

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

VOL. 7, NO. 1

FEBRUARY 2000

President's Comments

Niles F. Schuh 1

Earliest Revenue-Stamped Florida Document

Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 2

Savannah & Live Oak Agt.

Douglas N. Clark 4

Florida Confederate Adversity Covers

Edward R. Joyce 6

Ruby Florida

Harry G. Dow 8

Space Center Ghost Towns

Dr. Everett L. Parker 10

New Confederate Florida Listing

Herbert P. McNeal 21

Jacksonville Forwarded Cover

Edward R. Joyce 22

Jernigan "Provisional" Stamps

Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 23

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OFFICERS

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Niles F. Schuh

Our final meeting of the twentieth century was held at FLOREX in Orlando on Saturday, November 6, 1999. It was a memorable meeting in many ways. Perhaps most remembered was that this was the final FLOREX as the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs decided to end its affiliation with FLOREX and the show will no longer be held. However, our Society was honored to be selected to exhibit a special 15 frame Court of Honor exhibit of Florida Postal History which was well received. This exhibit was so outstanding that it was decided to photocopy it in color on computer disc so that members might be able to obtain a copy. Information regarding this will be forthcoming.

Our meeting was honored to have member Yamil H. Kouri, Jr., M.D., present a slide presentation on Spanish Pensacola Postal History. He had much archival material to relate to the postal system in the Spanish Floridas. He was also honored with the Grand Award for his exhibit in the show.

Deane R. Briggs, M.D. was honored with the President's Award for his effort in publishing our Society book *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763 - 1861*. The book has been well received and complimentary literature reviews have been noted in many stamp publications. The book recently was awarded a Vermeil medal (2nd place) in the literature competition at Chicagopex in November.

Since our Society annual meetings can no longer be held at FLOREX, it was decided to select a meeting location annually during the previous annual meeting. The decision is for the next annual meeting to be held on Saturday, February 5, 2000, at the Sarasota National Stamp Exposition. It is tentatively scheduled for 12:00 P.M. and member Ted Light will present a talk on stampless Florida ship letters and new listings for our book. Please try to attend. Our Society will again be honored to exhibit our 15 frame Court of Honor Exhibit of Florida Postal History. Try to see it first hand.

EARLIEST REVENUE-STAMPED FLORIDA DOCUMENT

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

Received My next July 31st 1865 of
the Treasurer of the United States the sum of Forty
one ⁶⁶/₁₀₀ Dollars in full for my salary as Collector
of the District of Key West being for the month
of July 1865 at \$500 per annum, and which
sum I have this day charged to the United States
in my Genl Account of Customs
\$51.66

Charles Snow



Key West July 31st 1865 Revenue Stamped Receipt

In the thorough article by Michael Mahler, "A Census of Florida Revenue-Stamped Documents, 1862-1872", published in the *Florida Postal History Journal*, Vol. 5, No.2, September 1998, the author discussed the enactment of internal revenue taxes effective October 1, 1862. In the former Confederate States, collection commenced by mid-1865 with Florida having a single collection district. Mahler stated that revenue stamped documents from Florida are practically nonexistent with only 31 recorded by him. He estimated that perhaps 50-100 might exist. His earliest recorded example of Florida revenue stamped paper was an October 25, 1865 receipt from Monticello. The above example pre-dates this usage and at this time is the earliest recorded example from Florida. It is a Receipt dated Key West July 31st 1865 by Charles Howe, the Collector of the District of Key West, and is stamped with a 2c. orange (R6) and pen cancelled "CH July 31". It reads:

"Received Key West July 31st 1865 of the Treasurer of the United States the sum of Forty one 66/100 Dollars in full for my Salary as Collector of the District of Key West being for the month of July 1865 at \$500. per annum, and which sum I have this day charged to the United States in my Genl. Account of Customs

\$41.66

Charles Howe"

Charles Howe was the Customs Collector at Key West and whether he was also the revenue collector is unclear. Since Key West was the major U.S. city in Florida during the war and not an "occupied" city like Pensacola, St. Augustine, Fernandina, and Jacksonville, Key West may well have been the collection district established May 4, 1865, and Howe the collector. Mahler records that Maicellus A. Williams of Fernandina became the district collector in August 1866.

It is also interesting to note that Charles Howe cancelled the three examples of revenue stamped paper from Key West recorded by Mahler, not with a manuscript cancellation, but with a hand stamp.

SAVANNAH & LIVE OAK AGT.

Douglas N. Clark



(Fig. 1) SAV. & LIVE OAK / AGT. SEP 17

The above cover is a newly discovered cover, postmarked Savannah & Live Oak Agent (Towle type 350-N-1) as listed in the *U.S. Route and Station Agent Catalog* by Charles L. Towle, published by the Mobile Post Office Society in 1986. The cover is a beautiful tobacco advertising cover with a clear, fully struck postmark, and a killer tied 3 cent green banknote. The enclosure (Fig. 2) is a matching letterhead datelined: Savannah, Ga., Sept. 17th, 1878. The Towle tracing is an 1877 partially struck example which leads one to suspect that this may well be the best known example of a scarce route agent marking.

