

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

VOL. 2, NO. 3

JANUARY 1995

CONTENTS

Melendez Florida

Herbert P. McNeal 2

Marathon Straight-Line Cancel

Mike Wiedemann 3

Jacksonville Stampless Postal History

Donald G. Thompson 5

Key West R.P.O. Service

Deane R. Briggs 13

Territory Indications in Florida Postmarks

Niles Schuh 16

Fort Myers, Florida

Deane R. Briggs 19

View of the Seminole War, 1838

David G. Phillips 21

What's the Answer?

Theodore Light 23

Uchee Anna, Florida

Conrad Bush 24

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY MAIL BID SALE

At the last meeting of the Florida Postal History Society at Florex, a discussion was held regarding fund raising methods for the Society. The begining of our Society project, the update of the Florida Postal History and Postal Markings during the Stampless Period, will require the expenditure of more funds than our treasury presently has. This is in addition to the costs of publication of our Florida Postal History Journal and postage for hopefully three issues annually. With this in mind, a Mail Bid Sale was suggested, similar to ones held by other societies and LaPosta with the same rules. Any member may submit Florida postal history items for sale with a minimum value of \$5.00. Ideally the maximum should be at the \$50 range as we are not attempting to dilute items from commercial auction dealers. Reserves or minimum bids will be accepted, and any unsold items will be returned with an accounting. Unsold items will not be kept for future sales. A 20 percent charge will be retained by the Society as additional contributing dues. Until we receive an IRS tax exempt status, a tax deduction is not possible.

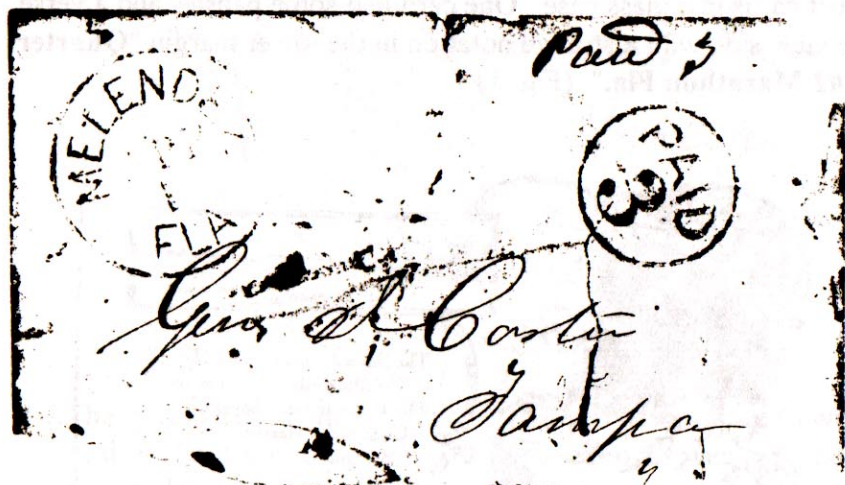
Please send any items for our first Sale to Deane R. Briggs, M.D., 160 E. Lake Howard Dr., Winter Haven, FL 33881. The first sale will be in November 1995, after our Annual Meeting in Florex. All items offered in this Sale will be viewable during our meeting. The deadline to submit material will be October 1, 1995.

Anyone wishing to assist in the Stampless Markings update should contact Donald Thompson. He is trying to get this project off the ground. Anyone with unrecorded stampless examples from Florida is encouraged to submit a photocopy to him or better yet, submit it for publication in our Journal.

MELENDEZ FLORIDA

A New Handstamp Postmark Listing

HERBERT P. McNEAL



Until about five years ago, only manuscript postal markings were known from Melendez, Florida (Hernando Co., 1850-1855). The above illustrated cover front has a handstamped MELENDEZ / FLA APR 1 postmark and a handstamped PAID / 3 in circle rate and a manuscript Paid 3 rate. This is the only handstamped cover recorded thus far from Melendez and is the basis of the American Stampless Cover Catalog listing. It was found at a post card show, in a dealer's junk box. It goes to show that some treasures are others junk!!

MARATHON STRAIGHT-LINE CANCEL

MIKE WIEDEMANN

In my travels searching for the things I collect (knives of all kinds, military collectibles, and local postal history) I look at a lot of things in antique, pawn and second hand stores. When a new antique store opened in town recently, I made it a point to stop in as soon as I could to see what they had. No knives were to be found but there were a few post cards in a glass case. One card had some pansies and a verse on the view side with a strange notation in the lower margin "**Quarter Boat #2 Marathon Fla.**" (Fig. 1)



Fig. 1

Turning the card over there was a Scott #300 tied with a purple straight line cancel "**Marathon Fla. / April 7, 1909**". (Fig. 2) The cancel wasn't clearly struck, but it was a straight line postmark and they are not at all common from Florida. I noted the date and put the card back, planning to check my "Chronology of Florida Post Offices" to see when the Marathon Post Office had been established. I was really surprised that night when I checked and found that Marathon had been established Feb. 23, 1909, so the card I had looked at was an early usage. I went to the store the next evening thinking that

someone else had probably purchased it that day, but I was in luck, the card was still there and I was able to purchase it.

