

# A Search for the Confederate Supply Train in Fayetteville

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## Battle of Brown's Mill in Coweta County

On July 27, 1864 General Edward M. McCook of the Union army left his lines to carry out a raid in conjunction with Major General George Stoneman. Their mission was to wreck the remaining Confederate railroads supplying Atlanta and creating havoc behind Confederate lines.

McCook and his troops crossed the Chattahoochee River with about 3500 troops at Smiths Ferry and cut the Atlanta and West Point Railroad at Palmetto (Coweta County). The idea was that should the raid be successful, Stoneman would continue on to Andersonville to liberate the 30,000 Union prisoners.

Many people believe that the Confederate supply train also carried the

missing Confederate gold. On July 29, 1864 McCook caught up with the supply wagons near Fayetteville and captured 400 Confederate soldiers who were guarding the supplies, burned the wagons and slaughtered 800 mules.

The local history is that the Confederates hid the gold while General Sherman was approaching Atlanta, and thus the conclusion that it may be hidden somewhere in Fayette County.

Later that same day, the yankees met at a rendezvous point in Lovejoy, but Stoneman failed to appear McCook was forced to retrace his steps towards the Chattahoochee River.

By that time, however, the Confederates were chasing McCook around Lovejoy and he was forced to retreat. Two days after the slaughter of the mules, Confederate General Joseph Wheeler led his cavalry into battle at a place called Browns Hill near Newnan for the purpose of freeing the prisoners.

With the confederates hot on the trail of his rear guard McCook used his advance guard to approach Newnan from the east (Broad Street), and were exhausted when they faced a trainload of Confederate soldiers blocking the road on the outskirts of town.

Some of General General P.D. Roddey's dismounted Alabama cavalry who had been traveling by train were forced to stop in Newnan because the tracks were damaged to the north in Palmetto.

The surprised Alabama troops and Federal Cavalry attacked one another. When this occurred General McCook searched desperately for a means of treat. Meanwhile, the army of General Wheeler force rode into Newnan and intercepted the army of McCook about three miles southwest of Newnan (intersection of Millard Farmer and Corinth Roads).

As a result, the Federals were driven off the road into the woods south of

Millard Farmer Road. But the fighting continued in the thick of woods forcing the army of McCook to dismount and fight on foot.

McCook believe that his army was surrounded, and said: " Every man for himself." Worse, the Confederates received reinforcements who repeatedly charged the line. McCook split his forces while retreating and members of his straggling army were taken prisoners over the next several days. lines. Hence, it was this battle which forced General William T. Sherman to regroup his tactics for his Atlanta campaign.