

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

VOL. 4, NO. 1

JANUARY 1997

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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

FLORIDA MACHINE CANCELS
THE CLASSIC PERIOD
1897-1936

Congratulations to Florida Postal History member **Stan Jameson** for his excellent exhibit at FLOREX on Florida Machine Cancels. It is by far the most complete collection of Florida machine cancels ever assembled and records the earliest and latest dates of most usages. Stan has been generous enough to photocopy his exhibit for reference purposes and it resides in the Florida Postal History library. Should any member wish to borrow this copy, please contact your Editor.

RUBY, FLORIDA

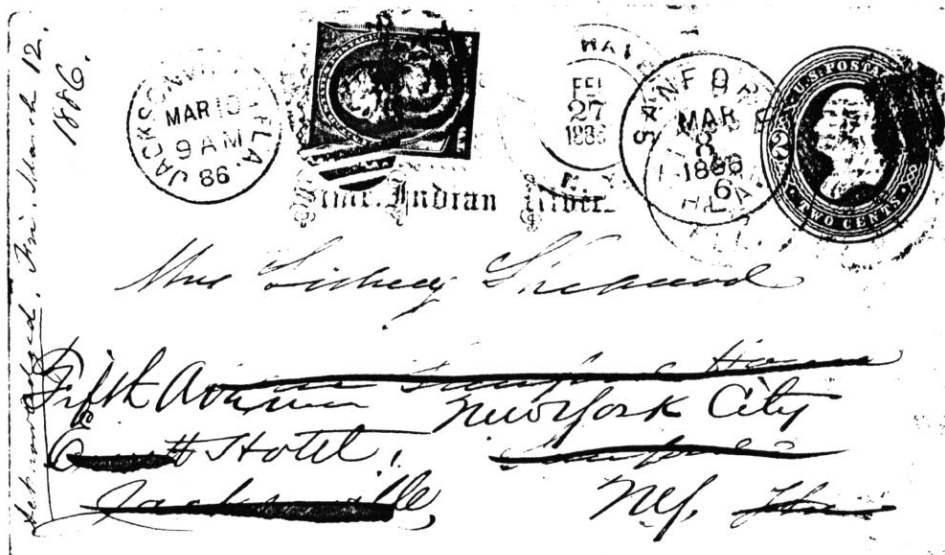
The newest member of the Florida Postal History Society, Harry G. Dow, has a request of fellow members. His wife's grandmother, Eleanor Scull, was instrumental in establishing a post office at Ruby, Duval County, Florida and served as its first and probably only postmaster. The name Ruby was for the Scull's first born child. The Ruby post office was established on August 22, 1884 and discontinued by change to Pablo Beach on May 13, 1886, for a duration of less than 2 years. To date no postal marking or letters from Ruby are known to Harry Dow. If anyone has an example please forward a photocopy to Harry as he has a genuine interest in recording such. Harry G. Dow, 5 Holliswood Drive, Latham, New York 12110

If any other Florida Postal History members have a research interest and wish help from our membership, please let the Editor know.

PROBLEM COVER - "Stmr. Indian River."

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

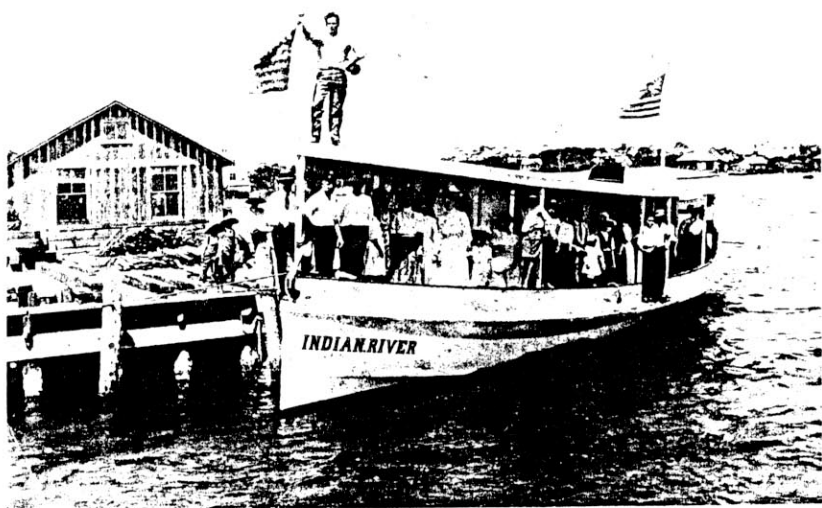
The problem cover in the September 1996 issue generated considerable attention and response from Herbert P. McNeal, C. Michael Wiedemann, and Ted Light. The fancy magenta steamboat marking was suspicious in my mind because of the fancy script and unusual color and my non-familiarity with steamboat markings from Florida.



Stmr. Indian River. marking 50 x 9 mm.

Herbert P. McNeal first supplied an invoice for this cover dated 20 March, 1968 for lot 402 of a Siegel auction. This cover has since that time resided in a noted Florida postal history collection. The purchase price at that time was \$65.37 including commission and postage. Mike Wiedemann sent me a copy of "History of Brevard County, Volume I" by Jerrell H. Shofner which shows a photograph

of the Steamer Indian River. The Indian River was 60 x 12 feet and piloted by C. F. Fischer for the East Coast Line Canal Company. It carried both freight and passengers on the Indian River from the early 1880's until the late 1880's and maintained a schedule of two round trips weekly from Titusville to Eau Gallie and Melbourne, and in the late 1880's to Sebastian.



The Indian River

The Atlantic Coast, St. Johns & Indian River Railroad reached Titusville on January 1, 1886 and the Indian River Steamboat Company was organized in early 1886 to carry mail and freight onward from the rail head at Titusville. Ted Light supplied the final touch to this cover with a copy of page 363 from James W. Milgram's book "Named-Vessel Markings on United States Inland and Ocean Waterways" published in 1985 by the Collector's Club of Chicago. It lists 3 known examples of this handstamp marking, all postmarked at Titusville, Florida in 1886. A nice mourning cover with this steamboat marking is reproduced in the book and is the exact marking of our problem cover.



Stmr. Indian River marking on mourning cover

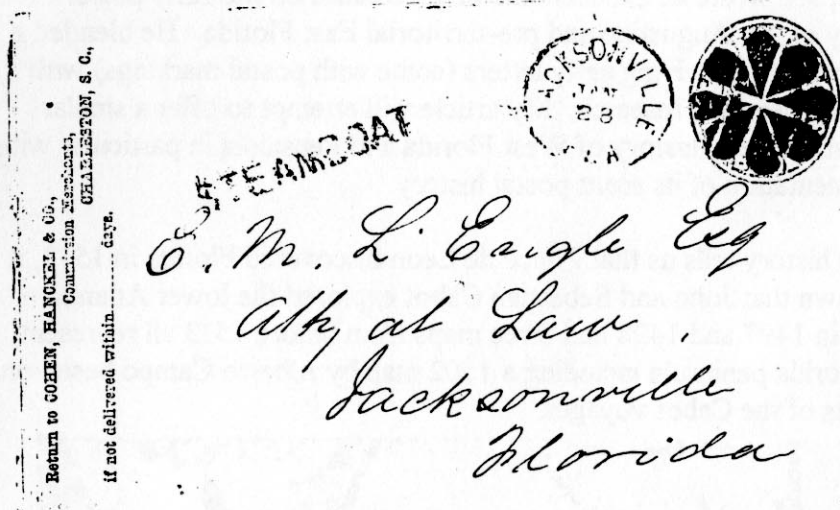
Thus our problem cover is an authentic usage forwarded on the steamer Indian River and postmarked in Titusville before being forwarded again.

