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Fort Anderson: Confederate Bastion at Brunswick

By Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.

An entourage of Confederate officers and engineers stepped ashore at Brunswick Point on March 22, 1862. It was one of the first stopping points on a two-day tour of the Cape Fear District defenses by the newly assigned district commander, Brigadier General Samuel G. French. The bluffs along the west bank of the Cape Fear River at Brunswick impressed General French as an ideal site to build a fortification. An artillery battery on the high ground would command both the river traffic and western land approaches to Wilmington, North Carolina, about fifteen miles upstream.

Such defenses were needed to safeguard Wilmington from Federal forces rapidly advancing down the Tarheel coast. By the spring of 1862, Union troops occupied the state's Outer Banks and interior sounds, as well as the ports of New Bern, Beaufort, and Morehead City. Confederate military authorities at the Cape Fear believed that Wilmington was the enemy's next target.

Unexpectedly, the Federals hopscotched over Wilmington to strike Charleston, South Carolina, where the Civil War had begun and political and public interests centered. The Union neglect of Wilmington allowed blockade running ships to smuggle vast quantities of European-manufactured supplies into the Confederacy by way of the Cape Fear River. Imported rifle-muskets, cannon, ammunition, food, and medicines were vital to the South's war effort. When these and other provisions reached Wilmington's docks, they were transported by rail to Confederate forces on the battlefield and civilians on the homefront.

Wilmington became increasingly important to the Confederacy as one port town after another fell to Union naval and expeditionary forces. Between March and May 1862, the Confederacy lost six of its principal seaports. To protect the inlets that the stealth merchant vessels used to enter and exit Wilmington's harbor and the railroads along which supplies were shipped to the needy, Confederate engineers constructed a vast network of forts and batteries in and around the city. The key to the defensive system was Fort Fisher, a massive earthen fortress built at New Inlet, the northern-most entrance into the Cape Fear River and blockade runners' favorite passageway. To supplement Fort Fisher and defenses protecting Old Inlet to the south, General French instructed

Lieutenant Thomas Rowland to "superintend the construction of a battery and a line of entrenchments" at Brunswick on the mainland.

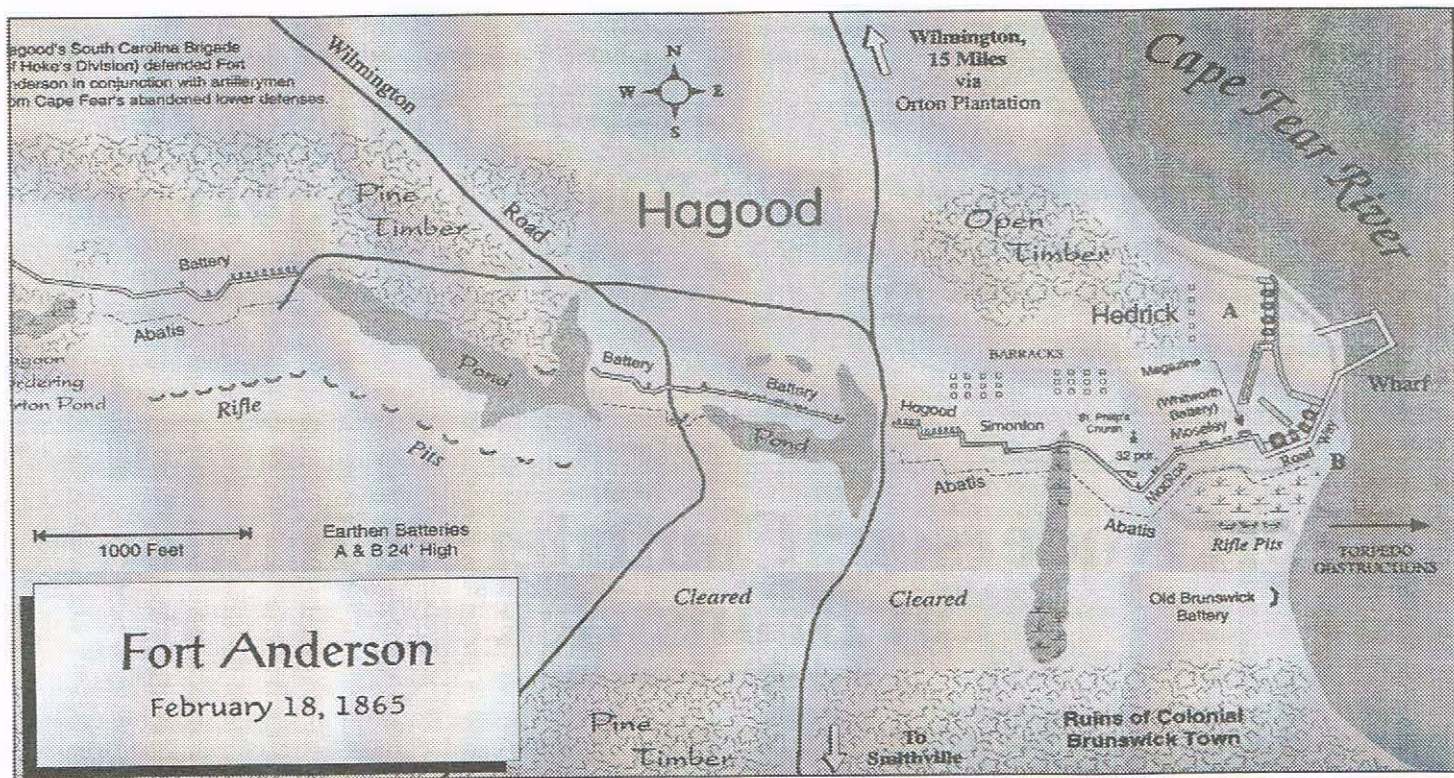
Thomas Rowland was well qualified for the assignment, having studied military engineering at the U.S. Military Academy. When the war began, Rowland joined the elite Confederate Corps of Engineers and was promptly assigned to build forts and mount artillery for Wilmington's defense.¹

