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FLORIDA DOANE POSTMARK LISTING

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

As most members recall, I have served as the Florida Doane Postmark Coordinator for La Posta since individual state Doane listings were first assembled. The Florida listing has been published in Helbock's book on Doane postmarks and in an issue of our *Florida Postal History Journal* every two years. Since the listing has grown to almost 500, it is not economical to publish this list every two years. Recently Gary Anderson has set up a beautiful Internet Webpage on Doane postmarks and he has included the Florida listing. Anyone wishing to view an up to the minute listing of Florida Doane postmarks showing earliest and latest known usages is encouraged to view it on Gary's webpage. It can be visited at <http://www.towncancel.com/doane.html>

Should any reader not have internet access I will be happy to forward a listing. Write me at Deane R. Briggs, M.D., 160 E. Lake Howard Dr., Winter Haven, FL 33881

RUBY, FLORIDA

Member Harry G. Dow sent the editor a very nice follow up to his article on **Ruby, Florida** in our last journal issue. He enclosed photos of the Spinner family and the beach cottage and tent. Anyone wishing a copy of this information is welcome to contact your FPHJ editor or Harry G. Dow, 5 Holliswood Drive, Latham, NY 12110

THE UNIQUE ST. AUGUSTINE PURPLE-BROWN OVAL POSTMARK RE-EXAMINED

William H. Johnson, D.D.S.



black

purple-brown

red

When the St. Augustine straightline postmarks ceased being used in 1825, the St. Augustine post office became the first post office in the Florida Territory to use an oval postmarking device. This small oval handstamp postmark is most commonly found using black ink, with red ink being much less frequently used. The possibility of two separate handstamps being used (one with thick letters, a second with thin letters) has led the editors of *Florida Stampless Postal History - 1763 - 1861* to list both a type XII and type XIII marking. The possibility of the thick marking being an over-inked strike had led the editors of the *American Stampless Cover Catalog* to record just a single listing. As of this date the earliest confirmed usage of these ovals is a red postmark, type XIII, with use of February 27, 1825. The ASCC earliest usage of 1822 in black ink has never been confirmed and is considered a recording error and not listed in the FSPH book.

A St. Augustine oval November 20, 1834, purple-brown ink listing was first recorded in E. N. Sampson's *American Stampless Cover Catalog* in 1965. It continued to be separately listed through the 1985 edition, published by David G. Phillips. It was, however, deleted in Phillips's 1997 edition since it was generally thought to be an oxidized red ink, and therefore not listed in the FSPH book published in 1999.

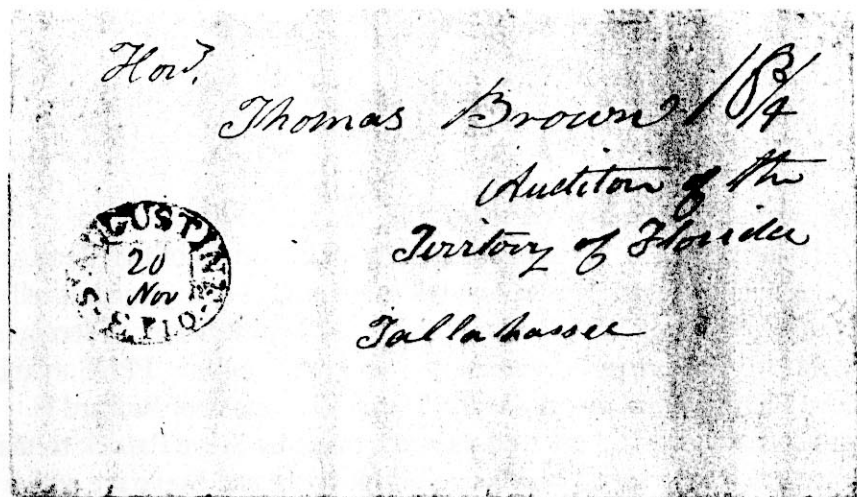


Fig. 1 St AUGUSTINE - E. FLO. - 20 Nov (1834) purple-brown postmark, date in black ink

I have recently acquired the cover in question (Fig. 1) and have offered it for examination by the editors of the FSPH book, as well as David G. Phillips. It is the unanimous consensus that this postmark is in a true purple-brown colored ink. It is our assumption that the postmaster John Gray, Jr. or his assistant on November 20, 1834, either accidentally or intentionally used a handstamp previously used with black or red ink, and placed it in the opposite ink, thus creating the purple-brown colored ink. It is noteworthy that to date, no other similarly inked markings have been found. The above reproductions in color show the purple-brown inked example between the black and red inked examples.

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Please remember to return your ballot for the election of officers for our society. Also check the membership listing to make sure your name and address is correct. Let the editor know of any corrections. Why not also remit your dues for the year 2001 at this time as well. Thanks.

THE REAL STORY BEHIND THE JERNIGAN "PROVISIONAL" STAMPS

Wade H. Beery

The following letter was received from the author by the editor of the FPHJ and makes for an interesting story of the origin of the "Jernigan Provisional" stamps. It is not meant to be critical of anyone but tells about a great early Florida family and an early postmaster of Jernigan, Florida. It is reproduced with permission of the author, FPHS member Steve Patrick, and Central Florida Stamp Club member Richard E. Scott. Some editorial corrections were made by Steve Patrick to make the story as accurate as possible. Both Richard and Steve are active in the study of genealogy, especially of their families, as is shown in the story behind the "Jernigan Provisionals".

"Reference is made to your article "Jernigan 'Provisional' Stamps" which appeared in volume 7, No.1, February 2000, of the Florida Postal History Journal.

