



# FORT CLINCH

## HISTORY PRESERVED



Walking across the heavy wooden drawbridge through the opening onto the grounds of Fort Clinch, one is instantly transported back to the 19th Century. The first thing you notice is how remarkably preserved this fort is. It's easy to imagine a garrison of soldiers marching across the well-manicured courtyard, or perhaps a cook fixing the troops their daily rations. The starkly furnished stockade stands ready to handle troublemakers. Scarlet letters of the day lie ready on the mattresses for the thief or the drunkard to place around his neck in disgrace. Don't even be surprised if you are approached about enlisting to serve at the 19th century fort.

Touring the outer walls, the thickness of the structure amazes, but what is most impressive is the series of cannons that defended the St. Marys River inlet. Standing more than 10 feet tall, these massive guns are on movable tracks for easy positioning for attacking a target. Several men were able to maneuver these while others loaded the barrel.

Fort Clinch is located on the north end of Amelia Island near Florida's east coast border with Georgia. The fort was named for Gen. Duncan Lamont Clinch, an important figure in Florida's Seminole War of the 1830s. Construction began in 1847 and continued on through the Civil War.

