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FLOREX 1999

Niles F. Schuh, President FPHS

As most of the members of the Florida Postal History Society are aware, the **FLOREX 1999** exhibition will be the last FLOREX. Our Society has been honored with a special 15 frame **Court of Honor** exhibit of Florida Postal History. This exhibit is unlike any previous FLOREX exhibit in that many collectors have made available material from their individual collections for this special exhibit. It should be a highlight for anyone interested in Florida Postal History.

As President of The Florida Postal History Society, I encourage all members to try to attend this final FLOREX. It will be held from November 5-7, 1999, in Orlando, at the OMNI Exhibition Center on Livingston Ave., across from the Bob Carr Theater. Our Society will hold our Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 6, 1999 at 12:00pm and a good attendance is anticipated. Fellow member Yamil H. Kouri, Jr., M.D. will talk on **Florida and Pensacola postal history during the Spanish Period**. He has obtained copies of the Spanish Florida archives and may show some slides. Please try to attend this meeting and meet Yamil and also view the Court of Honor Exhibit.

Our Society book, *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763 - 1861*, has been published by David G. Phillips, Co., Inc. and has received a great review in Linn's Stamp News. All members who ordered a discounted pre-publication copy should have received it by now. If not, please contact Deane R. Briggs, at 160 E. Lake Howard Dr., Winter Haven, FL 33881, phone 941 - 299-1251. Additional copies will be offered for sale at FLOREX at a special 20 % reduced price (\$36.00) and a few hard bound copies may be available if not already sold out. If you are not able to attend FLOREX and still wish a copy, please let David Phillips know and he will honor this FLOREX special price.

Future meetings of the Florida Postal History Society will be held at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in February of each year. Our next annual meeting will be held there beginning in 2000.

OPENED BY ROBBERS

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

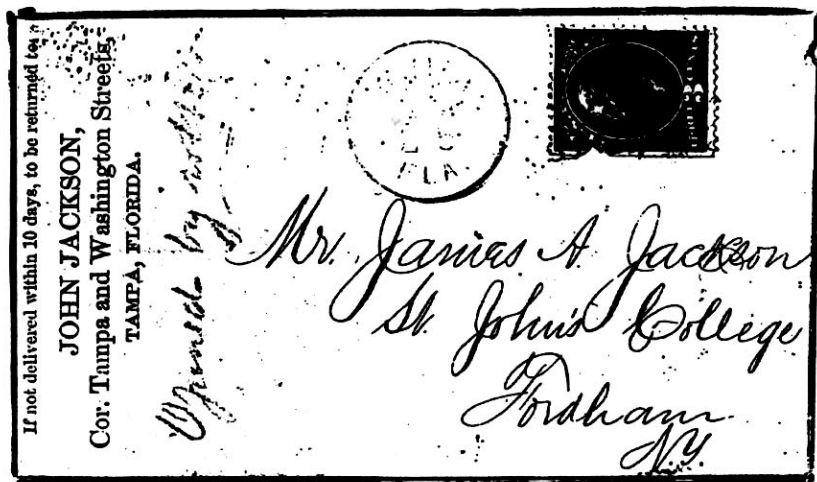


Figure 1.

The above cover is an interesting follow up cover to the one recorded by Edward R. Joyce in the February 1996 issue of *The Florida Postal History Journal*, Vol. 3, No.1, page 26. His letter had a sticker applied to the face which read "Special Notice to Mail Robbers. / This letter does not contain money or anything of value." To date, no one has contacted him with any information on that cover. The above cover (Figure 1.) is from the same time period (Banknote period) but has a year dated enclosure and dead letter office handstamp on the reverse reflecting 1874 usage.

Figure 1. is a cover postmarked **TAMPA / FLA. APR 25** in black with a circle of rings killer cancelling a 3 cent green banknote stamp. The cover has a nice corner card return address and was sent to St. John's College, Fordham, N.Y. Across the left, just below the corner card, is a blue manuscript "**Opened by robbers**". On the reverse is a blue **DEAD LETTER OFFICE / U.S. MAY 25 1874** handstamp marking, reflecting that the letter and outer cover had been sent to the dead letter office and not delivered to the addressee. Where the blue

manuscript notation "Opened by robbers" was applied is unclear, but possibly at the dead letter office since the ink is both in blue.



Figure 2.

What makes this cover most interesting is the enclosure which is not the one originally in the cover! It reads as follows:

"St Johns College
Fordham June 6th - 74

Dear Brother

I received the enclosed letter this morning much to my surprise with the famous "Dead Letter" stamp imprinted upon it. Moreover here was written in the envelope (as you may see with your own eyes) the short phrase "Opened by Robbers".

These few words made my heart jump at first and I read the letter with eagerness for I thought perhaps you had enclosed (money) in the letter and that it had been seized by desperadoes. But in reading the letter my fears were banished for I found no mention of money in it. "Thanks be to God"! I send it to you in order that you may satisfy your curiosity."

It appears from the above letter that Mail robbery for money and valuables was commonplace at this time period. Such letters must have often been sent to the Dead Letter Office as the handstamp on the reverse was "famous". Perhaps the reason the letter in Ed Joyce's article had the sticker on it was to discourage the opening of a letter from a postmaster to the postmaster general, most likely with money enclosed to cover his postal receipts for that quarter. The fact that Ed Joyce's letter was also registered further substantiates the fact that something of value was enclosed.

