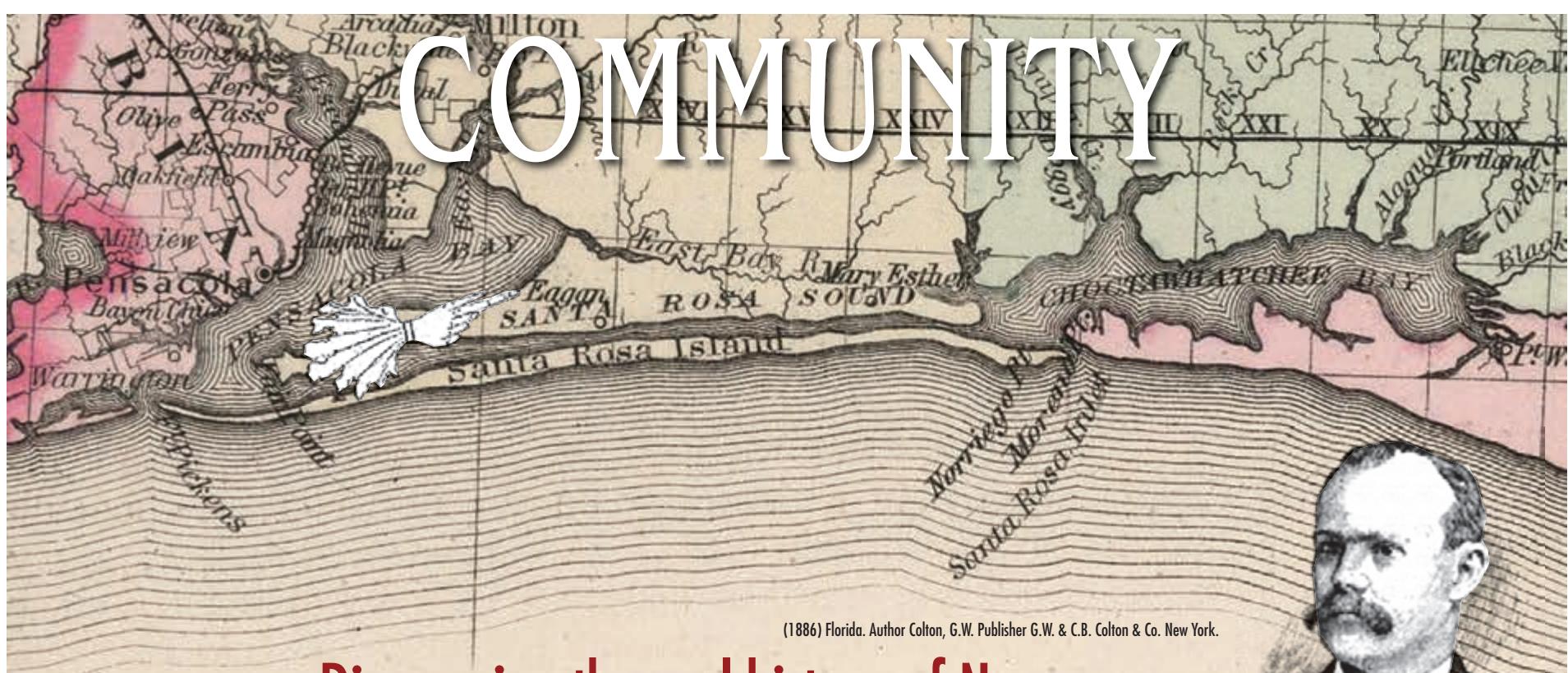


COMMUNITY



(1886) Florida. Author Colton, G.W. Publisher G.W. & C.B. Colton & Co. New York.

Discovering the real history of Navarre When Navarre was Eagan

*John Eagan*

Historical Dates of Note

1827-1829

Benjamin Clements,
Deputy Surveyor of the
U.S., completed the first
known survey of South
Santa Rosa County

1844

Milton incorporated.
Milton was formerly
known as Scratch Ankle
and Mill Town

1845

The Territory of
Florida joined
the U.S. as the
27th state

1855

Birth of John
Eagan who
would later
have a
community
named for
him

1861

Beginning of the
Civil War which
continued until
April 1865
Florida seceded
from the Union

1874

Patrick Shea from
Ireland later
became Eagan's
first
postmaster and
a naturalized
citizen

1884

John Eagan named
postmaster at Pen-
sacola Post Office
Eagan became a vil-
lage with the opening
of its post office

1885

Historian
Wanton S.
Webb wrote
about Eagan and
other nearby
places

By Jonathan Crider
editor@navarrepress.com

The area of South Santa Rosa County that we call Navarre currently considers the surveying and platting of Guy H. Wyman in 1925 as our beginnings. Navarre Press has further traced one of its earlier forms of existence to a settlement called Eagan.

