

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

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MAY 2002

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Membership applications may be obtained from Deane R. Briggs, M.D., 160 E. Lake Howard Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33881, phone: (863) 299-1251, fax: (863) 299-7666, e-mail: drb@gte.net

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

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS - 2002

The following members of the Florida Postal History Society have been denoted as "**Contributing Members**" for their additional contribution to the Society. Your additional dues contribution is acknowledged and appreciated and helped underwrite the cost of a third journal issue this year. The continued support of these members keeps our Society financially sound and enables it to publish our journal and books and publications such as our recently published *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861*, and to respond to member and non-member inquiries regarding Florida Postal History and to furnish complimentary copies of our Journal to those requesting a sample copy. Thanks for the support!!

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2002 ANNUAL MEETING OF FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY - FEBRUARY 2, 2002 - SARASOTA, FLA.

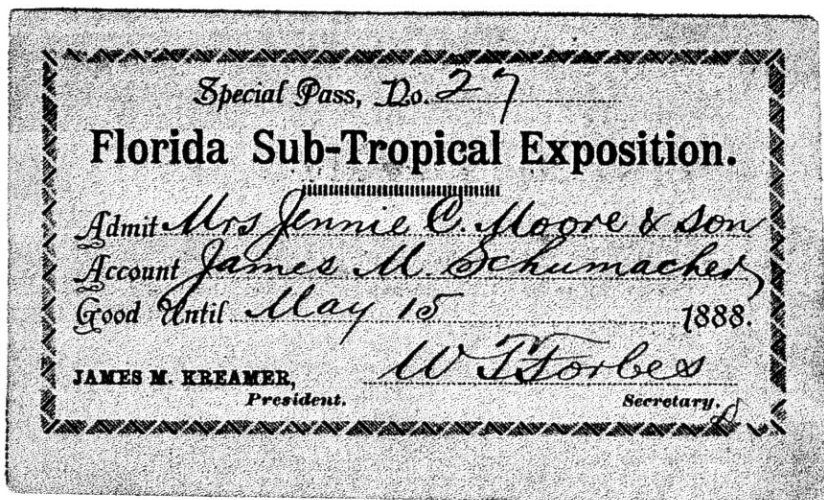
The annual meeting of the Florida Postal History Society was held on Saturday, February 2, 2002, in Sarasota, Florida, in conjunction with the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition. Attendance was outstanding with 15 members and prospective members present. President Donald G. Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. The status of our book, *Florida Stampless Postal History - 1763-1861* was discussed and apparently there are still several hundred copies which remain unsold at the publisher's office. Costs of publication have been recovered but there has been no profit for our Society. This is a shame as the book is an outstanding reference and untold hours of work were required by many of our members to publish it. Anyone wishing a copy can obtain one from the publisher, David G. Phillips, Inc., P.O. Box 611388, North Miami, FL 33161. He has listed the book for sale at under \$30 on eBay and even at that price sales are slow.

Treasurer Deane R. Briggs reported that our Society has 91 active members at this time and \$3866.58 in the checking account and 2002 dues are yet to be collected. We are very sound financially. With that in mind he will attempt to publish 3 issues of our journal this year if members submit articles for publication. He is also attempting to publish a book on **Florida Postmaster and County Postmarks** that the late Larry Resnick had initiated. Any member with a Florida Postmaster or County postmark should submit a photocopy of such to Deane R. Briggs, M.D., 160 E. Lake Howard Dr., Winter Haven, FL 33881, so that a complete census of known usage can be made.

Members exhibiting at the show included Conrad L. Bush, Alex Hall, Theodore Light, and Herbert P. McNeal. All exhibits were well appreciated. The remainder of the meeting was a lengthy slide talk on Florida Stampless Postal History before Statehood by Dr. Briggs. The talk was well received and several of the cover shown were ones that member Ken Rice once had in his collection. He commented that it was good to see them again. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