I have some information which relates to the "real things" and will relate this information in about the chronological order in which the events occurred.

A short time before Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861 appeared, Niles Schuh, who is also a member of the central Florida Stamp Club, came to a meeting with a handful of xerox copies of about six pages of "the book", including the pages on Jernigan, Orlando and, I believe, Jacksonville, and passed them out to the members present in an attempt to get them interested in buying a copy, or copies, of "the book" when it was to appear in the near future (I had also been touting the book at our meetings). When the Xerox copies reached the front table, Mr. A. Stephen Patrick, Vice President of the Club (I was Secretary), saw the page on Jernigan and gave an impromptu recitation about Wright Patrick who was his Great-Great-Great-Grandfather!

Another member of our club was present that evening, Mr. Richard E. Scot, and now the plot thickens. Mr. Scott is a computer buff and when I asked him later, he stated that yes he had taken a set of those pages home. At a subsequent meeting, Mr. Scott brought a small glassine envelope of something, (I did not see the contents), and gave it to Steve who raved about whatever was in the envelope (I think it was a "set" of the "fakes").

When your article appeared, I called Steve and asked him if he had heard about your article. He then advised that he was a member of the Florida Postal History Society and that he had received that issue of the Florida Postal History Journal. He then related that his Great-Great Grandfather, John B. Patrick, was a son of Wright. He also related that Rick Scott's wife was the Great-Great Granddaughter of James J. Patrick, a son of John. These sons, and possibly others of the Patrick family, had migrated in the 1840's from Georgia to the Jernigan-Orlando area to settle. They married, had families, etc. Mr. Patrick then related that, yes, he was aware of the genealogical relationship. The plot again thickens. Mr. Patrick stated that Mrs. John Patrick had been killed in a raid by Indians; that Mr. Patrick married again to the sister of his deceased wife, and they produced 11 more children.

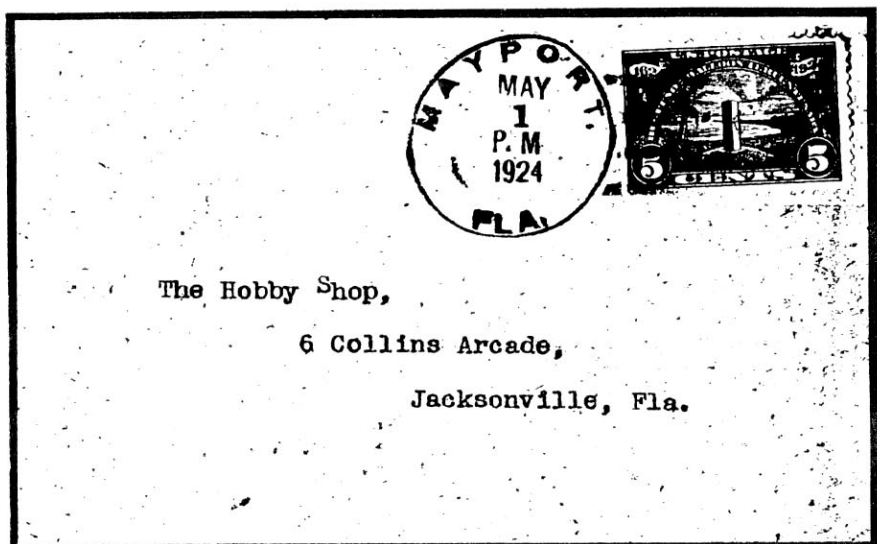
I talked with Mr. Scott at our 3 February 2000 meeting, gave him a Xerox copy of your article and asked point blank if he were the person making the "fakes" and selling them via the Internet. He replied Yes, and stated that he had copied some of those from some "old fakes" by scanning and then entering the Jernigan Post office data through the magic electrons of his computer. Mr. Patrick had stated that possibly some of them had been "lifted" from a Scott U.S. Specialized Catalog and then "doctored".

Another fact given to me by Steve Patrick is that the maiden name of Wright Patrick's wife was Elinder JERNIGAN, who was the sister of Aaron Jernigan."

Editor's Note: The Jernigan "provisionals" were never purported to be real stamps and no attempt to defraud was ever made by Mr. Scott.

MAYPORT FIRST DAY COVER

Edward Joyce



MAYPORT, FLA. / MAY 1 1924 4 bar ties #616 on FDC

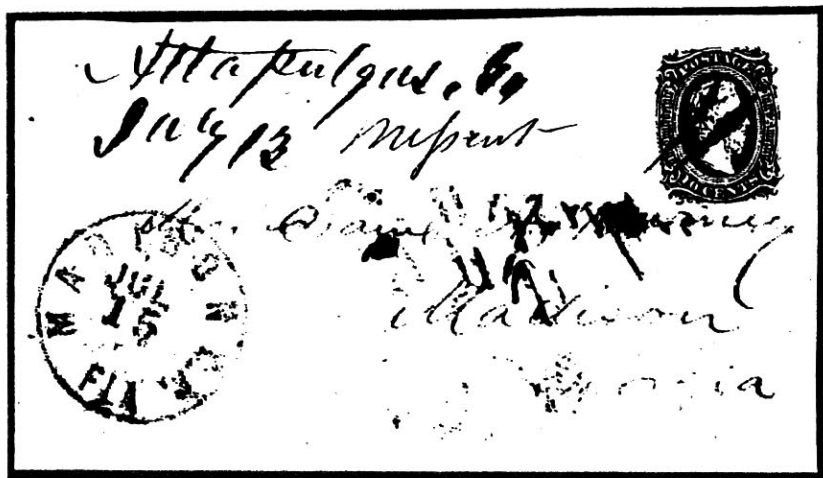
The five cent value in the Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary series (Scott #616) pictures the Ribault Monument at Mayport, Florida. The original monument is shown in LeMoyne's drawings of French explored Jean Ribault meeting with the Timuccuan Indians near the mouth of the St. Johns River in 1564. This action prompted the Spanish founding of St. Augustine in 1565 and the subsequent destruction of the French settlement and the massacre of Ribault and his men when they were shipwrecked south of St. Augustine.