Lieutenant Rowland bunked at Orton Plantation while he and his laborers worked on the Brunswick defenses. Between late March and early July 1862, Rowland and his team erected an artillery battery near the river shore and a six-foot-high dirt embankment that ran westward for a mile to Orton Pond. The line of earthworks cut through the middle of Old Brunswick, a colonial ghost town. Before the American War for Independence, Brunswick was England's main port in the colony and a major supplier of naval stores. The town never recovered from the devastation it suffered at the hands of British troops during the Revolutionary War, and by 1862 a veritable jungle of underbrush and trees had consumed the town site. The massive brick shell of St. Philip's Anglican Church was the only remaining colonial structure when Lieutenant Rowland's work crew began clearing the site and digging trenches for a Confederate fort. To commemorate the old church, which stood just inside the fort's walls, Rowland called his defenses Fort St. Philip.²

Some 300 Tarheel soldiers filtered into Fort St. Philip during the spring and summer of 1862. The gray-uniformed troops, in tandem with slave and free black laborers, spent the hot, sticky days excavating dirt for the fort's walls, erecting barracks, mounting cannon, and swatting pesky mosquitoes and deer flies. The soldiers also drilled on the artillery and with small arms, while complaining about the mundane routine of garrison duty.

One of St. Philip's earliest commandants was Major William Lamb, an aristocratic, tidewater Virginia lawyer and newspaper editor. Lamb spent about seven weeks at Brunswick in the late spring of 1862, before being transferred to command at Fort Fisher across the Cape Fear River. By early 1863, Fort St. Philip was commanded by

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Major John J. Hedrick, a native Wilmingtonian and well known commander of the Cape Fear Minute Men, a pre-war militia unit.

During Hedrick's tenure, the Brunswick bastion was greatly strengthened, expanded and renamed. On July 1, 1863, the Cape Fear District commander informed Major Hedrick that Fort St. Philip would "be known hereafter" as Fort Anderson. For decades historians assumed, incorrectly it turns out, that Fort Anderson was named for Brigadier General Joseph R. Anderson, a Virginian who served as the first Richmond-appointed commander of the District of the Cape Fear. A recently discovered Confederate general order, however, reveals that Fort Anderson was named for a "distinguished and gallant dead" North Carolinian. The fort's namesake was most likely Brigadier General George Burgwyn Anderson, a grand nephew of John Burgwyn, one of the Cape Fear's more renowned antebellum citizens and businessmen. General Anderson was mortally wounded while leading his men at the Battle of Sharpsburg in September 1862.³

The Cape Fear defensive work ultimately named for George B. Anderson emerged as the region's most powerful interior fortification, second only in size and strength to Fort Fisher. From the riverside, Fort Anderson was shaped like a huge crooked letter "L," with the short end running parallel to the Cape Fear River and the long shank running perpendicular to the waterway. An imposing 150-yard long work to the north, known as Battery A, guarded against any attempt by enemy vessels to ascend the Cape Fear River. Lieutenant Rowland's old redoubt located just south of Battery A was transformed into a massive twenty-four foot high crescent-shaped bastion, and designated Battery B. The earthworks comprised a series of elevated gun batteries mounting a total of nine 6.4-inch, 32-pounder cannon. Abutting Battery B's west flank was Rowland's original mile-long earthen wall that ran to Orton Pond. A soldier who helped build Fort Anderson defined it as "one of the most formidable batteries in the Southern Confederacy."⁴