Located off the Santa Rosa Sound encompassing a portion of present day Holley by the Sea, Eagan was both a village and post office location. The exact location of the post office is still currently under investigation, but it is thought to have been a short distance west of Williams Creek. In Wanton S. Webb's "Historical, Industrial and Biographical Florida, Part 1 (1885)," Webb describes the settlement of Eagan and its location in the following quote: "Eagan, formerly a post office, is situated on Santa Rosa Sound, about eight hours distant by small boat from Pensacola. The date of settlement does not appear, but was a number of years ago. The village now contains some 15 families." Eagan's time as a post office location was short-lived however. According to Alford G. Bradbury and E. Story Hallock's book, "A Chronology of Florida Post Offices," the office location at Eagan only lasted from May 28, 1884, until Sept. 11 of the same year. Following the discontinuation, the new mailing address became Pensacola. The reason for the short lifetime of the location is unknown, but two facts remain. First, according to Webb, the settlement known on the map as "Eagan" remained in the area, even after discontinuation of the post office location. Second, the account of this town, along with its cartographic notation, definitively establishes that platting of South Santa Rosa occurred prior to the early 20th century, thereby pre-dating the platting of Navarre as a township by Wyman – by almost 100 years.

At the time of the post office application obtained from the National Archives, there were 40 families in the post office location. It was noted by Webb that a year later, in 1885, a population of 15 families were in Eagan. This would have been quite a large-



Source: Ancestry.com

The Honorable John Eagan, wife, Pearl, and children John, Pearl Monette, Mary Lamar and Patrick.

size settlement, worthy of notice, especially in this area of Florida. Even in the late 1800s, this area of Florida was much like the Wild West in many regards, with camps of turpentiners, fishermen, lumber crews and even outlaws springing up overnight and disappearing just as quickly. The description of "village," however, used by Webb in his book, seems to allude to an organized and more permanent attempt at settlement in the area. The names of the families within this particular village are currently not

known.

Aside from occasional biographical mentions, not much can be found regarding the small settlement of Eagan. However, we do know that the community's apparent namesake however, is John Eagan Esq., a name found frequently within Pensacola's historical records. While the name John Eagan may be unfamiliar to many today, in the late 1800s and early 1900s, his name was one of prominence and respectability in both Pensacola and our nation's capital.

Eagan was the son of Irish immigrants, Patrick and Bridget Eagan. Patrick Eagan and his wife were natives of Limerick, Ireland when they relocated to Elmira, N.Y. Their immigration in 1848 was prompted by Patrick Eagan's fleeing to avoid imprisonment, due to his status as an active Irish patriot at the time. (In the same year, three members of the rebel group "Young Ireland" were delivered the death sentence after their trial in Clonmel, Ireland.) After some time of settlement in New York, Patrick and Bridget became

In regard to his being the probable namesake of the Eagan settlement, with his time as postmaster for the area, it is extremely likely that this map location was named after him. According to the United States Postal Serv-

See EAGAN 2B

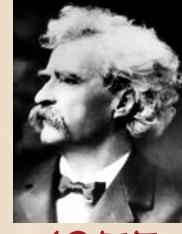
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Timeline of important events before Eagan existed

1852



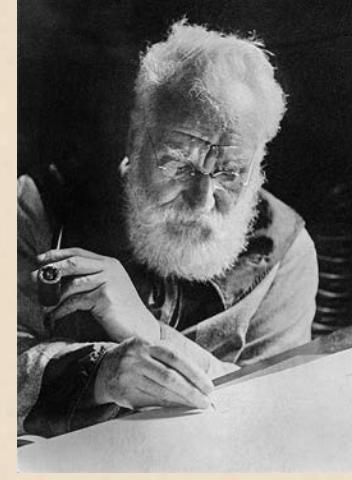
Louis Napoleon
declares himself
Emperor
Napoleon III

1861-1865

Civil War

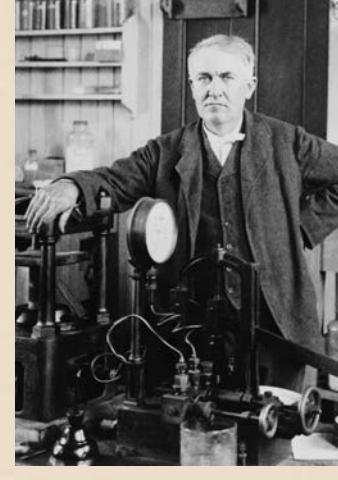
1873

"The Gilded Age:
A Tale of Today" is an 1873 novel
by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley
Warner that satirizes greed and
political corruption in post-Civil
War America in the era now
referred to as the Gilded Age.



