

of bastion; while the northern, or river side, was enclosed with a palisado of planks of timber. The houses were built inside the fort. The oven was placed outside some distance away "because the houses be of palm leaves, which will soon be burnt after the fire catches hold of them." Laudonniere named the fort "Caroline, in honor of our prince, King Charles," who at that time was only a boy. At this crude work took place some of the most tragic incidents of American history.

* When first known to the white man St. Johns Bluff sloped down westerly into a little plain that occupied the cove between the present point of the bluff and Fulton. This plain was called by the French the "Vale of Laudonniere," and there, at the water's edge, Fort Caroline was built in order to get water for the moat. The plain has been washed away by the river, mainly since the jetties were built, and ships now pass over the precise site of Fort Caroline.

In about a month Laudonniere sent the *Elizabeth of Honfleur* back to France with despatches for Coligny, retaining the smaller barks for use on the river.

The story of the French at Fort Caroline is one filled with pathos and tragedy. In the beginning all went well; they enjoyed amicable relations with the Indians and from them drew largely for their subsistence, themselves neglecting to make provision for the emergencies that were bound to come to those in such a situation. As time went on misfortunes began to multiply as a result of this inactivity, and, naturally, discontent then entered the ranks of the little band. Serious mutinies followed. On one occasion the conspirators seized a vessel belonging to the port and set out upon a freebooting expedition against the Spaniards in the West Indies. Some of the mutineers finally found their way back to the River May, where Laudonniere had four of the ringleaders executed. The others were captured by the Spaniards and taken to Havana.

After awhile the Indians refused to share further of their stores, partly because their own stock was low and partly from the fact that nothing was given in exchange, the French by this time having exhausted the supply of exchangeable articles. Being reduced to the verge of famine, Laudonniere was induced, let it be said against his will, to seize the great Indian Olata Utina (head chief) and hold him