

THE YANKEE LETTER

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Subject: A Letter was found on a street in S.C. that was written by a Yankee Officer on 2-26-1865 at a Union Camp near Camden, S.C. while the troops were held up by rain, swollen rivers, and mud. Our Southern Heroes who wrote the volumes of Southern Historical Society Papers and two newspapers published the letter as being authentic. The North wanted this letter discredited and even assigned a Union Colonel to the cover up. Some report today that this Lt. Myers has even been removed from the rosters of Union soldiers. They claim Lt. Thomas J. Myers never existed. But in his letter to the SHSP's you will see that Union Col. Stone (Lt. Myers's accomplice) , back in 1865 had no trouble finding this soldier. But he did claim that this Myers was discharged earlier (records were easy to change) than this date and that Lt. Myers was in Alabama at an earlier time period (convenient). (This only proves that Lt. Myers most certainly did exist, but does not prove that he didn't write the letter in S. Carolina) One doubting Thomas reported that the Union Army was not even near Camden on February 26, 1865. My proof was found in this book: "The Civil War Day By Day An Almanac" by E.B. Long and Barbara Long Foreword by Bruce Catton p. 643 Thursday Feb. 23rd "There was a skirmish near Camden. But heavy rains

now set in, causing delays until the 26th, although some movement continued."
Union Col Stone cast doubt about the letter being authentic, and before the SHSP's authors began their investigation, they were willing to go along with the Yankee Colonel's statements. In the end, they decided the Myers letter is authentic, and included the letter in the SHSP. Their reasons will be included later in this report. Some in the South, especially with Yankee ancestors, wish to have this letter discredited. The reader may come to a conclusion after reading this entire report. If the reader does not believe the Union Army ACCOMPLICE of Myers (Col. Stone) capable of this cover up, then his conclusion about the letter may be different. I wish to cover this subject as I was taught back in the fifties: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.

What:

It was found in a street in South Carolina as reported by the Columbus, Georgia Sun and Times, and in THE STATESMAN, an Alderson, West Virginia newspaper. Later, it appeared in the Southern Historical Society Papers, Vol. XII, page 113,; and the following book: "THE LAST REBEL YELL" by Michael Andrew Grissom, And: Henry Clay Dean's Crimes of the Civil War and Curse of the Funding System. Published in 1868. This letter is included on pages 82-83 -- only three years after the date of the letter -- Dean's book (which is available through (Crown Rights Books) predates The Statesman by 15 years and is therefore probably the earliest publication of the letter. Dean also would seem to carry more weight since he was a Northerner.

THE LETTER:

"Camp near Camden, S. C., Feb 26, 1865.
My dear wife--I have no time for particulars. We have had a glorious time in this State. Unrestricted license to burn and plunder was the order of the day. The

chivalry [meaning the Honourable & Chivalrous people of the South] have been stripped of most of their valuables. Gold watches, silver pitchers, cups, spoons, forks, &c., are as common in camp as blackberries.

The terms of plunder are as follows: Each company is required to exhibit the results of its operations at any given place--one-fifth and first choice falls to the share of the commander-in-chief and staff; one-fifth to the corps commanders and staff; one-fifth to field officers of regiments, and two-fifths to the company. Officers are not allowed to join these expeditions without disguising themselves as privates. One of our corps commanders borrowed a suit of rough clothes from one of my men, and was successful in this place. He got a large quantity of silver (among other things an old-time milk pitcher) and a very fine gold watch from a Mrs DeSaussure, at this place. DeSaussure was one of the F. F. V.s of South Carolina, and was made to fork over liberally.. Officers over the rank of Captain are not made to put their plunder in the estimate for general distribution. This is very unfair, and for that reason, in order to protect themselves, subordinate officers and privates keep back every thing that they can carry about their persons, such as rings, earrings, breast pins, &c., of which, if I ever get home, I have about a quart. I am not joking--I have at least a quart of jewelry for you and all the girls, and some No. 1 diamond rings and pins among them.

General Sherman has silver and gold enough to start a bank. His share in gold watches alone at Columbia was two hundred and seventy-five. But I said I could not go into particulars. All the general officers and many besides had valuables of every description, down to embroidered ladies' pocket handkerchiefs. I have my share of them, too. We took gold and silver enough from the damned rebels to have redeemed their infernal currency twice over. This, (the currency), whenever we came across it, we burned, as we considered it utterly worthless.

I wish all the jewelry this army has could be carried to the "Old Bay State". It would deck her out in glorious style; but, alas! it will be scattered all over the North and Middle States. The damned niggers, as a general rule, prefer to stay at home, particularly after they found out that we only wanted the able-bodied men, (and to tell the truth, the youngest

and best-looking women). Sometimes we took off whole families and plantations of niggers, by way of repaying secessionists. But the useless part of them we soon manage to lose; [one very effective was to "shoot at their bobbing heads as they swam rivers" after the army units crossed over], sometimes in crossing rivers, sometimes in other ways.

I shall write to you again from Wilmington, Goldsboro', or some other place in North Carolina. The order to march has arrived, and I must close hurriedly. Love to grandmother and aunt Charlotte. Take care of yourself and children. Don't show this letter out of the family.

Your affectionate husband, Thomas J Myers, Lieut.,
P.S. I will send this by the first flag of truce to be mailed, unless I have an opportunity of sending it at Hilton Head. Tell Sallie I am saving a pearl bracelet and ear-rings for her; but Lambert got the necklace and breast pin of the same set. I am trying to trade him out of them. These were taken from the Misses Jamison, daughters of the President of the South Carolina Secession Convention. We found these on our trip through Georgia." End of Letter.