1876

Alexander Graham
Bell invents the
telephone



1878

Thomas Edison
develops
electric light

Eagan

Continued from page 1B

ice, "Historically, prospective postmasters or patrons suggested post office names subject to approval of the Post Office Department...Names of local or famous people, distant places, and nearby geographic or man-made features were all common sources of place names... many new Post Offices continued to be named after the first postmaster." Furthermore, according to Dr. Brian R. Rucker, Professor of History at Pensacola State College and local historian, "Eagan was just a name on an obscure map from the late 1800s, and nothing has ever been written on the community before. John Eagan being the community's namesake seems to be the best hypothesis offered." Since Rucker offered this hypothesis, it was confirmed by the document received last week from the National Archives along with

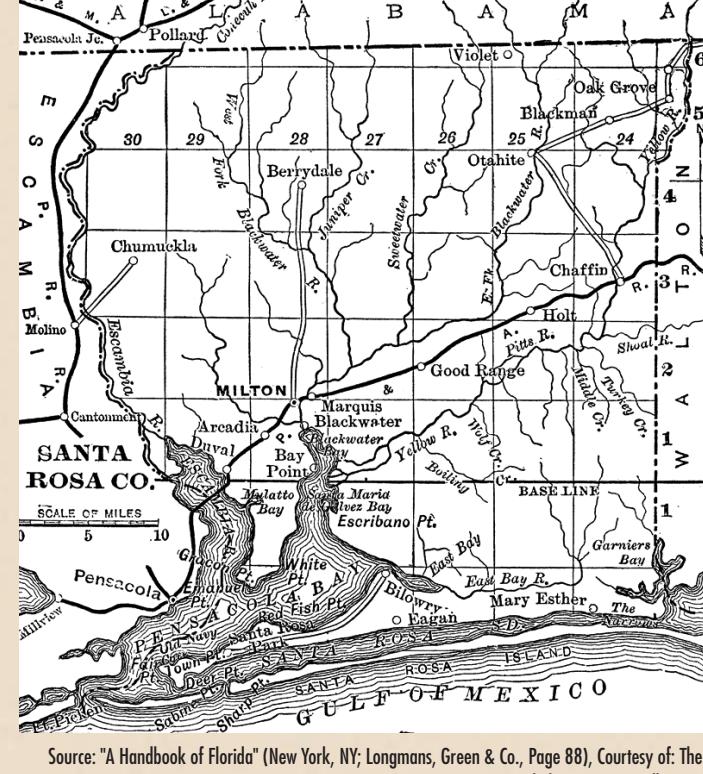
John Eagan's signature and the inscription, Eagan, Fla.

According to accounts given by others about him, Eagan lived an extremely fruitful life. He was loved by his family, a pillar in his community, and an honorable man. He married three times in his life, being widowed twice. He married his first wife, May Bedford-Eagan, on April 30 1882, only a few days after his admittance to the bar of the circuit court of Escambia County. Interesting to note, aside from being the wife of John Eagan, May Bedford-Eagan was a Florida woman of great literary talent. She was the daughter of John Joseph Bedford, editor and publisher of a weekly newspaper, the "Milton Standard," and Lou Singletary-Bedford, a well-published female poet and writer. After May's death at the age of 24, a collection of her writings and memoirs were compiled and published in the form of a book entitled "Driftings." Even in May's memoirs, John Eagan

is described as "a gentleman of great popularity and many personal attractions."

John Eagan's second wife, Pearl P. Lappington, was the daughter of the distinguished Confederate officer Abram Lappington. However, she died tragically at the age of 28, a mother of four, in 1893. After his second wife's death, Eagan was married to Nancy ("Nannie") Parker Wentworth; and together, the couple had two more children. Both Pearl and John Eagan's complete obituaries from the time can be found below.

Today, the Honorable John Eagan is buried in the historic St. John's Cemetery in Pensacola. Though Eagan was a known native of Pensacola, the town of Navarre can claim this man's name as a part of its local history as well. With this map location marking one of Navarre's earliest-known settlements at the time, the Eagan settlement is a very important part of South Santa Rosa County's history.



Source: "A Handbook of Florida" (New York, NY: Longmans, Green & Co., Page 88), Courtesy of: The Roy Winkelman Private Collection.