QUINCY 1850 CORRESPONDENCE

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

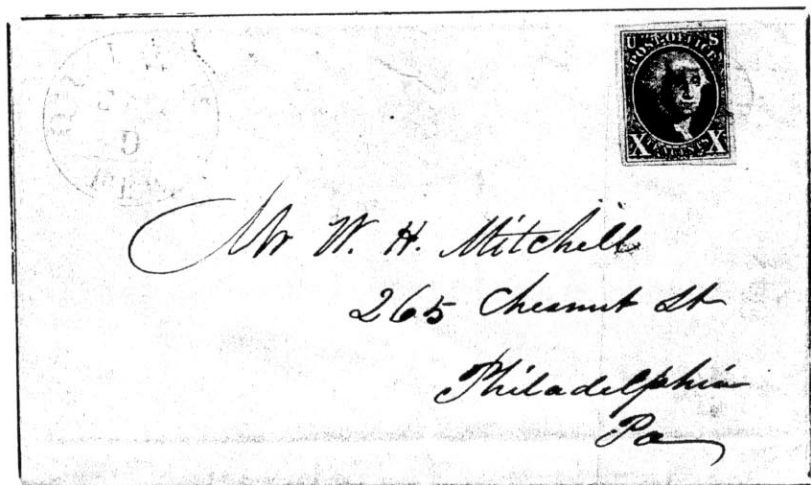


Fig. 1. QUINCY / Flor. JAN 9 (1850)

I have in my collection of Florida 1847 covers two interesting correspondences from Quincy, Florida, both with very fine 4 margin copies of U.S. #2 pre-paying the 10 cent postage to Philadelphia. The letters and enclosures, although written by separate parties, are very much related, and as such, makes for a very nice pair of covers.

The first cover (Fig. 1.) is datelined Quincy, Florida. Jan 8, 1850, and addressed to Mr. W. H. Mitchell, Philadelphia, Pa. It has a red **QUINCY / Flor. JAN 9** cds postmark and a bold red grid which ties the U.S. #2. The letter is from Joshua Phelps who is acting as an agent for the "Princeton Review" and has enclosed \$5.00, "three of which is to pay the advance subscription of Mr. William E. Hamilton, Marianna, Florida. (New Subscriber). The other two give me credit for on my account. ---- Though I have been nominally your agent, and have heretofore obtained a number of subscribers, I do not wish to

receive any commissions for doing so. ---- There is no periodical I read with so much pleasure as the Princeton Review, and shall continue to use my influence to circulate the same. In reference to the collection of money due you here, in this part of Florida, there is one suggestion I wish to make. I am myself unable to attend to it at present for want of time, and there is now a gentleman here from New York, a member of the Presbyterian Church, spending the winter for his health, as he has done several winters past, and who is agent for several religious periodicals. I would recommend that he be appointed your agent, temporarily at least, to collect for you and obtain new subscribers. His address is J.C. Bartlett Esq., Quincy, Florida. If you would send the accounts to him he would attend to it faithfully, and as well as any man I know of."

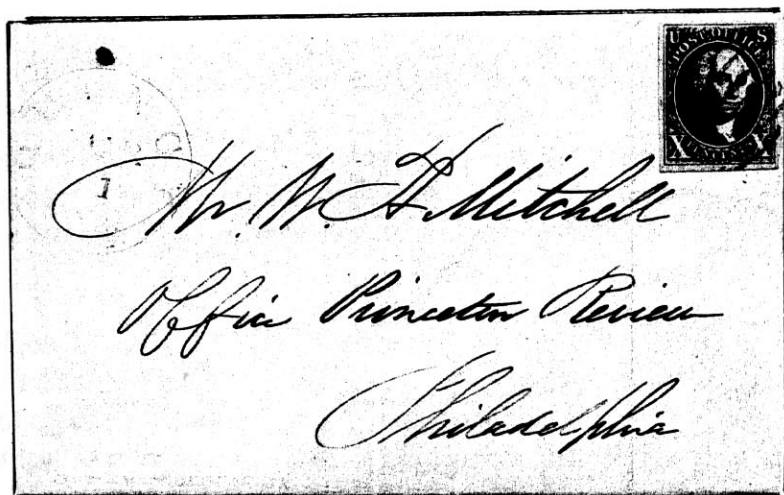


Fig. 2. QUINCY / Flor. MAR 1 (1850)

It appears that the above recommendation was quickly heeded as the second letter (Fig. 2.) clearly demonstrates. It is datelined, Quincy, Middle Florida Feby 29, 1850, and addressed to Mr. W. H. Mitchell, Office Princeton Review, Philadelphia. I has a red **QUINCY / Flor. MAR 1** cds postmark with a red grid cancellation of U.S. #2. This

letter is from J.C. Bartlette and an enclosure of a check for \$38.80, a \$1.00 bill and 40 cents postage stamps reflecting his net collections less his 10 percent commission and 30 cents postage spent. "The only remaining delinquent is Dr. Davidson of this place whose promises I shall endeavor to see made good before I return North.

