

# Preserving History Through Archaeology



April 2017  
Volume VI, Issue 4

## GWINNETT ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN

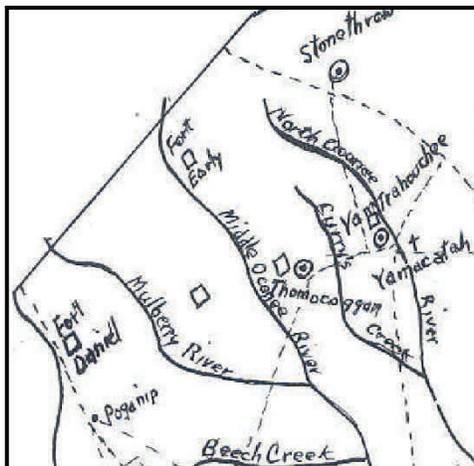
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### Captain Whorton's Other Forts: Where Were They? Part 2

Research into the organization of militia in Georgia during the Creek Indian War has led to the conclusion that there were other active forts—besides Fort Daniel—in Jackson County in 1813–1814. Part 1 of this study (appearing in the last GAB) presented a *Georgia Journal* paymaster notice from the August 24, 1814 issue, which indicated that pay would be issued at the Jackson County Seat in Jefferson for men serving under the command of Captain Whorton at Forts Daniel, Floyd, and Harrison (see Vol. VI: 3:1).

However, the same notice indicated that pay would be issued at Carnesville (county seat of Franklin County) for men serving under Whorton at Forts Early, Washington, and Madison. In Part 1, Fort Early, appearing on the “Elrod” sketch map (pictured right), was identified in a letter from

Hugh Montgomery, “as the one at the Federal Road about fifteen meters north of it.”<sup>1</sup> It is clear from the map (and another source cited below) that Fort Early was in Jackson not Franklin.



Segment of the “Elrod” map that was used in the March issue showing both Fort Early and Fort Daniel.

If Fort Washington is the same as the “Washington Barracks” on the Broad River from whence Gilmer began his march to Standing Peachtree with 22 Regulars—the old Fort Washington that was originally Heard’s Fort—it was in Wilkes not Franklin County. Yet, a summary of the accounts of Colonel Dudley of Franklin County “for furnishing Sundry detachments of Militia with rations and Forage, who were stationed on the frontier line of Jackson, Franklin and Clarke Counties, . . .”<sup>2</sup> suggests that it was in Franklin County—as was Fort Madison!

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## Fort Daniel/GARS News

- *The next GARS meeting will be on Tuesday, April 18 at Fort Daniel beginning at 7PM. The guest speaker will be Eli Stancel, Fort Daniel Foundation member and War of 1812 reenactor.* He will be speaking about his research into Hog Mountain resident, James H. Kidd. In August 1812 tensions ran high on the Southern US Frontier. Just prior to the Fort Mimm's massacre, an altercation occurred at Hog Mountain, Georgia, around the store of Mr. James H. Kidd. The presentation will feature newspapers accounts, topographical evidence, and military sources to highlight the unique set of exposures surrounding the Fort Daniel area in 1812 through the life of the curious Mr. Kidd.



- Fort Daniel Foundation recently received a donation in the amount of \$147 from the United States Daughters of 1812. They have previously donated money in helping in building of the Major Tandy Key Blacksmith Shop and other upkeep for Fort Daniel. Thank you!
- Recently, some FDF members (*pictured left*) have begun work on creating a cover for the Southeast Blockhouse's cold storage cellar in preserving this feature.

## No Joke: April Fools' Day Finds at Fort Daniel

On Saturday, April 1 several GARS members laid out three 2'x2' units within units previously excavated to the bottom of the plow zone (-20cm or -8 inches) and excavated two of these another 50cm to about 70cm below the present ground surface. The two excavated openings are for the addition of treated posts, which will represent the Northwest and Southeast corners of the Palisade wall. The addition of these two posts as well as the gate posts, which are also planned, will help with interpretation of the site.

