

FORT PICKENS 1821-1895

Historic Structures Report
Historic Data Section

by
Edwin C. Bearss

I. Administrative Data

- A. Considered a Third System Masonry Fort.
- B. Exhibits construction modifications of each major military period. In the course of this evolution parts of the fort have been demolished by design to accomodate new defenses and by accident and the neglect shown an antiquated defense.

II. Pensacola Becomes a U.S. Naval Base ~~18~~¹⁹21-1827

- A. The Adams-Onis treaty for the cession of Florida was ratified 2/22/1821.
 - 1. Despite Henry Clays objections.
 - 2. James Monroe was president, John Q. Adams was Secretary of State.
- B. Andrew Jackson was appointed Governor.
 - 1. U.S. took possession at a ceremony on Tuesday, July 17, 1821.
 - 2. Jacksons term as Governor was brief and tempestuous. It lasted just four months.
 - a. He left in October, 1821.
- C. Following the War of 1812 the U.S. commenced construction of a Third System of fortifications to guard its seacoasts.
 - 1. 1st and 2nd system forts were erected hastily in response to dire threats from abroad.
 - 2. The Third System was begun in 1817 when Europe was at peace.
 - a. This was the first permanent and truly integrated system of harbor defenses.
- D. The Army Board of Engineers was organized in 1816.
 - 1. This was the first professionally competent authority to direct seacoast fortification design and construction.
 - 2. From 1816-1831 the board was headed by a French military engineer, Simon Bernard.
 - a. He had been a brigadier general in Napoleons army.
 - b. He was recommended by the Marquis de Lafayette.
 - c. Thus a lack of skill in the native officers unfitting them for the task of designing the grand scheme of defence, might be supplied by importation from abroad.
- E. The Army Board of Engineers came to inspect Pensacola as a possible Naval port in January, 1822, but nothing came of it immediately.
 - 1. Yellow Fever outbreak in Pensacola.
 - 2. Commander Matthew Perry established a navy yard at Key West in February, 1823; but this location proved unsuitable because of yellow fever outbreaks.

- F. Congress authorized the establishment of a navy yard and depot on the Florida Gulf Coast in February, 1825.
 - 1. The Key West depot was abandoned and the facilities moved to Pensacola.
 - a. The first frigate, the John Adams, entered Pensacola bay on October 4, 1825 - Captain J.J. Nicholson.
 - b. But it was mid June 1825 before all the officers and men were transferred.
- G. The John Adams, as she sailed for her station in early November, 1825, grounded on Pensacola Bar, receiving considerable damage.
 - 1. This problem continued off and on.
- H. Yellow Fever plagued Pensacola again in 1827.
- I. The Navy yard assumed a degree of permanency, when wife and family of Commodore Ridgely arrived in December, 1827.

III. Congress Acts and Time Runs Out For the Board ; 1828

- A. Congress began to press the Board of Engineers for plans to fortify Pensacola bay.
 - 1. An accurate survey by Major James Kearney had been made of Pensacola Bay. This would suffice for perfecting plans for the defense of the city and harbor. But, as the bay was to shelter a naval base, additional surveys were needed, extending some distance into the back country.
 - 2. The western extremity of Santa Rosa Island was situated "to require, in part, the same works in either case." Consequently, the Board was prepared, whenever ordered, to project a fort for that position. Santa Rosa Point would be the first site fortified.
- B. As passed by the Senate and signed into law by President John Quincy Adams on May 24, 1828, the Fortifications Bill included an item of \$50,000 for commencement of the works to be erected at Pensacola.
 - 1. Of this sum \$20,000 was made available for the first quarter of 1829.
- C. August 1, 1828 Captain William H. Chase, senior engineer on the Gulf Frontier, was assigned to Pensacola, and charged with "construction of the fortifications for the defence" of Pensacola Bay.
 - 1. Chase's assistants were 2nd Lts. Stephen Tuttle, Alexander H. Brown, and Thomas S. Twiss.
 - 2. Born in Massachusetts, William Chase was a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy from May 4, 1814, to March 4, 1815, when he was graduated as a bvt. 2nd Lt. in the Corps of Engineers.
 - 3. For 27 years Chase was intimately associated with construction of the Pensacola forts.

- D. Colonel Joseph Totton prepared the original drawings for the fort.
1. The fort was to be a 5-bastioned work, consisting of one tier of casemates and a barbette tier.
 2. Two of the five fronts bore upon the channel.
 3. To guard against an investing force, landing east of the fort, an elaborate glacis and counterscarp were projected.
 4. General Bernard disagreed with Totten's and Chase's plan and redesigned the fort.
 - a. This led to hard feelings with Chase for many years.

IV. The First 14 Months Onsite and Assembly of Materials : 1829

- A. January 21, 1829 the Department mailed to Captain Chase the sections, profiles and elevations encompassing the channel fronts and tower bastion, the sections of the fort authorized for construction by the Board of Engineers at its Newport meeting.
- B. Chase proposed to construct the fort by contract, rather than day labor.
1. Chase contracted with a Mr. Underhill and Jasper Strong.
 - a. They had a large force of "black mechanics and laborers...at their disposal."
 2. According to estimates formulated by Chase, each cubic yard of Masonry would cost \$8.70.
- C. Captain Chase purchased and delivered at the site "all materials necessary to the construction" of the fort.
1. Brick and mortar were used as basic construction materials.
 2. These items were purchased by the government and stockpiled on Santa Rosa Island for use by the contractors.
 3. These materials were charged against the contractors account, with their cost to be deducted at the time the quarterly settlements were made.
 4. Chase announced he would pay \$10 per thousand brick.
 5. By the end of November 1829 competition to supply the government brick had become so keen that Captain Chase expected to cut the price.
 - a. On March 25, 1830 Chase reported he had cut the price to \$9.00 per thousand.
 6. By September 30, 1831 enough bricks had been received at Santa Rosa Island to complete the fort.
 7. Lime, sand and water would be used in mixing mortar.
 - a. The white sand of Santa Rosa Island was very pure and made a very hard mortar.
 - b. Lime would be shipped in from Thomastown, Maine.
 - 1). Cost: \$1.90 per cask.
 - 2). Richard Chase became an unreliable supplier.
 - c. So Chase switched his contract to H. & W. Delafield of New York.
 - d. All told, more than 26,000 casks of lime, the majority of it from Thomastown, were used in construction of the fort's masonry.

8. Huge quantities of lead would be needed to waterproof the casemate arches, and for gutters and drains.
 - a. Chase requested pig lead from the U.S. mines in Illinois. Shipped it down river to New Orleans, transshipped it to New York, rolled it into sheet lead, and shipped it back to Santa Rosa Island.
 - b. The final tally showed that more than 260,000 pounds of sheet lead, had gone into the building of the fort.
9. H. & W. Delafield, Chase's New York agents, supplied that granite stone for traverses, sills, steps, etc.
 - a. 13 marble mantels were used.
 1. Positioned over the officers quarters fireplaced in 1834.
 2. 66 sets of granite traverses were received and positioned on the barbette tier in the summer of 1834.
10. Venetian blinds were hung in the officers quarters.
11. Chase contracted locally for 12,000 barrels of oyster shells at 25¢ per barrel.
 - a. These were used to cover the parade ground.

D. Personnel and Medical Problems.

1. John Hunt was appointed suttler for the construction workers on Santa Rosa Island.
2. Dr. J. Ponte McMahon, post surgeon from Cantonment Clinch, was detailed to Santa Rosa Island to look after the health of the construction workers during the fever season in the summer of 1829, but he was transferred to Tampa Bay in April, 1830.
3. Chase insisted on completing the fort as rapidly as possible because of the dangers to the health of the officers and men of the Engineering department from the weather and fever season.
4. The Dr. from the Navy yard attended the engineers until 1834 when another army surgeon arrived at Cantonment Clinch.

E. Building the fort, May 1829 - January 1830.

1. Ground was broken by Underhill and Strong workmen in the third week of May, 1829.
 - a. They started with a 70 man black work force.
 - b. They found the weather doubly oppressive because of the "intense reflections" of the heat off the white sand.
 - c. By September 30, 1829 the foundations of the Channel Fronts had been finished; the revetment walls raised to the level of the embrasure tongue-holes; the foundations of the the casemate piers laid and raised to a height of four feet; and the ditch of the subject fronts nearly excavated.
2. Failure to receive the remainder of the plans became increasingly embarrassing, and by November 30, 1829 much of the construction had been shut down.

V. The Fort Takes Shape: 1830-32

- A. General Bernard by mid-December, 1829 had completed the revised plans, profiles, details, and estimates for the fort.

- B. Three weeks later, on January 8, 1830, General Bernard transmitted his "memoir" on the defenses of Pensacola Bay.
1. Pensacola Bar was covered at low tide by not more than 21 feet of water.
 2. Defense of Pensacola Bay dictated fortification of three points:
 - a. The western end of Santa Rosa Island.
 - b. The northern end of Foster's Bank.
 - c. The Barrancas.
 3. Ships passing over the bar and following the main channel to enter the bay would be within range of both the Santa Rosa Island and Foster's Bank forts.
 4. The perimeter of the main work, measured along the foot of the scarp was 901 yards (@ $\frac{1}{2}$ mile).
 5. Each mine chamber was to hold 1,027 pounds of gunpowder.
 - a. The explosion would blow up and out through 20 feet of sand.
 6. The forts armament was to consist of:
 - a. On the channel fronts; 98 cannon & 8 carronades.
 - b. On the North Front; 6 cannon in the curtain casemates, 1 in the northwest bastion casemate, 6 carronades in the flank casemates, 6 cannon en Barbette on the northwest Bastion, 4 on the northeast bastion, and 7 on the curtain.
 - c. On the east front; 6 carronades in the flank casemates, 6 cannon en barbette on the northeast Bastion, 6 on the southeast bastion and 10 on the curtain.
 - d. On the counterscarp; 2 mortars in the re-entering place de arms and 3 mortars on each extreme branch of the covered way.
 - e. On the south front; 7 cannon in the curtain casemates, 3 in the southwest bastioncasemates, 6 carronades in the flank casemates, 6 cannon en barbette on the southwest bastion, 4 on the southeast bastion, and 7 on the curtain.
 - f. Total armament to be 171 cannon, 26 carronades, and 8 mortars. 1). 205 all total
 7. In time of peace the fort was to be garrisoned by 60 men, in time of war 500, and if under siege 1,000.
- C. Captain Chase's Proposal for Deepening Pensacola Bar.
1. The only objection "reasonably urged against Pensacola as a Naval Depot" was that the depth of water over the bar was insufficient to "admit of passage over it of the largest vessels in the Navy." This objection, Chase observed, could be easily corrected.
 - a. For a sum, not exceeding \$150,000, the bar could be deepened to 30 feet.
 - b. Chase believed that an increased depth of water obtained by artificial means would remain. (Guess he never heard of littoral drift.)
- D. A Long Hot Summer at Santa Rosa Point - 1830.
1. The long delay in receiving the plans and details of General Bernard's revised project for the land fronts had plagued Captain Chase throughout the latter part of 1829 and the first three months of 1830.
 - a. On January 22, 1830, the Department finally mailed to Chase "a copy of the general plan and memoir" received from General Bernard.
 2. The arrival of the (detailed) subject drawings on April 22 broke the road block. Chase now accelerated operations.

3. By September 30 all the foundations of the "main work" had been laid; that portion of the revetment of the Channel Fronts raised to "their proper heights; that of the north and south revetment... raised on an average to the soles of the embrasures," that of East Front and two faces of Southeast Bastion 24 feet to the level of the cordon. The foundations of the North Face casemates had been laid, and 15 arches of the Channel Fronts completed.

E. 1831 Program

1. Chase wrote on October 5, 1831, operations had been "advanced... in all their branches."
 - a. The scarp walls of the 5 fronts, of the casemates of all the fronts, except two flank casemates; and nearly 2/3 of the counterscarp" had been completed.
 - b. All of the masonry would be finished by December 31, except the breast-high wall of the mainwork and the counterscarp.
 - c. The embankment of the fort's interior, i.e. the parade, foundations of the casemates, etc. had lagged.
 - 1). An insufficient appropriation was the reason.
2. Several tropical storms had hammered the Gulf Coast in August and September. Surf pounding across Santa Rosa Point had damaged the "green masonry."

F. Project in 1832

1. Chase reported construction had proceeded with as much "advantage as the limited... appropriations would admit." With funds all but exhausted by June, operations had been "greatly" curtailed.
2. The whole of the brick masonry had been completed with the exception of the Interior Revetment of the Parapets and Glacis, which can only be constructed when the Embankments of the Ramparts and Glacis have been raised sufficiently high."
3. Captain Chase in November 1832 advised Washington that the appropriations for the year being exhausted, there was nothing to add under the headings for purchases and expenditures to his annual report made on September 30.

VI. The Fort Nears Completion

A. By September 30, 1833

1. The masonry had been completed, with the exception of "small portions of the interior Revetment of the parapets and glacis."
2. One-half the glacis was completed and 2/3 of the remaining half filled up.
3. The interior of the fort was finished, except for the carpenter's work of the quarters and the parapets of the North, South, and East Fronts.
4. This work Captain Chase estimated, should be completed by March 31, 1834.

B. The fort on Santa Rosa Island was named for the Revolutionary War hero, Major General Andrew Pickens.

C. Project in 1834.

1. The parade ground was covered with shells to a depth of 4 inches.

2. "Great care" had been taken to cover all casemates with lead, "in such a manner... to render them perfectly dry and free from leakage.
 - a. This would afford the garrison quarters and storerooms, consequently, there was no need for buildings near the fort to shelter these activities.
- D. Fort is briefly garrisoned
1. On October 4, 1834 Captain Chase notified Major Zantzinger of Company H, 2nd U.S. Artillery that Fort Pickens was ready to be garrisoned.
 2. October 21, 1834 found Company H, 2nd U.S. Artillery, settled in their new quarters in the Fort Pickens casemates.
 3. The stay of Company H at Fort Pickens was brief.
 - a. In mid December, three months after the units arrived on Santa Rosa Island, Major Zantzinger's men evacuated the post.
- E. Ordnance Fixtures, Guns, and Carriages
1. Chase detailed the possibility of arming the fort as follows:
 - a. Southwest Channel Fronts:
 - 25 - 42 pounders in casemates
 - 4 - 42 pounder carronades in casemates
 - 30 - 32 pounders en barbette
 - b. Northwest Channel Front:
 - 25 - 32 pounders in casemates
 - 4 - 42 pounder carronades in casemates
 - 30 - 32 pounders en barbette
 - c. South Front
 - 11 - 42 pounders in casemates
 - 6 - 42 pound carronades in casemates
 - 20 - 42 pounders en barbette
 - d. North Front:
 - 7 - 24 pounders in casemates
 - 6 - 32 pounder carronades in casemates
 - 20 - 24 pounders en barbette
 - e. East Front
 - 8 - 32 pounder carronades in casemates
 - 4 - 42 pounders en barbette
 - 10 - 32 pounders en barbette
 - 20 - 24 pounders en barbette
 - f. Re-entering Place de Arms
 - 1 - 13 inch brass mortar
 - 1 - 10 inch brass mortar
 - g. Extreme Branch of the Covered Way (South)
 - 13 - 42 pounders en barbette
 - 5 - 13 inch brass mortars
 - h. Extreme Branch of the Covered Way (North)
 - 3 - 10 inch mortars
 - * 2. Total: 253 guns and mortars
This is the maximum number of guns the fort would hold rather than the armament called for by the Board of Engineers.
 3. Nothing came of Chase's proposal to increase the number of cannon and mortars to be mounted at Fort Pickens. The fort, when and if it was armed would be in accordance with the project as developed by General Bernard.

4. The fort had three magazines.
5. Some time before December 31, 1835 sixteen 24-pounders were emplaced in the Fort Pickens casemates bearing on the channel. These were the first guns mounted in the fort.

