

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

VOL. 3, NO. 2

SEPTEMBER 1996

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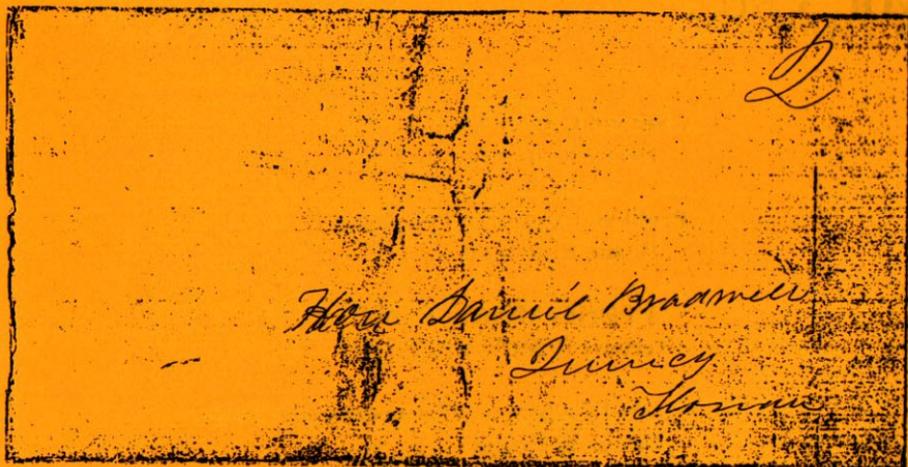
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A SECOND QUINCY DROP 2 USAGE

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



In the February 1996 issue of the Florida Postal History Journal I reported what was felt to be the only known stampless Florida drop 2 usage. I asked the readership for any additional examples to help with our society project, the Florida Stampless Handbook. No one has as yet responded, but while in the State Archives at Tallahassee I was able to find one additional example. This is from the Governor's papers and is undated. This is also a Quincy usage. Are there any more examples? To date there is still only one non-institutional example known.

PROBLEM COVER FOR THIS ISSUE

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

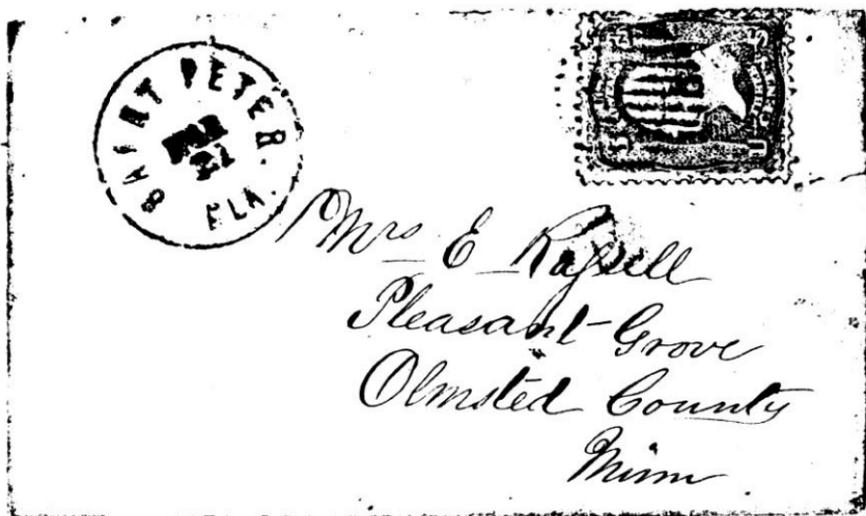


The problem cover for this issue is a much travelled and postally marked cover originating from New Haven, N.Y. on Feb. 27, 1886, and received at 9 AM Mar. 3rd at Sanford, Fla. The next mark is a Titusville, Fla. Mar 6, 1886 postmark, followed by a Sanford Mar 7, 6 PM receiving mark. A Sanford Mar 8, 1886 postmark is then followed by a Jacksonville, Mar 8, 12 M rec'd mark. Finally, a Jacksonville Mar 10. '86, 9AM postmark with duplex cancelled 2 cent forwarding stamp is followed by a New York Mar 12, 8 AM receiving mark. Somewhere along the way a **Stmr. Indian River** mark was applied. Please explain the routes and steamboat marking. Why the additional 2 cent stamp? Was this to cover the steamboat forwarding?



A FLORIDA MYSTERY COVER

Herbert P. McNeal



Illustrated above is a cover which has reposed in my collection for some 35 years or more. Franked by a 3c #65, tied by grid cancel, it bears the clearly legible cds of SAINT PETER. / FLA. Or so I have always thought. I purchased the cover from a New England dealer, whose note on the reverse describes the cover as "Obsolete. RARE".

The difficulty has been that no such post office was listed in Florida. Early on I conjectured that this might be an early example from St. Petersburg, Fla., but that post office was not established until 1888, perhaps 20 years later than my cover.