The letter was addressed to Mrs. Thomas J. Myers, Boston, Massachusetts. end

When: February 26, 1865 after Georgia and S. Carolina had been looted and burned.

Where: This letter was written at a Union Camp near Camden, South Carolina and sometime afterwards turned up in a street in South Carolina.

Who: Lt. Thomas J. Myers of the Union Army.

Why: The looting was done because Sherman wanted to make the "South howl".

Sherman had lost a son in Mississippi to disease and became a madman.

How: There was nothing but women, children, elderly men, and slaves in front

Sherman's hoards of looters, rapists, arsonists, and murderers as documented

by hundreds of books and even the Official Records of the War. The historical fact

forever remains condemning Sherman as being no higher than Attila the Hun and

certainly no better than the Roman hordes sweeping

across Europe and erasing
all cultures, pillaging, raping, looting, and just being
the barbarian as
naturally as you please.

And here's the letter to the Southern heroes who
were writing the Southern Historical
Society Papers from the Union Colonel Stone, an
accomplice to Sherman and
Lt. Myers.:

Rev. J. WILLIAM JONES, D. D.,
Secretary Southern Historical Society, Richmond, Va.:
DEAR SIR,--In the number of the SOUTHERN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY PAPERS for March, 1884, under
the heading, "How they made South Carolina 'Howl'--
Letter from one of Sherman's Bummers," you publish
what purports to be "a letter found in the streets of
Columbia after the army of General Sherman
had left."

The contents of the letter are enough to satisfy any
unprejudiced mind that it could not have been
written by any officer of General Sherman's
command--except, possibly, as the broadest kind of
a hoax. But conceding, for the moment, that such a
letter might have been written by "one of 'Sherman's
Bummers,'" it is demonstrable that the letter under
consideration is not genuine. If any such letter exists,
it is a forgery.

The statement is that it was "found in the streets of
Columbia after the army of General Sherman had
left." The last of that army left Columbia on or before
February 21. This letter purports to be dated "Camp
near Camden, S.C., February 26, 1865." Camden is at
least thirty miles east of Columbia, and on
the opposite side of the Catawba river. By the
roundabout course pursued by the army, it is double
that distance. The crossing of the river occupied
several days, and was effected twenty or thirty miles
north of Camden. The waters were very high, and
once across, there was no such thing as returning.
Everybody and everything was moving away from
Columbia as rapidly as possible. Only a small part of
Sherman's army marched through or near Camden.
The knowledge or consideration of these facts shows
how improbable, if not absolutely impossible, it was,
under the circumstances, that any letter written by
one of "Sherman's Bummers," near Camden, South
Carolina, could afterwards have found its way to the

streets of Columbia.

It so happens, also, that no officer named Thomas J. Myers--the name purporting to be signed to the document you have reprinted--belonged to General Sherman's army. The records show that, throughout the war, there was but one officer in the military service of the United States with that name, and he was not in Sherman's army, and did not--as is implied in the direction, Boston, Mass., and the reference in the letter to the "Old Bay State"--belong to any Massachusetts regiment. "Alas," cries the weeping Thomas, "it (the captured jewelry) will be scattered all over the North and Middle States." It so happens, also, that of the ninety regiments of Sherman's army which might have passed on the march near Camden, South Carolina, but a single one--a New Jersey regiment--was from the Middle States. All the rest were from the West--never called the North, in the local idiom of Western people. A letter from the only Thomas J. Myers ever in the army would never contain such a phrase.

To crown all, Thomas J. Myers resigned from the military service on the 18th of February, 1865--eight days before the date of the pretended letter--while his regiment was in Northern Alabama.

I should not have taken pains to look up and analyze these facts if I did not think it matter for profound regret that a periodical, presumably published in the interest of historical truth, should give currency to this document. No possible good can come of its publication, if genuine, but much harm. It throws no light on one single fact or method by which the war was conducted. As to General Sherman's procedure, on his famous march, history will judge it on

acknowledged and recorded facts--which are ample and accessible--not on any such irritating and preposterous assertions as are contained in the document under

consideration. General Sherman has never shrunk from any responsibility for his actions. The genuine recollections and experiences of men and women in that

exciting and passionate time are legitimate and useful matters for publication, even when they reveal things which, in the cooler days of reason and law, everyone

must regret, if not condemn--*Inter arma, silent leges.*

Till men become perfect, war will be full, always, of
cruellest outrages. When they do become perfect,
there will be no
war. So far as it may help to restrain men's passions
or ambitions, and lead to the adoption of better
methods for redressing wrongs, real or fancied, than
killing and robbery--which all war is, in its last
analysis--every tale of suffering, privation, injury,
spoliation, may prove useful, and so its
publication justifiable. But when, as certainly seems
the case in this instance, nothing but the provocation
and perpetuation of ill-feeling and bitterness can
result, I submit that a periodical of
the character of the SOUTHERN HISTORICAL PAPERS
might--as I am happy to see it does, in most
instances--find better material than reprinting from
obscure newspapers, matter which throws no real
light on any single act or motive during the whole of
the great contest.

Your periodical is taken by a society of which I am a
member, but I did not happen to see the March
number earlier, or I should have earlier written
you. I do not write now for publication--though to
that I have no objection--but simply
to give you the facts, and let your own sense of
justice decide what you will do.

Very respectfully yours,
HENRY STONE, Late Brevet-Colonel U. S. Volunteers,
and A. A. G. Army of the Cumberland. End

Southern Historical Society Papers.
Vol. XXIX. Richmond, Va., January-December. 1901.
Report Of The History Committee.

