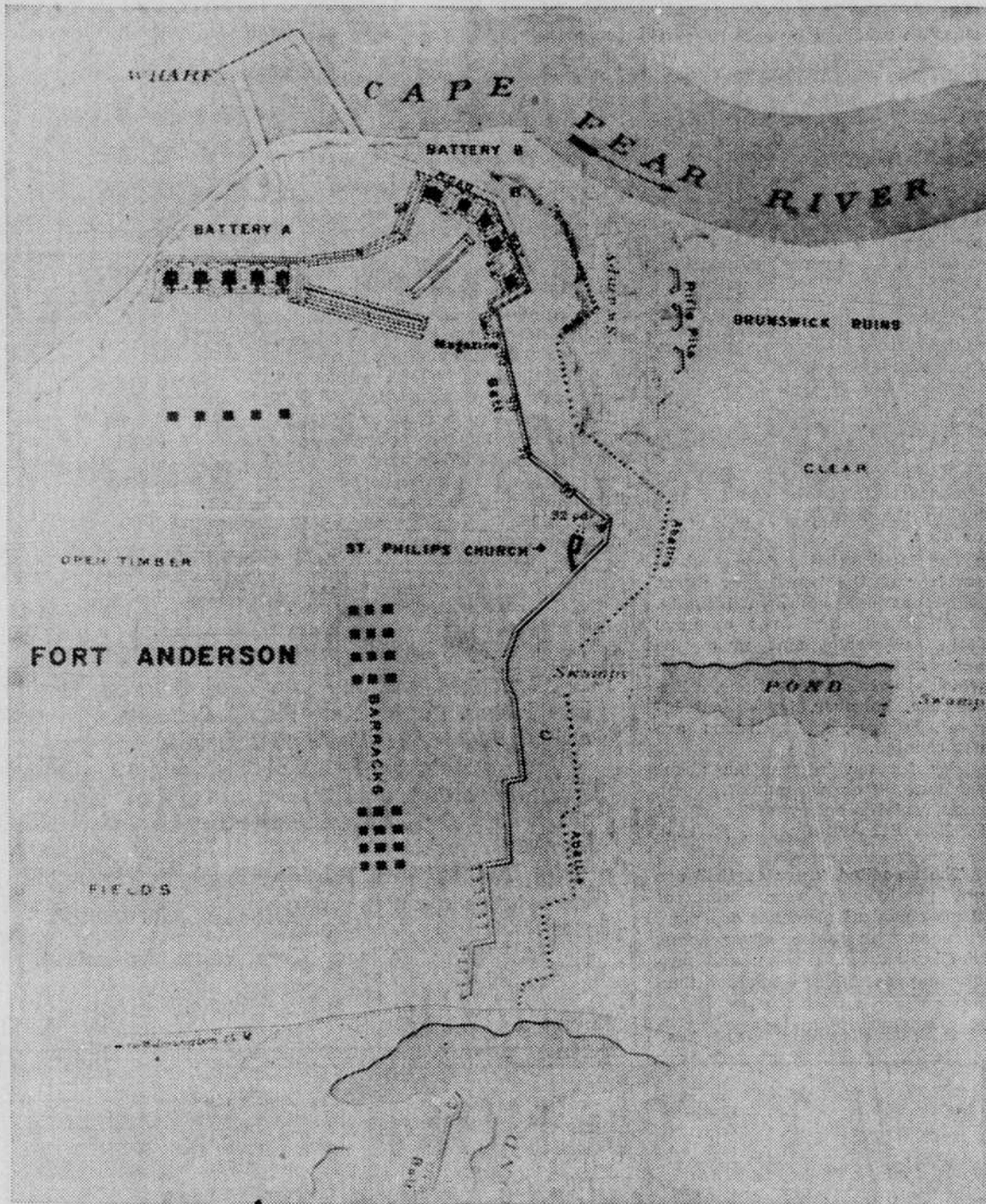


Diagram Of Fort Anderson



done. The speaker said that in 1861, forts were being constructed along the Cape Fear River for the defense of Wilmington and surrounding communities. "Fort Anderson, one such fort, was located on a point and a high ridge where the Colonial town once existed. The fortification, which is a mile in length, runs from the river back to and around the church and beyond to some ponds. The entrenchments took several months to complete, labor being comprised of soldiers, slaves, Indians, as well as old men and young boys who were ineligible for service. Soldiers and laborers working on the defense, quite often found old coins and other relics. The church had witnessed the struggle of one revolution and its walls later echoed sounds of shells from the bombardment of the Federal War ships.

"In the early days of the fortification, Asbury continued, "it was known as Fort St. Phillip's, but later it was changed in honor of General Joseph R. Anderson, then commanding officer of the military district. The fort was composed of two batteries, 'A' and 'B', which possessed 5 guns each. Other gun emplacements were strewn along the line of defense, but none were as impressive as the above-mentioned. As the months passed into years, the duty at the Fort was often boring for the soldiers stationed there. These artillerymen of the 14th Regiment of the North Carolina troops, had some of the routine broken by visits from the people of Wilmington and surrounding area, particularly on Sunday.

