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HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF WEST POINT,

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,

West Point, N. Y., Feb 15 1882

Edgar F. Gladwin

My dear sir:

I am very happy to comply with your most reasonable request.

General Sherman & I were not together on the Mississippi. In fact I was never there during the war of rebellion. Gen S. and I were together at the "Rice Mill" stand on a flat top roof and watched the signals and observed the various signs of movement of the troops of Gen Hays's Division at the taking of Fort McAllister. This fort is situated on the right bank of the river Ogeechee and near its mouth. By this

men, in our march to the
sea, we first communicated
with the sea & with the
United States fleet.

As soon as the rapid firing
ceased & the signals proclaimed
a victory, — in fact the air
was so clear & transparent at
the time that we could plainly
see much that was going
on, such as moving of men,
flashes of guns, bursting of
shells &c, — Gen Sherman &
I took a boat & rowed
across to McAllister, ^{all} staff officers
& oarsmen with us. We sang
songs & hymns en route. It
was charming music; the pictures
around us were almost magic from
the long clusters & pendants of gray
moss upon the numerous trees, & voices
could be heard at great distances.

This incident may be what has given
rise to the Mississippi-story.

I congratulate you on your good sense in
taking the Lord for your Shepherd.

Very truly Yours

O. O. Howard

Brig. Gen. U. S. A.

supr. Mil. Acad.