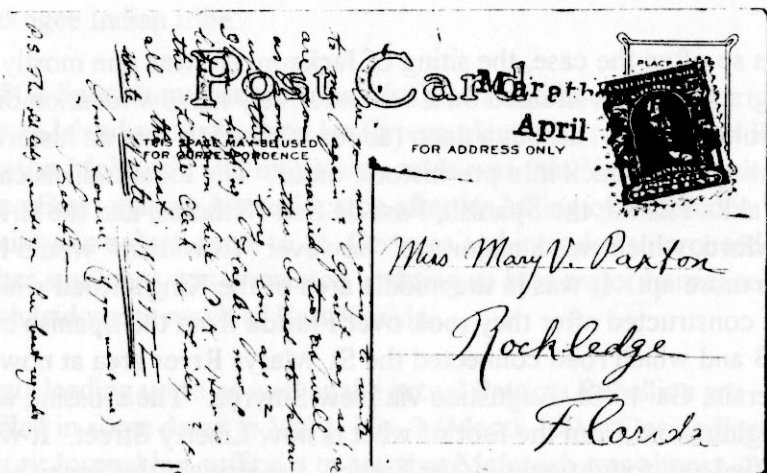


Fig. 2

The message is worth recording: "Are you never going to write to me again? If not say so!, or are you married too, as well as some others I used to know up there "long, long ago"? **I am helping Flagler now & like it down here O.K.** How is the "Little Clerk" & Finley? & all the rest; Write Write WRITE Yours forever (if you want me) Leo R P.S. The "old lady" sends you her best regards." The Quarter Boat #2 was apparently the floating housing boat where he was staying while at work building the "overseas railway" to Key West. The cancel was probably of local manufacture and being used because the regular handstamp postmarking device had not been received since the establishment of the post office six weeks before. The card's addressee was "Miss Mary V. Paxton", a member of a local Rockledge family who were in the citrus growing and packing business and this card came from her estate.

Editor's Note: This is a fabulous addition to Key West "overseas railway" article in our last issue. See more in this issue.

JACKSONVILLE STAMPLESS POSTAL HISTORY PRE-CIVIL WAR

DONALD G. THOMPSON

As is so often the case, the siting of Jacksonville was due mostly to geography as it is situated on a comparatively narrow location on the St. Johns River. Although deep (about 90 feet), it was an historic crossing going back into pre-historic times. The local Indians called it Wakka Pilatka, the Spanish, Pass de San Nicholas, and the British, Cowford, which was a major use; however "Cowswim" would have been more apt. It was in the middle area of the King's Road which they constructed after they took over Florida from the Spanish in 1763 and which road connected the St. Marys River area at now Colerain, Ga. to St. Augustine via New Smyrna. The crossing went straight across from the foot of what is now Liberty Street. It was fortified and fought over by the French, the British, the Spanish, the Americans (later the Union) and the Confederates. It was looted, burned and leveled several times before settling down after 1865 to become the thriving city we find today. During the British period until returned back to Spain in 1783, the area was at best in an unsettled condition and at worst ungoverned and chaotic.

In 1785 British Governor Toyne finally left and Spanish Governor Zespedes was able to take over although actually he had been named governor in 1784. The Spanish established the first fort at Cowford which they called the San Nicolas Battery. The settlers at this time requested a ferry as well. After French schemes were started in 1794 to invade Florida with American mercenaries, Spanish magistrate John McQueen ordered Thomas Sterling, the overseer at his nearby Ortega plantation, to build barracks there as well. In 1795 the "French" invaded and took Cowford under the command of Richard Lang, who earlier had been maltreated by the Spanish. Soon after the Spanish, helped by the British chased the French out. The latter then proceeded to invade Amelia Island but the Spanish soon caused them to withdraw to Newton, now St. Marys, Ga.

From this time forward to 1802 or so there was general unrest in the area with raids up and down the St. Johns River terrorizing the plantations and stealing livestock. Many of these raids were by one David McGirtt and his gang and William Augustus Bowles, a British adventurer who got himself appointed "director general" of the Muskogee Indian tribe.

In 1804 Spanish magistrate John McQueen sold both his Fort George Island plantation and his Ortega plantation to Georgian John Houston McIntosh. An interesting aside was that Vice President Aaron Burr, making himself scarce after his killing of Alexander Hamilton in a duel, came to St. Georges and intended to proceed further south but was prevented in doing so by a major hurricane which laid waste much of East Florida.

Events leading up to as well as the actual Patriots Rebellion are handled in some detail in Vol 1, No. 2 (March 1994) Florida Postal History Journal but suffice it to say that McIntosh was almost financially ruined by it, that President Madison vacillated to an extreme and that the whole thing was called off by Congress in 1813. Chaotic conditions returned. In 1817 Sir Gregor MacGregor briefly took Amelia, causing the timid Spanish to burn and evacuate Ft. San Nicolas at Cowford. He left to be replaced by Jared Irwin and Louis Aury, both bad news for the area. In 1816 the new President, James Monroe finally acted for the Government of the United States and occupied Amelia. 1818 saw the First Seminole War which was put down by General Andrew Jackson and there was comparative peace in the area, leading up to annexation of Florida in 1819.

At Cowford, due to demand, Davison and Buckles built a modest hotel in 1821, and in 1822 Isaah D. Hart and John Brady laid out a town which they petitioned the government to call Jacksonville (although there is no record that Andrew Jackson had ever been there). They also petitioned that it be named a Port of Entry (into the United States) but this was not approved until 1831 by now President Jackson. In 1822 Duval was Governor of the Territory of Florida and Duval County was created. A ferry service was finally

established in 1824 with a monopoly of 5 miles.

On March 24, 1824, the Post Office at Jacksonville was established with John L. Doggett as postmaster, succeeded by Isiah D. Hart in 1827. The ASCC reports a January 13, 1825 archival manuscript letter as the earliest postmark followed by another manuscript (Figure 1) July 8, 1827 usage which has a puzzling rate of Way 20 corrected with a heavy 4 over the 2 to apparently make it a 40 cent rate. We must remember that Jacksonville's population was only 50-60 at this time and that postal experience and expertise might be lacking.

