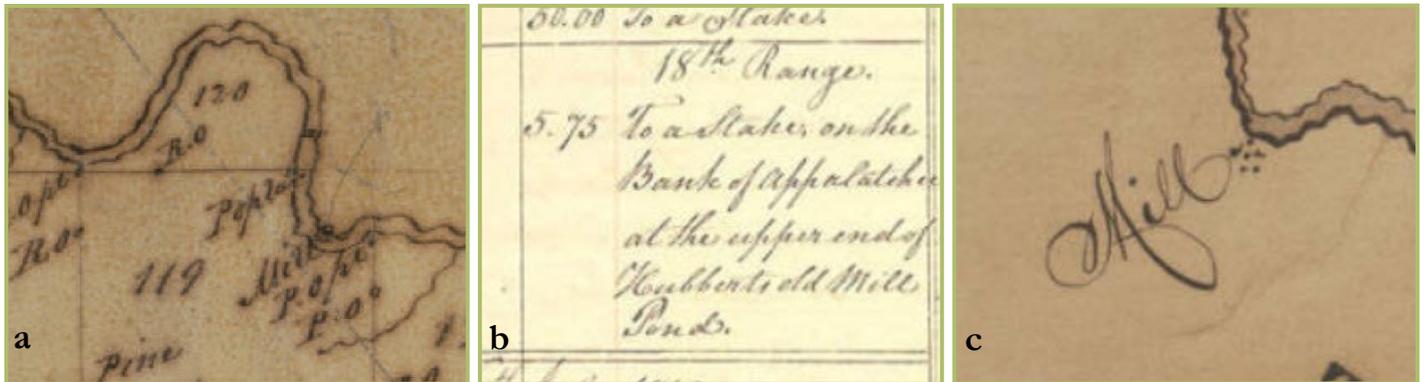


## Captain Whorton's Other Forts: Where Were They? Part 3

As treated in Part 1 and Part 2 (GAB March & April), continuing research about the presence of several other Jackson County frontier militia forts (besides Fort Daniel) at the time of the Creek Indian War has left us with only the location of one of those forts, Fort Early, identified. The archival record is scant. The other Jackson forts—Harrison, Floyd, and Madison—are cited as being in the county in only a few contemporary newspaper accounts, a couple of muster rolls where fort assignments are cited, and, in the case of Fort Madison, also on a court record that includes an actual sketch plan of the fort.<sup>1</sup>

One clue as to the general location of Fort Floyd may be in an April 22, 2014 certification letter from Captain Joseph Whorton attesting to the purchase of rations and forage when he was commander at Fort Floyd, “to certify that two Spies were stationed at the above fort during the term of sixty days commencing on the fifth day of January and ending on the fifth day of March 1814 inclusive, and that rations were issued to said Spies, and their horses, under contract of Dudley Jones amounting to 120 rations & 120 forage rations.”<sup>2</sup> Whorton indicates that the letter is written at “Appalachee, Ellisons Mills,” which we can speculate might have been in the vicinity of the fort. Perusal of original survey records, including surveyor’s notes and plat maps for Walton and Clarke Counties, show the location of Ellison’s Mill. See figures a-c below.

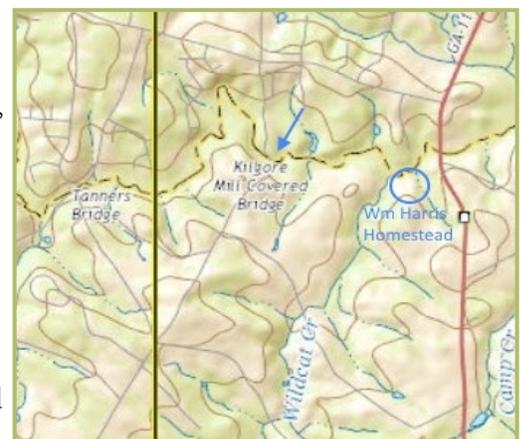


a. From Walton County (1819) original survey plat published 1868; b. From Walton County (1819) Surveyor notes for LL 119 citing “bank of Appalachee at upper end of Hubberts old Mill Pond;” and c. From Clark County survey plat published 1868.

How do we know this is Ellison’s Mill? According to Flanagan, during the June term of 1824, the Gwinnett County Inferior Court ordered that, a road be laid out and built from “the Rock bridge...to a point in the county line between Gwinnett and Walton counties in the direction of Ellison’s Mill in Walton County.”<sup>3</sup> That county line is just upstream from the depicted mill site. Elsewhere, Flanagan writes that in 1879, “at Ellison’s mill down on the Appalachee River, there was a Free Masonic lodge.”<sup>4</sup>

Ellison’s Mills is mentioned in newspaper notices in 1825–1830; thus, this name is in use from at the least 1814 through 1879. However, the 1825 item is a notice of a levy against 130 acres on the Apalachee belonging to Watson and Richard Ellison to satisfy two judgments: one to the State and one to a William Blair. According to a William Harris descendent [The William Harris Homestead in Walton] and member, Dotty Zazworsky, the mill in LL 119 was once owned by William Harris’ brother-in-law, Willis Kilgore. It may be that Kilgore obtained the Ellison’s Mill property following the 1825 sheriff’s sale.

The Kilgore name is preserved on a USGS topo map (pictured right) that shows the location of “Kilgore Mill Covered Bridge” (recently



USGS Monroe, Georgia map showing Kilgore’s Mill Bridge over the Apalachee just west of the river’s confluence with Wild

destroyed by fire) in what would be LL 119. It shows an East-West trending ridge on the north side of, and overlooking the Apalachee, and, thus, the mill site. The ridge is crossed by Hwy 11 at its east end (in red), and the road to Kilgore's that once included the covered bridge is at the other end (now Carl Davis Road). The ridge is in Barrow County today, formerly Clarke County, formerly Jackson County, formerly Franklin County. South of the Apalachee was Creek territory. Ellison's Mill, later Kilgore's would have been on the south side of the river, coming down from the ridge on Davis Road.

The north side of the river was Jackson County after 1785, but after 1801 it was in Clark County, as it was in 1814. Notwithstanding the fact that Fort Floyd was supposed to have been in Jackson County, could it be that it was situated on this strategic ridge in Clarke County very near the Jackson County line?

There is also a question as to how Ellison's mill would have been on Creek land in 1814, if not earlier. But, there are many examples of mills, ferries, and other white-owned enterprises that were allowed by the Indians on their lands, especially when the operation benefitted them in some way. ■ **JJD**

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1. April 2017 GAB Vol VI:4, page 5.
  2. WhortonJoseph01C, page 11, File II, Reference Services, RG 4-2-46, Georgia Archives
  3. James C. Flanagan, History of Gwinnett County, 1818-1943, Vol. I, Facsimile Reprint 1995, p. 75.
  4. Ibid., p.443
  5. Though in Creek territory in 1814, it may not have been without the consent local Indians, who might have benefited from allowing it there.