Collection for the "Princeton Review"

Talofa P.O. Madison Co Florida

J.C. McGehee 1848, 9, & 50	9.00
----------------------------	------

Tallahassee

Dr. Chas. English 1846, 7, 8, 9	12.00
---------------------------------	-------

J.B. Bull <u>Stop</u> " " " "	12.00
-------------------------------	-------

Newport

A. Denham	<u>12.00</u>
-----------	--------------

45.00

chk 38.80	My commissions	<u>4.50</u>
-----------	----------------	-------------

.30 postage	40.50
-------------	-------

1.40 1 bill \$1 & p.o.s. .40

40.50

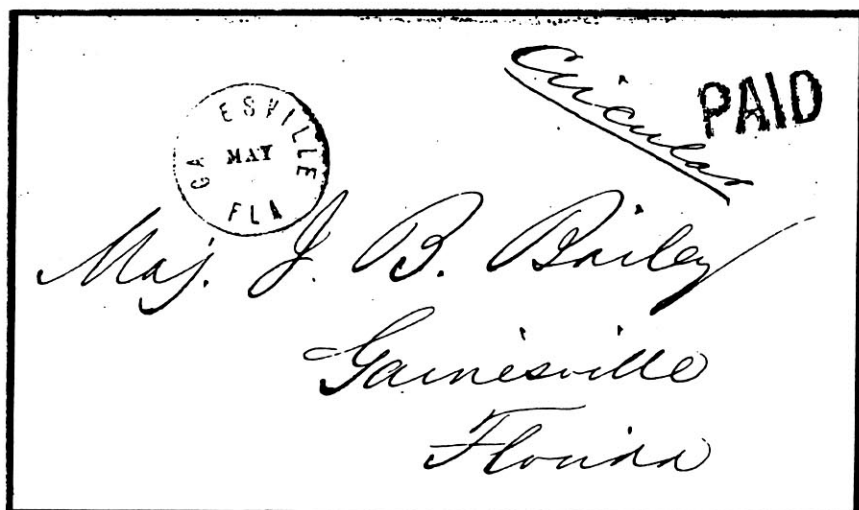
As soon as I collect from Dr. Davidson, will remit."

Mr. Bartlette must have acted very quickly to have received payments as delinquent as 4-5 years from all but one of the accounts. Today, I doubt that any periodical would allow an account to go five years without payment.

These enclosures reflect a different time period. How many people would go to the trouble of personally trying to collect delinquent periodical payments in different towns? Mr. Bartlette had to go to Talofa, Tallahassee (only a few miles) and to Newport, to collect the payments, some 5 years delinquent. He did all this to collect a 10 percent commission.

GAINESVILLE CONFEDERATE CIRCULAR

Charles W. Rice



GAINESVILLE / FLA. MAY Confederate cover with PAID (2) Drop "Circular" rate

A friend of mine, Norman Solomon, has had a Confederate cover in his collection for over 50 years that is most unusual. It is shown above and is from Gainesville, Florida with the PAID handstamp (no rate) but is noted in manuscript, "Circular", and is addressed to Gainesville. Thus it is most certainly a **drop rate** usage of the 2 cent rate. True drop rate usages from Florida during the Civil War are extremely rare. There are several known Florida Confederate covers from a soldier in camp or in the field, addressed to the recipient in the same town as the postmark which are not true drop rated covers, and in fact, all have the correct 10 cent postage paid. This cover is especially nice with the "Circular" docketing at the top.

The enclosure is most interesting and reflects the minutes of a special meeting of Planters of Alachua County, held in Gainesville, on the 4th May (year not noted). The entire enclosure is recorded below, and reflects the needs of the Confederate soldiers and action taken by the land owners of Alachua County:

Planters Meeting in Alaucha

At a meeting of the Planters of Alaucha County, held at Gainesville on the 4th May, called for the purpose of developing the food resources of the Country, and carrying out the suggestions of the Secretary of War, in regard to supplying the pressing wants of our Soldiers, Capt Elias Banknight was elected chairman, & J.M. Arnow Esq requested to act as secretary. After a few remarks from the chairman explanatory of the object of the meeting, Dr. W H Stringfellow read the following address:

Gentlemen: For months past, the cheering intelligence from all the departments of the Confederacy, borne on every breeze to the people, assures in that our Army is in better health and discipline, and more efficient than at any time during the war. But accompanying this intelligence, are boding fears of a scarcity of provisions for the troops; and in one or two divisions, our noble soldiers have been on half rations, and their horses suffering for food. So serious has become the scarcity, that our President has called on the people by individuals and committees to come forward to the rescue. In answer to this call we are this day assembled. I see around me the Planter of Alaucha County, and I rejoice to see you here. For months past I have ardently desired to see the planters of the South coming up to the discharge of their full duty to our soldiers and our Country.

Our all is at stake upon this issue of this war. Many of our people are giving their whole energies to the getting of gain and forgetful of their Country, are fast yielding to the ignoble fetters of blind selfishness, so weakening our resources and jeopardizing our glorious course. By the call of our President and the action of yourselves, Gentlemen, and the Farmers, and Planters of the South, I doubt not hundreds and thousands will be roused from their forgetfulness, and out of their accumulated gains and stores, give you valued assistance. When our whole people are once aroused, the taunts of our enemies will be hushed in wonder at our resources; and we will be gladdened by the lifting of the darkest cloud which has yet darkened the hopes of our glorious struggle for liberty.