REMINDER - FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY 1997 DUES

Please remember to remit your dues for 1997. Those members who have not already paid should have received a notice with this Journal issue. Nearly 20 members have been dropped because of non payment of their 1996 dues. Don't let this happen to you. Our Society needs your support to make us successful.

PROBLEM COVER JACKSONVILLE STEAMBOAT COVER

Edward R. Joyce



This issue's problem cover was submitted by member Edward R. Joyce and is a follow-up on the steamer marking in our last issue, discussed in this issue.

The above cover postmarked **JACKSONVILLE / FLA JAN 28** with a rosette cancelling the embossed envelope also has a **STEAMBOAT** marking. All of the markings are in blue.

The corner card reads "Return to Cohen, Hanckle & Co., Commission Merchants, Charleston, S.C." and is addressed to E.M. L'Engle, Esq., Atty. at Law, Jacksonville, Florida. The L'Engle family is a prominent family in Jacksonville.

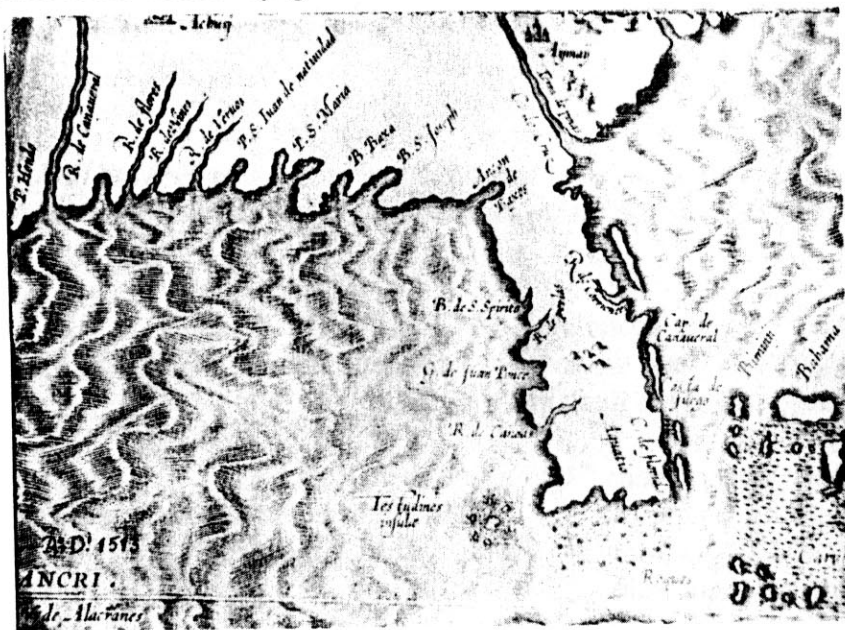
Since the cover is postmarked Jacksonville for a Jacksonville address, I wonder if it was placed on a steamboat in Charleston for delivery in Jacksonville where the blue postal markings were added prior to delivery. Is therefore, the Steamboat marking from Jacksonville?

WEST FLORIDA PRE-TERRITORIAL POSTAL HISTORY

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

In Vol. 1, No.2, of the Florida Postal History Journal, Donald G. Thompson wrote an excellent historical treatise on the early postal history of St. Augustine and pre-territorial East Florida. He blended a review of the surviving early letters (some with postal markings) with his own historical research. My article will attempt to offer a similar look at the early history of West Florida and Pensicola in particular with documentation of its scant postal history.

While history tells us that Ponce de Leon discovered Florida in 1513, it is known that John and Sebastian Cabot explored the lower Atlantic coast in 1497 and 1498 and three maps from before 1513 all represent the Florida peninsula including a 1502 map by Alberto Campo based on reports of the Cabot voyages.

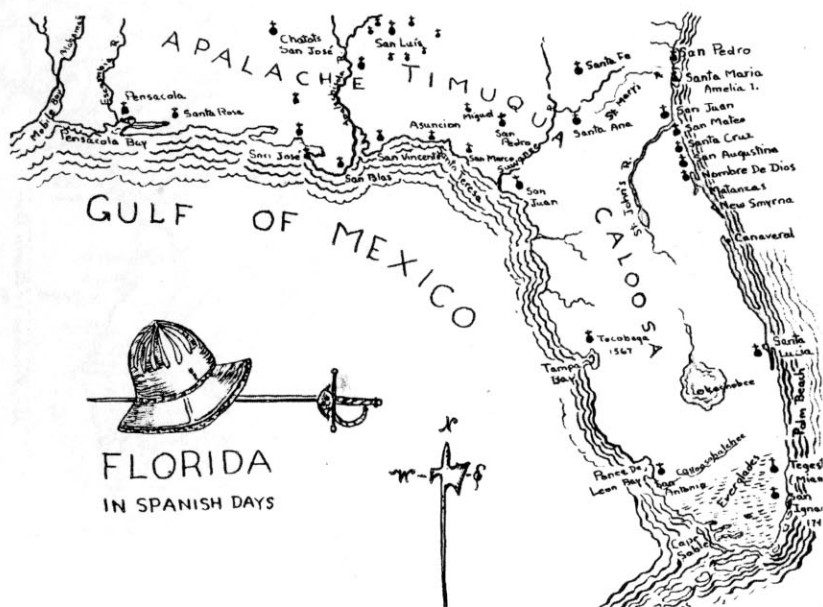


1513 map of Vide Alacranes before Ponce de Leon's discovery

The discovery of the Bay of Ochuse (Pensacola Bay) is reported to have been made in October of 1539 during Hernando de Soto's search

for gold in the "Apalachee" area of North Central Florida. The Spanish explorers of early Florida apparently mis-interpreted the Timucuan Indian word Apalachen for gold (1). The failure of De Soto and other earlier Spanish explorers (De Leon and Narvaez) to find gold led to a decline in exploration and attempts to colonize the area of West Florida.

