



War of 1812 veteran grave markers installed and dedicated for brothers James Byrd and John Wesley Byrd in Bailey-Byrd Cemetery, Land Between The Lakes NRA on March 30, 2013.

All these were honoured in their generations, and were the glory of their times. There be of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported. And some there be, which have no memorial; who are perished, as though they had never been; and are become as though they had never been born; and their children after them. But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten. With their seed shall continually remain a good inheritance, and their children are within the covenant. Their seed standeth fast, and their children for their sakes. Their seed shall remain for ever, and their glory shall not be blotted out. Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore. - Ecclesiasticus 44:7-14 (Frontispiece from Shelby Foote's The Civil War, A Narrative)

Byrd, James:

Born 1795; died May 12, 1845 in Stewart County, TN; buried Bailey—Byrd Cemetery, Stewart County, TN.

SERVICE: Pvt., in Capt. Thomas Gray’s Co., First Regiment of West TN Militia

commanded by Col. Richard C. Napier with service 1/28/1814—5/10/1814.

Part of Gen. Thomas Johnson’s brigade, some participated in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend 3/27/1814.

Byrd, John Wesley:

Born January 1792; died July 3, 1866 in Stewart County, TN; buried Bailey—Byrd Cemetery, Stewart County, TN.

SERVICE: Pvt., in Capt. Thomas Gray’s Co., First Regiment of West TN Militia

commanded by Col. Richard C. Napier with service 1/28/1814—5/10/1814.

Part of Gen. Thomas Johnson’s brigade, some participated in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend 3/27/1814. On furlough 5/6/1814

3 months & 24 days service @ \$8 per month = \$30.19

\$1.30 traveling allowance

Total pay \$31.49

At: <http://www.tn.gov/tsla/history/military/1812reg.htm>

COLONEL RICHARD C. NAPIER REGIMENT

•DESIGNATION: **1st Regiment West Tennessee Militia**

•DATES: January 1814 - May 1814

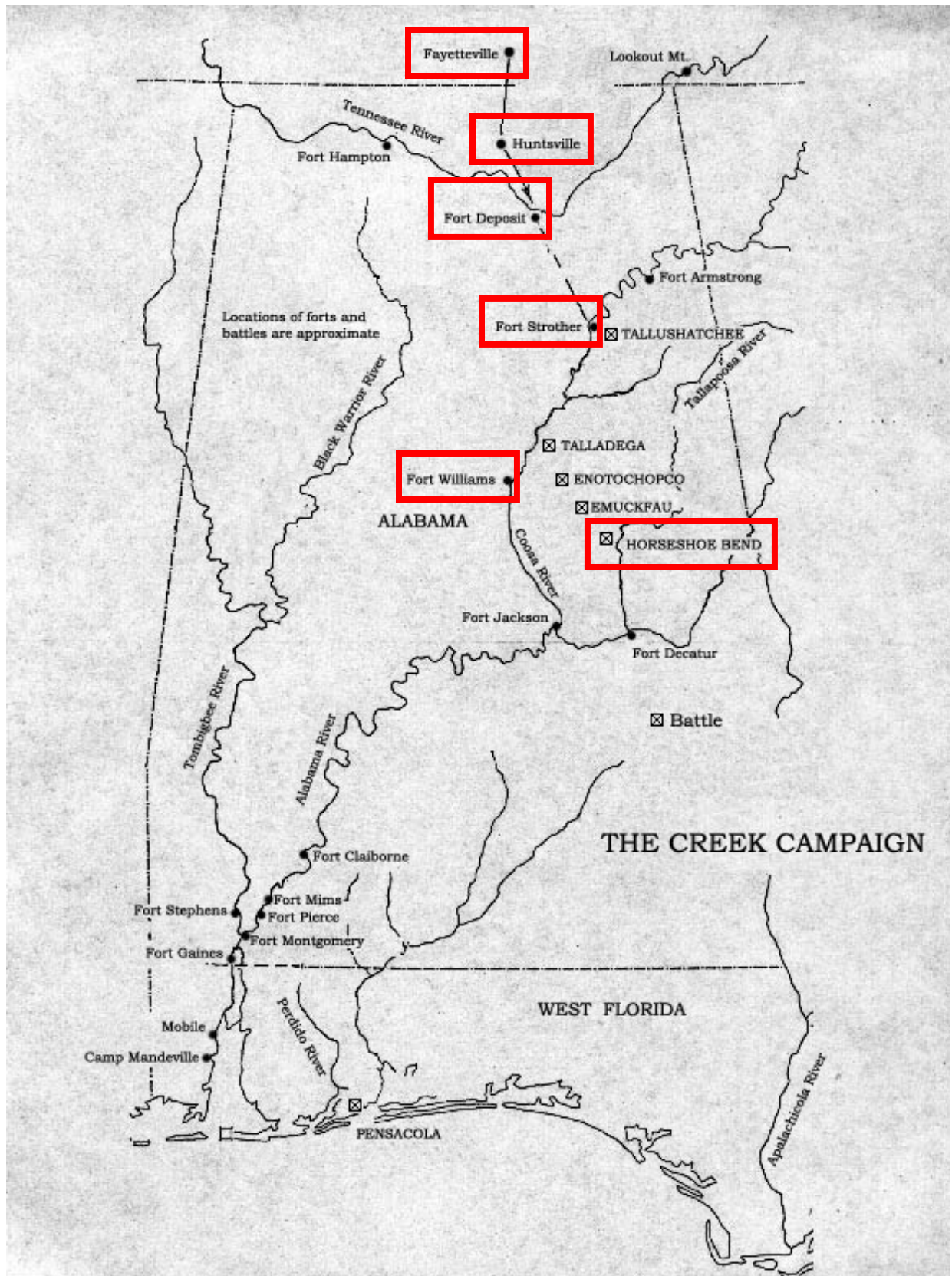
•MEN MOSTLY FROM: Maury, Dickson, Montgomery, Sumner, Giles, and **Stewart** Counties

