



AREA FORTS



FORT BALDWIN

This was a blockhouse that stood on the site of the present village of Blacksville, in Clay District, Monongalia County. It was the most western fort of white men in that county. The valley of Dunkard's Creek in which it was situated, was the scene of many a barbarian incident of the border wars.

FORT BUCKHANNON

This was a small fort situated near the site of the present town of Buckhannon, in Upshur County. On March 8, 1781, as William White, Timothy Dorman and his wife were approaching this fort, they were fired upon by Native Americans. White was killed and scalped, and Dorman and his wife taken prisoners. The following April, three brothers, Mathias, Simon, and Michael Schoolcraft, left this fort to hunt; the first named was killed by Native Americans and the others taken prisoners. Dorman became a renegade and accompanied the Native Americans in their incursions into the settlements. Fearful of him and his savage associates, the inmates of the fort abandoned it and removed elsewhere. A few days later, Dorman and his party laid it in ashes.

FORT BURRIS

This was a small fort located on the "Flats" on the east side of the Monongahela River in Morgan District, Monongalia County. Its exact location cannot be determined beyond what has been said, and little or nothing of its history is known.

FORT COBUN

A small stockade fort erected by Jonathan Cobun in 1770 near Dorsey's Knob on Cobun's Creek in Morgan District, Monongalia County. In 1779, a party of whites was returning to the Fort from the labors of the cornfield when Native Americans fired them on. John Woodfin, being on horseback, had his thigh broken and his horse killed under him. Jacob Miller was shot through the body. Both were tomahawked and scalped. The other members of the party reached the fort unharmed.

FORT COON

This was a small fort, situated on the West Fork River in Harrison County. In 1777, "the bloody year of the three sevens," as long known on the frontier, a daughter of the proprietor went some little distance from the fort to turn hemp spread for watering. Thomas Cunningham and Enoch James went along, talked with her for a moment and passed on. Before they had gone far, they heard the report of a gun and looking back saw an Native American run up to the girl and tomahawk and scalp her. An alarm was given and pursuit made from the fort but the savages could not be overtaken.



FORT DINWIDDIE

This was a fort of considerable size situated on the present site of the village of Stewartstown, in Union District, Monongalia County. Its proprietor appears to have been Jacob Rogers, and for this reason, the fort was sometimes called Fort Rogers, or Rogers' Fort, but it was best known as Fort Dinwiddie, doubtless so called from the acting governor of Virginia during the French and Indian War.

FORT NUTTER

This was a stockade fort situated on the east bank of Elk Creek, now within the corporate limits of Clarksburg, Harrison County. Its builders and defenders were Thomas, John, Mathew, and Christopher Nutter, brothers, who came to the vicinity in 1772. It afforded protection to the inhabitants on the West Fork of the Monongahela from its source to its confluence with the Valley River; and to those who lived on Buckhannon River and Hacker' Creek, as well as to those of the immediate locality. When the Hackers Creek settlement was entirely broken up by the Native Americans in 1779, the settlers who escaped took refuge in this fort where they aided in resisting the foe and in maintaining possession of the country. There were many tragedies and dramas enacted in this vicinity.

FORT PAWPAW.

This was a small fort situated on Pawpaw Creek, now in Pawpaw District, Marion County. It derived its name from the stream on which it was located and was often referred to as the "Pawpaw Fort." For a time, Captain John Evans, commanding a company of Rangers enlisted in Monongalia County, was stationed at this fort, until he was later transferred to Fort Henry for garrison duty at Wheeling.

FORT PIERPOINT

John Pierpoint erected this fort, a small one, in 1769. It was situated one mile distant from the village of Easton and about four miles from Morgantown, now in Union District, Monongalia County. Its vicinity was the scene of some of the horrid realities of the border wars. Monongalia County was a seat of war.

FORT POWERS

This was a small Fort situated on Simpson's Creek, now in Simpson District, Harrison County. It appears to have been erected by John Powers in 1771. In 1778, James Owens left this fort on horseback; when he had gone a short distance, his saddle girth gave way and he dismounted to mend it. While thus engaged, he and his horse were both killed by Native Americans in ambush. In this fort was reared William Powers to whom we owe this region. He was born on Tom's Creek in Frederick County, Maryland, in 1765 and came with his parents to Simpson's Creek in 1771. He received a fair education for that day. The Indian Wars were in progress and he kept a diary of events as they occurred. When Alexander S. Withers came to Harrison County in 1827, he secured Powers' notes and from them obtained much data for his valuable work "Chronicles of Border Warfare".



FORT PRICKETT

This was a stockade fort erected at the beginning of Dunmore's War in 1774. It was situated at the mouth of Pricketts Creek on the east side of the Monongahela River, five miles below Fairmont, Marion County. In the early years of the Revolution, it afforded protection to all the settlers in that part of the Monongahela Valley. It was the scene of some of the most daring adventures of the Indian Wars. It was here, in 1779, that David Morgan had his famous encounter with two Native Americans, in which he succeeded in killing one and severely wounding the other, thus saving the lives of two of his children and making his own escape in what seemed to be an almost miraculous manner.

FORT RICHARDS

This was a strong fort on the west bank of the West Fork River in the vicinity of the mouth of Sycamore Creek, now in Union District, Harrison County. Here Jacob Richards was granted to include his settlement in 1771. He and his relatives, Arnold, Paul, Isaac, and Conrad Richards were the builders and defenders of this fort. Within its walls, many a pioneer family of the West Fork Valley found refuge from the storm of barbarian warfare. It played an important part in the terrible scenes enacted in its vicinity in 1778 and in the years immediately following.

FORT STATLER

This was a stockade fort situated on Dunkard Creek, now in Clay District, Monongalia County. John Statler, who came to this vicinity, in 1770 erected it. Some writers have the name "Stradler" instead of "Statler;" the latter seems to be the correct form. It was the scene of bloody tragedies during the border wars. In autumn of the year 1779, a large number of men had gone out from this fort to work in the neighboring fields. Returning in the evening, they fell into an ambush, were fired upon, and several were killed. Those who escaped injury from the first attack returned the fire and a severe action ensued. But so many of the whites had fallen before the savages exposed themselves to view, that the remainder were unable long to sustain the unequal contest. Overpowered by numbers, the few who were unhurt fled precipitately to the fort, leaving eighteen of their companions dead in the road. These were scalped and mangled by the Native Americans in a most shocking manner and they lay some time before the men in the fort, assured of the departure of the enemy, went out and buried them.

FORT STEWART

This was a blockhouse erected by John Stewart in 1773, the year in which he came to this vicinity. It was situated on a ridge between two small ravines on Stewart's Run, about a mile from its source and two miles from the site of the present Georgetown, now in Grant District, Monongalia County. Here William, son of John Stewart, made an exciting race for life, when, returning from a mill, he was chased by Native Americans close upon him.



ADDITIONAL FORTS

FORT MORGAN, built in 1772 on the site of the present city of Morgantown (this fort may or may not have existed).

FORT JACKSON, built in 1774 on the Ten Mile creek in Sardis district, Harrison County.

FORT HARRISON, west side of Monongahela River at source of Crooked Run, Case district, Monongalia County.

FORT KERNS, built on west side of the Monongahela River opposite the mouth of Decker's creek in Morgan district.

FORT EDWARDS, built five miles south of Boothsville in Booth creek district, Taylor County.

FORT WEST, built on Hacker's Creek in Hacker's district, Lewis County (in present corporate limits of Jane Lew).

FORT BUSH, built a little above the mouth of Turkey Run in Upshur County.

FORT LOWTHER, built in Harrison County.

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