VII. 1835-1839

- A. Failure of the North East Bastion Masonry
 1. In 1835 there were torrential rains in January and February and the scarp collapsed under pressure of the wet sand fill.
 2. The part of the fort thrown down was the first built on the land fronts, and the masonry had been allowed to stand nearly three years before the rampart and parapet had been completed.
 3. The scarp was rebuilt giving increased width to the wall.
 4. In filling the triangular space between the scarp and rampart, Chase employed beechwood, mixing it with sand. The beechwood held the sand at the sharper angle.
- B. The fort was again garrisoned in 1835.
 1. On May 13 Company C, 2nd U.S. Artillery, Captain G.W. Gardner commanding, disembarked at the Fort Pickens wharf.
 - a. At this time Underhill and Strong were rebuilding the Northeast Bastion faces.
 2. Company C evacuated Fort Pickens on November 24 and boarded a steamship to transport it to Tampa Bay.
 3. Fort Pickens was left in charge of a guard hired by the Quartermaster Department.
- C. Steps taken to Arm the Barbette Tier
 1. In October, 1835 difficulties between the Mexican Government and it's American colonists in Texas led to fighting.
 - a. Meeting at San Felipe on November 3, the Texans formed a provisional government but could not agree to declair their independence.
 - b. Events in Texas and fears that European powers might interfere to exploit the situation to their advantage, caused the U.S. to belatedly look toward arming the Gulf Frontier forts.
 - 1). By March 31, 1836 four 24-pounders and thirty 32-pounder barbette carriages would be shipped to Fort Pickens.
 - 2). If all went according to schedule, the guns would be available by October 31.
 - 3). With the 16 - 24 pounders already emplaced, Fort Pickens would then be armed with 50 guns.
 - 4). Since Fort Pickens was not garrisoned it would be necessary for the Ordnance Department to hire laborers to emplace the guns.
 2. However, the crisis passed, plans were put on hold and it was several years before measures would again be taken to prepare the barbette tier for its armaments.

- D. The Pensacola area of the Gulf Coast was hammered by a hurricane on Monday, August 7.
 - 1. On Tuesday morning , the shore of the bay "presented a scene of wrecks and ruins, never before witnessed here."
 - 2. Although surf pounded across Santa Rosa Point, no damage was reported to Fort Pickens.
- E. Colonel Totten came to Fort Pickens the second week of January 1838 for an inspection of Fort Pickens and the fort on Foster's Bank.
- F. Chase was promoted to Major July 7, 1838.
- G. December 6, 1838 General Gratiot was dismissed from the service because of misappropriation of funds.
 - 1. Colonel Totten was named to replace Gratiot as Chief Engineer.
- H. March 1839, Chase reported that as yet no fixtures had been built for mounting the carronades of the flanking casemates, because no plans had been forwarded.
 - 1. The traverses and pintle blocks for 104 barbette carriages needed to be positioned, along with beds for eight mortars. Once this was done, the fort, so far as the Engineer Department was involved, would be ready for defense.

VIII. TOTTEN TIGHTENS PROCEDURES: 1840-1842

- A. A decision was made to substitute stone for wooded traverses and pintle blocks on the barbette tier.
- B. The Armament Board in 1839 had arrived at new figures for armament of the coastal defenses.
 - 1. Fort Pickens was now assigned an armament of 253 cannon and mortars.
 - 88 - 42 pounders
 - 62 - 32 pounders
 - 44 - 24 pounders
 - 20 - 8" siege howitzers
 - 28 - Carronades
 - 4 - 10 " mortars
 - 4 - 8" mortars
 - 2 - stone mortars
 - 5 - Coehorn mortars
- C. In the winter of 1839-40 emergency repairs were necessitated by:
 - 1. The weakened condition of parts of the counterscarp wall, under the traverses, which were threatening to overthrow them, and
 - 2. To the Southwest Bastion.
- D. The nations bleak economic situation and depression stall needed improvements.
- E. By September 30, 1841, all the platforms were ready to receive their armament.
 - 1. In July, 1841 notches had been cut in the casemate piers of the Channel and South Fronts to allow the cannon to be properly traversed.

- F. There were leaks in the ceilings of a number of casemates.
1. Whether these could be stopped by digging down and repairing the lead had to be ascertained.
 2. It was important that, after repairing the lead, provision be made for "much more liberal issues of the water than now exists."
 - a. The gutter was to be covered by a 4" dry brick arch.
 - b. The top of the arch would be a one foot layer of shells.
 - c. The gutter outlet to be a zinc pipe, not less than 10 inches in diameter, with a vertical recess cut in the parade wall of sufficient depth to receive a vertical pipe.
- G. In the arches of the communications, bricks had been used which were incapable of sustaining the pressure and were crumbling. These brick must be replaced.
- H. Totten directed Chase to hang a second gate in the sally port and to close the two passages from the gateway to the casemates of the North Front.
1. They were hung in May, 1842.
- I. Major Chase suffered a sunstroke in July, 1841 and was granted several months leave in order to recover.
- J. Troops Return
1. Quartermaster General Jessup, satisfied that the end of the Seminole War would lead to a redeployment of the Army, contacted Major Chase.
 - a. In anticipation of the fort being garrisoned, he asked that the officers quarters and barracks be reddied.
 2. Chase informed the Quartermaster General that he planned to fit up the three flank casemates in the Northwest Bastion as a "comfortable" one company barracks and the Tower Bastion into apartments for two companies.
 3. Company I, 3rd U.S. Artillery arrived February 10, 1842.
 - a. Once again, after 6 years, Fort Pickens was garrisoned.
 - b. Two weeks later, on March 6, Lt. Colonel William Gates and the regimental headquarters detachment landed at the fort, to be followed on the 16th by Companies E and K, 3rd U.S. artillery.
 - 1). Battalions stay was brief. They received orders to leave in May.
 - c. The artillery were replaced by companies K and E, 7th U.S. Infantry under the command of Major J.L. Nelson.

- K. In April 1842 Major Chase discovered a slight motion in the cordon of the curtain of the East Front.
1. As a precautionary measure he had his masons begin erecting three counter forts along the subject scarp.
 - a. When the embankments are of sand, and any motion of the revetment occurs laterally, "it is necessary to avert it immediately until a greater solidity is obtained" by resort to masonry. Otherwise, " the sand falling constantly into the space, made by the giving out of the wall from the embankment must" in time overthrow the scarp.
 - b. Though most of the scarp had been erected upwards of ten years, it had been slow to dry. In the thinner walls, the mortar had hardened, becoming an excellent cement, demonstrating that it required only time for the walls to become "firm and strong." Consequently, he believed it a wise measure to position three counterforts against the curtain as it "arrested the evil of motion in its incipiençy, and giving support temporarily enables the wall to acquire strength in a few years to support its embankment.
- L. In August, 1842 the workmen added 3 feet to the masonry of the Southwest Bastion, to enable it to sustain the additional weight imposed by the increased width of the parapet.
- M. Chase suggested that if all the parapets, like those of the North Front curtain, were paved with brick laid flatwise, the wet sand in them would soon dry, relieving the scarps of a great mass of weight.
1. The scarps, as designed by General Bernard, would support a mass of dry sand.
 2. But Bernard had failed to take into his computations and make allowances for the increased dimensions needed for wet sand.
- N. On April 1, 1842 Chase complained to the war Department of the defenseless condition of the Gulf Coast Forts, because of lack of armament.
1. The Department accordingly notified the Ordnance Department that Fort Pickens was ready to receive its allotted 208 guns.
 2. By July 4, at least 13 guns had been mounted on the batbette tier.

IX. THE FORT IS PLACED IN A DEFENSIBLE CONDITION: 1843-1847

- A. To permit gun carriages to reach their proper extent of traverse, corners of the rear piers must be trimmed.
- B. Chase questioned the wisdom of dividind the troops assigned to the defense of Pensacola Bay among the three forts. He urged their concentration at Barrancas, where they could be lodged in permanent barracks.
1. From the barracks small details could be sent to each fort.
- C. In 1845:
1. The two embrasures at the extremities of the East Front Curtain were to be converted into posterns.
 - a. With 3" inside and outside doors, separated by the thickness of the scarp.
 - b. Each door would be provided with a strong bar on the inside.
 - c. The steps were to be light and of wood.
 2. The Northeast and Southeast Bastion scarps were strengthened by adding a new facing 3½ feet thick.
 - a. The project was finished by November, 1845.
 3. A piazza was erected for the south front officers quarters.
 4. All casemates had been cleaned and whitewashed.
 5. The parade walls had been pointed and washed with a slate color. The scarp, counterscarp, and breast height walls had been yellow washed "affording a pretty straw color and a neat appearance to the work."
 6. Totten admitted an error in design of the strength of the scarp walls.
 - a. "We all make mistakes, I might have made this one..., for then, few understood the peculiar action of sand upon revetment walls. Very many of General Bernards profiles were too weak, "and we have had to reinforce almost everywhere."
- D. In May, 1846 a large shipment of ordnance and ordnance stores arrived at Fort Pickens.
- E. Companies E and K, 7th U.S. Infantry, were posted at Fort Pickens from the summer of 1842 until May 27, 1843.
1. In January, 1843 Lt. Colonel William Whistler complained that the dampness of the casemates made them unsatisfactory as quarters for his battalion.
 2. To avoid spending another summer in the fort, he suggested that his troops be billeted on the mainland near Barrancas.
 3. Although the quarters occupied by the officers were smaller than those in the bastions (even with constant fires), it was difficult to keep them dry. The men in the northwest and southwest bastions found their casemates so damp and wet that they found it difficult to find dry places to stack their small arms.
 - a. All property kept in the casemates suffered - the clothing was mounly and the iron and steel rusty.
 4. The parade was lower than the surrounding walls, and when it rained it was flooded.

5. The ditch, encircling the fort, had no outlet, and was usually filled with stagnant water in which myriads of mosquitoes bred.
 6. The battalion left Fort Pickens on May 27, 1843 and occupied Camp Barrancas for the next 23 months.
- F. In the winter of 1844-45, the military reservation on the mainland was divided, and part of the site of Camp Barrancas was included in the naval reservation.
1. Consequently, when Brown's battalion vacated Camp Barrancas it was transferred to forts Pickens and McRae.
 - a. April 19, 1845 Company K, 7th Infantry returned to Fort Pickens.
 2. The 7th Infantry was ordered to Texas in August and September, 1845.
- G. Three companies of the 1st Artillery arrived on Santa Rosa Island in September, 1845.
1. Two more companies and the regimental band were at Barrancas and McRae.
 2. Upon transfer of regimental headquarters to Boston in August, 1846, Company G became the only Army unit assigned to the harbor defenses.
 3. Company G evacuated Fort Pickens in February, 1847.
- H. In late March, 1847 Captain W.W. Kelly's company of Florida volunteers occupied Fort Pickens.
1. These volunteers erected bulkheads closing off the two casemates adjoining the Tower Bastion, also ones separating the gunrooms in rear of the officer's quarters.
 2. The Engineers objected strongly.

X. Major Chase's Final Years

- A. After the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo ended the war with Mexico a battalion of the 4th U.S. Artillery was ordered to Pensacola Harbor.
1. Regimental headquarters and Companies G, H, & I occupied Fort Pickens.
 2. Lt. Col. John L. Gardner and his officers were shocked by the sight of the casemate quarters.
 - a. The officers found the forts unfit, in their present state, for occupation by the troops.
 - b. "The mere material of defence alone seems to have been considered in the construction of these forts." As for personnel, there had been scarcely any regard other than "leaving an interior space to serve as an infantry drill ground."
 3. Quartermaster General Jessup, taking cognizance of the situation allotted \$3,000 for maintenance and repair of the Ft. Pickens quarters in the 2nd quarter of 1849.
 4. Before any of this sum could be expended, the war department determined to redeploy the battalion.
 - a. Companies A & M moved from Ft. McRee to Ft. Pickens the fourth week in May, 1849.
 - 1). The 2 companies had to spent 3 months in their uncomfortable quarters.
 - 2). August 15, 1849 they left for Ft. Brooke, FL.

- B. 1st Artillery Returns to Pensacola Bay
 - 1. November 3, 1850, Fort Pickens was occupied by Company D, 1st Artillery.
 - 2. The frequent and loud complaints about the casemate quarters had resulted in an appropriation for construction of permanent barracks at the Barrancas.
 - a. By November, 1850 one block of the barracks had been completed and was ready for occupancy.
 - b. Company D moved in September, 1851.
- C. Chase was ordered to Key West in August, 1854.
 - 1. He tried everything possible to get the order changed - but all to no avail.
 - 2. Chase left Pensacola for Key West November 7, 1854.

XI. Strengthening the Barbette Tier of the Channel Fronts: 1855-60

- A. Lt. John Newton was assigned the responsibility for the Pensacola forts.
 - 1. He arrived in Pensacola January 31, 1855.
- B. A board representing the Engineer and the Ordnance Departments had been organized by Secretary of War Davis to make a study of the armament of the nation's forts as established by the 1839 Board.
 - 1. Technological advances called for change.
 - 2. European powers were arming their ships with heavier guns.
 - 3. More and more warships were now powered by steam, and in an attack on seacoast forts would be able to maneuver much more effectively than vessels under sail.
 - 4. Heavier guns, 8 & 10 inch columbiads were being cast and proved themselves in tests.
 - 5. Explosive shells were becoming more popular and were being substituted for solid shot.
- C. Because of fear of war with Spain and England, Ft. Pickens was given a complete facelift and repair job in 1855-56.
- D. Departure of Company F, 2nd Artillery in November 29, 1856 left Pensacola, except for staff officers, three ordnance sergeants and one hospital steward.
- E. A hurricane struck the area on Friday, August 28.
 - 1. The Fort Pickens warf was damaged and the Fort McRee warf wrecked.
 - 2. The forts themselves received no damage.
- F. 1857: Totten sends directions for the reconstruction of the tower bastions barbette tier.
 - 1. To give full traverse to the 10 inch columbiad to occupy the salient, the parapet was to be "much increased in thickness on both faces."