The original monument was lost or destroyed and a replica of it is on a high bluff overlooking the St. Johns River.

The first day of issue of this stamp was May 1, 1924.

CONFEDERATE "MISSENT" COVER

Edward Joyce

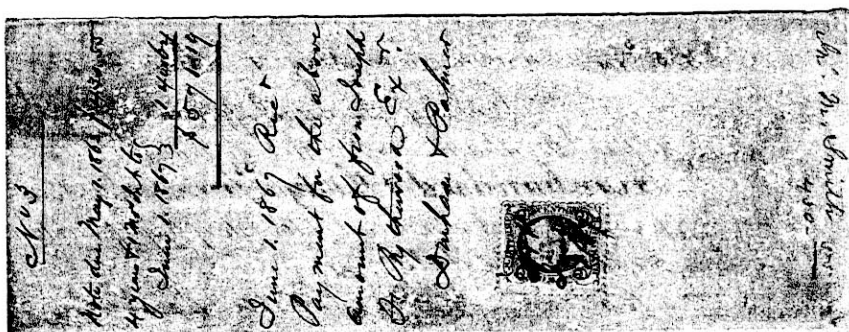
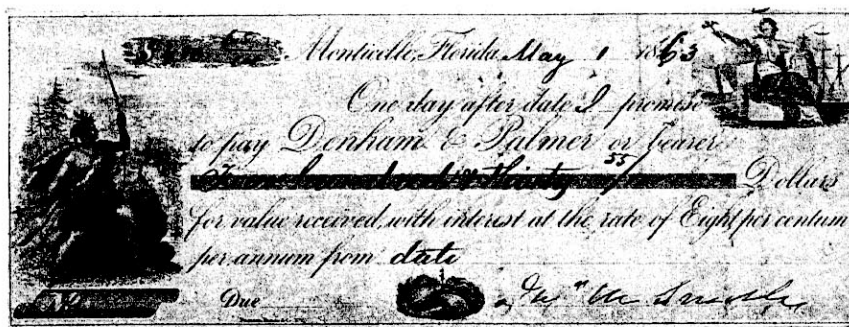


MADISON C.H. / FLA JUL 15 forwarding postmark "missent"
from Attapulcus, Ga. with pen tied #12

The above cover was manuscript postmarked Attapulcus, Ga July 13 (1863 or 1864) and addressed to Madison, Georgia. Attapulcus is a small town near the Florida border in southwest Georgia near Tallahassee. Madison, Georgia is in north central Georgia near Athens. This cover apparently was missent to the closest Madison and went to Madison, Florida where it was postmarked **MADISON C.H. / FLA JUL 15** and a manuscript missent applied before being sent on to Madison, Georgia. This cover is one of the easiest "missent" cover to understand. Most such examples were just placed on the wrong postal route and discovered somewhere along that route before being re-routed to the correct destination. Unlike forwarded covers, missent covers did not require any additional postage due from the recipient.

ANOTHER REVENUE-STAMPED FLORIDA DOCUMENT

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



Monticello, Florida May 31, 1863 promissory note, recorded and 2 c. revenue bank stamp fixed when note paid on June 1, 1867.

The above promissory note documents yet another example of scarce Florida revenue stamped papers from the 1862-1872 period. As mentioned in Michael Mahler's article in the *Florida Postal History Journal*, Vol. 5, No.2, September 1998, only 31 examples had been recorded to that time. Persons interested in this area of collecting are encouraged to read his article and his newly published book *A Catalog of United States Revenue-Stamped Documents of the Civil War Era by Type and Tax Rate*, published by The American Revenue Association, 1999. This book is available in our FPHS library for members to use.

The above example is a promissory note of Jn M. Smith, payable to Denham & Palmer at Monticello, Florida, dated May 1, 1863. It was paid with accrued interest on June 1, 1867 by the executor of Mr. Smith's estate, Joseph F. Rythwood, and the 2 c. revenue bank check stamp was affixed and cancelled with the manuscript **D & P June 1/67.**

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF STAMP CLUBS INC.

On March 1, 2000, The Florida Postal History Society received a check in the amount of \$2110.00 from Herb Higley, Treasurer of the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs Inc., following the disbanding of that organization. Those members who were in attendance at the final FLOREX on November 6, 1999, will recall that a unanimous vote to disband was received. Our Society and the Florida Philatelic Foundation Library each received \$2110.00 for our general use. This is very appreciated and these funds will allow our Society to pay for future publications such as the recently published book on Florida Stampless Postal History. We are all saddened by the loss of such a vibrant force in Philately in Florida and the absence of future FLOREX exhibitions will certainly be noticed.

CRICKET ANYONE?
THE TOWN OF ACTON, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

David C. Lingard



Fig. 1 ACTON, POLK Co. FLORIDA SEP 10 1885
"County Postmark", the known example.

