

(h) The Burnham Clam Factory was established at Caxambas about 1906.

(i) The Post Office was established about 1890 and was named "Malco" because, as she understood it, there was another Post Office by the name of Marco. The name was subsequently changed to Marco.

The mail was brought from Punta Rassa in the early 1900's by the sailing boat "Falco" and was handled by John Hall and Willard Russell.

(j) Although, according to Mrs. Cannon, she shed many bitter tears of loneliness and often yearned to return to more civilized parts, she remained at Marco until May, 1920 soon after the death of her husband, except for one trip the family made to California and Oregon in 1905 and 1908.

"EARLY METHODISM IN THE TEN
THOUSAND ISLANDS

"Prior to 1890, there was no church of any denomination in that section of southwest Florida which is known as the Ten Thousand Islands. This fairy-land was inhabited by the native Indians and a few pioneers. The only means of access was by boat. Early 1890 the Florida Conference, ever alert to new mission fields, appointed me as missionary to this area.

"Immediately following Conference I set out alone to Ft. Myers where I chartered passage on a sailboat named 'The Ploughboy' which was under the command of Capt. Joe Williams. In addition to the crew and myself, there were two other passengers. Shortly after we landed at a place called Choculuskee, these two men engaged in a fight and one was slain. My first act as a minister was to bury the murdered man.

"I immediately set about to win the confidence of the Indians and the few white people who lived at Choculuskee, which is now known as Everglades City. We shortly erected a small chapel at this point, and by means of boats I preached at almost every inhabited island in the group. At the end of my first year, we had finished the construction of two capels, the one mentioned and another at Marco Island.

"On May 7th, 1892, I was married to Miss Minnie L. Clark by the Rev. R. H. Barnett, who performed this ceremony at Leesburg. My bride returned with me and was a great inspiration in carrying out our pioneer evangelism. Shortly after her arrival, a parsonage was built at what is now Everglades City, which stood for many years until it was destroyed by storm. The church officials at that time were Capt. George Storter, James Lockhart, S. B. Black, Capt. R. B. Storter and George Christian. With their aid we held a number of revivals with good results.

"I early made friends with the Seminole Indians, and before long many of them attended our church. Since they knew little English and I knew less of their language, I doubt if they received much help from my sermons. When they came to church, they sat on the floor cross-legged instead of using the benches. Some of their names were rather amusing, such as: Water Turkey, Squirrel Jumper, and Miami Billie.

"During the four years we served this circuit we received but little money, but we never wanted for anything. My wife's diary shows that on one day we had on our table seven different kinds of meat. We had an abundance of seafood, wild game, native fruits and vegetables. In addition to this, the affection and confidence of those we served made these four of the most delightful years of our life.

"The area I then served is now a part of the Lakeland District, and includes several good churches, but much of the section is still undeveloped in every respect.

GEORGE W. GATEWOOD.

(From 'Lakeland District News') "

(From The Lakeland, Fla., District News of
unknown date.)

From reference CCLXXXVII, (Ms. Interview 1947)