Besides being a formidable earthwork, Fort Anderson also served as a quarantine station for blockade runners. All Wilmington-bound ships were required to stop at Brunswick to be checked for proper papers, illegal cargoes ("Yankee goods") and contagious diseases. Wilmingtonians believed that the blockade runner *Kate* had imported yellow fever that caused a deadly epidemic in the autumn of 1862, and authorities were determined to curb such tragedies. After that time, no incoming ships passed Fort Anderson without first undergoing an inspection from officials onshore.⁵

Despite the feared risks that blockade running posed, the Confederacy's supply lifeline through Wilmington proved to be so essential that General Robert E. Lee himself declared that the survival of the Army of Northern Virginia depended upon the survival of Wilmington. By



Fort Anderson's Battery B, looking southward.

mid-summer 1864, Wilmington was the last Confederate seaport open to the outside world, and the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad was Lee's main supply route. That fact was not lost to the U.S. Navy Department, whose ships had been unable to halt the influx of foreign goods at the Cape Fear. Not until the autumn of 1864, however, did Lieutenant General U.S. Grant agree to dispatch an expeditionary force to support the navy's long-proposed attack on Wilmington.

The Federals first target was Fort Fisher, which guarded New Inlet. The two battles there, Christmas 1864 and mid-January 1865, were the largest combined land/sea operations of the Civil War. The mighty fortress finally fell on January 15, 1865 to a severe three-day naval bombardment and a ground assault by a superior force of blue-clad soldiers, sailors, and marines. U.S. warships then pushed into the Cape Fear River and turned their bows upstream toward Wilmington.

By late January, General Grant was so intent on taking Wilmington that he left the Virginia battlefront to travel to the Cape Fear to plan the attack on the city. Accompanying the commanding general were Assistant Secretary of the Navy Gustavus V. Fox and Major General John M. Schofield, whose XXIII Corps, Army of the Ohio, Grant had recently transferred from Tennessee to help with Union operations in the Carolinas. Grant especially wanted to



Major General Jacob D. Cox led four brigades of Union troops in the Battle of Fort Anderson.

capture Wilmington, as its railroads and the Cape Fear River would allow him to send supplies and reinforcements to General William T. Sherman, who planned to march his 60,000-man army from Savannah, Georgia (which Sherman had taken at Christmas 1864), through South and North Carolina en route to Virginia to help Grant defeat Robert E. Lee.

Rear Admiral David D. Porter and Major General Alfred H. Terry, whose combined forces had captured Fort Fisher, suggested moving against Wilmington by way of Fort Anderson on the mainland. There the army would have sufficient room to maneuver, while Admiral Porter's warships shelled the fort from the Cape Fear River. General Grant agreed, saying "it is the best and only thing to be done." Grant assigned General Schofield to lead the attack.⁶

In early February 1865, 6,000 reinforcements from Major General Jacob D. Cox's Third Division of Schofield's corps arrived at the Cape Fear and were sent to the west side of the river for the assault on Fort Anderson. As Cox's troops moved toward the fort on the afternoon of February 17, Admiral Porter's flotilla of gunboats opened a long range bombardment of the Brunswick bastion.

At the front of the naval battle group was the light draft monitor *Montauk*, brought up from the Charleston blockading squadron especially for operations on the shallow Cape Fear River. The *Montauk* is infamous for being the site of the autopsy of John Wilkes Booth in April 1865. Most of Booth's co-conspirators were later imprisoned on board the *Montauk*. Two months earlier, however, the single turreted monitor, along with fourteen other warships, bombarded Fort Anderson. Confederate soldiers were so fearful of the *Montauk's* huge 15-inch, 300-pound iron shells, that they dubbed them "metallic coffins."⁷

Porter's gunboats shelled Fort Anderson during the afternoon of February 17 in an effort to soften the defenses for a ground assault by General Cox's advancing troops. That evening, while the naval guns cooled and the blue-clad soldiers slept in the piney woods south of Fort Anderson, Schofield and Cox discussed strategy for taking the strong earthen work. It appeared that the navy would be unable to bring enough heavy ordnance to bear on the fort's elevated batteries to silence them, primarily because the river channel was too narrow and full of obstructions and mines. The brunt of responsibility for Anderson's capture seemingly rested on the army's shoulders. With that in mind, Schofield and Cox decided to inspect the fort the following morning and then decide whether to attack it head-on, or attempt to outflank it.⁸

Cox's soldiers resumed their advance toward Fort Anderson early on the morning of February 18, a balmy winter's day. Skirmishers soon encountered Confederate pickets and fighting quickly developed across the front. Cox's 6,000-man force brushed aside the thin line of gray-clad riflemen, but met stiff resistance as it advanced within sight of Fort Anderson's main walls. The cracking of small arms fire onshore prompted Admiral Porter to order his warships into action. The booming of big naval guns punctuated the sounds of the growing infantry battle.

