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FLORIDA REGISTRY USAGE

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



BETTS / FLA AUG 25 1913 4-bar postmark ties 10c Registry (F-1) and 2c Parcel Post (Q-2) stamps to registered letter

The United States Registry stamp (Scotts F1) was issued on December 1, 1911 for the prepayment of registry fees and not postage which was additional. The fee of 10c was established on November 1, 1909. Regular postage stamps could also be used for registry fees and are much more commonly seen on registered letters. The registry stamp usage was abolished by the Postmaster General on May 28, 1913, but the use of existing F1 stamps was allowed until supplies at post offices were exhausted and thus the August 1913 use on the above cover. Usage of this stamp on Florida postal history covers is not at all common and the author has seen less than 20 such examples. A use with a parcel post stamp paying the postage is most unusual indeed and perhaps unique for Florida. The Betts post office was a short lived seven year DPO, established in Bay County, 27 July 1912, and discontinued on 31 October 1919.

MIAMI FLA, A NEW STAMPLESS LISTING

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

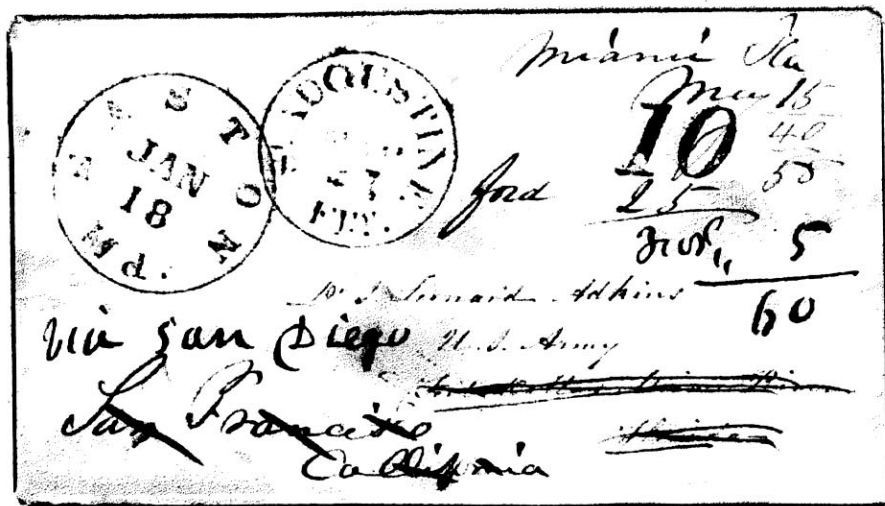


Fig. 1 Miami Fla May 1 (1850/51) manuscript forwarding postmark with manuscript "ford 25" rate on cover to Dr. J Leonard Adkins, U.S. Army, Fort Dallas, Miami River Florida

The above cover (Fig. 1) is one of those covers specialized postal history collectors dream about finding. This cover was discovered earlier this year by dealer Labron Harris, who correctly identified it as the earliest known cover from Miami, Florida, and the listing "stampless" example. Prior to this cover, the most recent new addition to Florida stampless postal history was the Chattahoochee oval postmark which Don Thompson nicely recorded in *The Florida Postal History Journal*, vol. 4, no. 2, September 1997.

The beauty of this cover is not only its pristine condition, but the fact that the cover is a multiple forwarded example with a most rare 40c. Florida to California stampless rate (Act of August 14, 1848, "letter conveyed to or from places on the Pacific in California from or to any

place on the Atlantic coast, shall be charged with 40 cents postage". This rate and usage to California on any other Florida cover is unknown to the author.

This cover started out as an unpaid 10c. rated cover from Easton, Md., January 18 (probably 1850 but possibly 1851), addressed to Dr. J. Leonard Adkins, a U.S. Army doctor, stationed at the Seminole Indian War Fort Dallas, located on the Miami River. The address is specific and does not mention the Miami post office. Mail to and from Fort Dallas was handled after its establishment in January 1838, by the St. Augustine post office and later by the Miami post office. When the letter actually arrived at Fort Dallas is unclear, but certainly 6-8 weeks for delivery would be reasonable. Certainly the letter would have arrived by the end of March. The reason for the delay in forwarding the letter until May 1st is unclear. Perhaps Dr. Adkins final destination of San Francisco was not known to the postal clerk at Fort Dallas until just before the actual forwarding and the letter was held until that was certain.

The Miami post office was established on 18 February 1850, with Robert Fletcher as postmaster. He was replaced by George W. Ferguson on 9 April 1850. The initial mail route for mail to and from Miami was route no. 3559, Indian River to Miami, with mail from Indian River connecting to St. Augustine. Effective April 14, 1851, mail to and from Miami was carried on route no. 3511, with C. L. Brayton the route contractor with half-decked boats from New Smyrna to Indian River, thence to Miami on horse. The schedule for route no. 3511 was "from New Smyrna on the first Friday of each month, by Indian River and Jupiter, to Miami in 12 days, 300 miles; and back between the 15th and the end of each month. It appears at this time, that Miami had only monthly mail service and mail from Miami would leave after the 15th of each month.

