

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

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Membership applications may be obtained from Donald G. Thompson, 7405 Cypress Bend Manor, Vero Beach, FL 32966-5172, phone (407) 567-9790

Articles may be submitted for publication to Deane R. Briggs, 160 E. Lake Howard Dr. Winter Haven, FL 33881

SARASOTA NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION



The Florida Postal History Society held a regional meeting on Saturday February 1, 1997 at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in Sarasota, Florida. Six members and a prospective member attended the meeting and were enlightened by Ted Light with an excellent presentation of unusual rates and usages during the Stampless period. Deane Briggs presented some unusual Florida usages including some Southern Express Company post war usages and a Well Fargo oval receiving mark on a usage from Florida. The above photo taken by Deane Briggs shows members Ted Light, Donald Thompson, Herb McNeal, a guest, Bill Fox and Gordon McHenry. Any members in the Sarasota area in early February should plan to attend our Society meeting which will be held on Saturday February 7, 1998, at 1:00 P.M.

MEMBER ACCOLADES

THEODORE LIGHT Ted Light was granted **Philatelic Judge Emeritus** by the American Philatelic Society on January 10, 1997. This was in recognition of many years of distinguished service as an active judge.

ALEXANDER HALL Alex Hall has won gold and grand awards for his exhibit: "Independent States and Confederate Mails, December 1860 - June 1865" and was selected to exhibit at **Pacific 97** where he won an International Vermeil.

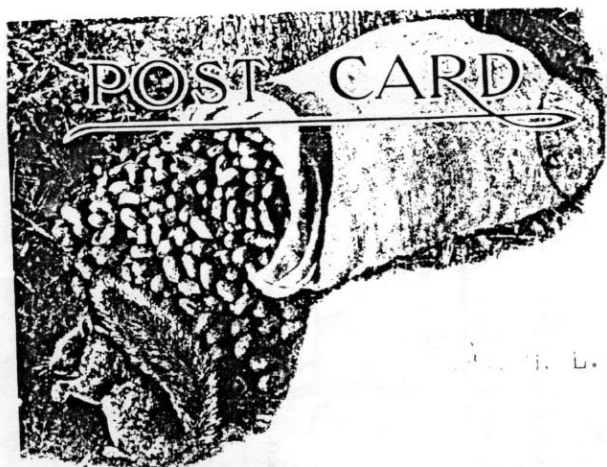
DEANE BRIGGS Deane Briggs was awarded the **August Dietz Award** for outstanding research and writing on Confederate States postal history based on his continuing research on Florida provisionals and Florida postal history. This was presented at the C.S.A. convention at ROMPEX '97.

EDWARD JOYCE Ed Joyce was awarded a Silver award and the **CSA Judges' Award** at ROMPEX '97 for his exhibit "Confederate States of America -- Postal Usages"

JOHN KIMBROUGH John Kimbrough was awarded a Silver-Bronze award and the **CSA Trustee's Trophy** at ROMPEX '97 for his exhibit "A Prisoner's Story"

FLORIDA ADVERTISING POST CARDS

Herbert P. McNeal



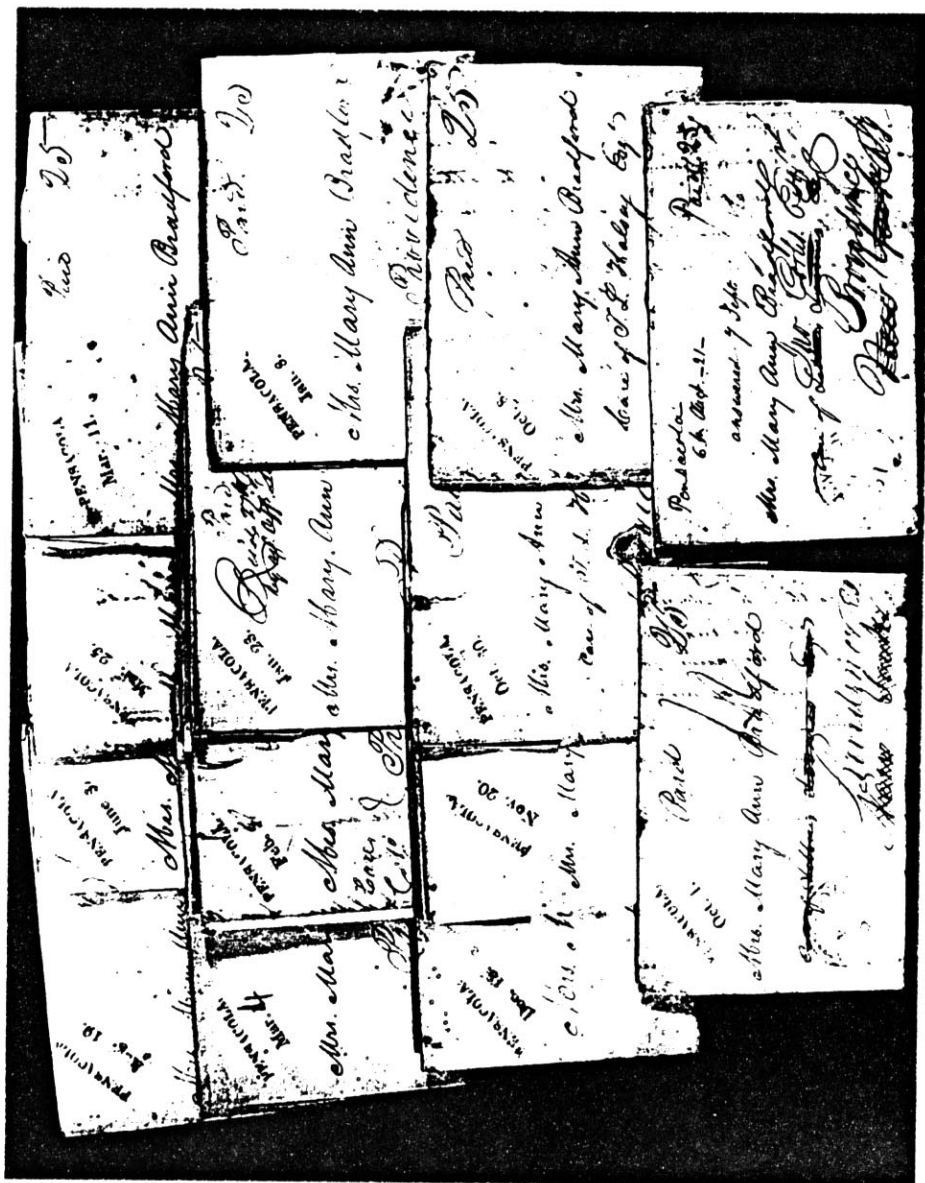
Glen Saint Mary Pecan Trees
Bear Profitable Crops