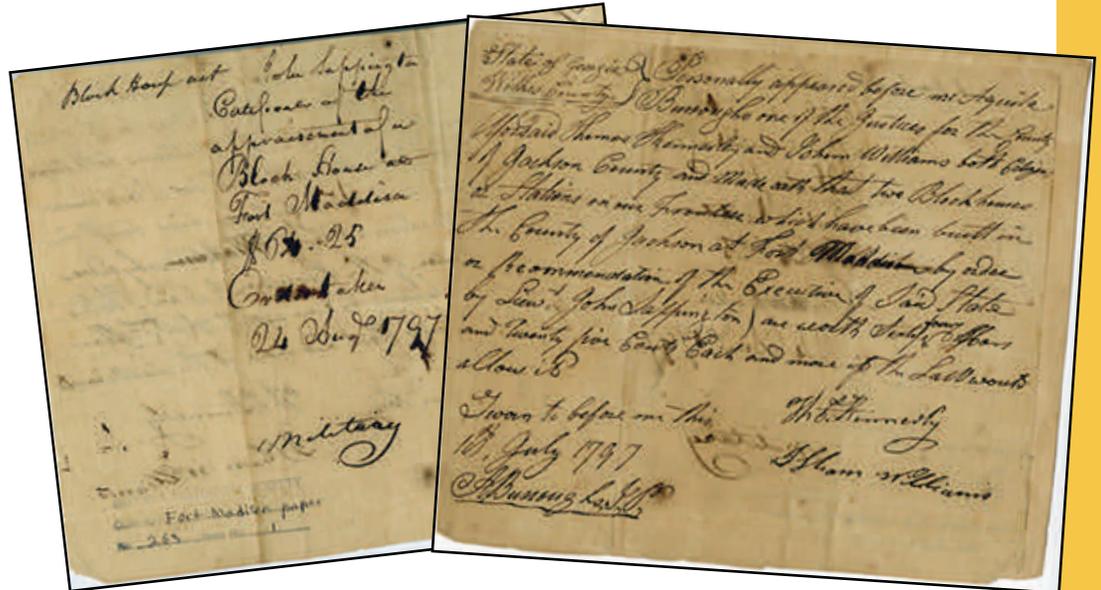
Nothing unexpected was found in the two corner post units. Some burned or carbonized wood fragments (*pictured below left*) were encountered in the first 20cm or so of the Northwest unit, and an interesting translucent ovoid-shaped Chert tool—possibly a scraper or “blank”—was recovered in the trench fill at about 65cm below the present ground surface. Because of its depth below the surface, this was probably mixed with the fill when the wall was constructed. The tool (*pictured below right*) measures 4.4cm long, 2.6cm wide, and 0.6cm thick. The tool stone is a light tan, translucent CCS (Chert). Such tools could be used as scrapers, knives, or further worked to create a projectile point. ■



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The Dudley summary includes a list of forts by county where he supplied, “Mounted Spies employed by Maj. Patton.” The forts were listed as: in Franklin County, Fort Washington and Fort Madison; in Jackson County, Fort Floyd, Fort Daniel, Fort Harrison, and Fort Early; and in Clarke County, Fort Smith and a fort or station at High Shoals. The last two would have been on the Appalachian River frontier. Still another document puts Fort Madison in Jackson County!

Fortunately, a 1797 “certificate of appraisement” for work done “in the County of Jackson at Fort Maddison,” was recently found at the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah.<sup>3</sup> While it does not precisely locate this fort, it does indicate that it was a Jackson County fort, and was built by two Jackson



County citizens. The document (courtesy of the Georgia Historical Society) contains other important information, not the least of which is a sketch plan of the fort. (See Page 5.)

Several things stand out in this appraisement. First, the document states that, “Thomas Kennerly and Isham Williams, both citizens of Jackson County [have] made oath that two Blockhouses or Stations on our frontiers, which have been built in the County of Jackson at Fort Maddison by order of Executive of said State . . . are worth sixty four dollars and twenty five cents each and more if the law will allow it.”

What does this mean: “two Blockhouses or Stations”? The basic meaning of “Blockhouse” is a fortified structure with ports or loopholes through which defenders may direct gunfire—sometimes with an overhanging second story. The blockhouse can be a stand-alone structure (such as the one at Fort Yargo that was a fortified residence) or can be integrated into a stockade wall along with one or more other blockhouses and or “bastions,” which were constructed for use with canon. These multicomponent fortifications might also be referred to as a “Blockhouse fort,” “Stockade fort,” or “Blockhouse” for short. The same frontier defensive structures were sometimes also called “Stations.” Therefore, we see military reconnaissance maps done for the Oconee Wars in the early 1790s marked with the locations of “Forts” and “Stations.” Although all were fortified in some way, some were private forts (like Yargo) while others, as marked on this certificate, were “Military.”

Consequently, did Williams and Kennerly build two forts or two stations, or did they built two blockhouses at one fort? Though the terminology is a bit confusing, the apparent meaning is that they built the two blockhouses for Fort Madison (valued at \$64.20 each) the erection of the stockade walls and interior structures not being part of this contract. This interpretation is justified by a note on the back of the one of pages of the document which says, “2 Block Houses built at Fort Habersham by Lt. John Runnels.” Clearly two forts were not built at Fort Madison, nor were two built at Fort Habersham.<sup>4</sup> Moreover these were military in nature—State militia to be precise.

