

The ring is a band of about 10-kt. gold of uniform thickness throughout. Measured by the modern jewelers' scale the size is $6\frac{1}{2}$, which is the size for a medium finger; the weight is 1 dwt. The emblems are apparently hand-carved. The single fleurs-de-lis are simply cut into the band, while the figures in the medallions stand out upon a battered sunken field within the oval. The accompanying illustration shows the emblems on the ring, which appear uniformly all the way around the band. There is no inscription inside the band.

* The certain authenticity of this find makes it at once a most interesting subject, and being a ring the imagination naturally drifts into all kinds of romance about it. There is of course no record of how the Indian gained possession of the ring. It may have been given to him as a present. Maybe it was taken from the finger of a Frenchman slain at Fort Caroline, or from that of one of Ribault's men as he lay upon the blood-soaked sands of Matanzas. But that it originally belonged to a Huguenot of Fort Caroline there is scarcely a doubt, for the fleur-de-lis, emblem of France when the Huguenots came to Florida indelibly connects it with the time when the Lily of France was banished from Florida by the Lion of Spain in their struggle for supremacy.‡

San Mateo Fort and River

The capture of Fort Caroline having been achieved at the time of the festival of Saint Matthew, Menendez renamed the fort San Mateo and the river Rio de San Mateo. The contingency, fire, that Laudonniere had so carefully guarded against happened to the Spaniards eight days after they had captured the fort. Through the carelessness of a soldier all of the houses and the wooden part of the fort were burned. The fort was rebuilt on the same site. Menendez afterward built two small forts or observation posts on opposite sides of the river below the great fort, as San Mateo was called.

There is evidence that Menendez soon attempted to force the removal of Chief Saturioua to the north side of the river on account of which it is not surprising that he incurred the enmity of the neighboring Indian tribes. About this time a missionary, Don Martinez, and three attendants were murdered by the Indians when they landed on Fort George Island.

‡The Huguenot flag bore three golden fleurs-de-lis, frequently referred to as the Lilies of France. The Spanish flag of the period was quartered, showing in gold the Castle of Castile and in red the Lion of Leon.