Early Florida advertising post cards are extremely uncommon. This one depicts an overflowing bag of pecans, with a squirrel enjoying a nut in the foreground, and advertises the Glen St. Mary Nursery. The card bears a 1 cent green Franklin head, tied by Glen St. Mary postmark of Nov. 11, 1911, and is addressed to DeLand. The face of the card shows a pecan grove, and has a printed message in blue script advising that the 1912 catalog has been mailed, etc.

Glen Saint Mary, Florida, November 6, 1911
You have just received trees, shrubs and plants you
can obtain no other place at hand.
Knowing this, I am sure you will want our beautiful 1912 catalogue. It
fully describes all the trees, shrubs and plants we have to be best nut, citrus and
other fruit trees and shrubs grow in
Florida. Let us know at once
if you want it. We will be glad to send you

A FLORIDA FIND

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



James W. Milgram, M.D. was kind enough to forward to me the preceding photograph of one of the most significant lots of Florida postal history to ever come to auction, and from an "Antique Auction" at that! Although the auction took place in 1976, it is worthy of reprinting this photograph of the lot to remind Florida postal history collectors to keep their eyes open, even in obscure antique auctions. This lot of 14 of the Bradford letters of early Pensacola consisted of the earliest known letter from pre-territorial (Military Government Period) Pensacola (manuscript postmark 6 Aug 21), 11 hand stamped straight-line Pensacola postmarked pre-territorial covers, and 2 early territorial examples. It is interesting to note that all of these hand stamped post marks are placed at a diagonal in the upper left corner. The earliest examples had a comma after Pensacola, which was later worn into a period and eventually was missing after March 4, 1822. The numerical dates are all followed by a period, although by 1823 they are known to be followed by "th", "d", etc. These covers represent most of the known examples from pre-territorial Pensacola and examples now reside in many great Florida stampless collections. This photograph adds five new pre-territorial examples to the listing of known examples as recorded in my article on "West Florida Pre-Territorial Postal History" in Florida Postal History Journal: Vol. 4, No. 1, p.22, January 1997. There are now 19 known examples of the straight-line postmark and two of the manuscript postmark known from pre-territorial Pensacola. For anyone interested in Dr. Milgram's complete article on this Find, it is in Stamps: December 18, 1976.

CHATTAHOOCHEE DOUBLE OVAL

Donald G. Thompson



CHATTAHOOCHEE / FLA.' APR 4 (1834) red postmark

36 x 25 mm outer oval

24 x 15 mm inner oval

SFL addressed to Bath, Maine with unpaid 25 rate

Chattahoochee is the successor post office to Mount Vernon, Gadsden County, which it replaced on February 19, 1834. Thus, this postmark was used about 6 weeks after the change in name. It is the earliest date reported for Chattahoochee, and the question is why only one example has appeared so far. The compensation for 1839 was \$126.08; so although quite small compared to the larger post offices in the state (upwards past \$1000), it was large enough to have generated additional examples of this postmark, all things being equal. However, look at the tracing, and you will see that there is a misspelling of the name with "Chattahoochie", which might explain the lack of additional reports of use with the oval postmark. Perhaps it was used for a short time, the error was discovered, and its use discontinued.

After this manuscript was submitted, our editor found a listing in the Register of all Officers and Agents, Civil, Military, and Naval, in the Service of the United States, on the Thirtieth September, 1835, confirming that the spelling was in fact Chattahoochie, with J. W. King as postmaster. His annual compensation was \$207.36, making this the 6th largest post office in the Territory of Florida at that time. With this larger compensation figure, it seems odd that more examples have not