- (a) Notes on Early Days on Marco Island, Collier County, Florida, as furnished by Mr. Albert Addison, universally known as "Judge Addison" at his home at Marco at interview by D. Graham Copeland on April 6, 1947.
- (b) Mr. Albert Addison was born in Portsmouth, England, in 1870, came to the United States in 1889, landing as a lad of 19 in New York. He proceeded at once to Davenport, Florida, and arrived at Marco in 1894. After leaving Davenport, Florida, he travelled 18 days by ox team successively to Alva, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Naples and Henderson's Creek. He recalls that the river at Bonita Springs was bridged with an old fashioned corduroy bridge and that he remained at Henderson's Creek about 2 months. Leaving Henderson's Creek, he arrived at Marco in 1894 and went to work for Bob Everett, who, at that time, had a farm and grove across from the Johnson (Chris) place, which was later acquired by S. E. Williams.
- (c) In 1896 Mr. Addison married Charity Newell, a daughter of Edward R. Newell. Mr. Newell had settled on Dismal Key about 1892, having come there from Texas, and left Dismal Key about 1896.
- (d) Other settlers on keys in the general vicinity of Marco Island were "Dummie" Barnes, who was deaf and dumb and lived on White Horse Key. Mr. Barnes and his wife (name not recalled) who was also deaf and dumb, had two sons, one named Andrew and the other whose name is not recalled. The entire Barnes family of that day have all died, but the boys lived at the Grocery Place about 10 years and then moved away. (One son was named Andrew).
- (e) Another early settler on White Horse Key was Mr. _____ Thompson, a carpenter of Marco, who followed the Barnes family on White Horse Key for a short time.
- (f) On Four Brothers Key, located north of White Horse Key and between that key and Gomez or Panther Key, Jim Daniels settled with John Lowe and his family. This key was named for four brothers who first settled there and remained for a short time. The family name of these four brothers is not recalled. After the Jim Daniels and John Lowe families left Four Brothers Key, it was occupied by a Mr. _____ Brady, who is believed to have been the last occupant of the key.
- (g) Jim Daniels first lived on Dismal Key, then on Four Brothers Key, from which he removed to Grocery Bay and finally to Marco Island where he lived on Collier Bay in a place originally built by Joe Addison, brother of Albert Addison.

(h) "Dumnie" Barnes, after leaving White Horse Key, started the Grocery Place which is located on the north bank of a fork of Royal Palm Hammock Creek about 1/4 mile north of the mouth of Royal Palm Hammock Creek. Mr. Barnes was not the original settler on the site of the Grocery Place but the name of the original settler is not recalled.

(i) Addison Bay, which is in the extreme northeastern portion of the Marco Island Township (52-26), was named for Albert Addison, who purchased a shell mound on the bay from Jack Laud Collier. Mr. Collier had been preceded on this place by his brother, Jimmy Collier, who was the original settler. This place is still owned by Mr. Albert Addison but has not been occupied since 1924.

1125

- (j) The property now designated as "McIlvane" and located about in Section 33-51-26, a short distance west of the abandoned A.C.L. Railroad grade, is an old Indian shell mound. It was originally settled by Mr. _____ McIlvane, who married a sister of Mr. Jack Laud Collier.
- (k) The property now known as the S. E. Williams place in Section 32-51-26, on the old Marco junction-Marco road was originally owned by Bob Everett, who claimed the South half, and Mr. _____ Walker who claimed the North half. Immediately across an inlet in the same Section is a peninsula, on which Mr. Chris C. Johnson settled and established a grove and farm.
- (l) At the time Mr. Addison arrived at Henderson's Creek, Mr. Charlie Cross was the original settler. He later sold his property to Mr. Gehu Whidden, who later removed to Corkscrew. Mr. Gehu Whidden is the father of Mr. Graham W. Whidden, County Commissioner from the Immokalee District, and the present Mrs. David Morrissey, widow, who still occupies the old Cross place at Henderson's Creek.
- (m) When Mr. Addison arrived at Marco there were several families living there but the chief owners were members of the Collier family, most of the property being owned by Captain W. D. Collier.

The first Collier home on Marco Townsite occupied the large Indian shell mound immediately across the street from Mr. Albert Addison's present home in Marco.

- (n) Richard Sawyer and his grandmother, Mrs. E. R. Newell, at this time were living on Dixal Key.
- (o) It was Richard Sawyer who, as a boy, discovered the body of John Gomez, who died at the age of 122 years and who had occupied Gomez Point on Panther Key for many years.

Mr. Addison knew John Gomez well and, on account of little favors done for Gomez, became probably his best confidant. Mr. Addison frequently visited Gomez on Panther Key and saw him often when Gomez came to the store at Marco. Gomez was married and Mr. Addison knew his wife, who rarely left the island, and was very reticent. After Gomez died, his wife removed to Fort Myers where she died.