You have before you the recommendations (sic) of the Secretary of War for raising supplies. The plan embraced in the resolutions I have in my hand, I think will bring out greater zeal and successful effort to feed our army.

The plan suggested by the Secretary of War is only intended to facilitate the delivery of any supplies on hand in each county for sale. You well know that this County has been already gleaned of every pound of bacon and other supplies of market except cover.

But we propose with the assistance of the Farmers and Planters of the South, to feed our soldiers, though we suffer want ourselves. And have met this day to consult together with a view to the perfection of some means of carrying out this determination.

Our Wives and Daughters, have clothed the Army which the Government could not with millions of gold have done so. We will feed them and prove ourselves worthy the society and smiles and confidence of our noble Country women. Let us by our action appeal to our fellow citizens throughout the Confederacy, to answer with energetic to furnish quarterly ninety days Commissary supplies for a special number of soldiers during the war.

Resolved, That we, the undersigned, citizens of Alaucha County, individually, agree to furnish quarterly supplies for the number of soldiers opposite our respective names, in such form as we may be able to supply, or provide the same.

Resolved, That an agent be appointed to act as clerk or receiver, whose duty it shall be to notify the Commissary department of the amount contracted - to deliver and to receive payment for, and receipt for the same.

Resolved, That in no instance will we charge the Government more than the market price prevailing at the time of delivery - and that in the opinion of this meeting fifty cents per pound for bacon is the full market value of the same to be exceeded at no time.

Resolved, That we will take receipts from the Commissary agent for supplies delivered, the government agreeing to receive the same in payment of our taxes.

Resolved, That we will use every effort in our power to supply the wants of our soldiers and their families, during the war, and that in our view, the whole Country shall prepare for a war not of days but of years, or centuries, if necessary, to secure our independence as a people.

At the request of the meeting, the chairman appointed the following committees to solicit subscriptions:

<u>Micanopy</u> ,	Col. George Leitner,
<u>Orange Creek</u> ,	Col. Edward Lewis,
<u>Newnansville</u> ,	Geo. W. Sanchez, Esq,
<u>Waldo</u> ,	J. M. Sparkman, Esq,
<u>Waccahoota</u> ,	Jacob Smith,
<u>Gainesville</u> ,	Maj. J. B. Bailey,
<u>Archer</u> ,	John Whitaker, Esq.

Elias Banknight,
Chairman

J. M. Arnow
Secretary

FLORIDA STEAMBOAT COVERS

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

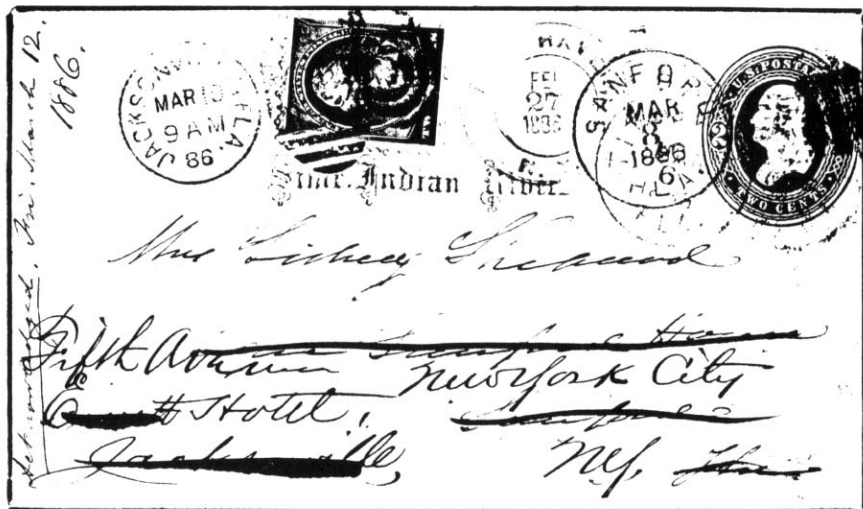


Figure 1. Stmr. Indian River

Although the state of Florida is a peninsula, nearly surrounded by water, and traversed by many navigable rivers, steamboat covers, especially ones with named vessels, are extremely scarce. It is well known that several of the inland mail routes and even some Florida Railroad Post Office routes used steamboats to carry the mail, however, only one had a handstamped notation of the steamboat name. The only known vessel marking is the straight line "Stmr. Indian River." marking (Figure 1.) which was written up by this author in the September 1996 and January 1997 issues of *The Florida Postal History Journal*. This marking is the only Florida example recorded in James W. Milgram's book *Named-Vessel Markings on United States Inland and Ocean Waterways* published by the Collector's Club of Chicago in 1985. At that time there were 3 recorded examples.