It may be fairly inferred from General Sherman's
middle name (Tecumseh),
that some of his ancestors were Indians. But whether
this be true or not, no
one can read this statement of his without being
convinced that he was a
savage. But he was not only a confessed savage, as
we have seen, but a
confessed vandal as well. He says, on page 256, in
telling of a night he
spent in one of the splendid old houses of South
Carolina, where, he says,
"the proprietors formerly had dispensed a hospitality

that distinguished the old regime of that proud State. I 'slept (he says) on the floor of the house, but the night was so bitter cold, that I got up by the fire several times, and when it burned low I rekindled it with an old mantel clack and the wreck of a bedstead which stood in the corner of the room--the only act of vandalism that I recall done by myself personally during the war." Since the admissions of a criminal are always taken as conclusive proof of his crime, we now know from his own lips that General Sherman was a vandal. But we also find, on page 287, that he confessed having told a falsehood about General Hampton, so that we cannot credit his statement that the foregoing was his only act of vandalism. Indeed, we think we have most satisfactory evidence to the contrary. (It will be noted, however, that Sherman makes a distinction between his personal acts of vandalism and those he committed through others.) A part of this evidence is to be found in the following letter from a lieutenant, Thomas J. Myers, published in Vol. 12, Southern Historical Society Papers, page 113

Myers (Yankee Letter cut here as it is already above) This letter was published in the Southern Historical Society Papers, in March, 1884. About a year thereafter, one Colonel Henry Stone, styling himself "Late Brevet-Colonel U. S. Volunteers, A. A. G. Army of the Cumberland," realizing the gravity of the statements contained in this letter, and the disgrace these, if uncontradicted, would bring on General Sherman and his army, and especially on the staff, of which he (Colonel Stone) was a member, wrote a letter to the Rev. J. William Jones, D. D., the then editor of the Historical Society Papers, in which

he undertook to show that the Myers letter was not written by any officer in General Sherman's army. (This letter can be found in Vol. 13, S. H. S. Papers, page 439.) The reasons assigned by Colonel Stone were plausibly set forth, and Dr. Jones, in his anxiety to do justice even to Sherman's "bummers," after publishing Colonel Stone's letter, said editorially, he was "frank to admit that Colonel Stone seems to have made out his case against the authenticity of this letter." If the matter had rested here, we would not have thought of using this letter in our report, notwithstanding the fact (1) that we think the letter bears the impress of genuineness on its face; (2) it is vouched for by what Dr. Jones termed a "responsible source," and what the first paper publishing it cited as a "distinguished lady," who, it also stated, said that the original was "still preserved and could be shown and substantiated ;" (3) the statements contained in Colonel Stone's letter are only his statements, uncorroborated and not vouched for by any one, or by any documentary evidence of any kind, and being those of an alleged accomplice, are not entitled to any weight in a court of justice; (4) we think the reasons assigned by Colonel Stone for the non-genuineness of this letter are for the most part not inconsistent with its genuineness; and (5) some of his statements are, apparently, inconsistent with some of the facts as they appear in the records we have examined, e. g., He says "that of the ninety regiments of Sherman's army, which might have passed on the march near Camden, S. C., but a single one--a New Jersey regiment--was from the Middle States. All the rest were from the West. A letter (he says) from the

only Thomas J. Myers ever in the army would never contain such a phrase," referring to the fact that Myers had said this stolen jewelry, &c., would be scattered "all over the North and Middle States." Sherman's statement of the organization of his army on this march shows there were several regiments in it from New York and Pennsylvania, besides one from Maryland and <shv29_114>one from New Jersey (all four Middle States). But we think this, like other reasons assigned by Colonel Stone, are without merit. But, as we have said, notwithstanding all these things which seemingly discredit the reasons assigned by Colonel Stone for the non-genuineness of this letter, we should not have used the letter in this report, had not the substantial statements in it been confirmed, as we shall now see. The Myers' letter was first published on October 29, 1883. On the 31st of July, 1865, Captain E. J. Hale, Jr., of Fayetteville, N. C., who had been on General James H. Lane's staff, and who is vouched for by General Lane as "an elegant educated gentleman," wrote to General Lane, telling him of the destruction and devastation at his home, and in that letter he makes this statement: "You have doubtless heard of Sherman's 'bummers.' The Yankees would have you believe that they were only the stragglers pillagers usually found in all armies. Several letters written by officers of Sherman's army, intercepted near this town, give this the lie. "In some of these letters were descriptions of the whole bumming process, and from them it appears that it was a regularly organized system, under the authority of General Sherman himself; that one-fifth of the proceeds fell to General Sherman, another fifth to the other general officers, another fifth

to the line officers, and the remaining two-fifths to the enlisted men."

Now, compare this division of the spoils with that set forth in the Myers' letter, published, as we have said, eighteen years later, and it will be seen that they are almost identical, and this statement was taken, as Captain Hale states, from "several letters written by officers of Sherman's army," intercepted near Fayetteville, N. C., and as we have said, they confirm the statements of the Myers' letter, and its consequent genuineness, to a remarkable degree. It is proper, also, to state, that we have recently received a letter from Dr. Jones, in which he states that after carefully considering this whole matter again, he is now satisfied that he was mistaken in his editorial comments on Colonel Stone's letter, that he is now satisfied of the genuineness of the Myers' letter, and that in his opinion we could use it in this report "with perfect propriety and safety." (*)

We have discussed this letter thus fully because we feel satisfied that the annals of warfare disclose nothing so venal and depraved. Imagine, if it is possible to do so, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson commanding an army licensed by them to plunder the defenceless, and then sharing in the fruits of this plundering!