This returns us to the above cover. It was forwarded with a manuscript "Miami Fla May 1" postmark and a "ford 25" rate and the "Fort Dallas - Miami River Florida" was deleted and "San Francisco California" was entered as destination, all in the same ink. The reason for the "25" rate is not clear. It is obviously in error and was

subsequently corrected. The 25c. rate for over 400 miles had been discontinued in 1845, but it was a commonly used rate for long distances and may have been used in error by the newly appointed Miami post master as the rate to California was an unusual rate not used by him.

The letter arrived in St. Augustine where the rate error was corrected and a routing postmark **St. AUGUSTINE F.Ty. MAY 27** was applied and the rate re-tabulated to unpaid 10 (Easton, Md. to Fort Dallas), 5 (Miami to St. Augustine where the rate was corrected and additional routing post mark was applied), 40 (St. Augustine to San Francisco) to total unpaid 55. Note that the St. Augustine postmaster used the "1" in the May 1 date to make up the 15 rate (10 + 5). When the cover arrived in San Francisco is unclear, but it was again forwarded "Via San Diego" and the "San Francisco California" was deleted and an additional "Ford 5" rate added to total unpaid "60".

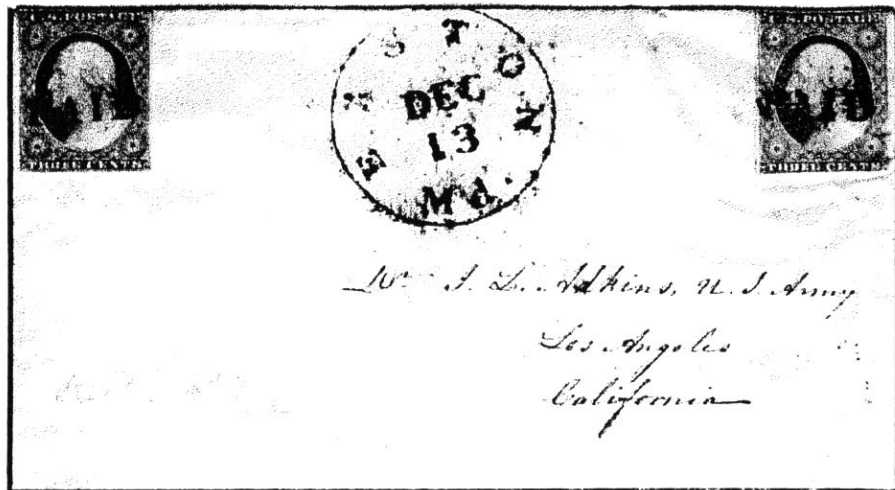


Fig. 2. EASTON Md. DEC 13 (1851) cds postmark with two #10 stamps cancelled by PAID handstamp on cover to Dr. J. L. Adkins, U.S. Army, Los Angeles, California. Docketed "Recd Feb 7/1852" on reverse

The Miami cover must have reached Dr. Adkins since it has resided with a later cover from the same correspondence (Fig. 2), sent to him in Los Angeles in 1851. Both of these covers are in excellent state of preservation and have been well kept for the past 150 years.

The postal Act of March 3, 1851 changed the 40c. California rate to 6c. if prepaid and 10c. if unpaid, effective June 30, 1851. The question remaining is only whether this is a cover from 1850 or 1851. The author feels strongly that this is an 1850 cover since the address is to Fort Dallas - Miami River, Florida. By January 1851, mail for Fort Dallas would have been handled by the Miami post office and mail addressed to Fort Dallas, Miami Florida. The second Miami post master, George W. Ferguson, took office on 9 April, 1850, and with less than a month on duty, may well have been unaware of the 40c. rate to California, which was corrected by a more astute St. Augustine post master. The author is in the process of trying to locate the military records of Dr. Adkins, in an effort to determine when he left Florida for California. This will pinpoint accurately whether this is an 1850 or 1851 usage. At any rate, with either year date, this is the earliest known cover from Miami. The prior earliest known Miami usage is believed to be an 1852 usage of a 3c. postal entire.

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2002

The annual meeting of the Florida Postal History Society will be held at 12:00 pm, Saturday, February 2, 2002, in Sarasota, Florida, at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, in the Exposition Center on U.S. 41. The exact location of the meeting will be noted in the program. In addition to a business meeting, Deane Briggs will present a slide talk on Florida Stampless Postal History and will bring the above Miami cover for members to view. Please make an effort to attend and support your Florida Postal History Society.

