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 forts—Harrison, Floyd, and Madison—are cited as being in Jackson County in only a few contemporary newspaper accounts, a couple of muster rolls, and, in the case of Fort Madison, on a court record that includes an actual sketch plan of the fort.¹

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

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¹ 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.
There will NOT be a May GARS Meeting. The next will be on Tuesday, September 19. *Keep an eye on your email and Facebook for upcoming summer events and digs.*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Below are some volunteer opportunities:

⇒ **Saturday, May 6–New South Associates Archaeology Day:** Volunteers are needed to help man the booth throughout the day from 10AM to 2PM. If you would like to help, [email Delana Gilmore](mailto:Delana.Gilmore@gwinnettcounty.gov).

⇒ **Monday, May 8–Blockhouse Work Day:** There will be an attempt to complete the feature cover in the SW blockhouse. Completion of this cover (to protect the feature from its rapidly increasing deterioration) has been delayed due to weather. Work should begin around 10AM, and all tools and materials will be provided. Please [email Jim D’Angelo](mailto:Jim.DAngelo@gwinnettcounty.gov) if you are interested.

⇒ **Friday, May 19–Fort Daniel Work Day:** This is the work day in preparation for the May 20 Open House. The basement needs to be set up, the shed cleaned out, and the site prepared. Work should get started around 9:30AM. Please [email Jim D’Angelo](mailto:Jim.DAngelo@gwinnettcounty.gov) if you are interested.

⇒ **Monday, May 29–Dacula Memorial Day Parade:** People are needed to participate in this event that will conclude a busy May. This was a wonderful community outreach for Fort Daniel and promotion of the Frontier Faire. So far several members have indicated they will march or ride on our “float” in costume or not. If you are interested, please [email Eli Stancel](mailto:Eli.Stancel@gwinnettcounty.gov).

**From the Depths: May is Georgia Archaeology Month**

Every year in May the state of Georgia celebrates and promotes preservation and stewardship of its hidden archaeological heritage. This statewide archaeology awareness has grown over the years since its creation in 1994. The Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) serves as the primary sponsor of Georgia Archaeology Month. Cosponsors include state agencies, private firms, and non-profit and professional organizations.

This year the theme for both Archaeology Month and the Spring Meeting is “*Raised from the Depths: The Archaeology of the Civil War in Georgia.*” The Spring Meeting will be in Savannah on May 13 and will focus on the Civil War in Georgia. The spotlight will be on the recent raising of the CSS Georgia and ongoing preservation work on the Confederate warship. For more information about the SGA Spring Meeting visit the [SGA Web site](http://www.sga.org).

Along with the Spring Meeting SGA Chapters and other organizations partake in activities ranging from lectures and presentations to Artifact Identification Days to bring awareness to Archaeology Month. As a chapter of SGA, Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS) along with Fort Daniel Foundation (FDF) will be participating in Archaeology Month by having an Open House and Public Archaeology Day at Fort Daniel on Saturday, May 20 beginning at 10AM. *(See Page 4.)* The theme is “*From the Depths of the Frontier,*” which will focus on how people lived on the frontier during the War of 1812. This will include tours of the Fort Daniel Museum and Archaeology Lab, active archaeological digs, living history tours of the Fort, and blacksmith demonstrations promoting the Blacksmith Apprentice training program.

Public outreach is a critical link in encouraging awareness of archaeology and a sense of stewardship for our state’s archaeological sites. For this reason the month of May in Georgia celebrates preserving its history through archaeology. ■
above fort during the term of sixty says 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.”  2 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, included surveyor’s notes and plat maps for Walton and Clarke Counties, show the location of Ellison’s Mill. (See figures on Page 1.)

How do we know this is Ellision’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.” 3 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.”

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 left) that shows the location of “Kilgore Mill Covered Bridge” (recently 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 would have been just below the ridge on the Davis Road coming down from the ridge.

The north side of the river was originally Jackson County after 1785, but after 1801 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? ■ JJD

2. WhortonJoseph01C, page 11, File II, Reference Services, RG 4-2-46, Georgia Archives
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.
May is Archaeology Month in Georgia! This year’s theme is *Raised from the Depths: The Archaeology of the Civil War in Georgia.* (See Page 2.) Events are planned throughout the month; visit the SGA Web site for a list of events.

During the month of May the **Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center** (GEHC) explores the past by viewing artifacts and discovering the information that is uncovered about the daily life in Gwinnett County long ago. Museum Spotlight Tour is at 11AM and 2PM, and the Blue Planet Sensory Theater is shown at 12PM, 1PM, and 3PM (when available). Program included with museum admission. Free for members. For information visit the GEHC Web site.

