

**Gen. Sherman's Left Wing, 14th and 20th Corps, Army of Georgia,
along with Gen. Kilpatrick's Third Division Cavalry,
enter Fairfield County over the Broad River in February 1865.**

While perhaps not absolute and all inclusive for each of Kilpatrick's four brigades, the following reports and correspondence records support the conclusion that Bvt. Maj. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick's Third Division Cavalry crossed the Broad River on the night of Feb. 19 and at daylight on Feb. 20, 1865, as Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's Left Wing entered Fairfield County. These records also support that this crossing took place using the pontoon bridge that had been erected by Sherman's 14th Corps at a site located near Freshly's Mill where Wateree Creek entered Broad River from the west.

Maj. Gen. Henry W. Slocum, commanding Sherman's Left Wing (Army of Georgia); report March 30, 1865 (pg. 421, Part I):

When the heads of the two columns were within three miles of Columbia I received orders from General Sherman to cross the Saluda River, at Mount Zion Church, and push on to Winnsborough, crossing the Broad River at some point below Alston... A pontoon bridge was constructed across the Broad River, near the mouth of Wateree Creek, at a place known as Freshly's Mills. My entire command was across the Broad River before 2 p.m. on the 20th of February...

The order of crossing on pontoons at the Saluda River had Slocum's 14th Corps in the lead, followed by Kilpatrick's cavalry, and finally the 20th Corps. Slocum would write in his report that Kilpatrick's cavalry "moved to our left", and Kilpatrick, in correspondence with Sherman, would later write that he "moved north." Slocum's 14th and 20th Corps marched straight for the Broad River and Freshly's Mill. The order of crossing at the Saluda would be the same at the Broad on Feb. 19 and 20.

Bvt. Maj. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis, commanding 14th Army Corps; report March 28, 1865 (pg. 430, Part I):

...the 17th... went into camp near the mouth of Wateree Creek, with a view to crossing Broad River at or near that point. On the morning of the 18th the pontoniers commenced erecting a bridge across Broad River at what is called Freshly's Mills...

Bvt. Maj. Gen. Alpheus S. Williams, commanding 20th Army Corps; report March 31, 1865 (pg. 583, Part I):

On the 19th I moved up to Freshly's Ferry, on Broad River, near the mouth of Wateree Creek, and went into camp to await the crossing of Fourteenth Corps and Kilpatrick's Cavalry. On the 20th I crossed Broad River...

Col. Nirom M. Crane, commanding 107th New York, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 20th Corps, report March 28, 1865 (pg. 648, Part I):

Broke camp at 10 a.m. on the 19th instant; marched seven miles and camped at 1 p.m. near Broad River. On the 20th instant broke camp and moved to the pontoon bridge; *were delayed in crossing by Kilpatrick's cavalry, fog very dense; crossed Broad River...*

Bvt. Maj. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick, commanding 3rd Division Cavalry; report April 5, 1865 (pg. 859, Part I):

I reached Alston, on Broad River, on the evening of the 18th, and here remained in camp till the evening of the 19th, when I crossed Broad River, and on the evening of the 20th reached Monticello.

J. Kilpatrick to W.T. Sherman from Alston Bridge, Feb. 19, 1865 (pg. 491, Part II):

One of my brigades is crossing the river, and will push well up the country and give timely notice of any danger. My entire command will cross in the morning, when I will push well up and on the left flank... I reached Alston Bridge yesterday at 12m., but could not save the bridge... *I would give a year's pay to cross the river to-night at this point.*

Kilpatrick could not cross Broad River "to-night at this point" because the railroad bridge at Alston had been burned. (See section on Second Brigade, Col. George Acker, report March 29, 1865.) One of Kilpatrick's four brigades, the 1st Brigade, crossed Broad River on the pontoon bridge "during the night of the 19th", as he wrote this correspondence to Gen. Sherman. (See section on 1st Brigade.) While Kilpatrick stated in his report of April 15 that he "remained in camp till the evening of the 19th, when I crossed Broad River", he corresponded with Sherman on Feb. 19, stating that "my entire command will cross in the morning", which would be Feb. 20. The timing of Kilpatrick, and the rest of his command, crossing the morning of the 20th correlates perfectly with the 20th Corps being "delayed" crossing the pontoon bridge "by Kilpatrick's cavalry."