The Savannah & Live Oak Agent markings were used over sections of the Atlantic & Gulf Railroad and Pensacola & Georgia Railroad with a total route of 181 miles. The route went from Savannah, Georgia via Waycross, Du Pont, and Jasper to Live Oak, Florida. The period of use of this route was from 1872 until 1879. The route was changed in

1879 to Savannah & Jacksonville Railroad and again in 1880 to Charleston & Jacksonville Railroad which had R.P.O. markings until it was discontinued on May 23, 1931.



(Fig. 2) Goodman & Myers Letterhead enclosure

SARASOTA NATIONAL STAMP EXPOSITION

The next meeting of the Florida Postal History Society will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2000, at 12:00 noon at the Sarasota National Stamp Exposition in Sarasota, Florida. Member Ted Light will present a nice talk on stampless Florida ship usages. Please try to attend as this meeting will serve as our annual meeting now that FLOREX has been discontinued. Our society will again show our 15 frame "Court of Honor" exhibit of Florida Postal History which was well received at FLOREX in November. Thanks to all members who made this exhibit possible.

FLORIDA CONFEDERATE ADVERSITY COVERS

Edward Joyce

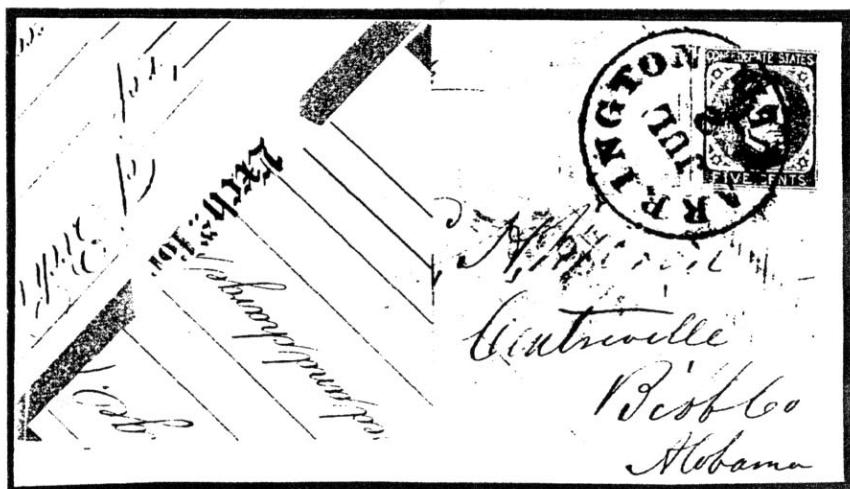


Fig. 1 WARRINGTON / Fla. JUL 2 postmark on adversity cover

One of the more interesting aspects of Confederate philately is collecting adversity covers. These are envelopes made from wrapping paper, insurance and bank forms, maps, flyleaf of books and even wallpaper. Some envelopes were even turned inside out and used again. These usages demonstrate the ingenuity of the Confederate mail writing populace in times when quality paper was unavailable.

The envelope in figure 1. was made from a bank form and contains two copies of the #6 5 cent blue London print. (The lighter shade of the left stamp did not reproduce well). It is postmarked **WARRINGTON / Fla. JUL 2** (most likely 1862 but possibly 1863) and addressed to Centreville, Alabama. This cover is a nice example

of a "post evacuation" usage by the Warrington, Florida postmaster, used in Pollard, Alabama. Warrington, Florida had been evacuated on May 10, 1862, and the postmaster continued to use the old handstamp postmarking device for over a year in Pollard, Alabama.