Gomez, even in his extreme old age, was a very powerful man, although he was somewhat short in stature. He boasted that he could pick up a full barrel of whiskey and drink from the bung. A white man by the name of Brown and a Mexican, known as Pancho, built the little Gomez house on Panther Key. These two were wood cutters supplying wood for the Key West market. On one occasion, while cutting wood in the swamps, Brown was poisoned in some way and was taken to the hospital in Key West where he died. Pancho returned from Key West to Mexico and was not known in this territory thereafter. Mr. Addison is of the opinion that Brown died before Gomez, although he is not sure.

- (p) Having become a confidant of Gomez, Gomez often discussed various matters with Mr. Addison but, although others claim that Gomez frequently told them of his piratical exploits, he never mentioned the same to Mr. Addison.

Gomez told Mr. Addison that in 1894, when Mr. Addison first arrived at Marco, he was 113 years old, and, although Mr. Addison does not recall the year in which Gomez died, he thinks he was more than 120 years old at the time of his death.

1126

On one occasion, Gomez told Mr. Addison that he was to have been hanged in Cuba and that the night before he was to have been executed he escaped alone in a small bateau, which he rowed from Cuba to Key West in rough weather, and that when he arrived at Key West, so strenuous had been the rowing, the oars were bent badly.

Gomez further told Mr. Addison that, on one occasion, he was on a vessel carrying slaves which were intended for some Southern port but, when off the Cuban coast, the vessel was chased by a Spanish man-of-war and the slaves were landed in Cuba. Mr. Addison does not recall whether or not it was in connection with this episode that Gomez was arrested and sentenced to be hanged.

- (q) While on a visit to Gomez on Panther Key, Gomez showed him a large sized package of papers, which Gomez thought to be very valuable, and asked Mr. Addison to examine them and state their value. On opening the package, Mr. Addison found that it contained a great many discharge and enlistment papers of sailors on and from various merchant ships. The names of the persons and description showed that they were persons of both the white and negro races.

When Mr. Addison explained to Gomez that these papers were of no value, Gomez rebundled them and kept them still thinking that they might be of value. Mr. Addison does not know what became of the papers and was never able to ascertain from Gomez why he retained them other than that Gomez stated they were very valuable. It does not seem improbable that these enlistment and discharge papers of merchant sailors may have been collected during the rumored piratical exploits of Gomez.

- (r) Mr. Addison states that, when he first arrived at Marco, there were a great many wolves in the timber lands on the mainland and that Thomas Collier was lost in the woods while hunting and his body was found some days after his death, his face and arms had been badly mutilated by wolves.

16. From reference CCLXXXVIII, (*Ms. Interview 1947*)

(a) Interview with Mrs. Tommie Camilla Stephens Barfield and Mr. John Raymond Stephens at the home of Mr. R. A. Griffis at Marco, Florida, by D. Graham Copeland, April 13, 1947.

(b) Allen Thomas Stephens was born in Cordele, Georgia, in 1864, married (1) Mattie McLendon in Cordele in 1882, she having been born in 1860 and having died in Cordele in 1887; married (2) Annie DeWills Collins in 1887 at Cordele, she having been born in Cordele and having died in Miami, Florida, in 1944.

(c) The children of the first marriage were:

John Raymond, born at Cordele in November, 1883, who married Juana Rojas of Matanzas, Cuba, in 1907, and who died at Richmond, Virginia, in 1926; and

Thomas Allen, born in Cordele, Georgia, 1886 and died young.

(d) The children of the second marriage were:

Tommie Camilla, born at Cordele, July 20, 1888 and married James Madison Barfield at Inverness, Florida, July 31, 1906, who died at *Ft. Myers*, Florida, November 12, 1944, and is interred in the Fort Myers Cemetery.

Estelle, born 1889, married Pat Leo and died in 1934.