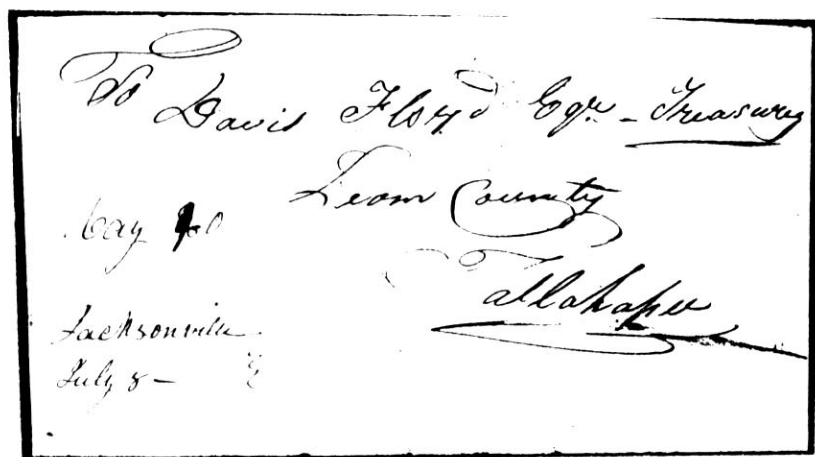


Fig. 1

The next reported cover (Figure 2) is dated December 27, 1827, which has only recently been found and so far appears to be the only example of this rare "printer's typeset" arc. An article in the St. Augustine newspaper states that there were only 8-10 hovels at Cowford, none with sashes, one store and no industry. But it emphasized that it was a lovely location, only needing good development. A saw mill for a forthcoming thriving lumber industry was started up as well as brick kiln (which presumably burned the slash and bark as its heat source), both of which were followed with more substantial buildings to replace the log cabins. Cotton soon

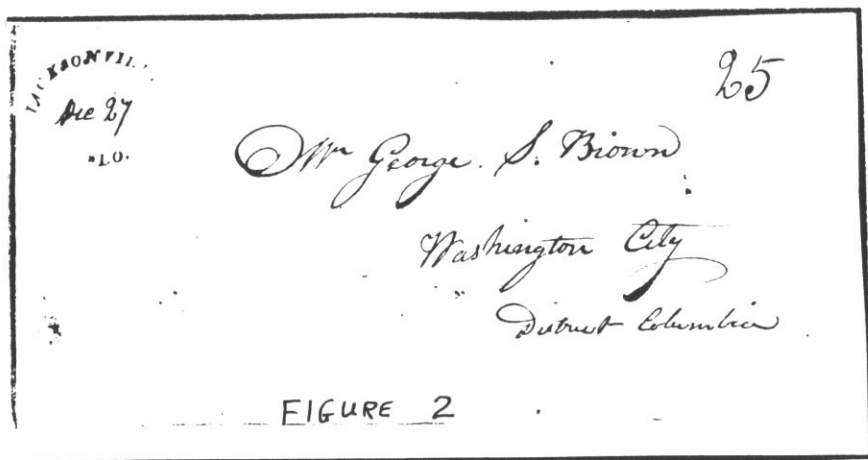


Fig. 2

became a substantial export. An August 10, 1828 cover (Figure 3) is an early use of the irregular circle postmark known in red and black ink. This cover enclosed a second page listing all 65 voters in an election for their member in the legislature and carries a double rate of 37 1/2 c. This confirms an estimate of about 100 as the population in 1830 (the U.S. Census did not separate out Jacksonville until 1850).

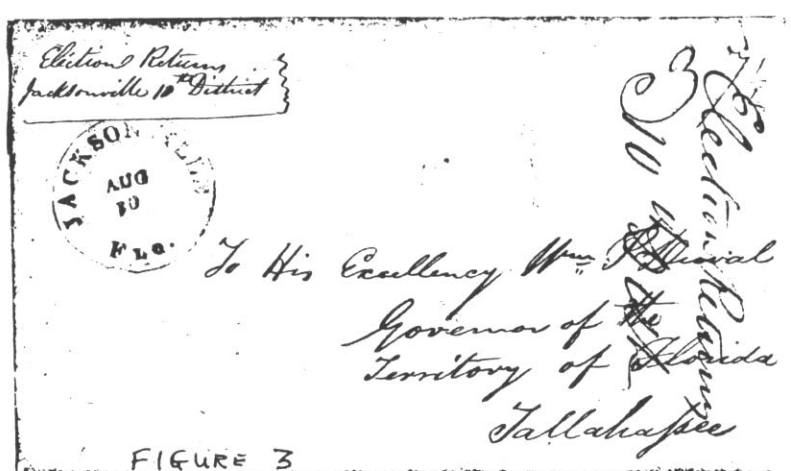


Fig. 3

In 1832 a request for a charter of incorporation was filed and the "Jacksonville Courier" in 1836 was the first of a succession of newspapers on up to the "Florida Union". The 30mm irregular circle postmark is known used until July 24, 1839. Figure 4, dated August 2, 1830 shows a typical weak strike of this postmark with an unlisted red PAID in a box, 18 3/4 c. rate to Tallahassee, M. Florida.

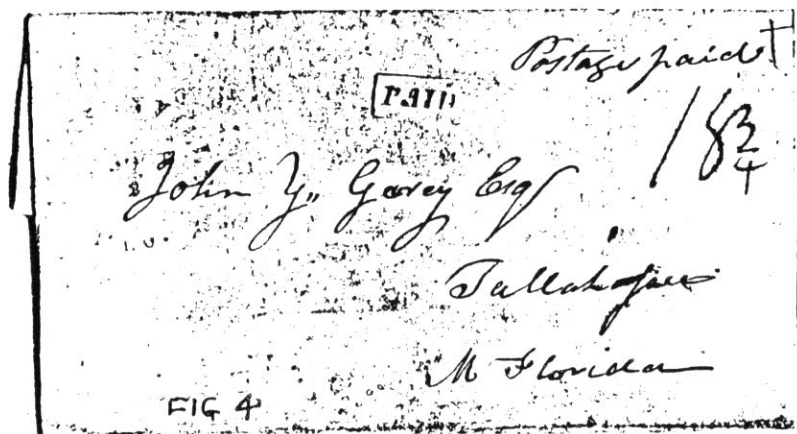


Fig. 4

A note about the Indians is in order. The Timuqua are the real natives to this area but their numbers were greatly reduced such that the few remaining families left for Havana with the Spanish in 1763. The Creeks and the Seminoles came in from the North to replace them and in 1832 there was a general uprising of the Seminoles followed by a peace treaty which was not recognized by Chief Osceola and the Second Seminole War developed. Jacksonville's 1835 population was about 250 and in that year there was a record freeze with temperature down to 8 degrees which raised havoc with the various plantings. The war dragged on with burning of the Fatio Plantation in New Switzerland and the Fleming Plantation in Hibernia. The Cowford ferry was much used to transport troops and supplies coming in from the Atlantic Ocean. The timber industry continued to thrive, the participants often helping themselves from government lands. A referendum on statehood barely passed due to much support in West Florida (it was soundly defeated in Duval County and generally in East Florida). In 1842 the U.S. unilaterally

declared the Second Seminole War over and Jacksonville's population increased to about 450. Figure 5 shows a September 17, 1843 cover with a 30 mm cds postmark known in red and black and used from 1840 to 1850.

