

BATTLE, site, Skirmish

Date:

location

significance

PERIOD: CIVIL WAR: Sherman's devastation

- → → LEFT WING / Maj. Gen. Kilpatrick's Cavalry advance / Feb. 18, 1865 / Crossing the Broad River at Alston, the cavalry scoured the Western section of Fairfield County northward to the lower edge of Chester County, then eastward to cross the Catawba at Rocky Mount into Lancaster County. The left wing encountered the devastation "Sherman's Freshet", a deluge of flood waters which washed out the pontoon bridge constructed across the ford at Rocky Mount. They were unable to cross until Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, almost a week behind the right wing's crossing at Peay's ferry.
- — Douglass House - Generals Davis and Kilpatrick's headquarters on Feb. 22. Kilpatrick wrote to Sherman at the Johnston House about the murder of a forager at Feaster's the day before. Sherman ordered "eye for eye" retaliation. Seven men and a sergeant were subsequently killed and Sherman wrote to W. Hampton that eight Confederate prisoners would be killed.
- → → ● Left wing, Major Gen. Slocum's Army / On Feb. 19, they crossed the Broad River at Alston head towards Winnsboro. When approaching Little River, troops took up the floorboards from Ebenezer church to build a bridge. A pencilled apology on the interior of the church still exists. Slocum was considered the most humane of the invaders as he attempted to arrest the arsonists and pillagers who perpetrated crimes outside of official orders. Crossed the Catawba (Waterree) at Rocky Mount.
- \*\*\* ● RIGHT WING - Advance of Gen. Blair under command of Maj. Gen. Howard, the ruthless "Christian Soldier". Blair's divisions were to completely destroy the railroad from Columbia to the Chester border / On the 21<sup>st</sup> he was encamped at Simpson's Turn (Simpson's Turnout) and by the 23<sup>rd</sup> had crossed at Peay's ferry on the Waterree.
- ➤ ➤ ➤ ➤ RIGHT WING - Gen. Logan's Fifteenth Corps under Howard, the most destructive of the campaign, entered the county near Round Top and 25 Mile Creek. Swept the easternmost section and crossed at Peay's ferry. Gen. Wood's 1<sup>st</sup> Division diverted to Longtown on the 21<sup>st</sup> to burn the Peay Mansion, the area's largest slave holding plantation.
- → → ● — Confederate General Beauregard's path northward just ahead of Sherman's advance. Assuming Sherman would advance to Charlotte, instead of wheeling east he planned to meet reinforcements to counter the Union march. Headquartered in Ridgeway on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, spending a night at White Oak before moving headquarters to Chester.
- —