FT. PICKENS GARRISONS - COMPILED FROM FT. PICKENS BEARSS REPORT

21 OCT 1834 - Mid DEC 1834	Co. H, 2d U.S. Artillery
13 MAY 1835 - 24 NOV 1835	Co. C, 2d U.S. Artillery
10 FEB 1842 - 2 MAY 1842	Co. I, 3d U.S. Artillery
6 MAR 1842 - 7 JUNE 1842	Co. E, 3d U.S. Artillery
6 MAR 1842 - 7 JULY 1842	Co. K, 3d U.S. Artillery
1 JUNE 1843 - 27 MAY 1843	Co. K, 7th U.S. Infantry
2 JULY 1843 - 27 MAY 1843	Co. E, 7th U.S. Infantry
19 APR 1845 - 24 AUG 1845	Co. K, 7th U.S. Infantry
20 APR 1845 - 17 SEPT 1845	Co. D, 7th U.S. Infantry
13 SEPT 1845 - 17 NOV 1845	Co. F, 1st U.S. Artillery
4 OCT 1845 - 17 NOV 1845	Co. H, 1st U.S. Artillery
4 OCT 1845 - 1 NOV 1845	Co. I, 1st U.S. Artillery
17 NOV 1845 - MAY 1846	Co. C, 1st U.S. Artillery
MAY 1846 - 1st of FEB 1847	Co. G, 1st U.S. Artillery
MAR 1847 - 1848	Capt. W.W. Kelly's Florida Volunteers
14 NOV 1848 - 25 APR 1849	Co. I, 4th U.S. Artillery
15 NOV 1848 - 20 MAY 1849	Co. G, 4th U.S. Artillery
15 NOV 1849 - 19 MAY 1849	Co. H, 4th U.S. Artillery
End of MAY 1849 - 15 AUG 1849	Co. M, 4th U.S. Artillery
End of MAY 1849 - 15 AUG 1849	Co. A, 4th U.S. Artillery
3 NOV 1850 - SEPT 1851	Co. D, 1st U.S. Artillery
10 JAN 1861 - 12 MAY 1861	Co. G, 1st U.S. Artillery
13 APR 1861 - 10 MAY 1862	Co. A, 1st U.S. Artillery
17 APR 1861 - 10 MAY 1862	Co. C, 3d U.S. Infantry
17 APR 1861 - 10 MAY 1862	Co. E, 3d U.S. Infantry
17 APR 1861 - 5 JULY 1861	Co. A, 2d U.S. Artillery
17 APR 1861 - 26 JUNE 1861	Co. M, 2d U.S. Artillery
20 APR 1861 - 10 MAY 1862	Co. H, 2d U.S. Artillery
20 APR 1861 - 18 MAY 1864	Co. K, 2d U.S. Artillery
31 MAY 1861 - 10 MAY 1862	Co. F, 1st U.S. Artillery
26 JUNE 1861 - 10 MAY 1862	Billy Wilson's 6th N.Y. Vol. Infantry
10 JULY 1861 - 10 MAY 1862	Co. L, 1st U.S. Artillery
SEPT 1861 - 10 MAY 1862	Co. C, 2d U.S. Artillery
By DEC 1861 - 10 MAY 1862	75th N.Y. Volunteer Infantry
16 MAY 1862 - 16 JULY 1862	Co. I, 75th N.Y. Vol. Infantry
16 JULY 1862 - 17 SEPT 1862	Co. K, 75th N.Y. Vol. Infantry
17 SEPT 1862 - 28 MAR 1863	Co. D, 15th Main Vol. Infantry
23 OCT 1862 - 28 MAR 1863	Co. K, 15th Main Vol. Infantry
28 MAR 1863 - AUG 1863	Co. A, 7th Vermont Vol. Infantry
28 MAR 1863 - 10 AUG 1864	Co. D, 7th Vermont Vol. Infantry
28 MAR 1863 - JULY 1863	Co. G, 7th Vermont Vol. Infantry
JULY 1863 - 10 AUG 1864	Co. F, 7th Vermont Vol. Infantry
MAY 1864 - 26 JUNE 1865	Co. B, 25th U.S. Colored Troops
MAY 1864 - 10 MAR 1865	Co. C, 25th U.S. Colored Troops
MAY 1864 - 26 JUNE 1865	Co. E, 25th U.S. Colored Troops
MAY 1864 - 10 MAR 1865	Co. H, 25th U.S. Colored Troops
MAY 1864 - 10 AUG 1864	Co. K, 7th Vermont Vol. Infantry
26 JUNE 1865 - DEC 1865	Co. I, 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery
26 JUNE 1865 - DEC 1865	Co. M, 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery
21 SEPT 1865 - DEC 1865	Co. L, 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery
7 OCT 1865 - DEC 1865	Co. F, 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery
DEC 1865 - JAN 1866	Co. B, 82d U.S. Colored Troops
DEC 1865 - 4 SEPT 1866	Co. C, 82d U.S. Colored Troops
9 JAN 1866 - APR 1866	Co. D, 82d U.S. Colored Troops
9 JAN 1866 - 4 SEPT 1866	Co. H, 82d U.S. Colored Troops
AUG 1866 - 4 SEPT 1866	Co. A, 82d U.S. Colored Infantry
AUG 1866 - 4 SEPT 1866	Co. E, 82d U.S. Colored Infantry
AUG 1866 - 4 SEPT 1866	Co. F, 82d U.S. Colored Infantry
AUG 1866 - 4 SEPT 1866	Co. K, 82d U.S. Colored Infantry
4 SEPT 1866 - MAR 1868	Co. E, 5th U.S. Artillery
SEPT 1873 - End of NOV 1873	Co. A, F & L, 1st U.S. Artillery
7 SEPT 1874 - End of NOV 1874	Co. A, F, L & M, 1st U.S. Artillery
22 JULY 1875 - 29 NOV 1875	Troops again evacuated to Ft. Pickens

2. Information received from Captain Newton that the casemate roofs were covered with lead was important.
 - a. Experience, Totten wrote, had demonstrated that lead resting on mortar "is apt to have its under surface converted into a brittle oxide of which the outer (upper) surface gives no evidence."
 - b. Newton would examine the under surface. If badly corroded, all lead sheeting was to be removed from the roofs, having to be stripped for other purposes, and replaced with mastic.
 - c. If the lead were sound, Newton was to solder and patch any leaks, and recover them with two courses of bricks and a layer of shells.

- G. The worst leaks were in the gun casemates Numbers 1, 2, & 3 of the north front, right flank and face of the southwest bastion; the entire Tower Bastion; right face of the northwest bastion; and all gun casemates on the north front.
 1. Every casemate leaked at its junction with the scarp, and the quarters particularly along the parade wall.
 2. Because of their great number, the causes were not easily isolated. The parade wall had disintegrated through "thrust and want of cohesion; the heads of the arches had separated from the scarp; the lead sheeting was "eaten up split, and the covering of the terreplein and parapet" was nominal.
 3. What was needed was a thorough repair of the roofs.

- H. Both casemate cisterns were in bad condition.
 1. Every pier in contact with the cisterns was saturated with water.
 2. Newton suggested abandoning them and building new cisterns on the parade. This was not done.

- I. The gun carriages and chassis had been permitted to deteriorate to a degree, where the Ordnance Department was compelled to send a Lt. Balch and a team of mechanics to Pensacola Bay.
 1. They reached Pensacola in October, 1856.
 2. By February, 1857 they had dismantled every gun and all the carriages needing repairs had been dismantled.
 3. The Ft. Pickens implements were "in wretched order" some in boxes, some on "rickety" shelves, and kept without regard to order. This, Balch observed, was not to be wondered at considering the delapidated condition of the fort.
 4. At Ft. Pickens, it had been necessary to dismount all 24-pounders on the barbette tier, lower them to the parade, and place them on skids. They had been replaced by 32-pounders as required by the new system.

- J. Fire in 1857 destroyed some buildings belonging to the Quartermaster Department.

- K. On February 4, 1858, three years and 4 days after his arrival at the Barrancas, Newton received orders detailing him for duty with the Morman Expedition.

- L. On March 2, 1858, Lt. Frederick E. Prime was assigned to replace Newton.
1. The need to supervise projects on Mobile Bay and at Pensacola called for much travel on Primes part.
 2. Lt. George Snyder was ordered to "take post at the works in Pensacola Harbor."
 3. On August 8th Lt. Snyder departed and Lt. Prime moved from Mobile to Warrenton, occupying quarters on the Barrancas reservation.
- M. Work accomplished in Fiscal Year 1858
1. August 18, 1858 Lt. Prime submitted his annual report for the 12 months ending June 30.
 - a. Completed repairs of the casemate arches, parade wall, and alterations of the scarp wall of the Tower Bastion... and the 3 columbiad and two 8 inch howitzer platforms were ready to receive their armament.
 - b. On the southwest curtain the brick work had been completed, except for the coping of the parade wall, banquettes and circular containing walls of the columbiad platforms. The mastic, dry walls and shells were in place and the terreplein filled. Seven columbiad platforms had been laid, ready to receive the ironwork.
 - c. The southwest bastion had been stripped and was being readied for the applicator. The masonry parapet had been altered.
 2. During the year 342.5 cubic yards of concrete had been poured, and 982 cubic yards of brickwork laid.
 3. The project, allotted funds exhausted, was closed down in December 1858.
 - a. The fort and the public property were placed in the charge of an ordnance-sergeant, who was instructed by Lt. Prime to keep the gates locked.
- N. Lt. Prime was assigned as project engineer on Ship Island and left for Biloxi.
- O. Lt. Prime returned to Pensacola for an inspection tour in May, 1859.
1. He saw that about 30 feet of the wharf had given way.
 2. Nine men were hired in June and repaired the wharf.
- P. The Ship Island project engrossed most of Primes time and energy.
1. It was March, 1860 before he again visited the Pensacola Forts.
 2. He was told by the ordnance sergeant there had been no leakage into the casemates of the Tower and Southwest Bastions and southwest curtain. This was welcomed, as it demonstrated that the sealing of the casemate arches with mastic was succeeding.
 3. Prime reported the fort was ready for its casemate armament; the new barbette armament for the southwest curtain and two bastions; and the old armament on the remaining fronts. The magazines were in good condition, the quarters were delapidated.
- Q. Prime estimated that to complete alterations necessary for mounting the heavier armament and to place the Fort in first class condition would cost \$120,341
1. But Congress failed to appropriate the money.
 2. Secession of the lower south, followed by the Civil War, doomed this request.

- R. June 18, 1858 Lt. Colonel John H. Winder and his Company G, 1st U.S. Artillery, landed at the navy yard and occupied Barrancas Barracks.
1. For the first time since the departure of Company F, 2nd Artillery, on November 29, 1856, there was a company of troops in Pensacola Harbor.
- S. Three Tropical Storms struck the Gulf Coast in the Summer of 1860
1. High winds buffeted Pensacola Bay on June 23.
 2. A mid-August hurricane did no damage to Engineer property in Pensacola Bay beyond demolishing about 60 feet of a pile jetty under construction for preservation of the site of Fort McRee.
 3. A second hurricane came roaring in on September 15. The Ft. Pickens warf was wrecked.
 4. Severe damage done by wind and water to the warf and temporary buildings at Ship Island by the mid-September hurricane kept Lt. Prime there until mid-October.
 - a. By the 13th temporary repairs had been effected.
 - b. Prime then left Biloxi to inspect the works at Pensacola and Mobile.
 - c. Prime reached Pensacola on the 15th.
 - d. Except for the warf he found no damage at Ft. Pickens.
 - e. Prime decided not to rebuild the wharf.
 - 1). To justify his inaction, he informed the Department that with no construction funds for the fort, there was no need of a warf, "unless the Ordnance Department contemplates sending the heavy armament required for a portion of the barbette tier.
 - f. His business finished at Pensacola and Mobile, Prime returned to Ship Island, as that project was his major challenge.

XII. War Comes to Fort Pickens: 1861-62

- A. In the summer of 1860 the nation edged toward disaster.
1. At Pensacola nothing was done to reinforce the garrison or ready the forts for defense.
 2. The commander of the defenses, Colonel Winder and his second in command Lt. Asher R. Eddy were permitted to go on leave, as was Lt. Prime the engineer.
 3. On November 6, Lincoln was elected President.
 4. South Carolina on December 20 led the way, when a state convention voted to secede.
 - a. On the 26th the U.S. troops in Charleston Harbor evacuated Ft. Moultrie and occupied Ft. Sumpter.
- B. Lt. Prime was enroute to New York City, when he heard that South Carolina had withdrawn from the Union.
1. Unwilling to believe that the states of the Lower South would follow South Carolina's lead, Prime continued on to his destination.
 2. He received a telegram on January 5, 1861 from his assistant in Mobile that three companies of state troops had left the city by boat to take possession of forts Morgan and Gaines.
 3. After relaying this news to Washington Lt. Prime rushed to the station and boarded the first south bound train.

4. Prime reached New Orleans on January 10. There he learned that 100 Alabama State Troops were in possession of Ft. Morgan. Ft Gains had not been occupied.
 5. Prime started for Pensacola on the 11th.
 - a. Reaching Pensacola on January 13, he found that Fts. Barrancas and McRee had been seized by the secessionists.
 - b. He was refused passage across the bay to Ft. Pickens.
 6. Prime learned that he was to appear before Colonel William Chase, who commanded the Florida forces in and around the city.
 - a. Prime, cognizant of the seizure of the forts and his status as an army officer, refused to unless compelled.
 - b. Colonel Chase complied. Prime was arrested and brought before Chase.
 - c. To secure his release, Prime was compelled to give parole that he would not visit Forts Pickens, Barrancas, and McRee, or the navy yard, and that he would not communicate with Lt. Adam Slemmer or any other person at Ft. Pickens, or with any personnel aboard U.S. ships laying in or off Pensacola Bay.
- C. The crisis found bespectacled 1st Lt. Adam J. Slemmer in command of Company G, 1st Artillery, at Barrancas Barracks and responsible for defense of the Pensacola Forts.
1. These were trying days for the 31 year old Slemmer, because of the daily alarms caused by rumors that the forts, navy yard, and barracks were to be seized by Florida State Troops.
 2. On January 5, Slemmer learned that Alabamans had taken possession of Fort Morgan.
 3. Although he received no instructions from Washington on the subject, Slemmer determined to prevent a similar coup by state authorities at Pensacola.
 4. Before daybreak on the 8th, Slemmer's soldiers began removing powder from the exposed magazines in the Barrancas water battery into the Ft. Barrancas magazines. Slemmer issued orders directing that all batteries be placed in working order and at nightfall he alerted the guard detail. As an added security measure the drawbridge leading into the fort was raised. About midnight a group of men (about 20 in all) approached the drawbridge with the intention of taking possession of the fort. The corporal at the guard called the alarm. The would-be assailants failed to answer when challenged or halt when ordered, and were fired upon by the guard. Where upon they fled in the direction of Warrington.
 - a. These were the first shots fired by the Federals in the Civil War.
 5. January 9, 1861, Lt. Slemmer received an order from the War Department:

The General-in-Chief directs that you take measures to do the utmost in your power to prevent the seizure of either of the forts in Pensacola Harbor by surprise or assault, consulting first with the commander of the navy-yard who will probably have received instructions to cooperate with you.

- a. Upon receipt of these instructions Lt. Slemmer accompanied by Lt. Gilman, rushed to the navy yard to confer with Commodore Armstrong.

- b. They found armstrong seemingly under the influence of Commander Farrand, a rabid secessionist.
 - 1). Swayed by Farrand, Armstrong hesitated to take the lead in providing for defense of Pensacola Harbor.
- c. At the insistence of the Army officers, Armstrong agreed that with the limited means available only one of the forts could be held.
 - 1). Ft. Pickens was chosen because of the advantages its possession imparted - command of the other forts, harbor, and naval yard, and its ease of reinforcement from the Gulf.
- 6. At 10 A.M. on Januray 9, Lt. Slemmer, with part of his command, boarded the storeship Supply which carried them to Ft. Pickens.
 - a. Here the artillerists began to mount guns and make necessary preparations for defense.
- 7. Commodore Armstrong had promised the use of 2 of his ships to convey the troops to Ft. Pickens and some of his men to help.
 - a. But when Lt. Gillman went to ask for the ships Armstrong reniged on his promises.
 - b. Upon hearing this, Slemmer ordered his men to halt all work and return to Barrancas Barracks.
- 8. Slemmer next visited Commodore Armstrong, whom he accused of a breach of faith.
 - a. With Slemmers command numbering only 57, he would never have dreamed of holding Fort Pickens, a work designed for a 1,500 man garrison.
 - b. He had moved on the assumption that ARmstrong would not renege on a promise, and "had lost a day's time in preparation of Ft. Barrancas for defense."
- 9. After hearing what Slemmer had to say ARmstrong sent for his aides and told them to implement the original design.
- 10. About 8 AM on the 10th, a large flatboat and several small craft pulled into the Barrancas wharf and the artillerymen and their gear went aboard.
 - a. By 10 AM the troops were across the bay and disembarked on Santa Rosa Island.
 - b. During the remaining hours of daylight on January 10, most of the powder and all the fixed ammunition for the field batteries was transferred from the mainland to the island.
 - c. As a final measure before abandoning the forts on the mainland, Lt. Slemmer had the cannon bearing on the bay spiked, because his redlegs had neither the means nor the time to dismount them.
 - d. In addition to the 57 officers and men of Company G, 1st Artillery, and the 30 sailors, there were present at Ft. Pickens on the evening of January 10, the 3 ordnance-sergeants from Forts Barrancas, Pickens, and McRee.