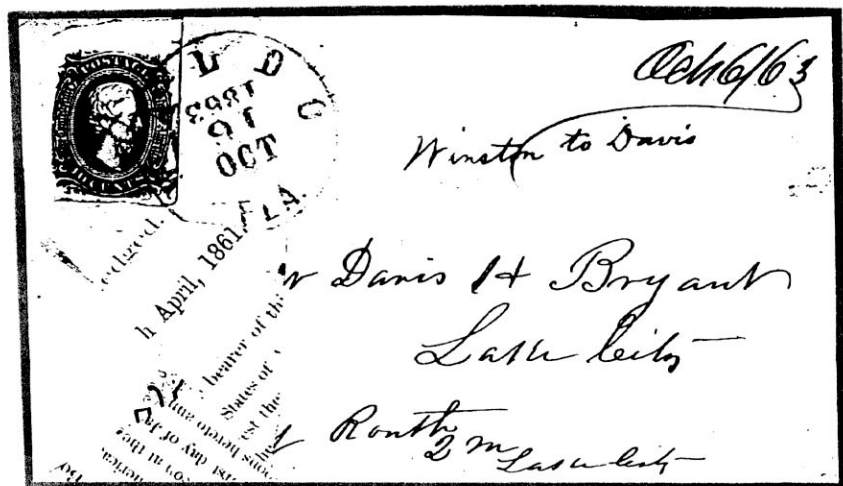
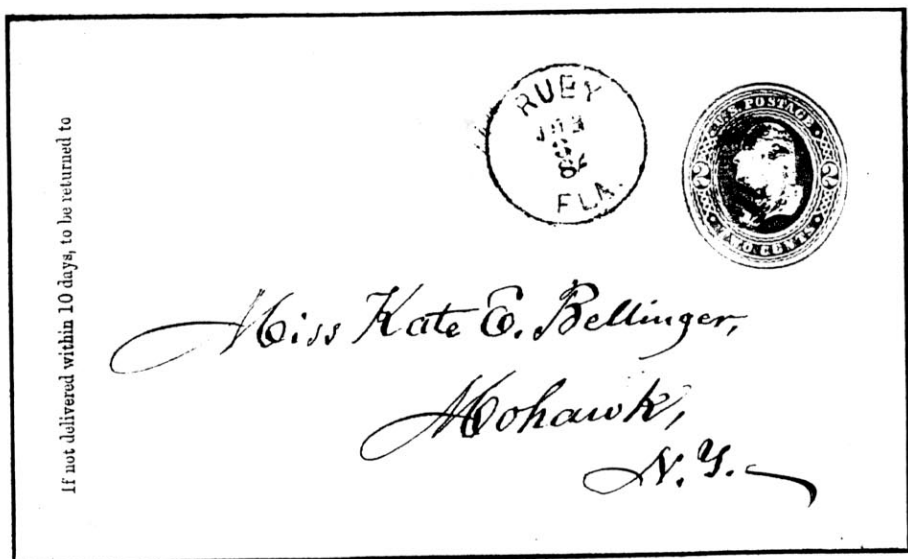


Fig. 2 WALDO / FLA. OCT 16 1863 postmark ties #11

The adversitory cover in Figure 2. is made from an 1861 State of Florida CSA bond. It has a nice upper sheet margin 10c. #11 postmarked **WALDO / FLA. OCT 16 1863** (day and year slugs inverted) and is addressed to Lake City.

RUBY FLORIDA

Harry G. Dow



RUBY / FLA. JUN 3 8(6) on 2 c. postal entire

Finally, success! As Florida Postal History Journal readers may recall (Vol. 4, No.1, January 1997), I have been trying to locate a "Ruby, Florida" cover for many years. I had written several prominent FPHS members and dealers as far back as the 1980's, inquiring if such a cover was even known to be extant. All replied that they had never seen a "Ruby" cover.

The Ruby, Florida, post office was established August 22, 1884. My wife's grandmother, Eleanor K. Scull, was the postmaster. She continued in office for a short period when "Ruby" was renamed "Pablo Beach" on May 17, 1886. Mrs. Scull named the office after her two year old daughter, Ruby Scull, who lived in Jacksonville into the early 1900's.

This cover is a marvelous example, in superb condition with a clear RUBY / FLA. JUN 3 8(6) postmark on a 2 cent brown postal entire.

The original letter is enclosed and was datelined June 3, 1886, on stationary of Murray Hall, the first grand hotel at Pablo Beach, Fla.

Of additional interest, the letter writer was Francis E. Spinner, Treasurer of the United States, appointed by President Lincoln in March 1862, and who served under President Grant until June, 1875. In that year, General Spinner retired to Jacksonville, the home of his daughter, Josephine, and son-in-law, James M. Schumacher, who was soon to become president of the First National Bank of Florida.

Spinner was an early resident of what is now Jacksonville Beach, and a neighbor of the Scull family, celebrated as the founders of Jacksonville Beach. We have a photograph of General Spinner with friends at his early tent compound on the beach, which he had named "Camp Caroline" in honor of his wife who had passed away in 1869. Eventually, Spinner built a beach cottage, several photographs of which are on display at the Beaches Historical Society. He continued to reside at the cottage and at his Jacksonville riverside home until his death on December 31, 1890, at the age of 89.

Ruby Scull (Serby) married and lived for many years in South Dakota. She returned to Jacksonville in 1947 and died there in 1951.

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY DUES PAYABLE

Florida Postal History Society dues for the year 2000 are due and payable by April 1, 2000. Please return the enclosed dues notice and consider a "Contributing" membership. Anyone receiving a delinquent notice for the 1999 dues must remit at this time or be dropped from membership. Please stay current and help our Society to continue to be an active and important A.P.S. affiliate society.

SPACE CENTER GHOST TOWNS

Dr. Everett L. Parker

On warm, sultry nights, legend has it, when the moon hangs low and the air is so sultry you can cut it with a knife, a long-departed spirit haunts the ghost towns of the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral. The ghost cries for loved ones sleeping in overgrown graveyards, known only to a few people, hidden deep in palmetto thickets. It was here, between the Indian and Banana Rivers and the ocean, among the moss-covered oak trees, that now-vanished communities existed long before there was a dream of reaching for the stars. Millions of words have been written about Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Center. It is the focal point of man's efforts to explore the planets.