The **Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society** (GAAS) will be meeting on **Tuesday, May 9** at the Fernbank Museum beginning at 6:30PM. The guest speaker will be Professor Elizabeth Reitz from the University of Georgia. She is an expert on zooarchaeology and ecological anthropology. Dr. Reitz will be speaking about foodways in Charleston as revealed through archaeology.

**Gwinnett Historical Society** (GHS) will be meeting on **Monday, May 15** at the Historic Courthouse in downtown Lawrenceville beginning at 7PM. The topic will be the DAR Period Rooms, DAR Museum, Washington, D.C. For more information please visit the GHS Web site.

**Juneteenth Celebration** at the Atlanta History Center will be on **June 17 and 18**. This two-day family program focuses on the appreciation and commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States. Guests explore the themes of freedom and family history through activities, immersive museum theatre performances, and crafts. *This is a free admission weekend at Atlanta History Center during hours of operation.* For more information please visit the AHC Web site.

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**From the Depths of the Frontiers**

**Fort Daniel Open House**

**Saturday, May 20, 2017**

**10AM–4PM**

**Fort Daniel Archaeological Site**

(2505 Braselton Highway/GA 124, Buford)

May is Archaeology Month in Georgia! There will be several ongoing demonstrations and activities occurring throughout the day along with Archaeology Lab and Museum tours.
According to Martin B. Sweatman and Dimitrios Tsikritsis of the School of Engineering, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, one of the columns at the Turkish site of Göbeckli Tepe may be a “date stamp” for the event that triggered the Younger Dryas event.

In a paper entitled “Decoding Göbeckli Tepe with Archaeoastronomy: What Does the Fox Say?”, they claim to have found compelling evidence that “the famous ‘Vulture Stone’ is a date stamp for 10950 BC ± 250 years, which corresponds closely to the proposed Younger Dryas event, estimated at 10890 BC.”

The Younger Dryas was a geological period from c. 12,900 to c. 11,700 BP calendar years ago that brought a sharp decline in temperature over most of the northern hemisphere, at the end of the Pleistocene epoch, immediately before the current warmer Holocene. It is credited with pushing ancient humans to band together, forming the foundation of modern agriculture and other advancements in civilization, and resulting in the end of the Clovis Culture in North America.

Sweatman and Tsikritsis have interpreted much of the symbolism of Göbeckli Tepe in terms of astronomical events by matching carvings on some of the pillars to star asterisms. They believed that the main function of Göbeckli Tepe was to observe meteor showers and record cometary encounter. The people of Göbeckli Tepe, they argue, “had a special interest in the Taurid meteor stream, the same meteor stream that is proposed as responsible for the Younger-Dryas event.” Sweatman and Tsikritsis believe that this is the most complete and consistent interpretation of Göbeckli Tepe. They state that “no other interpretation has the level of statistical support.”

Much more archaeology waits to be performed at Göbeckli Tepe and the neighboring sites like Karahan Tepe. The fascinating paper that highlights the nexus of archaeology and astronomy in modern research can be found in Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry, Vol. 17, No 1, (2017), pp. 233-250. ■ JJD

**Membership Fees:**
If you would like to join or renew your GARS membership, please contact John Hopkins; and for FDF membership please contact Betty Warbington.
Though it is Archaeology Month in Georgia, nationally May is Preservation Month, and this year the National Trust of Historic Preservation continues to celebrate with three words that say it all: **This Place Matters.** Everyone has places that are important to them. Places they care about. Places that matter. **This Place Matters** is a national campaign that encourages people to celebrate the places that are meaningful to them and to their communities.

This campaign isn’t just about photography. It’s about telling the stories of the places we can’t live without.

Through **This Place Matters**, the National Trust hopes to encourage and inspire an ongoing dialogue about the importance of place and preservation in all of our lives.

The National Trust believes that Preservation Month is an excellent opportunity to shine a spotlight on all the special places that are important to you. To help celebrate the National Trust is sharing some tips and tricks so you can take your **This Place Matters** campaign to the next level this May. Follow the steps below to get started:

- Download your **This Place Matters** materials including signs, social media shareables, and a campaign toolkit.
- Take photos at the places that matter most to you.
- Share your photos online with the hashtag #ThisPlaceMatters.
- Stay tuned to @SavingPlaces on Instagram and Twitter as they spotlight their favorites.

You can tell others in your community which places matter most to you, and the National Trust will help to tell the world!