D. Secessionists Seize the Navy Yard and Forts

1. On January 10, 1861 Florida seceded from the Union,
2. Early on the 12th Commander Walke of Supply received a note from Commodore Armstrong that the navy yard was besieged by Alabama and Florida State troops.
3. The force left to hold the navy yard numbered 38 Marines and 30 Sailors. Its defenses with evacuation of Ft. Barrancas and the Redoubt, were non-existent.
 - a. No guns were mounted at the yard except those used to salute the colors.
 - b. The investing force, lead by Colonel Lomax, has been estimated from a high of 800 to a low of 300.
4. At 1p.m., on January 12, Commodore Armstrong was informed that some gentlemen desired to see him.
 - a. Richard Campbell and Captain Victor Randolph informed Armstrong that they came with a large force in the name of the State of Florida to demand an immediate and unconditional surrender of the yard.
 - b. The issue presented to Armstrong was either a bloody and hopeless resistance or surrender.
 - c. To avoid the useless effusion of blood, Armstrong accepted the latter alternative.
 - d. The U.S. flag was hauled down and the Florida emblem hoisted in its place.
5. For his surrender of the Navy Yard Commodore Armstrong was courtmartialled, convicted, and sentenced "to be suspended from duty for the term of five years, with loss of pay for the first half of said term and to be reprimanded by the Honorable Secretary of the Navy in general orders."
6. With capture of the navy yard everything on the mainland and Foster's Bank fell into the secessionists hands.
 - a. Fortunately, Supply and Wyandotte, the only U.S. vessels in the harbor were commanded by loyal men and were saved.

E. Slemmer Refuses to Surrender Fort Pickens

1. Ft. Pickens was in a dilapidated condition, as this was the first time it had been garrisoned since 1851,
 - a. Many guns were not mounted, and a tremendous amount of hard work would be necessary to prepare it for possible siege.
 - b. Upon their arrival there was not an embrasure shutter in place.
2. On January 12, just before sundown, four men (three in uniform) walked up to the sally port, and demanded admittance as "citizens of Florida and Alabama." They were informed that no unauthorized persons were permitted to enter the post. After receiving this information they asked to see the commanding officer. Lieutenants Slemmer and Gilman proceeded to the gate, where they recognized a Mr. Albert, an engineer from the navy yard, who introduced the three uniformed men as Capt. Victor M. Randolph, late of the U.S. Navy, Maj. Samuel Marks, and Lt. Rutledge.
 - a. After a pause, Captain Randolph commenced, "We have been sent to demand a peaceable surrender of this fort by the governors of Florida and Alabama."
 - b. To which Lt. Slemmer replied, "I was here under the orders of the President of the United States, and by direction of the General-in-Chief of the Army; that I recognize no right of any governor to demand a surrender of United States property; that my orders were distinct and explicit."
 - c. The interview was ended and the visitors withdrew

3. At midnight the garrison was mustered and told to man the cannon in anticipation of an attack. The night was dark and rainy but otherwise quiet. January 13 was spent by the artillerymen and sailors strengthening their positions, and with nightfall sentinels were posted in advance of the glacis. The night was again dark and rain poured down. Suddenly through the occasional flashes of lightning ten men were discovered outside the fort reconnoitering the Federal position. The intruders fired one shot which was returned by the sergeant-of-the-guard. All was then quiet. The 14th passed with nothing of interest transpiring. By this time the garrison was exhausted by the daily routine of mounting guns, preparing fire bases and hand grenades, and the one hundred percent watches maintained during the hours of darkness.

4. On January 15 William Chase returned to Ft. Pickens. The builder of the fort was now a colonel of Florida State Troops. He was accompanied by Commander Farrand, who had resigned his commission in the U.S. Navy. Chase asked for and was granted an interview by Lt. Slemmer.
 - a. Colonel Chase announced, "I have come on business which may occupy some time, and, if you have no objection, we had better go inside your quarters."
 - b. Slemmer interrupted, "I have objection, and it could hardly be expected that I would take you into the fort."
 - c. Chase countered, "As I built the fort and know all its weak and strong points, I could learn nothing new by going in, and had no such object in proposing it."
 - d. "I understand that perfectly," Slemmer acknowledged, "but it would be improper for me to take you in; and, however well you have known the fort before, you do not know what it now contains, nor what I have done inside."
 - e. "This is true," Chase admitted, "and I will state my business here. It is a most distressing duty to me. I have come to ask of you young officers, officers of the same army in which I have spent the best and happiest years of my life, the surrender of this fort. I would not ask it if I did not believe it right and necessary to save bloodshed; and fearing that I might not be able to say it as I ought, and in order, also, that you may have it in proper form, I have put it in writing and will read it."
 - f. Chase took a manuscript from his pocket and began to read, but after reading a few lines his voice began to shake and his eyes filled with tears. He stamped his foot, and said, "I can't read it. Here Farrand, you read it." Commander Ferrand took it, and remarking that he did not have his glasses passed the paper to Lt. Gilman. Gilman took it and read aloud:

I have full powers from the governor of Florida to take possession of the forts and navy-yard in his harbor. I desire to perform this duty without the effusion of blood. You can contribute toward this desirable result, and in my judgement, without sacrifice of the honor of yourself or your gallant officers and men. Now, as commissioner on the part of the governor of the state of Florida, I request the surrender of Fort Pickens and the public property it contains into my hands, to be held subject to any agreement that may be entered into between the commissioners of the State of Florida and the Federal Government at Washington... If the Union now broken should be reconstructed Fort Pickens and all the public property passes peacefully under Federal authority. If a Southern Confederacy separates itself from the Union would it not be worse than folly to attempt the maintenance of Fort Pickens or any other fortified place within its limits.

- g. As the state officers prepared to depart for the mainland this conversation took place:

Slemmer: "Colonel, how many men have you?"

Chase: "Tonight I shall have between eight and nine hundred."

Slemmer: "Do you imagine you could take this fort with that number?"

Chase: "I certainly do. I could carry it by storm. I know every inch of this fort and its condition."

Slemmer: "With your knowledge of the fort and of your troops, what proportion of them, do you imagine, would be killed in such an attack?"

Chase (shrugging his shoulders): "If you have made the best possible preparation, as I suppose you have, and should defend it, as I presume you would, I might lose one-half my men."

Slemmer: "At least, and I don't believe you are prepared to sacrifice that many men for such a purpose."

Chase: "You must know very well that, with your small force, you are not expected to, and cannot, hold this fort. Florida cannot permit it, and the troops here are determined to have it; and if not surrendered peaceably, an attack and the inauguration of Civil War cannot be prevented. If it is a question of numbers, and eight hundred is not enough, I can easily bring thousands more."

Slemmer: "I will give this letter due consideration, and as I wish to consult with the Captains of the Supply and Wyandotte before replying, I will give you my answer tomorrow morning."

The interview then terminated.

5. Next morning (the 16th), to the surprise of the garrison, Supply and Wyandotte hoisted anchor, and, getting underway, made for the bar en route out into the Gulf.
 - a. A boat with Lt. Gilman started inputruit.
 - b. Gilman's craft overhauled Supply, and he asked the reason for the Navy's precipitant withdrawal from Pensacola Bay.
 - c. Commander Walke explained that he was obliged to leave for the North, and was taking advantage of the favorable wind.
 - d. He agreed, however, that Wyandotte must remain with Lt. Berryman to lend the Army any assistance required.
6. Lt. Slemmer then forwarded a letter to Colonel Chase. It read:

Under the orders we now have from the War Department, we have decided, after consultation with the Government officers in the harbor, that it is our duty to hold our position until such a force is brought against us as to render it impossible to defend it, or until the political condition of the country is such as to induce as to surrender the public property in our keeping to such authorities as may be delegated legally to receive it.

We depreciate as much as you or any individual can the present condition of affairs, or the shedding of the blood of our bretheren. In regard to this matter, however, we must consider you the aggressors and if blood is shed that you are responsible therefor.
7. Supply, having taken aboard 61 paroled officers and men from the navy yard, 7 invalids, 11 employees, and 17 dependents, including the wives and children of Lieutenants Slemmer and Gilman, now stood out of the harbor and sailed for New York. Wyandotte followed her across the bar and anchored off the Santa Rosa shore.

F. Steps Are Taken to Cool Passions

1. January 18, 1861
 - a. At noon Commander Farrand arrived from the mainland with a letter from Colonel Chase. It read:
 - 1). "With additional re-enforcements to my forces, arrived and expected, I would again request the surrender of Ft. Pickens..."
 - 2). Slemmer acknowledged the message, but pointed out that a reply would not be forthcoming until he had an opportunity to communicate with Lt. Berryman.
 - b. Chase had been reinforced on the 17th by some 300 soldiers, who had arrived from Mobile aboard the Oregon. These troops had increased the force arrayed against the Ft. Pickens garrison to between 1,300 and 1,400.

- c. The night of January 18, like many of the preceding 10 days was dark and misty. A number of lights were seen passing from the navy yard toward Santa Rosa Island, and it was feared that an attack was imminent.
 - 1). Slemmer had the "long roll" beaten, and the regulars and sailors stood a 100 percent watch.
 - 2). The night passed quietly, however, except for shots from the navy yard as soldiers cleared their pieces.

2. On the morning of January 19, Lt. Slemmer... informed Colonel Chase, "In reply to your communication of yesterday, I have the honor to state that as yet I know of no reason why my answer to your communication of the 16th should be changed, and I therefore very respectfully refer you to that reply for the answer to this.

3. There was a cold northeast gale on the 20th with a drenching rain during the night.
 - a. A shore party sent by Lt. Berryman assisted the regulars in mounting a 10-inch columbiad.

4. On the 23d the bay was too rough for crossing, and Slemmer allowed one-half of the command to sleep in their quarters.
 - a. The foul weather continued.
 - b. Lt. Gilman recorded, "Our men were having extremely hard duty, being wet to the skin most of the time, and many of them were without a change of clothes, having left their extra clothing at the barracks or navy yard.

5. About midnight on the 23d a small steamer was seen to come from the direction of Pensacola and tie up at the Barrancas wharf. Lt. Slemmer, apprehensive that she had been sent to tow invasion barges across the bay, ordered his men to their battle stations.

6. On January 24... Lt. Slemmer sent one of Wyandotte's small boats, flying a white flag, to the navy yard to obtain the garrisons mail. His request was refused by the postal officials.
 - a. Slemmer thereupon addressed a curt note to Colonel Chase requesting the delivery of the mail.
 - b. Colonel Chase was absent, having been called to Montgomery to confer on possible steps to be taken to compel the U.S. forces to yield Ft. Pickens.
 - c. Chase's ardor had been chilled by a January 18 telegram from a powerful group of Southern Senators. It read:

"We think no assault should be made. The possession of the fort is not worth one drop of blood to us. Measures pending unite us in this opinion. Bloodshed may be fatal to our cause."
 - d. Chase returned from the Montgomery meeting in a conciliatory mood.

7. On January 26, Chase wrote Lt. Slemmer that he would deal with the mail problem and that Slemmer could have fresh provisions daily if he wished.

a. Later in the day, hoping to avoid an unfortunate collision between their opposing forces, Colonel Chase wrote Lt. Slemmer:

I have given strict orders this morning that no citizen or soldier should be permitted to pass from this side towards Ft. Pickens, or to land on Santa Rosa Island and now I inform you of the fact, and also that I shall use every effort to have my orders executed. I have just been informed that some 4 or 5 men started on a fishing expedition on the island, and as they must be ignorant of my orders just issued, I would request that if they have landed on the island they may be sent back.

Any collision growing out of persons going over to the island or near Ft. Pickens would be most unfortunate in the present state of affairs, and I would request you to join me in preventing it; and to this effect I would also request that persons in boats may be warned off, and if any should land, they should be ordered to re-embark. This should be done in a way to prevent angry feeling between the parties.

b. Lt. Slemmer sent Lt. Gilman to the yard to make arrangements for procuring the mail and fresh beef. Gilman returned before the day was over with the mail and a note from Chase stating that in the future it would be delivered without delay.

8. Lt. Gilman was back on the mainland on official business on the 28th.

a. He was accompanied back to Santa Rosa Island by the company laundress, who had been left behind on January 10th.

9. Discharged in December, 1861 on completion of his five year enlistment, Patrick Travers had gone to New Orleans to book passage home to Ireland. Learning of Company G's difficulties, he returned to Pensacola, slipped over to Santa Rosa Island, and on February 2 re-enlisted in their company.

G. Lt. Prime meanwhile had been released from arrest by Colonel Chase.

1. On January 17, at New Orleans, he received a message from General Totten, that Secretary of War Joseph Holt had ordered all construction on the Gulf Coast fortifications for which he was now responsible stopped.

a. At fortifications seized by the sessionists, all expenditures were to cease.

2. On January 18, Alabama secessionists had seized Fort Gains.

3. On the 20th a force of armed Mississippians, making their third descent on Ship Island within a week, took possession of the Federal property there for which Lt. Prime was responsible.

a. This, Prime reported, with the forceable occupation of Ft. Morgan and his arrest at Pensacola had relieved him of "all connections with my other works, unless it be Ft. Pickens, now garrisoned by the line of the Army.

4. On March 9 General Totten, five days after Lincoln's inauguration as the 16th President, ordered Prime to come to Washington, as soon as he closed his accounts and retired the outstanding claims against the U.S.
5. Lt. Prime left Biloxi in early April.

H. Agreement is effected to preserve the status quo.

1. On January 21, 1861, nine days after surrender of the Pensacola Navy Yard, the U.S. War Department ordered preparation of an expedition for relief of Ft. Pickens.
 - a. Captain Israel Vodges, was to embark Company A, 1st Artillery (2 officers and 86 enlisted men), on the sloop-of-war Brooklyn.
 - b. The same day Flag-officer Garrett J. Pendergrast, notified the Navy Department that he had ordered the sailing frigate Sabine and the sailing sloop St. Louis to Pensacola.
 - c. The warships were not to cross the bar lest they be fired on, and thus precipitate a civil war.
 - d. Brookland, however, was to land Vodges company on Santa Rosa Island.
2. On being informed that reinforcements were enroute to Ft. Pickens, Stephen Mallory, who upon secession of Florida had withdrawn from the U.S. Senate, telegraphed Senator John Skidwell of Louisiana:

We hear the Brooklyn is coming with reinforcements for Ft. Pickens. No attack on its garrison is contemplated, but, on the contrary, we desire to keep the peace, and if the present status be preserved we will guarantee that no attack will be made upon it, but if reinforcements should be attempted, resistance and a bloody conflict seem inevitable. Should the Government thus attempt to augment its force,... our whole force--1700 strong--will regard it as a hostile act. Impress this upon the President, and urge that the inevitable consequence of reinforcement under present circumstances is instant war.

3. Senator Slidell laid Mallory's message before President Buchanan. The President, not wanting to precipitate a clash which would lead to war and snuff out a last chance for compromise, agreed to a modus vivendi, regarding reinforcement of Fort Pickens which was incorporated in an order to Captain Vodges dated January 29. It read:

In consequence of the assurances received from Mr. Mallory in a telegram of yesterday to Messrs. Slidell, Hunter and Bigler... that Fort Pickens would not be assaulted, and an offer of such assurance to the same effect from Colonel Chase, for the purpose of avoiding a hostile collision...you are instructed not to land the company on board the Brooklyn unless said fort shall be attacked... The provisions necessary for the supply of the fort you will land. The Brooklyn and other vessels of war on the station will remain, and you will exercise the utmost vigilance and be prepared at a moment's warning to land the company at Fort Pickens.