FLORIDA SUB-TROPICAL EXPOSITION

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

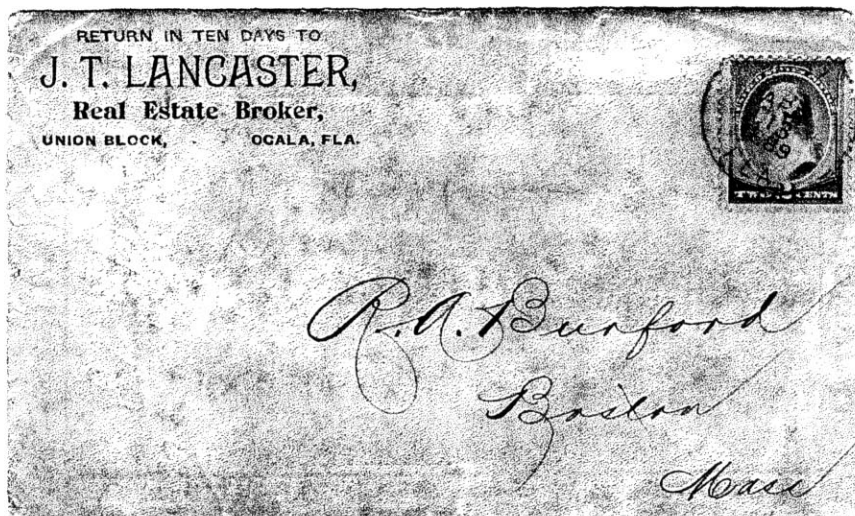


Florida Sub-Tropical Exposition 1888 special pass

In the article on the Florida Sub-Tropical Exposition which I wrote in the January 2001 issue of the *Florida Postal History Journal* it was stated that the exposition was to remain open until May 1888. I have found the above special pass issued by Secretary W. T. Forbes authorizing the admission of Mrs. Jennie C. Moore and son, good until May 15, 1888. It appears that the exposition was to remain open until that time. The undisclosed fee for the pass was apparently charged to the account of James M. Schumacher. He may well have been the employer of Mrs. Moore. The admission price is unknown to me but could not have been very much. The pass also identifies the President of the Exposition as James M. Kreamer. The late William Bomar was shown this pass before his death and stated that he had never seen a pass for this exposition. A little non-philatelic item can add to the history of this most important Florida exposition.

OCALA FLORIDA INTER-NATIONAL AND SEMI-TROPICAL EXPOSITION

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



**OCALA / FLA. APR 13 1889 cds postmark on with J.T.
Lancaster, Real Estate Broker corner card on exposition cover**

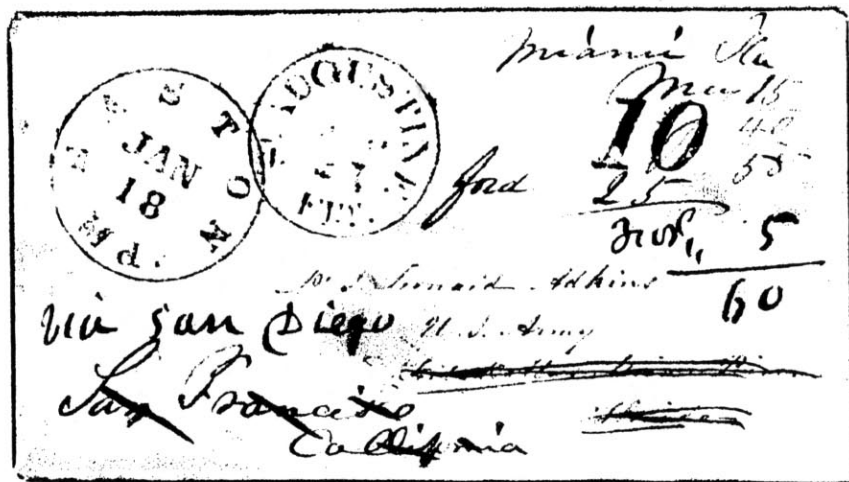
Another cover from the Ocala 1889 Florida Inter-National and Semi-Tropical Exposition has surfaced with a different corner card from the ones recorded by Herb McNeal last year in the *Florida Postal History Journal* vol. 8, no.2. This is the second example of the first advertising type recorded by Herb. It was obtained by a dealer in New England, so there may be more yet to be found. The cds postmark is the same on all three known covers and implies that there was not an official U.S.P.O. Exposition post mark as was the case a year earlier at the Jacksonville Exposition. The fact that all three corner cards are commercial entities might imply that the reverse advertisement for the exposition may have been only offered to commercial entities and not offered to the general public.