The town of Eagan on a map of Santa Rosa County (1890).
Author: Charles Ledyard Norton

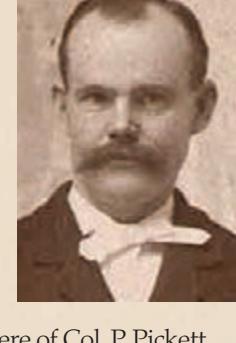
Obituaries from more than 100 years ago

Died - In this city, on Monday morning last, Mr. Johnson Blake, formerly of the state of Maine. He died of that fell destroyer of human life, a consumption of the lungs. He had sought, too late, the relief, which otherwise, this climate might have afforded him. His loss is mourned by a large circle of friends; who, during his long and lingering illness, did everything that could be done by human affection and human kindness to alleviate his sufferings.

- Pensacola Gazette - Saturday: June 14, 1884

Hon. John Eagan Expired Suddenly

[The Distinguished Lawyer Died Unexpectedly After Having Been Able to Sit Up for the First Time Since His Return From Washington.]



Hon. John Eagan died suddenly yesterday at [3 p.m.], at his home 301 North Spring Street. Paralysis of the heart was thought to have been the immediate cause of his death.

The news was spread in the city rapidly a moment after the grim reaper had wielded his scythe at the Eagan home, and it flew from lip to lip of people in the walks of life. The four words, "John Eagan is dead," was spoken in such a way which indicated that the speakers would rather not have uttered them.

John Eagan was a leader of men. He was born more than a half century ago at Elmira, N.Y., and came to Florida when he had attained his majority. In the office here of Col. P. Pickett Jones, he began the study of law after having served as circuit clerk in Madison County, Fla. In 1882 he was admitted to the bar and in 1886 sought the honors from the state by standing for the attorney-general's office. In 1898 he was named by President McKinley as United States district attorney and was re-appointed to that position by President Roosevelt in 1902, holding the name honorably at the time of his death.

Early in January Mr. Eagan was called to Washington on legal business, and while in the capitol city contracted a severe cold which forced him to return here. The cold settled on his lungs and finally pneumonia set in. For a few days after reaching home Mr. Eagan battled with death and apparently triumphed, for he has convalesced to such an extent that on yesterday morning he was able to sit up, the first time since he had arrived from Washington. This was a matter of universal joy in the city, for everybody knew and loved John Eagan.

Shortly after 12 p.m., while quietly sitting in his room, a weakness seized him. Then his lungs began to suffer from being stopped up. He was hurriedly placed to his bed and two hours later, fell into a quiet sleep. Alarming symptoms developed immediately thereafter, terminating, finally, in conveying the soul of the great and good man to his Maker, and causing more sorrow in Pensacola than has the death of any citizen in many months.

Mr. Eagan is survived by a wife and six children. His devoted wife is Miss Nannie Wentworth. The names of his children are: Pat, Mary Lamar, Pearl, John, Susie, and Dennis, the latter 5 months old. The four mentioned, by a former marriage.

Mr. Eagan was a member of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Honor, Woodsmen of the World, and Knights of Pythias. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, holding an important position on the board of directors. He was also an attorney for the American National Bank and [Trust] and one of that banking institution's directors.

The death is mourned by hundreds in this city today, and various messages of condolence have been transmitted to the bereaved ones. Last night friends, associates and relatives congregated at the house and talked of the man who had been such a prominent figure in state and city matters. As a lawyer he was without an equal; as a father he was tender; as a husband he was devoted; as a gentleman he was without blemish and as a friend he was true and trusted as a brother.

His character was unequivocal, his past an honor, his record unsullied, his future was bright and his death was a blow in this community. To know John Eagan was not only to respect him but love him. It speaks well of Mr. Eagan to mention that when his death was made known to a crowd of children on the street yesterday some of them wept as though a relative has been taken from them. He was a great favorite with the little ones and loved children; and one friend last night spoke of him as a "great overgrown boy, with the largest of hearts and the truest of natures and the most buoyant of spirits and possessing gentlemanly instincts that could be instantly recognized even after a casual acquaintance."

- Pensacola, Florida - Saturday Afternoon: January 31, 1903

A Sad Occurrence

[Mrs. John Eagan Unconsciously Inhalates Too Much Chloroform and Dies Under its Influence]

The citizens of Pensacola were painfully shocked yesterday afternoon as the news spread throughout the city that Mrs. Eagan, wife of John Eagan Esq., the well-known attorney, was dead. To those who had seen her but the day previous, buoyant in health and filled with enthusiasm for homeless orphans, the announcement of her death appeared incredible, but alas! It was too true.