The long forgotten town of Acton is a fascinating glimpse into Polk County's history. The town had its beginnings as early as April 17, 1883, when the famous Hamilton Disston sold some of his 4 million acres (which he had purchased from the State of Florida in 1881 for 25 cents per acre) to an Englishman, Robert Hanbury of Birmingham. The town was drawn out on a 16" x 16" piece of cardboard and glued into the plat book at the Polk County courthouse on June 16, 1884 (Fig. 2). The town was located in a swampy lowland encompassing portions of 4 sections of land between Lake Parker to the North and Lake Boney to the South, in present day Lakeland (Fig. 3). The recently completed Sanford to Tampa branch of the South Florida Railroad bisected the town. The town owes its name to the famous English author, Lord Acton



Fig. 2 Acton, Florida town plat dated 6-16-1884

Construction immediately began on a railroad depot, which was described by Historian Leonard Carter as "no bigger than a boxcar". A general store, a sawmill, a boarding house, and scores of family houses sprang up during 1884. According to the Post Office Dept. Reports of Site Locations, the Acton post office was located 50 feet on the South side of the South Florida Railroad line. My best guess is that the post office was originally located in the Depot, but I cannot confirm this. At its high point, there were over 200 people living in Acton. The town was actually larger than neighboring Lakeland, which also had its beginnings in 1884.

Acton had a very decidedly English flavor in the midst of frontier-like

conditions. A polo field was cleared and a cricket field was built. Acton itself had at least 2 cricket teams and a newspaper article from the Jacksonville Time-Union, recorded one match from a neighboring English settlement near Fort Meade. Acton also had a boathouse on Lake Parker with a free library upstairs. They had a debate club and annual fox hunts. Acton had the first Episcopal Church in Polk County (All Saints Episcopal) and also boasted one of Florida's first telephone lines that connected it to Lakeland.

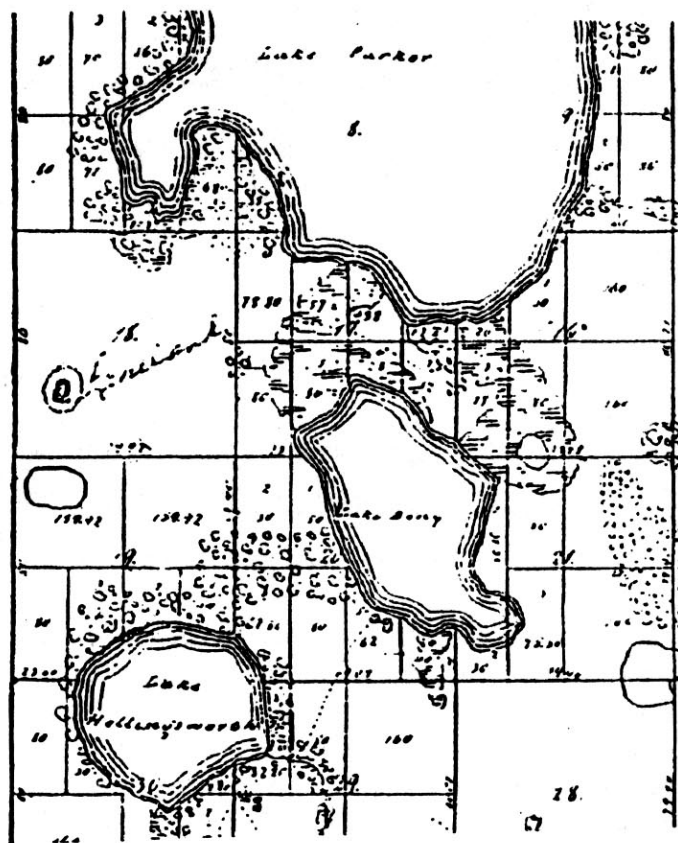


Fig. 3 U.S. government Plat Map of 1854 showing future site of Acton, Fla. as marsh between Lakes Parker and Boney

The town began its decline almost as fast as it was begun. The small railroad depot burned to the ground under "mysterious circumstances"

in 1885. At the same time a much larger railroad depot sprang up in neighboring Lakeland, built, paid for, and donated to the South Florida Railroad by the Lakeland town founder, Abraham Munn. Acton quickly floundered as businesses moved to Lakeland within the next 2 years. The post office officially closed on January 1, 1889, and the Episcopal church building was physically moved to its present location in Lakeland on Massachusetts Street in 1892. All that remained were a few hardy farmers until they too were wiped out by the back to back freezes of 1894 and 1895. A Lakelander remarked that "the town disappeared so completely that by 1906, no trace remained". The Acton area remained a wilderness until the 1920's when a subdivision of Lakeland called Shore Acres was planned and built. The only remembrance of Acton today is an historic marker (Fig. 4) located in Elk's Park.

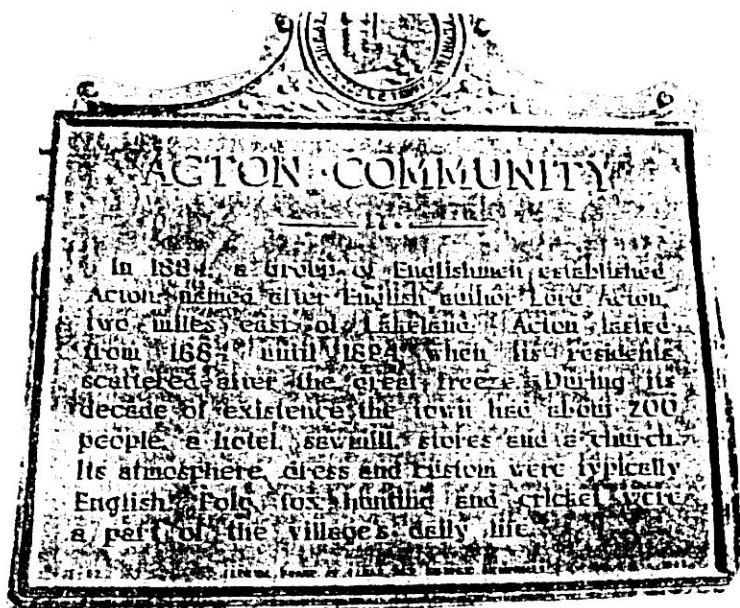


Fig. 4 Acton, Fla. historical site marker

The Acton, Florida post office operated for just under 5 years. It was opened and closed twice. The office was established on June 2, 1884 and discontinued on May 11, 1887. It was re-established on April 21, 1888 and finally discontinued on January 1, 1889. Acton had three

