



Patriotic Cover to Marie Rosa Haydel Andry

The Jefferson Davis medallion patriotic cover (CSA catalog type JD-3¹) was hand-carried to “Mrs. Thomassin Andry (Marie Rosa Haydel Andry), on Dauphine St., Corner of Dumaine, New Orleans, La.” There are soldiers’ endorsements at the top from her brother, Amélius M. Haydel, as well as from H.L. Nichols at bottom. On the back is a note, “Please send me a Cap Kepi by the same opportunity [a] carrot of tobacco and some smoking tobacco for piper, 2 prs of gloves.” “Cap” had been crossed out in favor of “kepi”(Figure 1).

There is a photo in the Louisiana Digital Library of a letter from Amélius M. Haydel to his sister along with a transcription. It is dated March 13, 1861, and the letter postscript directs her to send him a pair of gloves by the first occasion. It is possible that this is the matching letter to the Figure 1 cover.

Michel Thomassin Andry (1811 – ca. 1871)

Michel Andry owned and operated a sugar plantation in St. John the Baptist Parish, La., and had a plantation in St. Charles Parish, La.

Andry was a son of Gilbert Thomassin Andry and Marie Marcelite Deslonde. He wed his niece Martha Henriette Boudousquie, daughter of Marguerite Sophie Andry, Michel’s sister, and Antoine Boudousquie. They had four children – Marie Thérèse Héloïse, Charles, Louis and Gustave. Andry’s wife and daughter died between 1840 and 1850.

On June 10, 1851, Michel Thomassin Andry married Marie Rosa Haydel, to whom this cover was addressed. They had a daughter named Marie, whose nickname was “Gouny.”

Andry sold his sugar plantation in St. Charles Parish around 1855 or 1856. Three years later, he sold his plantation in St. John the Baptist Parish. The latter sale resulted in a law-

suit between the Andry family and the purchasers, Thomas S. and Samuel N. Burbank, who reportedly did not pay the Andry family in full. The Burbanks were given immunity from mortgage foreclosure per Maj. General Nathaniel P. Banks’ Special Order No. 15.

In 1863, Andry appealed to General Banks and the U.S. Provisional Court of New Orleans to suspend the order and require the Burbanks to pay him or forfeit their claim on the plantation. General Banks complied, and Andry subsequently seized, advertised and sold the plantation to himself at a marshal’s sale. However, Maj. General Stephen A. Hurlbut of the Department of the Gulf Headquarters in New Orleans rescinded the order and reinstated the Burbanks as owners of the plantation. Andry returned to the U.S. Provisional Court over the matter, but the papers do not indicate who ultimately received possession of the plantation. After Andry sold his plantations, he moved to New Orleans, where he and his wife lived the remainder of their lives.²

Marie Rosa (Haydel) Andry (1833 – ca. 1877)

Rosa, as she was known, had two brothers (of many siblings) with whom she corresponded throughout her adult life. Amélius and Edouard Haydel both attended St. Xavier College

in Cincinnati, Ohio, during the 1840s and both fought in the Civil War. Father Belfort Haydel was noted as 46 years old, a planter and with real estate valued at \$140,000 – a lot of money in those days.

The 1850 U.S. Census for the Parish of St. John the Baptist in Louisiana shows many siblings, some of whom appear to be under the tutelage or care of none other than Professor A. Dietz. How’s that for a great coincidence of names for Confederate philatelic students? Of course, the good professor was 50 years old in 1850 and hailed from France.

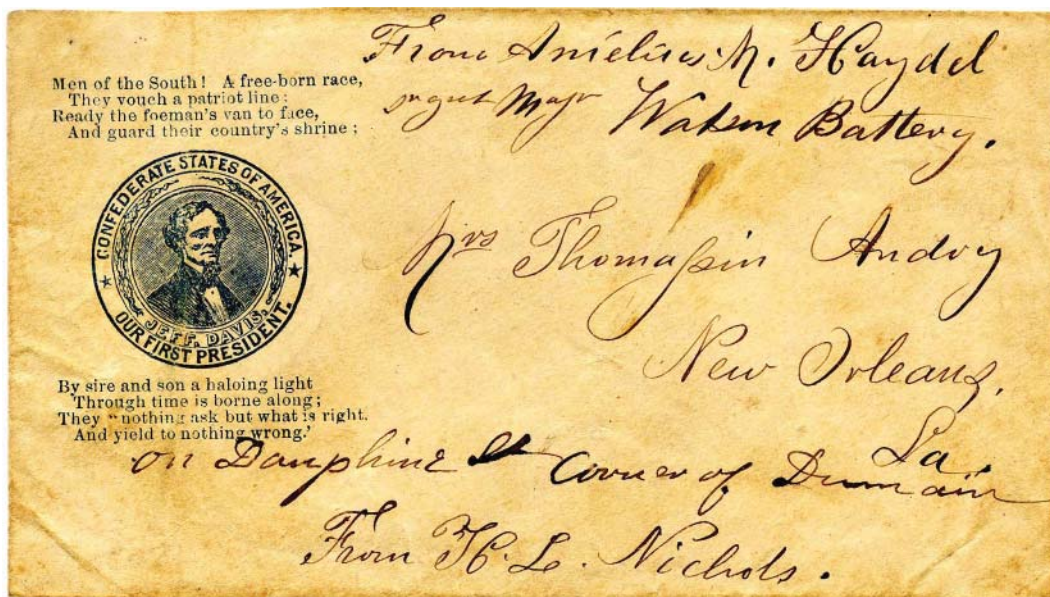


Figure 1. Jefferson Davis medallion patriotic cover hand-carried to Mrs. Thomassin Andry, New Orleans, La.