Yet, little has been written about the history of these tiny settlements, and early mail service along the East Coast of Florida is at times difficult to interpret. Postal facilities were often kept in a person's home or store. When that person left the area, or died, the post office was discontinued for a time if no one else could be found to run it. There was very little mail in the early days for the settlers and pioneers of the Space Center area, but as the amount increased, particularly World War II era, some postal facilities in the area were discontinued and the mail routed to larger post offices at Titusville or Merritt Island. The towns were then handled as rural delivery in many cases.

While the listing contained herein may not be complete, it is as definitive as possible. In the case of Shiloh, which straddled the Brevard-Volusia County line, the post office was first established in Volusia County, which at one time extended farther to the south than today, and then re-established in Brevard County at a later date.

The following is a listing of post office openings and closings for the Space Center ghost towns and records all known post masters and their period of commission.

ALLENHURST

January 14, 1909 - October 15, 1943

Located at Haulover Canal on North Merritt Island

James H. Allen, first postmaster, January 14, 1909 to August 24, 1910.

Arthur Jackson, August 25, 1910 to June 6, 1912.

George H. Rumfelt, June 7, 1912 to September 16, 1913.

John K. Rowley, September 20, 1913 to December 8, 1917.

Mary Ann Rumfelt, December 9, 1917 to December 30, 1920.

Alberta Nauman, December 31, 1920 to January 23, 1922. (She supposedly declined the title of postmaster).

Millard Webster, January 24, 1922 to October 22, 1924.

Rowena M. Teague, October 23, 1924 to September 30, 1943.
(retired).

Post office discontinued October 15, 1943. Mail sent to Titusville.

ARTESIA

May 19, 1891 - January 21, 1954

Located on Cape Canaveral Peninsula, near present-day south gate of
Cape Canaveral Air Force Station

John A. Hogan, first postmaster, May 19, 1891 to April 5, 1911.

Elizabeth A. Eberwein, April 6, 1911 to January 30, 1940 (retired).

Elizabeth J. Holmes, (it is assumed she took over February 1, 1940,
but was not confirmed until) April 6, 1940 to 1960's (retired,
exact date unknown).

Post office name changed to Port Canaveral on January 1, 1954.

Post office name changed to Cape Canaveral on September 1, 1962.

Artesia, although a ghost town no longer existing, had its post office moved from its original site to a location south of the present Port Canaveral, and underwent two name changes during this period. There is still a Cape Canaveral post office, although not the same structure. This postal facility should not be confused with the Canaveral post office which follows.

CANAVERAL

June 15, 1883 - July 15, 1950

Located on Cape Canaveral peninsula north and east of Artesia, south of Nathan

Henry Wilson, first postmaster, June 15, 1883 to September 3, 1913.

Samuel L. Jeffords, September 4, 1913 to December 21, 1917.

Thomas J. Thompson, December 22, 1917 to January 31, 1919.

Post office discontinued on January 31, 1919 and re-established on February 2, 1922.

Robert G. Burns, acting postmaster, February 3, 1922 to June 17, 1922.

Julius Jeffords, June 18 1922 to September 7, 1926.

William H. Moore, September 8, 1926 to September 27, 1929.

May C. Moore, September 28, 1929* to July 31, 1938.

Margaret Chamberlain, August 1, 1938* to March 17, 1942.

Wilmer R. Tomlinson, March 18, 1942* to July 7, 1943.

Grace Tomlinson, July 8, 1943 to July 15, 1950.

Post office discontinued July 15, 1950 when property purchased by the government.

*In cases of May C. Moore, Margaret Chamberlain and Wilmer R. Tomlinson, dates above may show when they assumed office rather than actually being commissioned. Since in some cases, commissions were mailed at a later date, or became effective at a later date, they were in actuality not the official postmaster as early as indicated, but rather employed within the post office. In most cases, the difference in dates was no more than a few days or weeks.

CANAVERAL HARBOR

November 9, 1927 - November 30, 1928

Located north of the present day Port Canaveral

William A. Norseworthy, first and only postmaster, November 9, 1927 to November 30, 1928.

Post office discontinued November 30, 1928. Mail sent to Artesia post office.

HAULOVER

September 14, 1882 - January 9, 1889

Area generally known as Haulover surrounded the Haulover Canal on North Merritt Island

C.H. Hammon, first postmaster, September 14, 1882 to October 3, 1882.

Charles Nauman, October 4, 1882 to May 2, 1883

Post office discontinued May 2, 1883, mail sent to Titusville.

Post office re-established September 28, 1883.

Charles Nauman, September 28, 1883 to July 8, 1888.

Leon W. Vann, July 9, 1888 to January 9, 1889.

Post office name changed to Clifton on January 9, 1889.

