

January 1960

History is lost on old fort at New Symrna

Hampton Dunn

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/dunn_phototouring

Recommended Citation

Dunn, Hampton, "History is lost on old fort at New Symrna" (1960). *Hampton Dunn Phototouring Florida Collection*. 79.

https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/dunn_phototouring/79

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Floridiana - General at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hampton Dunn Phototouring Florida Collection by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.



Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



HISTORY IS LOST ON OLD FORT AT NEW SMYRNA

By HAMPTON DUNN

NEW SMYRNA BEACH --- They're standing there today, just as they have for possibly centuries, but their origin and history remain unknown. "They" are the foundations of an old fort that overlook the riverfront here just across from the yacht basin.

Believed to be an old Spanish fort, the landmark was discovered back in 1854 when an Indian mound was excavated. The relic is in good shape and makes an ideal play fort for youngsters of today, just as it probably has for many generations. The old fort is situated on Hillsborough Street between Washington and Julian streets.

New Smyrna's roots in history lie deep. It is said to have been occupied by Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles in 1565, after which his group deserted the spot and headed up the coast to St. Augustine.

The first developer was Dr. Andrew Turnbull who obtained a grant for 60,000 acres under the English Occupation Act in 1767. He brought over a colony of 1,500 persons of many nationalities. Included were Scotch, Syrians, Minorans, Spanish, Moorish, Greek and others.

Turnbull's dreams of a prosperous sugar and indigo plantation did not pan out. By the time of the Revolution, he was ready to give up. The pioneers were permitted to leave New Smyrna if they wished. The majority went to St. Augustine.

