

R.G. 36, Bureau of Customs, Letters Sent 1891-1912. Fernandina, Fla., entry 1497.

Office of the Collector of Customs
Port of Fernandina, Fla.

Feb. 11th 1895

Mr. John Cone
Mr. W. B. Smith
Special Inspectors
Fernandina, Fla.

Gentlemen:

I am informed by Mr. N. B. Borden that he finds following shortage in the arms etc. , which were in his warehouse, and which as Special Deputies you were sworn to protect. to wit--

Three (3) small boxs cartridges

Three (3) Colts Revolvers

Five (5) Winchester Rifles.

Please give me at your early convenience a sworn statement to the effect that the missing articles --as above-- were not taken from the warehouse, while, or at the time you were in charge.

Yours very truly

G. L. Baltzell
Collector

Office of the Collector of Customs
Port of Fernandina, Fla.

Febry. 14th 1895

Hon. N. B. Borden
Fernandina, Fla.

Dear Sir,

I herewith submit sworn statements od Special Deputies Cone & Smith who were the watchmen at your warehouse during time the arms etc. therein were in possession of the government, by seizure; Besides the statement as above I have had personal interview with these deputies & am assured by them they kept close & careful watch & nothing was taken from warehouse during time they were in charge.

Yours very truly

G. L. Baltzell
Collector

Office of the Collector of Customs
Port of Fernandina, Fla.

February 18th 1895

N. B. Borden Esq.
Agent Etc.
City

Dear Sir

All papers herewith returned relative to the missing guns etc. You will find attached sworn statement of Smith in manner suggested by yourself.

Mr. Howell has just informed me that you had consented to his keeping one of the guns of the 2 referred to.

I regret very much that you still encounter a shortage of 3 rifles etc. & If I can aid in any way in their recovery command me.

Yours very truly

G. L. Baltzell
Collector

Office of the Collector of Customs
Port of Fernandina, Fla.

February 26th 1895

Hon. James McKay
U.S. Marshal
Jacksonville

Dear Sir,

Replying to your communication of the 25th relative to the arms etc., recovered from the Amelia River.

I hand you herewith a list of all the articles recovered which have been turned into the Custom House.

Yours very truly.

G. L. Baltzell
Collector

This is to certify that Capt. Griffin of the Steam Yacht Lagonda turned into the Custom House January 18th 1895 Three (3) Remington Carbines & 4 boxes damaged cartridges, which he stated he had recovered from the bottom of the Amelia River at Fernandina.

G. L. Baltzell
Collector

Fernandina
February 26th 1895

This is to certify that Capt. T. J. Wasson of the Schooner H. B. Homan turned into the Custom House Jany. 25th 1895 Four (4) Remington carbines -- which he stated he had recovered from the bottom of the Amelia River at Fernandina.

G. L. Baltzell
Collector of Customs

Fernandina
February 26th 1895

List of Sabers etc., brought to the Custom House by Ranaldo McDonald; Sam Cribb; Edgar Johnson; James Cristopher & Rufus Johnson, on the 12th day of January 1895. claimed by them to have been found in the Amelia River at Fernandina.

In two (2) cases --

30 Sabers
96 Haversacks
6 Canteens

Above is a correct list

G. L. Baltzell
Collector of Customs

Fernandina,
February 26th 1895

Office of the Collector of Customs
Port of Fernandina

March 6th 1895

Hon. Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I respectfully ask for authority to have a "telephone" placed in this office at an expense of Forty Dollars (\$40) per year, payable quarterly. Deeming the "telephone" of value to the service in the quick reporting the arrival of vessels, as the service now extends to Old Town Fernandina, near the Sound, several miles distant from the Custom House. As this port has no Inspector, the "telephone" would be the means of more promptly boarding vessels [sic] inward bound.

Very Respectfully
G. L. Baltzell
Collector

Office of the Collector of Customs
Port of Fernandina

March 6th 1895

Hon. James McKay
U.S. Marshal
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 4th inst. has been received. I have had the advertisement inserted in one of the papers as requested. The 36 sabers which W. J. Ray writes you about are the same as the ones reported to you as recovered by Ranoldo McDonald, Et. Al. only there are only 30 instead of 36. Please run your price through the 30 sabers on the Codificate of R. McDonald & others & substitute the one inclosed of W. J. Ray.