The first real attempt to form a settlement in Pensacola was led by Tristan de Luna y Arellano in 1559. Leaving Mexico on June 11th with 13 ships, 500 soldiers, 1000 civilians and servants, 240 horses and supplies to establish and maintain a colony in Florida, de Luna arrived at Pensacola on August 14, 1559. The settlement at Pensacola lasted less than 2 years as a September 19, 1559 hurricane destroyed most of the ships and caused considerable loss of lives and supplies. During this time, no wealth or large indian village had been found. In April 1561 Angel de Villafone replaced de Luna in Pensacola to evacuate the settlement to Cuba. For the next 125 years settlements in Florida would be confined to the Franciscan and Jesuit missions in the area of St. Augustine and the Apalache area of North Florida. Pensacola would be forgotten.



Florida Mission Settlements 1565-1743

During the 17th Century, Spain solidified its control of East Florida by Christianizing 13,152 Indians and effectively repelling British efforts to enter the area. The French in the meantime had explored the St. Lawrence River and Mississippi River and established a foothold in the Gulf of Mexico. The king of Spain responded on June 13, 1694 with an order to occupy Pensacola Bay which was considered by both the French and Spanish as the best location for settlement in West Florida. Pensacola was finally settled by Juan Jordan on November 6, 1698. Fort San Carlos de Austria, constructed hastily of wood and useful only against the Indians soon rotted. Pensacola never really flourished as a settlement as crops didn't grow well on the light and dry soil, sheep and cattle couldn't graze well and the Indians periodically burned attempted plantations. An early map of 1711 by John Mitchell clearly documents to settlement of Pensacola (with 150 men) and the location of a Spanish fort.



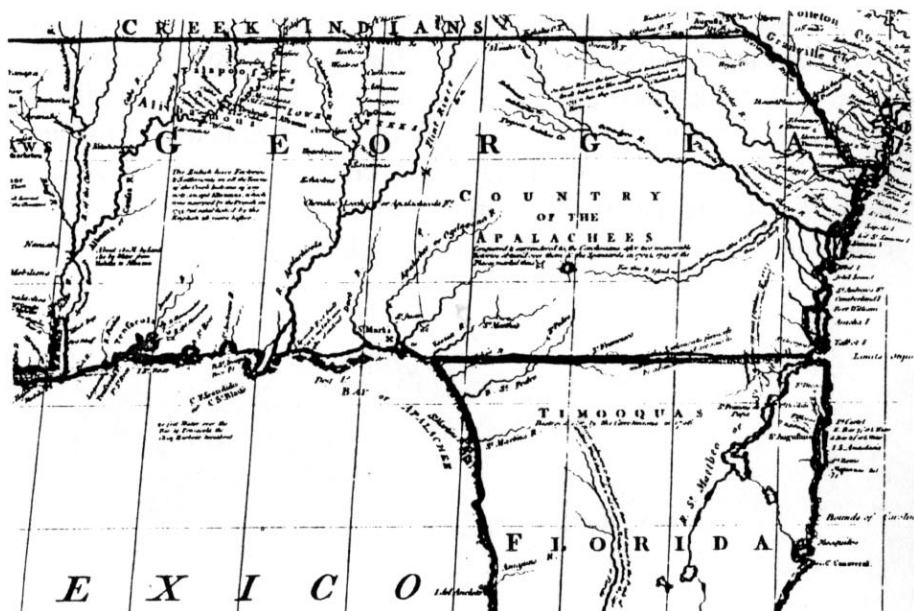
1711 map by Edward Crisp noting Pensacola (150 men)

The French later captured and briefly occupied Fort San Carlos (1718-1722) and hurricanes of 1752 and 1760 destroyed most structures. When Pensacola's new Spanish Governor Don Diego Orteza Parilla arrived on October 21, 1761, he reported the settlement in shambles with the Indians forcing the roughly 100 civilians to remain under protection of the troops. It is little wonder that no postal history is recorded during the First Spanish Period (1513-1763).



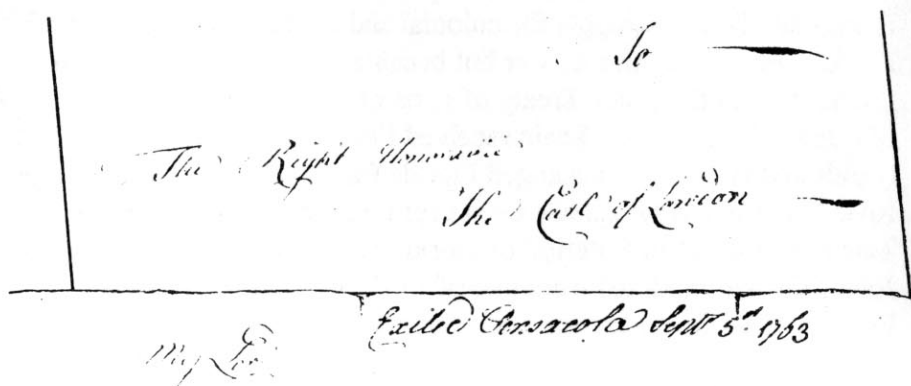
1747 view of Pensacola (engraving from Universal Magazine)

The Seven Years' War was the final phase of a century long, worldwide French and British struggle for colonial and commercial supremacy. Florida didn't figure in that war but became a pawn of international politics during the peace Treaty of Paris of 1763. England took control of Canada from France, Spain received France's trans-Mississippi land (Louisiana) and Spain exchanged Florida (lands east of the Mississippi River) for Havana which had been captured recently by the British. This begins the British Period of Florida rule (1763-1783). A map by John Mitchell (modified from one of 1755) shows the British and French areas of colonization and even notes a town at St. Marks in West Florida.



1755 John Mitchell map noting St. Mark's

Lieutenant Augustin Prevost assumed British control at Pensacola on August 6, 1763 and found about 100 huts, a delapidated fort with only huts for barracks, and of the less than 800 population only 100 were civilians with an equal number of convicts. The first recorded postal history during this British period is aptly datelined "Exiled Pensacola Sept 5th 1763". It was written by Robert Campbell to the Earl of London with no postal markings but docketing for receipt on "Jan 13th 1764, London". Campbell ardently begs a transfer from the place.



1763 Campbell letter "Exiled Pensacola"

The complete text of Campbell's letter is reproduced in the David G. Phillips Co. auction catalogue of the Charles F. Meroni Florida Collection, January 25, 1985. It is worthy of reading and excerpts are as follows: "The Country, from the insuferable Laziness of the Spaniards remains still uncultivated, altho the Place has been Possessed above a Hundred Years. The woods are close to the Village, and a few pawltry Garden's of Pumkins and Indian Corn show the only improvements Stock they've none, being entirely supplied from the Mobile which is pretty well cultivated, and produces sufficient for export. . . . The only use of Pensacola to the Spaniards was, in supplying their West Indies with masts and Timber for Shipping, the Wood being large and Good; also for a place of Banishment of their Mexican Felons. . . . The Indians are numerous here; We have had within these few Days, above two Hundred of their different nations to Visit us; as usual, they paid us many Compliments got their Kegs fill'd with Rum and went off, promising to see us again soon."