When I discussed the cover with Deane Briggs, he suggested that it must be from some other state, but the postmark appeared to refute that theory. Off to the 1868 list of U.S. post offices I went to see how many St. Peters there were at the time, and where located.

There was only one listed, the county seat of Nicollet County, Minn.

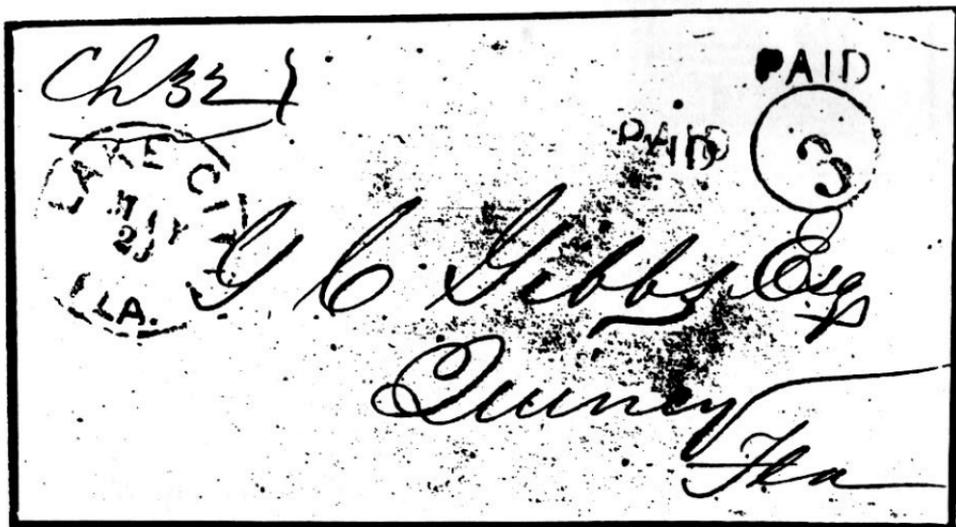
Since my cover was addressed to Pleasant Grove, Minn. I examined the postmark more closely, thinking MIN. instead of FLA. I am now convinced that the clear FLA. is indeed MIN. The inking and the strike of the postmark somehow combined to create a very rare Florida postmark -- one from a town which never existed. The mystery is now solved.

**FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 16, 1996**

The fifth annual meeting of the Florida Postal History Society will be held in conjunction with FLOREX on Saturday, November 16, 1996 at 1:00 PM. This year FLOREX will be again held at the Orlando Expo Center, 500 W. Livingston St., Orlando, Florida, and not at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel as last year. Too bad, as the facility there was very nice. Election of officers will be held and a discussion of our Society project, the Florida Stampless Postal History book will be of interest to all members. Please be aware that we are now an affiliate Society of the American Philatelic Society, a recognition that we hope to maintain with active participation in our Society meetings as well as the continued excellence of our Florida Postal History Journal.

**LAKE CITY, FLORIDA PROVISIONAL
RECONSTRUCTION USAGE**

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



**LAKE CITY / FLA. reconstruction period
"Provisional" PAID (3) usage**

Edward R. Ives is well known as the Lake City, Florida Confederate postmaster who left his name as a control mark on the back flap of the Confederate Lake City provisionals (Scott 96XU1) which are coveted today by collectors. A new marking has now surfaced which shows the ingenuity of this man. The above cover is a very early Florida reconstruction period cover unique in many ways. This cover is addressed to G.C. Gibbs, Esq. in Quincy, Florida and postmarked with the Confederate LAKE CITY / FLA. handstamp with MAY 23 (1865) date. The PAID (3) rate utilizes the Dietz type I Confederate Lake City PAID marking (struck x3) and an off center 3 in circle rate, reflecting the United States 3 cent rate. This rate marking handstamp was obviously hastily constructed by Ives to

cover the 3 cent rate as U.S. stamps which were required by USPO regulations were not yet available in post-war Florida. This can be classified a provisional usage not because it was sold in advance (unlikely), but because there was no official post office in Lake City, nor was there any post master yet appointed!

The Civil War officially ended in Florida with the surrender of Confederate Florida forces and the Federal military occupation of Tallahassee on May 10, 1865. The Confederate Florida governor Abraham K. Allison attempted to form a transition government but United State President Andrew Johnson became suspicious and authorized a military government with martial law effective May 22, 1865. No recognition was given to the previous Confederate governmental or local authorities, and Governor Allison, Secretary of the Navy Stephen R. Mallory, and Senator David L. Yulee were imprisoned for treason. The only post offices that officially functioned at this time were in the Federal occupation cities of Pensacola, Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Fernandina, and Union controlled Key West and Fort Jefferson. Military troops soon occupied the major towns of Tallahassee, Gainesville, Tampa, Madison, Monticello, Lake City and Palatka. Post offices were not reopened in these cities until much later and for many other Florida towns several years transpired before postal routes and post offices reopened.

