

Chapter 8 Steele's Bayou Expedition 14-27 March...Henry Sherman went along with his uncle, General Wm T. Sherman, while the rest of the regiment was at Young's Point. Henry remained with his uncle until April 5, 1863, when he returned to the regiment.

Map Hardee, T. S. *The siege of Vicksburg, its approaches by Yazoo Pass and other routes.* [Mobile S. H. Goetzel & Co, 1863] Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/99447423/>.

The Vicksburg campaign, and the battles about Chattanooga under the command of General U. S. Grant, in 1862-63; an historical review. By Samuel Rockwell Reed, 1882
Chapter XI, page 24.

"The Steele's Bayou Plan – the Relieving Expedition Relieved.

Gen. Grant's next plan comes also under the second head—viz., plans to get by way of the Yazoo into the interior to operate on the rear of Vicksburg. ... The plan was to go to the Yazoo 'Along another of those labyrinthine routes that leaves the Yazoo river below Haines' Bluff, and after innumerable windings re-enters the same stream sixty miles above that point.'

Porter, with five ironclads and four mortar boats, and Sherman with his division, composed the expedition." [The 150 mile route was to be through a series of bayous north of Vicksburg.]

I have found one in Company K, Miller T. Leitner, who says in a bio, that he was at Young's Point and then went "skirmishing forty-two days near Yazoo pass." So perhaps others from the 120th were also present during this expedition.

March 19, 1863, Diary of Henry Sherman

"Disembarked at Muddy bayou. Marched and waded down to Steeles Bayou (about a mile). Embarked on Silver Wave where I am at present. After a short time the little tug 'Fern' came along with Uncle Cump on board. With Gen. Stuart I went on it. After the Silver Wave got started we tried to turn in the bayou and in so doing broke our rudder. After an hour or two of hard work we got it fixed. Then a log obstructed the channel which took until late in the evening to get out of the way. While lying here a Musquite Gunboat came along with dispatches for Uncle announcing that three of Farragut's fleet had arrived below Warrenton. We started again about dark and ploughed our way slowly along until about Midnight when another tug met us with dispatches. Gen. Sherman went on board and started upwards. After butting along two or thee miles further we were compelled to tie up till morning. Passed a very uncomfortable night sitting in a chair with a blanket over me."

March 20, 1863, Diary of Henry Sherman

"Started about daylight and soon after came up with the "Silver Wave' on which we took passage. Moved very slowly up the bayou about 10 a. M. Arrived at the mouth of 'Black Bayou' where we found Gen. Sherman on Gunboat "Genl. Price.' Went up B. Bayou a short distance. Saw a moccasin snake and some paraquets. Could get no further so turned back after landing the troops."

March 21 and 22 they moved troops up the bayou.

March 23, 1863, Diary of Henry Sherman

Moving up Black Bayou a narrow black stream 3 P. M. Gun boats reproted coming back, thogehter with our forces, the rebels in force moving on our flanks and annoying us very much. 7 P. M. W landed about an hour ago and are now quartered in the Mansion house on Hills plantation. As I write the band of Gen. Ewing's brigade are playing and are surrounded by a gaping crowd of negroes who never heard perhaps the sound of a band. They are grouped around in all kinds of positions. Would that I were an artist that I might have a sketch of the picture."

March 24, 1863, Diary of Henry Sherman

Gen. Sherman with the forces arrived about 10 o'clock. This a. M. the Gun boats are a mile or two back and coming slowly. **We will probably go back to Youngs Point tomorrow.** Two ladies & a little boy arrived at our Hd. Qrs. About 1 P. M. They came for the release of a son of one of the ladies who was taken prisoner about 15 miles above, on Deer Creek, although he was not taken with arms in his hand. J Gen. S. promises to release him as soon as the gun boats arrive, on which he is confined. It has been raining and disagreeable ever since we arrived. The Gun boats were in a pretty tight place on Deer Creek and our forces arrived just in time."

From the book above, p 25: "He [Admiral Porter] informed me [Gen. Sherman] that at one time things looked so critical that he had made up his mind to blow up the gunboats and escape with his men through the swamp to the Mississippi River. *** It took three days to back out of Deer Creek in Black Bayou, at Hill's plantation. *** I reported the facts to Gen. Grant, who was sadly disappointed at the failure of the fleet to get through to the Yazoo above Haines' Bluff, and ordered us all to resume our camps at Young's Point."

March 25, 1863, Diary of Henry Sherman

"At Hills plantation yet. Enemy reported in force in our front. In afternoon some skirmishing, we losing, one man killed & several wounded."

March 26, 1863, Diary of Henry Sherman

Embarked this morning about 10 A. M. on Gunboats and transports. Left the landing (in the woods) about three o'clock P. M. & about 9 P. M. we tied up for the night. Slept on a sofa, a very uncomfortable place."

March 27, 1863, Diary of Henry Sherman

"Started about daylight & about 8 A. M. we passed Muddy Bayou where Gen. Logan's troops were encamped. As we passed they marched across to the River where some transports were lying. Arrived at Young's Point about 3 P. M."

Henry will be back with the regiment on 5 April.

END CHAPTER 8

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