Apparently the British didn't intend to develop Pensacola as a subsequent letter from Campbell dated "Pensacola, 10 Dec 1763" relates to the military battalion being reduced. (2)

The British did rule and govern their new possession and reorganized Florida into an East Florida and West Florida for the first time by proclamation dated October 7, 1763, with the Chattahoochee and Apalachicola Rivers being the dividing line. While East Florida under Governor James Grant flourished (mainly because of St. Augustine being an established city with a population of over 3000), West Florida under Governor George Johnstone was not so fortunate. Attempts to pacify the Creek Indians in 1765 failed. Johnstone was replaced by Lieutenant Governor Montfort Browne who proceeded to mismanage his postion by supplying his family and slaves from stores set aside for the Indians. His replacement Governor John Eliot arrived April 2, 1769 to investigate Browne's accounts but committed suicide on May 2nd. Browne continued to be controversial by almost killing a rival in a duel. He was finally replaced by Governor Peter Chester on August 10, 1770.

The British did attempt to develop settlement in their new colony. In

addition to bringing the Clergy, a government subsidy was established for a schoolmaster and for the culture of silk, wines and other tropical products. Land Grants were authorized and 45 were issued by Chester for West Florida totaling 350,000 acres and half of these were actually settled.

WEST-FLORIDA.

By His Excellency Peter Chester Esquire Captain General
Governour and Commander in chief in and over his Majesty's said Province, and the Frontiers depending thereon in America, Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same &c.
To Elias Durnford Esq; Surveyor-General.

YOU are hereby directed and required to measure, or cause to be measured and laid out unto James Douglass

— a Plantation or Tract of
Land containing one Hundred Acres situate Near the Natchez River
lying on the South line of a Tract granted to Richard Bradley & Co. extend
to the Southward on each side of the Creek which runs through said Bradley's Tract so as
has granted to Daniel Ward or on such spot where vacant and contiguous Lands
in WEST-FLORIDA: observing his Majesty's Instructions in laying out the
same, and taking the utmost Care you can, that the same has not been heretofore
run out on any Warrant or Patent, but be vacant Land; and return
a Plat thereof, certified by you, into the Secretary's-Office, within Six Months
from this Date.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Certified by

Ph. Lacey, Secy. A. S. 4

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal, this fourth
Day of February — Anno Dom. 1762.

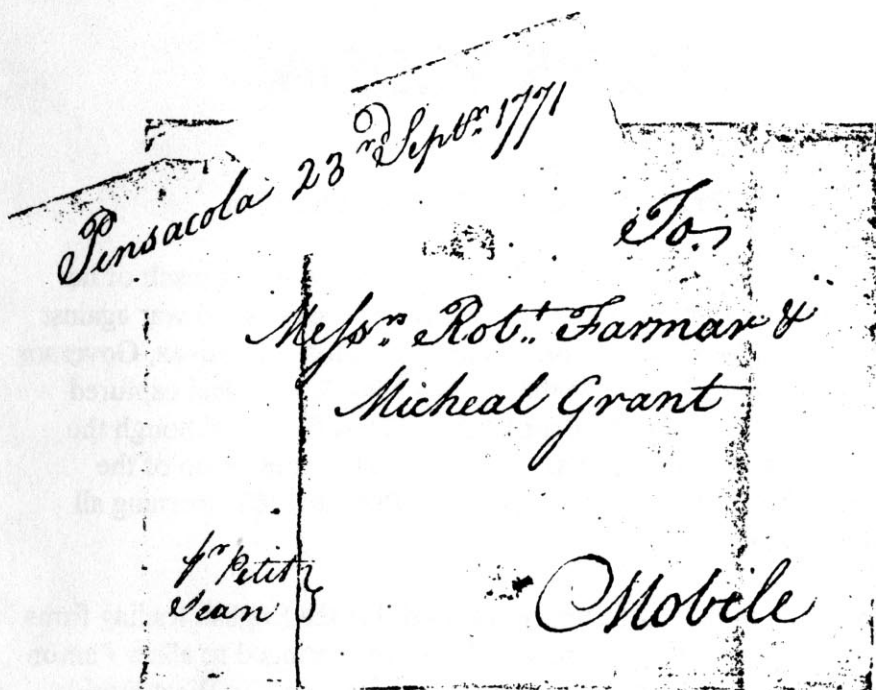
[Signature]

1772 West Florida Land Grant signed by Peter Chester

The Council for West Florida (November 1764) voided all Spanish land titles and planned for the orderly settlement of towns. Surveyor Elias Durnford plotted the town of Pensacola with sections for public buildings as well as 80 x 160 foot building lots with a garden area as well. Towns were also platted for Mobile, Campbell Town near Pensacola, and Manchac on the Iberville River. Development of West Florida seemed to be confined to the above towns with British Trading Companies handling the commerce. The Pantou Leslie and Company which operated throughout the Floridas had its headquarters in Pensacola. Most trade dealt with hides and furs as little farm products were produced. Timber, with pine and oak for ships and masts were the major export. The Indian trade accounted for the largest volume of

commerce with the majority handled at Manchac.

An interesting letter datelined "Pensacola 23rd Sepr. 1771" is quite possibly the earliest surviving letter carried within British West Florida. While the British did not establish a postal system, mail was handled and carried by courtesy of the ship captain. The letter was addressed to Messrs Robt Farmar & Micheal Grant at Mobile, and bears no postal rate but is docketed "fr (favor) Petit Jean". The contents are noteworthy in that they relate directly to the active trade with the Indians and commerce between the isolated towns of Mobile and Pensacola.



David Ross letter datelined Pensacola 23rd Sept. 1771

The letter reads: "Your esteemed letter of the 6th Inst. by Mr. Origston, I recieved and could wish you would be as expeditious as possible in forwarding the cattle fit for slaughter here as in fifteen days the Indians will be down to the Congress. I spoke to mr Blackwell to see if he would purchase any of them or not, but he has not as yet given

me any positive answer. I would have wrote your before now but has been much indisposed for this week past - I remain Gentlemen / Your most obedient servant David Ross"

The only other postal markings or letters recorded from Pensacola during the British period are three examples of the famous 56x6 mm. PENSACOLA straightline back stamp transit markings with known American Stampless Cover Catalogue recorded usage from July 1, 1772 to 1774. It has been recorded in brown and black ink.