We can barely allude to Sherman's burning of Columbia, the proof of which is too conclusive to admit of controversy. On the 18th December, 1864, General H. W. Halleck, major-general and chief-of-staff of the armies of the United States, wrote Sherman as follows: * * * *

"Should you capture Charleston, I hope that by some accident the place may be destroyed, and if a little salt should be thrown upon its site, it may prevent the future growth of nullification and

secession."

To this suggestion from this high (?) source to commit murder, arson and robbery, and pretend it was by accident, Sherman replied on December 24, 1864, as follows:

"I will bear in mind your hint as to Charleston, and do not think that 'salt' will be necessary. When I move the Fifteenth corps will be on the right of the right wing, and their position will naturally bring them into Charleston first, and if you have watched the history of that corps, you will have remarked that they generally do their work pretty well; the truth is, the whole army is burning with an insatiable desire to wreak vengeance upon South Carolina. I almost tremble for her fate, but feel that she deserves all that seems in store for her. I look upon Columbia as quite as bad as Charleston, and I doubt if we shall spare the public buildings there, as we did at Milledgeville."

(See 2 Sherman's Memoirs, pages 223, 227-8.)

We say proof of his ordering (or permitting, which is just as bad) the destruction of Columbia is overwhelming. (See report of Chancellor Carroll, chairman of a committee appointed to investigate the facts about this in General Bradley T. Johnson's Life of Johnson, from which several of these extracts are taken.) Our people owe General Johnson a debt of gratitude for this and his other contributions to Confederate history. And Sherman had the effrontery to write in his Memoirs that in his official report of this conflagration, he distinctly charged it to General Wade Hampton, and (says) confess I did so pointedly go shake the faith of his people in him." (2 Sherman's Memoirs, page 287.) The man who confessed to the world that he made

this false charge with such a motive needs no characterization at the hands of this committee.

General Sherman set out to "make Georgia howl," and preferred, as he said, to "march through that State smashing things to the sea." He wrote to Grant after his march through South Carolina, saying: "The people of South Carolina, instead of feeding Lee's army, will now call on Lee to feed them." (Memoirs, page 298.)

So complete had been his destruction in that State. He also says: "Having utterly ruined Columbia, the right wing began its march northward, (Memoirs, page 288.)

On the 21st of February, 1865, only a few days after the burning of Columbia, General Hampton wrote to General Sherman, charging him with being responsible for its destruction, and other outrages, in which he said, among other things:

"You permitted, if you have not ordered, the commission of these offences against humanity and the rules of war. You fired into the city of Columbia without a word of warning. After its surrender by the mayor, who demanded protection to private property, you laid the whole city in ashes, leaving amid its ruins thousands of old men and helpless women and children, who are likely to perish of starvation and exposure. Your line of march can be traced by the lurid light of burning houses, and in more than one household there is an agony far more bitter than death.

"The Indian scalped his victim, regardless of age or sex, but with all his barbarity, he always respected the person of his female captives. Your soldiers, more savage than the Indian, insult those whose natural protectors are absent." End The Southern Historical Society

Papers

Some items of Proof:

1. "According to my sources, it was found by "an old Negro woman outside of Camden SC in 1865". > Tom Elmore
2. The Thomas Myers letter says he was near Camden, SC..
3. The Yankee army did fight on Feb. 24th at Camden, but due to the floods, could not pull out until the 26th, as documented by "The Civil War Day By Day".
4. The letter is dated on the 26th, near Camden.
5. Yankee Colonel Stone admits the existence of a Yankee Officer--Thomas J. Myers
6. Even if Lt. Myers was discharged in Alabama, he would have headed toward Sherman's Bummers in Georgia.
7. The SHSP concluded that Yankee Colonel Stone was an accomplice.

This was offered but not confirmed: Hi Elijah, I have been told that the original of this letter is now at the Sgt. Kirland museum in Fredericksburg, VA. I haven't seen it for myself, but I've been told this several times by different folk.

More of Sherman's official orders:
I repeat my orders that you arrest all people, male and female, connected with those factories, no matter what the clamor, and let them foot it, under guard, to Marietta, whence I will send them by cars to the North.

"Pick up whatever provisions and plunder you can."
On June 3d the question of torpedoes is discussed, and General Stedman receives the following instructions: "If torpedoes are found in the possession of an enemy to our rear, you may cause them to be put on the ground and tested by wagon-loads of prisoners, or, if need be, by citizens implicated in their use. In like manner, if a torpedo is

suspected on any
part of the railroad, order the point to be tested by a
car-load of
prisoners or citizens implicated, drawn by a long
rope." "Implicated," we
suppose here means "residing or captured in the
neighborhood."

I will see as to any man in America hoisting the
French flag, and then devoting
his labor and capital to supplying armies in open
hostility to our government,
and claiming the benefit of his neutral flag. Should
you, under the impulse of
anger, natural at contemplating such perfidy, hang
the wretch, I approve the act
beforehand.

All saw-mills and factories dispose of effectually, and
useful laborers, excused
by reason of their skill as manufacturers from
conscription, are as much
prisoners as if armed."

"If you entertain a bare
suspicion against any family, send it to the North.
Any loafer or suspicious
person seen at any time should be imprisoned and
sent off. If guerillas
trouble the road or wires they should be shot without
mercy."

