firms all of the other eye-witness descriptions that the fort was at the water’s edge.

**Fort Caroline Captured**

At dawn the Spaniards were on the high ground overlooking Fort Caroline. The break of day revealed no activity of any sort; Fort Caroline was sleeping, 240 people, less than thirty of whom knew the use of arms. Women and children, the sick and the weak, artisans and servants—these were the people that remained with Laudonniere when Ribault’s fleet departed.

The damage done the fort in anticipation of its abandonment had not been fully repaired. The Spaniards rushed down the slope into the fort and committed an indiscriminate slaughter. Some of the French were slain in their beds; others half awake and bewildered met the same fate upon reaching the courtyard. Women as they knelt in supplication and prayer, and little children were put to death. In the confusion a few Frenchmen escaped and among these was Laudonniere.

The deed was finished in less than an hour and not a Spaniard had been killed and only one slightly wounded. Menendez, it seems, was not at the fort when the carnage commenced, having remained on top of the hill; but hearing the commotion at the fort he ran down to it and observing that his soldiers gave no quarter he ordered them in a loud voice to kill or wound no woman, or boy under 15 years of age, by which order 70 persons were saved.

* About a month after the capture of Fort Caroline, Menendez reported to the King that he still held these captives and that it caused him deep sorrow to see them among his people. Their ultimate fate is unknown.

Laudonniere, Le Moyne (an artist), and Challeaux, with 23 others, after suffering untold hardships in the marshes as they tried to reach the mouth of the river, were finally rescued by two small vessels belonging to the French, the *Pearl* and the *Grayhound*. In these they hastily set sail for France. The *Pearl* arrived in France, but the *Grayhound* with Laudonniere aboard reached port at a place in Wales. Thence Laudonniere went to France and reported fully regarding the destruction of Fort Caroline, but the news was received with indifference at the French court.