Protecting the Brunswick bastion was a motley array of Tarheel artillerists, who had served in various Cape Fear forts and batteries during the war, and a brigade of South

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Carolina infantry sent from Virginia by Robert E. Lee to help safeguard Wilmington. Commanding Anderson's 2,300 defenders was Brigadier General Johnson Hagood, a Palmetto State planter and lawyer turned soldier. Hagood had been instructed by his superior officer not to "abandon his position unless it was absolutely necessary to save his command." Acting on Hagood's orders, Confed-



Brigadier General Johnson Hagood commanded the Confederate defense of Fort Anderson in 1865.

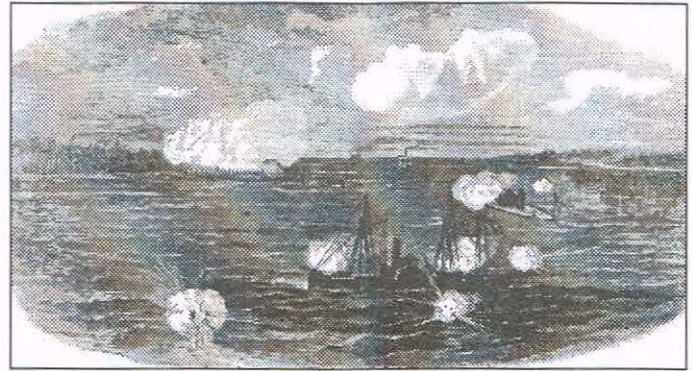
erate gunners, hiding behind their earthworks, unleashed volleys of rifle musketry and field artillery fire at the approaching enemy troops.⁹

Taking heavy fire, Cox was compelled to conceal his force inside a tree line about 600 yards below Fort Anderson. From there Cox and Schofield surveyed the fort and the open ground in its front. As the officers feared, Admiral Porter's bombardment had not damaged the earthen defenses or its armament enough to warrant a direct infantry attack. Moreover, strategically placed obstructions as well as Confederate artillery and infantry stood at the ready to impede such an assault. After examining the imposing defenses before him, Schofield ordered Cox to make a turning movement around Orton Pond and attack Fort Anderson in its open rear.

To deceive the Confederates of his movement, Cox left two brigades to demonstrate in front of Fort Anderson. With his remaining two brigades of about 3,000 soldiers, Cox advanced westward along the Brunswick Road (also called the British Road) that skirted the southern bank of Orton Pond. To assist Cox, General Schofield had earlier instructed troops from the vicinity of Fort Fisher to transfer across the river to Brunswick County. They were now moving up from Smithville to join Cox at Orton Pond.

As Cox embarked on his forced march, the fire-fight at Fort Anderson continued. To dissuade the Federals from attempting a frontal assault, Confederate gunners blazed away with their rifle-muskets and light artillery at the blue-clad soldiers within range of the fort's walls. One Union officer commented that the artillery fire in particular was "the most accurate shelling [he had ever] witnessed from rebel batteries." Under the barrage of Southern iron and lead, the Federals dug-in for safety, "throwing up breastworks with whatever they could bring into requisition, [including] tin plates, cups, sticks and hands." From their entrenchments, Union marksmen sniped at Confederate gun-

ners, while warships on the Cape Fear River sent huge shells toward the fort. In a continuous nine hour bombardment on February 18, the gunboats unleashed more than 2,700 shot and shell on the fort's defenders. Every ten seconds a naval projectile slammed into Fort Anderson.¹⁰



Monitor Montauk and gunboat Maratanza shell Fort Anderson.