September 8. To General Webster, after the capture of
Atlanta: "Don't let
any citizens come to Atlanta; not one. I won't allow
trade or manufactures
of any kind, but will remove all the present
population, and make Atlanta a
pure military town." To General Halleck he writes, "I
am not willing to have
Atlanta encumbered by the families of our enemies."
Of this wholesale
depopulation, General Hood complained, by flag of
truce, as cruel and
contrary to the usages of civilized nations, and
customs of war, receiving
this courteous and gentlemanly reply (September
12)--"I think I understand
the laws of civilized nations and the 'customs of war';
but if at
a loss at any time, I know where to seek for

information to refresh my memory."

General Hood made the correspondence, or part of it, public, on which fact

General Sherman remarks to General Halleck, "Of course he is welcome, for the more he arouses the indignation of the Southern masses the bigger will be the pill of bitterness they will have to swallow."

On October 20th he writes to General Thomas from Summerville, giving an idea of his plan of operations: "Out of the forces now here and at Atlanta I

propose to organize an efficient army of 60,000 to 65,000 men, with which I

propose to destroy Macon, Augusta, and, it may be, Savannah and Charleston.

By this I propose to demonstrate the vulnerability of the South, and make its inhabitants feel that war and individual ruin are synonymous terms."

Dispatch of October 22d to General Grant: "I am now perfecting arrangements

to put into Tennessee a force able to hold the line of the Tennessee, while

I break up the railroad in front of Dalton, including the city of Atlanta,

and push into Georgia and break up all its railroads and depots, capture its

horses and negroes, make desolation everywhere; destroy the factories at

Macon, Milledgeville and Augusta, and bring up with 60,000 men on the

sea-shore about Savannah or Charleston."

To General Thomas, from Kingston, November 11:

"Last night we

burned Rome, and in two more days will burn Atlanta" (which he was then

occupying).

December 5th: "Blair can burn the bridges and culverts, and burn enough

barns to mark the progress of his head of column."

December 18th. To General Grant, from near

Savannah: "With Savannah in our

possession, at some future time, if not now, we can punish South Carolina as

she deserves, and as thousands of people in Georgia hope we will do. I do sincerely believe that the whole United States, North and South, would rejoice to have this army turned loose on South Carolina, to devastate that State in the manner we have done in Georgia." A little before this he announces to Secretary Stanton that he knows what the people of the South are fighting for. What do our readers suppose? To ravage the North with sword and fire, and crush them under their heels? Surely it must be some such delusion that inspires this ferocity of hatred, unmitigated by even a word of compassion. He may speak for himself: "Jeff. Davis has succeeded perfectly in inspiring his people with the truth that liberty and government are worth fighting for." This was their unpardonable crime.

December 22d, to General Grant. "If you can hold Lee, I could go on and smash South Carolina all to pieces." General Sherman charged the arson in Columbia to General Hampton-- not because he believed him to be guilty, but to shake confidence in him. Even our Northern brethren, or some of them, will reluctantly admit that a commanding general who will boast that he accused an opponent of a crime of which he knew him to be innocent is capable, at this late day, of lying squarely to gratify his spite and save himself from blame.

to General Kilpatrick: "Let the whole people know the war is now against them, because their armies flee before us and do not defend their country or frontier as they should. It is pretty nonsense for Wheeler and Beauregard and such vain heroes to talk of our warring against women and children. But wherever Sherman's army went, in South Carolina, they burned,

ravaged and destroyed.
This was so in Blackville, Lexington, Winnsboro' and other places. When Confederate soldiers were absent, Sherman's army touched nothing that it did not destroy. Our reliance here is not on Southern testimony, though it were easy to find hundreds of our people who saw, and who suffered by, the work of devastation. There was not a town or village in the State which Sherman reached where the gaunt chimneys, rising from smoking ruins, did not stand as monuments of the victories of his legions over sad-eyed women and wailing children. Colonel Conyngham, United States Army, in his "History of Sherman's Great March," says: "There can be no doubt of the assertion that the feeling among the troops was one of extreme bitterness towards the people of South Carolina. It was freely expressed as the column hurried over the bridge at Sister's Ferry, eager to commence the punishment of the original Secessionists. Threatening words were heard from soldiers who prided themselves on conservatism in house burning while in Georgia, and officers openly confessed their fears that the coming campaign would be a wicked one. Just or unjust as this feeling was toward the country people in South Carolina, it was universal. I first saw its fruits at Purisburg, where two or three piles of blackened bricks and an acre or so of dying embers marked the site of an old revolutionary town; and this before the column had fairly got its hand in." Again: "The ruined homesteads of the Palmetto State will long be remembered. The army might safely march the darkest night, the crackling pine woods shooting up their columns of flame, and the burning houses along the way would light it on. * * * As for the

wholesale burnings, pillage, devastation committed in South Carolina, magnify all I have said of Georgia some fifty-fold, and then throw in an occasional murder, 'just to bring an old hard-fisted cuss to his senses,' and you have a pretty good idea of the whole thing. Besides compelling the enemy to evacuate Charleston, WE destroyed Columbia, Orangeburg, and several other places, also over fifty miles of railroad, and thousands of bales of cotton." Major Nichols, of General Sherman's staff, in his History, under date of January 30, 1865, says: "The actual invasion of South Carolina has begun. The well-known sight of columns of black smoke meets our gaze again. This time, houses are burning, and South Carolina has commenced to pay an installment, long overdue, on her debt to justice and humanity. With the help of God, we will have principal and interest before we leave her borders." This is Federal testimony. And why should not officers and men have acted in the way described? General Sherman was in supreme command. Had they aught to fear from him? They came into South Carolina with the determination to make an example of the Palmetto State.