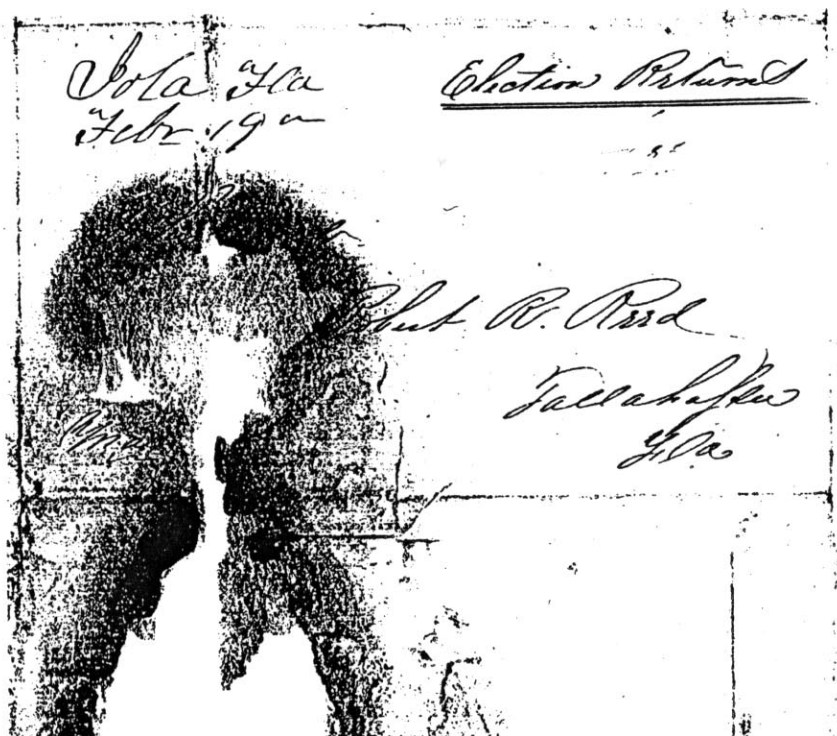
surfaced, particularly since the town was the site for the Mt. Vernon Arsenal, which must have generated a fair amount of mail.

The derivation of "Chattahoochie" is from the Indian "Chat-to" (stone) and "Ho-cha" (marked or flowered) since colored or marked stones were found in the river. "Hatchee" is the Indian word for river or creek. (Aforesaid definitions are thanks to "Places in the Sun", Bloodworth & Morris).

Combining this information we might conclude that "Chattahoochie" succeeded Mount Vernon in February 1834. The error in the translation from the Indian "hatchee" to "hatchie" was discovered soon thereafter and the use of the oval handstamp was discontinued. It was promptly replaced by the common 30mm circle postmarking device (CHATTAHOOCHEE / FLA.) with date in manuscript. The earliest recorded use of this postmark is May 6, 1834, which implies a maximum period of use of the oval mark of less than three months.

IOLA, FLORIDA - A NEW STAMPLESS LISTING

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



The above cover was recorded at the State Archives in Tallahassee during a review of the governor's letters on file. It has been preserved on parchment due to severe burns and paper loss. To date this is the only known example of a stampless postmark from Iola so it is appropriate to record this cover for postal historians. The state archives has done a remarkable job in preserving this example.

The undated outer letter sheet is addressed to Governor Robert R. Reid (sic Reid) at Tallahassee and postmarked in manuscript **Iola Fla / Febr 19th**. It was rated (Due) 12 1/2 in manuscript. Governor Reid served from 1839 to 1841 making this a territorial usage.

The Iola post office was established in Calhoun County on 16 October 1838, on the western shore of the Apalachicola River, south of Rico's

Bluff and north of Fort Gadsden. It was the terminus of a railroad connecting Iola and St. Joseph. The post office never had much volume as postal receipts and postmaster compensation were nominal as shown in the following table. The post office was discontinued on 1 September 1845, and later reestablished in Marion County (possibly another town using this name as Marion County is nowhere near the location of Iola) on 4 November 1857. After the Civil War, Iola was again reestablished and was finally discontinued on 15 November 1926 in now Gulf County. Mail at that time was handled by the office at Wewahitchka.

Postmaster	Date of Commission		PM comp	postage
James Hudson	16 October 1838	1839	17.26	
		1841	13.46	26.96
Francis Arnon	15 January 1842	1842	7.26	14.58
John S. Hunter	9 December 1842	1843	4.75	9.51
		1845	1.34	2.94
P.O. Discontinued: 1 September 1845				

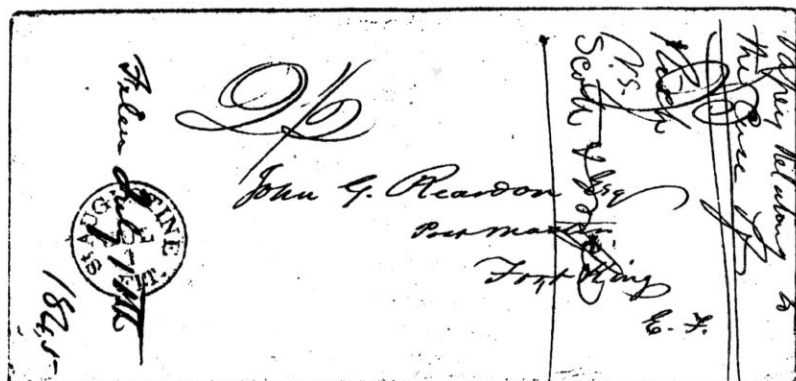
FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 15, 1997

The annual meeting of the Florida Postal History Society will be held on Saturday, November 15, 1997 at 11:00 AM in the Lake Beauty Room in the Expo Center, Orlando, Florida. This meeting will be followed at 12:00 P.M. by the U.S. Philatelic Classic Society meeting and will feature a presentation by your editor, Deane R. Briggs, M.D. on "Florida Territorial and Pre-Territorial Postal History". This program will take the place of a formal presentation during our Society meeting and all members are encouraged to attend both meetings.