During the height of the fierce fighting, the drum and bugle corps of the 104th Ohio Infantry entertained the Union ground combatants with a "constant serenade of patriotic music." Strangely, Confederate soldiers inside the fort could hear the music wafting above the roar of artillery and small arms fire. Not to be outdone, they employed a brass band of their own—the Eutaw Band of the 25th South Carolina Infantry—to play Southern melodies. Like their Confederate counterparts, Federal troops heard the strains of martial airs above the din of battle, including one recognizable tune, "Who's Been Here While I've Been Gone." The battling bands attempted to inspire their comrades in the thick of the fight—or perhaps to dilute its insanity.¹¹

Despite the heavy musketry and exploding projectiles, neither side experienced any significant losses. The Federal army suffered about twenty casualties, most of whom were skirmishers in front of the main lines. Union naval losses were also light, as the warships dueled with Confederate artillery in Fort Anderson's riverside batteries. Southern losses were minimal as well, with the defenders strongly entrenched behind their earthen fortifications. In fact, Lieutenant Robert B. Vase of Company A, 40th North Carolina Regiment, was the only Confederate soldier killed outright when a naval shell burst above his head. Several other gray-uniformed gunners were mortally wounded, however, and died in Wilmington hospitals.¹²

As the sun started to dip behind the backdrop of long leaf pine trees at Fort Anderson on February 18, the firing from both sides quieted down. One of Admiral Porter's officers, Lieutenant Commander William G. Temple of the *Pontoosuc*, deemed the battle "a nice little fight. The rebels stand up to their work manfully," he acknowledged respectfully, "but we are too much for them, and hope to drive them out of Wilmington before many days."¹³

General Cox had a similar intention in mind as he and his flanking force reached the headwaters of Orton Pond at dusk. There the Federals clashed with a small contingent of carbine-wielding South Carolina cavalrymen, but put them to flight after a brief skirmish. Union reinforce-

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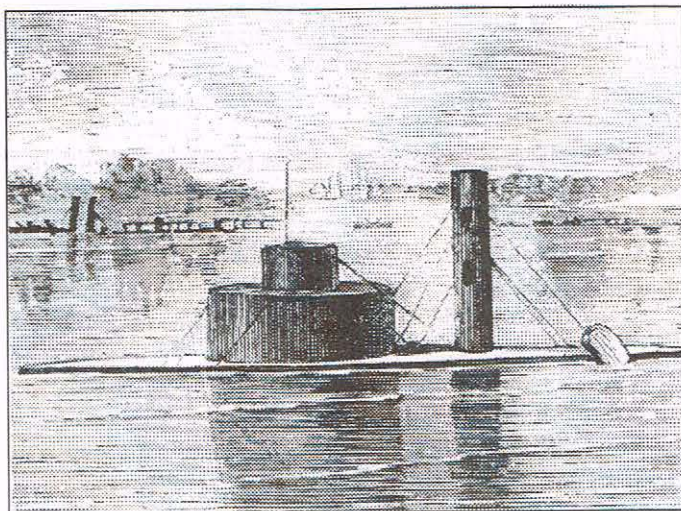
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ments from Fort Fisher linked-up with Cox's two brigades after sunset, but darkness forced them to halt their advance on Fort Anderson. They encamped for the night in the woods and prepared for an attack the following morning.¹⁴

While the Union soldiers rested, Admiral Porter attempted a bold scheme that he hoped would enable his flotilla to move closer to Fort Anderson in the morning. Several days earlier, he had authorized Lieutenant Commander William B. Cushing to construct a fake monitor to use against the fort, intending for the Confederates to mistake it for the *Montauk* and be tricked into detonating their mines in the river channel in an effort to sink her. Dubbed *Old Bogey*, Cushing's "Quaker monitor" was set adrift late on the night of February 18. A flood tide carried her through Anderson's line of obstructions, before she grounded on the east bank of the river. The "plot worked most successfully," reported a war correspondent on assignment with the U.S. Navy. "The craft sailed past the fort in utter contempt of the guns and the torpedoes which exploded all about her." Cushing claimed even more impressive results, maintaining that the ruse, for which he could claim much of the credit, prompted the terrified Confederates to retreat from Fort Anderson. He even boasted as much to Abraham Lincoln when he met the president in Washington soon after the incident.



William B. Cushing's bogus monitor on the Cape Fear River, February, 1865.

Despite Cushing's vainglorious assertion, his ploy did not provoke the Confederate evacuation of Fort Anderson. The garrison suspected that the Federals were constructing one or more mock ironclads downstream to send against the fort. "We imagine they intend floating them by some dark night & make us explode our electric torpedoes under them and then send the real one by," wrote Lieutenant William Calder of the 1st Battalion North Carolina Heavy Artillery to his mother in Wilmington. "But 'forewarned is forearmed,' you know, and we will try and thwart our cute Yankee friends and render this Yankee trick abortive." The Confederates could not afford to invest much attention in the cute Yankee trick, as they were much too worried about the all too real Yankee threat approaching their rear.¹⁵

By late Saturday night, Johnson Hagood knew his command was in trouble. The defeat of his cavalymen at Orton Pond together with information gathered from prisoners and deserters convinced the South Carolina general that a superior force of Union troops was in position to strike Fort Anderson from behind. In all probability the attack would come at first light. Hagood's outnumbered and exhausted gunners would be no match against a determined assault force three times larger than their own, to say nothing of the Union troops and warships in the fort's front.