1890 CEDAR KEYS SCHOONER SUNRISE COVER

Herbert P. McNeal

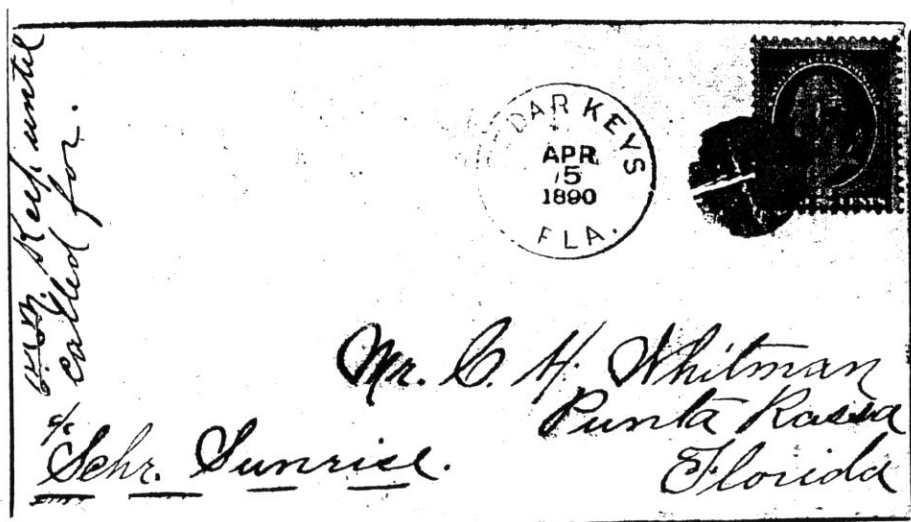


Fig. 1 CEDAR KEYS / FLA. APR 5 1890 cover with killer tied 2c. banknote with docketing "c/o Schr. Sunrise"

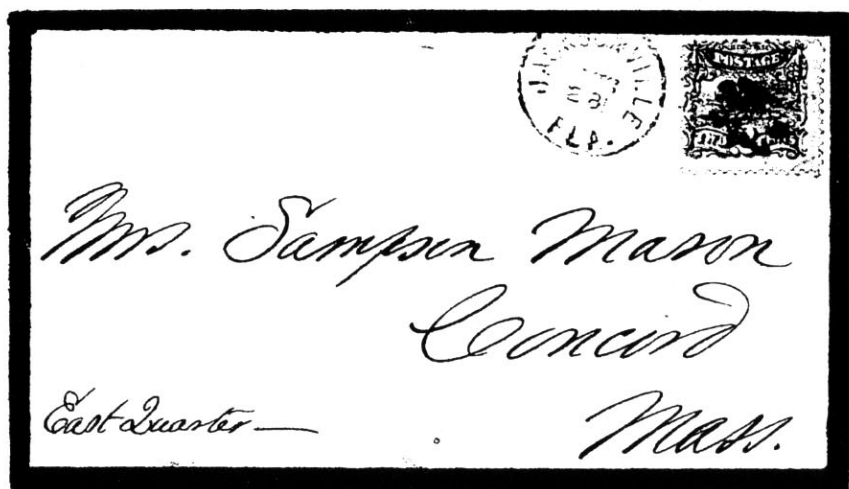
The above cover was most probably sent from Cedar Keys to Punta Rassa by schooner and not by the regular mail route. The docketing and the 5 day transit time (as noted by the backstamp receiving mark, Fig. 2) makes this most likely a cover carried by the Schooner Sunrise. Normal mail routes in Florida at this time would be expected to be between 2-3 days. The additional docketing "P.M. Keep until called for" is an unusual request, especially knowing that the letter would take some time to arrive by a sailing schooner.



Fig. 2 PUNTA RASSA / FLA. APR 10 1890 backstamp

JACKSONVILLE #113 ON MOURNING COVER

Edward R. Joyce



JACKSONVILLE / FLA. SEP 28 postmark with killer cancelled #113, 2 cent 1869 issue on mourning cover

This wide black bordered "mourning" cover from Jacksonville to Concord, Mass has a killer cancelled but untied #113, 2 cent 1869 issue stamp to pay the "circular" rate. The postmark is dated Sep 28 but the die slug for the month is inverted within the handstamp. While this is an error, it is by no means uncommon. The use of the 2 cent 1869 issue from Florida is very uncommon, however, and its use on a mourning cover is even more so. This black bordered envelope used with the 2 cent rate indicates that a printed announcement of a death or the receipt of a death notification was placed within the envelope and the back flap not sealed.

