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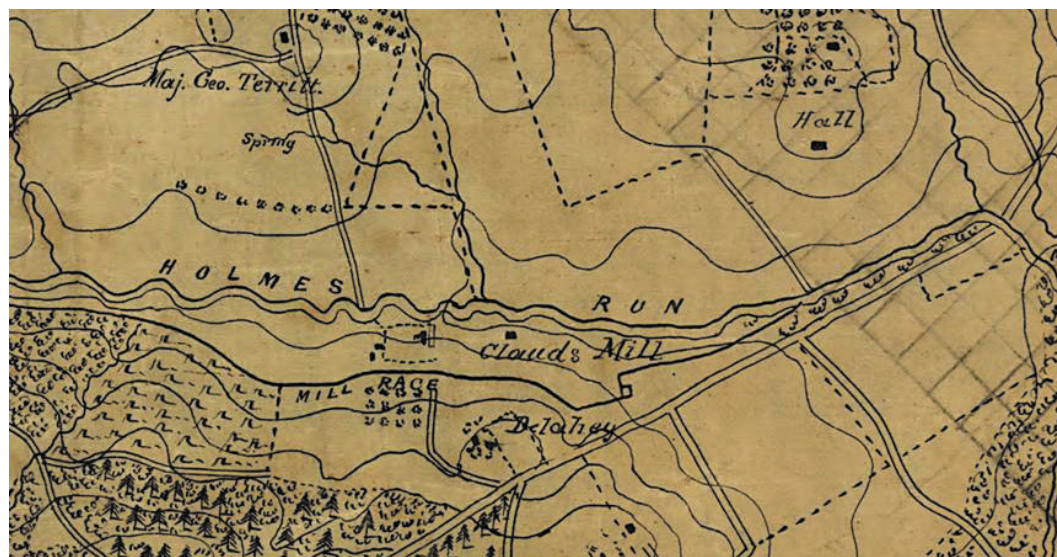
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# A look at Cloud's Mill in Alexandria

In 1813, Abijah Janney, David Lupton and Peter Saunders bought tracts of land on the south side of Holmes Run near what is now Paxton Street. Perhaps because all three men were Quakers, they named the mill they erected on the property Triadelphia Mill. Merchant Mills had replaced smaller mills in Northern Virginia as wheat succeeded tobacco as the prime crop in the region.

While tobacco's depletion of soil nutrients played a role in its decline, so did the post-Revolutionary War desire of Americans to be self-sufficient and grow their own food. The growth of Merchant Mills in Northern Virginia created a demand for improved roads. One of those new roads was Little River Turnpike.

In 1816, Mordecai Miller purchased two-thirds of Triadelphia Mill from Lupton and new partner John McPherson. Phineas Janney, brother of Abijah and at one time the President of the Bank of the Potomac, maintained his share. An earlier deed lists



MAP/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

A Civil War map showing the location of Cloud's Mill.

James Cloud as a "Sworn Chain Carrier," but in 1835, Cloud bought Janney's share.

The "Sworn Chain Carrier" designation indicates that Cloud operated the mill well before he owned it, but he needed to track down all of the other shareholders of the mill after Miller's death. After consolidating ownership, Cloud operated the mill from 1835-1863. Eventually, the mill be-

came known as Cloud's Mill, even though maps continued to use the name "Triadelphia" as late as 1879.

In 1863, Cloud sold the mill to Edward H. Delahay. The Civil War's disruption of flour sales hit Delahay and the next owner, Cornelius Jacobs, as Delahay filed for bankruptcy in 1868 and Jacobs was foreclosed in 1873. The mill was also the site of skirmishes be-

tween the Union Army and Confederate raiders.

The mill changed hands until its destruction in 1935. One of its owners for a brief period was the Alexandria Water Company. By then, the area relied on states in the mid-western United States for flour.

*Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.*