On Tuesday the W.C.T.U., of which the deceased was a prominent and most active member, gave an excursion on the bay to aid the Union in entertaining the delegates to the state association of the W.C.T.U., which will meet in this city next month, and also to assist in building an Orphan's Home in this city. Mrs. Eagan was the leading spirit on the excursion and was untiring in her efforts to make it a success. Owing, probably, to her excursions on the boat, she contracted a cold, and yesterday morning was suffering with a severe neuralgic pain in the head. Her suffering was so great that toward noon she retired to her room to lie down. She told a servant girl to bring her a bottle of chloroform which was in the house, and when it was brought, applied a small quantity to a handkerchief which she placed on her forehead and then lay down. Sometime afterward a member of the family entered the room and asked from Mrs. Eagan how she felt. She replied that she felt better and thereupon she was left alone to sleep.

She was not disturbed until Mr. Eagan came home to dinner about 2 p.m. He asked for Mrs. Eagan, and when told that she was in her room suffering with neuralgia, he went to her. When he entered the darkened room, he saw his wife lying in an unnatural position, and also detected the fumes of chloroform in the room. Again he tried to arouse her, and failing, telephoned Dr. W. H. Ross, the family physician. When Dr. Ross arrived he found her unconscious and immediately telephoned Dr. Renshaw to come with a galvanic battery. When Dr. Renshaw arrived with the battery, it was applied without effect. From the rigidity of the limbs the physicians are satisfied that she had been dead for at least half an hour before her husband's arrival.

Later it was discovered that Mrs. Eagan's death was the result of an unfortunate accident. After she had placed the handkerchief on her forehead, slightly saturated with chloroform, and had been left alone to rest, she lay down on the bed with the bottle grasped in one hand. After the chloroform had eased the pain and soothed her to sleep, by some means the cork in the bottle dropped out and the entire contents were spilled on the pillow and bed clothing. This she inhaled in her sleep and unconsciously passed away.

The untimely death of Mrs. Eagan will long be mourned in many households where her kindly influence and self-sacrificing spirit had been felt and acknowledged. Filled with love for humanity and earnest desire to assist the weak, distressed and the fallen, she was foremost in every good work. She was a model Christian wife and mother, and her presence made sunshine in her home. Her earnest nature and sunny disposition were an inspiration to her friends and cheered them in every undertaking in which they were associated with her. Her last appearance among them was in the noble work of providing homes for orphan children - a work which strongly appealed to her sympathies, and which she has left a legacy to her co-workers.

The deepest sympathy is felt in the community for the bereaved husband and the four children that have thus been suddenly bereft of a loving mother's care.

Mrs. Eagan was a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, and the funeral services will be held at that church at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

- Pensacola, Florida - March 16, 1893



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Presents in the most acceptable form
the laxative principles of plants
known to act most beneficially.
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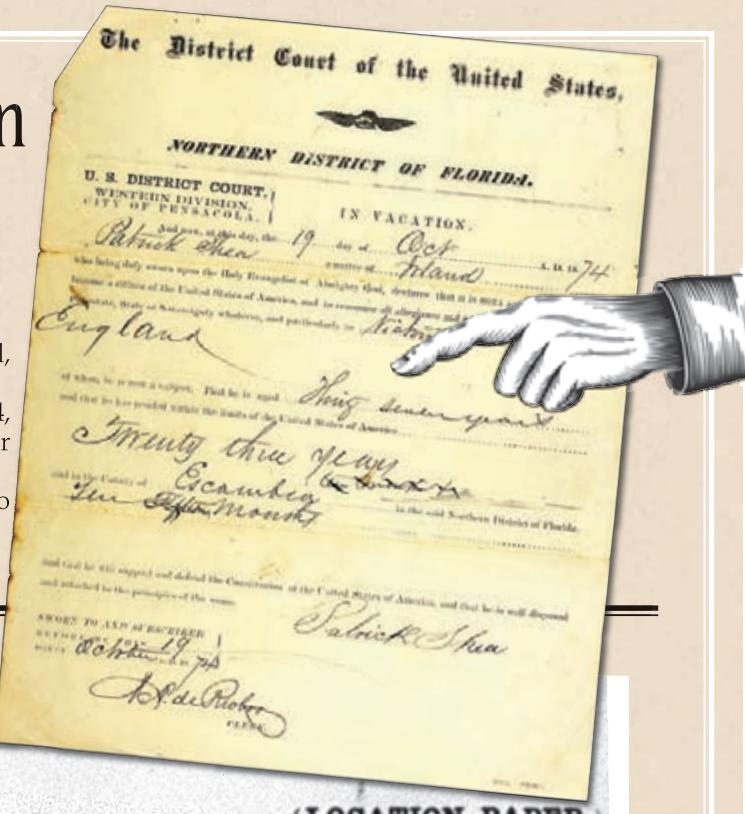
Shea served as first postmaster of Eagan

By Gail Acosta
editor@navarrepress.com

Patrick Shea emigrated from Ireland when he was just 13 years old. The year was 1851 when he made his way on shore in New York, courtesy of the ship Edw O'Brien which departed from Liverpool, England.

