

Mr James Scott

Camp near Savannah Ga  
Dec 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Sir,

As the Capt is going to start for home tomorrow I thought I would write you a few lines that you may see that we are still in the land of the living. After one of the greatest raids that has been made during this war we find ourselves not more quietly encamped at Savannah, Ga. It is hardly worth my while to write much about our last Campaign for I suppose the Capt will tell you all, much better than I can write it. We left Atlanta on the 14<sup>th</sup> Day of Nov and arrived at or near this place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Dec. the distance marched 300 Miles. After leaving Atlanta we marched in a South East direction passing to the right of Millidgeville about 10 Miles. The 30<sup>th</sup> Army Corps passing through the City we (17<sup>th</sup> A. C.) struck the Rail R. at Gordon a small town on the Georgia Central R. R. where the Millidgeville Road forms a junction with the Ga. Central. At this place we worked a great portion of the night in destroying the R. R. Station and other public Buildings we followed this Road all the way to Savannah. its destruction is complete I don't think there is five miles of the road between



here and Gordon that is was left unmolested its destruction is  
complete there is not a Station House or any public Buildings left  
standing. the next place that we came to of any note was Millen  
it is where the Augusta R.R. joins a junction with the Ga central  
at this place our Prisoners were confined for a while they were kept in  
a stockade without any shelter to keep them from the storms, but  
I need not reaccount the cruel treatment they received for it has been  
told often enough for every one to know. I had the satisfaction of seeing the  
Town burn to ashes, a grand sight indeed. as I looked at the  
burning Town I thought of the southern boast, southern independence  
or subjugation. I think it but a pretaste of the subjugation part if  
they will and must have it for such is there doom, and I think on  
the Day not far distant when they will have to choose between the  
two, return to their allegiance to the Government or Annihilation,  
our lines were formed around the City on the 10<sup>th</sup> the left on the  
Savannah River and the right on the Ogeechee River, Sherman  
laid siege to the City, but when John R. E. concluded that it  
would be better to Evacuate than to be surrounded and compelled  
to surrender, so they evacuated on the Day and night of the 20<sup>th</sup>  
leaving all their Cannon to fall in our possession but 10 Pieces  
of small caliber, there is a great many Siege Guns also some  
commissary stores they burnt some three or four Gun Boats also  
one Steam Ram there was some steam transports but how  
many I did not hear, we are Encamped about one mile from the



City it is a nice City, having a population of nearly 30,000  
Before the War. I have been over the principle part of it, there  
is some very nice Parks, but the Monument of General Pulaski  
is the finest specimen of Marble that I ever saw it is about 45 ft  
high, he was killed at the siege of Savannah in 1779.

The news of Lincoln's Re-election was good news for us and was  
hailed with cheers it was a hard blow to the Rebels. I have just  
read his message I like it much, it is poor phisic for Mr  
Davis. I must close for the Capt is going down to the Boat to  
day. The weather is pleasant. J. Morrison is well also D. Mc Lane  
and the ballance of the Boys. I see that Old Libbers is taking quite a  
start since the R.R. is being completed. I hope it may keep agoing  
so that by the next time I can go up to the Water House in street  
bars &c &c write soon and tell me all the news, my respects to the  
rest of the family and inquiring friends. I remain as ever

David M. Watson

P.S. Direct to Savannah Ga,