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Whitesville, Garey's Ferry, Middleburg, Miami, and Lakeland Postal History

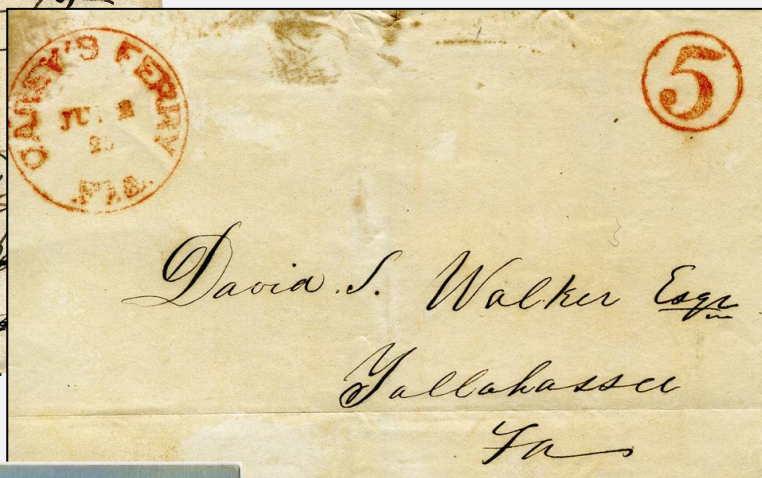


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Whitesville-Garey's Ferry-Middleburg

By Phil Eschbach

Whitesville, named for the territorial delegate Joseph White, was founded in 1828 in Duval County, what is now Clay County. White was born in 1781 in Kentucky, moving to Florida in 1821. He became Florida's territorial representative to the US Congress from 1825 to 1837.

The first postmaster of Whitesville was Malachi Hagan, appointed in 1828. Samuel Garey replaced him in 1829. In 1830, postal route 3251 was established and operated by my ancestor William Henry Williams for \$950, which ran through Whitesville from Jacksonville to Wanton's (today's Micanopy). John Wilson became postmaster in 1832, and in 1833 Ozias Budington took over continuing to 1843 when it was closed in favor of Garey's Ferry.

Figure 1 illustrates a Type I manuscript folded letter from Whitesville, dated December 23, 1838. It was forwarded to Westfield, Massachusetts by way of New Haven, Connecticut and charged an extra 12½ cents. It is a personal letter from W.S. Olmstead to Mr. Simeon Collins, his father-in-law, about the illness of his wife Marianne. She died shortly thereafter. It also mentions that Dr. Philip Maxwell, the local military surgeon, is attending her. Maxwell was not well-liked and was released by the Surgeon General Thomas Lawson in 1842.



Figure 1. December 23, 1838, Type 1 manuscript Whitesville letter.

The letter has an interesting note (Figure 2, next page) on the back flap to the recipient asking that they not write on the newspaper wrapper when they send him his newspapers through the mail because the postmaster charges him extra for that.