A 'FIRST DAY' COVER FROM 1845

Niles Schuh



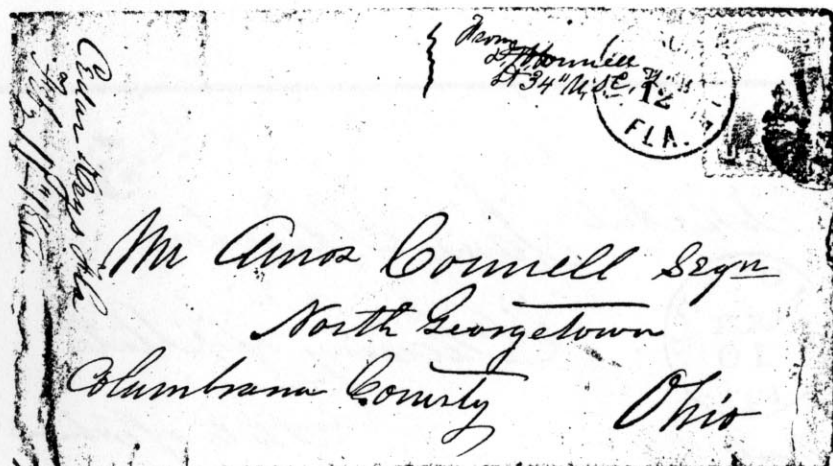
Prior to July 1, 1845, letters were charged a rate based on distance traveled and the number of sheets. An envelope was seldom used because it counted as an extra sheet. The new 1845 rates not only charged by weight instead of the number of sheets, but it also reduced the distance categories from five to two.

The above illustrated legal size folded letter was postmarked on July 1 at St. Augustine and was docketed by the recipient with the year date 1845. This was the first day that the new rate system of 5 cents for under 300 miles was in effect. This new system included the provision that letters over 1/2 ounce should be charged an extra rate for each additional 1/2 ounce. This letter weighed 2 1/2 ounces and was sent to Fort King (now Ocala), a distance of less than 300 miles, therefore it was charged 25 cents. Five 1/2 ounces times 5 cents = 25 cents.

This cover represents an interesting "first day" cover from Florida.

U. S. COLORED TROOPS RECONSTRUCTION USAGE

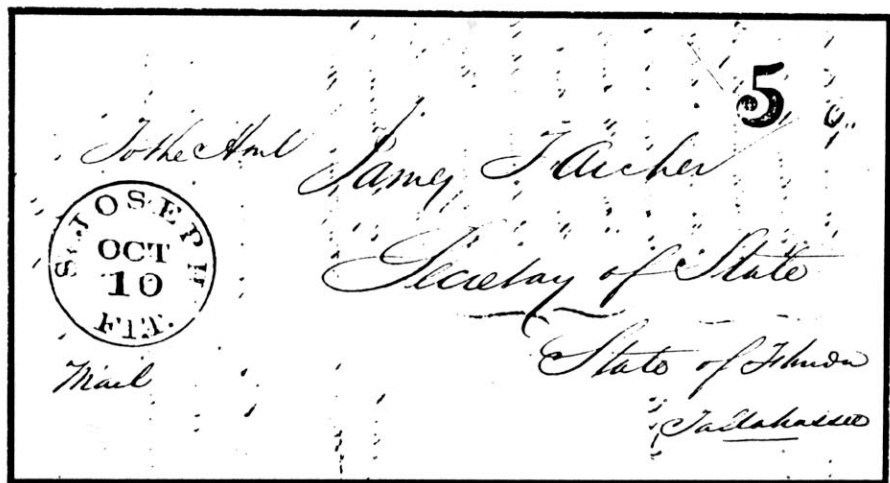
Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



The above cover shows a most unusual usage from Florida during the immediate post Civil War Reconstruction Period. The cover has a U.S. #65 adhesive tied by a black JACKSONVILLE / FLA. FEB 12 post war postmark and matching fancy cork killer. It is endorsed **From D.W. Connell 'Lt' 34" U.S.C.T.** in the same pen as the address. A magenta "Cedar Keys Fla / Feb 11 - 1866" manuscript marking is at the upper left and corresponds with a pencil docketing on the reverse "From Cedar Keys Fla / Feb 11 - 1866" presumably made by the recipient. The letter was obviously mailed in Cedar Keys and docketed (not a true postmark) by a mail clerk there, but since there was no reestablished post office there, the letter had to be sent to Jacksonville to enter the mails. During the Civil War, the post office at Cedar Keys was named Atseena Otie (changed from Cedar Key in 1853), and the reestablished post office was established as Cedar Keys, but not until 20 June 1866. Although Florida had a large number of Colored Troops beginning with the February 1864 Union troop buildup at Jacksonville and extending long into the post war reconstruction period, this is the only "U. S. Colored Troops" endorsed cover I am aware of.

A NEW STAMPLESS ST. JOSEPH LISTING

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



St. JOSEPH / FL. T. OCT 10 (1845) (due) 5

The above cover represents the initial listing of a Florida Stampless statehood usage from St. Joseph as well as a new listing of the handstamp "5". To date no stampless or adhesive usages are recorded from St. Joseph. The above cover is from the State Archives and is docketed 1845 which with the (due) 5 rate places it as an early statehood usage. The postmark is the territorial 30mm cds in black and the fancy handstamp "5" is unique for Florida and also in black.