Florida Inter-National and Semi-Tropical Exposition advertising cover reverse with "fleurons" and upper case lettering, the second example of this type recorded

MIAMI STAMPLESS COVER UPDATE

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



**Miami Fla May 1 (1851) postmark on forwarded cover
with 40 cent Florida to California rate**

The above cover was reported in the last issue of the *Florida Postal History Journal* vol. 9, no. 1, January 2002, and was unclear as to the year of usage. Member Niles Schuh has helped me considerably by contacting an authority on Fort Dallas, William M. Straight, M.D. from Miami. He wrote a comprehensive article on Fort Dallas and did original research at the National Archives in Washington where he obtained copies of military correspondence from Dr. Isaac Leonard Adkins while stationed at Fort Dallas. This is most interesting and members are encouraged to read Dr. Straight's article "Fort Dallas, a most salubrious post" *Journal of the Florida Medical Association*, Vol. 69, No. 8, 1982, pp. 706-712. I have a complete copy of this article if anyone would like a copy. I have also submitted an article to *The Chronicle* for publication on this cover which incorporates some of Dr. Straight's information.

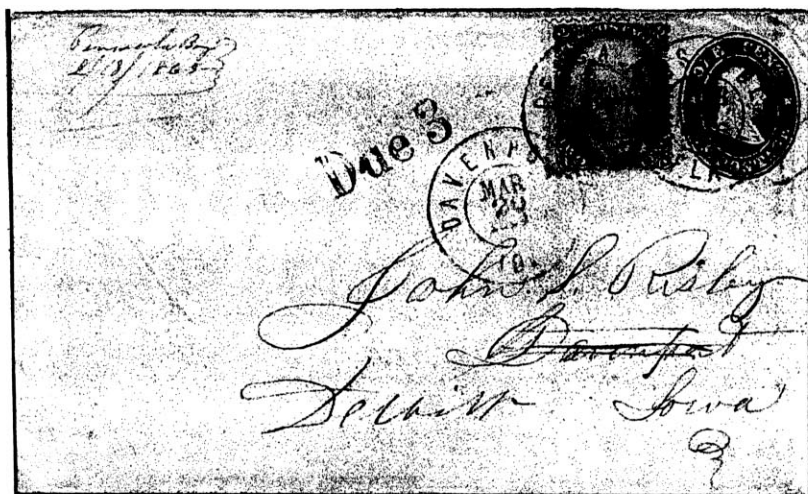
It is now clear that this cover is from 1851, and forwarded after Dr. Adkins departed Fort Dallas in December of 1850 when the fort was abandoned. It is not clear why a four month delay in forwarding the cover was necessary as the cover was received in Miami certainly by the end of February 1851. Since there was no personnel at the abandoned fort and no military post office was there, it is logical that the letter arrived at the Miami post office which had been handling mail for Fort Dallas since the Miami post office opened 18 February 1850.

Dr. Adkins is noteworthy in that he may have been the first physician in Florida to use ether anesthesia for a surgical procedure to remove a fishhook from a soldier's hand as reported in his "Quarterly Report of the Sick and Wounded at Fort Dallas for the Quarter Ending June 30th, 1850. "the operation though simple, would have caused much pain, but for the inhalation of Aether which rendered the patient insensible to pain, though, not entirely unconscious of the proceedings."

From another source, *The Medical Profession in 19th Century Florida*, "A Biographical Register", by E. Ashby Hammond, Ph.D., George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 1996, we have learned that the addressee was Isaac Leonard Adkins, M.D., a native of Delaware, commissioned Assistant Surgeon in the United States Army on November 23, 1849. Within a few weeks he was dispatched to Florida to become medical officer of the detachment of troops at the garrison on the Miami River. It was a small group commanded by Major Francis Woodbridge, the total complement being 51 men. The census of 1850 designates him as "surgeon to the Garrison at the Miami River". He resigned from military service on October 8, 1852. Nothing further is known of him.