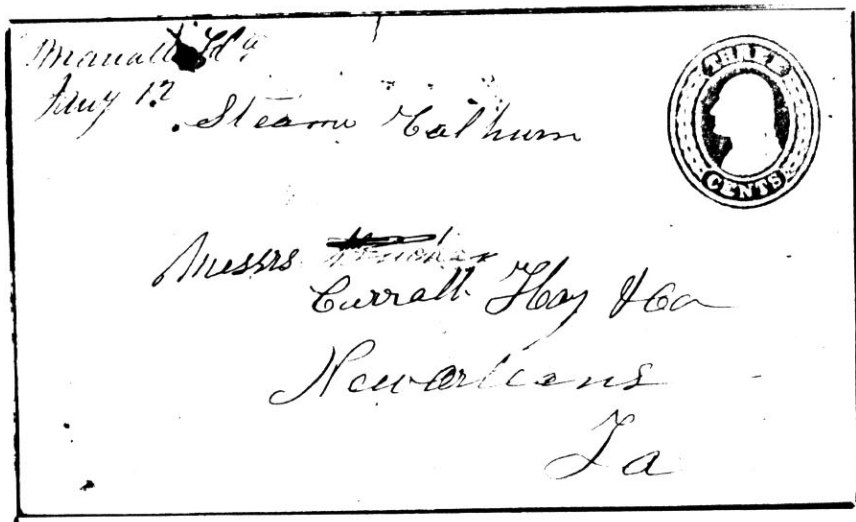


Figure 2.

A new example has recently surfaced which is unusual in several ways. Figure 2. shows a 3 cent red U.S. postal entire #U-10, with a **Manatee Fla. Jan 12** manuscript postmark in brown ink. At the top center is the manuscript notation "Steamer Calhurn" written in the same ink and hand as the addressee (Messrs. Carroll How & Co, New Orleans, La.). Although this cover has no docketing as to year date, the usage dates from the period 1855 to as late as 1861, most likely the late 1850's.

Mail from Manatee at this time was carried over postal route No. 3528 to Tampa by "sailboat" (42 miles) with only once per week service. The contractor was Samuel Bishop with \$250 annual payment. It appears that this cover was sent by a more expeditious route, directly to New Orleans using the steamer Calhurn, perhaps saving 7-10 days delivery time. The Steamer Calhurn is not listed in Milgram's book.

The cover in Figure 3. was from the late Larry Resnick's collection and was carried outside the mails directly to the Steamer Ocklawaha. This

cover is a 3 cent green U.S. postal entire, #U-82, addressed to Capt. R. J. Adams, Steamer Ocklawaha. It has a wonderful enclosure from Captain Adams wife, Fran, and is datelined: Orange Springs, Apr 29th, 1872. The post office at Orange Springs, Marion County, Florida, was discontinued for the period April 21, 1869 until May 11, 1872, and thus there was no postmark. The letter must have been picked up at the Orange Springs steamboat landing.

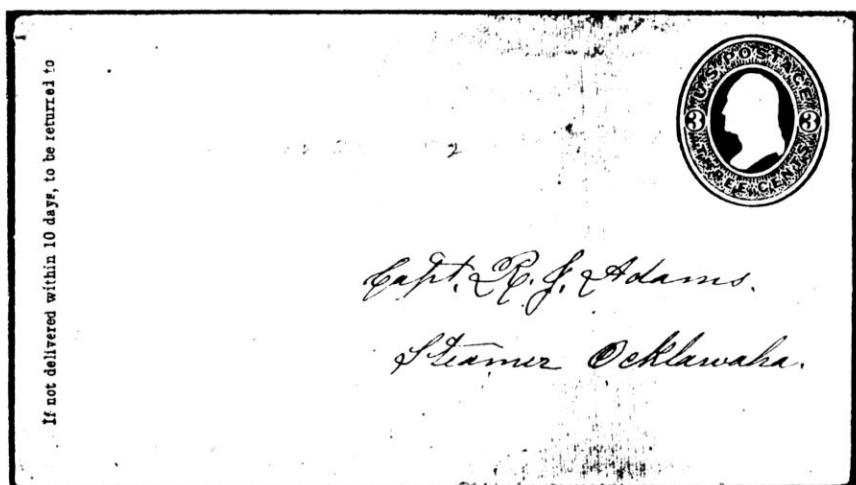


Figure 3.

Captain Richard J. Adams was Hubbard L. Hart's brother in law and at various times was Captain of the Steamers Ocklawaha and Marion for the Hart Line of Ocklawaha River Steamboats. He also later acted as a Hart Line Agent. A wonderful book "*Ocklawaha River Steamboats*", written by Edward A. Mueller, 1983, is recommended for purchase. He can be contacted at 4734 Empire Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207. The

following photographs of the Steamboat Ocklawaha and the Hart Line advertisement are from this book.