Hagood telegraphed his superior, Major General Robert F. Hoke, headquartered at Sugar Loaf hill directly across the river. His message was brief and blunt: "I must abandon this position, or sacrifice my command." Hoke was hesitant to order a retreat, because he knew that abandoning Anderson meant Wilmington's doom. It was the last major defensive position between the Federals and the city. With Union troops poised to attack the fort's open rear, however, Hoke realized there was nothing to be gained by losing both the fort and its garrison. Hoke authorized Hagood's withdrawal.¹⁶

The Confederates hastily evacuated Fort Anderson before dawn on February 19. As the last gray-clad troops withdrew, pursuing Union troops stormed over the fort's south wall. The Federals entered in time to capture forty or fifty of the Confederate rear guard, as well as a garrison flag which had evidently fallen off a buckboard wagon during the retreat. A soldier of the 140th Indiana Infantry found the flag on the ground, and turned it over to his commanding officer, Colonel Thomas J. Brady. The following month, Colonel Brady presented the captured flag of Fort

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Anderson to Indiana's governor, Oliver P. Morton, at a gathering in Washington City. President Lincoln attended the flag ceremony, and made a few remarks to the excited crowd. As it turned out, that day—March 17, 1865—was the day John Wilkes Booth lay waiting to kidnap the chief executive, who was scheduled to attend a stage performance at the Campbell Hospital near the Soldier's Home. The president's unexpected change of plans spoiled Booth's abduction scheme, however, and provoked the deranged actor to alter his plans for Lincoln's fate.¹⁷

One more strange, if humorous, incident remained to be played out at Fort Anderson. Admiral Porter was unaware that Union soldiers had captured Fort Anderson when, about 6:15 a.m. on February 19, his gunboats renewed their bombardment of the Brunswick bastion. The thunderous reports of the warships' big guns and the bursting of shells in and around the fort created panic among the occupying blue-uniformed troops. Terrified soldiers rushed to the river's edge and waved their kepis, coats, flags, and white tents, and blew bugles as a signal to the navy that they now possessed Anderson. Porter's ships got the message, though the sailors later admitted their delight at having accepted Fort Anderson's surrender from the U.S. Army—perhaps the only such incident of the war.¹⁸

Admiral Porter met General Schofield onshore to inspect Fort Anderson early on February 19. General Cox joined them there later that morning, once his troops arrived from Orton Pond. The massive earthen fort awed the officers and other observers alike. "[Fort Anderson] is a work of great extent [and] immense strength," noted Elias Smith of the New York Tribune, who was accompanying the Union army. In addition to the strong defenses, the fort also ceded the victorious Northerners several fine prizes, including heavy artillery, ammunition, prisoners, and a garrison flag.

For the Union, the capture of Fort Anderson attested to the efficiency and cooperation of its army and navy. The strategy behind the combined operation was well planned and the tactics executed with precision, determination, and harmony between the service branches. "Thus, one by one, do the strongholds of the Rebellion yield to the restless energy of our Union forces," boasted one reporter. Another Federal observed somewhat more succinctly: "Fort Anderson is ours. The river is ours. Wilmington is virtually ours."¹⁹

As Robert Hoke had feared, the abandonment of Fort Anderson allowed Federal forces to ascend the Cape Fear River, and move within range of Wilmington. With the enemy now in striking distance, the Confederates had little choice but to evacuate the city. Early on the morning of February 22, General Hoke withdrew his troops into the interior of North Carolina, where he joined with other Confederate armies for a final showdown with General Sherman. The showdown came at Bentonville in late March, 1865. For three days the armies traded blows in what turned out to be the largest land battle of the Civil War in North Carolina. Badly bloodied, the Confederates again retreated. Sherman was now poised to strike the rear of Robert E. Lee in Virginia.

With Grant renewing the offensive in late March and

his rear vulnerable to attack from Sherman, Lee believed he had little choice but to abandon his position along the Richmond-Petersburg line. As he had predicted, if Wilmington fell the Army of Northern Virginia could not survive. No longer able to supply his depleted and beleaguered troops via the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, and threatened by two far superior armies, Lee had to move. Grant followed on Lee's heels, battling him to Appomattox. There, on April 9, Lee surrendered. Without renewing hostilities, the Confederate army in North Carolina capitulated to Sherman on April 26. The four-year-long war was over, and the fall of Wilmington played a key role in its outcome. As Admiral Porter put it: "The result of our capture [of Fort Anderson and the other Cape Fear forts] was felt throughout rebeldom. Our success virtually put an end to the rebellion, for nothing could come to the rebels from that direction. It enabled us also to communicate with General Sherman who was closing in upon Wilmington and he could push right on without stopping to hunt for provisions which were now supplied him by the Wilmington railroad."²⁰

