

Synopsis for: The Merrick Brothers, Wilson Larkins and Southwest Miami Mail

By Juan L. Riera

In this article I show that in frontier communities, and south Florida was a frontier area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, post offices were of importance to new and small communities. Also, as illustrated by certain images of the Coral Gables Post Office, the buildings could be sources of civic pride for the community. The article also shows how individuals as part of their busy lives just attempting to survive, or building a new community, undertook with great seriousness the role of postmaster, or some kind of responsibility for mail service for their community and that in some cases the post office moved with them and that their roles overlapped from one community to another as people moved around and settlements moved as well. Essentially the postal history of a couple frontier communities as they were founded, developed and began to mature- Miami, Coral Gables, and Larkins/South Miami.