St. Joseph was a bustling town, established in 1829, which rapidly grew as a port city 30 miles northwest of Apalachicola. The post office was established on 28 December 1835 with James Black as postmaster. St. Joseph was the 5th largest post office in the Florida territory in 1837, reflecting a rapid growth and expansion of trade. An early railroad connected the port with Iola but transportation costs were high and

transfer of goods from rail to ship great. Ships were also exposed to dangerous northwest winds. By the mid 1840's, the postal receipts and postmaster compensation had dropped considerably. An epidemic of yellow fever killed most of the inhabitants and by 1854 the town was deserted and the post office discontinued. The following table listing the postmasters and their compensation and postal receipts reflect the rapid 20 year rise and fall of this town. It is still surprising that no postal history had been recorded from the statehood period prior to this listing.

postmaster	comm. date	year	comp.	receipt
James Black	28 Dec. 1835	end 3-31-37	497.90	
		end 3-31-39	554.68	
		end 6-30-41	249.06	623.56
		to 5-18-42	102.98	209.20
Jennette Gibson	9 May 1842	end 6-30-41	53.46	139.93
James P. Penn	23 Sept. 1843	to 2-15-45	17.93	38.62
Nehemiah Hayden	31 Jan. 1845	to 6-30-45	7.07	14.78
		end 6-30-47	33.36	44.65
		end 6-30-49	8.60	12.33
		end 6-30-51	1.84	2.76
		end 6-30-53	no return filed	
P.O. Discontinued:		28 March 1854		

A CIVIL WAR SOLDIER'S COMPLAINT FROM FLORIDA

Niles Schuh

"You spoke about sending letters without stamps but I cannot do that without going through a long process." This complaint is contained in an October 16, 1862, letter written from St. Augustine, Florida, by Corporal Leander Cummings of the 7th New Hampshire Regiment to his mother.

Since July of 1861, soldiers in the service of the United States had been able to send letters through the mail without prepayment of postage. The recipient of the letter then had to pay that postage. To take advantage of this arrangement the letters had to have "Soldier's Letter" and the name of the soldier's unit on the envelope. Also the major of the regiment had to certify that the letter was as claimed. The latter requirement no doubt was the "long process" that Leander referred to.

The shortage of stamps in the field which prompted the act to be passed by Congress was not only caused by the difficulty of getting stamps to the field post offices or by the soldier's lack of money to buy them. Corporal Cummings wrote home from Fort Jefferson, Florida, on April 27, 1862, thanking his mother for sending more stamps, " ...for I lost some of them that I brought from home by sweating. They were in my wallet in my pants pocket, I sweat so that when I opened it the stamps all stuck together so that I could not get them apart. You can judge how warm it is here by that 3 cent stamps have sold here for ten cents apiece, I sold one for five."

Cummings spent a year in Florida in 1862-1863, mostly at Fort Jefferson (the southernmost point in Florida) and St. Augustine. He also spent a short time in Fernandina. He certainly saw his share of hot and humid weather. Adhesive postage stamps must have been very hard to keep separated from each other or from whatever they came contained in.

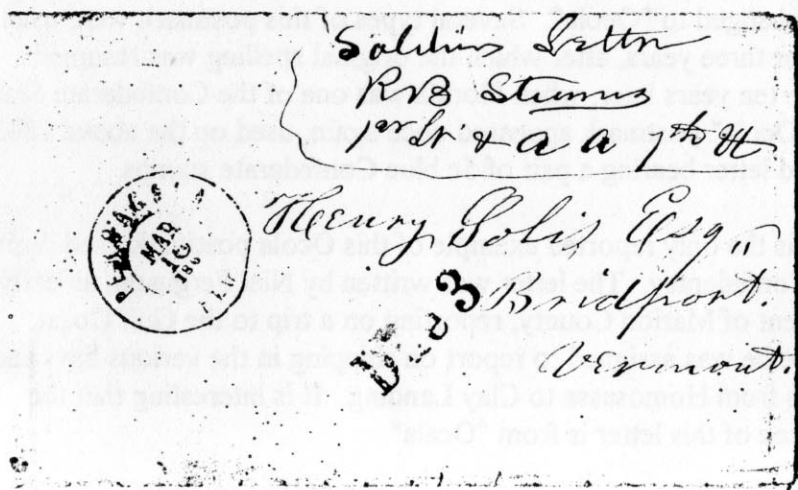
It must have been very difficult to get the proper certification for an

unpaid letter in Cummings' regiment. The Corporal went to some trouble to get the three cent stamps needed to prepay the postage. In a September 5, 1862, letter from St. Augustine, he tells how he borrowed 25 cents, bought a few things and had five cents left. "...the remaining five I kept and begged another cent so as to buy two stamps to send a letter home." He couldn't find any three cents stamps for sale for three cents, so, "I made out to get a stamp to send this with by paying 5 cents and so I have got 1 cent left."

One more indication of the trouble that the Corporal would take to avoid getting letters certified by the proper regimental officer is covered in his letter of February 22, 1863. "...It is so long since we got paid off that I have got most out of postage stamps. If you will send one or two to me occasionally I shall be very thankful."

As the war progressed, mail handling procedures were undoubtedly improved and other regimental officers authorized to certify soldier's mail. In fact, most mail from troops in the field was sent unpaid.