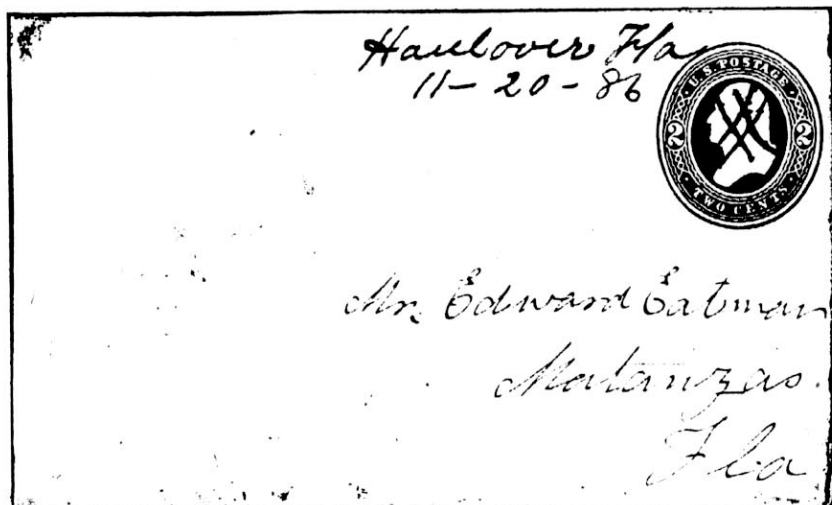


Fig. 1 Haulover Fla / 11-20-86 manuscript postmark

CLIFTON

January 9, 1889 - July 15, 1910

Located in same general area as Haulover, although the town was located approximately one mile north of the Haulover Canal

Leon W. Vann, (postmaster at Haulover, continued under new post office name), January 9, 1889 to January 28, 1890.

John D. Vann, January 29, 1890, order rescinded April 22, 1890.

Leon W. Vann, re-assumed postmaster position April 22, 1890 to February 19, 1891.

Post office discontinued February 19, 1891.

Post office re-established March 14, 1891.

Thomas R. Crook, March 14, 1891 to August 4, 1893.

Nellie Fairbanks, August 5, 1893 to March 14, 1896.

Post office discontinued March 14, 1896, mail sent to Shiloh.

Post office re-established September 28, 1897.

Henry Watton, September 28, 1897 to July 15, 1910.

Post office discontinued July 15, 1910.

HEATH

November 22, 1887 - July 15, 1918

Located on North Merritt Island between Orsino and Wilson, north of present-day Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB)

Frank B. Sackett, first postmaster, November 22, 1887 to January 21, 1891.

Post office discontinued January 21, 1891. Mail sent to Titusville.

Post office re-established February 9, 1915

Oscar S. Worley, February 9, 1915 to July 15, 1918.

Post office discontinued July 15, 1918. Mail sent to Titusville.

MORTONHURST

December 2, 1891 - June 19, 1893

Located northwest of Heath and south of Wilson, approximately where present Space Shuttle landing runway is located

George W. Morton, first and only postmaster, December 2, 1891 to June 19, 1893.

Post office discontinued June 19, 1893. Mail sent to Titusville.

NATHAN

January 11, 1895 - May 15, 1911

Located at the north end of Canaveral peninsula, north of town of Canaveral

Nathan O. Penny, first postmaster, January 11, 1895 to May 15, 1895.

Nathan N. Penny, May 16, 1895 to May 15, 1911.

Post office discontinued May 15, 1911.

ORSINO

October 5, 1915 - June 21, 1963

Located south of Heath, near present-day Industrial Area of Kennedy Space Center

Orsino T. Smith, first postmaster, October 5, 1915 to July 30, 1918.

Nellie Rudesill, July 31, 1918 to March 30, 1922.

Marie Elliott, March 31, 1922 to January 11, 1925.

C. V. Roberts, January 12, 1925 to March 30, 1927.

Horace Hutzler, March 31, 1927 to May 31, 1942.

Juanita M. Hutzler, June 1, 1942 to February 6, 1943 (married)

Unexplained gap between February 6, 1943 and December 30, 1946.

Some records indicate Juanita Barr (nee Hutzler) remained on the job until December 30, 1946.

Polly W. Brown, December 31, 1946 to July 14, 1947.

Pauline Jacobson, July 15, 1947 to June 21, 1963.

Post office discontinued June 21, 1963. Mail sent to Merritt Island.

SHILOH

December 1, 1884 - June 1, 1955

Located at north end of Merritt Island at present Brevard-Volusia County line at the extreme north end of Kennedy Space Center

George C. Kuhl, first postmaster, December 1, 1884 to December 10, 1903. (his home and post office was in Volusia County)
Hattie Griffis, December 11, 1903 to November 30, 1920. (her home and post office was in Brevard County, although only a short distance from Kuhl's)
Aaron Taylor, December 1, 1920 to August 12, 1924.
David A. Taylor, August 4, 1924 to June 1, 1955.
Post office discontinued June 1, 1955. Mail sent to Titusville.