postmasters, Joseph L. Bettes, Wiley Hicks, and M.J. McLeod. To my knowledge, postmarks from Acton, Florida are quite scarce with only a couple of manuscript postmarks known on legal covers (Fig.5) and a single example of a handstamped "County" postmark (Fig. 1). I would greatly appreciate reports of any postmarks or letters from this town for further research.

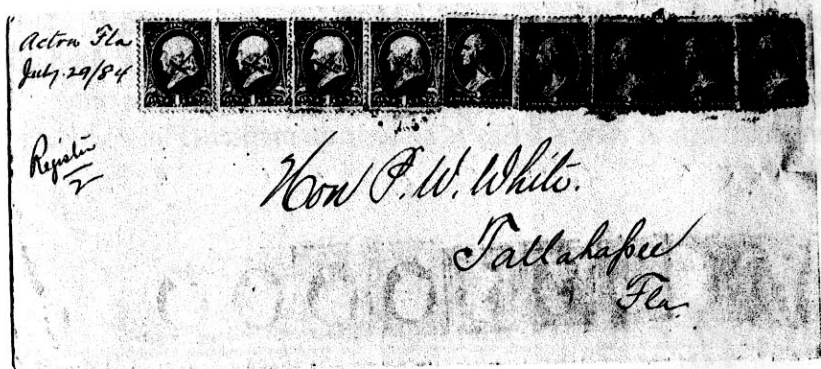


Fig. 5 Acton Fla / July 29/84 manuscript postmark on double rated registered legal cover to Tallahassee

Editor's Note: FPHS member David Lingard is a Polk County resident and active the Polk County Historical Society. He has put together an archival exhibit of Polk County postal history for the Society. He would love to talk with anyone interested in this County's postal history and should be contributing several more interesting articles for our journal. Can some of our other members perhaps submit articles on their county's small and often discontinued post offices?

TOBACCO ADVERTISING COVER

William J. Hancock

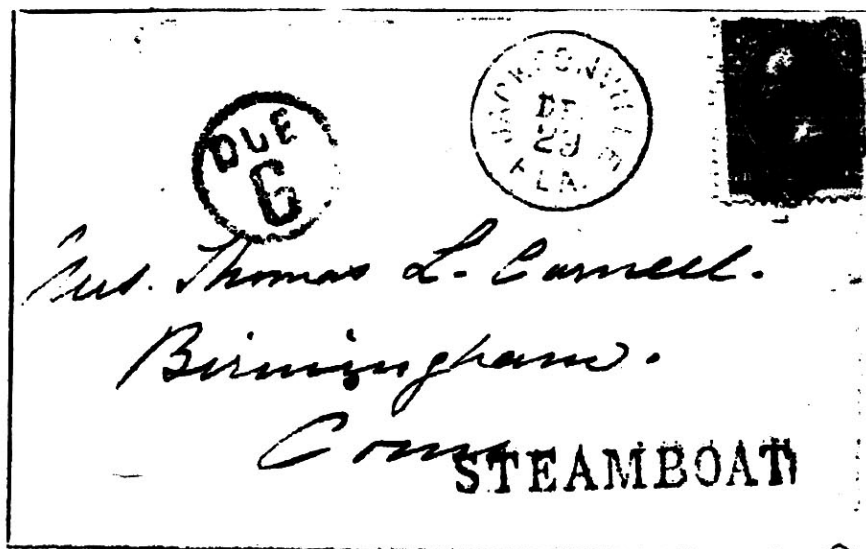


**SAVANNAH / GA. JAN 2 2PM postmark on
Goodman & Myers Tobacco Advertising Cover**

The above advertising cover has been in my collection for many years. I have always considered it to be a beautiful example of an early Florida advertising cover. Imagine my surprise to see a "sister" cover in the last issue of *The Florida Postal History Journal* (Vol. 7, No. 1, February 2000). The only thing different is the cancellation, this one having a Savannah, Ga. postmark instead of the Savannah & Live Oak Agent postmark. Notice that even the addressee is the same and in identical handwriting.

A NEW JACKSONVILLE STEAMBOAT MARKING

Niles F. Schuh



JACKSONVILLE FLA. DEC 29 postmark with killed tied 3c green banknote with STEAMBOAT & DUE/6 markings

This article is a reprint of an article appearing in the *Cancellation Club Newsletter* Fall 1999 issue.

A large and distinctive **STEAMBOAT** marking was discussed in the Spring 1999 *NEWS*. Examples were noted from Baltimore and Mobile. Niles Schuh recently submitted a cover (Figure 1) bearing what certainly seems to be the same marking, apparently originating at Jacksonville, Florida. Your editor is not aware that this marking has been reported before from post offices other than Baltimore and Mobile and will very much welcome additional reports of such usage. Niles reports the cover is wrinkled and torn in a way indicating that it was stuffed with many pages at one time.