- I. The Belligerents Watch and Wait
 1. February 1st Lt. Slemmer had trouble with one of the sailors, although there had been some "growing dissatisfaction among them on account of their being used as soldiers."
 - a. At 5 p.m. the first seargeant reported that a number of the seamen refused to march to supper, because they did not have enough bread.
 - b. He ordered them locked in the guardhouse, and reported they outnumbered the guard and refused to obey him.
 - c. Lieutenants Slemmer and Gilman found themselves confronted by a mutiny. They reacted with alacrity. Company G was turned out under arms and confronted the sailors. They were asked whether they would obey orders hereinafter. Their reply was not deemed satisfactory by Lt. Slemmer, and orders were given to "buck" them. This was done, and they were placed in a line seated on the ground, securely fastened. Those sailors who were on guard then mutined and said they wanted the same punishment. Slemmer gave orders to lash them to the piazza columns. Seeing that their joining the uprising had no effect, and that they would be severely punished, the sailors promised to obey future orders. Of those "bucked" some gave up at 7 p.m., and others during the night. Two held out till nine the next morning. The sailors had learned a hard lesson, and gave Slemmer no further trouble.
 2. Brooklyn arrived off Santa Rosa Island on February 6, and Captain Vodges learned from Lt. Putnam of the order of January 29 preventing the landing of his command.
 3. At the time Lt. Slemmer occupied Ft. Pickens there had been only 40 cannon in possition, and now after four weeks hard work there were 54.
 - a. There were in the fort 57 enlisted men of Company G and 31 sailors.
 - 1). The latter, "untrained and insubordinate," would be of little use in event of attack.
 - 2). Fifty-seven gun casemates were unarmed, and most of these embrasures covered with common wooden shutters, which presented a scant obstacle to the foe.
 - b. Ordnance stores and ammunition were in short supply.
 - 1). There was no ammunition for the columbiads, no cartridge bags, and no flannel.
 - c. Had it been the policy to place the fort in a defenseless condition, it could not have been done more effectively.
 4. Outside the harbor the U.S. slowly built=up a formidable naval force under the command of Capt. Henry A. Adams.
 - a. By February 19 this fleet consisted of Sabine, St. Louis, and Brooklyn
 - b. Wyandotte, now anchored inside Pensacola Bay, and flying a flag of truce, was allowed by State authorities to transport coal and water from the navy yard to the ships outside the bar.
 - c. Whenever a southeasterly gale blew it was necessary to run offshore.
 - 1). A storm on February 10 dispersed the fleet, driving some of them as far west as Mobile Pt.
 - 2). Adams feared that Colonel Chase would take advantage of one of these gales, and attempt to storm Ft. Pickens, before he could land reinforcements.
 - d. Adams was ready to put ashore, Vodges' command, 200 men from Sabine, 140 from Brooklyn and 50 from St. Louis.

5. During the first week in February a convention assembled in Montgomery, Alabama to organize a Southern government.
 - a. It included representation from only 6 of the 15 slave states (South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, and Louisiana).
 - b. Three principal functions were performed by the convention
 - 1). It made a constitution for the Confederate States.
 - 2). It chose a provisional president and vice-president.
 - 3). It acted as a provisional legislature for the new government pending the regular congressional elections.
 - c. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi was elected President on February 9.
 - d. On March 1, Colonel Chase resigned his command to accept appointment as major general of the Florida State Troops.
 - e. Brigadier General Braxton Bragg assumed command on March 11.

 6. On March 12, eight days after Abraham Lincoln's inauguration as President, General-in-Chief Scott ordered Captain Vodges to land his command "reinforce Ft. Pickens, and hold the same till further orders."
 - a. Because of circumstances beyond Scott's control more than a month was to pass before this order was implemented.
 - b. General Bragg meanwhile had ordered work resumed on the batteries, informing Lt. Slemmer that such action seemed fully justified as a means of defense, "especially so under the threats of the new administration."
 - c. Thus the conditions of the modus vivendi were broken.
 - d. On Bragg's orders the citizens of Pensacola were no longer permitted to sell or transport supplies to the troops at Fort Pickens.
 - e. Bragg and his staff moved heaven and earth in their efforts to strengthen the defense of Pensacola Bay.
 - 1). Two heavy batteries, each consisting of 4 eight inch columbiads were established at Ft. McRee.
 - 2). Ft. Barrancas was armed and manned.
 - 3). The forts would be very difficult for the Federals to reoccupy, and in the future would menace Ft. Pickens.
 - f. Brooklyn returned from Key West on March 31 with orders from General Scott for Captain Vodges to land his company at Ft. Pickens.
 - 1). Vodges showed his instructions to Captain Adams, the senior U.S. officer present.
 - 2). Captain Adams noted the date of the orders (March 12) and concluded that they had been given without clear comprehension of the situation at Pensacola.
 - a). He decided to ignore them.
 - b). He felt their implementation would precipitate a collision against the wishes of the Lincoln administration.
- Adams stated:

"I cannot take on myself under such insufficient authority as General Scott's order the fearful responsibility for an act which seems to render civil war inevitable."

J. Federals Reinforce Ft. Pickens

1. Soon after his March 4, 1861 inauguration, President Lincoln's advisers brought to his attention the isolated condition of Ft. Pickens.
2. At a cabinet meeting on March 29, it was decided to reinforce the fort.
3. Colonel Harvey Brown, commander of the 5th Artillery, lead the expedition.
4. The naval escort would be commanded by Lt. David D. Porter.
 - a. He was to proceed to New York and take command of the steamer Powhatan.
 - b. At 2 p.m. on April 2, Powhatan's engines were apart, and the navy yard workmen were preparing to place her in drydock. Captain Foote (acting commandant of the Brooklyn Navy Yard) directed that a double force be worked night and day until she was ready for sea.
 - c. On April 6, four days after Powhatan was taken in hand, steam was up, everything in place, the pilot aboard, and the lines ready to cast off.
 - d. Lt. Porter boarded the ship in civilian garb.
 - 1). He went into the cabin and locked himself in the Captain's stateroom.
 - 2). The ship pulled away from the dock at 1 p.m. proceeding as far as Staten Island before Captain Mercer left her.
 - e. While she was lying off Staten Island, waiting for return of the boat which had taken Captain Mercer ashore, a swift steamer came alongside, and Lt. Francis A. Roe of the Navy handed Porter a message reading, "Give up the Powhatan to Capt. Mercer."
 - 1). Is was signer by the Secretary of State.
 - 2). Secretary of the Navy Wells had apparently convinced the President that Powhatan should be directed from the expedition for the relief of Ft. Pickens to the one being formed for the relief of Ft. Sumter.
 - f. Lt. Porter read the dispatch, and decided that there was only one thing to do--destroy it. The artillery for Brown's expedition was aboard Powhattan, and the steamer Atlantic, with the troops, he supposed had sailed at noon and was at least ten miles at sea. If he stopped to restore the ship, the expedition might fail. In addition, his orders were from the President. He determined to obey them. Porter had Roe telegraph Washington: "I received my orders from the President and shall proceed and execute them."
5. Colonel Brown organizes his command.
 - a. Company A, 2nd Artillery reinforced the expedition.
 - 1). It was equipped for service in the field and brought along its cannon, horses, and mules etc.
 - b. As the expeditions destination was a secret known only to Colonel Brown, Captain Meigs, Lt. Porter, the President, and several other top Washington officials, the outfitting of Atlantic as a transport and the taking on of stores, many of them of warlike character, aroused attention.
 - 1). When the troops arrived, "wonderment" zoomed.

- c. For weeks the citizens attention had been focused on Ft. Sumter as the only place in need of relief. Fort Pickens was hardly known to the public.
 - 1). All leaped to the conclusion that the expedition's goal was Fort Sumter.
 - d. The assembly and embarkation of the two companies 2d Artillery, two companies of the 3d Infantry, and the company of Sappers and Miners--392 officers and men-- was the easiest task confronting Colonel Brown.
 - 1). Major headaches were faced by the Quartermaster, Ordnance, and Commissary Departments because without rations and war material Ft. Pickens could not be held.
 - e. On April 6 Colonel Brown...reached New York City from Washington.
 - 1). That afternoon the sailors embarked on Atlantic.
 - 2). She sailed next morning at 3:30 A.M.
 - 3). Captain Gray brought his ship off Ft. Pickens on the evening of the 16th.
6. The War Department knew that its soldiers, isolated on Santa Rosa Island needed the assistance of a second engineer to place Ft. Pickens in condition to resist attack.
- a. Since Lt. Prime's parole precluded his joining Lt. Slemmer, Bvt. Maj. Zealous B. Tower was appointed to the job.
 - b. Major Tower arrived off Santa Rosa Island aboard Brooklyn on her March 31 return from Key West.
 - c. Visiting Ft. Pickens in early April, he found that Lt. Slemmer and his small force had erected blindages to protect two of the magazines, and had filled up the "entrance way, reducing the opening to a space about 7 foot square putting on an additional set of gates on the outside flush with the batteries so that men could not stand on the bridges without being exposed to the flank guns."
7. First Reinforcements Land
- a. On April 6, to supplement the orders of Colonel Brown, Secretary of the Navy Wells gave orders to Lt. John L. Worden to hasten to Pensacola with dispatches for Captain Adams.
 - 1). The substance of these orders was that Ft. Pickens be immediately reinforced.
 - 2). Worden delivered his dispatches to Adams on the afternoon of April 12.
 - 3). Upon receipt of Welle's instructions, Adams prepared to reinforce Pickens, first notifying Captain Vodges of the changed situation.
 - b. About 2 a.m. on April 13, the exhausted garrison welcomed Captain Vodge's Company A, 1st Artillery, and 110 Marines led by Lt. John C. Cash who came ashore in boats through the surf.
 - 1). Ft. Pickens had been reinforced and the modus vivendi was now a scrap of paper.
 - c. Although the U.S. forces on Santa Rosa Island did not learn about it for several days, Confederate batteries in Charleston Harbor at 4:30 a.m. on April 12, had opened fire on Ft. Sumter, the Civil War had begun.

- d. To continue to hold the fort, it would be necessary to occupy five miles of Santa Rosa Island to the eastward.
 - e. Captain Vodges, once his men were ashore, feared General Bragg would counter by landing a force on Santa Rosa Island to the east of the fort.
 - 1). To deter the Confederates from such a maneuver, Wyandotte and Brooklyn anchored to sweep this exposed area with broadsides.
 - f. Bragg, as expected, assumed that Worden had brought the dispatches effecting the reinforcement of Ft. Pickens, and ordered his arrest.
 - 1). Worden was apprehended and incarcerated for several months.
8. Colonel Brown's Command Arrives
- a. The steamer Atlantic arrived off Santa Rosa Island on the evening of April 16.
 - b. To hoodwink General Bragg, Brown determined to put his force ashore immediately.
 - 1). By 2 a.m. on the 17th, the Sappers and Miners and the foot soldiers of Companies C and E, 3rd Artillery, were ashore.
 - 2). Next morning they were followed by the red legs of Companies A and M, 2d Artillery.
 - 3). The men came ashore in boats provided by the Navy, while the horses of Battery A were lowered into the water by slinging. After being released from the ship's tackle, they swam ashore, "beingtowed by a boat a short distance to give them a start toward" the island.
 - a). The only casualties during the landing were three horses drowned. Four had died previously and had been thrown overboard in the boisterous passage, making seven lost in passage out of 73 embarked.
9. Major Tower (engineer), since his arrival, had developed a keen appreciation of Lt. Slemmer.
- a. "What he has gone through," he wrote General Totten, "entitles him to great rewards and I hope the President will immediately brevet him major and appoint him too a staff appointment of Captain...He deserves it all. For he has passed through a severe trial equal to many battles and I regard his position as having been more dangerous and more trying than that of Major Anderson. I could not feel it 'til I came here and took a part in it myself.
 - b. Major Tower warned Totten that General Bragg's forces were active. Among his officers, Bragg had several graduates of West Point, who had been friends of Towers.
 - 1). The Rebels were casting shot at the navy yard and placing guns in battery between sandbag revetments to the east and west of Ft. Barrancas.
 - c. All traffic between Santa Rosa Island and the mainland having been cut off, he was unable to ascertain Bragg's strength. Some of the officers placed it as high as 7,000.

10. The sloop-of-war Powhattan reached Ft. Pickens on April 17.
 - a. Assisted by the sailors, Brown's soldiers were turned to landing tons of supplies from Atlantic and Powhatan.
 - 1). Whenever the surf permitted, the disembarkation was carried on in the small boats.
 - 2). No southerners interrupted the landing.
 - b. Much more difficult than landing the supplies was getting them from the beach to the fort. There was no lumber to spare for the construction of a plank road. There were no mules or carts with which to relieve the soldiers.
 - 1). Lt. Slemmer had managed to bring over from the Barrancas in January one mule and a cart. The mule, however, had deserted. Wading into the bay, he swam across to the mainland and joined the Rebels.

11. Colonel Brown's First Days Ashore
 - a. Colonel Brown pronounced Fort Pickens defenses miserable.
 - 1). The guns mounted by Lt. Slemmer were too few.
 - a). All were smooth bores.
 - b. Orders were issued employing the entire garrison in mounting additional guns, building roads, and preparing quarters.
 - c. The problem facing Major Tower was basically reversing the forts defenses.
 - 1). They had been constructed to defeat a fleet attempting to force its way into Pensacola Bay.
 - 2). Now the threat was from the mainland, the front designed for light armament and containing 2 of the 3 magazines.
 - d. Brown drove his officers and men, because he did not know when Bragg might attack.
 - e. On April 17, the morning after Brown landed on Santa Rosa Island, a flotilla of steam tugs, schooners, and barges started across the bay from the mainland.
 - 1). They were crowded with troops and headed for the shore of Santa Rosa Island.
 - 2). Approaching to within 1½ miles of the bay shore, the flotilla stopped and appeared to be preparing to make a landing.
 - 3). Lt. Porter aboard Powhatan sent his men to their battle stations.
 - a). An XI-inch Dahlgren was fired, it burst above the flotilla.
 - 4). This resulted in a rapid retreat toward Pensacola.
 - 5). Bragg had taken Powhatan and Atlantic for supply ships which he hoped to capture.

12. On April 20, the steamer Illinois reached Santa Rosa Island with additional reinforcements (Companies H & K, 2d Artillery) and supplies.
 - a. Colonel Browns command now mustered 853 officers and men.

13. On April 27 Captain Adams ordered Lt. Porter to set up a blockade of Pensacola harbor using the Powhatan as a guard ship.
 - a. "You will have all vessels bound in and out of Pensacola boarded by a lieutenant... if any vessels bound in are found to have munitions of war on board, they are not to be allowed to enter the harbor."

14. On April 6, 1861 General Bragg had been alerted by his superiors in Montgomery, of the outfitting in New York of Colonel Brown's expedition.
 - a. Recognizing the critical situation Secretary of War Walker called on the governors of the Southern states for additional troops.
 - b. By April 12, Bragg's force had been increased to about 5,000 men.
 - c. After the debarkation of Brown's men affairs became more tense along the opposing works frowning at each other across the bay.
 - d. April passed into history with the modus vivendi shattered to the Federal's advantage, but, unlike at Ft. Sumter, hostilities had been averted.

K. Federals and Confederates Prepare to Bite the Bullet

1. On the night of May 5 Confederate engineers placed obstacles in the channel between Fts. Pickens and McRee.
 - a. These obstacles, it was hoped, would prevent the Federal fleet from forcing its way into the harbor.
2. Colonel Brown decided to place a part of his command in an entrenched camp outside Ft, Pickens.
 - a. A favorable site was found about 1 & 3/4 miles east of the fort.
 - b. The men and horses would be healthy and safe from the annoyance of hostile fire.
 - c. Two companies of the 3rd Infantry joined Barry's battery at the camp.
3. As the hot summer months approached, there was a noticeable increase in the number of soldiers reporting for sick call.
 - a. This could be attributed to several factors, one of which was the arduous labor under a torrid sun.
 - b. Scurvy had broken out in Company G, 1st Artillery (Slemmers command) and Colonel Brown, the certification of Asst. Surg. John Campbell that a temperate climate was necessary for the troops to recoup their health, ordered them to Ft. Hamilton, New York.
 - 1). On May 12 Company G boarded the ship Philadelphia for the trip north.
4. Company G was replaced on May 31, when Company F, 1st Artillery arrived at the post from Key West.
5. By the last week in May, the Federals had completed and armed two batteries exterior to Ft. Pickens.
 - a. Battery Cameron, on the bay side of the island, 600 yards northwest of the fort.
 - b. Battery Lincoln, on the strand east of Battery Cameron.
 - 1). This battery confronted the Rebel navy yard battery at a range of 1,200 yards.
6. In the first week of May, the Lincoln administration determined to enforce the blockade declared by the Presidential proclamations of April 19 and 27 by sending additional naval forces to the Gulf.