PENSACOLA BAY CIVIL WAR UNION USAGE

Kenneth L. Rice

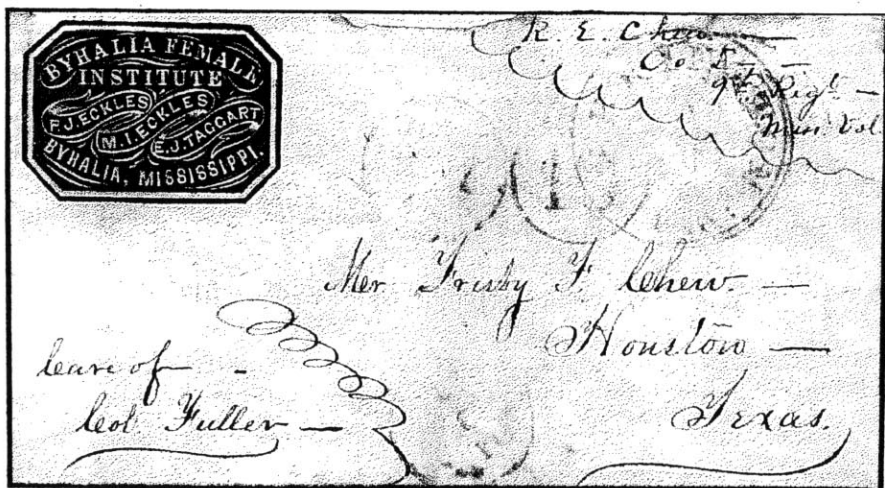


Pensacola Bay / 2-18-1863 manuscript (?postmark) on Union usage with PENSACOLA / FLA FEB 21 1863 double circle postmark x2 which ties #73 to U19 envelope, usage to Davenport, Iowa with forwarding to Detroit with additional DUE 3 rate

The above cover has been in my collection for many years and generated considerable interest when I helped edit the *Florida Postal History and Postal Markings of the Stampless Period*. Was this a manuscript postmark from a town of Pensacola Bay? Such a listing was omitted since no official post office of the name Pensacola Bay was noted in the available microfilm archives. This notwithstanding, the cover is a beautiful usage from the period of Union occupation of Pensacola with a most rare usage of the 2cent "Blackjack" stamp from Florida. How the cover was handled in the mails from Pensacola is not clear, but most mail from Pensacola during the Union occupation was sent by ship around Florida to enter the mails somewhere along the east coast. The cover then went on to Davenport, Iowa, requiring 30 days before being forwarded on to Detroit. This is the only cover I have seen with the docketing "Pensacola Bay" and a date resembling an actual postmark and the only "Blackjack" and 1cent entire combo.

WARRINGTON, Fla. DUE 10 CONFEDERATE LISTING

William H. Johnson, DDS



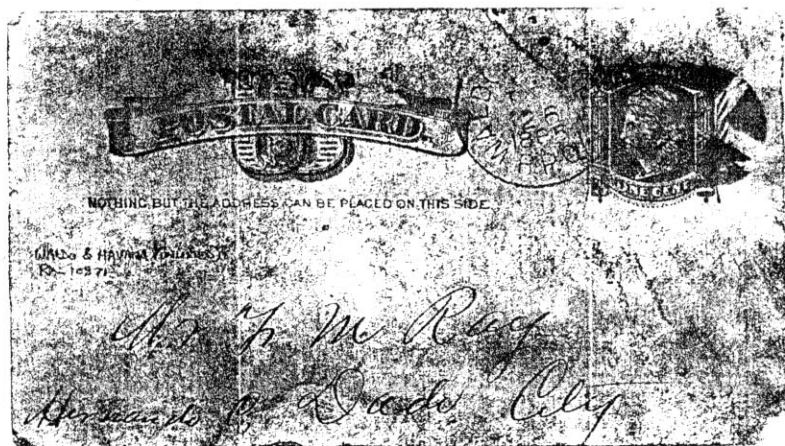
WARRINGTON / Fla. NOV - postmark with DUE 10 (type IB) rate on 1861 soldier's cover with Byhalia Female Institute blue imbossed corner card

The above cover was recently obtained from the Shreves sale of the Gordon G. Bleuler collection of Confederate covers. It has a very weak strike of the Warrington postmark and a pair of weakly struck DUE (Dietz type I) handstamped markings and a weak but clearly struck 10 rate (Dietz type B). These markings are recorded in Dietz but not noted in the American Stampless Cover Catalog vol. 3. This usage must be extremely uncommon and is the only known usage in the computer listing of known Florida Confederate usage compiled by Deane R. Briggs. All other known unpaid (Due) covers from Warrington are for an under 500 mile 5 cent rate, in use prior to the rate change of July 1, 1862. These covers are mostly to relatives of troops from who were stationed at Warrington prior to the CSA evacuation and subsequent occupation by Union forces on May 10, 1862, and are addressed mainly to Mississippi and Alabama.

