

William T. Sherman to James H. Wilson

Savannah, Georgia, January 21, 1865.

Autograph letter, 3 pages.

Headquarters, Military Division of the Mississippi,

In the Field, Savannah, Ga 1865

January 21,

Dear Wilson,

I got yours of January 5, and am glad to reciprocate your Kind expressions. I remember well our talks at the Camp fire at Gaylesville and think we have Cause of personal Congratulation that we have worked out the calculation of that time. I Knocked daylight through Georgia, and in retreating to s[outh] like a sensible man I gathered up some plunder and walked into this beautiful City, whilst you & Thomas gave Hood & Forest, a taste of what they have to Expect by trying to meddle with in Conquered Territory [2] Kirkpatrick did very well and by Circling round pretty freely he Completely bamboozled Wheeler and so befuddled Hardee that he had no idea what was going on. – It is time for me to be off again for Columbia, but it has been raining hard and the Country is all under water, but I will soon be off. Kirkpatrick will have to keep close to our Infantry as Wheeler has a superior force but Kirkpatrick did whip him fairly at Waynesboro and thinks he can do it [ag]ain. I want Thomas to make the trip to Selma but can only give him general instructions.

I know that there is plenty of Forage in Alabama after you get 60 miles south of the Tennessee River all along down the Tombigbee and [3] Black [Rivers] to arrive in large fields of Corn last fall, Also below Talladega on the Coosa. The proper Route is from Decatur & Eastport to Columbia, then Tuscaloosa, Selma, and up the Coosa or Tallapoosa to [text loss]

[written in another hand]

My route north is well inland

Signed

W. T. Sherman

Maj

Notes: 1/3rd center section of page 3 including signature has been removed, and is noted as text loss in the transcript.