

# Captain Whorton's Other Forts: Where Were They? Part 1

Research into the organization of militia in Georgia during the Creek Indian War has made it clear that there were other frontier forts in Jackson County besides Fort Daniel. One source for this information is a muster-roll entitled “Musterole of a Company of Militia under the Command of Captain Joseph Whorton...Stationed on the frontier of Jackson County.”<sup>1</sup> The roll names a fort with which each militiaman is associated or, if no fort, “do.” The three forts cited are: Fort Daniel, Fort Floyd, and Fort Harrison.

Several appearing on this roll, who are associated with Forts Floyd or Harrison, are also listed on Whorton's Fort Daniel muster roll for January to March 1814.<sup>2</sup> Because the Fort Daniel muster roll shows him as Commander, we have assumed that Whorton was in residence at the Fort for the entire time from January to March, but this is likely not the case.<sup>3</sup> As commander of the men at all three forts, Whorton would have moved around a bit, and apparently that is the case for the several men mentioned above. However, in addition to these, Whorton *also* was commander of other forts: Fort Early, Fort Washington, and Fort Madison!<sup>4</sup>

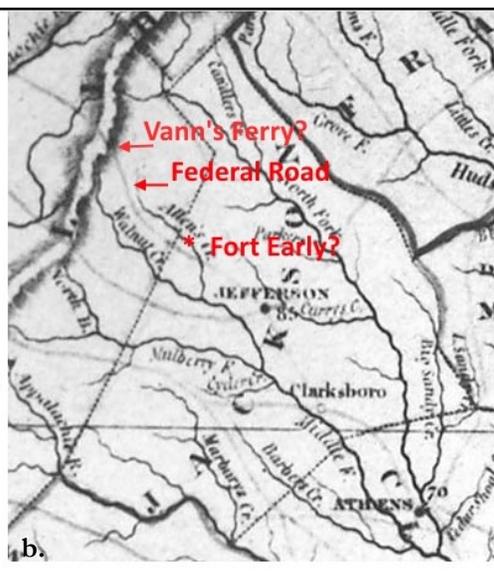
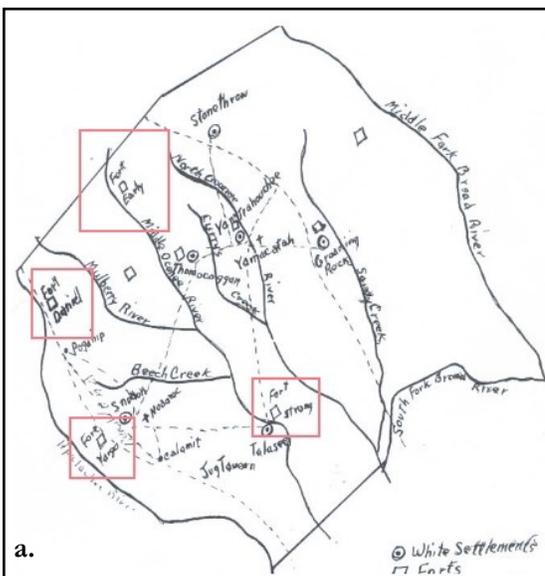
Where were these other forts—especially the two cited with Fort Daniel—Floyd and Harris? No maps or documents have been found that specify where the two forts were. Their names have so far been found only on the muster role and on several 1814 notices (pictured left) in the Georgia Journal.<sup>5</sup>

As recounted in a previous article, Hugh Montgomery (brother of James) had written to Governor Early about the importance of forts “established on the west and northwest side of...Franklin and Jackson.” He pointed out that “the one at Hog Mountain is Essential, the one at the Federal Road about fifteen meters north of it...not so much.”<sup>6</sup> What was this fort on the Federal Road?

According to the sketch map (pictured below left) entitled “Jackson County—1796,” a Fort Early is depicted near the northern boundary of the county on the north side of the “Middle Oconee River.” The map is erroneously titled; while it depicts Fort Yargo (c.1792), Fort Strong (c.1793–96), and other early place-names (e.g.; Thomocoggan which later became Jefferson), it also depicts Fort Daniel (1813–14) and Fort Early (c.1813–14). Other forts remain unidentified.