By all accounts, Fort Anderson and the surrounding area quickly relapsed into a vegetative state after the Civil War. Thick undergrowth, scrub oaks and pine trees soon covered the battlements. U.S. occupation troops briefly manned the fort to assist refugees and displaced persons, who temporarily resided in the old barracks, but otherwise the isolated site was rarely visited. Interest in the historic property was revived at the end of the nineteenth century. Beginning in 1899, the Cape Fear Colonial Dames made annual "pilgrimages of patriotism" to Brunswick Town and Fort Anderson for about fifty years. Although the Dames usually paid homage to the Cape Fear's colonial and Revolutionary War heroes and heroines, they occasionally recognized local Confederate soldiers of the "late great unpleasantness." On May 1, 1900, Eugene S. Martin, former lieutenant in Company A, 1st Battalion North Carolina Heavy Artillery, gave an address on the "Defense of Fort Anderson" at St. Philip's Church at Brunswick.²¹

In 1904, James Sprunt, who had served as a purser's clerk on board several blockade runners during the Civil War, purchased Orton Plantation, including Brunswick Town and Fort Anderson. The historic site remained in the possession of the Sprunt family until 1952, when noted Cape Fear historian E. Lawrence Lee convinced them to donate the property to the State of North Carolina. Lee's entreaty was fueled by the U.S. Army's announcement that it planned to establish an ordnance stores depot on land adjacent to Brunswick Town and Fort Anderson, and the threat that would have posed to the site's accessibility. The Sprunt's generous contribution in turn motivated North Carolina's Department of Archives and History to establish the Brunswick Town State Historic Site in 1955.²²

For more than ten years, 1958-1968, Dr. Stanley South conducted extensive archaeological digs at Brunswick Town and Fort Anderson. South's ongoing excavations, in which tourists could participate, made Brunswick a living breathing historic site. A change in state policy toward its historic properties in 1968, however, halted all archaeology at Brunswick and Fort Anderson to focus on site main-

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In more recent years the Brunswick Town State Historic Site staff, led by James A. Bartley since 1987, has developed new ways to interpret the history of the area. Living history demonstrations, teacher workshops, and Civil War reenactments have all renewed interest in the site's fascinating story. These programs, together with Fort Anderson's history and excellent state of preservation, are drawing serious attention from Civil War scholars and buffs alike. The massive Confederate earthworks reflect a project of impressive engineering skill, ingenuity and labor. Today, the battlements loom as large and as strong as they did when attacked by Union forces 134 years ago.

Visitors to the Brunswick Town State Historic Site totaled about 50,000 in 1997 alone, and that number is steadily increasing due in large part to interest in Fort Anderson. After touring the site in October 1993, Ed Bearss, then chief historian of the U.S. National Park Service, declared that Fort Anderson was the finest and most well preserved Confederate fortification he had ever seen. The Brunswick bastion is finally shedding its undeserved image as the Lower Cape Fear's other Confederate fort.²³

Notes for

Fort Anderson: Confederate Bastion at Brunswick

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11. *New York Tribune*, February 23, 1865.
12. *New York Herald*, February 25, 1865; *New York Tribune*, February 23 and 25, 1865; Potter to Porter, February 19, 1865, *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*, 30 vols. (Washington, D.C., 1900) vol. 12, p. 32 (hereinafter cited as ORN); Louis H. Mandarin and Weymouth T. Jordan (eds.), *North Carolina Troops 1861-1865*, 14 vols. (Raleigh, 1966-1998), vol. 1, p. 376.
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tenance.

In more recent years the Brunswick Town State Historic Site staff, led by James A. Bartley since 1987, has developed new ways to interpret the history of the area. Living history demonstrations, teacher workshops, and Civil War reenactments have all renewed interest in the site's fascinating story. These programs, together with Fort Anderson's history and excellent state of preservation, are drawing serious attention from Civil War scholars and buffs alike. The massive Confederate earthworks reflect a project of impressive engineering skill, ingenuity and labor. Today, the battlements loom as large and as strong as they did when attacked by Union forces 134 years ago.