After 23 years of residing in the United States, Shea became a naturalized citizen on Oct. 19, 1874, in the U.S. District Court Western Division, in the City of Pensacola where so many gain their citizenship today.

In 1874, he was appointed postmaster of a new post office established in Eagan, Fla., very near to where today's Navarre Post Office stands. The branch only remained open for four months.



McC.

(No. 1011—NEW SERIES—JANUARY 1, 1884.)

(LOCATION PAPER.)

Post Office Department,

OFFICE OF THE FIRST ASSISTANT P. M. GENERAL,

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 26, 1884

Sir: Before the Postmaster General decides upon the application for the establishment of a post office at Eagan, County of Santa Rosa, State of Florida, it will be necessary for you to carefully answer the subjoined questions, get a neighboring postmaster to certify to the correctness of the answers, and return the location paper to the Department, addressed to me. If the site selected for the proposed office should not be on any mail route now under contract, only a "Special Office" can be established there, to be supplied with mail from some convenient point on the nearest mail route by a special carrier, for which service a sum equal to two-thirds of the amount of the salary of the postmaster at such office will be paid.

You should inform the contractor, or person performing service for him, of this application, and require him to execute the inclosed certificate as to the practicability of supplying the proposed office with mail, and return the same to the Department.

Very respectfully,

FRANK HATTON,
First Assistant Postmaster General.

To Mr. Charles M. Hooper,
care of the Postmaster of Milton, who will please forward to him.

STATEMENT.

The proposed office to be called

Eagan

Select a short name for the proposed office, which, when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the United States.

It will be situated in the SW quarter of Section 27, Township 100 (North or South), Range 27 (East or West), in the County of Santa Rosa, State of Florida.

It will be on or near route No. May Esther, Santa Rosa Co., being the route from Pensacola, Florida to Milton, on which the mail is now carried two times per week.

The contractor's name is Mc.

Will it be directly on this route?—Ans. Yes

If not, how far from, and on which side of it?—Ans. The mail is carried by boat, on North side

How much will it INCREASE the travel of the mail one way each trip?—Ans.

Where will the mail leave the present route to supply the proposed office?—Ans. At Pensacola, Florida

Where intersect the route again?—Ans.

What post office will be left out by this change?—Ans. None

If not on any route, is a "Special Office" wanted?—Ans. To be supplied from

The name of the nearest office to the proposed one, on the same route, is May Esther - Santa Rosa Co. its distance is about 16 miles miles in a South East direction from the proposed office.

The name of the nearest office on the same route, on the other side, is Pensacola, Fla. its distance about 30 miles miles in a South West direction from the proposed office.

The name of the nearest office proposed, not on this route, is May Esther its distance by the most direct road 14 miles miles in a South East direction from the proposed office.

The name of the most prominent river near it is East River

The name of the nearest creek is None

The proposed office will be Milton miles from said river, on the South East side of it, and will be about 25 or 30 rods miles from said nearest creek, on the South East side of it.

The name of the nearest railroad is Pensacola & Atlantic

If on the line of or near a railroad, on which side will the office be located; how far from the track; and what is, or will be, the name of the station?—Ans. Milton, Santa Rosa Co.

What will be the distance from the proposed site to the nearest flag station?—Ans. about 25 or 30 rods

State name of station: Milton

What will be the distance from the proposed site to the nearest station at which mail trains make regular stops?—Ans. about 25 or 30 rods

State name of station: Milton

If the proposed office is located where it can be supplied from a crane or flag station, or located over 80 rods from the station where mail trains make regular stops, will the mail be carried to and from the proposed office without expense to the Department?—Ans.

If it be a village, state the number of inhabitants.—Ans.

Also, the population to be supplied by the proposed office.—Ans. about forty families

A diagram, or sketch from a map, showing the position of the proposed new office, with neighboring river or creek, roads, and other post offices, towns, or villages near it, will be useful, and is therefore desired.

A correct map of the locality might be furnished by the county surveyor, but this must be without expense to the Post Office Department.

ALL WHICH I CERTIFY to be correct and true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, this 20th day of July, 1884.