H.W. Slocum to W.T. Sherman from Freshly's Mill, Feb. 19, 1865 (pg. 488, Part II):

Davis has crossed the Broad River and Williams will cross to-morrow. We have been much delayed by lack of pontoon boats... *Kilpatrick will cross to-night at this point.*

Gen. Davis's 14th Corps did finally cross the Broad River on Feb. 19 after additional pontoon boats had been sent up from the rear of the 20th Corps as ordered by Davis. Slocum's statement to Sherman that "Kilpatrick will cross to-night at this point," is left with some room for interpretation. Is he only referring to Kilpatrick's 1st Brigade that had been waiting for the completion of the bridge since the day before (see section on 1st Brigade), or is he referring to Kilpatrick's whole command?

First Brigade; Third Division Cavalry

Col. Thomas J. Jordan, 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanding First Brigade; report March 28, 1865 (pg. 866, Part I):

[Feb. 18] ...From this, marching toward and threatening Alston and crossing Broad River, on the night of the 19th we encamped near daybreak seven miles from the river on the road to Monticello, which we reached on the 20th...

Maj. Owen Star, 2nd Kentucky Cavalry; report March 25, 1865 (pgs. 872-873, Part I):

17th, crossed the Saluda River and marched in direction of Broad. 18th, arrived at Broad but had to await the construction of a pontoon. 19th, crossed the river and arrived at Monticello on the 20th.

Lieut. Col Robert H. King, 3rd Kentucky Cavalry; report March 27, 1865 (pg. 874, Part I):

[Evening of Feb. 17th] ...we crossed the Saluda River on pontoons and moved on to Broad River, crossing that stream in the same way during the night of the 19th.

Second Brigade; Third Division Cavalry

Col. George S. Acker, 9th Michigan Cavalry; report March 29, 1865 (pg. 885, Part I):

February 17, left Lexington, and crossing Saluda River near Columbia, marched to High Hill Creek; eighteen miles.

February 18, marched in advance of brigade, brigade in advance, to Alston Station, Spartanburg and Union Railroad; sixteen miles. The enemy made a feeble effort to hold the magnificent railroad bridge over Broad River at this place, but upon our advancing they fired the bridge and fled. Our efforts to save the bridge were unsuccessful. After destroying the station-house and a store-house we encamped for the night.

February 19, at 6 p.m. moved down the river to _____ Ferry and bivouacked.

February 20, crossed Broad River at daylight and marched to near Monticello; ten miles.

Lieut. Col. Matthew Van Buskirk, 92nd Illinois, report March 31, 1865 (pg. 882, Part I):

17th, crossed the pontoon bridge over the Saluda River, and encamped near Mills' Ferry; sixteen miles. 18th, marched to Alston on Broad River; fifteen miles. 19th, marched to pontoons, on Broad River, eight miles. 20th, crossed bridge...

Col. Acker's descriptive account of the 9th Michigan Cavalry, part of Kilpatrick's 2nd Brigade, as they approach Alston and the railroad bridge over the Broad River on Feb. 18 correlates well with Kilpatrick's report for that date and with his Feb. 19 correspondence with Sherman. Each is saying the same thing: the bridge had been burned and could not be saved. The inference would be that they had intended to cross the Broad River over that bridge. As Kilpatrick had written to Sherman on Feb. 19, "I would give a year's pay to cross the river to-night at this place." Col. Acker moved down the river "to _____ Ferry." There is no historical evidence to suggest the presence of any other ferry besides Freshly's Ferry crossing the Broad River into Fairfield County below Alston in Feb. 1865. Lieut. Col. Buskirk's stated that his cavalry "marched to pontoons, on Broad River, eight miles"; this clearly states where they were heading. There were no other pontoons except at Freshly's Mill, which was located about eight miles below Alston. In addition, Col. Acker wrote that his cavalry "crossed Broad River at daylight" on February 20, which correlates well with Kilpatrick's correspondence to Sherman on Feb. 19, that "my entire command will cross in the morning..."