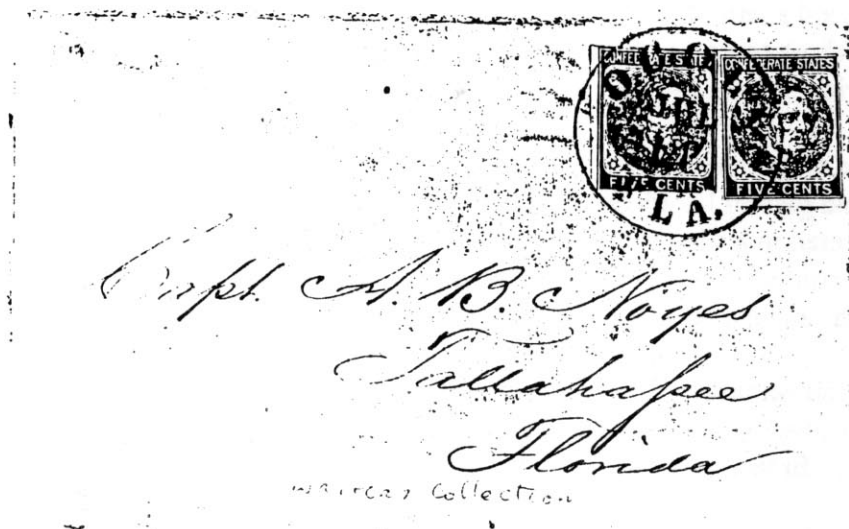
Editor's Note: Unpaid soldier's mail from Florida during the civil war is uncommon, but is known from the Union occupation post offices at Pensacola, Jacksonville, St. Augustine, and Fernandina as well as from Union Fort Jefferson, Fort Pickens, and Key West.



example of unpaid soldier's mail from Pensacola

CONFEDERATE "OCOLA" POSTMARK

Herbert P. McNeal



OCOLA / FLA. JUL 11 (1863)

In the early 1850's the Ocala postmark (either by accident or design) was changed to "Ocola". Several types of this postmark were used for two or three years, after which the original spelling was resumed. Some ten years later, when Florida was one of the Confederate States, the "Ocola" postmark appeared once again, used on the above 1863 folded letter bearing a pair of 5c blue Confederate stamps.

This is the only reported example of this Ocola postmark used during the Confederacy. The letter was written by Niel Ferguson, an early resident of Marion County, reporting on a trip to the Gulf Coast, where he was assigned to report on shipping in the various bays and rivers from Homosassa to Clay Landing. It is interesting that the dateline of this letter is from "Ocala".

A namesake of this Niel Ferguson was a prominent 20th Century

attorney in Ocala for many years.

Editor's Note: The actual spelling of the town was OCOLA from 1847 - 1853 in the Records of the Post Office Department, Record of Appointment of Postmasters and was OCOLA until 1857 in the Register of Officers and Agents, Civil, Military, and Naval, in the Service of the United States. The 1850 Pratt's United States Post Office Directory lists the town as OCOLA. It appears that perhaps the U.S. Post Office Department may well have issued the two different OCOLA post marking hand stamps in the early 1850's when postal receipts were in excess of \$300 per year. They may well have used the spelling on the official records which was in error. It is doubtful that the resident postmaster in Ocala would make that mistake if he procured his own postmarking handstamps.

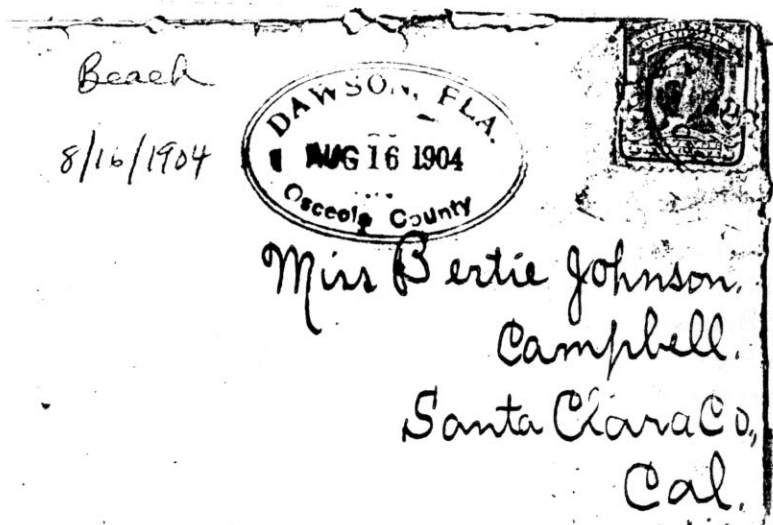
FLOREX - ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Florida Postal History Society will be held on Saturday, November 15, 1997, at FLOREX in Orlando, Florida. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for 11:00 A.M. in the Lake Beauty Room at the Expo Center. Our society stampless book project is in its final stages and there should be some rough drafts of pages to critique. Immediately following our Society meeting, in the same Lake Beauty Room, will be the 12:00 P.M. meeting of The U.S. Philatelic Classic Society. Our journal editor, Deane R. Briggs, M.D. will present a paper on "Florida Territorial and Pre-Territorial Postal History". It would be nice for a good turn out of Florida Postal History Society members at both meetings.

DAWSON, FLORIDA COUNTY POSTMARK

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

Florida county and postmaster postmarks are highly sought after examples of Florida postal history. These postmarks are almost always from small 4th class post offices with postal receipts of often less than \$50.00. Postal regulations required that postmaster from such offices had to purchase postmarking devices themselves and as a result many businesses began to manufacture customized devices. The opportunity for a postmaster to have his own name on the postmark obviously was well received as 21 of the 59 known Florida towns using these devices selected one which included their name as postmaster. The most common postmark was circular in shape, often double lined and in two occasions with serrations in the outer circle. The oval was the next most common shape with some being double lined and others serrated. The octagon, box and straightline postmarks are also represented from Florida.