From the GA Division CSA History Curriculum Project:

New Manchester, Georgia and The Roswell, Georgia Mills

In July of 1864, Sherman's troops approached Atlanta, Georgia, during Sherman's "March To The Sea." Enroute, Sherman left a trail of utter destruction behind, leaving nothing for the civilian population in his path.

At ten o'clock on Saturday morning, July 2, 1864, two regiments of U.S. cavalry, commanded by Colonel Silas Adams and a strong force of infantry

under Major Haviland Thompkins appeared at New Manchester, Georgia, a town that once stood in present day Douglas County on the present site of Sweetwater Creek State Park.

>From high ground across Sweetwater Creek, Confederate scouts saw them set up artillery within sight of the factory, but they could do nothing. From the windows of the mill, anxious employees watched as a line of blue-uniformed skirmishers approached the building. Not a shot was fired, however, and Major Thompkins and Colonel Adams were soon in the mill office demanding to know who was in charge.

Henry Lovern and A.C. "Cicero" Tippens were quickly brought before the officers and placed under arrest, along with every man, woman and child in the nearby town. The mill was shut down and the citizens of New Manchester returned to their homes under guard, having been misled after being told that once transportation arrived that they would be moved west out of the path of the armies where they would be safe from harm. For the next several days, Federal soldiers searched the town, broke open the company safe-it was empty-and sent patrols up and down Sweetwater Creek to check out the Ferguson-Merchant Mill to the north and Alexander's Mill to the south.

Meanwhile, Major Thompkins led part of the cavalry force in his command up the Chattahoochee River to Roswell, Georgia, where the Roswell Mills were located. Here he encountered a defiant Frenchman named Theophilie Roche. In a desperate attempt to save the Roswell Mills, the owners, without consideration, deeded the property to Roche. He was an "attaché" of the factory and was at that time a citizen of France, a foreign national. Roche ran up a French flag and claimed protection under it. When told of this,

General Sherman became furious. "I repeat my orders," he raged at U.S. General Garrar, "that you arrest all people, male and female, connected with those factories, no matter what the clamor, and let them foot it, under guard, to Marietta, where I will send them by cars to the North." "If you hang Roche," he screamed, "I approve the act beforehand!"

On Friday, July 8, Major Thompkins arrived back at New Manchester where he informed Colonel Adams of General Sherman's determination to destroy the town and deport it's people. The next morning Major Thompkins sent a guard for Henry Lovern to tell him of the decision.

Thompkins had burnt the Roswell Factory on the previous Thursday. Thompkins advised Lovern that the New Manchester hands "must fix up to go west where they could get provisions as they intended to destroy everything in this part of the country."

On Saturday, July 9, 1864, a detachment of eight men went to the factory and set fire to it in several places. One by one the company store, the machine shops and the homes around the mill were put to the torch. Great clouds of smoke filled the air as the civilians of New Manchester watched their homes burn.

Major Thompkins then ordered that the 300-foot-long wooden dam across the creek above the mill be cannonaded. After several shots ripped holes in the dam the swirling waters of Sweetwater Creek finished off the destruction. Within minutes, several hundred thousand dollars worth of property perished in the flood, including one piece of Union artillery. The transport wagons then arrived, not to take the citizens to safety westward but to take them to Marietta, Georgia, where they would board trains for deportation to the North.

When the transport wagons proved to be insufficient, each cavalryman was ordered to take a second rider on his horse. The women hated riding behind the soldiers, but it was "a very fine sight," one Illinois soldier wrote home, one "we don't often see in the army." "The employees were all women," he continued, "and they were really good looking." Since the men had not been near a woman for months, order and discipline quickly broke down.

Besides, one soldier later wrote in his defense, "we always felt that we had a perfect right to appropriate to our own use anything we needed for our comfort and convenience." The Yankee troopers' "delirium," one soldier confided to his diary, "took the form of making love to the women." In this manner, the people of New Manchester set out for the sixteen-mile trip to Marietta, Georgia. Before night, one officer found it necessary to move his troops one mile north of the prisoners to restore a semblance of order and discipline within his troops.

By the time the New Manchester women reached Marietta, Georgia, they had long since ceased to exist as identifiable individuals. They had been merged with groups of other mill prisoners and were huddled together - 400 in the group - the male prisoners having been segregated from the female. This group hereafter was referred to in official reports and dispatches simply as the "Roswell Women," or the "Factory Hands."

Once they arrived in Marietta and were housed in the Georgia Military Institute building, the battered women became an embarrassment to U.S. General George H. Thomas, who wrote to Sherman on July 10: "The Roswell Factory hands, 400 or 500 in number, have arrived at Marietta. The most of them are women. I can only order them transportation to Nashville where it

seems hard to turn them adrift. What had best be done with them?" Sherman replied, "I have ordered General Webster at Nashville to dispose of them. They will be sent to Indiana."

On July 15th, these women were given nine days' rations, placed on trains and were sent to a distribution point in Nashville, Tennessee. On July 20th, they were again moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where a local newspaper reporter noted their arrival: "The train which arrived at Louisville from Nashville last evening brought up from the South two hundred and forty-nine women and children, who are sent by order of General Sherman, to be transferred north of the Ohio River, there to remain during the war. We understand that there are now at Nashville fifteen hundred women and children, who are in a very destitute condition, and who are to be sent to Louisville to be sent North. A number of them were engaged in the manufactories at Sweetwater at the time that place was captured by our forces."

By this time, however, General Sherman's wholesale deportations had caused a furor in the North. One New York newspaper wrote: "...it is hardly conceivable that an officer bearing a United States commission of Major General should have so far forgotten the commonest dictates of decency and humanity...as to drive four hundred penniless girls hundreds of miles away from their homes and friends to seek their livelihood amid strange and hostile people. We repeat our earnest hope that further information may redeem the name of General Sherman and our own from this frightful disgrace."