7. Drifting Drydock Tests Brown's Nerves

- a. Tensions that had been building up since the mid-April landing of the reinforcements nearly exploded before daybreak on May 22.
- b. At 3 a.m. the guard reported that the floating dry dock had left the navy yard and was crossing the bay.
 - 1). There had been rumors for days that the Rebels had outfitted the dock as a floating battery.
- c. The "long roll" was beaten, "and every man rushed to his post, uncertain as to what deviltry the rebs might be up to. The gloom of the night magnified her size until she appeared...like Castle Williams floating off from Governors Island.
- d. The dry dock ceased its ominous approach, when it grounded within less than a mile of Battery Lincoln.
- e. Daylight revealed to the Federals "nothing but an empty structure of wood, harmless as an old cracker box stranded on the beach.
- f. The Confederates had intended to tow the drydock from Warrington to Pensacola, where it would be safe in case of bombardment.
 - 1). A strong Northerly wind either broke her loose from the tugs or they were unable to control her movements.
 - 2). It drifted toward the Federal batteries.
 - 3). To prevent the dock running aground on Santa Rosa Island the Confederates anchored it.
 - 4). Bragg, not knowing whether Colonel Brown would accept his explanation, decided not to hazard the loss of tugs in towing the dock to safety, and it was scuttled within less than a mile of batteries Lincoln and Camerob.
- g. One night when Lt. Francis W. Seeley was officer-of-the-day, he invited Lt. Loomis Langdon to accompany him, and they would burn the stranded dock.
 - 1). Langdon was agreeable.
 - 2). The moon was down, when the two Army officers took their seats in the boat.
 - 3). With the sailors pulling on muffled oars, the small craft headed east.
 - 4). Boarding the dock, Seeley and Langdon gathered a quantity of loose rope, lying about, into a pile, poured on turpentine, and set fire to the mess.
 - 5). Reboarding the small craft, they had the sailors pull for shore.
 - 6). Flames lighted the bay, rousing both camps.
 - 7). Colonel Brown sent a crew to extinguish the fire, before the flames made much headway.
 - 8). He was furious about the affair. "He was angry because he feared Bragg might open his batteries while we were yet far from being ready to resist."
 - 9). Colonel Brown soon drew an admission from Seeley that he knew something of the incident. He ordered Seeley and Langdon court-martialed.

- 10). An officer named to act as their council interviewed the small boat crew. "O yes," the sailors replied, "we know all about it, but the officers...were drunk, and did not know what they were doing."
 - a). Sailor-like, they believed drunkenness was an excuse for anything, and were much "grieved and astonished" when told that in the Army such a charge would be considered an aggravation of the offense.
 - b). They now changed their story.
 - c). They discovered that "they knew nothing whatever of the case, further than they had been of the crew that had rowed the boat to the dock, and that two persons, whether officers or not they could not say, had clambered up out of their sight on to the dock."
- 11). The court accordingly acquitted Seeley and Langdon "greatly to the chagrin" of Colonel Brown.

8. Supply situation improves

- a. On May 30 Montgomery Meigs, who on his return from Florida had been promoted to Colonel, was directed by the Secretary of War "to take charge of the organization and dispatch of an expedition to sail from New York and Portsmouth under sealed orders."
- b. The energetic future Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army responded with alacrity.
- c. A request was made upon the governor of New York to designate a regiment of volunteers who had enlisted to serve for at least two years.
- d. The regiment was sent off immediately.
- e. Colonel William Wilson's 6th Regiment New York Volunteers was selected by Governor Edwin D. Morgan and ordered to embark.
- f. Meigs, who seemed omnipresent, quickly had reinforcements of men and material flowing to the Florida Gulf Coast.

9. Battery Scott was being erected on the point of the island opposite Ft. McRee.

10. Colonel Brown loses two Companies of Regulars and Gains Billy Wilsons Zouaves.

- a. The weather having turned hot and humid, the number of men reporting for sick call increased rapidly.
 - 1). By the 4th week in June at least 90 men reported daily to the surgeon.
 - 2). Most of the sickness could be attributed to hard work in the sun, sleeping in damp casemates, and drinking tainted water.
 - a). Nearly six weeks had passed since any rain had fallen
 - b). One of the fort's cisterns leaked and the others had to be used sparingly.
- b. Orders were received for Colonel Brown to embark aboard ship two of his companies of regulars (Companies A & M, 2d Artillery) for transfer to the Washington, D.C. area.
 - 1). They would be replaced by Colonel Wilsons 6th New York.

- c. Colonel Brown complained to the War Department of the loss of the veteran artillerists and the decision to replace them with volunteers.
- d. Soldiers of the 6th New York landed on Santa Rosa Island on June 26.
 - 1). Colonel Wilson, one of the regulars recalled: "was a famous character..., a Tammany heeler from the slums of New York, and his entire regiment was composed of the same character. His regiment had been selected especially for its noted worthless character, and sent to Santa Rosa as a place where it could do the least harm, for no good could possibly come out of such a Nazareth. This was a bitter pill for old Harvey (Colonel Brown) to swallow, and loudly did he kick and squirm against it.
 - 2). Wilsons regiment moved into the camp in the woods one mile east of Ft. Pickens vacated by Barry battery.
- e. On July 10 Company L, 1st U.S. Artillery reported to Colonel Brown for duty on Santa Rosa Island.

L. War Means Fighting and Fighting Brings Bloodshed

- 1. July and August were peaceful months on Pensacola Bay.
 - a. Both sides continued to strengthen their positions and watch and wait.
- 2. On July 21, in northern Virginia the Confederates had routed McDowell's army at Manassas, and in southwest Missouri on August 10 at Wilson's Creek the Rebels had won another victory.
- 3. The new hospital on the beach was completed by the end of the 3rd week in July.
- 4. September 13, the Company of Sappers and Miners left for New York
- 5. They were replaced by Company C, 2d Artillery, from Ft. Jefferson.
- 6. Most of the regulars were quartered in Ft. Pickens.
 - a. Lt. Henry W. Closson of Company F, 1st Artillery, was certain none of his comrades would ever forget "Long Hall" or "Hell Row" as it was enviously dubbed by the outsiders.
 - 1). It was a flank casemate occupied as quarters by a number of younger officers.
 - 2). Their furniture was mainly mounted flank howitzers and budge barrels filled with cartridges, which were allotted as seats to the smokers. There were also a few barrels of commissary whiskey stored in this area for safe keeping, and used as tables. Army cots filled evert corner and an inflatable india-rubber mattress belonging to a member of the Engineer Corps... His comrades found pleasure in turning the nozzle, after the engineer had retired, and the air "came murmuring forth as young Bastions, sank gently to the cold brick below, and woke to find himself encircled by a whooping throng of savages who had been patiently waiting the catastrophe, having first water-logged the corps revolver in the wash basin."

7. The health of the Santa Rosa Island troops was endangered because the troops had not had any vegetables for months.
 - a. Scurvey had appeared. One man was near death and others were affected.
 - b. To combat this scourge, Lt. Langdon, now serving as post commissary, had purchased all the anti-scorbutics possible, had written Key West twice and had done everything he could to induce ship captains to bring in these items.
 - c. Desiccated vegetables had been issued liberally, but once the scurvy broke out nothing could check it but fresh vegetables.
 - d. The arrival of the steamer McClellan with a supply of fresh beef, curbed the scurvy outbreak.

8. The armed truce was disturbed on August 25, when a vessel sought to put to sea.
 - a. A shot from battery Cameron screamed across her bow, and she dropped her sail and quickly retired in the direction of Pensacola.

9. On the evening of Septamber 2, Colonel Brown ordered Lt. Alexander Shipley to burn the dry dock.
 - a. Shipley placed combustibles and shells in the hold and fired the dock, which burned to the waters edge.
 - b. Colonel Brown justified the destruction of this property of the U.S. by stating that his action was necessary to frustrate Confederate efforts to repair and refloat the dock.

10. Six nights later, on September 8, General Bragg sent a 9 man marine patrol out in a rowboat. Deserting to the foe, they informed Colonel Brown that the Confederates were continuing their build-up.

11. Confederate authorities at Pensacola were at this time fitting out the schooner Judah as a privateer.
 - a. While being prepared for sea, she was moored to a wharf at the navy yard and covered by a heavy gun emplacement ashore.
 - b. Flag Officer Mervine determined to destroy Judah before she could put to sea.
 - c. In the darkness of September 13-14 four small boats cast away from the U.S.S. Colorado.
 - d. The raiding force consisted of about 100 sailors and marines commanded by Lt. John H. Russell.
 - e. With oars muffled the raiders approached Judah about 3:30 a.m.
 - f. The confederate sailors, forwarned, greeted the Federals with a volly of musketry as they neared the vessel.
 - g. Led by Lt. Russell, sword in hand the blue jackets and marines clambered aboard Judah.
 - 1). After a brief struggle they captured the privateer.
 - h. Lt. Russell ordered Lt. John G. Sproston to take a party and search out and spike the gun emplacements nearby.
 - 1). When at last discovered, fortunately for the Federals, only one man was posted at the gun. He was shot.
 - 2). The heavy gun, a 10 inch columbiad was spiked.
 - i. Lt. Russell torched Judah and the schooner blazed.
 - j. The expedition had accomplished all its objectives in less than 15 minutes.

- k. The raiders had accomplished their mission with the loss of 3 killed and 13 wounded.
- l. The defenders lost 3 killed and an undetermined number wounded.
- m. The burning of Judah is deserving of remembrance as the first Civil War encounter in Florida in which there was loss of life.

12. Battle of Santa Rosa Island

- a. The Judah raid did not provoke General Bragg into a rash attack on Ft. Pickens. He bided his time.
- b. On the night of October 9-10, 1861 Bragg landed 1,000 men on Santa Rosa Island.
- c. The Confederates came ashore on the bay side of the island, about four miles east of Ft. Pickens.
- d. After forming into 3 columns, they advanced westward and surprised and routed from their camp a battalion of the 6th new York.
- e. At dawn Union troops advanced from Ft. Pickens to engage the Rebels.
- f. The Confederates, having failed to reach any of the Union batteries east of the fort, withdrew to a point where they came ashore.
- g. They reboarded their vessels without difficulty, but disaster threatened when a hawser became entangled in one of the ship's propellers.
 - 1). Before they could clear the screw the Federals came up on the double and opened fire on the crowded transports.
 - 2). The Confederates now cut the obstruction away and the vessel drifted free.
- h. In this engagement the Confederates reported a loss of 18 killed, 39 wounded and 30 missing and presumed prisoners of war.
- i. Colonel Brown listed his losses as 14 killed, 29 wounded and 24 prisoners.
- j. Writing General Totten of the battle Major Tower observed: "I have no doubt that the enemy was most disappointed with the results. The zouaves [the 6th New York] (excepting the pickets) proved of little account. They were badly commanded... (The Rebels) destroyed about 3/4 of the tents of 5 companies of Zouaves and robbed some of the officers trunks. They ought to have been more severely punished for coming with 1,000 men within a mile of our work, but in the confusion of a night attack matters do not always get on well.

13. November 22-23 Bombardment

- a. Colonel Brown, angered by the Rebel raid, thundered that "an insult so gross to the flag of my country" can "not by me be passed unnoticed."
- b. He proposed a joint Army-Navy attack on the Confederates harbor defenses.
- c. At 10 o'clock, on the 22d, the Federals opened fire and the noisiest military demonstration in the history of Florida began.

- d. In the bombardment the Santa Rosa Island Federals would employ:
- ten 10-inch columbiads
 - six 8-inch columbiads
 - eleven 42-pounder James rifles
 - two 42-pounder smooth bores
 - four 8-inch seacoast howitzers
 - four 10-inch seacoast mortars
 - one 12-inch sea coast mortar
 - one 13-inch seacoats mortar
 - five 10-inch siege mortars
 - twelve 32-pounder smooth bores
 - one 10-pounder parrott
- e. At 10 a.m., November 22, as Colonel Brown watched, the forts signal gun, mounted at the flagstaff, was fired and a red flag positioned on the Tower Bastion
- 1). The bombardment was on.
- f. Upon discharge of the signal gun, Niagra stood in toward shore, followed by Richmond.
- 1). Both ships came to anchor with springs on their cables about 2 miles from Ft. McRee. They opened fire.
- 2). Flag -officer McKean saw that the shells from Niagra were falling short.
- a). he ordered his ship to close to a distance of 1 & 3/4 miles.
- b). From this station fire resumed with marked effect, many of the shells falling upon the fort and the water battery.
- g. A storm of shells burst among the startled and unsuspecting Confederates.
- 1). Confederate batteries in the neighborhood of the navy yard, upon which the Federal attacks had burst with fury, were manned by Brig. Gen. Richard H. Anderson's 2d Brigade.
- 2). Within a few minutes his men recovered from their surprise and returned a vigorous fire.
- h. Three times during the long afternoon, the woodwork at Ft. McRee burst into flame, threatening to drive out the occupants.
- 1). The fires were as often extinguished.
- 2). To add to the Rebels peril their magazines were laid bare to the enemy's shells which exploded around them.
- 3). Colonel Villepigue was wounded. However, he refused evacuation to a less exposed position. His coolness and example inspired his men with confidence, and they held a position which at times seemed untanable.
- 4). By 3:15 p.m. the Ft. McRee water battery ceased replying to the Federals and shortly thereafter the barbette guns of Ft. McRee were silenced.
- a). Encouraged, the Federals redoubled their efforts.
- b). The fire of the forts casemate guns gradually slackened and by 5 p.m. was muted.
- i. Darkness brought a welcomed respite to a bombardment that had lasted more than eight hours.

- j. General Bragg believed, "For the number and caliber of guns and weight of metal brought into action it will rank with the heaviest bombardments in the world."
 - 1). Dwellings in Pensacola seven miles away had trembled with the effect, and immense numbers of dead fish floated on the bay, stunned by the concussions.
- k. On the mainland General Bragg's battered command exerted itself to shore up sagging defenses.
- l. Next morning, November 23, at 10 o'clock Colonel Brown ordered a resumption of the bombardment.
 - 1). Gun captains of the 10-inch columbiads and rifled 42-pounders were each directed to maintain a rate of fire of one shell every 15 minutes.
 - 2). The mortars were discharged at half hour intervals.
- m. The guns of Ft. McRee were again silenced by the pinpoint accuracy of Colonel Brown's artillerists.
- n. One of the Yankees guns manned by Company E, 3d Infantry, on the southwest channel front was disabled by a Rebel 10-inch shell coming through its embrasure.
 - 1). The shell, fortunately for the Yankees, did not explode
 - 2). Six men were wounded by flying brick.
- o. About 2 p.m. the Federals began throwing hotshot and shell into the deserted villages of Warrington and Woolsey.
 - 1). At 2:30 a house in the southwest section of Warrington was fired, either by Battery Lincoln or Cameron.
 - a). Flames spread to the nearby churchsteeple.
 - b). From there the conflagration was transmitted to other buildings along the street until probably 2/3 of the village was destroyed.
 - 2). Shortly thereafter fires kindled in Woolsey.
- p. With darkness the Yankee guns ceased fire, but the mortars continued to harass the Rebels until 2 a.m.
- q. During the 2 day bombardment the Federals expended nearly 5,000 rounds of ammunition and the Rebels about 1,000.
- r. An inspection of Ft. Pickens demonstrated the value of sand as a protective cover for masonry.
 - 1). It is "safe to say," one of the federals wrote, "that, but for the shelter given the parade faces of the casemates, they would have been rendered untenable, for the fort" was subject to direct, reverse, and flank fire by the Rebel forts and batteries.
 - 2). The open stairways from the parade tp parapet were badly broken and their iron railings twisted and torn.
- s. Another factor in the Union success, besides use of sand and logs to protect and reinforce the masonry defenses, was the superiority of the Federal artillerists, a majority of whom had seen service in the "Old Army" and had served a lengthy apprenticeship on the big guns.
 - 1). Recently recruited Confederate artillerists rate of fire was about 1/5 that of the Federals.
 - 2). In the face of the concentrated and accurate fire of Brown's cannoners, the Southerners' counter fire was at times silenced.