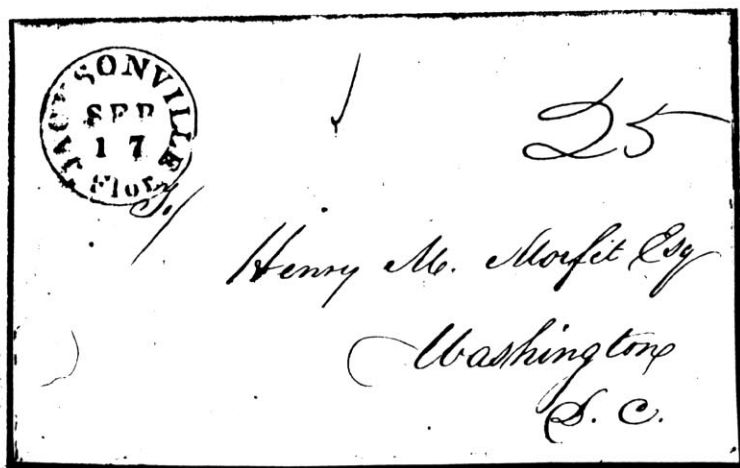


Fig. 5

A Constitutional Convention was called (Duval and Nassau Counties still opposed statehood) leading to actual statehood on March 3, 1845. Figure 6 is an early statehood usage from January 20, 1846 when the population was about 750. (The 30mm territorial postmark was used until 1850) The contents states that there were about 100 houses and a dozen stores; also: "The place is as dull as a country village. . . no other music than the crowing of cocks and cacling (sic) hens."

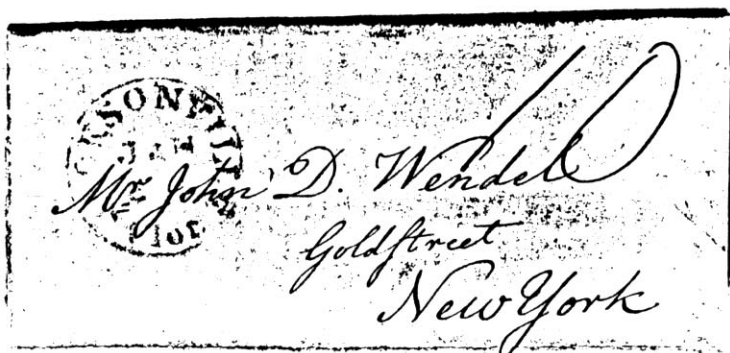


Fig. 6

The period on up to the 1860's saw a smallpox epidemic in 1853, a great fire in 1854 which about leveled the downtown, and still another lesser fire in 1856 along with a scarlet fever epidemic. (Figure 7), c. 1852, from this time period records a larger 34 mm balloon type postmark used from 1848-60, and later during the Confederacy (1861-62). This postmark is known in red and black ink.

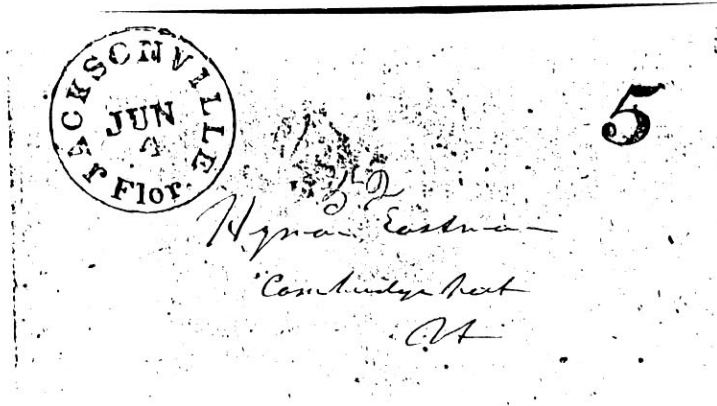


Fig. 7

(Figure 8) shows an unlisted FREE usage with this balloon postmark endorsed by the Welaka postmaster, J.W. Bryant, apparently endorsed and posted during a visit to Jacksonville (100 miles from Welaka). The free franking privilege for postmasters was apparently extended even to visiting postmasters!!

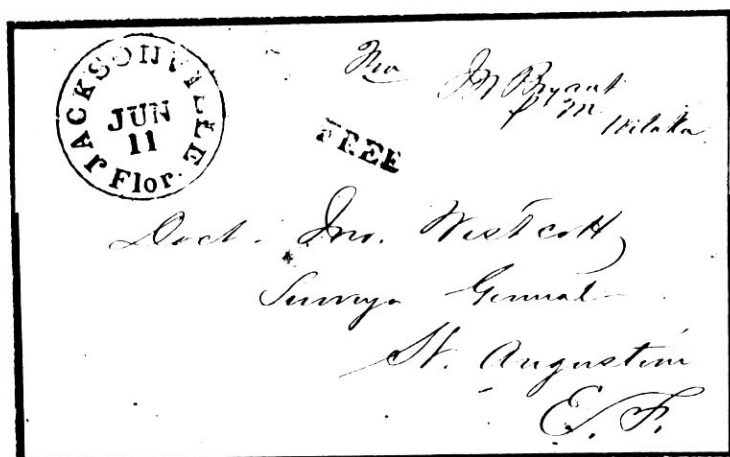


Fig. 8

There was another freeze (16-18 degrees) and another quarantine from yellow fever in 1857. In spite of these disasters, expansion of Jacksonville continued and there was even the start of a railroad towards the West. The population in 1860 stood at 2018 at this, the eve of the Civil War. The latest "stampless" Jacksonville usage is recorded as Figure 9, and is an incoming (ship) "Commerce" usage from Puerto Rico, dated December 1, 1860, with handstamped (due) 5 x2 reflecting the 10 cent West Indies rate for delivery to a Southern port under 2500 miles, per Act of 1851. This cover is a usage long after the onset of compulsory "domestic" prepayment of postage, effective April 1, 1855.