FLORIDA "PROVISIONAL" POST MARKS

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

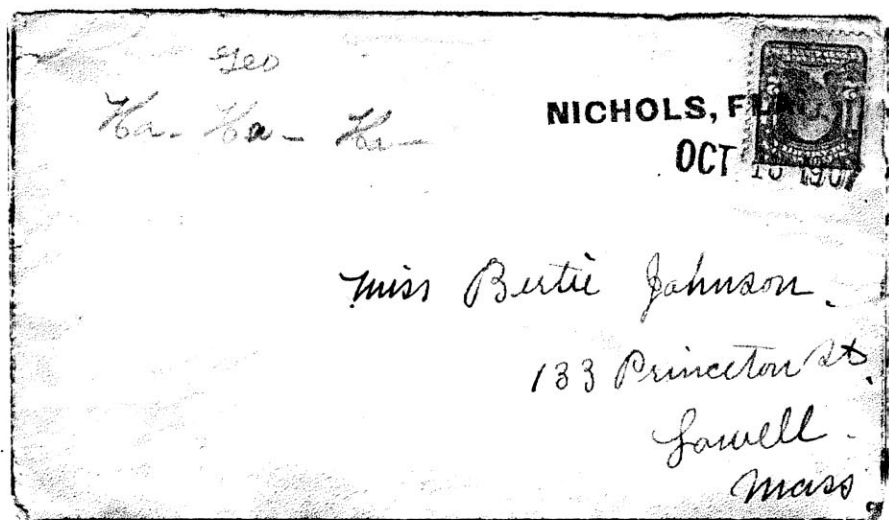
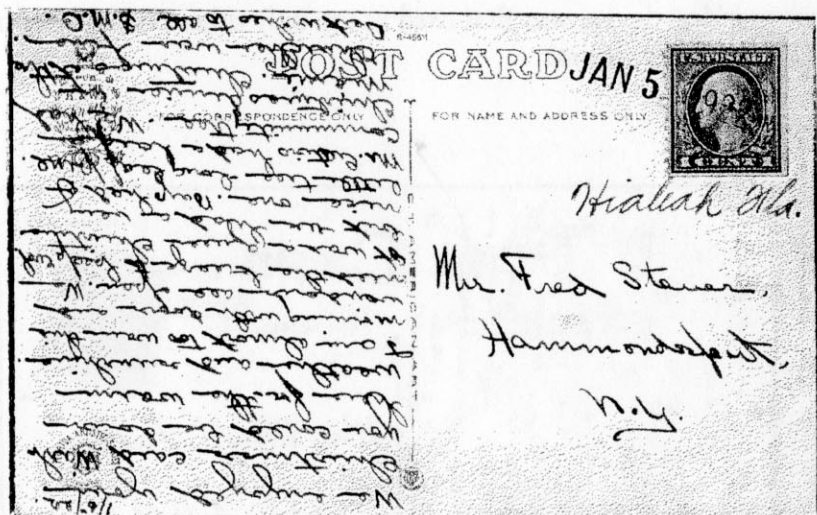


Fig 1. NICHOLS, FLA. OCT 18 1907 blue straightline typeset "provisional" postmark ties #219 to cover

Twentieth Century Florida postal history is a relatively new area of collecting and very rewarding. The popularity of collecting Florida "Doane" postmarks and 4-bar postmarks has exploded recently. Florida R.P.O. postmarks and machine cancels have long been a popular area of collecting and Florida R.F.D. postmarks are readily sought as one of the rarer of 20th century Florida postal history usages. This article will expose our members to an equally rare type of Florida postmark, the **"provisional"** postmark used shortly after a post office was established and before a handstamping device was obtained. By definition, these are early uses of manuscript postmarks, typeset straightline postmarks, and even the use of a handstamp of a previous post office name after its discontinuation. I will attempt to demonstrate several of these various usages and encourage our members to submit other examples for publication and documentation as this is really a new area of collectability.

Millard as the first postmaster. This "provisional" postmark was used during the first three months of operation and is unusual to have a combination of manuscript and handstamp to make up the postmark.



**Fig. 3 Hialeah Fla. manuscript with straightline typeset
JAN 5 1922 date combination "provisional" postmark**

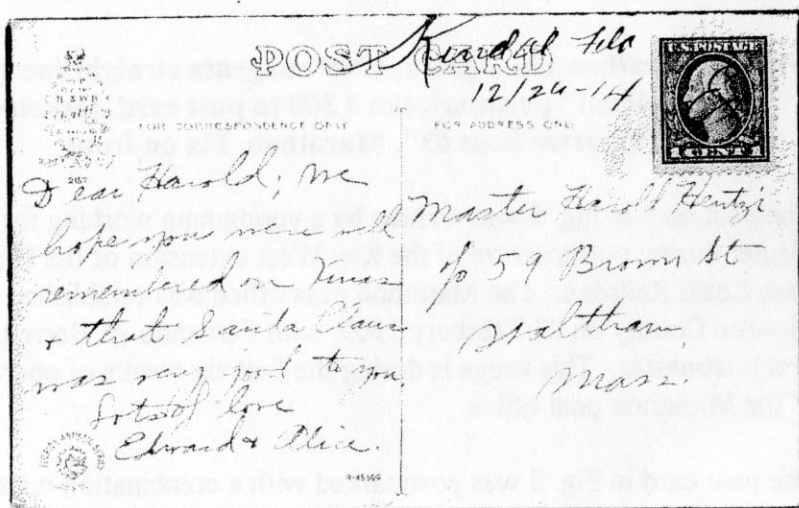


Fig. 4 Kendal Fla 12/26/14 manuscript "provisional" postmark

Manuscript "provisional" postmarks are by far the most common type of "provisional" postmarks. They are known from the stampless period with manuscript postmarks preceding the use of handstamp postmarking devices. They are fairly common in the early banknote period and in many cases where the only type of postmark used by small post offices in Florida with minimal postal revenue since the postmaster was required to purchase his postmarking handstamps at his expense. Late in the 19th century manuscript postmarks became quite uncommon and use of manuscript postmarks in the 20th century is strictly "provisional" in nature. The post card in Fig. 4 was postmarked with manuscript "Kendal Fla 12/26/14 and the 1c Washington stamp was pen cancelled. The Kendal post office was established in Dade County on 8 April 1914, with Robert Drummmond as the first post master. This usage documents at least an 8 month delay before a handstamp postmarking device could have been used.