•CAPTAINS: Drury Adkins, Abraham Allen, Samuel Ashmore, Early Benson, John Chism, **Thomas Gray**, Andrew McCarty, James McMurry, Edward Neblett, Thomas Preston

BRIEF HISTORY:

Part of **General Thomas Johnson's brigade**, this regiment mustered in at **Fayetteville** and marched to **Huntsville**, then **Ft. Deposit, Fort Strother, and Fort Williams**. While some detachments participated in the **Battle of Horseshoe Bend (27 March 1814)**, others stayed at **Fort Williams** on guard duty (**Capt. Preston**, for example). Jackson's report of the battle mentions that the troops under **Captain James McMurray** were on the left line at **Horseshoe Bend**.

Many of the men then marched to the **Hickory Ground** (near present-day **Montgomery, Alabama**) where Jackson anticipated another battle with the Creeks, but the defeat at **Horseshoe Bend** had been decisive and the Tennesseans faced no further massed resistance. The regiment numbered about 500 men.



At: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creek_War

The **Creek War (1813–1814)**, also known as the **Red Stick War** and the **Creek Civil War**, began as a civil war within the Creek (Muscogee) nation. European-American historians sometimes associate it as part of the **War of 1812** between the United States and Great Britain, as tribal tensions were exacerbated during this war. The war began as a civil war, but United States forces became involved in the conflict by attacking a Creek party in present-day southern Alabama at the **Battle of Burnt Corn**. The war ended after **Andrew Jackson** commanded a force of combined state militias, Lower Creek and Cherokee to defeat the Red Sticks at **Horseshoe Bend**. After the war, by the **Treaty of Fort Jackson (August 1814)**, the general insisted on the Creek ceding more than 20 million acres of land from southern Georgia and central Alabama, taken from the Lower Creek allies as well as the Upper Creek.

The Tennessee legislature authorized **Governor Willie Blount** to raise 5,000 militia for a three-month tour of duty. Blount called out a force of **2,500 West Tennessee men under Colonel Andrew Jackson** to "*repel an approaching invasion ... and to afford aid and relief to ... Mississippi Territory*". He also summoned a force of 2,500 from East Tennessee under Major General William Cocke. Jackson and Cocke were not ready to move until early October.

Tennessee militia

Although Jackson's mission was to defeat the Creek, his larger objective was to move on Pensacola. Jackson's plan was to move south, build roads, destroy Upper Creek towns and then later proceed to Mobile to stage an attack on Pensacola. He had two problems: logistics and short enlistments. When Jackson began his advance, the Tennessee River was low, making it difficult to move supplies, and there was little forage for his horses.

Jackson departed **Fayetteville, Tennessee** on October 7, 1813. He joined his cavalry in Huntsville and crossed the Tennessee, establishing Fort Deposit. He then marched to the Coosa and built his advanced base at **Fort Strother**. Jackson's first

successful actions, **the battles of Tallushatchee and Talladega**, occurred in November.

However, after Talladega, Jackson was plagued by supply shortages and discipline problems arising from his men's short term enlistments. Cocke, with 2,500 East Tennessee Militia, took the field on October 12. His route of march was from Knoxville to Chattanooga and then along the Coosa toward Fort Strother. Because of jealousy between the East and **West Tennessee militia**, Cocke was in no hurry to join Jackson, particularly after he angered Jackson by mistakenly attacking a friendly village on November 17. When he finally reached Fort Strother on December 12, the East Tennessee men only had 10 days remaining on their enlistments. Jackson had no choice but to dismiss them.