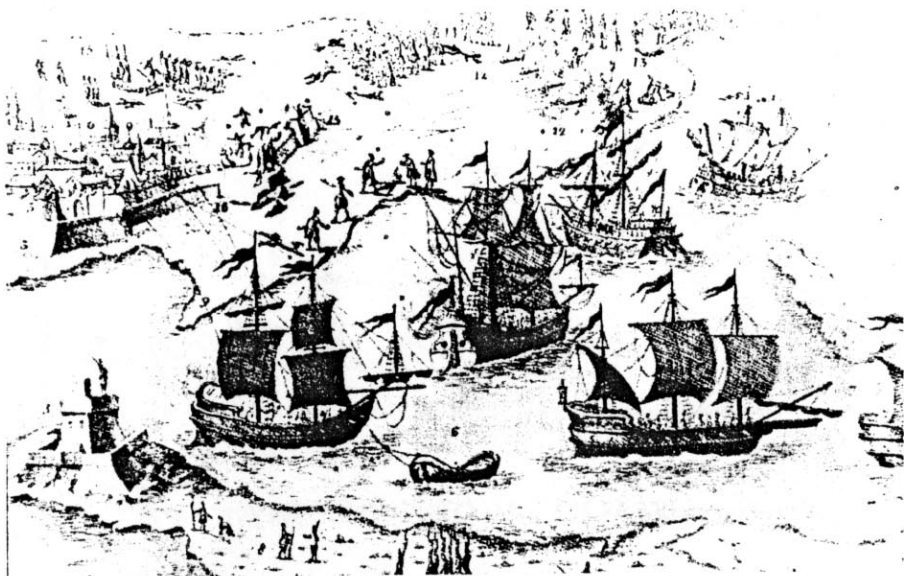
PENSACOLA

PENSACOLA 1772-1774 backstamp

Spain, taking advantage of the British vulnerability as a result of her Revolutionary War effort against the Americans, declared war against England on June 21, 1779. Spain under Bernardo de Galvez, Governor of Louisiana, quickly took Mobile and by May 8, 1781 had captured Pensacola. This ended the British rule of West Florida although the British did hold control of East Florida until the conclusion of the American Revolution, with the Treaty of Paris in 1783 returning all Florida to Spain.

The Spanish, in their wisdom, recognized that the English trading firms had close ties with the Indians and therefore continued to allow Pantón Leslie and Company an exclusive monopoly on trade in West Florida. This they hoped would prevent American commercial interests in Florida. When Pantón died in 1791, the firm became John Forbes & Co. Despite its Indian trade, Pensacola remained small and isolated with Mobile and St. Marks the nearest settlements. In 1783 the town measured only a mile wide along the bayfront and a quarter mile inland. The civilian population of Pensacola in 1783 numbered less than 300, mostly Canary Islanders or French Creoles, and a military garrison numbered 460. The only non-wooden house was that of Pantón. By

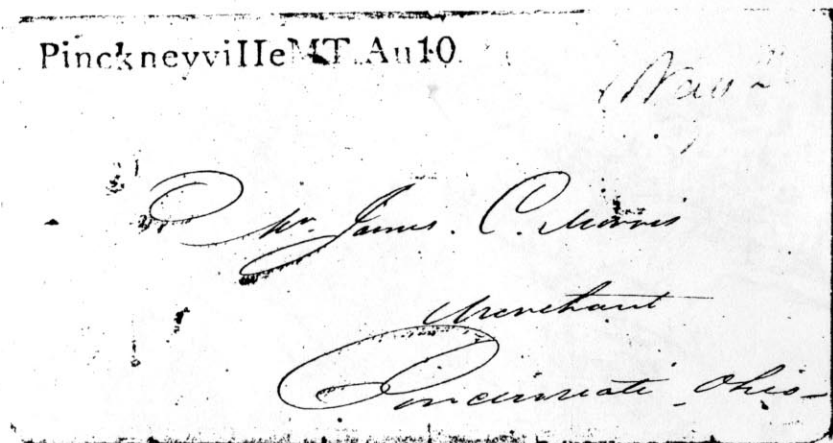
1810, the population had reached 1000 and two sawmills and a brickyard were established, but there was still no church (except one in a warehouse) and no school. Pensacola had none of the affluence nor population of St. Augustine, Florida's only other town of note.



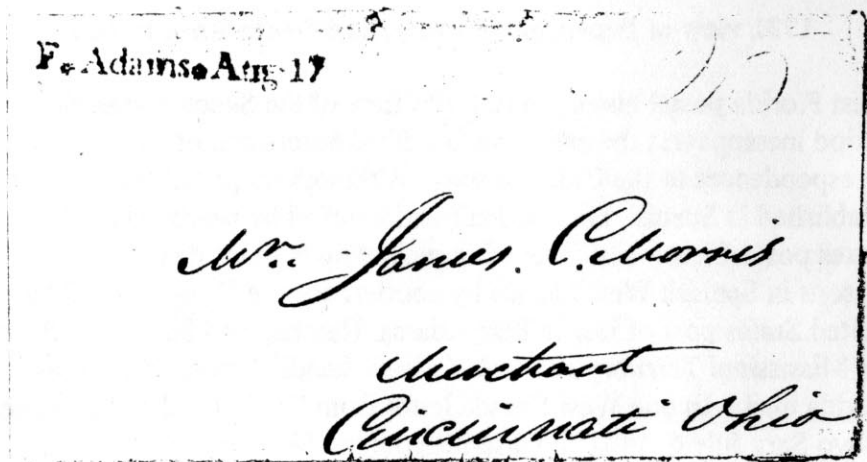
1781 view of Pensacola, its Bay, and Santa Rosa Island

West Florida postal history during this time of the Second Spanish Period encompasses the extensive Bradford letters and other correspondences to the United States. Although no postal routes were established in Spanish Florida, mail was handled by nearby United States post offices. Mail was often picked up from or delivered to persons in Spanish West Florida by couriers for the "Way" fee. The United States post offices in Fort Adams, Natchez and Pinckneyville in the Mississippi Territory and New Orleans handled most of the West Florida mail. In one West Florida letter from David Bradford datelined "Bayo Sara July 6, 1802" he describes the unofficial postal system of Spanish West Florida quite vividly: "The post is the only conveyance of certainty. Address me at Natches or Bayou Sara - the post master at Natches knows where I live and all letters will be forwarded."

Examples of West Florida (Bayou Sara) letters postmarked and postally rated at U.S. post offices are shown below.



Pinckneyville MT Au 10 (1807) D/L "Bayou Sara"



F*Adams* Aug 17 (1807) D/L "Bayo Sara"

As roads were primitive at best connecting Pensacola with other towns, mail to or from Pensacola during this period must have been handled by ship captains out of the mail and posted at a U.S. port with postage due plus a ship fee. Only the dateline would prove its origin. An example of mail handled by ship captain from the small West Florida settlement at St. Marks is reproduced below. It is datelined "St. Marc (sic) August 1st 1795" and sent to Newbury Port, Mass. with manuscript "Sh 26" rate (350-450 miles per act of Feb 20, 1792) with a Franklin receiving mark of "17/SE" applied at the port where it entered the mails (possibly Philadelphia). The letter relates to the trade of rum from the West Indies.

The image shows a handwritten address and signature. At the top right, there is a large, stylized 'M' and a '26'. Below these, the name 'Messrs Brown, Wheelwright & Smith' is written in cursive. Underneath the name, the word 'Merchants' is written. At the bottom, 'Newbury Port' is written in a large, flowing cursive script. To the left of the name, there is a small circular postmark containing the number '15'.