Third Brigade; Third Division Cavalry

Col. George E. Spencer, 1st Alabama Cavalry, commanding Third Brigade, report March 30, 1865 (pg. 892, Part I):

Col. Spencer related just enough information to reveal that he was a part of Kilpatrick's Third Division Cavalry and had already crossed through Fairfield County when he wrote: "Nothing of interest occurred for several days, and not till after we had crossed the Saluda, Broad, and Wateree Rivers, when we reached the town of Lancaster, S.C..."

Likewise for Maj. Sanford Tramel, 1st Alabama Cavalry, report March 28, 1865 (pg. 897, Part I):

On the 11th we again resumed our march with the brigade, and participated in all the different scenes through which it passed, crossing the Edisto, Saluda, Broad, Wateree, and Great Peedee Rivers, in Lexington, *Alston*, Black Stocks, Lancaster, and Sneedsborough, nothing of special importance occurring.

Yet, Maj. Tramel does mention Alston in his report, so Kilpatrick's 3rd Brigade was likely with the 2nd and 4th Brigades at Alston on Feb. 18. Two additional reports from 3rd Brigade regiment commanders never mentioned entering or leaving Fairfield County.

Fourth Brigade; Third Division Cavalry

Lieut. Col William B. Way, 9th Michigan Cavalry, commanding Fourth Brigade, report March 31, 1865 (pg. 903, Part I):

[On the] morning of the 17th, crossed the Saluda River and encamping at High Hill Creek. February 18, camped near Alston Station. Crossed Broad River the night of the 19th, reaching Monticello the 20th.

Lieut. Col. Way's description is short and to the point, yet it clearly relates that the 4th Brigade was moving with Kilpatrick's 2nd Brigade. Each had encamped at High Hill Creek after crossing the Saluda, and each had encamped near Alston on Feb. 18. They would cross the Broad River together and move in the direction of Monticello.

While Kilpatrick's 1st Brigade was "marching toward and threatening Alston" on their way to Freshly's Mill, the 2nd and 4th Brigades (and likely the 3rd Brigade) moved further northwest into Newberry County. Kilpatrick's report of April 5 relates that he "Marched all day the 18th parallel to Cheatham's corps, rebel infantry," and in following the railroad toward Alston, he "struck the railroad at Pomaria Station, destroying a portion of the track, the depot, and burned several bridges from that point to Broad River."

Kilpatrick no doubt felt a sense of urgency to get the rest of his command over the Broad River, which he shared with Sherman on Feb. 19: "I would give a year's pay to cross the river to-night at this point." He had also written in that same correspondence that "Cheatham will cross at Ashford's Ferry, I think;" and in his report of April 5, he wrote that after crossing the Saluda River on Feb. 17, he "found that Wheeler had crossed the Saluda and was moving for the railroad bridge over Broad River at Alston." He wanted to get over the river and "push well up and on the left flank." Kilpatrick's cavalry was to stay to the left in support of Sherman's left wing, and Slocum's 14th Corps had already started crossing the pontoon bridge early on the morning of Feb. 19.

Cheatham did not cross the Broad River at Ashford Ferry, a point some ten miles above Alston, and nothing in the Union and Confederate official army records suggests that Wheeler crossed any part of his command at Alston. Cheatham would receive orders from General Beauregard on Feb. 18 to "cross the Broad River at a point above Newberry" (Itinerary of Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham's corps, pg. 1081, Part I). The much anticipated crossing of rebel cavalry would actually take place at Hughey's Ferry, located midway between Alston and Ashford Ferry. Correspondence from Confederate Headquarters Cavalry Division on Feb. 17 (pg. 1213, Part II) relates that cavalry scout "Lieutenant Chapin has just arrived from Hughey's Ferry, thirty-one miles from Columbia, and reports General Humes crossing his command at that point..." Wheeler would correspond with Headquarters

Cavalry Corps the next day on Feb. 18 (pg. 1219, Part II), and state that, after having learned “the enemy have moved up a force on the other side of the river... I have ordered General Allen to picket Broad River up as far as Little River and General Humes to picket it from Little River to Hughey’s Ferry (General Humes crossed at Hughey’s Ferry yesterday).” It is likely that Hume’s scouts, in accompaniment with a small force as they picketed south along Broad River from Hughey’s Ferry, “fired the bridge” at Alston as Acker’s 9th Michigan Cavalry approached on Feb. 18.