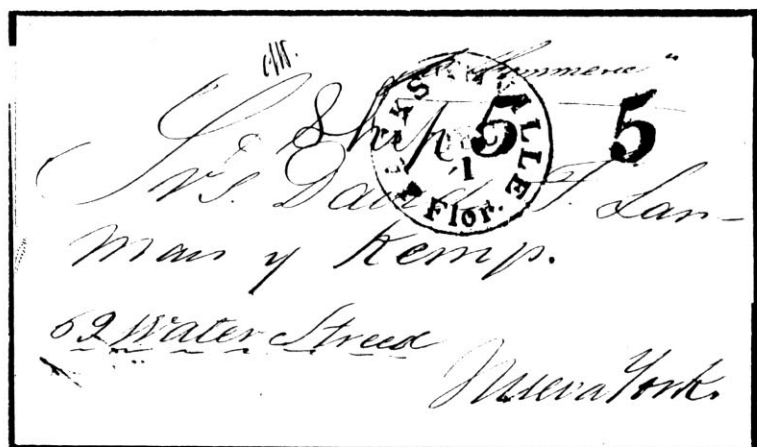


Fig. 9

References:

- Davis, T. Frederick, History of Jacksonville and Vicinity, 1925.
- David G. Phillips Publishing Co, Inc., American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume 1, 1985.
- Ward, James Robertson, Old Hickory's Town, 1985.

KEY WEST R.P.O. SERVICE

Additional Examples

DEANE R. BRIGGS

In the August 1994 issue of the Florida Postal History Journal Vol. 1, No. 3, I wrote an article entitled "Key West Railway Post Office Service" which received several comments and additional examples which are recorded as follows: Herbert P. McNeal sent another example of an oval postal clerk backstamp marking "Jax. & Key West RPO, S.D. / L.W. CREWS" dated May 17, 1929. (Fig. 1) Bill Helbock has added another postmark for Knight's Key with a double circle MAR 7, 1910 postmark on a post card mailed from Knight's Key. (Fig. 2)



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

A previously unrecorded R.P.O. postmark has recently been discovered and is now recorded as FORT PIERCE & KY. WEST / R.P.O. and is dated Oct. 4, 1923 / TR 38. (Fig. 3)



Fig. 3

A very late use of JACKSONV. & MIAMI R.P.O. (Towle 392-M-1)

with a black bar replacing the train notation is recorded as Fig. 4. Note that this usage of Mar 6, 1912, is 4+ weeks after the effective date of the JACKSONVILLE & KEY WEST R.P.O. which began service on February 3, 1912, and replaced this R.P.O.

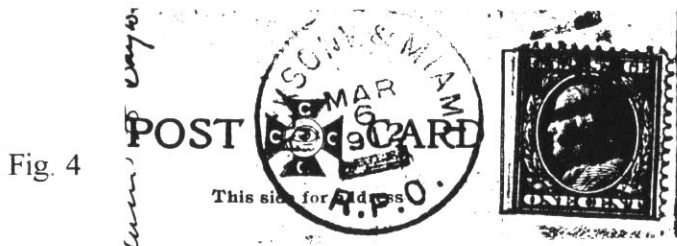


Fig. 4

Herbert P. McNeal sent an example of the rare KEY WEST, FLA. / JAN 1912 flag machine cancel with slogan "OVER-SEA RAILROAD / CELEBRATION / JAN. 22, FEB. 3, 1912". David G. Phillips sent a copy of member William J. Bomar's original article on this postmark from The Florida Philatelist, May - June 1981, pp. 51-66. (Fig. 5) This is an excellent article on 20th Century Florida postal history.

THE OVER-SEA CELEBRATION SLOGAN FLAG CANCEL OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA – 1912

by William J. Bomar, President
Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc.

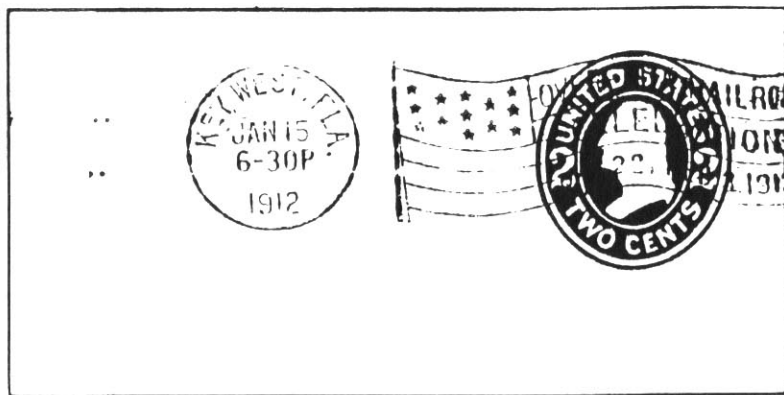


Figure 1. 2'' x 4'' cut-out, Government envelope, postmark KEY WEST, FLA. / JAN 15 / 6-30P / 1912, plus slogan.