The “Father of Confederate Philately,” August Dietz, was not yet born and was from Germany.

Amélius Haydel served as a Sergeant Major in Capt. A.A. Bursley’s Company of Watson’s Battery of the Louisiana Artillery. I could find only one person from Louisiana by the name of H.L. Nichols in the military records and he was also a sergeant in the Watson Light Artillery. Undoubtedly, he was a friend who availed himself of the opportunity to send a letter to Rosa for himself, along with that of Amélius. It is also possible that he hand-carried the letter to Rosa, but there is no proof of this.

While serving in Watson’s Light Artillery, Amélius was captured by enemy troops and paroled at Port Hudson, La., on July 10, 1863 (Figure 2).



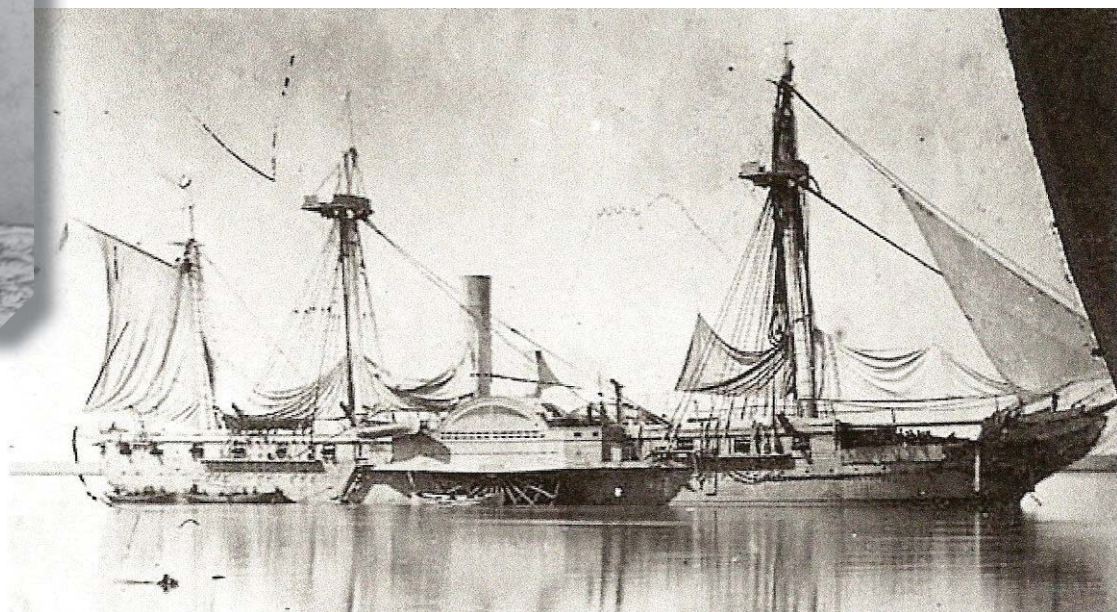
Figure 2. Battle of Port Hudson showing Confederate batteries firing down onto Union gunboats on the Mississippi River.

Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks, commander of the Union Department of the Gulf, surrounded the Confederate stronghold at Port Hudson, La., and attacked. Fortifications were built at Port Hudson in 1863 to protect New Orleans from a Union attack down the Mississippi River. Maj. Gen. Franklin Kitchell



Above: General Nathaniel P. Banks, Union commander at Port Hudson.

Right: The USS *Mississippi* was completely destroyed by the guns of Port Hudson. Lieutenant George Dewey, later to become an admiral, survived the wreck.



Gardner was his Confederate adversary.

On April 25, 1862, New Orleans fell into Union hands following an attack from the Gulf of Mexico by Admiral David Farragut. Port Hudson was considered an important installation for the South since it was a significant threat to Federal ships on the Mississippi River. In 1863, the Union made it a priority to rid the Mississippi of the Rebels.

The siege created hardships and deprivations for both the North and South, but by early July the Confederates were in much worse shape. Gen. Gardner surrendered July 9, 1863, after learning Vicksburg had surrendered July 4, 1863, thereby realizing his situation was hopeless. It ended 48 days of continuous fighting, said to be the longest siege in U.S. military

history as cited by a half dozen military history sources.³

Upon his release, Amélius was ordered by Lt. General Leonidas Polk to report to Hudson's Battery from Watson's Battery. He was later again captured at Citronelle, Ala., on May 4, 1865, and paroled at Gainesville, Ala., on May 12, 1865, the following week. He is shown on the roll of prisoners as then serving in Company H, Pettus Flying Artillery, Mississippi, also known as Hudson's Battery Mississippi Light Artillery.

