

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

Published by Georgia Battlefields Association, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to preservation of Georgia's Civil War history and sites. Contact newsletter editor by e-mail: info@georgiabattlefields.org

Snake Creek Gap trenches damaged during firefighting

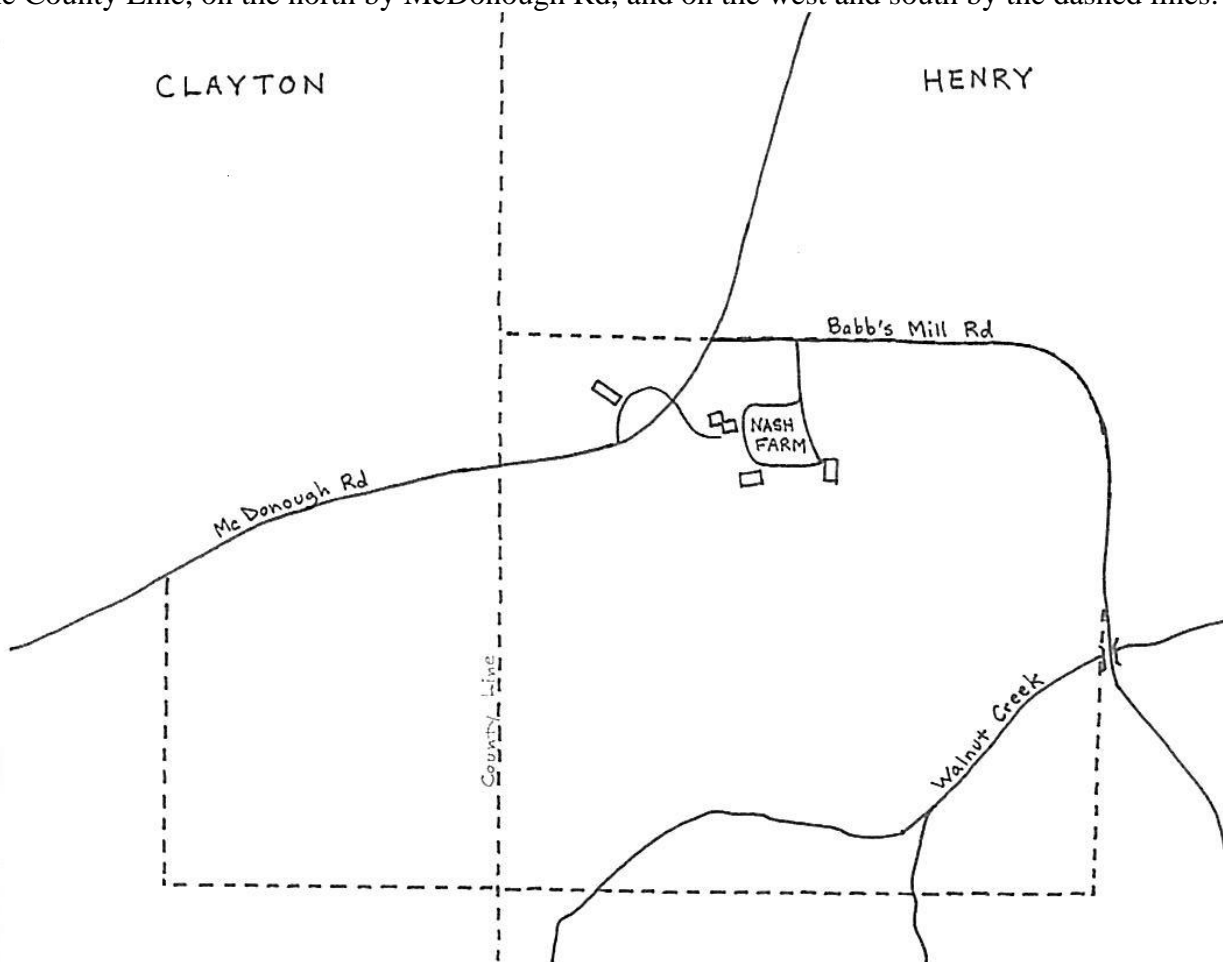
While trying to contain a wildfire in the woods around Snake Creek Gap, a bulldozer operator inadvertently plowed through trenches constructed by Federal forces in May 1864. U.S. Forest Service personnel arrived and alerted the firefighters to the trenches. The Forest Service is coordinating with firefighting agencies to reduce the chances of future damage.

Fighting fires is a dangerous and urgent task, so we're not about to point fingers; but this incident does highlight the need for a continuing effort to note all historic sites. The Chickamauga and Atlanta Campaigns left hundreds of trenches, picket posts, camp sites, forts, artillery revetments, and signal stations throughout northwest Georgia. As the suburbs of Chattanooga and Atlanta grow towards each other, they result in new houses, stores, and commercial establishments in the same area as the Civil War campaigns. Protecting trees, structures, and historic sites will lead to more conflicts, but we should at least know the location of things to be protected. How ironic that the contending armies complained of poor maps, and despite all the advances in map making, we still encounter some of the same problems.