Fig. 5

Herbert P. McNeal also has sent a beautiful example of the Over-Sea Hotel advertising cover with a FT. PIERCE & KEY WEST R.P.O. (Towle 392-A-1) Feb. 4, 1918 postmark. The beauty of this cover is the reverse side. (Fig. 6)

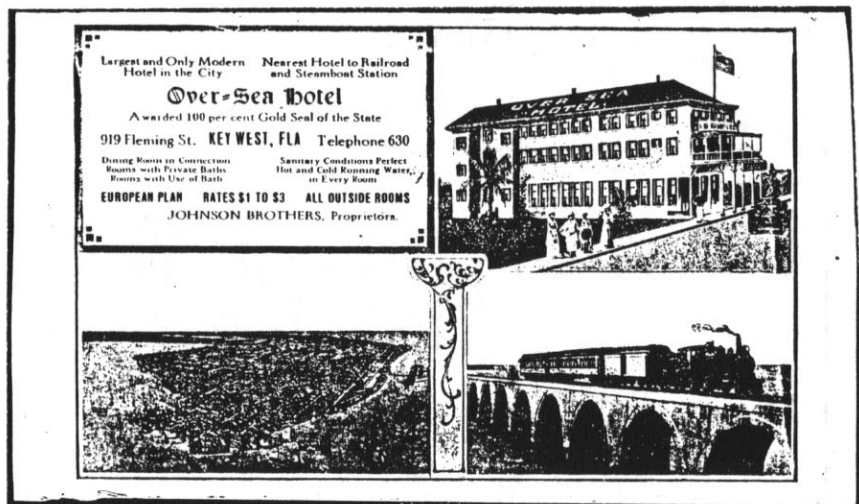


Fig. 6

Let's hope that other articles in our Journal will generate as much response as this article. Please send any comments or corrections to the Editor. Certainly any new additions are always welcomed.

TERRITORY INDICATIONS IN FLORIDA POSTMARKS

NILES SCHUH



A cursory look through the American Stampless Cover Catalog reveals that most territories of the U.S. that later became states commonly indicated their territorial status in their postmarks. Most did so in a consistent way; M.T. for Mississippi Territory, N.W.T. for Northwest Territory, etc. Florida Territory was quite different. Very few Florida post offices used handstamp postmarks which identified them as being located in a territory. The few that did so found several different ways to abbreviate "Florida Territory".

Florida was ceded to the U.S. by Spain on February 19, 1819, became a Territory on March 30, 1822, and finally became a State on March 3, 1845. The Spanish had not developed Florida as a colony and very few towns existed at the time of the U.S. takeover. Only three post offices were open in 1822 (St. Augustine, Pensacola, and Fernandina) and only 37 were open by 1830. At statehood in 1845 there were 78 operating post offices. By the end of the stampless period (1855) there were about 200 offices but only a quarter of these were using handstamps.

Only seven Florida towns used Territory abbreviations in their postmarks during the territorial period (1822-1845), but they managed to find five different ways to abbreviate the term. Three towns used one form of abbreviation and the other four towns used different forms. The dates following the town names below are the years these postmarks were used.

FL. T.	Marianna	1831-1854
	St. Augustine	1835-1862
	St. Joseph	1837-1845
FL. T.	St. Marks	1830-1831
FL. t.	Newnansville	1825-1826
Fla. T.	Quincy	1841-1846
F. Ty.	Apalachicola	1830-1851

There are several interesting observations that can be made about the above data.

Three towns used the territory abbreviations well into the statehood period. The assumption is that the local postmasters continued to use the postmarking devices until they wore out rather than pay for new handstamps.

Six of these seven towns used other handstamp postmarks both before and after the territorial postmark. St. Joseph used just the one postmark. Its office was open only from 1835 to 1844 when the town disappeared after bouts with fever and hurricanes.

Apalachicola had a postmark in the shape of an arc in use early for a very short time. It must have proved unsatisfactory because of its appearance or susceptibility to damage because it is rare (only 2 known uses) and the later territorial postmark is fairly common.

The presence or absence of a territorial postmark on a Florida cover cannot be used alone to prove whether it was mailed during the

territorial period or not.

From the earliest European occupations and well into the 1850's, parts of Florida have been designated East and West and sometimes even Middle Florida. Four handstamped territorial postmarks used abbreviations for East Florida: E.F., E.Fl., E.FLO., and E.FLOA. Although interesting postmarks, the writer does not **consider** these to be "territorial" abbreviations.

References: American Stampless Cover Catalog, 1985, David G. Phillips Publishing Co.

A Chronology of Florida Post Offices, 1962, The Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs.

The **FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY** annual meeting is held in conjunction with FLOREX each year during the first weekend in November in Orlando, Florida. Please try to attend and contribute to our Society. A program on Florida Postal History is the highlight of each meeting and in addition there will be the opportunity to view lots for our first ever Society Mail Bid Auction. See the discussion elsewhere in this Journal for details.

Informal meetings of our Society are held at SARAPEX in February and at STAMPOREE in May. Check the program at these shows for meeting time and location.

A special project of our Society is the update of the publication on Florida Postal History During the Stampless Period. This will be a project consuming much time and effort to be successful. Anyone with an interest in helping should contact our Secretary-Treasurer, Donald G. Thompson.

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

DEANE R. BRIGGS

Fort Myers was established during the Florida Seminole Indians Wars in 1850 when it was named for the reactivated Fort Harvey. It served the military forces well during the war as it was well fortified. Fort Myers was abandoned in 1858, when the military presence in South Florida was no longer needed. A small settlement remained in the area and served as a cattle shipping area, servicing mainly the Cuban beef market.

When the Civil War began, Fort Myers regained importance as a site for Confederate beef and cattle commissary needs. Unfortunately for the Confederacy, many cattlemen in South Florida maintained a Union sympathy. Bands of Confederate deserters joined these cattlemen and stole cattle from Confederate suppliers for eventual shipment to Key West. By December 1863, Union troops consisting of 5 companies of regulars and members of the Florida Rangers (deserters and pro-Union Floridians) reoccupied Fort Myers. This occupation was maintained until May 1865. Cattle rustling was prevalent during this time as beef sold at Fort Myers was paid for in U.S. gold.

By April 1864, Confederate commissary supplies had deteriorated so badly that up to 5000 head of cattle were known to be in Union control at Fort Myers. A Confederate attempt to re-capture the stolen cattle as well as the deserters and Fort Myers itself was undertaken by Colonel T. W. Brevard with the 64th Georgia and members of the Florida "Cow Cavalry". This attack on Fort Myers failed, and for the duration of the war, Fort Myers remained strongly in Union control and a base for raids deep into the Central Florida Confederate stronghold, some as far north as Fort Meade.