The Lake City post office was not officially reopened until September 25, 1865 with David Jones appointed as postmaster. The Quincy post office did not reopen until October 14, 1865. As no postal routes existed this cover must have been carried by military or unofficial courier. Edward R. Ives had been the 1859-1860 United States postmaster at Lake City and served as the Lake City postmaster for the Confederacy. During the early reconstruction period he likely continued as interim postmaster and utilized the existing Confederate handstamp postmarking and PAID devices on hand and even continued to "charge" the postage paid to a post office account. The (3) rate marking device appears crudely constructed and was probably made of parts on hand at the post

office. The possibility of this being an actual pre-war stampless ratemarker can be discounted by the fact that the Lake City post office was not established until March 11, 1859, well after the end of the Stampless period.

The enclosure of this cover makes for interesting reading and bespeaks the problems that faced the Confederate loyalists after the war:

Lake City May 21/65

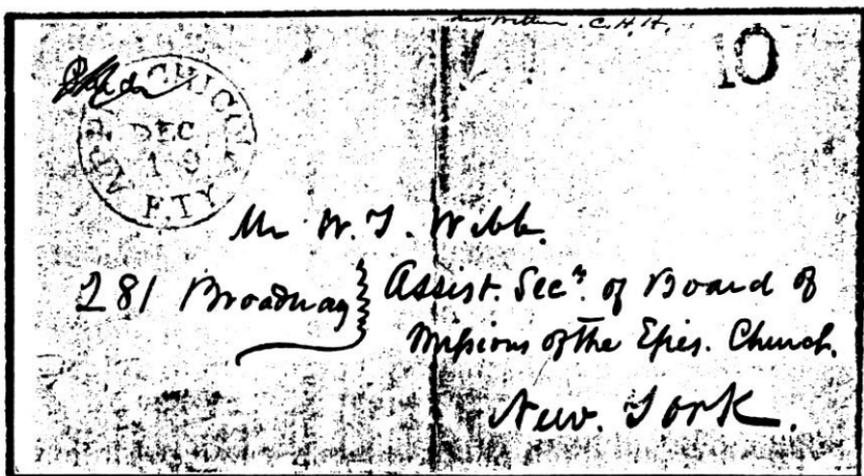
My Dear Couper

Serious as were our forebodings when you were here little did we dream of the awful collapse that was to take place in so short a time, and the end I fear is not yet - with the fall of the Confederacy a country of our own that is so fondly hoped to see established comes now I fear individual persecution. I have heard that you are under arrest. I hope it is not so as half the rumors we hear are without foundation. And I hope you will write me at once to end my suspench. If it should be unfortunately true I cannot think it will end in anything more than a temporary inconvenienc. Property they cannot get from us that they have got all already - If ever allowed again to be free to go where we like what are you going to do and where will you go. It is a question everybody asks, and nobody seems able to answer. I have been bothering my brain with what I shall do with myself and can get no answer. My only hope now is in a vision. If I have a guardian angel as every man is said to have, I hope he will direct me where to go and what I shall do. Go back to Jacksonville I feel as if I cannot what stern necessity may compel me yet to do. I will not say but if I can do otherwise I shall do so rather than go again among those who will take a pleasure in domineering over you. I would rather be among strangers. You have lived in New Orleans. Do you think I could stand any chance of getting a living there in any way. My thoughts are more seriously turned on that place and Texas than any others. I have a fancy for Galveston altho I know nothing about it. I might be able to raise means enough to get as far as one place as the other and feel inclined to go if I felt since I would not starve after getting there. How is Mrs G-

It has been a terrible blow to Mrs B, the loss of her children would not have been cause of more sorrow. Write me as soon as you can - and if you can come down do so - friends are scarce and the more dear than ever now.

