

## STORIES of New Jersey



Confederate Monument, Finn's Point Cemetery

When the number of dead exceeded the capacity of the cemetery on the little island, the government decided to bury them on the Jersey shore at Finn's Point, on what is now the Fort Mott reservation. A government tug, the "Osceola," chugged back and forth across the mile of water with its loads of bodies. Long ditches were dug and the dead were dumped in. Once vital, perhaps happy -- 2,436 of them were thrown into a ditch without even the questionable glory of being shot down on the battlefield.

As the war progressed, the people of Salem, Chester, Wilmington and Philadelphia protested that they were not sufficiently protected. The government built a system of fortifications that satisfied the most timid. On the Delaware shore, Fort DuPont was erected. It was first occupied in 1864.

A battery was erected after the war, at Finn's Point, 300 yards from the cemetery. During the Spanish-American War the defenses were strengthened and two companies of coast artillery were placed there. In the World War the position was refortified and manned by a large force. Since then, however, only a small detail keeps guard at Fort Mott.

Similarly at Fort Delaware a detail of only five men is stationed during peace times; but modern electrical devices and the latest equipment permit the