

Ridgeway, S.C.
March 1, 1865

Joseph A. Woodward Esq.

My dear Sir

Battie has this evening received your letter in reply to one written by her some time since, and we are glad to learn that you are all well, and appear to be doing as well as you represent in your letter. We can not say that we are living as well as we did before the war, but we "accept the situation" and are doing the best we can. I have long been anxious to write to you about the condition of your native District and how it was served by Gen. Sherman's army, but really enough could be said to fill a book, and it would be a difficult task to so condense matters as in a letter to afford you any satisfaction, but I can give you a desultory recital of things that happened during the ever memorable month of February 1865. Gen. Sherman with his army left Columbia on the morning of the 20th of February '65, marching northward in three columns, one came up the main Columbia & Wrensboro road called the Gum Spring road, another followed the Charlotte R.R. passing Ridgeway, the third proceeded by the Sandy Level Road which leads to Alston Depot on the Groceville R.R. and crossed Little River at Kincaid's bridge, the three columns forming a junction at Wrensboro. Gen. Kilpatrick disposed his cavalry force on both flanks and swept the district from Broad to Wateree rivers, thus you will perceive our old district was completely devastated from river to river. It is thought that the Broad river country suffered most in the destruction of house property but saved more house power than we did as they crossed Broad river and carried their stock to Union C.H. The Federal army thought that Gen. Sherman was marching from Augusta, Georgia