- t. Bragg reported his casualties as 7 killed and 33 wounded.
The Federals lost 2 killed and 13 wounded.
- u. On November 25, two days after the guns fell silent, there was a terrible accident on Santa Rosa Island.
 - 1. A party of regulars was gathering and disarming unexploded shells.
 - 2. One of the men, in removing the powder, carelessly knocked two shells together.
 - 3. The ensuing explosion wiped out the party, killing 5 and wounding 7.

M. Confederates Cut Their Commitments

- 1. On December 3 Union forces led by Brig, Gen. John W. Phelps reoccupied Ship Island, Mississippi.
 - a. This island, lying 12 miles off the Mississippi coast, provided an ideal base for units of the Federal fleet blockading the mouths of the Mississippi River.
- 2. In addition a serious threat to Mobile was posed with the Northerners in possession of the islands flanking Mississippi sound.
- 3. Despite the loss of Ship Island, the Pensacola garrison was weakened during the first week in December by dispatch of the 7th Alabama Infantry Regiment to East Tennessee.
- 4. During this time the Federals were reinforced by the 75th New York Volunteers, Col. John A. Dodge commanding.
- 5. Colonel Brown asked to be relieved of his post, citing "that I cannot endure another summer in this enervating climate, and that my health and probably my life will be sacrificed by it. I have spent upwards of 15 years in Florida, and I require the bracing influences of a Northern Climate.
- 6. January 1-2 Bombardment
 - a. The next clash in Pensacola Bay was precipitated by the Confederates.
 - 1). On January 1, 1862, about 3 a.m. a small steamer was imprudently brought into the wharf at the navy yard within range of the Federal guns.
 - 2). Colonel Brown viewed it as sheer bravado or an attempt by the Rebels to draw his fire.
 - 3). He ordered his heavy guns to open upon the steamer.
 - b. On the mainland General Anderson was in command of the Confederate forces in the absence of General Bragg, who was inspecting the defenses of Mobile Bay.
 - 1). Anderson, having celebrated the new year, was drunk.
 - 2). Forgetful of the demonstrated superiority of the Yankee artillerists, Anderson alerted the Rebel batteries to be prepared to open fire.
 - c. The Yankees vigorously replied, using only their heaviest guns.
 - 1). By 9 p.m. a large fire was burning in the navy yard.
 - 2). Within an hour the whole firmament was illuminated as a large and valuable warehouse full of public property, burned.
 - 3). At 4 a.m., January 2, with the return of an irate General Bragg the Confederate cannoners secured their pieces.
 - d. The Federals reported two men slightly injured. Though the Confederates did not have any killed or wounded, considerable damage was caused by the fire in the navy yard.

7. Confederates Prepare to Abandon the Pensacola Area.
 - a. Southern disasters in Ky and Middle Tennessee in the period Jan. 19 - Feb. 16 had sweeping repercussions in all parts of the Confederacy.
 - b. On Feb. 8, two days after the loss of Ft. Henry on the Tennessee river, General Bragg received a message from Secretary of War Benjamin reading: "The President desires that you will as soon as possible send to Knoxville all the troops you can spare from your command...and he hopes that the number will be at least four regiments.
 - c. Confederate morale in Braggs' department was chilled further on Feb. 16 when rumors of the loss of Ft. Donalson were received.
 - d. Bragg was informed "The President desires that you proceed as promptly as possible to withdraw your forces from Pensacola and Mobile and hasten to the defense of the Tennessee line.
 - e. The War Department proposed to withdraw all Southern forces from Pensacola--as a weak garrison would inevitably invite capture--but would leave an "effective garrison " in the forts guarding the entrance to Mobile Bay. The continued occupation of these forts, it was believed, would deter for an extended period a movement against Mobile.
 - f. Braggs orders were to "leave nothing the enemy can use; burn all from Ft. McRee to the junction with the Mobile road. Save the guns, and if necessary destroy your gunboats and all other boats that might be used against us.
8. Santa Rosa Island Federals Get a New Commander
 - a. The War Department, acting on Brown's request, relieved him of command of the Department of Florida.
 - b. On February 22 Brown tyrned over his responsibilities to Brig. Gen. Lewis G. Arnold.
9. Confederates Send off Most of their Big Guns
 - a. Confederate evacuation of Pensacola is hampered by damage caused to the railroads by heavy rains and local flooding.
10. Confederate Defeats at Shiloh and New Orleans Doom Pensacola
 - a. At Shiloh, on April 6-7, Confederate legions had been repulsed in what up to then was the bloodiest battle in which American arms had participated.
 - b. Before three weeks had passed, the Confederacy suffered another body blow.
 - 1). Flag-officer Farragut's fleet, having entered the Mississippi, attacked the twin masonry forts, Jackson and St. Phillip, 70 miles below New Orleans.
 - 2). The Confederate Commander at New Orleans, Maj. Gen. Mansfield Lovell, frantically telegraphed General Jones to rush him some big guns for defense of the Mississippi.
 - 3). To assist the New Orleans defenders and to deceive the Santa Rosa Island Federals, the Pensacola Confederates, under cover of darkness, removed a number of their columbiads, replacing them with fierce looking Quaker guns.
 - 4). It was too late, however. On April 24 General Lovell telegraphed, "The enemy has passed our forts. It is too late to send any guns here; they had better go to Vicksburg."

- c. Col. T.M. Jones, on learning of the Loss of New Orleans, concluded that with his limited means of defense made more critical by the dismounting and transfer of nearly all his big guns, it would be impossible to continue to hold Pensacola Bay.
 - 1). He determined on his own initiative to begin evacuating the remaining big guns and war material.
 - 2). On May 6, three days later, he received orders from the War Department to evacuate
11. Confederates Evacuate the Pensacola Area
- a. Under cover of darkness on May 9th, the Confederates marched from their camps, taking the road to Oakfield.
 - b. An hour after the departure of the main column, the sentinels were withdrawn and followed.
 - c. At 11:30 p.m. on May 9 the troopers commenced their work of destruction.
 - 1). Public buildings, tents, and everything of combustible material from the navy yard to Ft. McRee were enveloped in sheets of flames.
 - 2). Residents of Pensacola, 7 miles away, aided by the glare from the conflagration, could read a newspaper.
 - d. The Rebels, their work of destruction completed, withdrew from the area.
12. Federals occupy the Pensacola Enclave
- a. Across the bay, a few minutes after midnight General Arnold was aroused by the officer-of-the-day, and told of the conflagration.
 - b. Arnold called for aide-de-camp, Lt. Richard H. Jackson
 - 1). The aid was told to board the schooner Maria A. Wood, proceed to Pensacola, and demand the surrender of the city of its civil authorities.
 - 2). By 5:30 a.m. Maria A. Wood had arrived off the city and a boat bearing Lt. Jackson was sent ashore under a flag of truce.
 - 3). Acting mayor John Brosenham delivered the city into Federal hands.
 - c. Harriet Lane now turned into a ferry
 - 1). By 3 p.m. she landed 400 men of Companies A, F & L, 1st Artillery; Company C, 2d Artillery; Companies C & E, 3d Infantry; two field pieces, their teams, and some baggage carts in the neighborhood of the navy yard.
 - 2). Once upon the mainland, Arnold's troops wasted no time in hoisting "Old Glory" over the navy yard, Fts. Barrancas and McRee, and Barrancas Barracks.
 - d. On May 10, 1862 Arnold's command took formal possession of Pensacola.
 - 1). The March into the city was led by Colonel Billy Wilson's 6th New York, preceded by the "regimental goat neatly labled in red paint."
 - e. After 16 months the U.S. was again in possession of the forts and other public property seized by Southern forces on January 12, 1861.

XIII. 1860s See Many Structural Changes

- A. War bypasses Santa Rosa Island
 - 1. The tide of war which had caused the Confederacy to abandon Pensacola turned in the summer of 1862.
 - a. Taking the offensive along a 1,000 mile front Southern armies rolled back Federals.
 - b. In a series of battles beginning with Antietam on Sept. 17 and ending with Perryville on Oct. 8, the Union stemmed and reversed the Rebel surge.
 - 2. Pensacola was largely ignored by the belligerents.
 - 3. With Pensacola in Union hands Major Tower was recalled.
 - 4. Ft. Pickens, with most of the regulars on occupation duty on the mainland, was garrisoned by Company K, 2nd U.S. Artillery, and a succession of volunteer infantry companies.
 - 5. Capt. Harvey Allen of Company K commanded the fort and its garrison, General Arnold having transferred his headquarters to the Barrancas.
 - 6. The guard was responsible for the prisoners confined in the casemates.
 - a. Federal authorities used the fort as a prison for Rebel military and political prisoners, as well as a disciplinary barracks.
- B. In Oct. 7, 1863 Majoe Allen directed a letter to General Totten, requesting that an officer of engineers be sent to Ft. Pickens to inspect and report on its condition.
 - 1. General Totten sent his senior construction engineer on the Gulf Coast, Capt. John C. Palfrey, to visit Ft. Pickens, examine the condition of the fort and undertake such repairs as were "indispensably necessary for its efficiency and urgently needed for its preservation."
 - a. The slight damage to the scarp suffered in the bombardment of November 22-23 and January 1-2, 1862 should be repaired.
 - b. Ft. McRee, which with Ft. Pickens had been constructed to command the channel was "destroyed and defenceless."
- C. Altering the Platforms and Rehabilitating the Fort with Capt. Palfrey
 - 1. A small force of artisans and laborers were hired and put to work rehabilitating the fort in the spring of 1864 under the immediate supervision of Capt. Arthur Hodges of the 38th Massachusetts Infantry.
 - a. The laborers were turned to salvaging and cleaning bricks from the ruins of Ft. McRee and transporting them to Santa Rosa Island, and removing the blindages fronting the north and south parade curtains.
 - b. The brick masons commenced repairing damage to the scarp suffered in the Rebel bombardments.
 - 1). Because of the poor quality of the masonry this proved to be a "more extensive" project than anticipated.
 - 2). A shot in one instance was found to have penetrated two feet and had taken out 16 square feet of the scarp.
 - 2. General Totten, who had held the chief engineer position for more than 25 years, died of pneumonia on April 22, 1864.
 - a. Totten's successor was Richard Delafield
 - 1). He assumed his duties on May 19.

3. Men would be sent from New Orleans to alter the Tower Bastion Platform to receive a 15-inch Rodman cannon.
 - a. Capt. Palfrey recommended that the Ordnance Department not send the giant Rodman and its carriage to Santa Rosa Island until its platform was ready to receive them, as there was no hoisting gear on the island and the wharf needed to be reinforced.
4. During the fiscal year 1865, despite an uncertain financial situation, the construction hands made satisfactory progress.
 - a. In September the masons continued to repair and patch breaks and damage to the scarp caused by Rebel cannon.
 - b. Traverse circles for the casemate and barbette guns were repaired, except for some of the columbiad platforms.
 - c. By the end of the month, 8 front-pintle barbette platforms and 27 casemate platforms were ready to receive their armament.
 - d. The blindage for protection of entrance to the Northeast Bastion magazine had been roofed and braced.
 - e. When the mule railway for transporting granite blocks from the wharf into the fort was extended through the sallyport, the bad condition of the brick flooring necessitated its repairing.
 - f. In mid-May the 15-inch Rodman ordered to the fort the previous autumn was landed on Santa Rosa Island.

D. Troops Come and Go

1. In May, 1864 four companies (B,C,E&H) of the 25th U.S. Colored Troops reported for duty at the fort along with Company K, 7th Vermont.
2. Company K, 2d U.S. Artillery, on May 18 finally said good bye to Santa Rosa Island.
3. In Sept., 1866 a small detachment from Company E, 5th U.S. Artillery moved into Ft. Pickens to guard the public property after the departure of the 25th U.S. Colored Infantry.
 - a. Eleven months later, on August 26, the entire company crossed from Barrancas to Ft. Pickens to avoid a Yellow Fever outbreak.
 - b. The company returned to the mainland on Oct. 20
 - c. A detachment continued to occupy Fort Pickens until March, 1868, when it was withdrawn.
4. Care and protection of the government property would henceforth be the responsibility of the Engineer and Ordnance Departments.

E. Captain Merrill's Four Months as Superintending Engineer

1. IN the spring of 1865, after 4 years of war, the Confederacy collapsed.
2. Capt. Palfrey decided to leave the army.
3. The departments difficulty in finding a replacement for Palfrey was caused by almost $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Corps' officers being on detached service and not subject to its orders.
4. On SEpt. 13, Palfrey was directed to turn over to Capt. John M. Wilson his duties related to Ship Island and the New Orleans forts and to Capt. William E. Merrill responsibility for the seacoast defenses of Pensacola and Mobile Bays.
5. Merrill reached Pensacola Bay and established his headquarters at the Barrancas a few days before Christmas.

6. Disgusted with duty in the peacetime Army, Captain Merrill on December 23 had applied for a six-month leave to enable him "to perfect arrangements for leaving the service."
 - a. Soon afterwards Merrill was notified by the Adjutant General that he could obtain a six-month leave on submission of his resignation.
 - b. On March 19 General Delafield wrote Capt. Merrill that he was to turn over his Pensacola and Mobile Bay responsibilities to Capt. McAlester.

- F. Captain McAlesters 17 months as Superintending Engineer.
 1. In late April, Captains McAlester and Merrill traveled to Pensacola, where the former formally relieved the latter of his responsibilities for the Pensacola and Mobile Bay defenses. McAlester then returned to his New Orleans headquarters.
 2. Very little money was spent on maintenance and protection of the Pensacola Bay defenses in the fiscal year 1867.
 - a. When he filed his annual report for this period, Captain McAlester listed the forts condition as good.
 - b. No operations had been carried on and the engineer property was in charge of a keeper.

- G. Major Primes 19 months as Engineer.
 1. Frederick E. Prime returned to the Gulf Coast in Nov. 1867.
 2. Satisfied as to the probable stability of the Tower Bastion arches, Major Prime suggested that they mount and fire the 15-inch Rodman, after first removing the shoring. Such a test would demonstrate whether they could proceed with plans to construct 15-inch gun platforms on the Northwest and Southwest Bastions.
 - a. On October 24, 1868, Major Prime notified the Department that the 15-inch Rodman had been mounted on the Tower Bastion.
 - b. General Humphreys directed that the test involve firing the huge gun with a solid projectile and 60 pounds of powder at an elevation of 5 degrees, first to the front and then to the right and left as far as it could be traversed.
 - 1). This test would be repeated with 100-pound powder charges.
 - 2). Next there would be three discharges with 60 pounds of powder at maximum elevation, followed by a similar number with 100 pounds of powder with the piece at the same elevation.
 - c. The tests took place in the 4th week in November.
 - d. The artillerists fired the first test round with a 419 pound projectile and 30 pounds of powder.
 - e. After several rounds were fired the carriage was destroyed but the fort stood firm.
 3. 1868 - Major Prime had Capt. Suter rebuilt rather than repair the wharf.
 - a. New copper-sheeted pilings were driven by employing a nozzle of a hose attached to the foot of the pile.
 - b. A jet of water was forced through the hose to remove the sand, allowing the piling to sink from its own weight.
 - c. Gun carriages, shot, shell, and blocks of granite dropped from the wharf and vessels in discharging cargo and a sunken scow were encountered.
 - d. These made pile driving a more difficult operation than Prime had anticipated.
 - e. By June 30 all the pilings had been driven - the wharf should be completed by the end of June.

- H. Major Reese's 10 Months as Engineer in Charge
1. Major Prime was reassigned.
 2. His replacement was Maj. Chauncy B. Reese
 3. Reese reached Mobile on Nov. 19, 1869 and relieved Capt. Damrell as engineer in charge of the defenses of Pensacola and Mobile Bays and of the fort on Ship Island.
 4. In fiscal year 1870 the only funds spent by the Department at Pickens were for the fort keeper and the occasional hire of a "couple of laborers to care for the public property."
 5. On Sept. 23, 1870, 33-year old Major Reese died of yellow fever at Mobile.