An example of a military or militia fort was the plan that President Washington sent, via his Secretary of War Henry Knox, to Governor Mathews in 1794 in partial response to a request from the Governor for help during

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## More Diggin's

- **Sheep to Shawl at Atlanta History Center will be on Saturday, April 8 from 10:30AM to 4:30PM.** Get a



unique view into the process of cloth making through demonstrations and activities ranging from sheep shearing and dyeing to spinning and weaving. Gather for a full day of fun that also includes open hearth cooking, blacksmithing, candle making, and much more at Smith Family Farm. *This is included in the cost of general admission.* For information visit the [Atlanta History Center Web site](#).

- **Dr. Caroline Rocheleau**, Curator of Ancient Art at the North Carolina Museum of Art, **will give a lecture entitled "Excavating Kush" at the Michael C. Carlos Museum on Sunday April 2 beginning at 2PM.** After ruling as Egypt's Twenty-Fifth Dynasty, the Kushite kings returned home to present-day Sudan, where they reigned and continued to contribute to the

architectural landscape for almost 1,000 years. The speaker will share her experience excavating the ruins of temples dedicated to Amun at the royal City of Meroe and the site of Dangeil. For information visit the [museum's Web site](#).

- **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 6.) Events are planned throughout the month; below are just a few:
  - ⇒ New South Archaeology Day on Saturday, May 6 from 10AM to 2PM. (GARS/FDF will be present!)
  - ⇒ SGA Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 13 in Savannah. For information visit the [SGA Web site](#).
  - ⇒ **Fort Daniel Open House and Archaeology Day on Saturday, May 20 beginning at 10AM. More information will be available at a later date.**

## Wynne-Russell House Public Archaeology Day

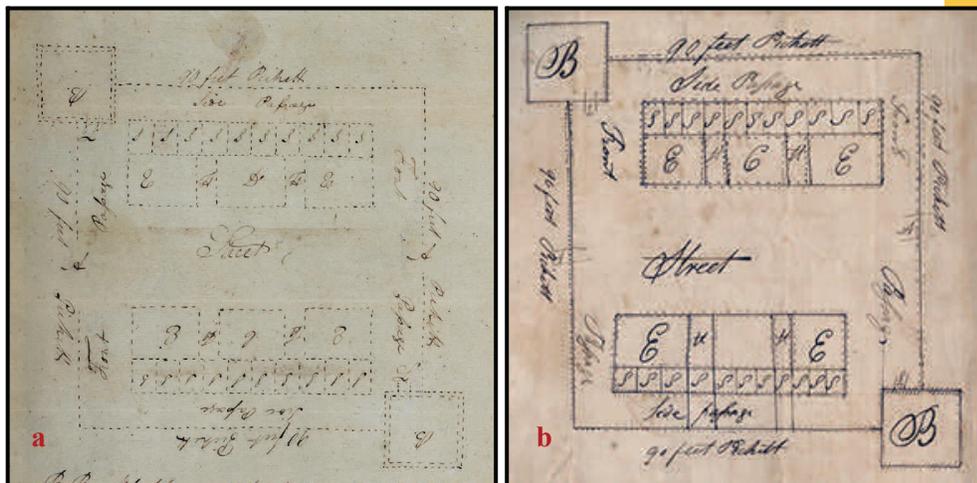
**W**ynne-Russell House Preservation Board and GARS invite you to a Public Archaeology Day on Saturday, April 8 from 10AM to 2PM. This free event will have an archaeological dig searching for pieces of the past at the National Historic Wynne-Russell House in Lilburn. An archaeological survey of the area around and under the Wynne-Russell House, included systematic metal detection, shovel testing, and one or two excavation units are planned as part of the public archaeology event. An on-site field lab will be available for people to learn about artifact processing. A tour of the home will complement the dig along with the Society of Georgia Archaeology's ArchaeoBus. The Public Archaeology Day at the Wynne-Russell House will be a great day to come out and learn about archaeological techniques and processes used to uncover, preserve, and record history. Plan on a day for some hands-on experiences and history!



The archaeological dig is being done to uncover artifacts that will educate and enlighten people about life in Lilburn in the 1800s. The WRH Preservation Board, the Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society, and the City of Lilburn hope that you will come and dig with us! ■

the 1780s to 1790s “Oconee War.” This plan (“a” pictured below left), referred to by GARS and FDF members as “The Knox Plan,” was uncovered at the Georgia Archives by Jim during early research on Fort Daniel, and we had wondered if this early plan could have been used in the construction of Fort Daniel 20 years later or the earlier “fort at Hog mountain.” According to the archived records of the Governor’s office, the plan had been “filed” and apparently forgotten.

Apparently not! The “Maddison” plan (“b” pictured right) belies that



conclusion and suggests that, at least by the end of the 1790s decade, it was being used. The Fort Madison plan is virtually identical to the original 1794 plan—signifying that it was copied from the original—and was probably circulating as a “prototype”. Of course, this raises the likelihood that other forts from this period (built to be used by mounted militia) employed this design, and that the design may still have been in use by the time of the Creek Indian War during which Fort Madison was still in service.