WALDO & HAVANA R.P.O.

DEANE R. BRIGGS, M.D.

While browsing through a postal history auction catalogue a few years ago, I was drawn to a listing of Waldo & Havana R.P.O. 1885 on GPC. I collect Florida R.P.O.'s and this looked like an unrecorded example. Because of dark toning to the postal card, the photocopy of the item which I received from the auction company was at best barely readable. I must admit that I was wondering if I had come across a steamship marking used to Havana, Cuba. The address was to Dade City which is on the railroad line connecting Waldo and Tampa. Perhaps there was a continuation by ship from Tampa to Havana. I placed a fairly high bid but was unsuccessful in obtaining the item.

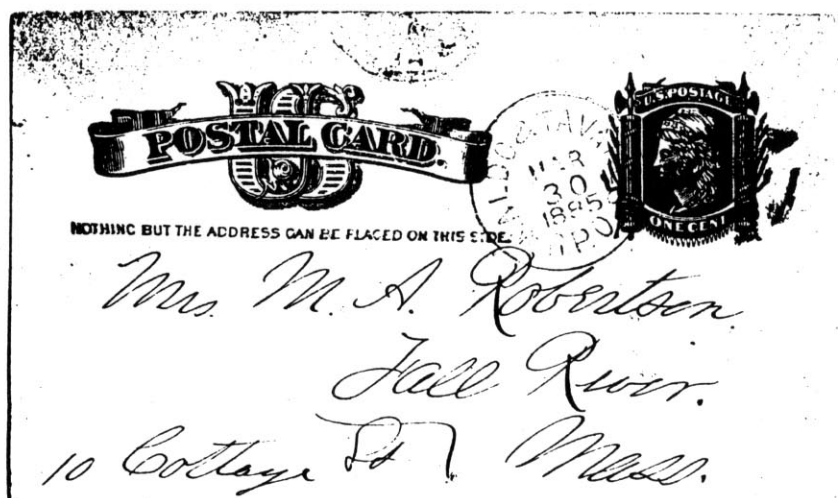


WALDO & (H)AVA(NA) ? R.P.O. FEB 26 1885 on GPC usage to Dade City

One problem with this R.P.O. is that it is not a known listing in The Mobile Post Office Society publication, *The United States Railway Post Office Postmark Catalog 1864 to 1977, volume 3*, by Fred MacDonald and Charles L Towle. There is an actual town of Havana, Florida located in Gadsden county, but it is located a few miles off the railroad line and its post office was not even established until 1890. A

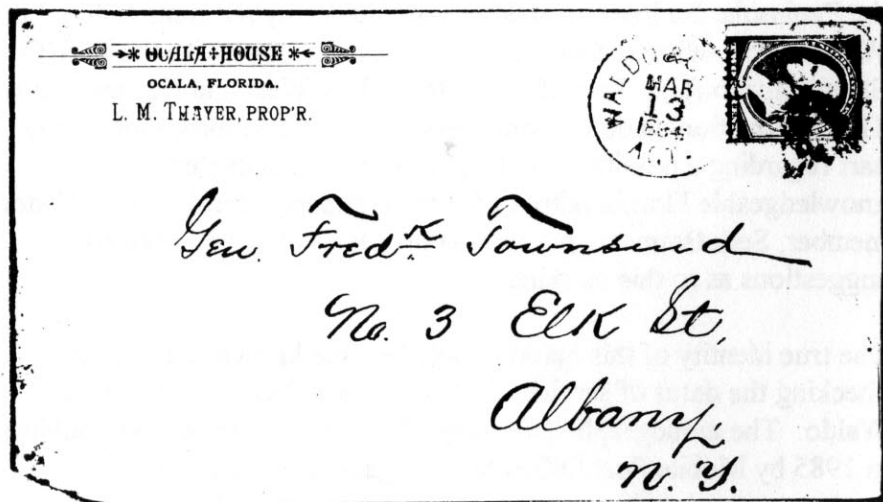
discussion with Herb McNeal regarding this cover led him to think that it might have been from the Florida town of Havana, as it is shown on a Granville Railroad map of 1914, located on the Georgia, Florida, and Alabama Railroad, connecting at Tallahassee with the Sea Air Line of the Peninsular Railroad to Baldwin and thence by the same railroad to Waldo. This railroad also connected at Port Tampa with the P. & O. Steamship Co.(U.S. Fast Mail Route) to Key West and Havana, Cuba. This information made for some very interesting suppositions on my part regarding a possible new R.P.O. listing. I contacted a very knowledgeable Florida railroad collector and ex- Florida Postal History member, Seth Bramson, but he was unable to offer any answers or suggestions as to this marking.