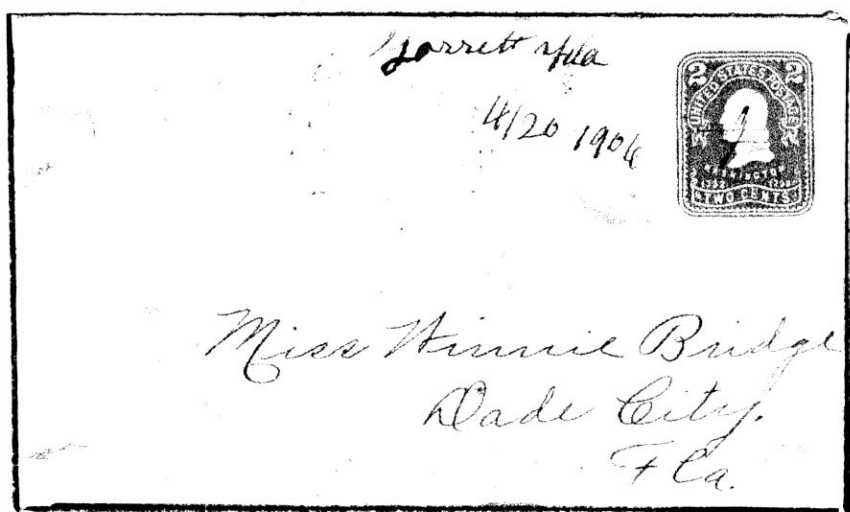


Fig. 5 Garrett Fla 4 / 20 / 1906 manuscript "provisional" postmark on pen cancelled postal entire

The cover in Fig. 5 has a manuscript "provisional" postmark from Garrett, Fla. and an April 20, 1906, routing handstamp from Seffner, Fla. on the reverse as well as a Dade City, Fla receiving handstamp.

The post card in Fig. 7 represents an example of the last type of "provisional" postmarks. This card has a DETROIT / FLA. MAR 27 1915 4-bar handstamp postmark with ties the 1c Washington stamp to the post card. The card is also datelined: Detroit, Fla. The Detroit post office was established in Dade County on 10 December 1910, and was discontinued on 4 November 1914, by name change to Florida City. This usage thus represents usage by the Florida City postmaster with the earlier Detroit handstamp postmarking device five months after the discontinuation of the Detroit post office. Note that the writer also still used the Detroit name in the dateline.

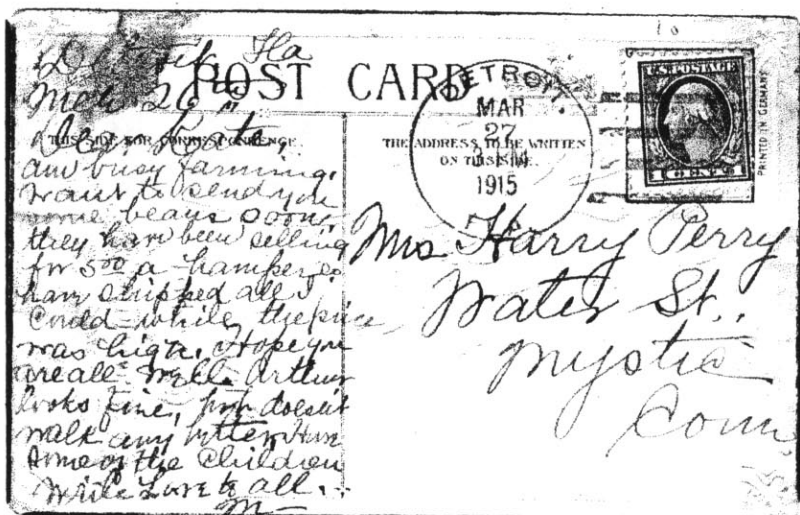


Fig. 7 DETROIT / FLA. MAR 27 1915 four bar "provisional" postmark used by the Florida City post office

Fig. 8 represents another type of handstamp postmark used provisionally until a proper handstamp postmarking device was available. The NARAUJA / FLA. JUL 13 1907 doane type III (1) postmark is a misspelled postmark for the town Naranja which was established in Dade County on 9 January 1906. The post office name was incorrectly spelled in the official postmaster appointment and a

misspelled doane postmarking handstamp was supplied by the POD. This error was corrected by the POD and the town named changed on the official records on 11 April 1906, but apparently the new correctly spelled handstamp was delayed in use for over a year. There are two known examples of a type III(1) doane postmark with the correctly spelled Naranja, but these dates of use are 2 June 1910 and 27 February 1913, very late for issuance of the doane handstamps. There is also a known Naranja 4-bar postmark with date of use 12 June 1909. How long the Narauja "provisional" handstamp was used is unknown as the example in Fig. 8 is the known usage.