WILSON

January 8, 1915 - June 30, 1933

Located along State Road 402 on present-day Playalinda Beach Road

Guy Austin, first postmaster, January 8, 1915 to November 14, 1917.
John W. Healy, November 15, 1917 to February 8, 1923.
Myra G. Wheeler, February 9, 1923 to March 3, 1924.
Myrtle L. Anderson, March 4, 1924 to March 11, 1925.
William Wheeler, March 12, 1925 to September 30, 1928.
William H. Hazelwood, October 1, 1928 to March 1, 1930.
William K. Hazelwood, March 2, 1930 to June 30, 1933.
Post office discontinued June 30, 1933. Mail sent to Titusville.

Covers with circular datestamp postmarks (cds) from any of these towns should be considered scarce to practically impossible to find. There are examples of manuscript markings, such as the 1886 cover from Haulover, (fig. 1) written by a worker on the dredge *Chester*. The dredge was at the time working in the "new" Haulover Canal, as there were actually two canals connecting the Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon. The first, which can still be found in deep underbrush about a mile south of the "new" canal, was dug as early as 1820. Only a few scattered families were locate in the wild and primitive area, and they generally farmed and fished in the lagoon. In fact, it could be easily argued that these early settlers were virtually cut off from other civilization, save for the occasional boat which was "hailed over" the isthmus.

The "old" canal was much too shallow and narrow, being only seven

feet wide in some places. It was fine for small boats, but larger vessels often had to be "hailed over" by being drawn out of the water and pulled by horses or mules on wooden rollers. It soon became painfully obvious that something wider and deeper was needed. The new Haulover Canal was dug in the latter half of the 1880's by the Florida Coast Line Canal Co. In the aforementioned 1886 letter from Haulover, addressed to Mr. Edward Eatman at Matanzas, Florida, the writer talks about the digging operation. Apparently the cut had been opened between the river and lagoon by then because he notes that at the time (November 1886) "There is a current running at the rate of five miles an hour through the "new" Haulover..." (Fig. 2)

Dredge Chester
Nov 14 1886

Dear Edward

Yours of the 8th was received yesterday and I was glad to hear from you, and in reply I can say I am still in the Dredge and a driving the lining too. We have not done any digging for more than a week for but Warren is not well.

Fig. 2 Dateline: Dredge "Chester" Nov 19th 86

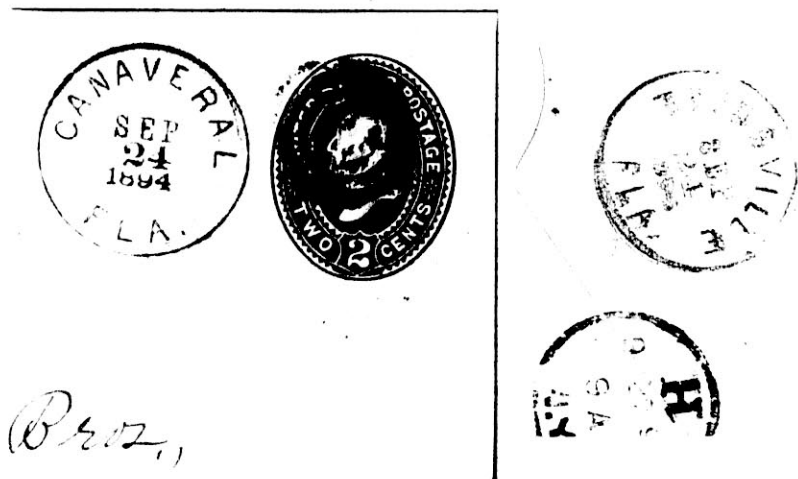
The cover received a two-line manuscript postmark and two sets of parallel manuscript lines defacing the 2 cent brown postal entire. The handwriting of the postmark is probably that of postmaster Charles Nauman. The letter likely traveled by boat to Titusville, about 20 miles away on the mainland, and then on to Matanzas. In 1885, the

Atlantic Coast, St. Johns and Indian River Railroad began a spur line from Enterprise to Titusville. Within a short time, the line was leased to the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railroad which extended the track to Titusville. As the railroad was operating in late 1886, it is likely that this letter traveled north by rail from Titusville.

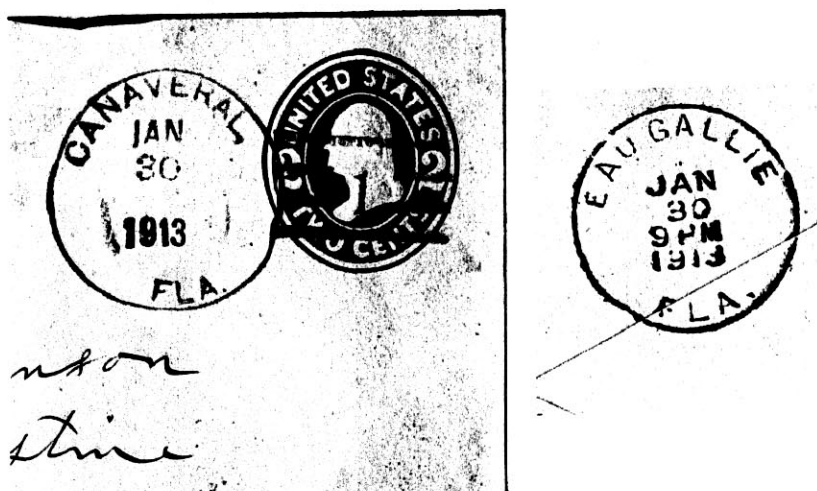
The additional route was more circuitous. There was a wagon trail 42 miles from Titusville to Enterprise and from Sanford one could take a fairly large steamboat on the St. Johns River to Jacksonville from which delivery to Matanzas could be made.