Kilpatrick would move the rest of his command down river to the pontoon bridge at Freshly’s Mill and cross the Broad River at pre-dawn and early daylight on Feb. 20 in advance of the “delayed” 20th Corps.

Alston, and to use Col. Acker’s description as his 9th Michigan Cavalry approached, “the magnificent railroad bridge over Broad River,” received much attention through word and deed as Sherman’s left wing and Kilpatrick’s Third Cavalry advanced toward and entered Fairfield County.

Gen. Davis, commanding the 14th Corps, had already received orders from left wing headquarters, five miles south of Freshly’s, on Feb. 18 (pg. 480, Part II) to “commence destroying the railroad toward Alston as soon as you cross the river, and if possible destroy the railroad bridge below Alston.” The same orders went to Gen. Beard commanding the 3rd Division of Davis’s 14th Corps, through Headquarters, Freshly’s Mills on Feb. 18 (pg. 480, Part II) to move “up the river to a point two miles this side of Alston, will destroy the railroad to that point (together with railroad bridge at that place if not already destroyed)...”

And Lieut. Col. Fielder Jones, commanding the 8th Indiana Cavalry of Kilpatrick’s 1st Brigade, from his March 27, 1865, report (pg. 870, Part I), while at Monticello, had sent “Lieutenant Jackson with Company C, Eight Indiana... to burn Spartanburg railroad bridge over Broad River. The order was executed...” Lieut. Jackson responded back to Lieut. Col. Jones through his correspondence, In the Field, Feb. 24 (pg. 555, Part II), that “I proceeded as speedily as possible to the railroad bridge across Broad River... and found about 300 yards of it already consumed, having been fired by a foraging party of Company K of our regiment, under the charge of Sergeant Thompson, the evening before.”

Kilpatrick’s 1st Brigade was at Freshly’s Mill awaiting the construction of the pontoon bridge on Feb. 18 and seemingly had not been informed that the rebels had fired the bridge on that same day. Perhaps the Eighth Indiana finished the job, or perhaps they wanted to take credit, or at least part credit for the deed. While Kilpatrick and Col. Acker of his 2th Brigade, each reported trying to save the bridge on that Feb. 18, it is clear that the Union forces had planned to destroy it.

And, too, the fate of the bridge was being weighed by the Confederate forces. Finally, of interest was Gen. Wheeler’s correspondence from Headquarters Cavalry Corps on Feb. 18 at 1:20 pm (pg. 1219, Part II), where he suggested, if not pleaded, to bring no harm to the bridge:

It seems to me there is no object in burning the railroad bridge at Alston, as it would be no source of delay to the enemy and we shall need it after the enemy have passed on. I cannot see that the enemy can use that bridge for railroad purposes. They can put down pontoons quicker than they can floor the bridge to take over wagons and horses. Shall the bridge be burned?

Wheeler shared this sentiment in that same correspondence to cavalry corps headquarters, where he ordered Gen. Humes to picket along the east side of the Broad from Little River back to Hughey's Ferry. Having already crossed the Broad River on Feb. 17, the timing is such that Gen. Humes's cavalry, a part of Wheeler's command, could likely have been at the Alston bridge on that Feb. 18.

SOURCE: All referenced reports and correspondence cited are from Series I, Volume 47 of *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington, DC, 1895; reprint by The National Historical Society, 1971).

Old Brick Church

Ebenezer Meeting House, commonly referred to as the Old Brick Church, built in 1788, was the birthplace of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian denomination in South Carolina. Ebenezer pastor, the Reverend James Rogers, first ARP moderator, organized the Associate Reformed Synod of the Carolinas here on May 9, 1803. Reverend Rogers was pastor of Ebenezer until his death on August 21, 1830, and was buried in the church cemetery.