James *Jefferson*, born 1891, married (1) Josie Bostwick and (2) a daughter of John Henry Daniels, who, subsequent to the death of her husband, married C. W. Brown and now lives at Chokoloskee.

Walter, born February 6, 1898, married Etheline Nance and died in 1947.

Harvey, born at Caxambas, January 20, 1902, married Louise *Pierce*, has 2 children and all members of the family are now living at *Ft. Myers*.

Nona Mae, born May 24, 1907, married Floyd K. Foster, no children, now living at Miami Beach, Florida.

Hazel, born at Caxambas April 24, 1909, who married (1) George Hahn of Fort Myers in California, no children, and married (2) Ed Vickers in 1925 at Miami Beach and now living at Coral Gables.

In addition to the foregoing children, by the second marriage of Mr. Stephens there were 7 other children, all of whom died young. In the family was one set of triplets and 2 sets of twins.

- (e) The children of Tommie C. Stephens Barfield and her husband James Madison Barfield were:

Elsie Ray, born March 4, 1908, married (1) J. W. Dyches December 18, 1927, 1 son born August 19, 1936, named *James Wilson*; married (2) Kenneth Vogstad, May 2, 1941.

Elva^{Lee} born July 27, 1909, married August 18, 1935, R. A. Griffis of Fort Myers, who was born at Trilby, Florida, August 11, 1907; no children; living at Marco.

Elizabeth
Ava ^{Elizabeth} born January 1, 1911, died December 24, 1932, at
Ft. Myers, as a result of an automobile accident.

f) The children of John Raymond Stephens and Juana Rojas were:

Raymond, born at Caxambas in 1907, married Bobbie
Barron of Fort Myers in 1933.

Mattie, born at Caxambas in 1909, married Edward
Wisner of Fort Myers in 1933.

America, born at Caxambas in 1912, is unmarried and
living at Caxambas.

John, born at Caxambas in 1913, married Mattie Austelle
of Ocala in 1944.

g) The children of James Madison Stephens were:

By first wife: *Katherine Hazel* Stephens of Caxambas, who married *Arthur*
Perry Kirk of *Rochester, N.Y.*

By second wife: James Stephens, living at Chokoloskee;
Sylvia Stephens

h) Allen H. Stephens, his second wife and Tommie C., John R.,
James Jefferson and Walter Stephens, moved from Cordele,
Georgia, to Inverness, Florida, thence to Homosassa, where
they remained for 4 years, thence to Fort Myers, via
Thonotchassa, to Estero and, finally, in March, 1901, to
Caxambas. This name is supposed to mean "Place of Well".

The family came from Estero with Mr. Frank Green, with
whom they farmed on the beach at the extreme southwestern
end of Marco Island on the place now called "the Old Mann
Place" which is understood to have been originally occupied
by a Mr. Johnson.

(1) At Caxambas in 1901 on the arrival of the Stephens family there, were located the following families:

James Madison Barfield, born at Sunnyside, Georgia, in 1867, who married Tommie C. Stephens at Homosassa, Fla., July 31, 1906, and who died at Ft. Myers November 12, 1944.

Mr. Barfield came to Caxambas with his brother Benjamin who died later in Georgia, and acquired considerable property at Caxambas. As a bachelor, he grew pineapples and produce for the Key West and New York markets. He also operated a general merchandise store and built the Heights Hotel, on the top of the hill east of the present Woods place.

Frederick Ludlow, who came from Toledo, Ohio, and married Emma Collier, a daughter of W. D. Collier of Marco. Mr. Ludlow worked 20 negroes on his very large pineapple plantation which occupied the high hill on both sides of the road leading to Caxambas north of the present Watson place. A son, John, still lives at Caxambas.

Frank Green, son of a northerner, who came to Caxambas from Safety Harbor, Florida, was a bachelor and located on the old Mann place on the beach. Mr. Green left Caxambas about 1922 and now resides at Fort Myers Beach.