In April 1865, a great silence descended across the land - the war was over. The South, shattered and defeated, had become a conquered

province. Nowhere was the silence greater than at New Manchester. Not one of the New Manchester women ever returned and only a handful of the men. Henry Lovern, for instance, returned in January 1866 and became an employee of the Princeton Manufacturing Company's textile mill in Athens, Georgia. Nathaniel Humphries, who ran the company's store at New Manchester was confined for eleven months at Jeffersonville, Indiana. From there he returned to Georgia and spent the remainder of his life in Cobb and Carroll Counties. W.H. Bell, second in the card room, finally returned, as did Gideon J. Jennings, who had been employed at the factory as a machinist.

In March 1868, these were the only men who could be found within the state who had a first-hand knowledge of the events at New Manchester on those fateful days. Most of them never saw their families again. One husband traced his wife to Louisville, Kentucky, where they were reunited, but this was an exception. Most of them died never knowing the whereabouts of their wives and children.

On October 26, 1882, Theophilie Roche, the Frenchman, brought suit against the government of the United States claiming damages in the amount of \$125,000 for false arrest and destruction of the Roswell Mills. When this case came to a hearing before the French-American Claims Commission on July 2, 1883, it was dismissed "for want of prosecution." Roche had escaped the hangman's noose but not Gen. Sherman's wrath.

References: "The Lost Cause" by Edward A. Pollard, Chapter 37. "The Story of the Confederate States" by Joseph T. Derry, Part 3, Section 3, Chapter 3 & 4. "The South Was Right" by James R. Kennedy and Walter D. Kennedy, Chapter 4. "Truths of History" by Mildred L. Rutherford, Chapter 10. Also 3 pages

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 RELATING TO OPERATIONS IN THE ATLANTA
 CAMPAIGN, FROM JULY 1, 1864, TO
 SEPTEMBER 8, 1864.--#5**

Elijah S. Coleman©

Hundreds of books have been written about Lincoln the humanitarian, a soft and gentle man. But from the very beginning of his administration he intentionally waged a cruel and unbelievably bloody war on civilians as well as soldiers. As early as 1861, Federal soldiers looted, pillaged, raped and plundered their way through Virginia and other Southern states, completely burning to the ground the towns of Jackson and Meridian, Mississippi, Randolph, Tennessee, and others. Historian Jeffrey Rogers Hummel estimates that some 50,000 Southern civilians were killed during the war, and this number, even if it is exaggerated by a multiple of two, most likely includes thousands of slaves. In his March to the Sea, General William Tecumseh Sherman boasted of having destroyed \$100 million in private property and that his "soldiers" carried home another \$20 million worth. [Thomas J. DiLorenzo](#)

TESTIMONY OF A FEDERAL SOLDIER

JOHN A. BATESON, 115th E. V. R. C., Second Battalion.

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*SOUTHERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PAPERS

Vol. I. Richmond, Va., March, 1876.

No.4. April - Pages 293 - 294

We have received a paper from Mr. John A. Bateson, of Pioche, Nevada, one of the Federal guard at Rock Island, which is a strong confirmation of the above statement of

Mr. Wright.

Mr. Bateson is vouched for by a district judge and a prominent lawyer of Pioche as a gentleman of "perfect truthfulness and reliability"; and he refers to a number of leading Republicans in the Northwest, with whom he has always been politically associated, "for an endorsement of his character as a staunch Republican and honorable man."

His, therefore, is not "Rebel" testimony, but that of a Union soldier, and "a truly loyal Republican," whom Mr. Blaine cannot dismiss with the cry of "traitor."

TESTIMONY OF A FEDERAL SOLDIER.

PIOCHE, February 19, 1876.

During a period of ten months I was a member of the garrison of the Rock Island Military Prison. There were confined there about ten thousand men. Those men were retained in a famishing condition by order of Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War. That order was approved by Abraham Lincoln. It was read before the inside garrison of the prison sometime in January, 1864. It was read at assembly for duty on the 2d, in front of the prison. It went into effect on the following day. It continued in force until the expiration of my term of service, and, I have understood, until the close of the war.

When it was read, Colonel Shaffner, of the Eighth Veteran Reserves, was acting Provost Marshal of Prisoners. I think that it was Captain Robinson who read the order. It reduced the daily allowance of the captives to about ten ounces of bread and four ounces of meat per man.

Some time in January a batch of prisoners arrived. They were captured at Knoxville. Sixty of them were consigned to barracks under my charge. They were received by me at about 3 in the afternoon. One of the prisoners inquired of me when they would draw rations. I told him not until the following day. He said that in that case some of his comrades must die, as they had eaten nothing since their capture several days before - the exact period I cannot state. That evening at roll call one of the prisoners exhibited symptoms of delirium. He moved from the ranks, and seemed to grasp for something, which I understood to be a table loaded with delicacies. I returned him to the ranks, where he remained until roll-call was over, when I left. On the following morning he and two others were dead.

The mortality report among the new Rebs was extraordinarily large. I think it amounted to about ten per cent. of the entire number. It created an interest among the company commandant, and was the subject of many expressions. From the rebel orderlies I learned that the symptoms in each case were the same. There was no complaint; no manifestation of illness. Some dropped while standing on the floor; others fell from a sitting posture. All swooned and died without a struggle.