Another thing that stands out is that Isham Williams is one of the men who worked as a contractor on the road from Fort Daniel to Standing Peachtree. He is also one listed on Fort Daniel invoices as having supplied meat to the garrison, and, according to Flanigan, was the contractor who built the first Courthouse after Gwinnett County was created.<sup>5</sup> Both he and Kennerly were citizens of Jackson County.

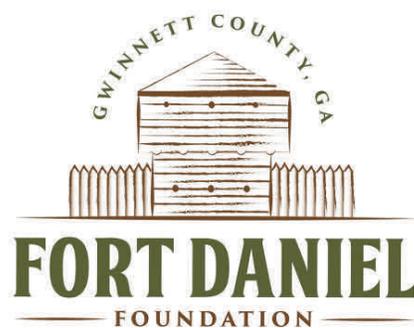
The final thing that stands out is that the certificate of appraisement is filed in Wilkes County. Why such a certificate would not be filed in the County where the construction took place (or where the contractors were citizens) was perplexing to me. Eli Stancel pointed out to me that in order for the builders of these military forts to be paid, they had to submit their “invoice” for certification, and this could be done in any Courthouse. Therefore, the builders might have gone to the Courthouse that was most convenient for them; this having nothing to do with where they were citizens or where the fort was located.

If the place of certification is not necessarily a clue as to the location of the fort, the place where the paymaster was meeting the troops was probably not either. We have seen that payments to troops who served at Fort Early and Fort Madison were being paid in Carnesville, even though both forts were in Jackson County, as were forts Daniel, Floyd, and Harrison, whose troops were paid in Jefferson.

Unfortunately, none of this really helps us to precisely locate where these fort were exactly, but we can say that there were these others besides Daniel and Early: Floyd, Harrison, and Madison. In the next part of this series we will look at the Appalachian River Frontier where at least one of these forts may have been located. ■ JJD

1. Hugh Montgomery to Peter Early, F2MontgomeryHugh038C, Georgia Archives.  
2. Georgia military affairs, 1775-1842, Vol. 2, p.283-5, Georgia Archives.  
3. Fort Madison Certificate MS 0263, The Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.  
4. Habersham is another fort whose location is not known. Probably named after Joseph Habersham.  
5. James Flanagan, History of Gwinnett County, 1818-1943. Vol. 1. p.149.

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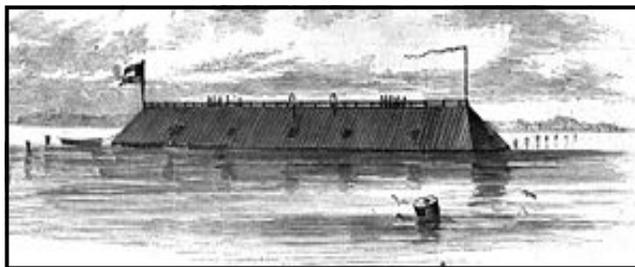


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## Message from the Society of Georgia Archaeology

**G**reetings SGA Members, . . . The next several months will be a busy time for SGA, and we want to be sure that the members are getting up-to-date information. . . . First, May is Archaeology Month, and Archaeology Month is one of SGA's primary outreach opportunities. The theme—*Raised from the Depths: The Archaeology of the Civil War in Georgia*—highlights the recent raising of the CSS *Georgia* and ongoing historic preservation and research of this Confederate ironclad that was sunk in the Savannah River in December of 1864. . . . Numerous events open to the public will be scheduled at parks, CRM firms, educational institutes, and other cultural heritage organizations that will serve to educate the public about Georgia's cultural heritage.

Second, The SGA Spring Meeting is in Savannah, Georgia, on May 13. . . . We will meet at the Savannah Double Tree Inn in downtown Savannah for an abbreviated SGA business meeting, followed by a keynote speaker, who is Ms. Julie Morgan. Ms. Morgan is an archaeologist with the Corps of Engineers, and she will talk to the



group about the raising of the CSS *Georgia* (the main subject of our Archaeology Month Poster) and recent preservation work on the ship that is currently ongoing. We will then walk a few short blocks to the Clusky Embankments where Blake Ayala will give a short talk about their history and significance to Savannah and about recent archaeological work at the vaults. After an "on-your-own" lunch in downtown Savannah, we will

meet at Fort Jackson for a guided tour of the fort. We will drive on to Fort Pulaski where we will have a guided tour of that fort.

Lastly, as you might imagine, Archaeology Month outreach

endeavors to foster public awareness and preservation of Georgia's archaeological resources require time and money. SGA contributes volunteer labor as well as financial resources to support these efforts. We greatly appreciate the financial and in-kind contributions . . .

Thanks!!  
Tom Lewis, SGA President

### GARS OFFICERS

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