Lovejoy's Station site still subject to development

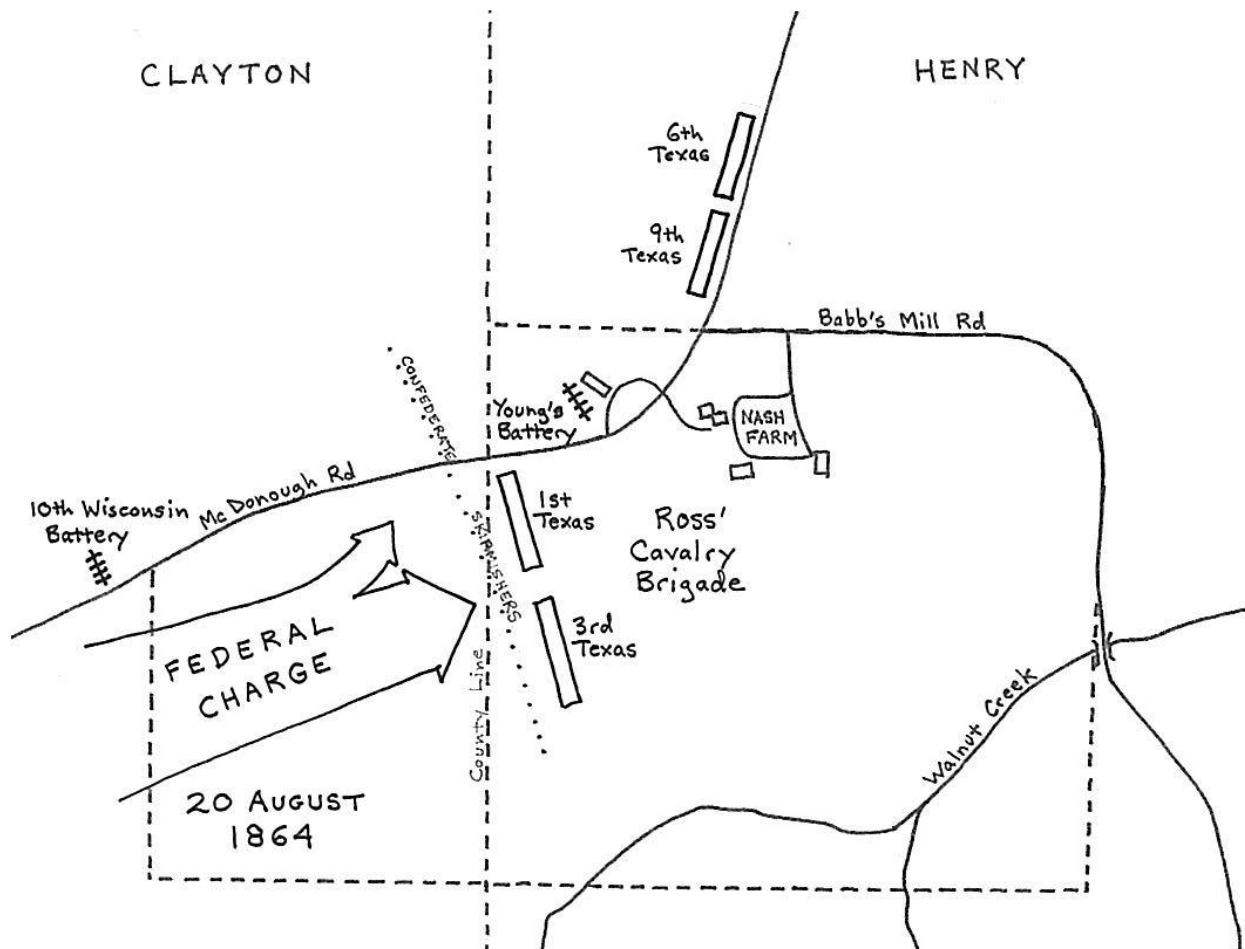
Henry County bought 204 acres of the Lovejoy's Station battlefield in November 2005 (see January newsletter). A developer has applied to have the city of Lovejoy annex an adjacent 75 acres in Clayton County and rezone it for townhouses.

On the map below, the 204-acre property is roughly rectangular, bounded on the west by the Clayton-Henry County Line, on the north by Babb's Mill Rd and its westward extension to the county line, on the east by Babb's Mill Rd and its southward extension, and on the south by the dashed, east-west line crossing Walnut Creek. The 75-acre property is bounded on the east by the County Line, on the north by McDonough Rd, and on the west and south by the dashed lines.



This land was the site of two actions in the latter stages of the Atlanta Campaign. On 20 August 1864, Kilpatrick's Federal cavalry charged Ross's Confederate horsemen to escape a trap (see

map below). On 3 September 1864, S.D. Lee's Confederate Corps advanced northward across both properties to clash with the Federal XXIII Corps along the McDonough Rd.



Map based on research by Henry County historian Mark Pollard

The annexation and rezoning hearing is scheduled for the evening of 8 August. Please express your views to Lovejoy Mayor Joe Murphy and the City Council by writing to 2601 Steele Rd, Lovejoy GA 30250, calling 770 471 2304, or faxing 770 471 6499.

Reminder: The Nash Farm historic site will open to the public on the weekend of 19-20 August with infantry drills, artillery firings, music, fireworks, parades, the unveiling of a historic marker, and a formal dedication ceremony. See www.henrycountybattlefield.com for a full schedule.

Changes for Civil War Commission

On 1 July, responsibility for supporting the Georgia Civil War Commission moved from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the Department of Economic Development (DECD). This move results from legislation (see May newsletter) intended to increase the Commission's profile. For now, the Commission's address and phone number (404 657 7294) are unchanged.

At its 18 July meeting, the first since the department change, the Commission selected officers for State Fiscal Year 2007 (1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007):

Chair – John Culpepper of Chickamauga Treasurer – Kelly Barrow of Griffin
Vice Chair – Mel Steely of Carrollton Secretary – Marla Bexley Brown of Stone Mountain

The 19 August Commission meeting will coincide with the opening of the Nash Farm Battlefield in Henry County (see related article).

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August 2006

Address correction requested
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