Some of the prisoners had money sent them. It was deposited with the Provost Marshal, and their orders on the sutler were at first honored, but supplies from this direction were soon prohibited; the sutler's wagon was excluded from the prison. Supplies from relatives of prisoners, consisting of clothes, food and stationery came for some. The parcels containing them were distributed from "Barrack Thirty." The boxes were examined, everything in the shape of subsistence was removed, and the box and its contents delivered to the prisoner; the food it contained was destroyed before the face of the tantalized captive.

Small tufts of a weed, called parsley, grew under the sides of the prison. It was over the dead-line, where prisoners dare not go. At their earnest entreaty I have sometimes plucked and handed it to some of them. They told me it was a feast. Squads of prisoners under guard were sent to work in different parts of the Island. They sometimes purchased raw potatoes and onions for their comrades suffering with scurvy. They were searched at the prison gate, and those articles taken from them.

I am ready to swear that in my opinion the Knoxville prisoners were starved to death.

As to the torture endured by the scurvy patients, the shooting of prisoners by the guards on the parapets, the smashing of their skulls with revolvers by officers of the prison, such misfortunes are incident to prison life, and neither the Government nor the Republican party can be held responsible for them.

The weather on January 1st was the most intensely cold I ever experienced; and from all parts of the prison came intelligence of prisoners frozen to death. One died in one of my companies. He was reported to me, and I placed my hand on the corpse; it was frozen. This is the first time I have mentioned it. I cannot say that he froze to death.

JOHN A. BATESON,
115th E. V. R. C., Second Battalion.

Christmas Day Atrocities in Missouri by the Feds:

In November a field hospital was attacked by colored cavalry and about 100 of Reeves' men were killed. Reeves collected revenge but he never got over the loss of sick and wounded not able to fight back. Just shot in their beds. He talked about that until he died. On Christmas, a month later, several companies were at the Pulliam farm for a service and feed with their families. This was on the old Tom Pulliam place northwest of Johnston's Chapel and close to Oregon County and the Arkansas line. There was a big spring there on the Mill Branch where folks in that part had picnics. Reeves did a sermon and the group was ready to eat. The well known Major Wilson, the Yankee from Pilot Knob called the murderer, surrounded and attacked. The killed and the wounded were all over the field. Soldiers, their families, nearby families. All were killed. Those that could got across the creek and up the bluff on the south side and into the timber there to hide or keep on running. It was not right to kill the families. Wilson lived up to his name. The loss of sick and wounded at the hospital and the loss of the men and families at Pulliams was pretty hard to take. We were ready to wipe out the blues all the way to St. Louis.

Colonel Reeves did not like to fight or do

other work on Sundays. I was able to go home some nights and almost every Sunday. There was work to do just to provide. No need to make repairs or try to farm. The Yankees could come any day and burn it all.

Another Report:

On **Christmas Day**, 1863, Major James Wilson, later captured and executed by firing squad at Pilot Knob, and 200 Union troops from Fort Davidson at Pilot Knob, passed through Doniphan, traveling on a southeast course to Pulliam's Farm, 17 miles from Doniphan where Colonel Reeves and his cavalry were encamped. A vicious, surprise attack ensued and 35 rebels were killed and 112 taken prisoner when the fighting had ended. But worse, families and neighbors were present and, in the heat of battle, Wilson's soldiers killed over 50 civilians. Mrs. Betty Towell, Tom Pulliam and Ed Cline, long-time residents of the neighborhood, tell that the civilians killed, in camp for a Christmas visit, included **women and children who were shot down the same as the rebel soldiers** of Reeves' Regiment. That action attests to the cruelty of the war.

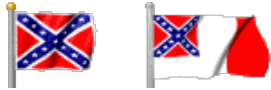
The Southern Boudicca

Robert Audry was 27 years old when he enlisted on August 13, 1862 at Lively Grove, IL in Co. B, 111th Illinois Infantry. Until his discharge in 1865, Audry saw intense action in the Atlanta and Carolina Campaigns. Here is a letter he sent home (I've emboldened some of the text for emphasis):

**In line of battle
June 3, 1864**

Dear Father,

I take pen in hand to let you know that I am well. We are encamped near Dallas, Georgia where we found the enemy in force on the 26th inst. The 111th was in the front line of the breastworks, and we drew a hot fire from the rebs until about 4 o'clock when the enemy viciously charged our works. We poured hot fire into their ranks and several times their lines broke, but they rallied again and came on with guns blazing and flags waving.



They fought like demons and we cut them down like dogs. Many dead and dying Secesh fell prisoner. I saw 3 or 4 dead rebel women in the heap of bodies. All had been shot down during the final rebel charge upon our works. One Secesh woman charged to within several rods of our works waving the traitor flag and screaming vulgarities at us. She was shot three times but still she came. She was finally killed by two shots fired almost simultaneously by our boys.

Another She-Devil (what the yankees called the Southern women) shot her way to our breastworks with two large revolvers dealing death to all in her path. She was shot several times with no apparent effect. When she ran out of ammunition, she pulled out the largest pig-sticker I ever seen. It must have been 18 inches in the blade. When the Corporal tried to shoot her she kicked him in the face smashing it quite severely. Then she stabbed three boys and was about to decapitate a fourth when the Lieutenant killed her. Without doubt this gal inflicted more damage to our line than any other reb. If Bobby Lee were to field a brigade of such fighters, I think that the Union prospects would be very gloomy indeed for it would be hard to equal their ferocity and pluck.

Our regimental losses were about 6 killed and 10 wounded including Lt. Col. Black who was slightly wounded I believe in the thigh. Please give my best regards to all inquiring friends and love to the family.

**Your Devoted Son,
Robert Audry
11th Ill. Regt. Vols.**

Source: Little Geneva