Yours Ever T E B

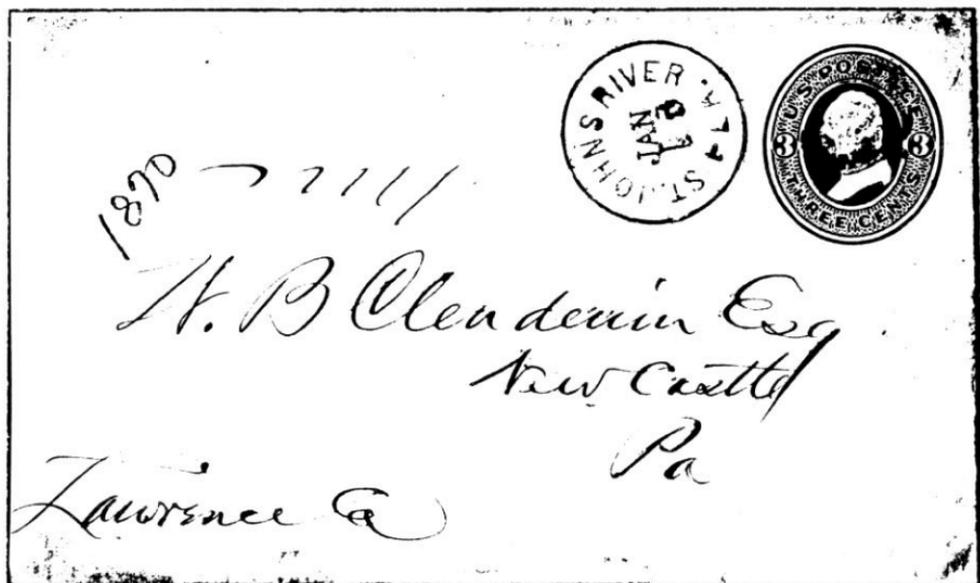
ANSWER TO LAST ISSUE PROBLEM COVER



Niles Schuh gave the correct answer to the above problem cover from our last issue. The cover is genuine and the unpaid 10 rate is correct for a double rate (1 oz) usage. The postmark is the problem, however, with the common statehood usage of the Apalachicola red territorial marking being enhanced and filled in to make a bolder strike. Unfortunately the culprit didn't know how to spell Apalachicola and didn't know the correct F.Ty. as he or she used a large Y. The use of PP in Apalachicola is beyond belief, but this cover has been in several great collections, mine included, and was just overlooked as it was an inexpensive cover.

ST. JOHNS RIVER, FLORIDA

Deane R. Briggs



The above cover is most unusual in that the postmark pre-dates the establishment of the St. Johns River, Florida post office by only 76 years!!! The Chronology of Florida Post Offices by Bradbury and Hallock list the establishment of the St. Johns River post office as February 16, 1946 with its discontinuation as October 31, 1957 as a branch of Green Cove Springs. Anyone with any information which might shed light on this apparently impossible usage should write.

IS IT PINE BARRENS OR PINE BARREN?

C. Michael Wiedemann



The card shown above, recently came into my possession. When checking it out against the listings in "A Chronology of Florida Post Offices" I found a "Pine Barrens" with the information that it had been established in Escambia County Florida, June 22, 1883 and was discontinued January 19, 1915 with mail going to McDavid, Florida. This card which is boldly canceled with a DCDS Dec 11, 1883 postmark is certainly within the time period of "Pine Barrens" period of operation, but the cancel lacks the ending "S" in "Barrens". The strike on the card has a period both before and after "Pine Barren" so the "s" was never part of the cancel.

A check in my 1905 Rand-McNally Atlas shows that "Pine Barren" in Escambia County is located at the junction of the Pine Barren (note no "s") and Escambia Rivers. A second old Florida map, circa 1895, has the town as Pine Barren also. This makes me pretty sure that the correct spelling is "Pine Barren", and not "Pine Barrens" and that the listing in the chronology is incorrect or does someone out there have a "Pine Barrens" cancel?

Editor's Note:

A review of the microfilm Records of the Post Office Department, Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832 - September 30, 1971, Microcopy No. M-841, Roll No. 19 for Escambia county shows that the post office was always Pine Barren with Mannie G. Bonifay the first postmaster when the post office was established on June 22, 1883. The following are the subsequent postmasters:

B. Mc. David	March 24, 1887
Allen M. McMillan	April 2, 1887
Henry C. Crabtree	October 27, 1896
Cilbey L. Wiggins	February 9, 1899
Wm. A. Finlay, Jr.	May 5, 1909

The post office was discontinued on January 19, 1918 with mail handled by the McDavid post office.

Thus, there were two errors in the Chronology listing for Pine Barren, the spelling of the town and the date of discontinuation. Readers who have a Chronology should correct these errors. Once our Society stampless update is completed, the next project will be an update with corrections of the Chronology.

Two other Pine Barren, Florida postmarks are reproduced below, one with a printed return printed with Pine Barren, Fla.

After.....days, return to

PINE BARREN, FLA.



FLORIDA EXPRESS -- PHILATELIC FANTASY

Herbert P. McNeal



Among philatelic fakes and fantasies, Florida has only one that is widely known - the Florida Express. The design is somewhat like the express rider on the Wells Fargo Pony Express stamp (see illustration below), but cruder. It is known in black on pink paper, as well as blue on white paper, and perhaps other colors.



The origin of this little stamp is unknown to this writer, but it first came to my attention some 40 years ago. It is known as a single on cover, with no other postage, as well as on a legitimate cover with U.S. postage.

The cover illustrated herewith is from the collection of Deane R. Briggs, and shows a Florida Express stamp apparently tied by target cancel on a genuine cover with 3-cent banknote and a St. Augustine double circle postmark. The target cancel apparently tying the express stamp is in a different ink than the postmark, obviously not affixed at the post office.