The true identity of this marking only became known to me after checking the dates of service of the various R.P.O.'s originating in Waldo. The monograph "*Directory of Railway Post Offices*" published in 1985 by Mobile Post Office Society gave all the information necessary to solve this puzzle and this publication is highly recommended to all R.P.O. collectors. This marking must be a poorly struck example of the WALDO & TAVARES R.P.O. which is unlisted in MacDonald and Towle's catalog, but was in service from November



**Clear strike of WALDO & TAVARES R.P.O.
MAR 30 1885 also used after date of name change**

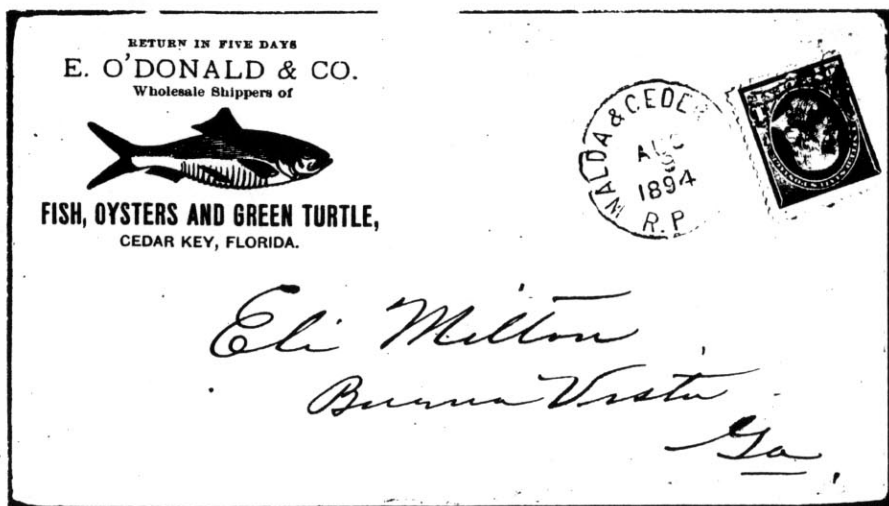
17, 1884 until February 14, 1885 when it changed to FERNANDINA & TAVARES R.P.O. This mark must have been used after the change of name until a new R.P.O. postmarking device was supplied.



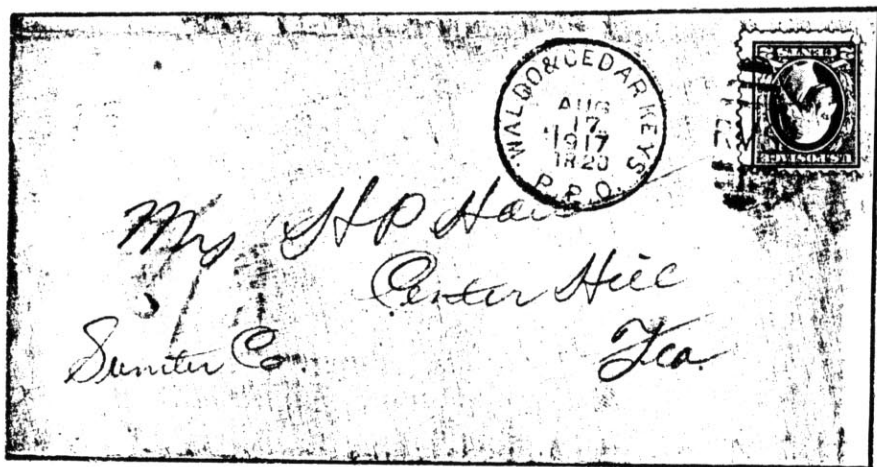
**Unlisted example of WALDO & OCALA AGT.
MAR 13 1884 postmark used after change to R.P.O.**