We are not able to date this cover except to say that the stamp is a Continental printing which means the cover was mailed in 1873 or

later. It certainly appears to have been mailed before the rate changed to two cents in October 1883. Niles writes:

"The cover's origin was probably one of the many towns along the St. Johns River which were serviced by steamboats during that period. The St. Johns is 273 miles long and it had a lot of towns along its banks, even back then. I have a list of about 100 steamboat landings on the St. Johns in 1884."

Both contract and non-contract steamboats operated on the St. Johns River. The carrier of the Figure 1 cover was a steamboat without a mail contract. Niles sent along two ads for contract steamers. One of them, for Baya's Line, advertised "triple daily service (Sundays excluded)" between Jacksonville and Palatka. It identified itself with "United States Fast Mail". The other ad featuring the steamer "Debary" is shown in Figure 2.

FLORIDA. BAYA'S LINE FLORIDA.


—♦♦♦ UNITED STATES FAST MAIL ♦♦♦—

ST. JOHNS RIVER STEAMERS.

The New and Elegant Side Wheel Saloon Steamers

H. T. BAYA,

SYLVAN GLEN,



MAGNOLIA,

and PASTIME,

— OPERATES AT —

TRIPLE DAILY SERVICE (Sundays excepted),

— BETWEEN —

JACKSONVILLE and PALATKA,

Carrying the U. S. Mails, connecting at TOCOPI with R. R. for ST. AUGUSTINE, and at PALATKA with R. R. for GAINESVILLE and OCAHA, with Debary Steamers for SANFORD, ENTERPRISE, and intermediate landings, and with Steamer for the OCKLAWAHA RIVER.

Tickets for sale at all LEVE & ALDEN'S Tourist Offices.

B. H. HOPKINS, G. P. and T. Agent.

Fig. 2 Ad for BAYA'S LINE St. John's River Steamers

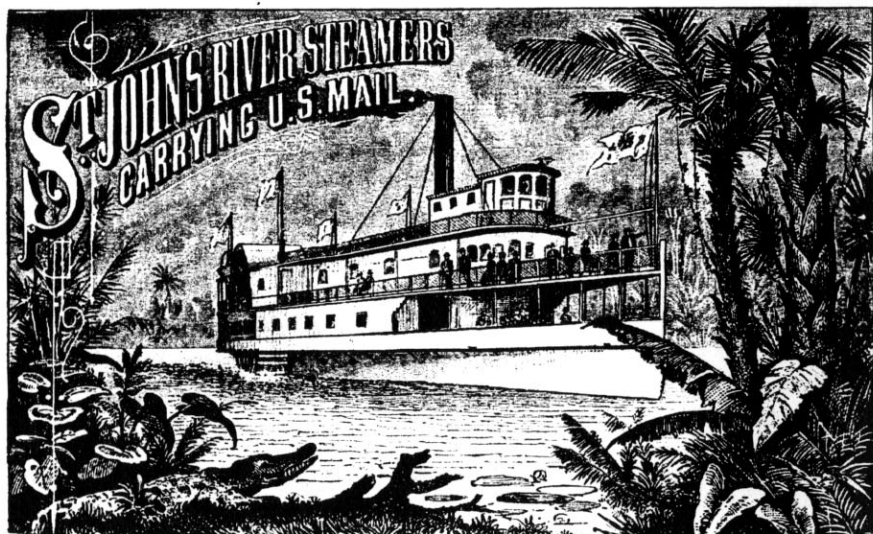


Fig. 3 Ad for the Steamer De Bary

MKD Research & Consulting

Michael K. Dattolico
3830 Bernard Place
Columbus, Ohio 43224-2201

614/263-6145
mmdattol@aol.com

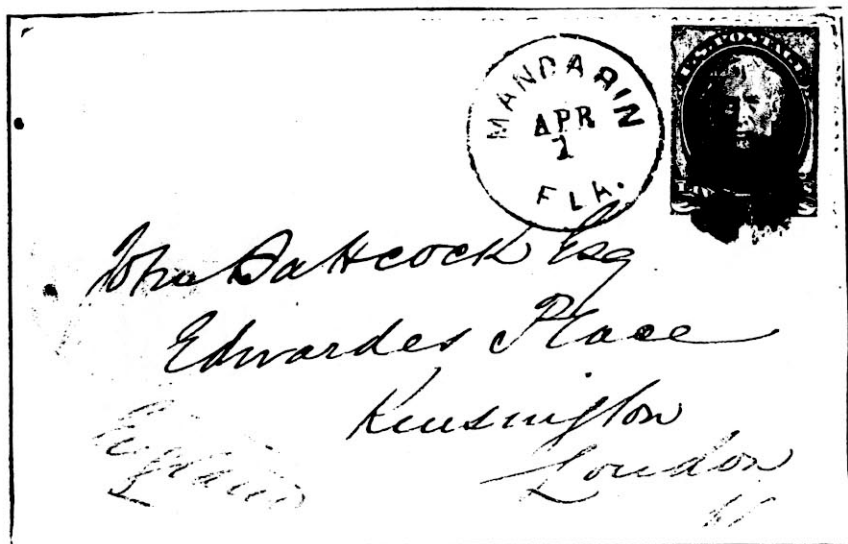
Specializing in:

- manuscript editing
- research on US military covers, US possessions and general states postal history

Michael Dattolico is past editor of the Ohio Postal History Society Journal and an associate editor of LaPosta. He has access to one of the finest philatelic research libraries in the country and for a nominal fee will research covers and help with preparation of articles for any member interested in his services. Members interested should contact him at 3830 Bernard Place, Columbus, Ohio 43224-2201. Phone: (614) 263-6145 or email at: mmdattol@aol.com

MANDARIN TO ENGLAND

Edward Joyce



MANDARIN FLA. APR 1 (1881) usage to England

The above cover was postmarked "MANDARIN FLA. APR 1 (1881) with a 5c banknote stamp picturing Zachary Taylor and addressed to Kensington, (District) London, W., England. To the left of the address is a faint London receiving mark in a red circle "LONDON W. B9, PAID, 14 AP 81".

