

**From:** Gene Morris [mailto:morrisgene@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2008 6:00 PM  
**To:** markpollard@charter.net; lstanley@charter.net  
**Subject:** Opinion Report to Henry County BOC on Nash Farm

Mr. Larry Stanley and Mr. Mark Pollard;

Following is the opinion report I submitted to the county today based on a review of the documents supplied to me by you. I felt that due to the nature of the issues it would be most appropriate to respond directly to the Board of Commissioners in my official capacity and copy the two of you. I commend you both for your interest in the history of Henry County.

Sincerely,  
Gene Morris

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Henry County Historian  
Gene E. Morris, Jr.  
228 Shorewood Court  
McDonough, GA 30252

March 10, 2008

The Honorable Jason Harper, Chairman  
The Honorable Warren Holder, Commissioner  
The Honorable Elizabeth Mathis, Commissioner  
The Honorable Randy Stamey, Commissioner  
The Honorable Reid Bowman, Commissioner  
The Honorable Johnny Basler, Commissioner  
Henry County Board of Commissioners  
Henry Parkway  
McDonough, GA 30253

Dear Chairman and Commissioners;

Over the past few months, I have followed with great interest the discussions over the Nash Farm. Two weeks ago I received a study from Mr. Larry Stanley, a study he himself prepared, entitled "The Civil War in Henry County, Georgia". Mr. Stanley requested I review the study and state my opinion of his conclusions, in my official capacity as Henry County Historian. Mr. Stanley also asked for my opinion "as to why the county deemed it appropriate to appoint an Official Civil War Historian".

Since these questions seem to present the two core issues at Nash Farm, I thought it best to conduct a comprehensive review of the facts and respond to the Board of Commissioners directly. Please allow me to respond to the second question first: I

commend the Board on Mr. Mark Pollard's appointment and I wholeheartedly concur. Having known him for many years; I have long described Mark as the foremost authority on the Civil War in Henry County. Long before his appointment, I called on him for information about the military actions in our county and I continue to do so. Further, he is a man of integrity and deserving of our trust. Regarding his appointment: It was I who suggested to Mr. Pollard the idea of the Civil War Historian, mine is a non paying office and I'm glad to share the duties with one so knowledgeable. You did a good thing and we the people are lucky to have Mark Pollard in this post.

Next issue; having never been a person who liked to look at only one side of an issue, I called Mr. Pollard and asked him to document and assemble his case in support of Nash Farm as the site of the August 20, 1864 cavalry charge. I have objectively reviewed the information presented by Mr. Stanley and Mr. Pollard. Before going any further, let me state; prior to about 2004, I was completely unaware of any claims of the events at the Nash Farm. But, I'm a country boy and I learned pretty early, that just because I don't know something, it doesn't mean it isn't so. I was raised in west Henry County, my family's been in that part of the county a long time, I knew about the fighting on the Dorsey place, I knew the old timers referred to our part of the county as "The Bloody Sixth", we even bought hay from the Snider's who owned the farm at the time; but, I didn't know about the cavalry charge.

The documentation presented by Mr. Stanley and Mr. Pollard is almost identical, as you might expect; however, the conclusions were different, the interpretations were different and the importance assigned to map notations and such were different. Several things led to these different conclusions. When reviewing the maps presented, it is obvious they were not drawn to scale, they can not stand alone and require corroboration by the official records of the Union and Confederate Armies and other original source materials. More importantly, on the ground, on site, confirmation can only be achieved from archeological work and reports from "relic hunters" or "battlefield detectives" or whatever you want to call these individuals. The items unearthed at a site provide critical and necessary confirmations of the events which occurred there. These archeological finds are the only tangible proofs of the events being researched.

I have reviewed, the best available information: including official records; maps; contemporary accounts in diaries and newspapers; opinion letters from academic sources; archeological reports; statements from relic hunters and I have interviewed old time residents of that settlement, these are people whose families have lived in the area since pioneer times. Based on a careful consideration of all available information, I report to you with a high degree of confidence, I believe the statement on the historical marker at Nash Farm to be accurate and representation of the property as a "battlefield" to be true and correct. I am confident future academic and archeological research will further confirm the importance of this site and its role in the Atlanta Campaign.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene E. Morris, Jr.  
Henry County Historian

Cc: Mr. Mark Pollard, Henry County Civil War Historian  
Mr. Larry Stanley