

Passed Away Last Night,
Following Stroke of Par-
alysis in Afternoon.

**CAME TO FLORIDA
IN THE YEAR 1868**

Was Master and Owner of
Schooners in the Lumber
Trade on Gulf Coast for a
Number of Years and
Later Entered the Tug-
boat and Wholesale Fish
Business.

Capt. Eugene R. Saunders, one of the
pioneers of the gulf coast in the
schooner and tugboat business, died
last night at 7:15 o'clock at his home
on North Hill, death following an at-
tack of apoplexy, which he suffered a
few hours before while on Palatka
wharf, directing some repair work on
a barge. He had been a resident of
Pensacola since 1884, and in addition
to large interests in tugboats and
barges, was active member of the firm
of E. R. Saunders & Co., the largest
handlers of fish in the United States.

The captain had been in ill health
for over a year, and last summer went
to Florida, where he underwent an op-
eration which, for a time, appeared to
have relieved him, but unfortunately
when he had recovered he suffered an
accident in which one arm was broken
and he never fully recovered after-
wards.

For several weeks his condition has
been growing gradually worse, but
despite this he hardly ever missed a
day from his business. Yesterday he
was down at Palatka wharf as usual
and about 1 o'clock in the afternoon
he was directing some repair work
done on a barge when he suddenly
suffered a stroke, which rendered
him speechless. Several went to his
aid, and even afterwards, when de-
prived of his speech he attempted to
point out to Capt. Wagon, who was
he wanted down to the wharf, and
was hurried home and physicians at-
tempted, but he never regained the pos-
sibility of speech, although conscious until
a few minutes before death.

CAME SOUTH IN 1868

Capt. Saunders came south in 1868
when he came around in the schooner
Florida Fern, of which he was owner
and master. Later he went north and
built the schooner Alka, at that time
one of the largest and fastest coasting
vessels on the gulf. He was engaged
in the lumber trade between Penn-
sylv and Indiana, Penn. A year or
so later he built another schooner,
the Eddie Hough, which he sailed for
a number of years, then he entered the
tugboat business, at which he was
equally as successful as in the coast-
ing schooner trade.

About twelve years after his resi-
dence in Pensacola he built his first
tugboat, the Juno, which he command-
ed. Later he had John Dalrymple &
Co., of Philadelphia, build the tug
Boha and the big Echo, the latter
being the last to be built by Dalrymple
for him. He had formerly disposed of
the little Boha and after covering the
big Echo for a number of years and
her to parties in the north but con-
tinued in the tugboat and barge busi-
ness with the tug Algonquin. A few
months ago he acquired the tug Le-
Roy, which is now being rebuilt for
him at Mobile.

IN THE FISH BUSINESS

About twenty-five years ago Capt.
Saunders and Capt. T. J. Wells
formed the firm of E. R. Saunders &
Co., and entered the red snapper fish
business, which has grown until now
the concern employs the largest num-
ber of vessels in the fish business of
any firm in the United States. This
business as all others with which
Capt. Saunders was identified, was
most successful. He never gave any
attention to this portion of his busi-
ness, however, devoting all of his time
to directing his tugboats and barges.
Of the latter he owned a large fleet,
used principally in handling lumber
from the mills of the German-Ameri-

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