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## Eight flags have flown from Fort Clinch

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# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## EIGHT FLAGS HAVE FLOWN FROM FORT CLINCH

By HAMPTON DUNN

FERNANDINA BEACH --- Anchored at the northeast corner of the Florida peninsula, this is an interesting and quiet community, and it features century-old Fort Clinch. Eight national flags have waved from the fort since its construction began in 1847.

The flags were these: France (the Huguenots settled here first in 1564, a year before the founding of St. Augustine), Spain (three times), Great Britain, the Patriots proclaiming the "Republic of East Florida," the Green Cross of Florida, Mexico, Confederate and, of course, the Stars and Stripes of the U.S.

Fort Clinch, located in a fine State Park on Amelia Island, was just completed when the Civil War started. The Confederates seized it and gave it up after a struggle in March, 1862. Federal troops garrisoned the town for the duration of the war. The bastion also was used during the Spanish-American War in 1898.

Visitors admire the splendid brickwork in the fort, whose walls are eight feet thick, with the inner wall pierced by tunnels. There's a good historical museum now inside the Fort.

The fort honors the name of Gen. Duncan L. Clinch, a Federal officer during the Seminole War. He had served with distinction in the War of 1812 and also fought in the War with Mexico. The beloved commander retired from the Army and developed a great rice plantation in Camden County, Georgia. His business interests included the presidency of the St. Marys Bank. He also served as a Congressman from Georgia and once was the Whig candidate for Governor of Georgia.