The small rectangular building with gable roof and unornamented windows is plain in design with a double door in the front and another at the west end leading to a narrow staircase and slave gallery. The interior is classic in its simplicity with long, straight-back pews, constructed of heart of pine with mortise and tenon joints that are hand-pegged. The dais-style pulpit, three steps above floor level with plain rails around two sides, back against wall, is entered by a pair of steps at the front, one set on either side of center which contains a bible stand.

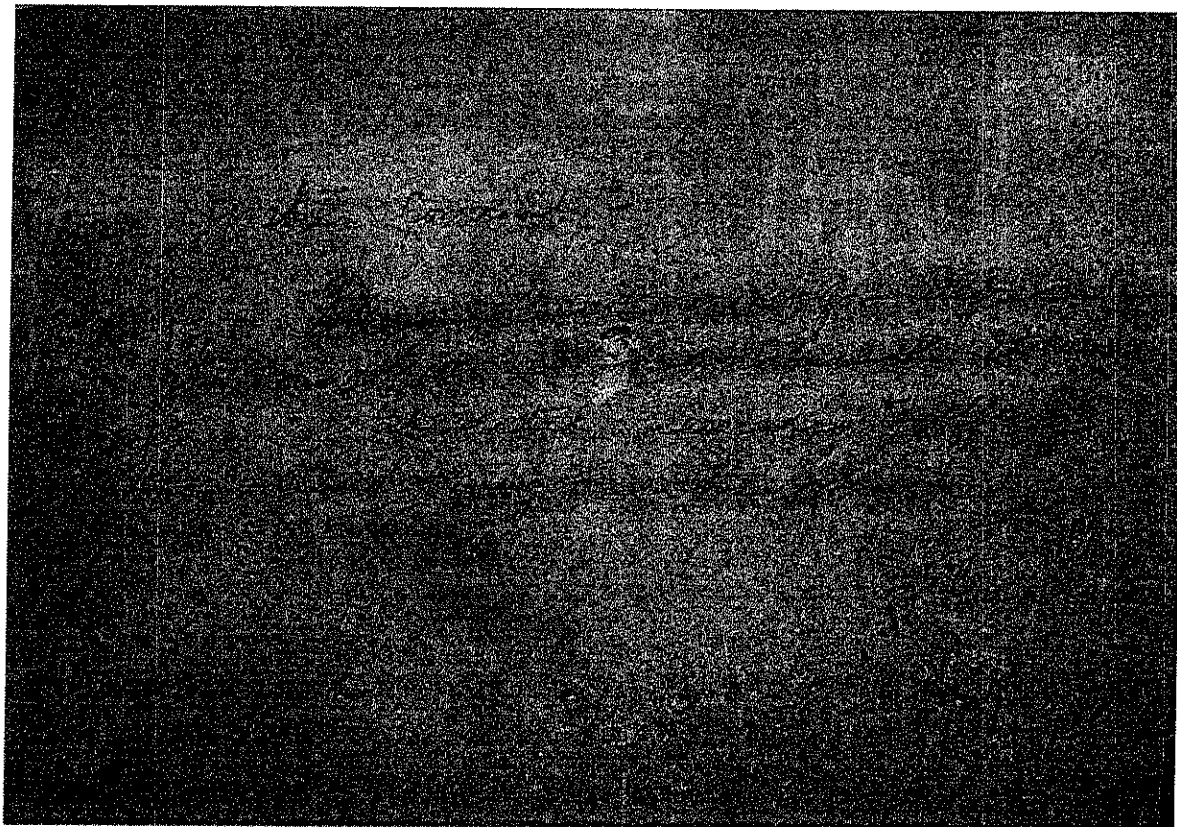
The church and adjoining cemetery, with numerous graves of Revolutionary and Confederate war soldiers, is surrounded by a granite wall added in 1852. The large granite blocks were likely quarried from what is now known as the Anderson Quarry, located within two miles southeast of the church.