The question arises: Express from where, and to where? Obviously, this express stamp could have served no useful purpose in the U.S. mail system. Perhaps it is no coincidence that the letter is addressed to Bellevue Hospital in New York City, known for its treatment of mental cases!

Just another philatelic fantasy with a Florida flavor.

ESPAMER '96 - SEVILLE, SPAIN

Congratulations to Theodore Light for his International Gold Award at ESPAMER '96, held May 4-12, 1996 in Seville, Spain. Ted's exhibit, "Florida Postal History" is the first International Gold award for a Florida postal history exhibit in many years. Congratulations!

POSTMASTER COMPENSATION IN FLORIDA, 1821-1859

Niles Schuh

The compensation that postmasters received in the performance of their duties is of interest to postal historians for several reasons. It is a measure of a post office's activity and therefore the size of the community being served. Increases or decreases in compensation reflect changes in community size and importance. Compensation above or below certain levels indicate which post offices receive their postmarking devices from the Post Office Department and, if so, what material they were made of, and, therefore, their wear out rate. And, as will be explained, the source of this compensation data includes other information of interest.

The State Library in Tallahassee holds the Register of all Officers and Agents, Civil, Military, and Naval, in the Service of the United States for every other year from 1821 through 1861, with the exception of 1853, of which I have a copy. Later years are available but the author is concerned only with the stampless period of Florida postal history in this article. The Register contains much useful information on Federal activities. Data such as names and birth places of office holders and employees and their compensation, Army officers and their regiments, and a list of Navy ships and their status are included.

As might be expected in a country that was expanding and whose population was growing rapidly, the data in the Register also grew rapidly and therefore the manner in which it was organized changed through the years. From 1821 through 1833 the listing of post offices in the Register is alphabetical for the whole country with no separation into states and territories. Starting in 1835 the offices are listed by state and territory and are thus much easier to study. Starting in 1841 the net proceeds of each office, in addition to the postmaster's compensation, is listed. The writer has prepared several lists or tables gleaned from the data for the years of interest and they are present here.

Rather than try to list all the Register's Florida post offices in this short

article, the writer arbitrarily chose to make a list of all Florida post offices whose postmasters received \$200 or more in compensation in 1851. The figures for just those offices are listed as they appeared over the years starting in 1821. Therefore the following are NOT complete lists of offices to be found in the Registers.

**Annual Compensation Paid to Postmasters
at Selected Florida Post Offices, 1821-1833**

1821	Pensacola	\$ - - - -	St. Augustine	\$ - - - -
1823	Pensacola	\$335.88	St. Augustine	\$310.09
1825	Pensacola	248.72	St. Augustine	220.05
	Tallahassee	- - - - -		
1827	Pensacola	528.91	St. Augustine	308.03
	Tallahassee	306.13	Jacksonville	43.57
	Quincy	36.32	Palatka (sic)	0.38
1829	Pensacola	651.98	St. Augustine	352.29
	Tallahassee	521.70	Jacksonville	97.67
	Quincy	128.35	(no Palatka listed)	
	Apalachicola	- - - - -	Key West	- - - - -
	Marianna	38.63	Monticello	23.46
1831	Pensacola	651.98	St. Augustine	485.53
	Tallahassee	565.15	Jacksonville	92.45
	Quincy	153.16	(no Palatka listed)	
	(no Apalachicola listed)		Key West	50.59
	Marianna	126.93	Monticello	100.37
1833	Pensacola	608.19	St. Augustine	361.73
	Tallahassee	718.16	Jacksonville	124.26
	Quincy	242.02	(no Palatka listed)	
	Apalachicola	66.08	Key West	147.71
	Marianna	139.40	Monticello	94.80
	Tampa Bay	19.06		

Notes on above list:

The Register also includes the name of the postmaster for each of the offices listed. In some cases there are two postmasters listed, with the compensation paid to each. These amounts are combined above.

In some cases no dollar figure is given for a town, even though a postmaster is listed. According to the Chronology of Florida Post Offices, those post offices were established shortly before the date of this listing and a year total is unavailable. The Chronology also indicates that the Palatka (or Pilatka) office was shut down during the years it is not listed.

As already explained, this is NOT a complete list of all post offices. For example, the 1829 list includes Magnolia at \$52.87 and Rocky Comfort at \$40.17. The 1831 list includes Wanton at \$15.23 and Micco Town at \$0.26.

The 1821-1833 Registers also list the Postmaster General and his assistants, clerks and messengers, and their places of birth and compensation. Post office contractors names and compensation are also listed.