August 1, 1795 letter datelined: "St. Marc" with Sh 26 rate

Despite Pensacola being the largest settlement in West Florida during the Second Spanish Period, I am aware of only a single example of a letter from Pensacola and that written in French, datelined "Pansacolla Feb 10, 1816" and sent to New Orleans "A Fav'r" presumably by ship captain without any postal rate collected on arrival. Note the "+" at the top of the letter which was duplicated on each page. This was a request for divine assistance in letting the letter have a safe passage.

A Monsieur
Monsieur Francisco Barrant
A East Florida

Feb. 10, 1816 letter datelined "Pansacolla"

During the early 19th Century, Spain's power declined both in Europe and in the Americas. The Independence movement in Spain's wealthy American colonies taxed her resources and left Florida open for United States acquisition. Spain welcomed the transfer of Louisiana back to France in 1800 only to see it transferred to the United States with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. It would be only a matter of time before West Florida would be lost.

On September 23, 1810, John Rhea and a band of 80 Americans attacked and easily took Baton Rouge and declared West Florida free and independent and asked for annexation to the United States. This "Republic of West Florida" was never recognized by President Monroe most likely because of monetary and land grants for Rhea's men which accompanied the annexation request. Instead, Monroe proclaimed West Florida from the Perdido River to be part of the Louisiana Purchase and completed the acquisition by taking over Mobile on April 15, 1813. East Florida and Pensacola would not be annexed so easily as is documented in Donald Thompson's article regarding the 1812 Patriot's Rebellion in East Florida.

As a direct result of Spain's inability to govern and protect American

interests in the remaining Spanish Florida, military intervention under the name of the First Seminole War came swiftly. Andrew Jackson, under President Monroe's authority and accompanied by 1200 men, easily occupied Pensacola by May 24, 1818 and three days later the Spanish surrendered Fort Barrancas. The treaty of cession of all of Florida was signed at Washington on February 27, 1819, with the United States assuming the \$5,000,000 Spanish debt owed United States citizens. Due to Spanish delays in ratification of the treaty, formal transfer of West Florida was delayed until July 17, 1821, when in Pensacola, Andrew Jackson became the provisional military Governor of Florida.

The earliest recorded postal history from this period (Pre-Territorial Military Government Period) is a letter from Pensacola's postmaster Pro-tem, Charles Bradford, datelined "Pensacola, 2d August 1821". The content is noteworthy: ". . . . As no vessel has sailed for an Eastern port since my arrival and this is the first mail since the Government has been changed is my reason for not writing you more frequently I will know in a few days what my final determination will be, whether to pursue business as a merchant or take a small farm, or remain in the office I now occupy as Post Master pro tem."

Pensacola
6th Aug. -21- *Paid 25*
answered 7 Sept
Mrs. Mary Ann Bradford
care of Lt. Col. E. J. R.
Providence
Rhode Island

Pensacola's first letter from the Military Government Period

This letter is by its contents, therefore, the first known letter from Pensacola bearing postal markings and rate. The fact that it was "pre-paid" reflects the authority that the United States government gave to this new military government to collect postal receipts. Bradford must never have been commissioned as postmaster at Pensacola as the official P.O.D. Record of Appointment of Postmasters lists Robert Mitchell as the first postmaster with commission on May 28, 1823. Pickett, Rice and Spellman record Carey Nicholas as the first postmaster but only list an 1821 date while another source even lists a Spaniard, Don Pedro de Alva, as Pensacola's first postmaster with a date of May 21, 1821, which would place him during the 2nd Spanish Period. The ASCC quotes a British Period letter of January 31, 1775 to the postmaster general of Savannah that "It is further stated that a Mr. Blackwell was postmaster at Pensacola, succeeded at his death in 1777 by Mr. John Stephenson." There is obviously no consensus on this matter.

Andrew Jackson was never happy at Pensacola and disliked the Spanish who remained six months to settle their affairs. His political and judicial conflicts with the Spanish are well documented. By October 5, 1821, Jackson notified President Monroe that he considered his mission accomplished and on March 30, 1822, Congress created the Florida Territory with William P. Duval as governor.

The postal history of the Pre-Territorial West Florida Military Government Period is limited to its only town, Pensacola, but many examples are recorded. Two distinctly different straightline handstamp postmarks are known, one with a period after Pensacola, another without. This article will conclude with a listing of the recorded pre-territorial postmarks from Pensacola.

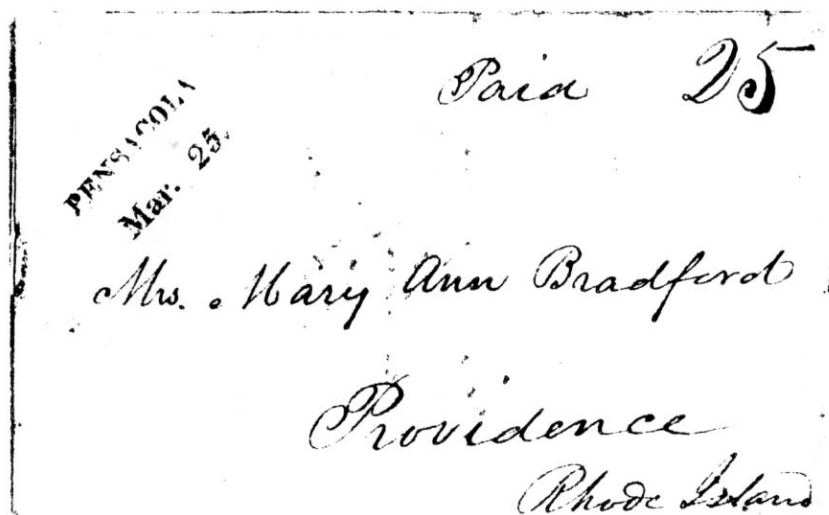
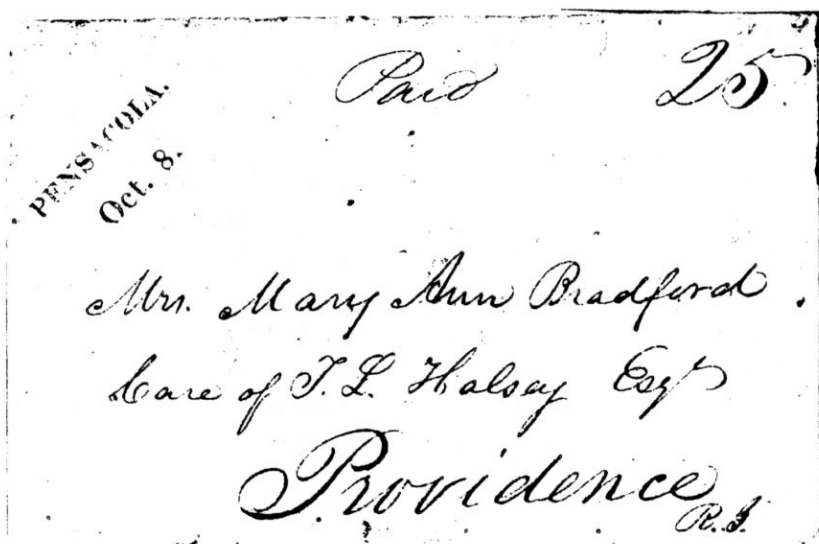
Reference:

- Tebeau, Charlton W., "A History of Florida", University of Miami Press, Coral Gables, Florida, 1971.
- Jahoda, Gloria, "Florida - A History", W.W.Norton & Co., New York, 1984.
- Florida Postal History and Postal Markings, Mrs. Harold Major Pickett, Kenneth L. Rice, Henry M. Spelman, III, Palm Beach

Stamp Club, 1957.