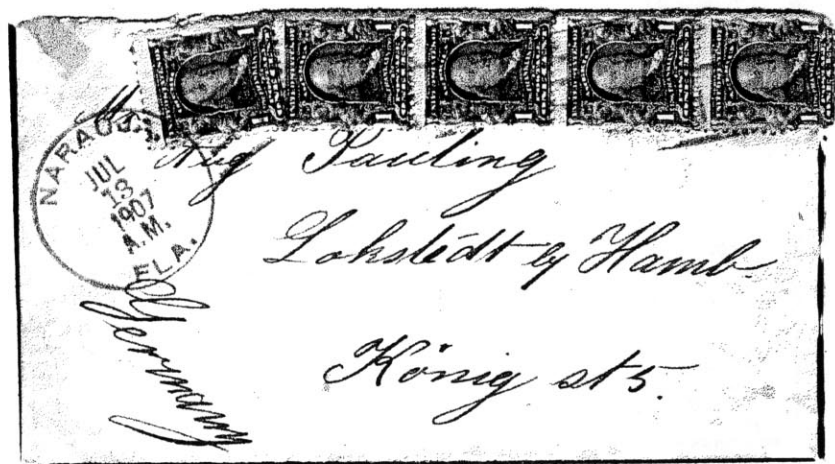


Fig. 8 NARAUJA / FLA. JUL 13 1907 doane type III (1) misspelled postmark ties #300 x5 on cover to Germany. Postmark used "provisionally" until correctly spelled NARANJA device was available over a year later.

The author is sure that several other "provisional" postmarks from Florida are in our members collections. Please submit examples for publication so as to get a census of known usages.

JACKSONVILLE "CRASH" COVER

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

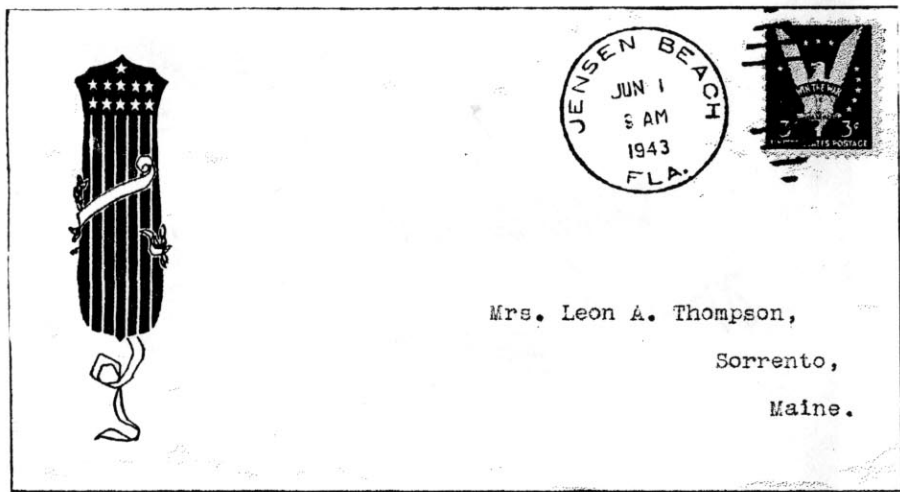


HALLANDALE, / FLA. DEC 20 1955 machine cancel on cover to Canada, with "DAMAGED IN PLANE CRASH" handstamp

This article is written to encourage members to submit interesting items related to Florida Postal History. While this is a piece of recent Florida postal history, it is still of interest and somewhat unusual. The above odd sized cover, presumably containing a Christmas card, was mailed from Hallandale, Florida on the evening of December, 20, 1955, and sent to Canada by airmail on Eastern Airlines Trip 642 AM5, Miami to New York on the early morning of December 21, 1955. The plane crashed at Jacksonville at 3:40 a.m. en-route. The mail on board was salvaged and a magenta handstamp "DAMAGED IN PLANE CRASH" was applied. The cover was received at Maple, Ontario, on the evening of January 3, 1956. The cover suffered visible burns and water stains to the left and bottom. Any members with additional Florida "crash" covers are encouraged to submit them for publication.

FLORIDA WW II PATRIOTIC COVERS

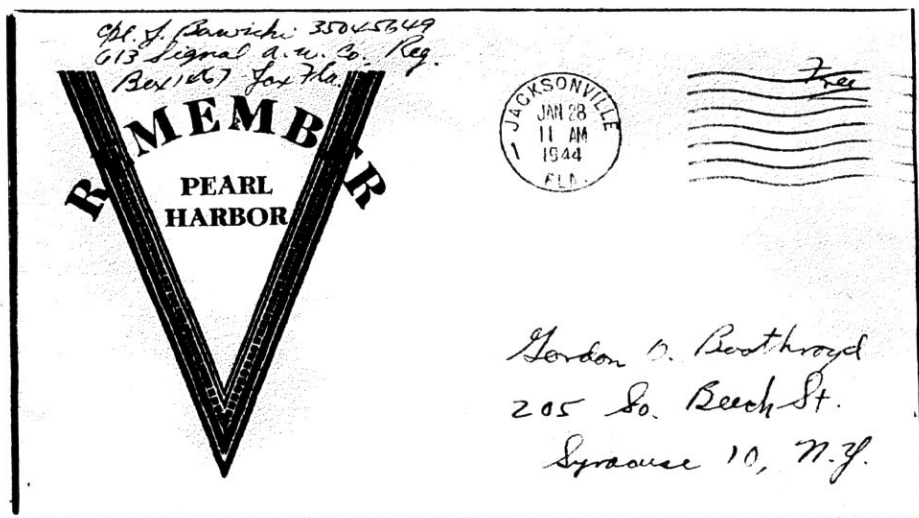
Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