ANNUAL COMPENSATION PAID TO POSTMASTERS AT SELECTED POST OFFICES, 1835-1859

	Apala	Jaxvl	Ky W	Pensa	St. Au	Talla	Tampa
1835	345	115	202	733	370	808	42
1837	713	152	204	1196	579	1279	223
1839	1406	280	191	1081	765	1547	231
1841	962	246	235	797	646	1478	181
1843	1754	488	438	1414	1131	2394	398
1845	1002	354	283	874	716	871	105
1847	822	301	219	1060	537	779	107
1849	856	297	346	955	444	856	227
1851	1026	606	587	922	496	833	425
1853	572	578	330	591	312	682	281

1855	704	898	460	561	449	912	363
1857	617	936	573	546	426	974	472
1859	684	901	666	917	492	1245	359

Notes on above table:

All dollar figures in this and the next table have been rounded off to the nearest dollar.

The 1859 Register, for example, also lists under General Post Office,

* Special Agents - Name, where employed, when born, whence appointed, and compensation. (By state only, no towns listed).

* Route Agents - ditto above data (only one agent listed in Florida).

* Clerks in Post Offices - Post office, name, when employed (MYD), compensation.

* Mail Contractors - Route Number, contractor, contract pay, additional, total.

* Mail Messengers and Special Mail Service - also listed.

ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS FOR SELECTED POST OFFICES, 1841-1859

	Apala	Jaxvl	Ky W	Pensa	St. Au	Talla
1841	962	246	235	797	646	1478
	2745	592	494	2137	1543	4239
	3707	838	729	2934	2189	5717
1843	1754	488	438	1414	1131	2394
	5050	1040	893	3611	2636	6963
	6804	1528	1231	5025	3767	9357
1845	1002	354	283	874	716	871
	2853	675	623	2342	1460	2543
	3855	1029	906	3216	2176	3414
1847	822	301	219	1060	537	779
	1377	463	286	2587	495	1401
	2199	764	505	3647	1032	2180

1849	856	297	346	955	444	856
	1477	438	445	1521	561	1518
	2333	735	791	2476	1005	2374
1851	1026	606	587	922	496	833
	1755	954	914	1467	785	1430
	2781	1560	1501	2389	1281	2263
1853	572	578	330	591	312	682
	951	1108	432	896	522	1195
	1523	1686	762	1487	834	1877
1855	704	898	460	561	449	912
	716	988	309	497	395	1071
	1420	1886	769	1058	844	1983
1857	617	936	573	546	426	974
	691	1019	790	353	320	1057
	1308	1955	1363	899	746	2031
1859	684	901	666	917	492	1245
	749	1121	881	853	346	1188
	1433	2022	1547	1770	838	2433

Notes on above table:

For the period 1841-1859 the Register included the net return to the United States Post Office Department (listed below the Postmaster's Compensation) in addition to the postmaster's compensation, for each office listed. For this table the writer has added the two figures to give total income for each of the six largest and most important post offices of the stampless period.

The largest office in the Territory / State at this time was usually Tallahassee, with Apalachicola and Pensacola taking the lead for two years each. Jacksonville and Key West were catching up rapidly during these years.



Fig. 2

The post office measures only 7 x 8 feet, but serves as a full service post office and boasts a "star route" covering 126 miles and serves over 200 families, mostly Seminole or Miccosukee Indians. The Ochopee post office is located on the edge of the Everglades and the Big Cypress Preserve, 35 miles east of Naples and 70 miles west of Miami. The nearest post office is in Everglades, 7 1/2 miles away. This office has always been a popular tourist stop on Route 41 (Tamiami Trail) and is reproduced by artists and on pictures and post cards as well as the cover of a recent United Telephone Book. In March of 1992 it was honored by a special post mark for the Naples, NAPLEX '92 stamp show. (Fig. 3)

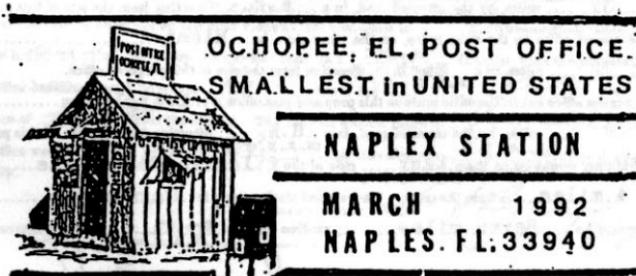


Fig. 3

The original Establishment and Change of Location applications to the Post Office Department are shown in Fig. 4, 5.

Please fill out and return at once.

ESTABLISHMENT
 LOCATION OF PROPOSED POST OFFICE

Post Office Department
 FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL

IN REPLYING MENTION INITIALS AND DATE
 AF LB

Washington August 24, 1932

FIRST ASST. P. M. GENERAL
 RECEIVED
 SEP 8 - 1932
 DIVISION OF POSTMASTERS

SIR: With reference to the proposed establishment of a post office at the point named below, and in order that the office, if established, may be accurately represented upon the post-route maps, it is requested that you furnish accurately the information called for below and prepare a sketch according to instructions on opposite side of paper, which should be returned to the First Assistant Postmaster General, Division of Postmasters, as soon as possible.