The 14th Corps of Major General William T. Sherman's Left Wing, commanded by Brevet Major General Jefferson C. Davis, had crossed Little River at the Old Brick Church as it advanced toward Winnsboro on February 21, 1865. Davis' 1st Division, commanded by General William P. Carlin, marching northwest from the junction of Alston and Monticello roads, was the first to arrive at the Ebenezer Meeting House and Little River. Carlin would find the bridge over Little River had been "partially destroyed" by Confederate cavalry in an effort to impede the advance of the Union forces. General George P. Buell, commanding Carlin's 2nd Brigade, repaired the bridge using the floor boards and joists that were removed from the church. Carlin's 1st Division was across Little River "and in camp by 4 p.m." on the afternoon of Monday, February 20, about half a mile from the crossing "at the forks of the road beyond." The 3rd Division of the 14th Corps, followed by the 2nd Division and trains, began crossing the river early the next morning on February 21. An apology left by an unknown Yankee soldier written in pencil on an interior section of plaster wall of this historic meeting house is still legible 150 years later and remains as an act of compassion at a time of war.

Citizens of this Community-

Please excuse us for Defacing your house of worship so much. It was absolutely necessary to effect a Crossing over the creek

A Yankee



The church congregation had grown in numbers until the onset of the Civil War when the young manhood of the congregation joined the Confederate Army en masse. Later the church was repaired and remained in active use until 1920.

The Ebenezer Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was listed to the National Register of Historic Places on August 19, 1971.

The church is now maintained by a seven-member overseeing commission, the Commission of the Old Brick Church, under the auspices of the Catawba Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Sherman's Army Occupies Winnsboro Feb. 21, 1865

The 1st Division of Sherman's 14th Corps, commanded by Gen. William Carlin, along with Bvt. Maj. Gen. Jefferson Davis commanding the 14th Corps, marched from the west and their encampment near Little River and the Ebenezer Meeting House. Carlin would write in his March 28, 1865 report (pg. 446, Part 1) that he "reached Winnsborough at 10.30 a.m.; halted outside of town, and Twentieth Corps took possession of the place..."

It would be the 2nd Division of Sherman's 20th Corps, commanded by Bvt. Maj. Gen. John Geary, marching from the southwest in lead of the column that would reach Winnsboro "without opposition at 11a.m." Yet, it would be the foragers – the bummers who often preceded the advance of the army – who would be the first to arrive in town and set the scene that Geary would later describe in his March 26, 1865 report (pg. 687, Part 1):

February 21, the division in advance, disencumbered, marched at 6.30 a.m. toward Winnsborough... When within two miles of the town I saw heavy smoke arising from it, and double-quickened my two advance regiments in order to reach it in time to arrest the conflagration. This we effected with much labor, my troops performing the part of firemen with great efficiency. About one square was burned before the fire could be arrested. A large number of foragers from various corps were found in the town. These were sent to their commands, and Brevet Brigadier-General Pardee, with his brigade, was directed to occupy the town, while my two other brigades commenced destroying the railroad northward... Winnsborough is a pretty town of about 2,500 population, the seat of justice for Fairfield District.

Lieut. Col. James Fitzpatrick, commanding the 28th Pennsylvania Infantry of Pardee's 1st. Brigade, in his March 31, 1865 report (pg. 722, Part 1) recorded that his "regiment assisted in putting out a very large fire which had been started by our advance foragers, and which at one time bid fair to destroy the town, but it was extinguished after burning but ten or fifteen very fine buildings."

Gen. Pardee in his April 3, 1865 report (pg. 707, Part 1) would describe these foragers and their actions as "men, in the most unlicensed manner, [that] had plundered the public and nearly all the private residences, and to the same body may be charged the firing of the town. As soon as possible the town was cleared of these foragers, or, as they might more properly be termed, plunderers, and measures taken to extinguish the flames... The quantity of cotton burned in Winnsborough without authority was about 1,000 bales."

