

DIAGRAM 1

Figure 2. Field Forts. Source: Dennis H. Mahan, Field Fortification, (West Point: Wiley Long, 1836), Plate 1.

The 1864 Merrill drawing is wrong. If this map is overlay on to a current topographic map, and it is to scale, a good researcher will find it to be incorrectly drawn. The ridgeline that runs from the railroad bridge over to the Summerville Road is shown running from north to south. In review of a modern topographic map we find this is part of the Fort Attaway Complex and it runs east to west. Merrill's drawing is difficult to understand and it is not possible to determine scale or height of some of the areas. He does correctly guess the campsites north of Shorter Hill and behind what is locally known as De Soto Hill or Fort Attaway. Current ground evidence supports this. (See map #1 & Artifacts).

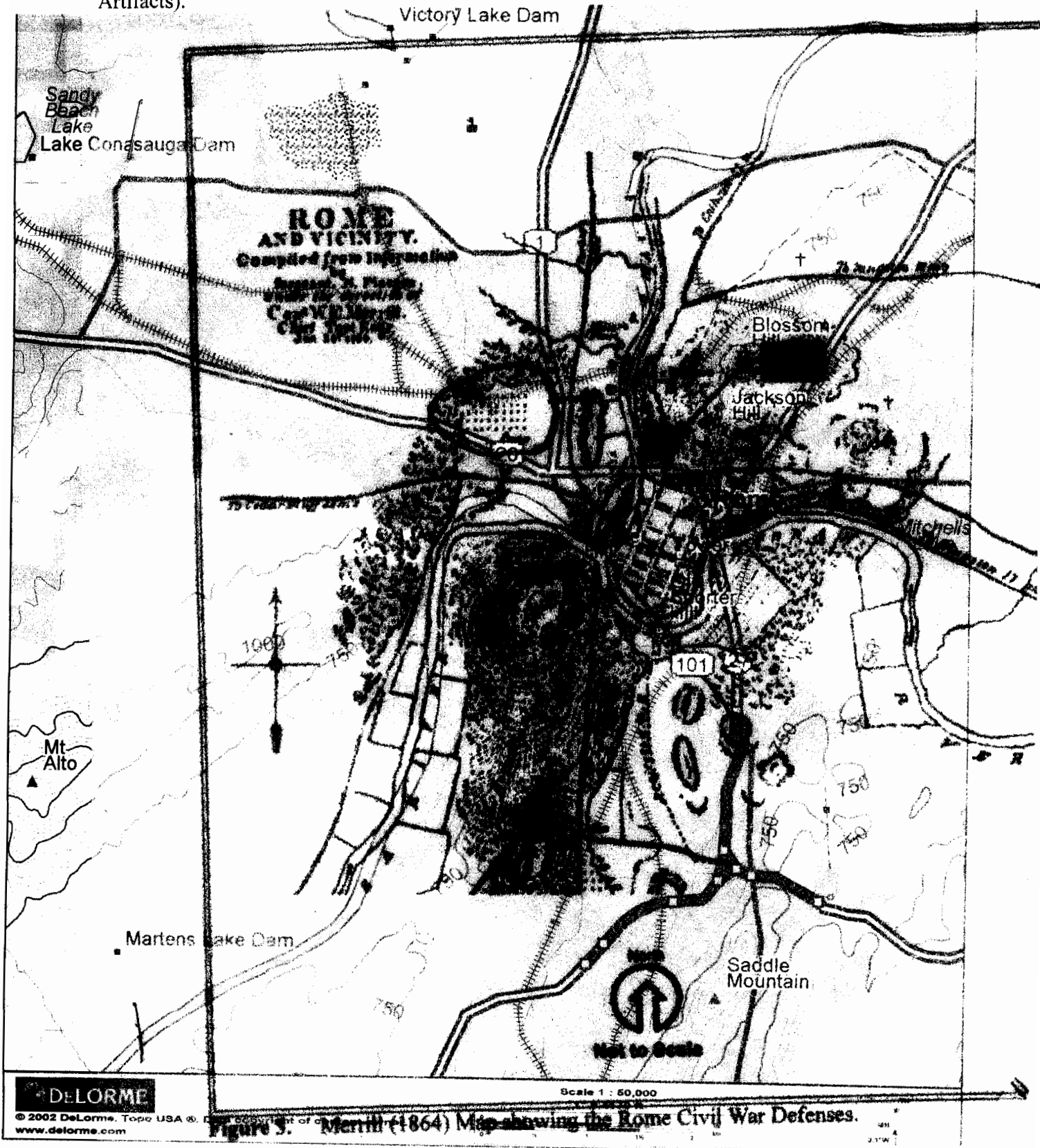
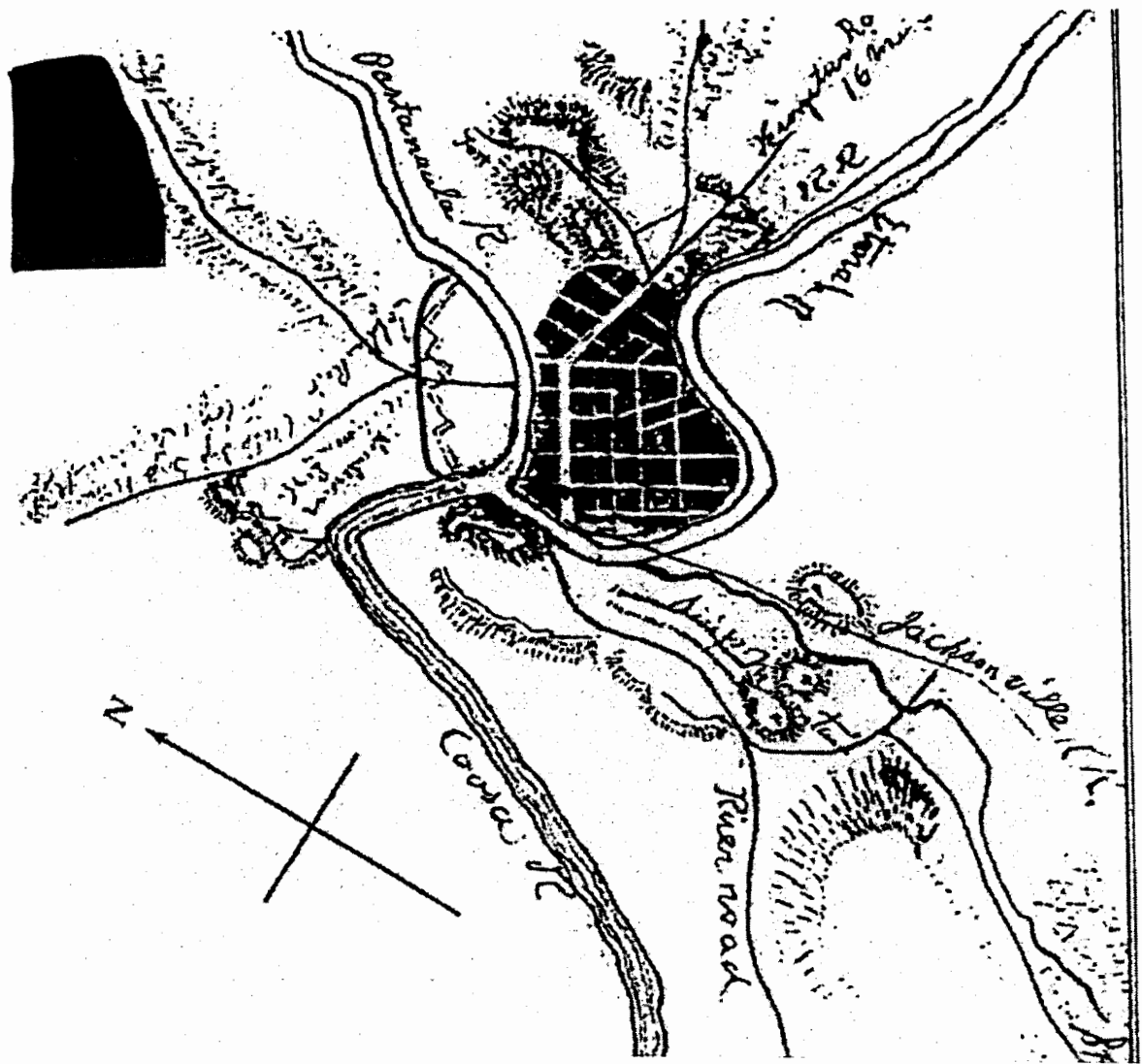
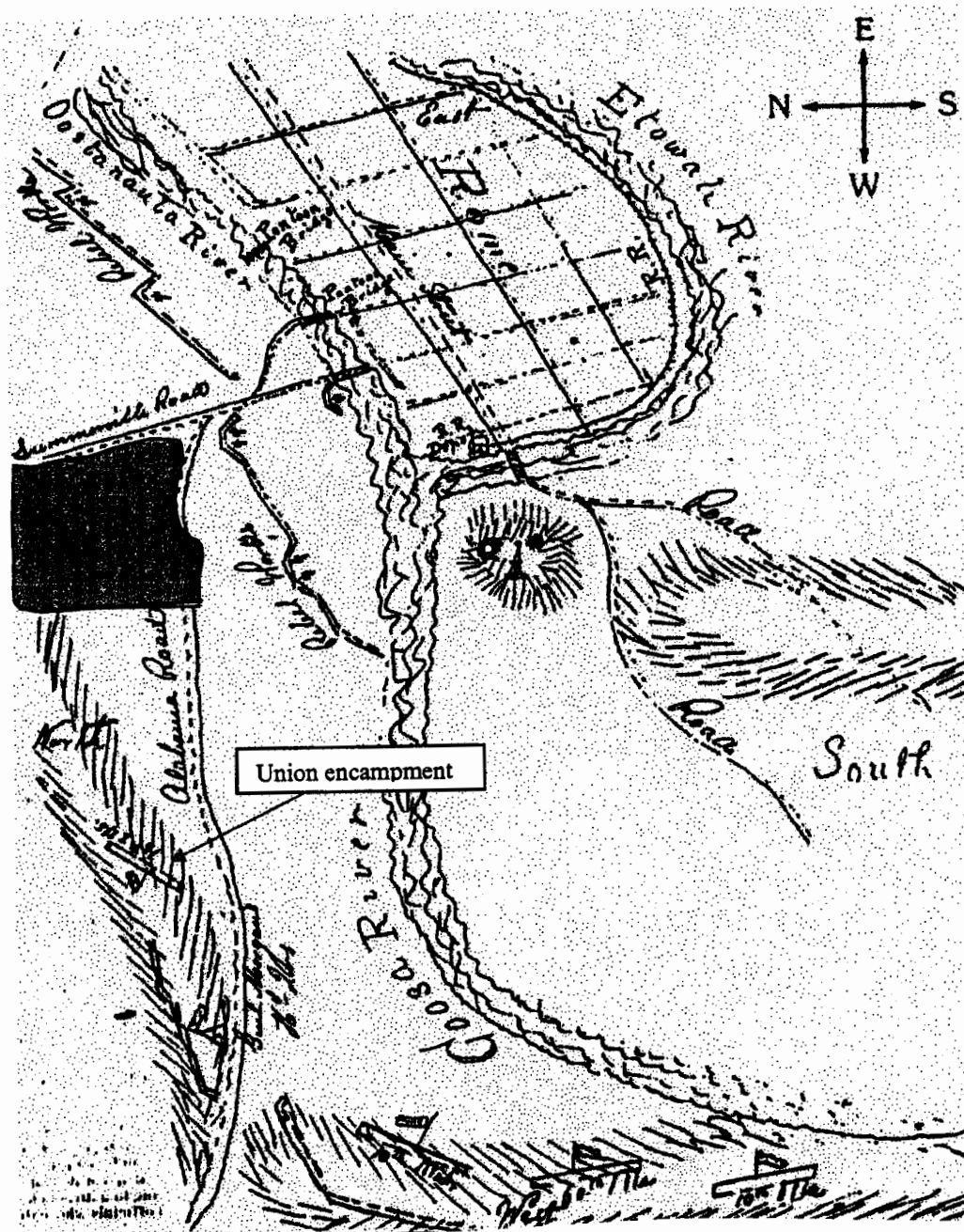