Respectfully,
 FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Proposed post office, Ochopee, Collier Florida
 (County) (State)

If the town, village, or site of the post office be known by another name than that of the post office, state that other name here:

The post office would be situated in the N.W. quarter of section No. 34, in Township 52 S.
 Range 30 E. of the principal meridian, County of Collier
 (E. or W.) (N. or S.)

State of Florida

The name of the nearest river is Tether and the post-office building would be at a distance of Two miles on the west side of it.
 (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest creek is Half-Way and the post-office building would be at a distance of Two miles on the East side of it.
 (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office on the same route as this proposed post office is Naples and its distance is 37 miles, by the traveled road, in a N.W. direction from the site of this proposed office.
 (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office on the same route, on the other side, is Miami and its distance is 72 miles, in a East direction from the site of this proposed office.
 (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office not on the same route as this proposed post office is Everglades and its distance is 7 1/2 miles, by the traveled road, in a S.W. direction from the site of this proposed office.
 (N., S., E., or W.)

The post-office building would be on the East side of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and at a distance of 4 miles from the track. The railroad station name is Carnestown

The post office would be Seven miles, air-line distance, South from the nearest point of my county boundary.
 (N., S., E., or W.)

Signature of Applicant for Postmaster: James F. Jaudon
 Date: Sept. 5, 1932

Fig. 4

CERRO GORDO, FLORIDA

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

Cerro Gordo, Fla. *1862*
Sept 2d
Hon F H Vilepiegur
Tallahassee
Fla.

During a recent visit to the Florida State Archives, I discovered hidden away in the Election Returns letters to the Governor a previously unrecorded example of a Confederate usage from Cerro Gordo, Florida. This cover is a usage to Hon F H Vilepiegur, Tallahassee, Fla with a "pd 10" manuscript rate and **Cerro Gordo Flo Sept 2d** manuscript postmark with 1862 docketing. This is the first new Florida Confederate stampless example to surface in nearly 10 years.

Before the onset of the Confederate postal service on June 1, 1861, there were 153 United States post offices functioning in Florida. The Confederate postal service established 16 new post offices, and changed the name of 6. This means that a total of 175 potential postoffices existed during the Confederate period in Florida for which postmarks should exist. To date Cerro Gordo is the 72nd to be recorded. Of these only 54 have been recorded with stampless usage. Lets hope that more will surface in the future for postal history collectors to enjoy.

REC'ED FROM POWELTOWN FLA.

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



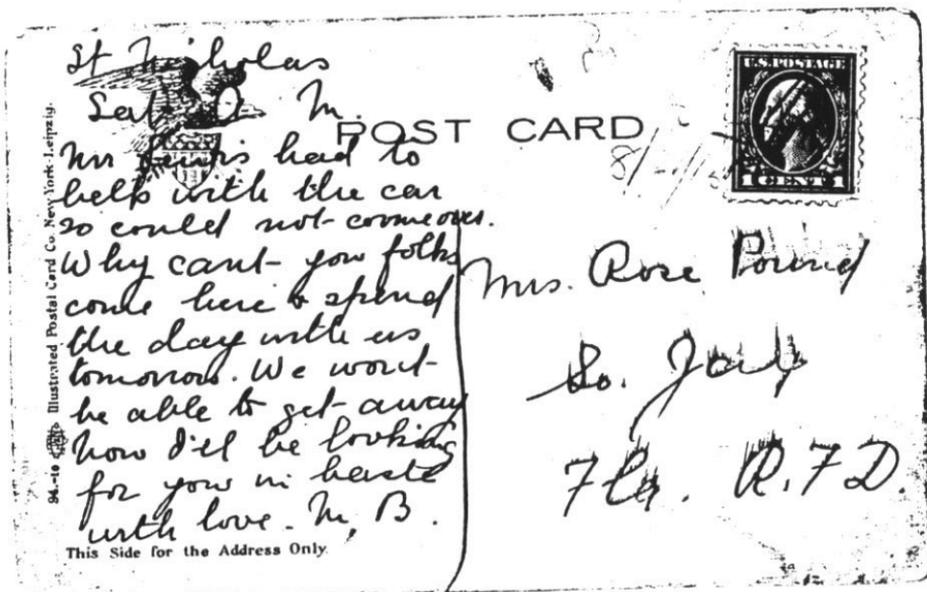
*Miss Addie Singler
Pensacola
Fla*

I recently purchased a cover with a very unusual Florida postmark as shown above. It is a double outer lined double circle postmark with the unusual lettering: **REC'ED FROM / POWELTOWN FLA. AUG 21 1882**. This appears to be from a duplex type device (town name misspelled) with multi-bar grid killer which ties U.S. #206 with usage to Pensacola, Fla. This handstamp device was not used as a "Receiving" mark and appears to be almost an advertisement for the town. It is possible that this could be a registry handstamp misused as a cds postmark with the "G" in REG'ED overinked, but I am not familiar with any markings like this from other towns. (ie. REG'ED FROM)