THE TRUNK POST OFFICE OF CROOKED LAKE

David C. Lingard

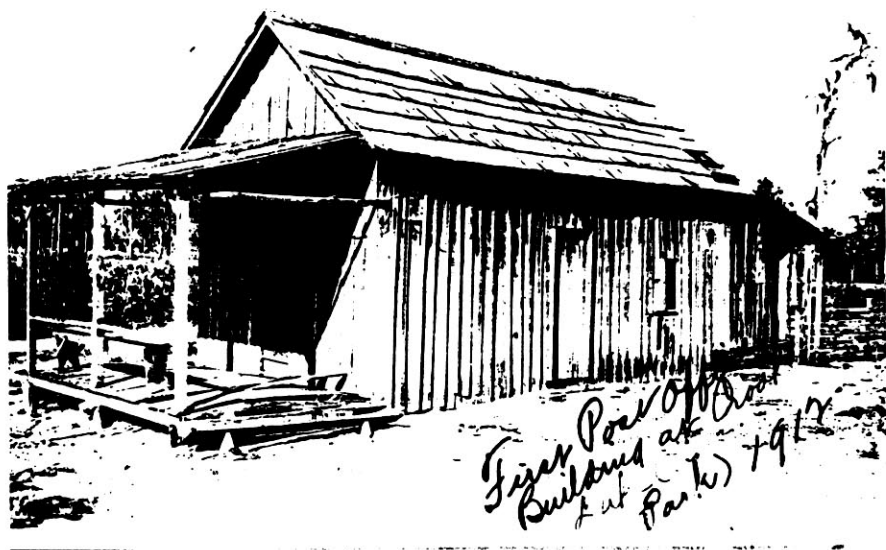


Fig. 1 The first Crooked Lake, Florida post office located in a "trunk" in this shack.

The Crooked Lake, Florida, post office gets its name from the irregular shaped (crooked) lake that is nearby. It began operation on October 13, 1913, and its first postmaster was William A. Bussard.

According to local resident Louise Quinn, "The National Archives may show that William A. Bussard was the first postmaster, but everybody knew that it was really Elsie Bussard (his wife)". The Bussards lived in a small shack owned by the local sawmill (Fig. 1). "They had a room in that shack in which they had a trunk and in the trunk was the post office!" A resident said, "If you wanted to mail a letter, give it to Elsie and she'll put it in the trunk." Suppose I want to buy a stamp, I said? The resident replied, "she'll take the stamp out of the trunk. If you wanted to mail a package, she opened the trunk, took out a small

scale and found out what you owed. You felt safe because you knew that Elsie would take care of the mail. all the residents thought she was most accommodating as did the workmen at the mill who came at all hours for their mail. The "trunk post office" closed on November 12, 1915, when the mill moved farther away and the Bussards had to leave.

The next Crooked Lake post office was located in a shack owned by Ernest B. Meadows. From what I can deduce, it was a store and/or an icehouse located at the sawmill. Louise Quinn described it as being located in a "small cubby hole". Mr. Meadows offered a service few patrons enjoyed anywhere else, package wrapping. Mr. Meadows stated, "Mostly, when folks want to mail a package, they just bring me what they want to send and ask me to wrap and address it for them. That's why I've generally got some paper and twine around the place. But if I don't, I just keep their package until I get some and fix it up for them". Mr. Meadows was postmaster from November 13, 1915 until September 21, 1921.

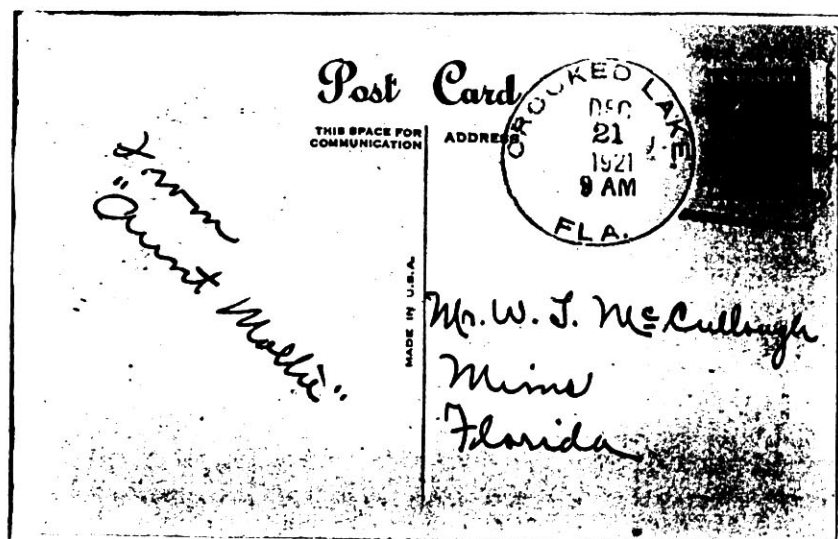


Fig. 2 CROOKED LAKE, FLA. DEC 21 1921 4 bar postmark.

The post office bounced around several places during the next few decades including Frank Cody's real estate office and a small wooden building next to the grocery store (Fig. 3). It finally found an official USPS building in 1976 (Fig. 4).