**Notice is hereby Given,**  
 That I will attend at the places and on the days hereinafter mentioned, for the purpose of paying off the troops hereinafter described, to wit:  
 At Greensboro, on Tuesday the 6th day of September next, for Captains Dawson and Alford's companies, which served in the expedition under General Adams.  
 At Watkinsville on Tuesday the 13th of Sept. for Capt. Cook's company, which served in General Adams's expedition, and Capt. Cook's company which served on the frontier of Clark county; and Lieutenant Daniel's Detachment which served at Fort Smith in the same county.  
 At Jefferson, in Jackson county, on Saturday the 17th September for the troops who served at Forts Floyd, Daniel and Harrison under the command of Capt. Whorton.  
 At Carnesville on Wednesday the 21st Sept. for those who served at Forts Early, Washington and Madison under Captain Whorton, and those who served under Capt. Story in Gen. Adams's expedition.

Paymaster Notice in *Georgia Journal*, August 24, 1814.



- a. A sketch map entitled “Jackson County—1796” used by Frary Ellrod in his *Historical Notes on Jackson County, Georgia* (Jefferson, Ga.: n.p., 1967) from an unknown source; depicts several forts, settlements, and rivers as well as wagon roads/trails, including Fort Early.
- b. Map of Jackson County taken from Tanner's 1823

As contemporary of Fort Daniel, Fort Early<sup>7</sup> is mentioned once on Whorton's muster role as well as the paymaster notice (pictured on Page 1). When the Ellrod sketch map is compared to an 1823 map of Jackson County (pictured above right), the fort would be on the north side of Walnut Creek (a source of the Middle Oconee) and would be just south of the Federal Road. Fort Early must be "the one at the Federal Road about fifteen meters north of it."<sup>8</sup>

Fort Washington is no doubt the Washington Barracks on the Broad River from where Lieutenant Gilmer began his march with 22 Regulars for Fort Peachtree.<sup>9</sup> Fort Madison was built c.1797<sup>10</sup> and was presumably also in Jackson County, but its exact location is not clear, nor whether it is one of those depicted on the Ellrod sketch map. This accounts for all but Forts Floyd and Harrison! To be continued... ■ JJD

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1. Georgia military affairs, 1775-1842, Vol. 2, p.283-5, Georgia Archives.
  2. See GAB 2016 Vol V:8, "Major Tandy Key at Fort Daniel," where this muster roll is reproduced.
  3. According to the 1820 Census Record he was resident of Jackson County with family and slaves.
  4. See next endnote. If he was traveling between these six forts, in absence from Fort Daniel, his Sergeant, Daniel Busson (Burson), would likely be in command. Busson, it must be noted, is also associated with Fort Floyd on the Jackson County muster role!
  5. These notices read as follows: "Notice is hereby Given, That I will attend at the place and on the days hereinafter mentioned, for purpose of paying off the troop hereafter described, to wit:....At Jefferson, n Jackson county, on Saturday the 17th of September for the troop who served at Fort Floyd, Daniel, and Harrison under the command of Capt. Whorton... At Carnesville [Franklin County] on Wednesday the 21st Sept. for those who served at Forts Early, Washington and Madison under Captain Whorton."
  6. My gratitude to Eli Stancel for pointing these out.
  7. File II, Reference Services, RG 4-2-46, Georgia Archives.
  8. Not to be confused with Fort Early, "Blackshear's Old Breastworks" on the Flint River near Cordele. It is curious that in his travels between Jefferson, Vann's Ferry, and Fort Daniel Bourke never mentioned this Fort. It is also curious that the Georgia Journal notice, by its association with Carnesville, seems to place Fort Early in Franklin County. It was in Jackson County.
  9. See GAB VI:2 page 5.
  10. Fort Madison certificate, MS 263, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.