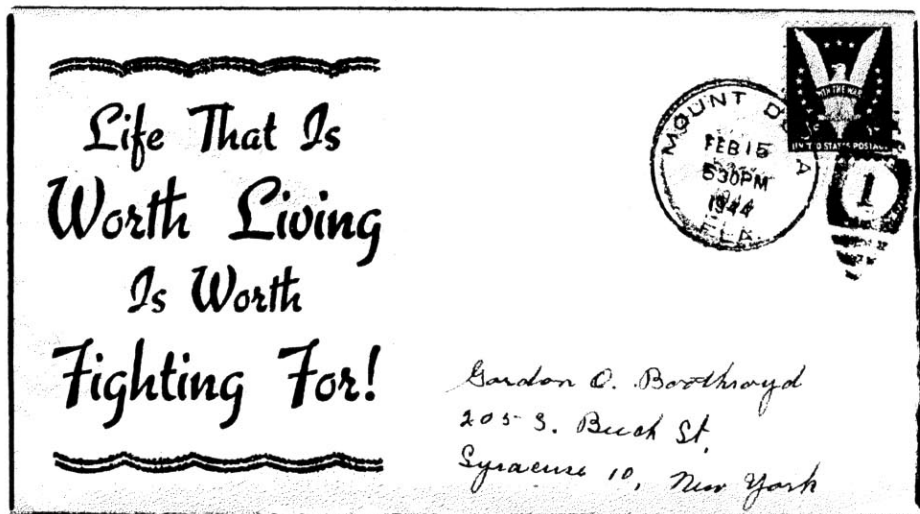
JENSEN BEACH / FLA. JUN 1 1943 first day of use of postmark on WW II patriotic cover

Patriotic covers from Florida are highly collectible, especially those used during the Civil War and Spanish American War periods. Numerous types and variations of Confederate Florida patriotic covers are recorded, and all carry a significant premium valuation over ordinary Confederate usages with the same postmarks. The same can be said of patriotic Florida usages from the Spanish American War period. During this period of "patriotism" in America since September 11, 2001, the author thought it might be interesting to show a few examples of Florida patriotic covers with usages during the WW II period. I am unaware of any WW I patriotic covers from Florida and would appreciate any member with such to submit a photocopy for publication. WW II patriotic covers are not at all scarce and can be purchased for \$5.00 or less at most shows as were these. Although I am unaware of any Florida census of these types of covers, the following examples might just whet your appetite to start collecting them and to start submitting examples for publication. All of these are

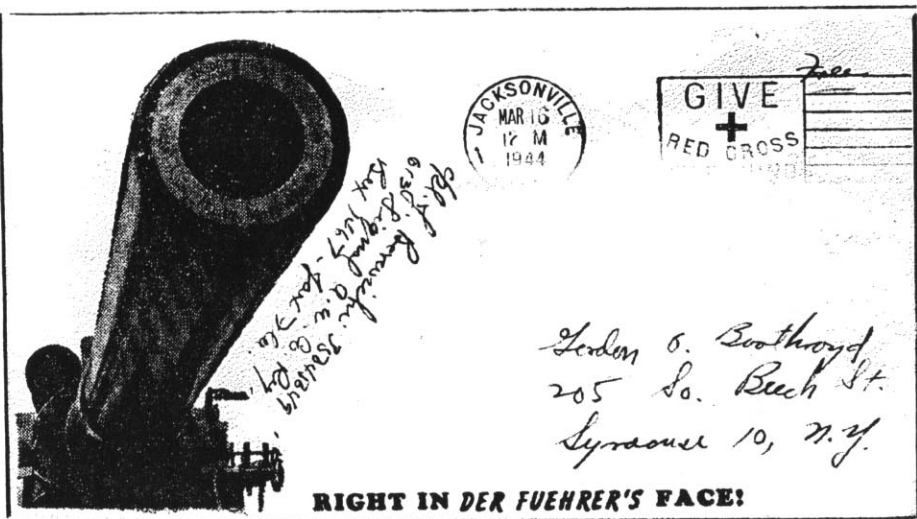
in the patriotic red, white, and blue colors, and those sent "free" by servicemen are properly endorsed.



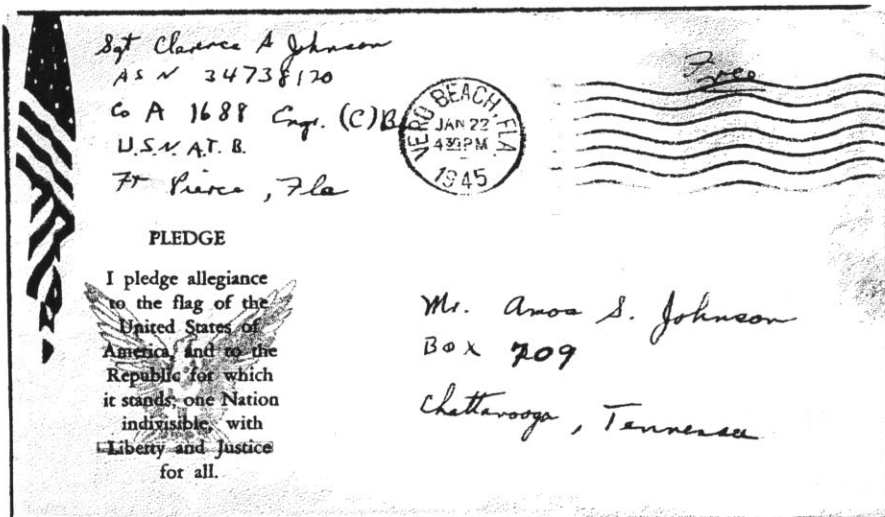
JACKSONVILLE / FLA. JAN 28 1944 machine postmark on WW II patriotic cover with "free" rate