While covers from any of these towns and settlements are not easy to find, those from Canaveral (Fig. 3 and 4), Shiloh (Fig. 5), Orsino and Wilson are less difficult because of the amount of mail and the lateness of their closing prior to the government purchase of land for the space center. The author lived near the space center for a number of years, and explored each of the ghost towns described in this article, and never found examples of strikes from most of the post offices.

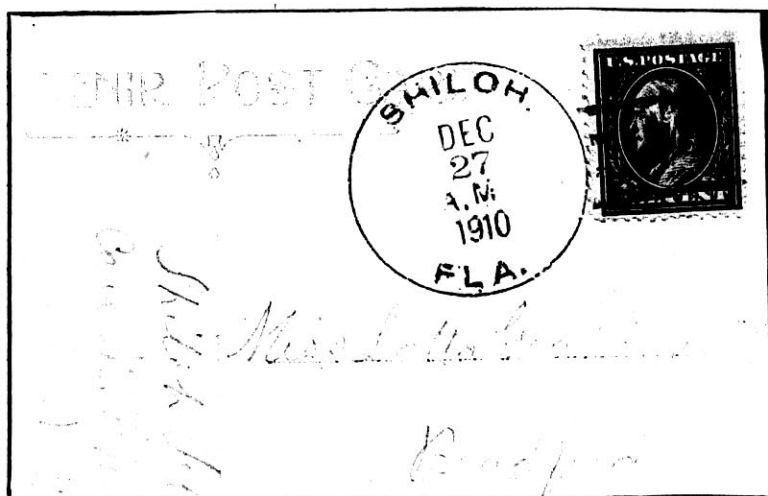
A collection of these covers would make a most interesting exhibit.



**Fig. 3 CANAVERAL / FLA. SEP 24 1894 postmark with
TITUSVILLE / FLA. SEP 24 1894 routing backstamp**



**Fig. 4 CANAVERAL, / FLA. JAN 30 1913 doane type III (1)
postmark with EAU GALLIE / FLA. JAN 30 9PM 1913
routing backstamp**



**Fig. 5 SHILOH, / FLA. DEC 27 1910 doane type III (1)
postmark on post card**



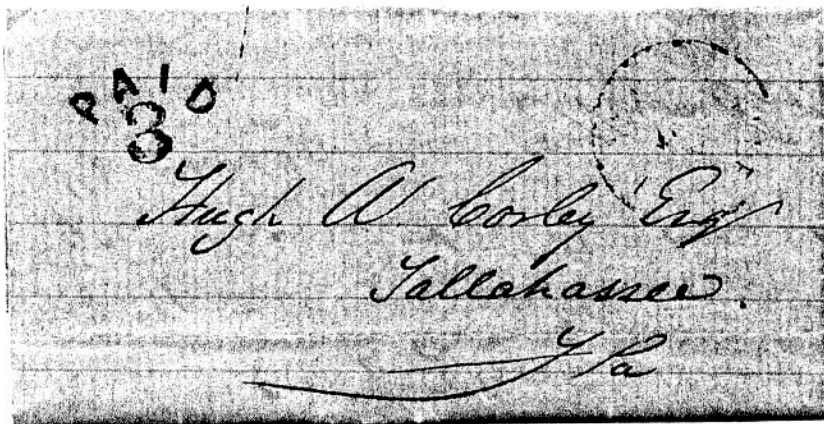
Fig. 6 The only sign marking site of town of Shiloh, Brevard-Volusia County line, Florida. This is a space center marker for an antenna site, and is north of the actual town site.



Fig. 7 Small cemetery along State Road 3, north of the Haulover Canal, Brevard County, Florida. This was the site of the town of Clifton.