At no time during the Civil War did Fort Myers have an established post office. In fact, the Fort Myers post office was not established until August 22, 1876!! Stampless covers are known datelined, Fort Myers from 1850, entering the mail at Tampa. This article will report

a Confederate usage from Algiers, La. to Fort Myers, with a July 27 postmark and boxed PAID with manuscript 10 rate. Fig. 1. No official Confederate post office was established at Fort Myers according to McNeal, so this must have been at least partially carried by unofficial carrier. The cover is addressed to James Evans, Esq., Fort Myers, Florida and has no docketing to reflect the year of use. It is the author's belief that this is an 1861 usage due to the fact that mail to Fort Myers would have to be sent by steamer from Tampa, and the Gulf blockade was fully organized by 1862, and a through the blockade usage seems unlikely. The route most likely went from Algiers, La. by surface rail to Baldwin, Florida, and by Florida Rail Road (route 6502) to Gainesville, and subsequently to Tampa (route 6510) and unofficial steamer for delivery to Fort Myers.

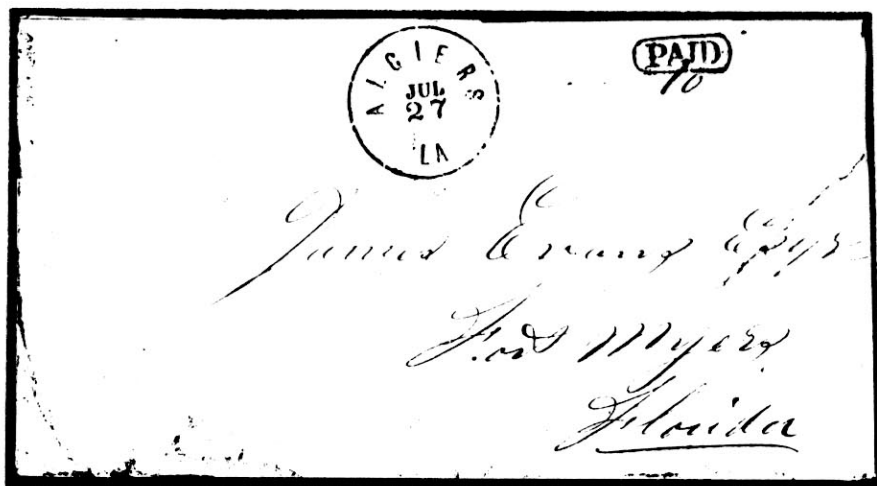


Fig. 1.

References:

Tebeau, Charlton W., A History of Florida, University of Miami Press, Coral Gables, Florida, 1985.

Johns, John E., Florida During the Civil War, University of Florida Press, Gainesville, Florida, 1963.

McNeal, Herbert P., "Florida Post Offices During the War Between the States", Confederate Philatelist, 36:119-131, (July-August 1991).

Jaronski, Stefan T., "The Postal Routes of Confederate Florida Part 1", Confederate Philatelist, 37:25-27, (January-February 1992).

VIEW OF THE SEMINOLE WAR, 1838

DAVID G. PHILLIPS

The following letter written from Tampa Bay, 15 April 1838, by J.B.S. Todd is addressed to Lt. E.W. Morgan, Fort Dade, E. Fla. and bears no postal markings, having been carried by military express. Todd, also a Lieutenant at the time he wrote this letter, was a graduate of the military academy at West Point in 1837, and a classmate of Morgan. Following service in Florida, Todd went on to duty in the Indian Territory and Arkansas, he fought in the Mexican War, and saw active duty in the Indian Wars, and was a Brig. Genl. in the Civil War. His active career also included delegate to congress, speaker of the Dakota house of representatives and governor of that territory in 1869-71. Edwin Wright Morgan after service in Florida and during the Canada border disturbances in 1839, resigned from the Army and was assistant state engineer of the state of Pennsylvania, until rejoining the Army for service in the Mexican War. Following the end of that war he pursued a career in engineering and education.

"Tampa Bay 15 April 1838

Dear Ned:

When I arrived at this post I found a note from you in answer to mine of 6th inst. & a bundle of clothes etc. for which I am obliged. I should have accepted your invitation up but for the trouble and business I have had in getting ready to go on this cursed expedition to Apalachicola. I am not thru yet or I would ride up with the express today. So if you do not come down I shall not be able to get drunk with you till - - God known when. I promised to give you an account of the Col's (Taylor) talk with Alligator. Early on the 4th a white flag was seen "slowly winding its way" down the trail which leads to the fort. The bearer was as yet not making his appearance in consequence of the bushes which obstructed the view. A few minutes was sufficient to reveal the gigantic proportions of a human being whose visage was as dark as Erebus and who proved on minute inspection to be a "nigger" - closely followed by others and that mighty chief

Halpatar Hajo. The whole body immediately proceeded to the august presence of the white chief of all the Kissimee district. Stop this stuff - - Alligator told the Col. he was tired of the war and it was his desire and that of his people to leave in peace and that he would meet the Col at Pease Creek he would go out and hurry in his people a part would be in in 6 days he could not say how long it would be before all his people could be assembled as they were spread over a large district of country and he would do all in his power to bring them in immediately. So it ended. Genl Jesup is expected here today. The 1st Regt Infy leaves Ft. Basinger on the 15th (today) and the sixth leaves here in a few days probably on Tuesday next. I am obliged to you for settling my account with Dallens. Allen's I have settled and will send you an account of those things bought for the mess - Viz 2 bottles of champagne \$3.00 - 2 bottles madiera 2.50, 1 pine apple cheese 1.68, 8 1/4 lbs butter .66, 1 tin bucket 62 1/2, 1 box claret 5.00, mustard & olives 1.00, 6 lbs almonds 1.25, 1 bottle pepper 25c, 1 ham 3.00, dried apples 2.50 making the amount of the mess bill \$24.87. You can tell from Dallens bill what articles were intended for the mess and if you will attend to this you will oblige me. I want to have my bills settled as soon as possible. I received all the clothes you sent me but the socks (cotton) & handkfs please send me by the rider 2 prs black silk socks some handkfs, my watch, and my medicine an instrument for the cure of a certain disease and some gills & my sash. Remember me to Barry & Bill God bless you all.