During the months of 1864, the function of the fort was to examine all ships entering the river and heading toward Wilmington. Asbury related an interesting incident which was reported by James Sprunt aboard one of the blockade runners: "While passing Fort Anderson, a gun was fired, but having received no intimation at Fort Fisher that we would be detained on the river, we continued our course, which was immediately arrested by another gun sending a round shot through our rigging. We were boarded by Lieutenant McNair (still known as crazy Mac) who laughingly remarked that his next shot would have sunk us, as his orders were to stop all vessels passing the fort, for inspection."

"On January 15, 1865, Fort Fisher fell," Asbury said. "The next day companies 'B' and 'S', 'H' and 'I', of the 14th Regiment evacuated Fort Holmes and Fort Hedrick on Baldhead or Smith

Island. On January 17, they joined company A at Fort Anderson, now comprised of 6 companies, plus 900 men from Fort Caswell. On the 22nd, the Federal Navy moved up 15 vessels from the fleet of 58 at Fort Fisher, and commenced firing on Fort Anderson. On February 16, General Cox moved his command part of Schofield's army, to Smithville, and moved up the river, encamping within 2 miles of Ft. Anderson. The next morning at 7 o'clock, the Yankee forces took Ft. Anderson and 50 prisoners, with small loss of life.

"The Confederates had slipped out during the night, much to the chagrin of the Yankee troops, who found themselves being fired upon by their own ships in the river. It was necessary to raise a white flag to halt the firing. General Cox caught up with the remnants of the Ft. Anderson troops at Town Creek. They had burnt the bridge, and in the ensuing skirmish, General Cox lost 40 men."

Asbury illustrated his talk with colored slides showing some of the gun emplacements and the work being carried on at the site. The work is under the direction of Stanley A. South, archaeologist. In the remaining portion of the program, Asbury pointed out that Brunswick County has a great deal of historic tourist appeal. He stated that over 7,000 people have visited the site since the first of the year, and that many have inquired about additional points of interests in the county.

By the use of colored slides, Asbury took the group on a travelogue of some of the historic sites throughout the county, such as Bevidere Plantation and mentioned the earthworks at Easy Hill, at the junction of U. S. 17, 74 & 76. He also showed other plantations: Clarendon, Lilliput, Pleasant Oaks, along the river. Continuing, he showed the Light-house at Price's Creek the light-house at Baldhead, built in 1817, Ft. Caswell, the Russell House, completed in 1840, the Whitlock House, completed in 1820, and the Walker House, completed in 1850's, all in the Winnabow area, the Tripp House, completed in



Waterfront
Everytime we mention alligators or snakes in The Pilot we draw a rebuke from one or more local real estate men. "What are you trying to do, ruin us", they want to know? "Leave off these scare stories", they counsel us. Well, at the risk of offending these fellows, we want to report something that happened the other day to give a reverse twist to this old line of thinking. We were riding through one of the new developments with an upstate couple and their kids when one of the boys wanted to know if he could get out and run along the road barefooted. Seeing a nearby pond, we said to him "You'd better stay in this car. See that pond over there? Well, there may be an alligator in it." With that the father slammed on brakes, threw open the door and said "You don't say! Come come on and let's see if we can see one." They were so enthusiastic that we didn't have the heart to tell them that there

probably never had been a gator in that pond since the world began. We had the rare privilege this past week of hearing two old hands at the art of flounder-striking get together to compare notes. What's more significant, their area of operations are considerably alike, thus making their comments all the more authentic. One of the fishermen was John Holden most of whose operations have been in and around Holden Beach, and the other was Tommy Bowmer of Southport, who likes the waters of Davis Creek for this kind of fishing. Both had been this spring and each had had good luck.

The best tale John told was of the big one that got away. Seems that he had spotted a big bed and had been so greatly impressed with the size that he had called to one of his companions to see it. "I'll bet the fish that made it weighed 10-lbs", he said, scuffling in that direction with his foot. When he did, the bottom erupted and a flounder of fully that size flashed off through the water to safety.

Tommy had a couple of yarns to add. One was about a 5-pounder that he had hit with his gill, but so far aft that the almost missed. "That fish had me as much as I had him," he said. "When I finally got him in the boat I found that I had hit him about four inches from the tip of his tail." Tommy added that he thinks that if he is to continue this sport he will have to go to using glasses.

His other story was about groping along in the blinding light of the gas lantern and suddenly coming upon a floating object that looked for all the world like a mine. "That really gave me a thrill," he said, "until I remembered that there are buoys shaped like that. This was one of them that had got adrift, but for a minute I thought I was on the verge of being blown up."

We are not to be classed with the nature lovers who like to watch lightning play across the sky, but last night while we were out of doors taking stock of the damage caused by the hail storm some of the most beautiful and most unusual we have ever seen was lighting up the sky. It was not this vicious, forked-tongue type that can make you its next victim; but far away over the water there were splashes of glowing red which appeared to come from the ocean and fade away into the darkness. It was deep red and almost awesome in its beauty.

Speaker Tells About—

Famous Fortification At Brunswick Town

Last Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Joseph M. Rideout a meeting of the Thomas Mann Thompson Chapter UDC was held with R. V. Asbury, Jr., guide at the Brunswick Town State historical site, as guest speaker. Asbury spoke of Fort Anderson, the Confederate fortification on the west bank of the Cape Fear River, which was built over the Colonial town some 86 years after it had been abandoned.

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