in the Salkehatchee swamp, gave to Alabama a glorious administration in the ensuing years," for Gen. Wager Swayne was Gen. Howard's chosen assistant Commissioner and Commander of Alabama during all the days of reconstruction.

Gen. Howard next showed how the fiery Mower, commanding a Division under Blair, took Orangeburg.

A lady, an old friend of Sherman, complained to him bitterly of one of his generals, who spoke to her severely, and would give her no guard. Howard was with Sherman. "Who was that wicked officer, Madam?" "It was ^{den} Howard, Sir." Sherman smiled

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1. Slater's Ferry and Robertsville.

The Savannah was so high that it was not possible to cross the river at Slater's Ferry, and it was not till after the first of February that he came up stream of Howard.

Gen. Howard then gave a few platoons of the strategists the express company--showed how the cavalry and the four and five infantry columns, mixed apart, marched against over-increasing foot.

Howard Taylor of his staff was struck by his side, by holding the lips of his wound together, Gen. H. was able to save his life till a surgeon came.

2. River's Bridge and Ocranabun.

The story of Col. Swaine's feeling his leg at River's Bridge over the Salskathos, and how he was able to alleviate his sufferings, and how Swaine's fortitude and Christian sentiments on that occasion, impressed him. That interview in the Salskathos gave to Alabama a glorious administration in the ensuing years, for Gen. Walter Swaine was Gen. Howard's chosen assistant Commissioner and Commander of Alabama during all the days of reconstruction.

Gen. Howard next showed how the Ferry House, commanding a view also under Slater, took Ocranabun.

A lady, an old friend of Howard's, explained to him history of one of his generals, who spoke to her severely, and would give her no regard. Howard was with Howard. She was that wicked officer, Howard? "It was Howard, Sir," Howard replied.

meaningly and promised to have Howard attended to, and granted her petition on the spot. Gen. Sherman could not have done it himself at the first impatient asking.

6/ Columbia and the Fire.

Next came the approach to the Capitol of S. C. Gen. Slocum and Kilpatrick swinging far to the north of that city--Confederate forces and resistance had increased- at the Congaree Creek and a swamp--at the Saluda and Broad Rivers that conjoin to make the Big Congaree. When Logan began to reply to Confederate batteries firing from Columbia across the river, Gen. Howard described the gauntlet that the General and staff officers had to run under the incessant artillery fire.

A Herald Correspondent's horse found the pace of Gen. Howard and staff too deliberate for his mettle. He reared and plunged, and finally ran away, carrying the daring correspondent beyond danger.

The burning of Columbia occurred the 17th and 18th of Feb. 1865. Generals Sherman and Howard rode into the city together. The burning was undoubtedly commenced by the Confederates. After our occupation, drunken soldiers, camp followers, and prisoners let loose, set fires during the night. But a hundred to one of our officers and men aided to put out the fires. Many dwellings were preserved from the flames by their efforts. Gen. Howard illustrated this by a story of an officer of his own staff, Lieut.

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Columbia and the River

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strated this by a story of an officer of his own staff, Lieut.

McQueen, of the Headquarter Escort. How grandly Rev. A. Toomer Porter (Confederate chaplain) reciprocated the kindness in saving McQueen's life, and bringing him in a carriage when desperately wounded to Gen. Howard, some 200 miles to Raleigh, N. C.

. 7. The March Continued.

The 20th of Feb. the march beyond Columbia, N. C. was resumed. The crossing of the Lynch River came soon. How hard that was with the whole country flooded. A slight difficulty between Howard and Logan took place. It was quickly settled. The pioneers and engineers, who had quarrelled and caused the row, were made to agree. "Who could keep his temper and corduroy under water Logs would rise and float."

8. Averysboro and Bentonville.

Gen. Slocum's battle of Averysboro the 15th and 16th of March was described. Hardee now had a large force--every step increased the enemy, till near Bentonville, Gen. Jos. E. Johnston had a combined force stronger than either the army of the Tennessee, or the army of Georgia separately, and Wade Hampton and Wheeler had more cavalry than our Kilpatrick. Johnston met Slocum's head of column near Bentonville, whilst Howard was moving off toward Goldsboro, to connect with Terry. A fearful struggle took place. Slocum lost some ground, but by well posting his reserves, he maintained his lines. Howard sent his rear division Hazen's promptly to Slocum's support. Howard's forces then came up of Slocum's commands, and Johnston was beaten. This was the last pitched

McGuinn, of the Headquarters, ...
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sens and engineers, who had quarreled and caused the row, were
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8. Averspboro and Bentonville.

Gen. Stewart's battle of Averspboro the 14th and 15th of March
was described. He had a large force--every step
of the enemy, till near Bentonville, Gen. Joe. E. Johnston had a
certain force stronger than either the army of the Tennessee, or
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more cavalry than our Regulars. Johnston met Stewart's head of
column near Bentonville, which Howard was moving off toward Collier-
boro, to connect with Terry. A fearful struggle took place.
Stewart lost some ground, but by well posting his reserves, he main-
tained his line. Howard sent his rear division Hagan's brigade
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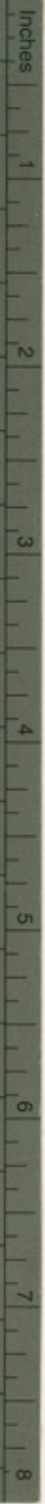


battle of the war fought the 19th, 20th, and 21st of March, 1865.

9. An Incident at Raleigh.

An incident of Gen. Grant's visit to Sherman at Raleigh closed Gen. Howard's address. The Seminary girls were at their windows, making faces at Grant's back. He surmised something funny, and turned on his heel, and showed them his genial, smiling face. Their heads went back and out of sight quickly enough. Many of such rebellious young women have married Yankee soldiers, and their sons and daughters ^{now} love the stars and stripes.

Headings of an address
delivered in Cincinnati Ohio
May 1894



Headings of an address
delivered at Cincinnati,
May 11th 1894.

...the war fought the 12th, 20th, and 21st of March, 1863.
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