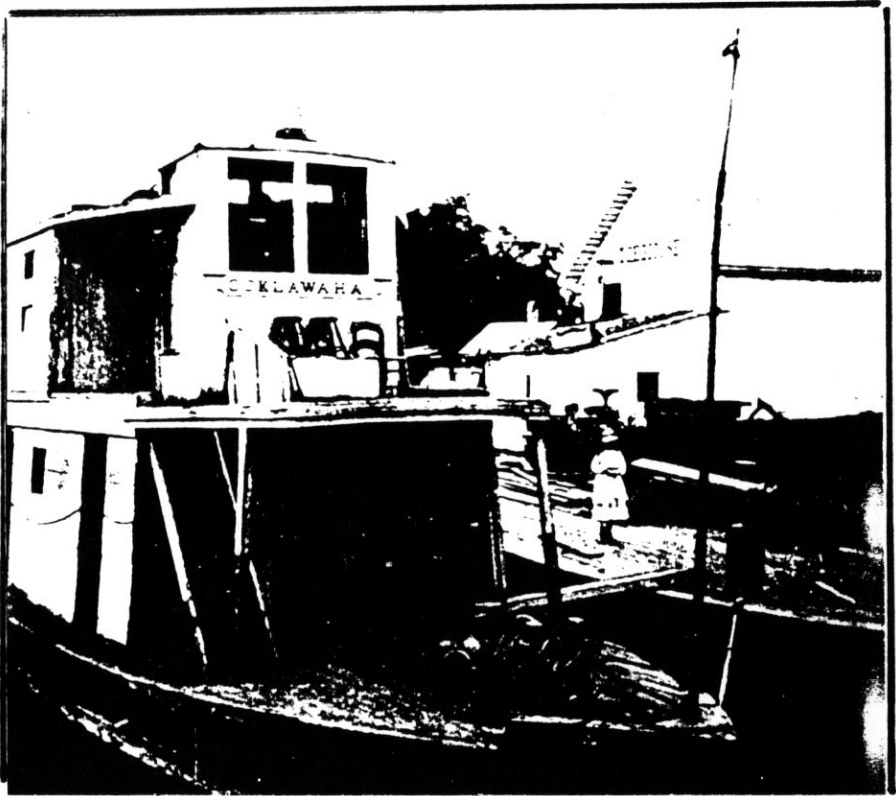


Figure 4. Ocklawaha Steamboat

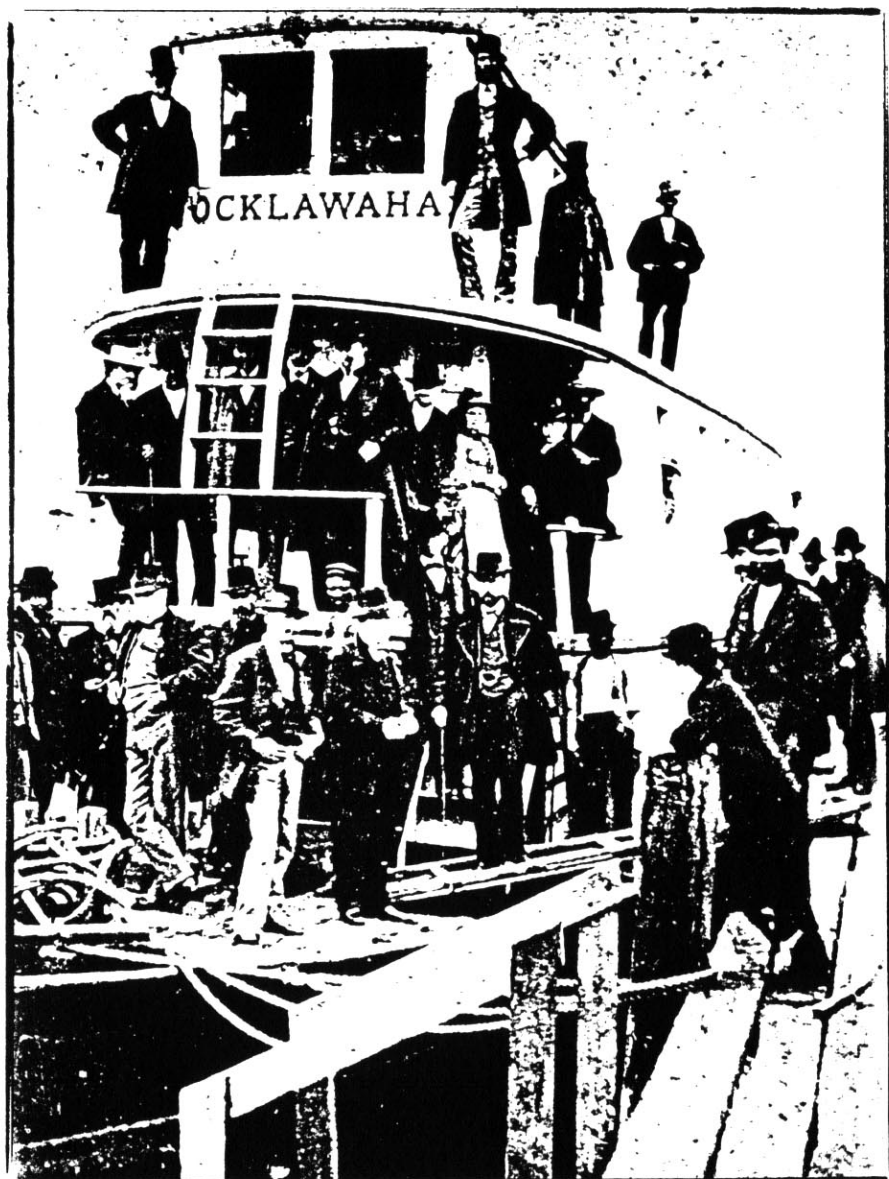


Figure 5. Ocklawaha Steamboat with Hubbard L. Hart at top left

FOR THE
Ocklawaha River.

