

Dr. Wallace Alcorn

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9 August 2000

Dear Robert,

Thank you for referring Charles Hillman to me. He has written with most helpful data and we are in email contact. When I saw his name on the return address, I thought: "The only Hillman I know is..." How amazing. I think we are clicking on material in which both of us have strong interest.

Some years ago I had photocopied an 1865 book and only recently began to work in it. I came upon a description of Robertville, which I suspect might interest you.

The 22d Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment, part of W.T. Sherman's Star Corps (20<sup>th</sup> Army Corps), coming from Savannah reached Robertville, South Carolina on Monday, 30 January 1865. Chaplain George S. Bradley, regimental chaplain, described the village in his journal:

"Brooke camp quite early, reaching Robertsville [*sic.*] about noon—distance two miles, making us now about 45 miles from Savannah. This is a pleasant little village, about five miles from the river, containing a very neat church, with a steeple and town clock, a store or two, and about 15 dwelling houses. The inhabitants had all left except a few negroes"

—G.S. Bradley, *The Star Corps; or, Notes of an Army Chaplain, During Sherman's Famous "March to the Sea."* (Milwaukee: Jermain & Brightman, 1865), p 253.

I have recently confirmed from external sources that WHB's journal entry of having supper and spending the evening (January 1865) in Beaufort with Generals Saxton, Sherman, and Howard are, indeed, the prominent individuals I presumed. W.T. Sherman is only too well known to South Carolinians. Sherman and Oliver Otis Howard had taken a boat from Savannah to Beaufort to confer with Rufus Saxton on logistical support. Howard would soon be appointed commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau (of which Saxton was to become assistant commissioner) and founded both Howard University in Washington and Lincoln University in Tennessee, both of which he was also president.

Wallace