American Stampless Cover Catalog, David G. Phillips Publishing Co,
Inc., North Miami, Florida, 1985

Records of the Post Office Department, Record of Appointment of
Postmasters, Microcopy No. M-1131, rolls 1-4.



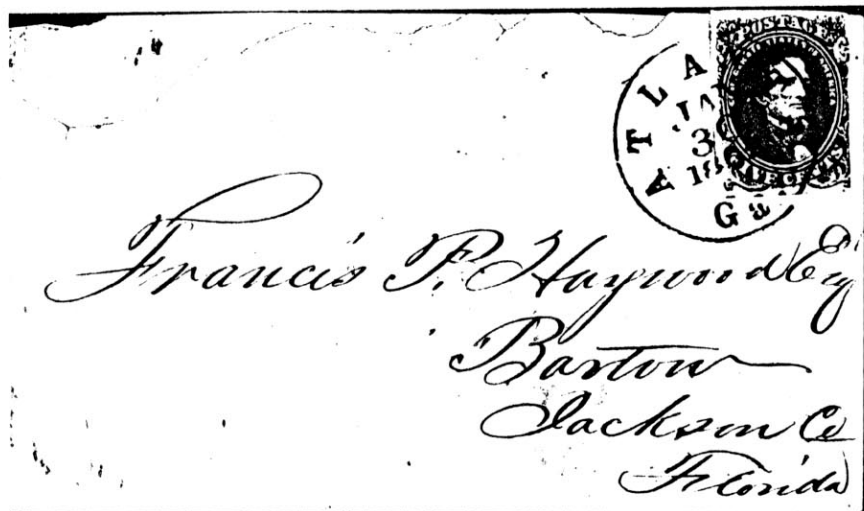
PENSACOLA pre-territorial straightline postmarks

PENSACOLA MILITARY GOVERNMENT POSTAL HISTORY

8/ 6/21	Pensacola	manuscript
9/ 3/21	Pensacola	manuscript
9/23/21	PENSACOLA	straightline
9/28/21	PENSACOLA	straightline
10/ 8/21	PENSACOLA.	straightline
10/23/21	PENSACOLA.	straightline
10/27/21	PENSACOLA	straightline
10/30/21	PENSACOLA.	straightline to Washington
10/30/21	PENSACOLA.	straightline to Kentucky
11/ 6/21	PENSACOLA	straightline
11/20/21	PENSACOLA.	straightline
12/ 4/21	PENSACOLA	straightline
1/23/22	PENSACOLA.	straightline
3/ 4/22	PENSACOLA.	straightline *4 in ms replaced 1
3/11/22	PENSACOLA	straightline
3/25/22	PENSACOLA	straightline

BARTOW, JACKSON COUNTY, FLORIDA

Edward R. Joyce



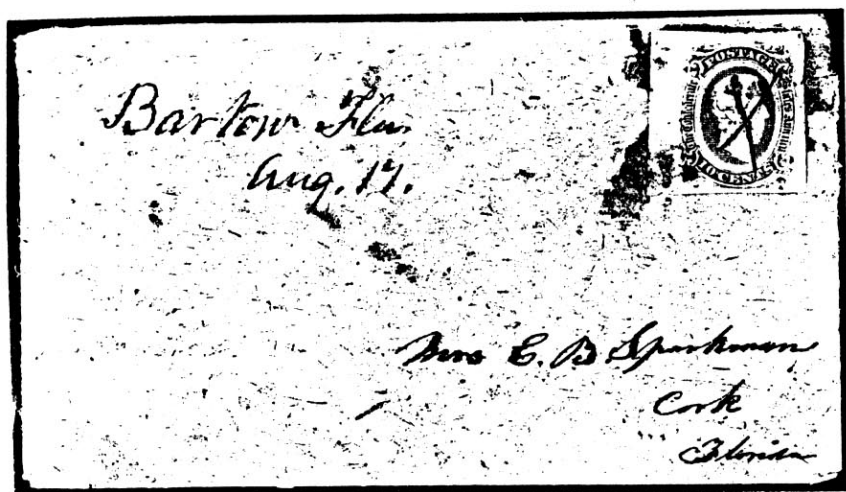
January 30, 1862 cover addressed to Bartow, Jackson Co, Florida

The above cover with a Confederate #1, 5 cent green, is postmarked "ATLANTA/Ga. JAN 30 1862" and is addressed to Francis P. Haywood, Esq., Bartow, Jackson Co, Florida. The publication "A List of the Post Offices in the Confederate States" originally from the Confederate Post Office Department and reprinted by the Confederate Stamp Alliance in 1961 lists not one but two Bartow, Florida post offices, one in Jackson County and another in Polk County with the Jackson County office later changed to Beauregard. No dates were given for the establishments or the change to Beauregard.

In an article titled "Bartow, Florida" in the January-February 1992 Confederate Philatelist, Deane R. Briggs states that the Jackson County Bartow post office was established on September 25, 1861 with

William P. Boroum as postmaster. The date of the establishment of the Polk County Bartow post office is not definite although it appears to be in the late 1861 to early 1862 period. It appears that the Jackson County Bartow post office was changed to Beauregard at the same time although it is very possible that for a while Florida may have had two separate Bartow post offices as is evidenced by the use of "Jackson County" in the address of this cover. Obviously the potential confusion over two post offices with the same name led to the change to Beauregard.

One Confederate cover is known from the Polk County Bartow post office and none are known from the Jackson County Bartow post office or the Beauregard post office.

