

Mr. Elliott,

I respectfully write to you in regard to your work and continued efforts at Henry County's Nash Farm. The artifacts you have uncovered speak volumes, but leave some questions I cannot resolve. I hope you will honor my request for some help in understanding the bigger picture. My earlier emails to you were somewhat contentious and I apologize for that. Having read your Nash report several times I have concluded that your work is meritorious and does not simply rubber-stamp Mr. Pollard's dramatizations.

Archaeological finds are certainly integral to piecing together the historical framework. And I have no doubt that Enfield & Springfield shot could be located at this property. Canister remains also could be the result of either the August 20th or later engagements.

I am looking for professional, academic opinion.

Mr. Pollard has stated that the artifacts found at Nash prove the location of a battlefield. Yet your recent post at www.jasonpye.com states, "As of today, NO entrenchments from the September or November battles have been identified on the Nash Farm property."

On this point I do not want to split hairs. Whether we call it a battle, skirmish, or "lively cannonading and sharpshooting along the lines, but with no important results" (Gen. Hardee, Official Records), the action was certainly nearby present Nash Farm.

The eastern flanks of Confederate forces on September 2 - 5 were entrenched north of McDonough Road and south of Walnut Creek. ("along a high ridge immediately in front of the McDonough road and behind Walnut Creek." Gen. J. M. Schofield, Official Records)

The *Autobiography of of Oliver Otis Howard, Major General, US*, tells that Stanley's troops under Thomas struck the enemy about midday, but found the Confederates well entrenched. Afterward, Schofield reinforced Thomas's left and a skirmish continued. After this clash, according to Gen. Howard, "each commander had full purpose to do nothing which would bring on a general action."

Between the Official Records and your not finding entrenchments on the property, it appears there is a conflict with Mr. Pollard's depiction of the skirmishes along the lines, time of day and specifically the location for the engagement.

Can you comment on the inconsistencies?

Larry Stanley