DAWSON, FLA. / OSCEOLA COUNTY AUG 16 1904

The photocopy of the above example along with others from a family correspondence was sent to me by the daughter of a steamboat captain who carried mail along the Kissimmee River to Lake Okeechobee in the early 1900's. Other letters included postmarks from Nichols, Bassenger, Tantie, and Moore Haven, with the latter having the following corner card: Steamer Lillie, E. H. Hall, Captain, Okeechobee, Fla.". The DLC DAWSON, FLA. county postmark is the only example I am aware of and unusual in the late 1904 date of use of an oval county postmark. The post office of Dawson was established on April 2, 1884, at about the time that the use of county postmarks in Florida reached its peak. It is possible that this postmark is the only postmark ever used at Dawson, as the post office was discontinued shortly after this 1904 date of use (September 14, 1905).

Although postmaster and county postmarking devices are known from as early as 1820 nationally, their use in Florida seems to have begun in the late 1870's with maximum usage during the 1880's. The latest usage seemed to have been around 1894 until the above example surfaced.

The definitive work on the subject of Postmaster and County postmarks is the Doane-Thompson Catalog of U.S. County and Postmaster Postmarks, Edited by Kenneth L. Gilman, and published by the David G. Phillips Publishing Co., Inc. in 1990. This book reproduces many of the known examples from Florida and their period of use. It is a highly recommended reference on this subject. Since publication the following new listings have been recorded: Bagdad, Cherry Lake, Dawson, Kings Ferry, Miaka, Novella, Sentaffey, and Wahneta.

Our late Florida Postal History Society member, Larry Resnick, was working on a treatise on Florida County and Postmaster postmarks. It is hopeful that his estate will allow myself or David Phillips a chance to complete his work. Anyone with examples of other unlisted Florida Postmaster or County postmarks or variations of use, are encouraged to submit copies of such to me for recording and publication.

THE FLORIDA CHRISTMAS SEALS

Herbert P. McNeal

Few are aware that Christmas seals were issued in Florida each year in 1908, 1911, 1912, and 1913, and that their use on covers or cards is scarce and desirable. Seals issued to raise funds for a particular cause were first issued by the Sanitary Fairs during the Civil War, to raise money for the relief of the wounded, widows, and orphans.

Christmas Seals of the kind known to most collectors were first issued by the Delaware chapter of the American National Red Cross in 1907. There were two types, both rare on cover or card, and they realized only about \$3000 in total receipts. In 1908 and for years afterward, the seals were issued and sold by the American National Red Cross. From 1918 to 1920 seals were issued by the Red Cross, but sold by the National Tuberculosis Association, which in 1920 began both issuing and selling the seals, and so continued until 1969, when the issuing and selling organization became The National Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association. Monetary realizations for the most recent year listed in my catalog (1977) was more than \$37,000,000.

But back to the Florida seals. One of the first organizations to issue what is known as a "local" seal to fight tuberculosis was the Federation of Women's Clubs, headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Federation of Florida Women's Clubs issued Christmas Seals in 1908, 1911, 1912, and 1913. Clubs in Alabama, Arkansas, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington, and Wyoming also issued seals but most for only one or two years. Figures are not available for realizations on these issues. Over the years, hundreds of other organizations have issued and sold seals to fight tuberculosis and other lung diseases, and many are scarce on postally used material.

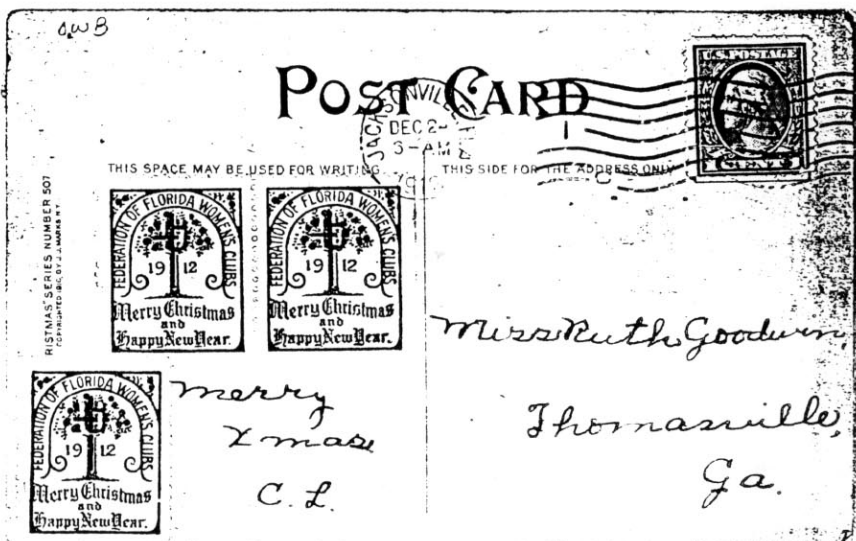
Illustrated are Florida seals tied on post cards. One, postmarked and tied by a 1912 Jacksonville machine postmark bears a copy of the 1908 seal. (Fig. 1) Another card, with similar 1912 postmark, has three copies of the 1912 issue. (Fig. 2) A 1913 Jack. & St. Petersburg. RPO

postmark ties a 1913 seal on the third card. (Fig. 3) This seal is the same design as the 1908 seal except for substituting "1913" for "And".