The fine Steamers of the Hart Line connect at Palatka with the Charleston and Savannah Steamers, leaving on their arrival

Sunday and Thursday Evenings.

These boats have been put in good order and two fine new steamers added to the line, so that passengers will find on board every comfort and a good table. By this route they visit the *most remarkable and most beautiful River of Florida*, the celebrated *Silver Spring*, and the noble *Lakes Harris and Eustace*.

Sportsmen will find game abundant on the whole route. For full information apply to

R. J. ADAMS, Agent.

Figure 6. Hart Line advertisement with Ocklawaha River misspelled, R. J. Adams, Agent

Before the U.S. Corps of Engineers straightened the Kissimmee River, it also had steamboat travel and mail delivery to landings along its route. Although I am unaware of any docketed covers, I was fortunate enough to examine a large family correspondence from Clay Johnson, Captain of the Steamboat Lillie. I wrote up one such cover from Dawson, Florida, in the September 1997 issue of *The Florida Postal History Journal*. Figure 7. reproduces a lovely letterhead from a letter written aboard the Steamer Lillie.

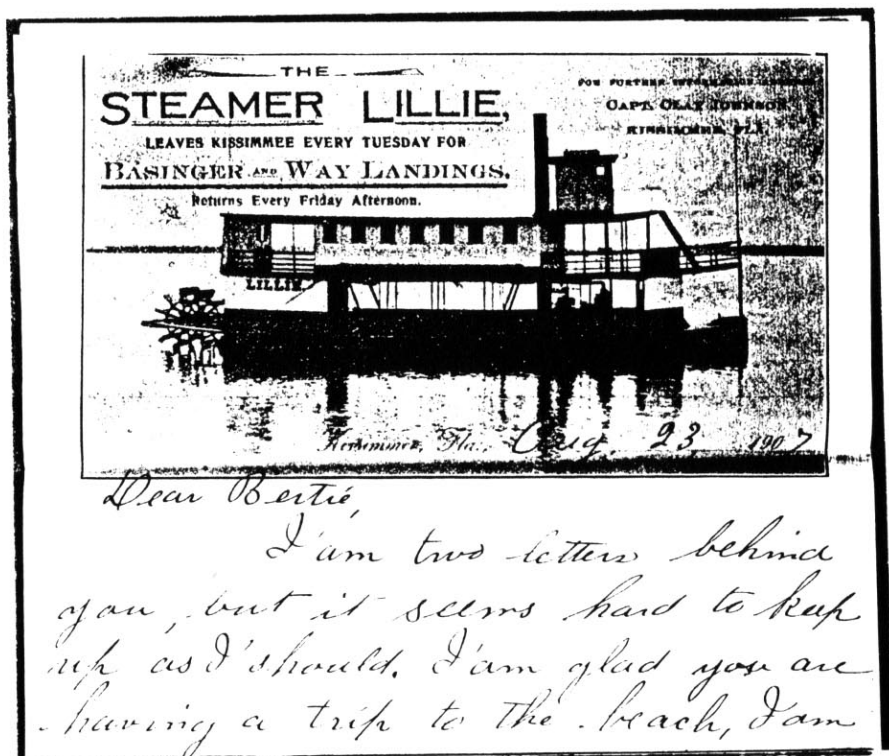


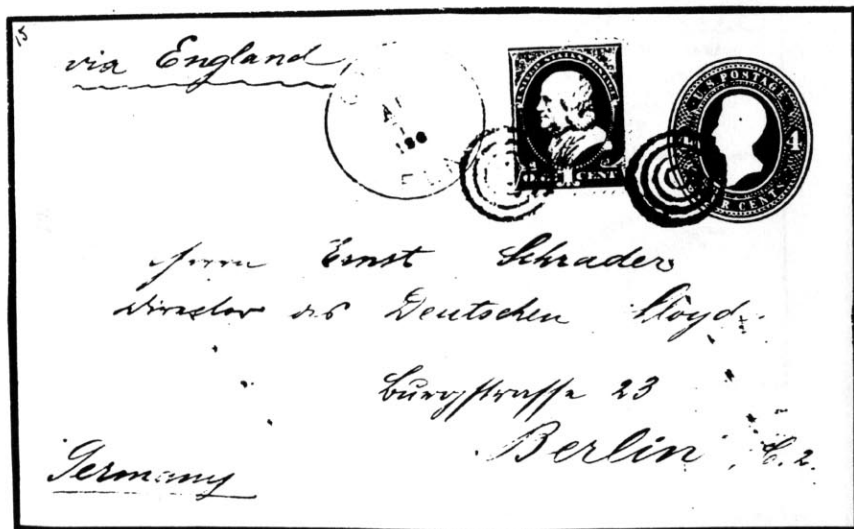
Figure 7. Steamer Lillie letterhead

Readers with other examples of early Florida Steamboat covers or letterheads are encouraged to write them up for our journal.

FLORIDA FUMIGATED COVER USED TO GERMANY

Herbert P. McNeal

Florida fumigated covers from the yellow fever epidemic of 1888 are relatively scarce, but a fumigated cover to an overseas address is a real rarity. The author has studied and researched Florida fumigated covers for many years and to date has never seen an example to a foreign destination.