Actual R.P.O. service from Waldo began with the WALDO & OCALA Route Agent used from January 17, 1882 until August 1, 1882 when it became WALDO & OCALA R.P.O. This route covered 47 miles and was served by the Peninsular Railroad. On December 1, 1882, the route was extended to Wildwood (71 miles) and it became the WALDO & WILDWOOD R.P.O. This in turn was extended to Tavares (98 miles) and became the WALDO & TAVARES R.P.O. on November 17, 1884 and was served by the Florida Railroad & Navigation Co. The line was further extended to Fernandina on February 14, 1885 as the FERNANDINA & TAVARES R.P.O. (183 miles) and later on October 15, 1885 was extended to Orlando as the FERNANDINA & ORLANDO R.P.O. (213 miles). Also on February 14, 1885 a separate WALDO & CEDAR KEYS R.P.O. (71 miles) was established from the FERNANDINA & CEDAR KEYS R.P.O. and served by the Florida Transit Railroad. It appears from the above numerous R.P.O. name changes and railroad changes that the Florida population growth during

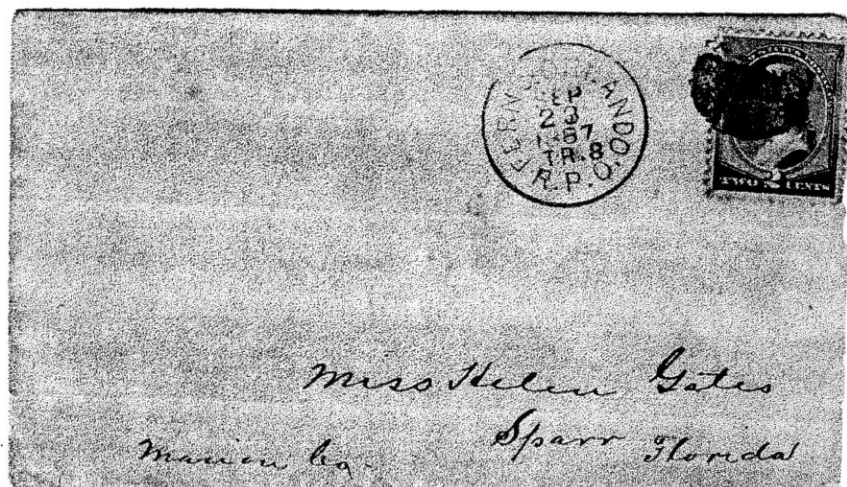
this short time frame mandated an expanding mail service. This is the same time frame for many new Florida post offices to become established, many class four offices with fancy "post master" or "county" postmarks which is a growing area of postal history interest.



WALDA & CEDER KEYS R.P.O. AUG 9 1894
 postmark (unlisted with both Waldo & Cedar misspelled)
 on advertising corner card cover.



WALDO & CEDAR KEYS R.P.O. AUG 17 1917 postmark
 on cover to Center Hill, Fla.



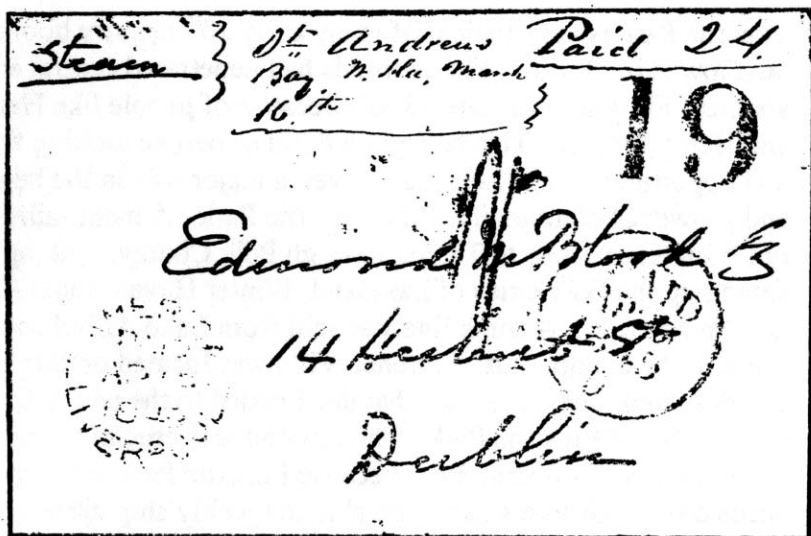
FERN & ORLANDO R.P.O. SEP 23 1887 on cover to Sparr, Florida. The Fernandina & Orlando R.P.O. was established on October 15, 1885 as an extension of the Fernandina & Tavares R.P.O. which had replaced the Waldo & Tavares R.P.O.