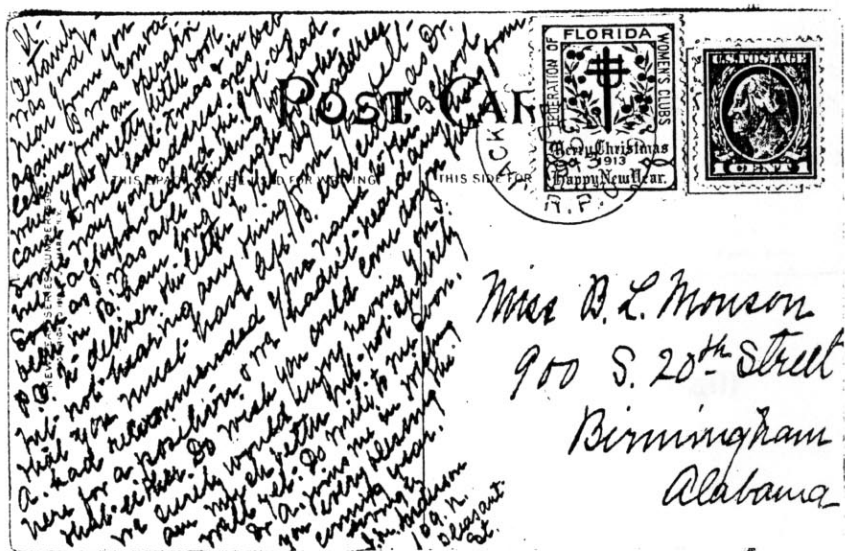
Reference: Green's Catalog of the Tuberculosis Seals of the World, Part 1, U.S. National Seals, sponsored by The Christmas Seals and Charity Stamp Society, published by Henry Irwin, Chicago (Revised 1979).



(fig. 1) JACKSONVILLE, FLA. DEC 24/1912
on 1908 Florida Christmas Seal



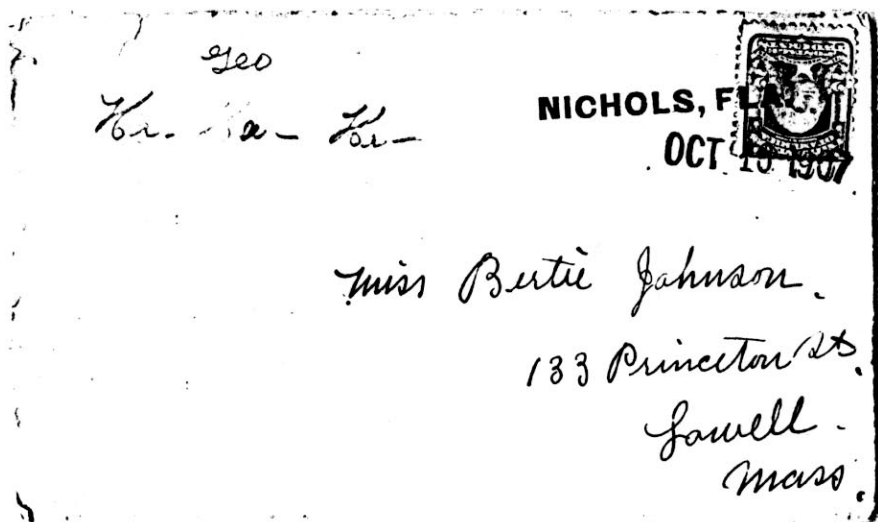
(fig. 2) JACKSONVILLE FLA. DEC 24 1912
on 1912 Florida Christmas seals



(fig. 3) JACK. & ST. PETERSBG. R.P.O. DEC 30/1913
on 1913 Florida Christmas Seal

NICHOLS, FLORIDA PROVISIONAL USAGE

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



Hidden among a large family correspondence were some new Florida postmarks from the small town of Nichols, in eastern Polk County. The correspondence is from George Steffee who married the daughter of a famous Kissimmee River Steamboat Captain Clay Johnson. These postmarks are most likely some of the earliest from Nichols as evidenced by the provisional straight line postmarks (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2) in blue ink. The October 18, 1907 postmark is provisional with a different device for the town name and the date. A different Nichols receiving mark with smaller type and date is recorded on the reverse of the October 14, 1907 cover.

The Nichols post office was established on 21 August 1907 and the official 4 - Bar postmarking device was obviously not available for some time. A provisional straight line postmark and receiving handstamp were thus utilized instead of the more common use of a manuscript postmark. By October 28, 1907 the official 4-Bar handstamp was available and utilized on the cover in Fig. 3. This is quite possibly the earliest known use of this postmark.

NICHOLS, FLA.
OCT 14 1907

NICHOLS, FLA. OCT 14 1907 provisional receiving mark

Yes



Miss Bertie Johnson.

*Kissimmee
Fla*

NICHOLS, / FLA. OCT 28 1907 4-bar postmark

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Las Vegas, NV 89193
(702) 791-6828

WILLIAM A. FOX

94 Toppin Drive
Hilton Head, SC 29926
(803) 837-3620

GARY A. HAUSIN

4897 Tamiami Trail East
Naples, FL 33962
(813) 732-8000 FAX 732-7701

ROBERT J. HAUSIN

4897 Tamiami Trail East
Naples, FL 33962
(813) 732-8000 FAX 732-7701

RICHARD W. HELBOCK

LA POSTA

P.O. Box 135
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
(503) 657-5685

STAN JAMESON

Empire Company
P.O. Box 264
St. Petersburg, FL 33731
(813) 526-5203

JOHN L. KIMBROUGH

10140 Wandering Way
Benbrook, TX 76126
(817) 244-2447

GORDON D. McHENRY

Box 1117
Osprey, FL 34229
(813) 966-5563

DAVID G. PHILLIPS

P.O. Box 611388
North Miami, FL 33161
(305) 895-5262

C. MICHAEL WIEDEMANN

Box 6130A
Titusville, FL 32782
(407) 269-3377