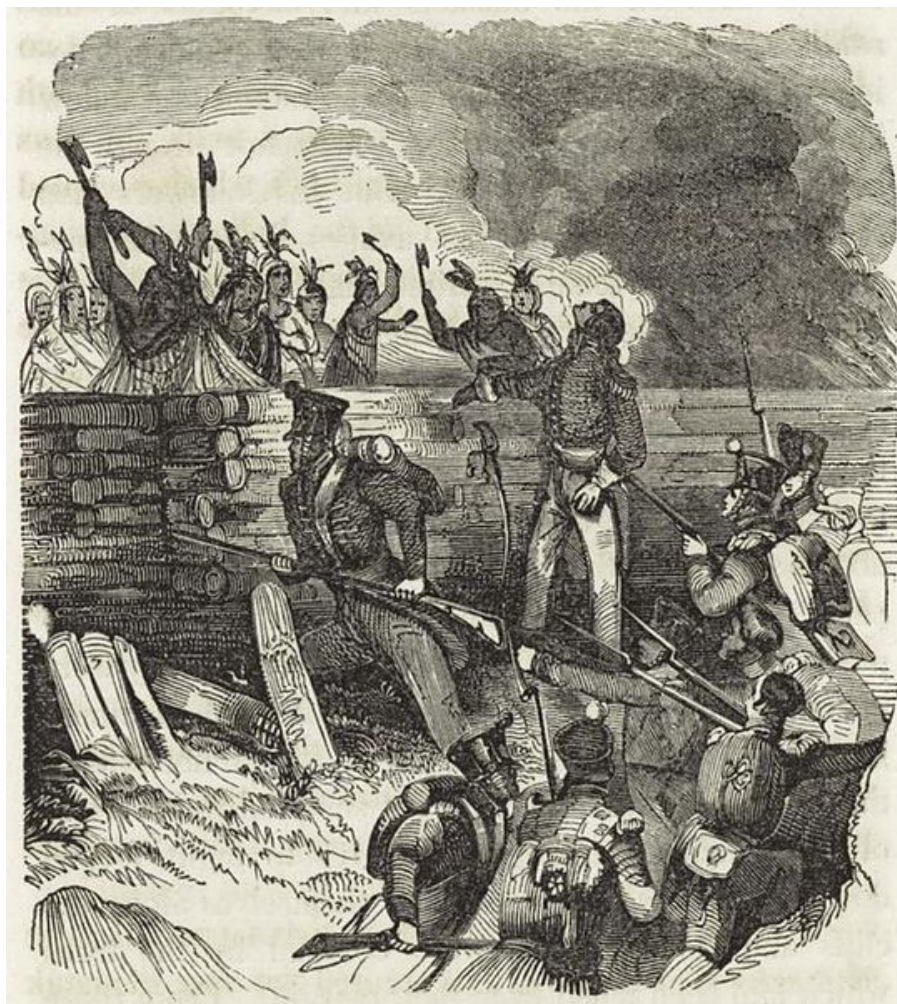
Further, General Coffee, who had returned to Tennessee for remounts, wrote Jackson that the cavalry had deserted. By the end of 1813, Jackson was down to a single regiment whose enlistments were due to expire in mid January. Although Governor Blount had ordered a new levee of 2,500 troops, Jackson would not be up to full strength until the end of February. When a draft of **900 raw recruits arrived unexpectedly on January 14**, Jackson was down to a cadre of 103 and Coffee, who had been "*abandoned by his men*".

Since new men had enlistment contracts of only sixty days, Jackson decided to get the most out of his untried force. He departed **Fort Strother** on January 17 and marched toward the village of **Emuckfaw** to cooperate with the Georgia Militia. However, this was a risky decision. It was a long march through difficult terrain against a numerically superior force, the men were inexperienced, undisciplined and insubordinate, and a defeat would have prolonged the war. After two indecisive battles at **Emuckfaw** and **Enotachopo Creek**, Jackson returned to **Fort Strother** and did not resume the offensive until mid March.

The arrival of the **39th United States Infantry** on February 6, 1814, provided Jackson a disciplined core for his force, which ultimately grew to about 5,000 men. After Governor Blount ordered the second draft of Tennessee militia, Cocke, with a force of 2,000 six-month men, once again marched from Knoxville to Fort Strother. Cocke's men mutinied when they learned that **Jackson's men only had three month enlistments**. Cocke tried to pacify his men, but Jackson

misunderstood the situation and ordered Cocke's arrest as an instigator. The East Tennessee militia reported to Fort Strother without further comment on their term of service. Cocke was later cleared.

Jackson spent the next month building roads and training his force. **In mid March, he moved against the Red Stick force concentrated on the Tallapoosa at Tohopeka (Horseshoe Bend).** He first moved south along the Coosa, about half the distance to the Creek position, and established a new outpost at **Fort Williams.** Leaving another garrison there, he then moved on **Tohopeka** with a force of about 3,000 effectives augmented by 600 Cherokee and Lower Creek allies. **The Battle of Horseshoe Bend, which occurred on March 27,** was a decisive victory for Jackson, effectively ending the Red Stick resistance.



**The Battle of
Horseshoe Bend
March 27, 1814**

Red Stick Creek vs. United States, Lower Creek, Cherokee, Choctaw.

Monahee the Prophet, William Weatherford vs. Andrew Jackson, Junaluska.

~1,000 Red Stick Creek vs. ~2,000 infantry, ~700 cavalry American; ~600 Native American warriors.

857 k, 205 w Red Stick Creek vs. 47 k, 159 w American; 23 k, 47 w Native American warriors.

At: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Horseshoe_Bend_\(1814\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Horseshoe_Bend_(1814))