XIV. Fifteen Relative Peaceful Years: 1870-1885

- A. Lt. Colonel James H. Simpson as Superintending Engineer: 1870-72
1. There would be little work on the fortifications in fiscal year 1871.
 2. A fort keeper was employed by Colonel Simpson to look after and care for the public property.
- B. On January 1, 1873 Colonel Simpson was relieved as superintending engineer by Lt. Col. W.F. Reynolds.
- C. Reynolds, in turn, was replaced by the officer's long time assistant Captain Damrell on April 17.
- D. In the autumn of 1873 there was a crisis that threatened war between the U.S. and Spain.
1. On Oct. 31 the U.S. merchantman Virginus was intercepted on the high seas off the coast of Jamaica by the Spanish gunboat Tornado.
 - a. Virginus was suspected by the Spanish government of carrying arms and men to assist Cuban forces that had rebelled against the mother country.
 - b. Virginus was brought into a Cuban port, and her American captain, 36 crewmen and 16 passengers summarily executed.
 - c. Public indignation in the U.S. caused the Grant administration to prepare for war to avenge the massacre and free Cuba from Spanish tyranny.
 2. On Nov. 21 the War Department alerted Captain Damrell "to use all possible dispatch in preparing all your works, so as to be able to place every available gun now at them in the best positions for defense from sea attack."
 3. The crisis was peacefully resolved.
 - a. It was established that Virginus was owned by Cuban revolutionaries and was illegally registered; that she had been carrying arms to Cuba; and was fraudulently flying the "stars and stripes."
 - b. Although Spain refused to punish her officers who had carried out the seizure or salute the U.S. flag, she released the Virginus survivors and paid an indemnity of \$80,000 to the families of the American victims.
 4. During the 6 weeks that the crisis had been at its height a number of projects had been undertaken at Ft. Pickens and some completed.
 - a. The cistern in the Southwest bastion, which had been leaking for years, was fixed.

- E. Yellow Fever Ravaged the Gulf Coast in 1873.
 - 1. Batteries A, F, & L, 1st Artillery garrisoned Barrancas Barracks in September when the fever struck Pensacola.
 - 2. On the 25th threecases were reported to Dr. George M. Sternberg.
 - 3. Major Brannan ordered his command across the bay to Ft. Pickens, where it was isolated.
 - 4. The garrison returned to Barrancas the end of November.

- F. Yellow fever struck again in Sept. 1874.
 - 1. The troops (Batteries A, F, L & M, 1st Artillery) were again evacuated to Ft. Pickens.

- G. Project for Modification of Ft. Pickens
 - 1. On March 10, 1875 General Humphreys notified Capt. Damrell that Congress had appropriated \$25,000 for modification of defenses of Ft. Pickens.
 - 2. Damrell would prepare and submit for review and approval by the Department an operating program for expenditure of this money.
 - 3. In so doing, he was to keep in mind that priority was to be given to construction of torpedo casemates and cable approaches , and to the emplacement of the greatest number of guns with their magazines and traverses.
 - 4. Capt. Damrell reported on April 12 that the \$25,000 would be expended in preparing the Northwest and Southwest Bastions for each mounting a 15-inch Rodman, or equivalent gun behind earthen parapets, with traverses or parados, containing necessary magazines.
 - 5. Capt. Damrells plan to commence the Ft. Pickens project in the summer of 1875 were doomed by the outbreak of yellow fever on the mainland.
 - a. Among the garrison and their dependents there were 76 cases, and of these 30 deaths, including women and children.
 - b. The troops did not return to Barrancas Barracks until Nov. 29.
 - 1). Capt. Damrell accordingly postponed operations until January 1, 1876.
 - 6. A large force was put to work on the Southwest Bastion in late February, 1876.
 - a. Capt. Damrell asked authority to remove 20,000 bricks from the ruins of Ft. McRee.
 - 7. For the next 14 years Congress refused to vote funds for the construction of seacoast fortifications, thus preventing further work on the Board of Engineers 1875 plan for modification of the Pensacola Harbor defenses.
 - a. Congress was understandably reluctant to spend additional large sums on coastal fortifications until the War Department could mature plans for a comprehensive modern scheme for defense of the nation's harbors and ports.

- H. In June 1879 Horatio G. Wright, Civil War hero and a senior officer in the Corps, replaced General Humphreys, who had retired after 12 years of service as Chief Engineer.

I. In July 1881, a group of businessmen contacted Secretary of War Robert Todd Lincoln. They wanted to purchase for \$500 all the remaining Ft. McRee brick work.

1. The surf was rapidly crumbling the brick walls of the fort, and about 2/3 of the casemated work had disappeared into the sea.
2. The remaining 1/3 would be destroyed within a few years.
3. The Engineers recommended against acceptance of the proposal.
 - a. They argued that the bricks were worth more to the U.S. for rubble in construction of the Pensacola jetties than the sum offered.
4. Construction of the jetties commenced that autumn.

J. When he filed his annual report for fiscal year 1884, Major Damrell informed the Department that the Ft. Pickens brickwork, with the exception of two arches under the Southwest and Tower Bastions (which had been cracked since the Civil War), was in "fair state of preservation."

1. A large portion of the scarp and breast height wall, required repointing, as did many of the casemates.
2. The brick paving of the terreplein and most of the casemates had settled and needed relaying.
3. The Southwest Bastion cistern leaked.
4. The woodwork in the officers quarters was completely rotten.
5. The main gate needed to be fixed.
6. Throughout the fort the wood and ironwork needed to be repainted.
7. The only gun emplaced in the fort was the 15-inch Rodman, with damaged carriage, on the Tower Bastion.

K. August 1885, Captain Richard L. Hoxie was placed in command of the Pensacola Forts.

XV. Ft. Pickens and the Dawn of the Endicott System

A. In the 1880's the only money spent on seacoast defenses was for maintenance.

1. "The fortifications fell into disrepair and the defense strength of the U.S." shrank to perhaps its lowest point since 1812.
2. Simultaneously, great advances were being made in the design and manufacture of heavy ordnance.
 - a. One important development involved the substitution of steel for iron in the casting of guns.
 - b. Another important advance was in the perfection of breech-loading.
 - 1). After 1865 breech-loading field guns replaced muzzle-loaders in the army of the U.S.
 - 2). The replacement of muzzle-loading heavy ordnance mounted in coastal defenses was not so rapid.
 - 3). The problem of developing a successful breech-loading gun was technological.
 - a). A breech-mechanism had to withstand the great heat given off by the detonation of the propellant, be capable of containing the gasses, and be machined to be opened and closed rapidly.
 - 4). It was not until the late 19th century that ordnance technology was sufficiently advanced to produce the well-machined block mechanisms required by the big rifled guns needed for coastal defense.

- c. Three other developments helped speed the emergence of modern coast artillery.
 - 1). Methods of rifling the tubes were improved.
 - 2). The development of the disappearing carriages that utilized the firing recoil energy to return the gun to its position in battery behind a parapet, where it could be reloaded without unduly exposing its crew.
 - 3). The introduction of improved propellents to replace black powder.

- B. In 1885 President Grover Cleveland constituted a board headed by Secretary of War William C. Endicott to review the coastal defenses of the U.S. and to submit recommendations for a program to update them to take advantage of the technological revolution in weaponry.
 - 1. The Endicott Board made its report in 1866.
 - a. It called for fortifications at 26 coastal points, plus three on the great lakes, as well as floating batteries, torpedo boats and submarine minefields.
 - 2. During the period 1887-1896 detailed plans for defense of 23 key ports, including Pensacola, were prepared by the Board of Engineers and approved by the Secretary of War.

- C. Ft. Pickens as an Apache Prison
 - 1. Geronimo's band had surrendered to U.S. troops led by Brig. Gen. Nelson A. Miles on September 3, 1886 at Skeleton Canyon, Arizona territory
 - 2. The terms of the surrender were such that Geronimo and his followers could not be handed over to civil authorities for trial and punishment as intended by President Cleveland.
 - 3. A number of influential Pensacolans, on hearing that Geronimo, Natchez and their band had been taken, under heavy guard, to San Antonio Texas, preparatory to being sent to Ft. Marion, Florida, wrote their congressman, P.H.M. Davidson.
 - a. In the letter, dated Sept. 14, they asked Davidson to employ his influence in getting Fort Pickens designated as the Indians place of confinement.
 - b. Congressman Davidson, responding to pressure from the voters, had strongly endorsed the proposal and had written the War Department.
 - 4. Accordingly, on Oct. 20, orders were issued by direction of the President that Geronimo and the male Indians captured with him should be sent from San Antonio, under guard, to Ft. Pickens.
 - a. The remainder of the band captured at the same time - numbering 11 women, 6 children, and 2 enlisted scouts - were sent to Ft. Marion, and placed with the other Apaches in confinement there.
 - 5. The army now had to take measures to see that they were properly guarded.
 - a. Batteries B and H, 2d Artillery (under the command of Capt. James E. Wilson) were ordered to return at once to Ft. Barrancas, as the 15 adult Indians, had been ordered sent to Ft. Pickens.
 - b. On their arrival, the commander at Ft. Barrancas would take charge of them.
 - c. Capt. Wilson pointed out that Ft. Pickens had not been regularly garrisoned for years, and he doubted whether any door or window was secure.

6. The Pensacolian for October 23, 1886 wrote: "The Santa Rosa Island fort is well suited as an abiding place for one of Geronimo's genius, for there he can, like his great prototype Napoleon at St. Helena, live once again his conquests without being disturbed by the outside world... We welcome the nation's distinguished guests and promise to keep them safely under lock and key that they will forget their hair raising proclivities and become good Indians."
7. The special train from San Antonio, consisting of 4 coaches, chuffed into Pensacola at 2 a.m. on October 25.
 - a. Aboard were 15 Apache warriors, their women and children, and a 30-man detachment from the 16th U.S. Infantry commanded by 1st Lt. E.F. Woodbury.
 - b. At 8:30 the steamer Twin pulled into the railroad wharf and the Apaches were soon aboard ship.
 - c. As one of the warriors was leaving Twin he reportedly exclaimed, "Won't see Mexico no more."
8. Captain Wilson had two of the casemate rooms in the south curtain "divided and made secure for their safekeeping."
 - a. He saw that they were issued army rations.
 - b. He issued to them for cooking and messing purposes three mess pans, four frying pans, and 18 tin cups.
 - c. In accordance with Army regulations, each Apache was issued by the post quartermaster one blanket, two pair of drawers, two knit undershirts, two pair cotton socks, and one pair of field shoes.
9. Ft. Pickens not having been permanently garrisoned since 1867. The parade, terreplein, ditch, and earthen parapets were overgrown with weeds and brush.
 - a. Lt. C.F. Parker and the guards turned the Indians to clearing up the grounds. They cheerfully worked a seven-hour day.
10. George Wratten, an interpreter, had accompanied the Apaches, and his services were invaluable, as he had to "explain everything" to them.
11. Loomis Langdon, now a lieutenant colonel, returned to Pensacola on December 12, from two months leave, and resumed command of the troops posted in the area.
12. The Apaches were "neat and orderly" in their persona; habits. Colonel Langdon had reduced their work day to six hours.
 - a. Before the Indians were turned to cleaning up the fort and grounds, they had been overgrown with weeds, grass, and trees.
 - b. A pine had been growing¹ out from one of the chimneys.
 - c. A grove of young pines had sprung up west of the fort, while the glacis was obstructed with cactus.
 - d. By early January nearly all this vegetation had been removed by the prisoners.
 - e. After the fort and grounds had been cleared, the military planned to have the Indians prepare a garden.
13. The Apaches, in Colonel Langdon's opinion had suffered at first owing to "the smallness of the ration."
 - a. The only one who complained was Geronimo, and for this he was chided by Natchez.
 - b. The latter, Langdon considered, "a very manly fellow," who "exercises a good influence over the others."
 - c. The Indians ration had now been increased.

14. Lt. Parker had assured Colonel Langdon that the prisoners, not once since their arrival, had displayed any signs of discontent or insubordination.
 - a. They had done all that was required of them with cheerfulness, alacrity, and intelligence.
 - b. They entertained hopes of seeing their families, and this had probably some weight with them.
15. Colonel Langdon at first had prohibited visitors from crossing over from the mainland to see the Indians.
 - a. In early February, however, he began to allow tourists to visit the fort.
 - b. Large numbers of persons had thus been to see the Indians.
 - 1). On one day alone there were 459 visitors, and rare was the day when there were less than 20.
16. The Indians had dug wells near the fort to obtain water for cooking and washing.
 - a. A prolonged drought had lowered water in the cisterns to a critical point and Colonel Langdon wished to conserve what remained for emergencies.
17. On April 27, 1887 the wives and children of the prisoners arrived from Ft. Marion.
 - a. The new comers numbered 20 women and 11 children.
 - b. Among the former were geronimos three wives, Ze-yah, Ih-tedda, and She-gha.
18. On June 28, Colonel Langdon informed headquarters that the Indians bedding consisted of blankets and bedsacks, the latter filled once a month with fresh straw.
19. Their health continued remarkably good.
 - a. There had been no deaths in more than 18 months.
20. The drought, which had begun on March 9, was finally broken on June 25.
 - a. Fortunately, the prisoners had been able to obtain water from the wells they had dug among the dunes rather than the nearly empty cisterns.
21. The Apaches held their annual corn dance on June 10, 1887.
 - a. About 300 Pensacolans attended, on invitation of Col. Langdon.
22. Langdon continued to work the men, weather permitting from Monday to Friday.
 - a. On Saturdays the Indians who did not have wives were required to do their own mending and washing.
 - b. To insure that time set apart for their own use was not interrupted, visitors were not allowed in the fort on Saturdays, and only rarely on Sundays.
23. In March, 1887 there was a proposal to transfer all the adult Ft. Marion prisoners to Ft. Pickens.
 - a. Despite the size of Ft. Pickens this would cause problems.
 - b. It was accordingly determined to send all the adult Ft. Marion Apaches, to Mt. vernon Alabama.
24. The married Indians occupied the old Officers quarters in the south curtain, while the bachelors and two or three married Indians, whose wives and children had not joined them, resided in the casemates known as the "Company Quarters" and "Old Hospital" in the north curtain.

25. The Inspector-General, Division of the Atlantic, on April 22, 1888, upon a visit to Ft. Pickens and Mt. Vernon Barracks recommended that the Ft. Pickens prisoners be sent to Mt. Vernon Barracks.
 - a. On May 12, Lt. J.N. Lewis and 20 enlisted men of Batteries B & H, 2d U.S. Artillery, left Ft. Pickens with 46 prisoners - 15 men, 21 women, and 10 children.
- D. On January 17, 1889 Captain Hoxie was replaced as superintending engineer by Capt. Philip M. Price.
 1. On July 8, 1890 Captain Price filed his annual report.
 - a. He reported there had been "a progressive deterioration of the brickwork due to leakage and exposure to the weather."
 - b. This deterioration, in Prices opinion, had progressed to such an extent, and the "leakage through the casemate arches and walls" of Ft. Pickens and Barrancas had become so general that it was useless to expend any further money in attempting to preserve these forts. "To restore them to their original efficiency, it would be necessary to "practically" tear them down and rebuild. But then they would be of "no value for the defense of the harbor against modern warships."
 2. Chief engineer Casey agreed with Capt. Price that, because of the deterioration of the brick and mortar, it would be a mistake to spend money for the reconstruction of defenses which would be of no service as modern fortifications.
 3. On January 19, 1893 the Board of Engineers recommended as a component of the Endicott System, the construction of a mining casemate and cable gallery at Ft. Pickens.
 - a. The mining casemate was placed in a section of the northeast bastion.
 - b. The excavation and receiving of materials were completed by January 31, and pouring of concrete commenced.
 - c. By mid-April the concrete work of the casemate, except the floor and the entrancs was finished, and the filling between the new and old walls began.
 - d. The cable gallery was finished June 23.
 - e. As built, the mining casemate was 11 feet 1 inch by 21 feet, with an arched roof 10 feet high at the center; the walls and roof were of concrete 4 feet thick and the floor 1 foot.