Powelton was established June 10, 1869 in Escambia County with William R. Monroe its first postmaster. It was discontinued a year later on June 13, 1870, reestablished on February 3, 1874 with John B. Welch as postmaster. He was followed by Amos Roberts on March 10, 1875 and John J. Lathram on November 11, 1875. August W. Nicholson became postmaster on February 19, 1887 and Powelton finally was discontinued on April 8, 1887 with mail handled by the post office at Cantonment, Fla. Comments are encouraged.

SOUTH JACKSONVILLE R.F.D.

DEANE R. BRIGGS



The above post card records a new Florida R.F.D. postmark with a manuscript **So Jax / R5 / 8/21/15** addressed to **So. Jax / Fla. R.F.D.** The note relates to the ease of using the R.F.D. system as the writer request a neighbor on the same R.F.D. route to come visit them the next day. This reflects a much better system of mail delivery than we have today! A note written on Saturday morning is delivered the same day requesting a visit on Sunday. All this before the telephone became the method of inviting someone to visit the next day!

The Saint Nicholas dateline on the card reflects the continued use of the town name despite the fact that the mail was being handled by the South Jacksonville office effective 31 May 1908. The Route 5 of the South Jax R.F.D. must have included a portion of South Jax and also Saint Nicholas.

Saint Nicholas: 7 August 1871 - 31 May 1908 to So. Jacksonville
South Jacksonville: 24 November 1886 - 1 November 1913 change to Br. Jacksonville with change to Sta. Jacksonville on 1 January 1932.

ALL IS WELL IN FLORIDA

Conrad Bush

The following letter was written during the first year of the Civil War by a Confederate soldier stationed in Pensacola. He was most likely garrisoned with the Alabama troops under Gen. Bragg. Unfortunately there is no postal cover to accompany this letter, but it is still worthy of recording in our journal.

Pensacola Fla Nov 18/61

Dear Joe

Your letter was received sometime ago. I have been too lazy, too busy, and too sick to answer it. I had dysentery for about a week, confined to bed three days, which is a long time for me. I am all right again. Previous to my sickness we had been building our house. We have a room fifteen by eighteen feet. In one end are three bed (sic) nailed up to the walls, strong and steady. Our beds, James, Sam's, John's and mine, are as comfortable in every way as any bed need be. In fact as comfortable as mine was at home. The beds cut off one end of the room under which (the beds) all our baggage is put. A space is left - eleven and a half by fifteen feet for our table, two couches and a few camp stools which you will see is enough for as many more people as we have. We have been talking of buying a small stove (seven or eight dollars) but I do not think it is worth while for the cold weather we will have here now is the first cold spell we have had this month. It has been hot enough to be uncomfortable and now it is not cold enough for fire.

(nine o'clock morning) John has just received Tom's letter. We are speaking of ordering a carpet and a Piano Forte. We have made arrangements by which we are enabled to keep things awhile yet - how long I do not know. Three new regiments have arrived and one old left here in the last three or four days. Gen. Bragg is anticipating an attack from Lincoln's Armada but I suppose every commander on the coast is looking for the same thing. The Yanks will not find a Port Royal when they attempt to enter this Bay. Whenever any boxes are sent from

home they should be directed to the care of Major Calhoun
Montgomery Ala, and Capt S. McLanier Assistant Quarter Master
C.S.A. Pensacola Fla. We have never got anything through free yet for
the reason that is was not marked right. We do not need anything now.
We are just commencing to use the last meal sent us. We lost the peas
in both the last by the trunk and box bottom bursting and all the peas
spilling out. Well Joe, how do you and that curly headed Miss Brooks
get along now? Do you go over every Sunday yet? or have you miss
that (sic) out yet and commenced a new one? I was about to forget the
most important inquiry you made viz. about the gun. I have no
objection to your using my gun provided you will take good care of it if
Pa is willing. Who objected to your doing it? No one except Pa or Ma
had a right to. I do not think however that you can begin to pay for
powder and shot at present prices. You must write to me and give me
all the news. Tell me what every body is doing. What all the little girls
are doing? Who teaches my Sunday school class?

Your brother Wm. D. Kiddoo

This is a reprint from an article published in Mail Call, a four page
newsletter that died after only three issues.

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Florida Postal History Society
Donald G. Thompson, Sec-Tres.
7405 Cypress Bend Manor
Vero Beach, FL 32966 - 5172

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