

# GEORGIA

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# BATTLEFIELDS

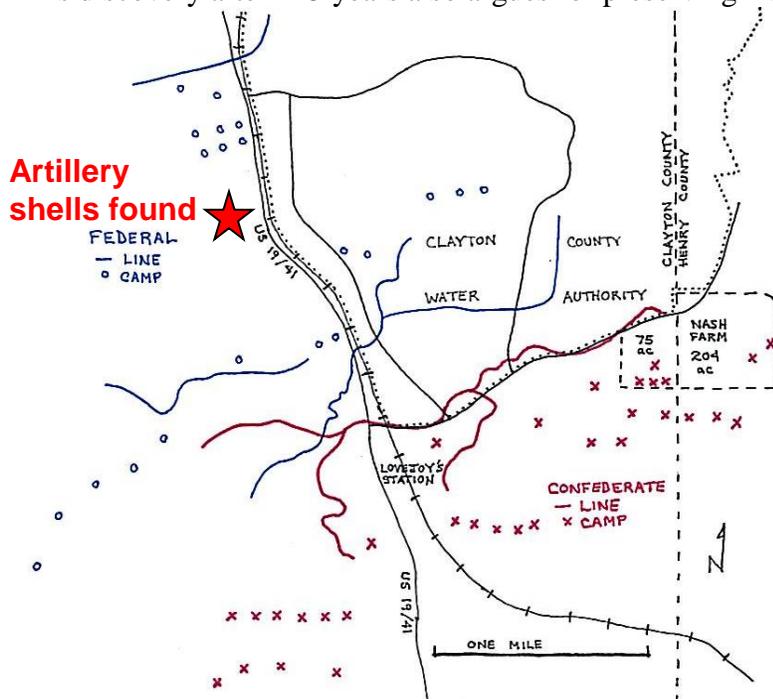
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## Artifacts found near Lovejoy's Station

Plumbing problems are usually unpleasant, but a recent water line replacement yielded quite a bonanza. A homeowner north of Lovejoy's Station called historian Mark Pollard to report that a contractor digging in the yard had uncovered what appeared to be artillery shells. Mark went to the site and confirmed that the 44 objects were indeed 3-inch Hotchkiss shells. Only one had been damaged by the digging, and all were subsequently rendered safe.

The site's location and topography make Mark confident that the shells are from a Federal battery deployed in early September 1864. Mark persuaded the homeowner to donate 42 shells to the Nash Farm Battlefield Museum [www.henrycountymbattlefield.com](http://www.henrycountymbattlefield.com). Having a set of shells found together will be a boon for the museum, as most relics are found or sold off individually. This discovery after 145 years also argues for preserving historic sites.



Mark Pollard with 40 artillery shells unearthed on 9 October north of Lovejoy's Station.



And now for the rest of the story: Unbeknownst to the land owner, the contractor had already unearthed and set aside 28 artillery shells before notifying the land owner of the discovery. The landowner gave the contractor two shells as a reward before donating 42 to Nash Farm Museum. The subterfuge was discovered when Mark was notified that a well-known relic dealer had recently purchased 30 Hotchkiss shells discovered near Lovejoy's Station.

## Federal budget includes \$9 million for battlefield grants

On 30 October, President Obama signed the FY 2010 Interior appropriations bill, including \$9,000,000 for the Civil War battlefield protection program. The program provides matching grants from the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and is administered by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). As noted in last month's newsletter, the annual ABPP grants cannot be used to acquire land; but the Civil War battlefield protection program is specifically designed to provide LWCF matching funds to state and local governments for acquiring or protecting sites listed in the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission report. [www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/grants/LWCF/LWCFAcquisitionGrants.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/grants/LWCF/LWCFAcquisitionGrants.htm).

## Preservation benefactors Ken & Barbara Holcomb die

Ken & Barbara Holcomb, who did so much to preserve the historic railroad tunnel and the adjacent land in Tunnel Hill, Georgia, both died in September. The Holcombs not only provided funds and artifacts for the Tunnel Hill Heritage Center ([www.tunnelhillheritagecenter.com](http://www.tunnelhillheritagecenter.com)) but also deeded the historic Clisby Austin House, which they restored, and 85 acres of land to Whitfield County for use as a park (see March 2003 newsletter).

## **GBA opposes cell phone tower at Davis's Cross Roads**

Since March 2009, GBA has been commenting on a proposal to build a cell phone tower near Davis's Cross Roads, site of action in September 1863 during the Chickamauga Campaign. For a description of the action, see [www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/Battles/ga003.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/Battles/ga003.htm).

Along with representatives from the Chickamauga National Military Park and the Georgia Civil War Commission, GBA has responded to several requests for comment as the proposal has evolved. The gist of our opposition is the damage to the viewshed for several miles around the site, which is relatively undisturbed from its 1863 appearance. GBA and others have suggested relocating the tower, reducing its height, and camouflaging its appearance.

## **State tourism chief retires**

On 1 December, Charlie Gatlin retired as the Georgia Department of Economic Development's Deputy Commissioner for Tourism. His position includes responsibility for state support to the Georgia Civil War Commission. Additionally, Charlie served as chair of the Georgia Civil War Sesquicentennial Planning Committee, leading it capably and amiably. We hope his departure does not further reduce the state government's historical tourism or Sesquicentennial commemoration efforts. Our best wishes to Charlie in his next endeavors.

## **Bearss tour 2010**

**Dates:** 11-14 March 2010

**Hotel:** Fairfield Inn, 20 Canyon Pkwy, Cartersville (I-75 exit 288). 770 387 0400.

Ask for the Georgia Battlefields Association rate of \$89 per night. With tax, the cost will be just under \$100. Includes breakfast and access to fitness center and indoor pool.

**Price:** \$395. Register by sending a check to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

You must be a GBA member to register. See our web site for how to become a member.

**Topic:** The Fall 1864 (mid September to mid November) campaign in northwest Georgia. This overlooked period featured a lot of marching, several skirmishes, and a battle at Allatoona Pass. We'll also visit Cedar Bluff, Alabama, site of Streight's surrender to Forrest in May 1863.

## **150 years ago this month**

On 2 December, John Brown is hanged in Charlestown, Virginia. Governor Wise sends a contingent of VMI cadets to keep order and prevent any rescue attempts. The artillery section is commanded by former Army Brevet Major Thomas Jackson, now a VMI physics professor. Four other Harper's Ferry raiders are hanged on 15 December.

On 5 December, after two months of trying to elect a speaker, during which time the sectional differences have prevented either side from supporting a candidate from the other, the U.S. House of Representatives finally elects William Pennington of New Jersey.

On 14 December, Georgia enacts a law prohibiting any slave owner from freeing his slaves through a will or deed. On 17 December, Georgia enacts a law stipulating any black indicted for vagrancy can be sold as a slave.

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**December 2009**

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