Yours very truly
G. L. Blatzell
Collector

This is to certify, that W. J. Ray -- a citizen of Fernandina -- on the 12th day of January 1895 brought to the Custom House claimed by him to have been recovered from the waters of the Amelia river at Fernandina

one (1) case
30 sabers

Above is correct.

G. L. Baltzell
Collector of Customs

Office of the Collector of Customs
Port of Fernandina

March 14th 1895

Hon. H. Kutz

Chief, Appointment Division
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Referring to your communication "F" under date Fe. 15th 1895 relative to an amount paid by myself for telegrams, etc. in the matter of the seizure of the Yacht "Lagonda."

Will you kindly advise me what action the State Department has taken in the premises? The telegrams etc. were authorized, partly by the Department & partly by the District Attorney. The matter is getting somewhat old, is reason my writing. Trusting an early reply, I am,

Yours very truly

G. L. Baltzell

Collector

Office of the Collector of Customs
Port of Fernandina

March 22d 1895

Hon. C. S. Hamlin
Acting Secretary
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 19th inst with copy of a note from the Minister of Spain, relative to a "probable or simulated shipment of arms," has been received.

I will use all means at my command to carry out your instructions.

Yours very truly,

G. L. Baltzell

Collector

Office of the Collector of Customs
Port of Fernandina

April 7th 1895

Roster of the Employees of the Custom House -- Port of Fernandina.

G. L. Baltzell, Collector. Compensation \$500 per annun. Appointed Aug. 8th 1894.

W. B. C. Duryee, Special Deputy Collector. \$3.00 per day. Appointed Feby. 1st 1895

John L. Edwards. Boatman & Messenger. \$30.00 per month. Appointed Oct. 9th 1894.

Office of the Collector of Customs
Port of Fernandina

April 11th 1895

Hon. C. S. Hamlin
Act. Secretary of the Treasury
Washington,, D.C.

Dear Sir

I have just received today the letter from the Department in which I am lead to the conclusion, there is nothing left me but to loose the amount paid for telegrams, etc., in the matter of seizure of Yacht "Lagonda." I desire to call your attention to the fact, that these telegrams. etc. were all sent in good faith, & that I had the good of the government solely at heart in my endeavor to conduct this case to a successful conclusion and that I think a hardship will have been shown me if I am required

to loose the money paid for these telegrams etc.

I desire to call your attention also to the fact that these telegrams etc. were sent, partly by direction of the Department, & partly by instruction of the District Attorney. I have to say further that no circulars are on file (Nos 30 & 160) in this office instructions as to telegrams, & that I was not aware that telegrams should not be prepaid.

Trusting a favorable consideration I am

G. L. Baltzell
Collector

May 13th 1895

Mr. B. F. Dillon
Supt. W. M T. Co.
Jacksonville

Dear Sir

I submit herewith sundry telegrams amounting to \$3.33 which were sent by me, during the time the Yacht Lagonda was at this port. Please help me in this matter if possible, note what the Dept. has to say about the matter, letter attached.

I hand you also two telegrams -- also in this case-- which I find upon investigation are erroneous -- one from myself to W. H. Lowter, New York, charged at 60 cts. should be 22 cts. One from M. H. Foster in answer to one of mine charged at \$1.04 should be 25 cts. Please help me out in these & oblige

Yours very truly
G. L. Baltzell
Collector

June 13th 1895

Hon. Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I deem it my duty, in view of the fact that there are or will be, fillibustering expeditions from this port, to the island of Cuba, to report: that I have carefully enquired into the facts, & find there is no foundation for such reports, and that I consider such reports or rumors to be entirely sensational.

Yours very truly
G. L. Baltzell
Collector

June 13th 1895

Hon. E. F. Chamberlain
Commissioner of Customs
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the iith inst. with transmittal "of a circular letter dated June 11th, 1895, signed by the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, relative to the enforcement of the Neutrality laws," has been received.

You have my assurance, that so far as this part is concerned, I will see to it that this law, so

far as lays in my power, will be strictly enforced.

Yours very truly

G. L. Baltzell

Collector