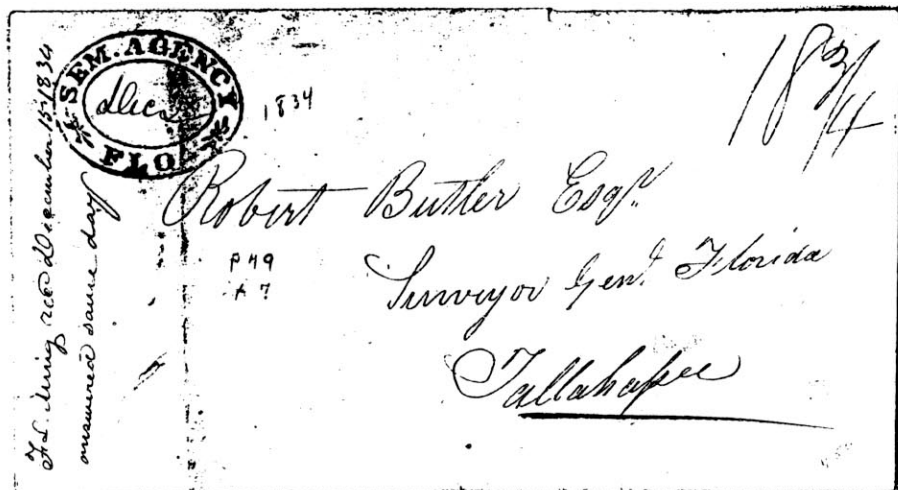


Bartow, Fla. manuscript postmark on 1863 or 1864 cover

The author has researched the Jackson County Historical Society and the Florida State Archives and can find no mention of Bartow in Jackson County or of Beauregard. Francis P. Haywood, Esq., sounds like a man of some distinction so this may be a future lead to pursue. Any members with information on these post offices or Mr. Haywood should let me know.

SEMINOLE AGENCY THE HISTORY BEHIND THE POSTAL HISTORY

Herbert P. McNeal



SEM. AGENCY / *FLO.* DEC 2 (1834) double oval postmark

Postal history collectors have often found that their hobby and the history of an era intersect in a fascinating manner. Such is the case with the Seminole Agency. Covers with the oval postmark with fancy fleurons from this early territorial Florida post office are among the most striking and avidly sought of all Florida covers. The above cover illustrates one of the finest example of this postmark. The Seminole Indian Agency was located adjacent to Cantonment King, or Fort King, which was located east of what is now Ocala, the site now within the city limits. Although the post office was not established until May 3, 1828, the agency by that time had existed for several years. It was established to deal with the Florida Indians, who by the Treaty of Fort Moultrie were to be confined to an area roughly in the center of the territory.

The duties of the Indian Agent included resolution of disputes between the Indians and whites, as well as dispensing supplies to the Indians. Col. Gad Humphries was the first Agent, appointed May 20, 1822. He also served as the first postmaster of the Seminole Agency until replaced by sutler Erastus Rogers on August 17, 1830. His successor as Indian Agent, Maj. John Phagan, was removed from the position in 1833 for fiscal irregularities, and Gen. Wiley Thompson was appointed in his stead. By this time arrangements were well under way to remove the Indians to Arkansas. It had been impossible to confine them to their allotted territory, and there had been frequent conflicts between the whites and Indians.

Meanwhile, Congress had passed an act terminating the Florida Indian Agency effective December 31, 1835. Although the chiefs petitioned to have General Thompson continued as agent, their petition was denied. As the date neared for departure of the Indians to the West, they became increasingly hostile, using abusive language in their meetings with General Thompson. One of the young chiefs, Osceola, participated in the murder of an older chief, who was preparing to emigrate.

About the 26th of December, 1835, Osceola and a party of 60 warriors, prepared an ambush near Fort King to kill the Indian Agent, or failing that, to attack the fort itself. All was quiet on the 27th of December, and on the afternoon of the 28th, General Thompson, accompanied by Lt. Constantine Smith, left the fort for his accustomed walk, smoking a cigar and conversing. Since it was a pleasant afternoon, the walk was extended toward the sutler's store, about a mile from the fort.

As the two reached the crest of a hill, in full view of the fort, Osceola and his men, concealed in the dense foliage and palmettoes, opened fire and killed both instantly. The Indians then rushed from concealment and scalped them, distributing pieces of the scalps to all participants in the ambush. The Indians then proceeded to the sutler's store, killed the sutler Rogers, two clerks, a man named Hetzler, and a boy. These they also scalped, cut up the bodies, and burned the store.

The occupants of the fort (only 45 defenders, with limited supplies and

ammunition) expected a full-scale attack, which never came. Two companies of infantry were expected from Ft. Brooke (near Tampa) as reinforcements, but earlier in the day those troops had been ambushed on the road to Ft. King, and all killed except two privates who (though seriously wounded) made their way back to Ft. Brooke to report the disaster. This is commonly known as the Dade Massacre.

December 28, 1835 marked the beginning of the Second Seminole War, which ended with the deportation of most of the Indians to Arkansas. The Third Seminole War in the late 1850's resulted in the remnant of the Indian tribes retreating to the Florida Everglades.

On December 31, 1835, the Seminole Agency was officially abolished, although according to the Chronology of Florida Post Offices, the post office was not discontinued until February 25, 1837. There is no record a postmaster succeeding Rogers at Seminole Agency. A post office was later established at Ft. King in 1844, but discontinued in 1847, when an office was established at Ocala.

A Seminole Agency cover is a collectible reminder of some turbulent Florida history.

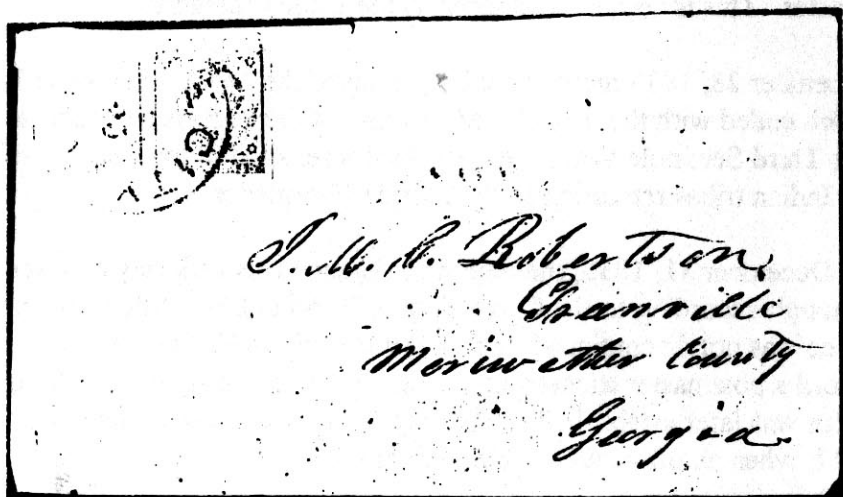
References:

Sprague, John T., The Florida War, University of Florida Press, Gainesville, Fla. 1964 (Facsimile reprint).

Bradbury, Alford G. & Hallock, E. Story, A Chronology of Florida Post Offices, The Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs, 1962.

LAKE CITY CHRISTMAS DAY POSTMARK

Edward R. Joyce



The above Confederate cover is postmarked **LAKE CITY / FLA. DEC 25** and is addressed to Greenville, Meriwether County, Georgia. The year date is either 1863 or 1864.

This was a turned cover with the inside markings, all in manuscript, reading "Oak Hill, Ga. Paid 10" and addressed to Lake City.

It appears that the Lake City post office was open on Christmas Day during the civil war.

Editor's Note: I have reviewed the computer base of known Florida Confederate covers and find additional Christmas Day postmarks from Monticello, Pensacola, and Warrington. Christmas must not have been considered a holiday back then!