(Sign full name.)

Patrick Shea, Proposed P. M.

I CERTIFY that I have examined the foregoing statement, and that it is correct and true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. L. Eagan, Postmaster at Pensacola, Fla.

(OVER.)

See POST OFFICE 4B

1884

Significant events when Eagan was formed in 1884

August 5: Cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty was laid on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

November 4: United States presidential election, 1884; Democratic Governor of New York Grover Cleveland defeats Republican James G. Blaine in a very close contest to win the first of his non-consecutive terms.

December 6: Washington Monument completed

December 16: The World Cotton Centennial World's Fair opens in New Orleans, La.



1885

Significant events the following year in 1885

February 16: Charles Dow publishes the first edition of the Dow Jones Industrial Average. The index stood at a level of 62.76, and represented the dollar average of 14 stocks: 12 railroads and two leading American industries.

February 21: United States President Chester A. Arthur dedicates the Washington Monument.

March 4: Grover Cleveland is inaugurated as President of the United States.

June 17: The Statue of Liberty arrives in New York Harbor.

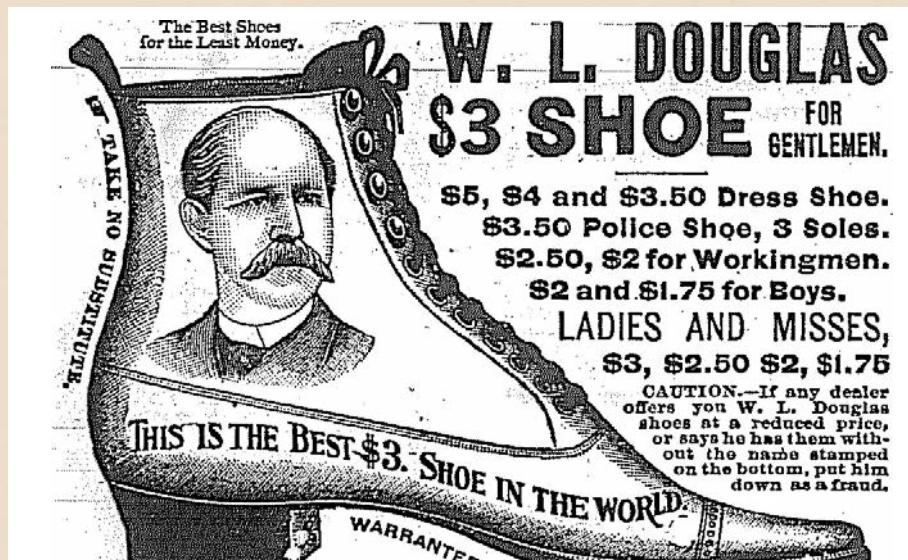
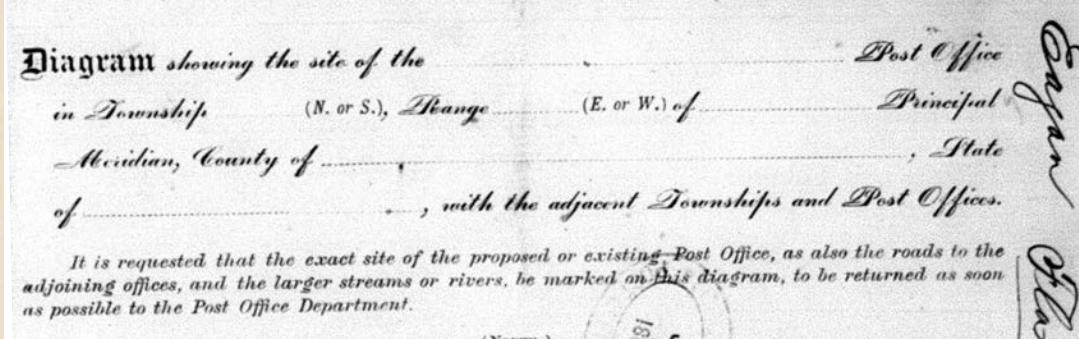
December 1: The U.S. Patent Office acknowledges this date as the day Dr Pepper is served for the very first time; the exact date of Dr Pepper's invention is unknown.