Map taken from POD records, June 8, 1922

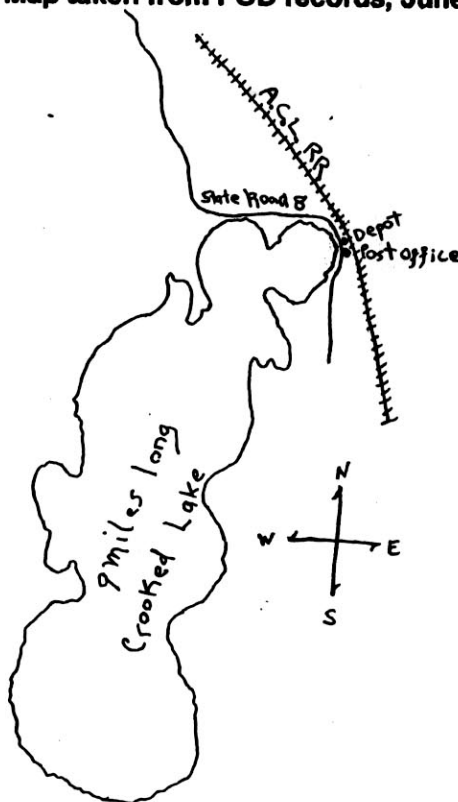


Fig. 3 Location of the Crooked Lake, Florida post office

How the name of Crooked Lake was changed to Babson Park is a great little story. It seems that a Roger W. Babson (an economic forecaster of national reputation) purchased 400 acres of land, which included the town site of Crooked Lake in 1923. This was at the height of the 1920's Florida land speculation boom. When he wanted to open a bank, he did not think that a bank with the name "Crooked" in it was a very wise business decision. This was a time before the FDIC of course! The townspeople in deference to Mr. Babson's

wishes, petitioned the name change to Babson Park. The name change was completed on May 15, 1923, and it has been Babson Park (fig. 5) ever since.



Fig. 4 The Babson Park, Florida post office since 1976.

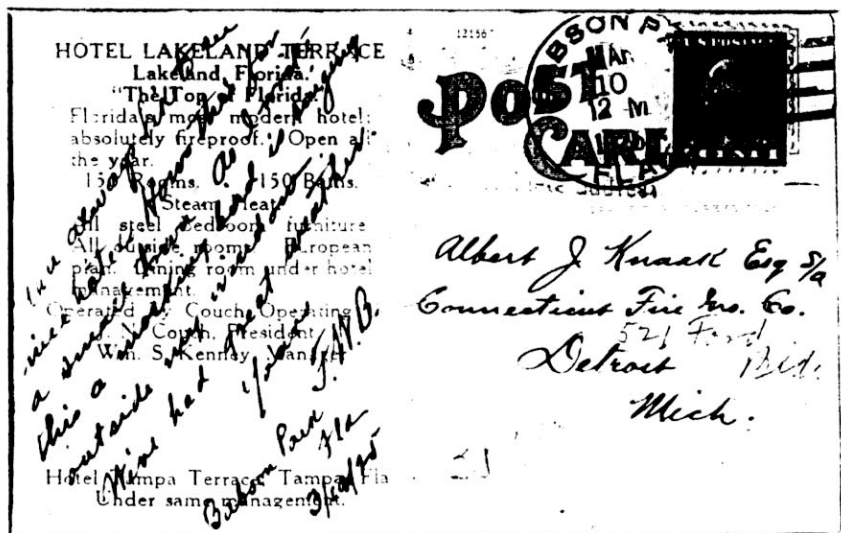


Fig. 5 BABSON PARK, FLA. MAR 10 1925 4-bar "composite" postmark using type I killer bars.

HORSE CREEK, Polk County, FLORIDA

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

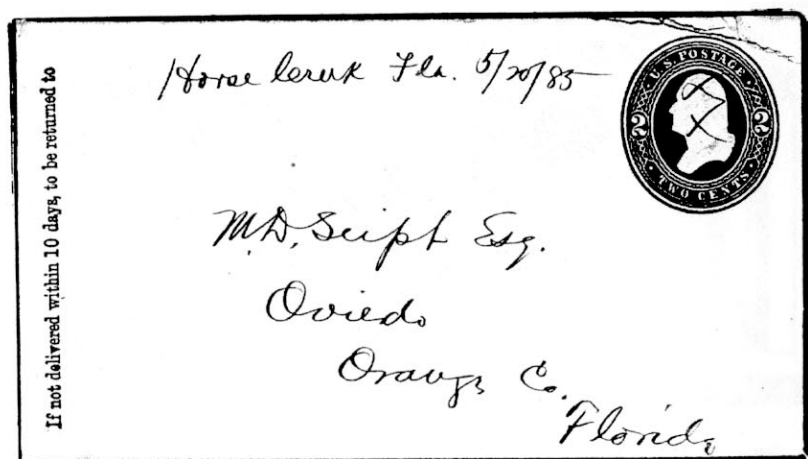


Figure 1.

During the past year three different postal entire covers bearing manuscript **Horse Creek, Fla.** postmarks have been sold at auction. As a resident of Polk County, Florida, and an avid Florida postal history collector, I was excited to see these items come up for auction. I was fortunate enough to purchase one of them. It is shown in Figure 1. and bears a manuscript postmark with 5 / 20 / 85 date and pen cancellation of the entire.

An original Horse Creek settlement existed during the Seminole war years and through the Civil War in Manatee County. It later became the site of Pine Level, once the county seat of Manatee Co. The site in Polk County was located in Northeastern Polk County near the site of Fort Davenport. A post office was established as Horse Creek on March 3, 1884, but was changed 18 months later on September 15, 1885, to Davenport. Thus, this little settlement of Horse Creek existed for less than two years. I wonder how many more covers will be found from such a short lived D.P.O.

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