Likely, some of the foragers were from the 14th Corps and Carlin would reference his displeasure with the 20th Corps' handling of the situation as they took possession of the town, "taking away all tobacco and everything else which our advance had placed under guard, arresting both men and officers, who were doing simply their duty." In a later correspondence to Gen. Howard, on February 23 (pg. 537, Part II), following a report from Cavalry Commander

Gen. Kilpatrick "that two of his foraging parties were murdered by the enemy after capture," and harsh words of retaliation from Sherman, the commanding general would write: "I want the foragers, however, to be kept within reasonable bounds for the sake of discipline. I will not protect them when they enter dwellings and commit wanton waste, such as woman's apparel, jewelry, and such things as are not needed by our army; but they may destroy cotton or tobacco, because these are assumed by the rebel Government to belong to it, and are used as a valuable source of revenue."

Carlin's 1st Division, which had "halted outside of town," would move to the north end of Winnsboro stopping for dinner and two hours of rest, and continue their march northward at 2 p.m. and encamp at Adger's on the railroad. Gen. Davis, moving with Carlin's 1st Division, would remain in Winnsboro and be joined by Bvt. Maj. Gen. Alpheus Williams, commanding the 20th Corps; Maj. Gen. Henry Slocum, commanding Sherman's Left Wing and moving with the 20th Corps; and with Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman. Gen. Sherman would enter Winnsboro from the south moving with Maj. Gen. Frank Blair's 17th Corps from their encampment at Simpson on the railroad. Details of Blair's 17th Corps had been destroying the entire length of the Charlotte, Columbia & Augusta Railroad from Columbia to Winnsboro. Davis would write that "the general-in-chief visited the Left Wing of the army and established his headquarters at Winnsborough."

Gen. Geary continued to describe in his report the scene in Winnsboro on the following day:

February 22, my Second and Third Brigades continued destroying the railroad track toward White Oak Station. Pardee's brigade remained on duty in Winnsborough until the rear of the army had passed through at 4.30 p.m., when we left the town by the road toward Rocky Mount Post-Office. During our occupation of Winnsborough the best of order was preserved and private property protected. Lieut. Gen. Wade Hampton, commanding the enemy's cavalry forces, had left with the mayor a note pledging his word that any men of our army who might be left in the town as safeguards after the departure of the main forces should be protected from arrest or injury if overtaken by any of his troops. At the urgent request of the mayor and citizens I left two mounted men from my provost guard. The citizens of the town, after our departure, organized themselves under these two men, drove out a few stragglers from our army who came into the place, and preserved good order and security in the town until a detachment of Butler's rebel cavalry entered the town the next morning, who showed my men every courtesy in their power. When the two guards left the people of the town crowded around them to express their gratitude. The men rejoined me safely the next morning. The incident was a very remarkable one in the midst of such a campaign as that of our army through South Carolina.

While in Winnsboro on February 21 Gen. Sherman wrote correspondences to Bvt. Maj. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick, commanding the Third Division Cavalry, and to Maj. Gen. Oliver Howard, commanding Sherman's Right Wing. He included in his correspondence to Howard from *Headquarters, Winnsborough, February 21, [1865] -- 6 p.m.* that "Generals Slocum and Davis are here... I will keep with the Twentieth Corps, which is Slocum's right." (pg. 513, Part II)

Nothing in the Official Records suggests that Gen. Sherman spent the night of February 21 in Winnsboro, only that he was here at 6 p.m. on that day. Sherman, along with Slocum, would move with the 20th Corps and cross the Catawba River at Rocky Mount on a pontoon bridge on February 23. The 17th Corps would continue the destruction of the railroad through Winnsboro and march east to Poplar Springs and cross the Wateree River on a pontoon bridge at Peay's Ferry also on February 23. Gen. Howard, moving with the 15th Corps, would cross at Peay's Ferry on the afternoon of February 22.

SOURCE: All referenced reports and correspondence cited are from Series I, Volume 47 of *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington, DC, 1895; reprint by The National Historical Society, 1971).

The Tuesday, February 17, 2015 edition of *The State*, as part of its series *The Burning of Columbia*, ran a piece on 'Acts of compassion amid the ashes 150 years ago today.' Several historians and authors contributing to the article would include the following as an act of compassion "amid the carnage and flames."

"Union Gen. John W. Geary force-marched his men to Winnsboro to run out undisciplined elements of the Union army and put out the fires there, preventing another Columbia."