**Figure 1. Gotha, Fla. 1888 fumigated cover
to Berlin, Germany**

The cover reproduced in Figure 1. is postmarked **GOTHA / FLA. AUG 13 (or 15) 188(8)**, and addressed to Berlin, Germany. The franking is unusual in that a 4 cent green U.S. postal entire #U-250 was used together with a 1 cent ultramarine of the 1887 issue, #212.

The cover is backstamped New York, N.Y. on August 21 with the year date not clearly struck. The two rows of fumigation holes clearly

identifies the cover as one used in the 1888 Florida yellow fever epidemic. The letter was sent "via England" where a September 1 circular receiving mark was applied. (Figure 2.)

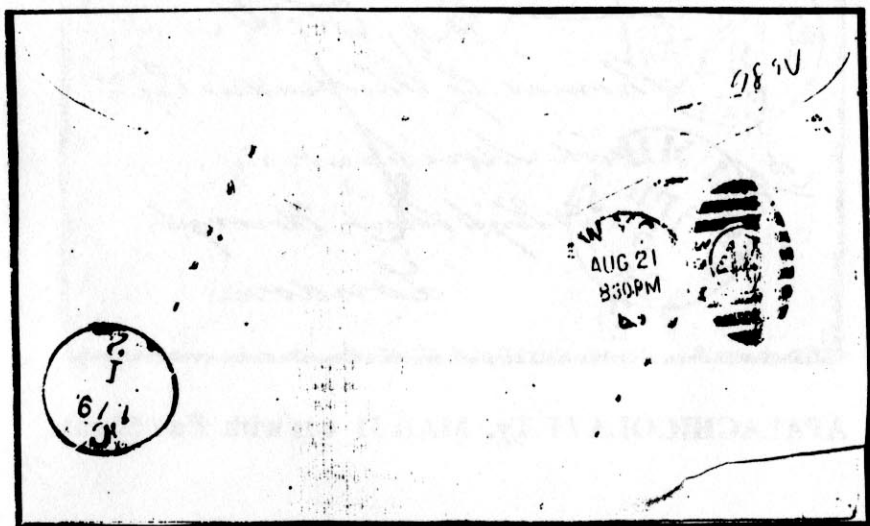


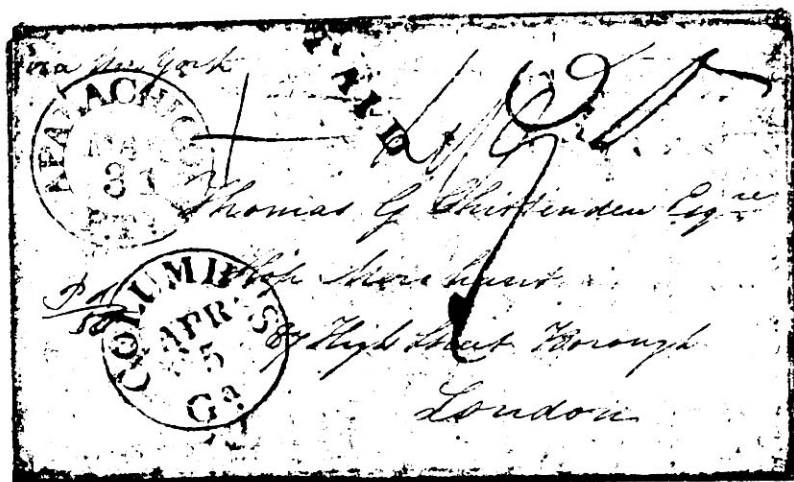
Figure 2. fumigation and receiving marks

The six to eight day time period from postmark to receiving mark at New York implies a several day delay for the fumigation process. There does not appear to be any delay in the ten day trans-Atlantic time period.

Editor's Note: Readers are encouraged to review the excellent articles on Florida fumigation covers appearing in *The Florida Postal History Journal* issues of July 1993, vol. 1., no. 1, and September 1995, vol. 2. no. 4., by Herbert P. McNeal, and the issue of March 1999, vol. 6. no.1., by William J. Hancock.

APALACHICOLA TO LONDON

James P. Doolin



APALACHICOLA / F.Ty. MAR 31 cds with Pd / 50 rate

Stampless Florida territorial covers addressed to a foreign destination are not common with the majority originating from Tallahassee. The above cover is a folded letter addressed to London with a black cds **APALACHICOLA / F.Ty. MAR 31** (1835) postmark with a manuscript **Pd / 50** (double letter sheet) rate. The letter was sent up the Apalachicola River by steamboat on postal route 2468 to Bainbridge, Ga., and then up the Flint River to Columbus, Ga. where a red cds **COLUMBUS / Ga. APR 5** transit route marking was placed with a red ink **PAID** handstamp and manuscript brown **50** rate. The letter then went by regular overland mail route to New York where it was forwarded to England. The reverse has a poorly struck black boxed **LIVERPOOL SHIP LETTER** and a red **MAY 11 1835** London receiving mark. This implies a total of nearly six weeks for the letter to be delivered. Collectors with other interesting "**Columbus**" postal history items are encouraged to contact me at: 11258 Goodnight Ln. #105, Dallas, TX 75229, as "Columbus" is my collecting interest.

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