NEW CONFEDERATE FLORIDA LISTING

Herbert P. McNeal



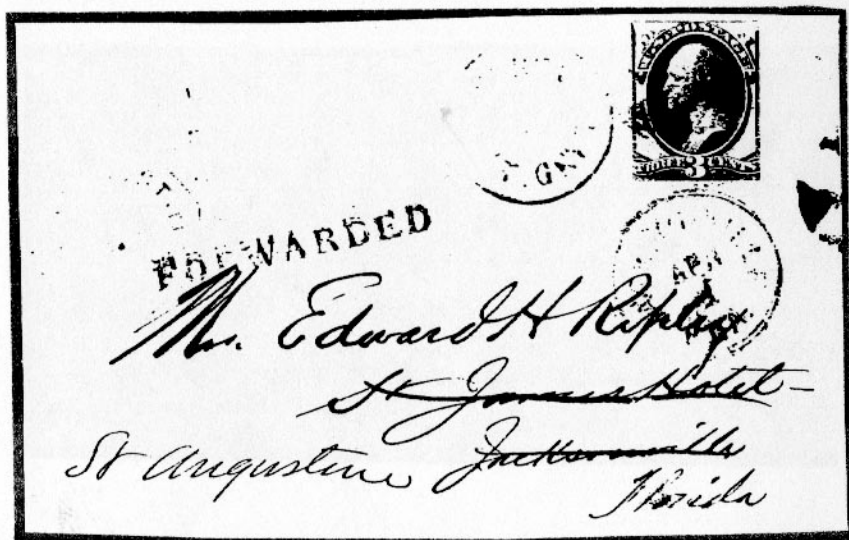
NEWNANSVILLE / FLA. PAID / 3

The above folded letter was discovered recently at a stamp show and is the first example of a hand-stamp PAID / 3 marking used from Florida during the period of Confederate usage of U.S. postage rates. This is only the third example of stampless usage during this period. The other two examples are from Gainesville and Houston and use a manuscript Paid 3 cent rate and not a handstamped rate. While the cds postmark is not well struck, it is clearly the same postmark used from Newnansville on other stampless covers with known usage during the Confederate period. This postmark and the PAID / 3 rate marking are not known to be used during the pre-war stampless period when a paid 3 cent rate was possible. The enclosure confirms this to be a Confederate usage with dateline: Newnansville, Fla. / May 21st 1861, and relates to a deed for land.

Editor's note: This cover confirms the notion that new postal history listings are out there to be found and documented. Congratulations, Herb.

JACKSONVILLE FORWARDED COVER

Edward Joyce



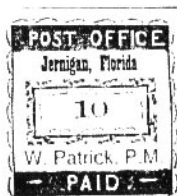
Jacksonville FORWARDED handstamp marking

The above cover was mailed from Centre Rutland, Vermont on March 28, 1879 with a cds postmark and grid cancelled 3c. green banknote stamp. It was sent to Mr. Edward H. Ripley, St. James Hotel, Jacksonville, Florida. Mr. Ripley had evidently gone to St. Augustine, so the Jacksonville post office re-addressed the envelope, postmarked it JACKSONVILLE / FLA. APR 1, and applied a handstamp FORWARDED marking.

There are two St. Augustine receiving marks in the upper left, both octagon handstamps, and not well reproduced in the above photograph. One is in black and reads SAINT AUGUSTINE / FLA APR. 3. The other is in blue and reads ST. AUGUSTINE / FLA. APR 3 1879. The reason for using two different receiving marks is unclear, perhaps because only the blue one had a year date. It seems like unnecessary work for the postal clerk to use two different devices with different ink. Could one have been a hotel post office receiving mark?

JERNIGAN "PROVISIONAL" STAMPS

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



Jernigan "Provisional" Stamps (newly created)

Several recent e-Bay auctions of "Florida" stamps have been sold which are worthy of this article. They are correctly described as being recently made fakes and not represented as being real stamps. I noticed one item, a "Madison Confederate Provisional" which was very well done but not consistent with the known Madison provisionals. I did not feel like bidding a high price for that "stamp" and do not have a photocopy of it. The above "stamps", however, were reasonably priced at about \$10 and as such I bought them for this article. These stamps must have been computer generated on plain white paper and are very detailed. They are very much like the Confederate provisionals issued by many towns in 1861. Most striking is the choice of the town name, Jernigan, Florida. This town did in fact exist in Orange County with a post office from May 30, 1850 until September 19, 1857, when it's name changed to Orlando. The first post master was Wright Patrick and he was followed on February 9, 1852, by Aaron Jernigan. Thus,

these stamps are accurate as to the town name, both postmasters, and the "ORANGE COUNTY / FLORIDA" postmark. The use of a county name for a postmark, without the town name, is a glaring mistake on the part of the maker of these items.

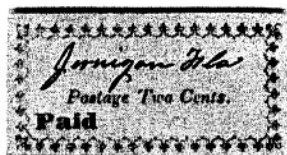


Figure 2. Jernigan Fla postmark

The one thing that is most interesting about these items and which dates the time of manufacture to after July 1999, is the manuscript "postmark" on one of the two oblong stamps shown above. One of these shown in Fig. 2 is an exact photocopy of the postmark reproduced in our Society book, *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861*, published in July 1999. If that were not enough, Fig. 3 shows another of these "stamps" with not only the same exact "Jernigan Fla" but with the exact postmark with date shown in our book as a type I postmark. See page 161 in our book and get a good laugh!



Figure 3. Jernigan Fla Dec 8th 1851 postmark

All in all, I have had fun with these "stamps" and congratulate the maker of doing a good job and not trying to pass these off as original. They are really only works of art with a Florida postal history theme. I only hope he or she doesn't try to make examples from all Florida post offices. We would then need a "Florida Stamp Book" to mount them.

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