CHESTER A. ARTHUR

Post office

Continued from page 1B



W. L. DOUGLAS Shoes are stylish, easy fitting, and give better satisfaction at the prices advertised than any other make. Try one pair and be convinced. The stamping of W. L. Douglas' name and price on the bottom, which guarantees their value, saves thousands of dollars annually to those who wear them. Dealers who push the sale of W. L. Douglas Shoes gain customers, which helps to increase the sales on their full line of goods. They can afford to sell at a less profit, and we believe you can save money by buying all your footwear of the dealer advertised below. Catalogue free upon application. **W. L. DOUGLAS, Brockton, Mass.**

C. E. ASH, Higuera Street.

Santa Rosa (1885)



Area 626 square miles or 806,500 acres. Population in 1880, 1645. Santa Rosa County is one of the westernmost counties of the State. Through this county run various rivers, three of which are navigable, to wit Blackwater, Yellow, and East; and then the Escambia, which forms the boundary between the county and Escambia County, is also navigable. Each of these rivers might, with a small outlay, be made of considerable interest to the commerce of the county. Besides these streams there are quite a number of creeks which are utilized for lumber and grist mills, also for conveying logs to and timber from the mills. Upon the banks of each of these streams is more or less land that is susceptible of a high state of cultivation, and even where it is subject to overflow would be profitable for the growing of rice. The staple crops of the county are rice, Indian corn, sweet potatoes, and oats. But from the success obtained in every section of the county yet tried, it is evident that peaches, grapes, figs, and pears would be paying crops. The pecan grows well in all sections of the county, and it has often been remarked that the pecans grown in this county were far superior to the Texas pecan. The LeConte pear promises to be a great success in this county. The most lucrative branch of husbandry yet developed in Santa Rosa County is sheep-raising, which, so far as we have been able to learn, has paid from 25 to 40 per cent in every case where proper care was exercised. This county produces quite a number of horned cattle, and the sale of beef and hides is no mean source of revenue. The public-school system of Santa Rosa is fast growing into public favor. All of the religious denominations usual in the South have commodious churches and good congregations in the county.

BLACKWATER has a population of about 700 people. It is situated about two miles south of Milton and near the head of the Bay of Pensacola. It has a ship-yard, a sash-factory, a sawmill, and two stores.

CHAFFIN.—A thriving lumbering town of 450 inhabitants, located on the line of the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad, and Yellow River. Was settled by mill-men, and is owned principally by mill-companies. There are two churches, Baptist and Methodist, and public schools, and the postmaster, Mr. F. C. Chaffin, receives mail for some 300 families residing within a radius of ten miles. Messrs. Milligan & Chaffin are largely interested in real estate in and about the town.

EAGAN, formerly a post-office, is situated on Santa Rosa Sound, about eight hours distant by small boat from Pensacola. The date of settlement does not appear, but was a number of years ago. The village now contains some 15 families. The post office address is Pensacola.

HOLT - A country station and post-office on the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad 40 miles east of Pensacola. It has three stores and two saw-mills.

MARY ESTHER - was originally a logging-camp 50 years ago. It is situated on the Narrows between Choctawhatchee Bay and Santa Rosa Sound, where there is a landing. Sailing-vessels connect with Pensacola, 45 miles distant; fare, \$1. Within a radius of ten miles the population is 500. Rev. John Newton is the Presbyterian minister, and is also teacher and postmaster. The white hills of Santa Rosa Island look like houses in groves, and so independent are the people that those who have no shoes go barefoot. Capt. L. Destin has the largest orange-grove. The people are all white, from various States, poor and satisfied with their lot. Very little is being done in agriculture or horticulture.

MILTON is about 20 miles from Pensacola, on the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad, and three miles up the Blackwater River. It has several stores, a foundry and machine-shop, a dry-dock, ship yards, hotel, and saw-mills. The Santa Rosa News, a weekly newspaper is published here. Population near 1500.

OAK GROVE was settled about the year 1870 by John F. Thomas, who inaugurated the enterprise of a country store, which he has since conducted. It is situated half a mile from the landing on Yellow River, and 15 miles from the nearest railroad station on the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad. The population is about 100 and there are three stores. Mr. W. J. Van Kirk, at Pensacola, is interested in this place, from whom additional special information can be obtained by those wishing to settle. There are several good water-powers on Yellow Creek, Horse Creek, and Bi Creek, which are near. Blackwater River is seven miles west. What few new settlers there are poor whites from Alabama. There are good openings for the trades and an apiary. Cattle and sheep raising are at no expense save marking, branding, and shearing. There is a public school from three to eight months in the year. This section needs a few progressive farmers, and in addition to the present clergyman an occasional visit of an intelligent Christian missionary to the various churches.

OTAHITE, a small settlement and post-office.

WANTON S. WEBB, Editor and Compiler. This number is complete in itself, and is a portion of a large volume now in printers representing the industrial development of Florida.

Price, One Dollar

New York: W.S. WEBB & CO., PUBLISHERS. 1885