MOUNT DORA / FLA. FEB 15 1944 duplex postmark on WW II patriotic cover



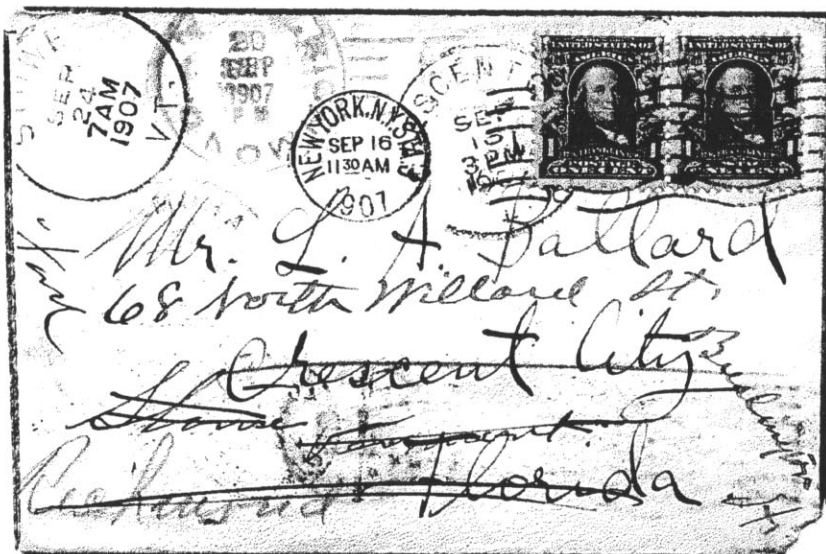
JACKSONVILLE / FLA. MAR 16 1944 machine postmark on
WW II patriotic cover with "free" rate



VERO BEACH, FLA / JAN 22 1945 machine postmark on WW II
patriotic cover with "free" rate

RICHMOND, FLORIDA DOANE

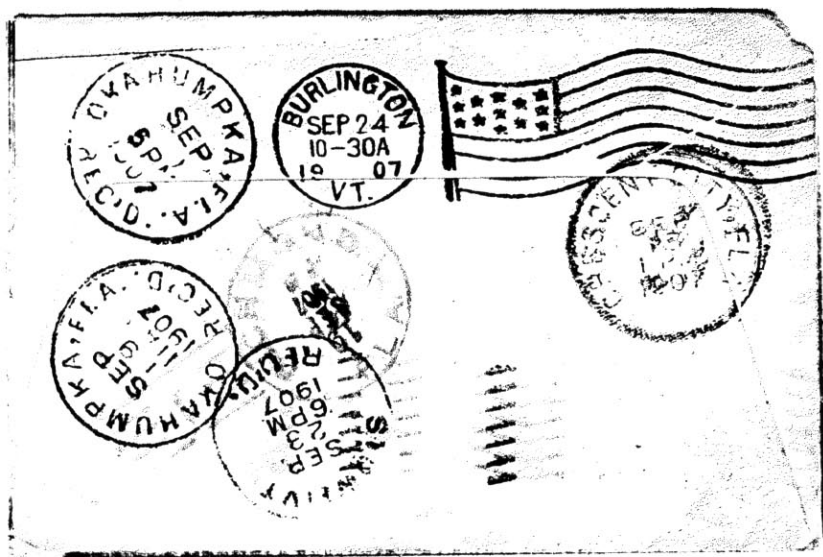
Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



**Multi-forwarded cover with RICHMOND / FLA. SEP 20 1907
doane type I (1) LKU postmark**

At first glance, this cover looks like a lot of multi-forwarded covers with several postmarks and receiving marks on the front and reverse. That is what I thought until I noticed that the Richmond, Florida doane postmark was not on my listing of known Florida doane postmarks and was also one of the rarer type I doanes. This makes this a new Florida doane listing but also the EKU and LKU on the same cover as the same postmark is used on the reverse as a receiving mark a day earlier. The cover originated at New York on Sep 16, 1907 and received at Crescent City, Florida on Sep 18th. It was forwarded to Richmond, Florida on the same day, received a transit marking at Okahumpka on the 19th and received at Richmond on Sep 19, 1907. It was forwarded from Richmond on the 20th, received another transit Okahumpka marking that same day and arrived at Stowe, Vt on Sep 23rd. It was forwarded again from Stowe on Sep

24 at 7am and finally arrived at its destination at Burlington, Vt. that same day at 10:30am. In all this cover has four postmarks, four receiving marks, and two transit marks. Quite an interesting little cover with many post office visits and a lot of distance travelled in only 8 days.



Reverse of cover with six handstamp markings including the EKU of the Richmond type I (1) doane postmark used as a receiving mark on Sep 19, 1907.

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