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Wilson, Donald L

From: Wilson, Donald L
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2009 8:24 PM
To: 'Charles Wallace'
Cc: 'Ronald L. (Ron) Smith'
Subject: RE: Talbot Hill

Chuck - Am finally able to get back to you, re your question.

The gazetteers and indexes we have do not identify Talbot Hill.

I did find another NPS National Register registration form online that mentions Talbot Hill, as well as Triplett's and Powhatan, and attempts to locate them: 44PW1412 (Rising Hill Camp, aka Waller Hill, 076-5314), prepared by John H. Haynes Jr. in 2005. Quoting from it, Section 7, p. 1:

https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/content/environment/CR/NRHPNHL/Nomination_44PW1412.pdf

Rising Hill, so named later in maps made by Union soldiers, was later known as Waller Hill after a late 19th century hotel located there. Triplett's Hill and Powhatan Hill, are most likely to the north behind Shipping (Hospital) Point. Talbot Hill was on the north side of Quantico Creek. Similar to Rising Hill, these fortifications that may have been made on Geiger Ridge have been destroyed by residential construction. A lithograph based on a drawing of the Shipping Point battery by "an officer of the Potomac Flotilla" shows three hill top fortifications in the background, the southern most appears to be Rising Hill (Harper's Weekly, November 23, 1861, page 742). It seems that Johnston and Beauregard had their wishes carried out before a week had gone by.

James P. Hayne's report on "Cherry Hill Peninsula" (an address to Historic Dumfries Virginia Inc., 6 Nov. 1975), includes a map he drew of the area, which shows "Triplett's" on the south side of the mouth of Quantico Creek. The north shore of the mouth he calls "The Rocks," close to Possum Point, and a ways behind it is a house called "Mount View." He mentions many natural features and landmarks on Cherry Hill, but does not mention Talbot Hill.

Regarding "Possum Nose" (p. 1): "The nearby bluff, on which a house was built, assumed the name Possum Nose. Another theory contends that the long narrow neck at the mouth of Quantico Creek, generally referred to as The Rocks, resembled an opossum nose, and for a long time was known as Possum Nose Farm. ... An old frame farm house that stood on the Point until the 1940's included an older house which must have served Confederate personnel who occupied the area in 1861 and 62."

Regarding "Mount View" he says (p. 3): "Overlooking the River a way above the mouth of Quantico Creek from a prominent mesa on the Hawkins grant, may be seen remnants of a brick house known as Mount View, sometimes referred to as Bullitt's Hill. Nearby are evidences of earthen ramparts and trenches of a Confederate fort built in 1861. When the fort was abandoned in 1862, the house was destroyed, after which the bricks were carried away by larcenists."

I wonder if Talbot Hill could be the ridge at Possum Nose, or perhaps the same as Bullitt's Hill.

I suspect that the hill names used during the war were newly assigned by the Army (similar to the way camps were named), because there is no post-war reference to them, as far as I can tell. Perhaps the Harper's Weekly reference will help you place the hill more exactly.

Hope this helps.

Don

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8/14/2009

From: Charles Wallace [mailto:on1ly@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 7:00 PM
To: Wilson, Donald L
Subject: Talbot Hill

Thanks for your interest and assistance.

This includes a reference to Talbot Hill. It would be great if you already know the other two hills which are mentioned.

General Beauregard (Figure 24) howled about the condition of the landward defenses, writing to General Whiting, an engineer, on November 13:

Have Triplett's and Powhatan Hills been fortified, as had been determined upon; if not already, why not? Those and **Talbot Hill** are the keys of that position; no time ought to be lost in fortifying them, even if it were only for infantry, for if the enemy takes them, how long would the batteries hold out? Not ten minutes! Can you not have it done at once if not already done?⁷⁶

Here is the URL for the complete text:

http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/register/Counties/PrinceWilliam/076-5312_Lower_Potomac_Campaigns_MPS_2008_NRfinal_part1.pdf

**Stay Safe,
Chuck Wallace
703-441-1265**