An interesting side note in the military records was that Amélius appeared on a "Petition of members of a company of Artillery called the Watson Battery, protesting against the transfer of that organization to the Army of Tennessee, and requesting that it be allowed to continue in the State service, for which purpose it was originally intended." H.L. Nichols signed that petition as well. It was dated Oct. 13, 1861, in Missouri.

Edouard C. Haydel first mustered into Louisiana 1st Light

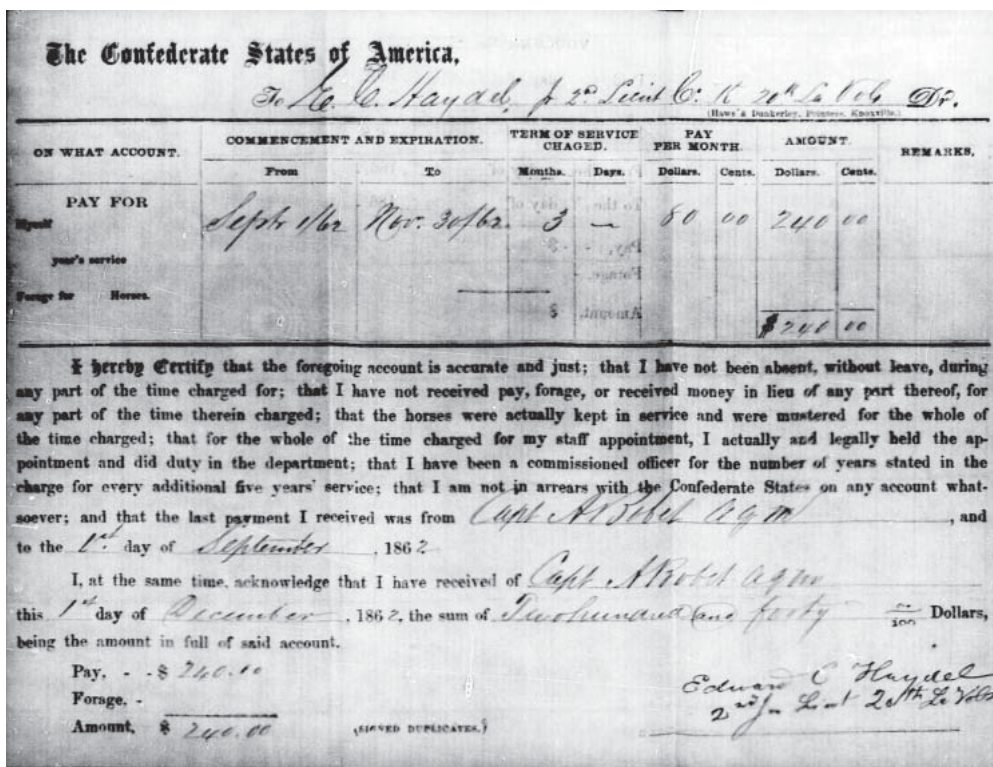


Figure 3. Military document signed by Edouard Haydel stating he has not been absent without leave during any part of the time charged for.

Artillery Oct. 7, 1861. He served as a second Junior Lt. in Company K, 20th Regiment of the Louisiana Volunteer Infantry, Gibson's Brigade, Clayton's Division, Lee's Corps, Army of Tennessee. He was shown in military records by the anglicized name of Edward. He joined Gen. Leonidas Polk's Orleans Light Horse Cavalry July 1, 1863.

One of the military records on file at the National Archives shows an interesting document, signed by Edouard, stating that he has not been absent without leave during any part of the time charged for and that he had not received pay, forage or received money in lieu of any part thereof – that the horses were kept in service and mustered for the whole of the time charged, etc. I have seen numerous similar documents in the military records. It was undoubtedly difficult to keep track of combatants in the furor of war and without benefit of email, cell phones or satellite connections (Figure 3).

The Michel Thomassin Andry and Family Papers (1840-82), are housed in the Louisiana State University Libraries Special Collections at Baton Rouge at the Hill Memorial Library in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections. Some papers are in French. Much of the personal information herein was derived from that source, as well as the original military records in the National Archives and Records Administration.

Endnotes

1. Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown, Jr., Jerry S. Palazolo, editors, *Confederate States Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*, 2012, Confederate Stamp Alliance, www.csalliance.org.

Claudia C. Holland, Michael Thomassin Andry and Family Papers, Louisiana State University Libraries. www.lib.lsu.edu/sites/default/files/sc/findaid/1318.pdf Accessed July 23, 2018.

Edward Cunningham, *The Port Hudson Campaign, 1862-1863*, LSU Press, 1963, pp.184—.

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