



# Timeline of Fort Boykin Hunt

Using the interpretive panels and the fort's interpretive panels, answer the following questions.

Who built the first fort and why?

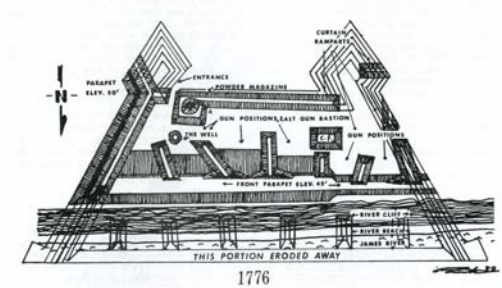
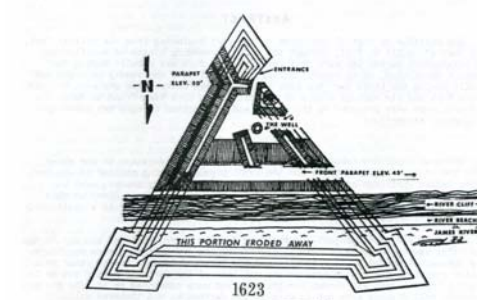
Is there another structure on the James River that has a similar shape? Why do you think they choose a triangle as their standard fort design?

In the drawing of the forts, some of the design is lightly shaded? What do you think that represents?

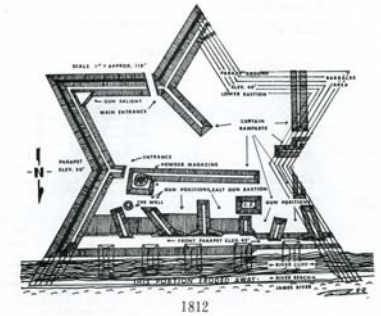
During the American Revolution, the fort's size was increased. What did the colonists add to the fortification?

From whom is the fort named? Is there any other place in Isle of Wight County which that same name?

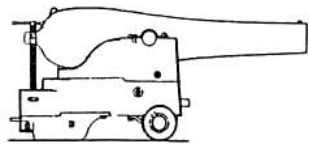
The third adaptation to the fort was done during 1812. With whom were the Americans at war, and why were they interested in the James River?



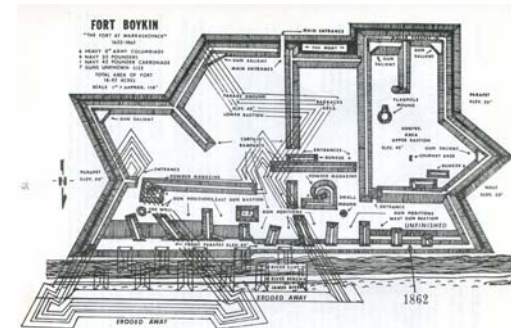
What recognizable shape was given to the fort? The HMS *Plantagenet* sat off Fort Boykin, but no shots were fired.



During the Civil War, the Confederates used the existing fort and expanded it again. Why did they need to enlarge the fort?



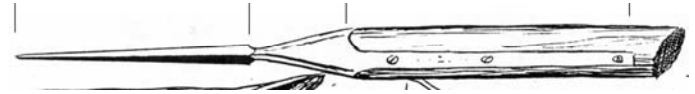
As you walk through the fort notice locations for the guns. Nine-inch Dahlgren guns were placed in the fort. Each gun weighted 9,000 pounds. The guns were brought from Portsmouth. Hypothesize how the Confederate army could transport guns of that size to this location.



In May 1862, Fort Boykin was shelled by Union ships. The bombardment lasted two hours. Confederate troops spiked their guns and threw many items into the well. Look for the well in the fort. In the 1970s, archaeologists excavated the well and found shells, grapeshot, a bucket and a boarding pike. (These objects are on view at the Isle of Wight County Museum) Why would a well be a good place to throw these items?



A boarding pike seems to be an unusual weapon for a fort. How could the Confederate soldiers use the pike?



After the Civil War, Fort Boykin fell into private hands. Residents of the fort built gardens in an attempt to make it more attractive. List three items you see in the fort that make it seem like a private garden.

Look for the small memorial in the fort. Who were the owners of the fort in 1908? Why do you think they bought the property?

Preservation is an important part of Isle of Wight County's job at the fort. We are currently trying to preserve the earthworks by trimming trees to prevent future erosion. There is one plant that is invasive and can never be totally removed- English Ivy. Planted by previous owners, the ivy strangles everything it grows on. Can you find evidence of the ivy?

What could you do to help preserve Fort Boykin?