Yours ever & truly

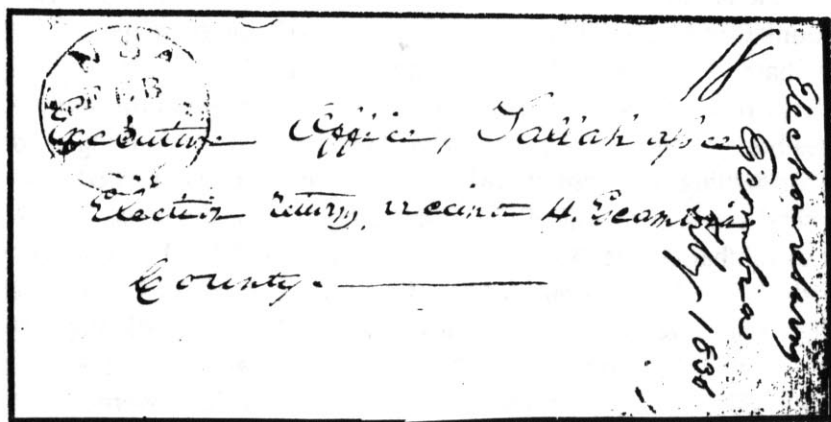
/s/ JBS Todd

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A friendly reminder that Dues for 1995 are due and payable by April 1, 1995. This will be the last issue of The Florida Postal History Journal for members whose dues are unpaid. Please remit \$10.00 for regular or \$20.00 for contributing membership to Donald Thompson.

WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

Theodore Light



This stampless folded cover with blue **PENSA F / -- * --** postmark of **FEB 3** (1836) addressed to Executive Office, Tallahassee and docketed "Election returns, precinct 4, Escambia County" is rated (due) **18**.

The question is why an 18 cent rate? Did this cover contain 2 sheets with the vote tally? It could thus be rated a triple 6 cent rate for under 30 miles. This is not likely since the Pensacola to Tallahassee distance should fall within the 150-400 mile zone requiring an 18 3/4 cent rate. Is this just a postal clerk error or is there some other explanation?

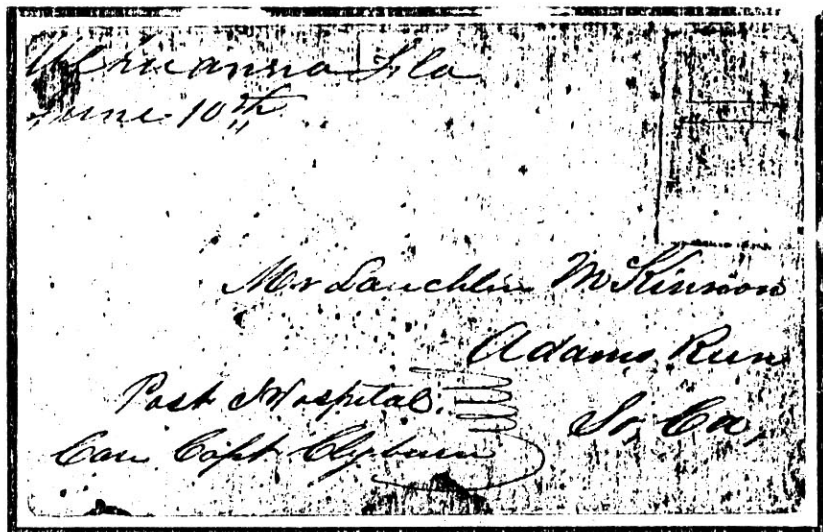
Editor's Note: This is the first of what will hopefully be more unusual covers with questions as to rate or usage. Readers are encouraged to comment on this cover and send other covers to discuss. Remit to Deane R. Briggs, M.D., Florida Postal History Journal, 160 E. Lake Howard Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33881.

UCHEE ANNA, FLORIDA

A New Confederate Florida Listing Example

CONRAD BUSH

New listing examples of Confederate covers are rare this late after the Civil War, but are nevertheless there to be discovered. Florida had 174 potential post offices with Confederate use but to date only 69 have recorded usage. This cover from Uchee Anna makes the 70th. This cover was discovered in a family correspondence by the author, and hopefully the entire estate will eventually become available to collectors. At the present time only a photocopy of this usage is available. The cover is a manuscript postmarked **Ucheeanna Fla / June 10th** dull gray envelope with a lower sheet margin copy of C.S.A. # 2 (10 c light blue Patterson printing), manuscript cancelled but untied. It is addressed to Mr Lauchlin McKinnon, Adams Run, So. Ca. with notations "Post Hospital / Care Capt Clyburn".



Uchee Anna was settled in 1823 by Scotch Presbyterians coming from South Carolina. The original post office was established in Walton

County on March 8, 1827, as Uchee Valley (also Euchee Valley). This town was located along the Pensacola - Marianna post road, a few miles from Alachua. The name was changed to Uchee Anna on September 18, 1839, and remained a Confederate post office throughout the war. During the war it was serviced by Route: 6565; 1536 Marianna to Milton with twice weekly mail service. The name of the post office was again changed on March 15, 1872, to Euchee Anna and was discontinued on February 20, 1902, with mail service absorbed by the Argyle post office.

References:

Jaronski, S.T. "The Postal Routes of Confederate Florida, Part 2", Confederate Philatelist 37: p.68, (March - April 1992).

Pickett, Mrs. Harold Major, Kenneth L. Rice, and Henry M. Spelman, III, Florida Postal History and Postal Markings During the Stampless Period, Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs, p.50, 1957.

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Florida Postal History Society
Donald G. Thompson, Sec-Tres.
7 Rockingham Road
Greenville, SC 29607

I hereby apply for membership in the Florida Postal History Society and enclose \$ _____ for annual dues including subscription to The Florida Postal History Journal. I agree to abide by the policies and by-laws of the Society, and understand that said membership may be terminated by the Society in accordance with the by-laws.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please print or type:

Name _____ Age: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Collecting Interests _____

Membership in other philatelic societies (indicate membership #)

Local Stamp Club _____

APS _____ Others _____

DUES: \$10.00 Regular member **\$20.00** Contributing member