Figure 3. Merrill (1864) Map showing the Rome Civil War Defenses.



The 1863, Georgia Militia Map is a poor drawing that may have been ok for local militia to find their way but it is a poor substitute for a detail map. It is not helpful because the field forts were incomplete until February 1864 and would not show up as completed works on this map. What does show, are the possible entrenchments that would be the fall back secondary positions / works or bridge fortifications. This would be more like a fieldwork called a Priest-Capor, or Lunette, but more likely it is a Redan or several that are connected. Priest-Capor is a four-sided walled field fortification with two Salient angles facing the suspected enemy location with a possible gun emplacement in the center. It looks like a swallowtail formation in the field. Lunette is a temporary fortification consisting of two faces forming a salient angle and two parallel flanks. This work is built in the shape of a "C". A Redan is a small two-walled field fortification that forms a salient angle facing the suspected enemy location. This work was used to cover river crossings, bridges, and entrances to a bastion. It is a supported field works to other fortified works (See diagram #1). The Georgia Militia map does not represent a field fort but is a line in the defense against the Main Avenue of attack by Union forces. Military speaking, this was the second line of defense if the Fort Attaway Complex if or when it failed to provide defensives for the bridges. The enemy ground troops would be denied the bridges and would have to face fire from the entrenchments protecting the bridges and Fort Norton and Stoval. Today this would be called a "Kill Zone". Three intersecting fields of fire into one area, artillery and rifle musket in an open area (area between Fort Attaway and the bridges) would have a devastating effect had the Confederates draw the



The Watterman Map is another poor drawing. It is off center, not drawn to scale and doesn't depict the terrain correctly or have a scale. It shows part of the west side of the Fort Attaway complex but the rest is a poor example / attempt to draw a ridgeline. On the east side of the railroad bridge, Watterman does not draw the ridge that is there today but as if he was unsure of the terrain he draws a zig zag line and writes "Rebel Works". This is not consistent with primary sources and the physical evidence but leads one to believe that there are "Rebel Works on the east side of the Summerville Road and the Rail Road Bridge. (See Map #3)



The Ruger Map is really a Campaign Map. It shows the big scale but is not concerned with small-scale actions or defenses. It does show Rome and two of the three forts. It leaves out entrenchments that were on the other maps. Fort Attaway is a complex of entrenchments on the De Soto Hill ridgeline and did not rate being called a "Rebel Fort".

This map seems to be a computation of sources. I could not find out how this map was constructed and why things were left out when other maps of poorer quality were more detailed. Union General Davis referenced the rebel works on Desoto Hill (footnote) but Ruger did not have or use General Davis information when he made his broad-brush campaign map. (See Map #4)