Visitors to the Brunswick Town State Historic Site totaled about 50,000 in 1997 alone, and that number is steadily increasing due in large part to interest in Fort Anderson. After touring the site in October 1993, Ed Bearss, then chief historian of the U.S. National Park Service, declared that Fort Anderson was the finest and most well preserved Confederate fortification he had ever seen. The Brunswick bastion is finally shedding its undeserved image as the Lower Cape Fear's other Confederate fort.²³

Notes for

Fort Anderson: Confederate Bastion at Brunswick

1. Kate Mason Rowland, "Letters of Major Thomas Rowland, C.S.A.," *William and Mary Quarterly Historical Magazine* XXVI, No. 4 (April 1917), p. 230.
2. Rowland, "Letters of Thomas Rowland," *William and Mary Historical Magazine*, pp. 231-232.
3. *Wilmington Daily Review*, June 25, 1894; *Wilmington Daily Journal*, July 2, 1863.
4. *Wilmington Journal*, May 28, 1863.
5. *Wilmington Daily Journal*, September 1, 1864; Stanley South, "A Nice Little Fight at Fort Anderson," Brunswick Town State Historic Site, Winnabow, North Carolina.
6. Grant to Sherman, February 1, 1865, United States War Department, *The War of the Rebellion, A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* 128 vols. (Washington, D.C., 1880-1901), series 1, volume 47, part 2, p. 193 (hereinafter cited as OR).
7. Paul Silverstone, *Warships of the Civil War Navies* (Annapolis, 1989), pp. 8-9.
8. Special Orders, No. 7, Headquarters Dept. of North Carolina, Army of the Ohio, February 17, 1865, OR 47, p. 2, p. 470.
9. Johnson Hagood, *Memoirs of the War of Secession* (Columbia, 1910), p. 336; Report of Jacob D. Cox, May 15, 1865, OR 47, pt. 1, pp. 960-961; Report of Thomas J. Henderson, April 6, 1865, *ibid*, p. 969.
10. Report of Jacob D. Cox, May 15, 1865, OR 47, p. 1, pp. 960-961; *New York Herald*, February 25, 1865.
11. *New York Tribune*, February 23, 1865.
12. *New York Herald*, February 25, 1865; *New York Tribune*, February 23 and 25, 1865; Potter to Porter, February 19, 1865, *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*, 30 vols. (Washington, D.C., 1900) vol. 12, p. 32 (hereinafter cited as ORN); Louis H. Mandarin and Weymouth T. Jordan (eds.), *North Carolina Troops 1861-1865*, 14 vols. (Raleigh, 1966-1998), vol. 1, p. 376.
13. Temple to Bailey, February 21, 1865, ORN 12, p. 34.
14. Report of Jacob D. Cox, May 15, 1865, OR 47, p. 1, pp. 960-961; Abstract from journal of Jacob D. Cox, February 18, 1865, *ibid*, p. 929; Hogged, *Memoirs of the War of Secession*, p. 335.
15. William Barker Cushing Journal, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; *New York Herald*, February 23, 1865; *New York Tribune*, February 23, 1865; Abstract log of U.S.S. Malvern, February 18, 1865, ORN 12, p.174; Richard M. Thompson and Richard Wainwright (eds.), *Confidential Correspondence of Gustavus Vasa Fox*, 2 vols. (New York, 1918-1919), vol. 2, p. 200; William Calder to Mother, February 15, 1865, William Calder Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
16. Hagood, *Memoirs of the War of Secession*, pp. 338-339.
17. B.F. Thompson, *History of the 112th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Great War of the Rebellion 1862-1865* (Toulon, 1885), pp. 303-304; W.S. Thurstin, *History One Hundred and Eleventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry* (Toledo, 1894), p. 116; *New York Times*, March 18, 1865; David Herbert Donald, *Lincoln* (New York, 1995), p. 558.
18. Extract from journal of John C. Beaumont, February 19, 1865, ORN 12, p. 33; *New York Tribune*, February 23 and 25, 1865; *New York Herald*, February 25, 1865.
19. Report of David D. Porter, February 27, 1865, ORN 12, p. 56; Schofield to Grant, February 19, 1865, OR 47, p. 2, p. 493; *New York Tribune*, February 23, 1865, *New York Herald*, February 23, 1865.
20. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* (Campbell, 1997), pp. 433-437.
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23. Author's interviews with Stanley South of Columbia, South Carolina, April 19 and July 31, 1998; author's interviews with James A. Barley, Brunswick Town State Historic Site, Winnabow, N.C., April 9 and July 23, 1998.

Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr. is a Wilmington native and former curator of the Blockade Runners of the Confederacy Museum. He received his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina, and currently is a lecturer in the Department of History at UNC-Wilmington. Dr. Fonvielle's book, *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope*, won the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society's Clarendon Cup in 1998. He and his wife Nancy have two daughters. This article is an encapsulation of his new book, *Fort Anderson: Battle for Wilmington* (Savas Publishing, 1998).

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