Chronology of the Waldo & Tavares R.P.O.

Waldo & Ocala Route Agent established January 17, 1882 - 47 miles
Waldo & Ocala R.P.O. by name change August 1, 1882
Waldo & Wildwood R.P.O. by change December 1, 1882 - 71 miles
Waldo & Tavares R.P.O. by change November 17, 1884 - 98 miles
Fernandina & Cedar Keys Route Agent established March 3, 1869 - 155 miles as change from Fernandina & Gainesville Route Agent
Fernandina & Cedar Keys R.P.O. by name change August 1, 1882
Fernandina & Tavares R.P.O. by split February 14, 1885 with Waldo & Cedar Keys R.P.O. - 183 miles
Fernandina & Orlando R.P.O. by change October 15, 1885 - 213 miles
Waldo & Cedar Keys R.P.O. by change February 14, 1885 - 71 miles from Fernandina & Cedar Keys R.P.O.

ST. ANDREWS BAY A NEW STAMPLESS LISTING

Han Siem, M.D.



St. Andrews Bay W. Fla March 16th (1849) manuscript postmark with Paid 24 rate on cover to Dublin, Ireland

The above cover is an unusual Florida stampless cover from St. Andrews Bay, Florida with usage to Dublin, Ireland. It is a new stampless manuscript postmark listing, previously unrecorded in *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763 – 1861*. It has a **Paid 24** rate reflecting the 24c Treaty Rate in effect in 1849 and is docketed "Steamer" but not with the vessel named. It must have been sent from New York to Liverpool where a **LIVERPOOL PAID APR 9 1849** transit mark was placed and sent on to Dublin where a **PAID APR 10 1849 D** receiving mark was placed. The **19** handstamp is to reflect a credit of 19c for the treaty packet less the 5c rate for the St. Andrews Bay to New York portion. All in all a great new addition to Florida Stampless Postal History.

LUCERNE PARK – A POLK CO. GHOST TOWN

David C. Lingard

Lucerne Park is very typical of many early 20th century boom and bust towns in Florida. The railroads had penetrated central and southern Florida in the late 1800's because of people like Henry Plant and Henry Flagler. This brought a flood of people looking for land and opportunity. The railroads played a major role in the beginnings and growth of communities like Lucerne Park. A main railroad line ran from Kissimmee to Tampa through Polk County. Along that line sprang up the Polk cities of Lakeland, Winter Haven, Lake Alfred, and Haines City. A trunk line was laid from Lake Alfred south to Bartow, the county seat. Florence Villa was located on this trunk line. Off this trunk line ran a spur that dead-ended to the newly formed community of Lucerne Park. The railroad was crucial to the development of Lucerne Park because Lucerne Park was formed as a citrus co-op. Growers had to be able to quickly ship citrus to northern markets. Much of the current State Highway 544 was built on the old graded ACL railroad bed of the Lucerne Park spur.

A great deal of the land, which was to become Lucerne Park was owned by Dr. Fred Inman. Dr. Inman was to play a very prominent role in Florence Villa and the greater Winter Haven community. Sometime before 1910, Dr. Inman sold 1,700 acres to two brothers, M.E. Gillett and D.C. Gillett. M.E. Gillett was a former Mayor of Tampa and had been in the citrus business for decades. The two brothers formed the Lucerne Park Fruit Association. In 1911 a lumber mill started operation and they began to clear the land for planting citrus trees. They started with 100 ten-acre sites. The cost of each 10-acre site was \$6,500 and included 625 planted citrus trees. The Fruit Association was to act as a cooperative with the landowners.

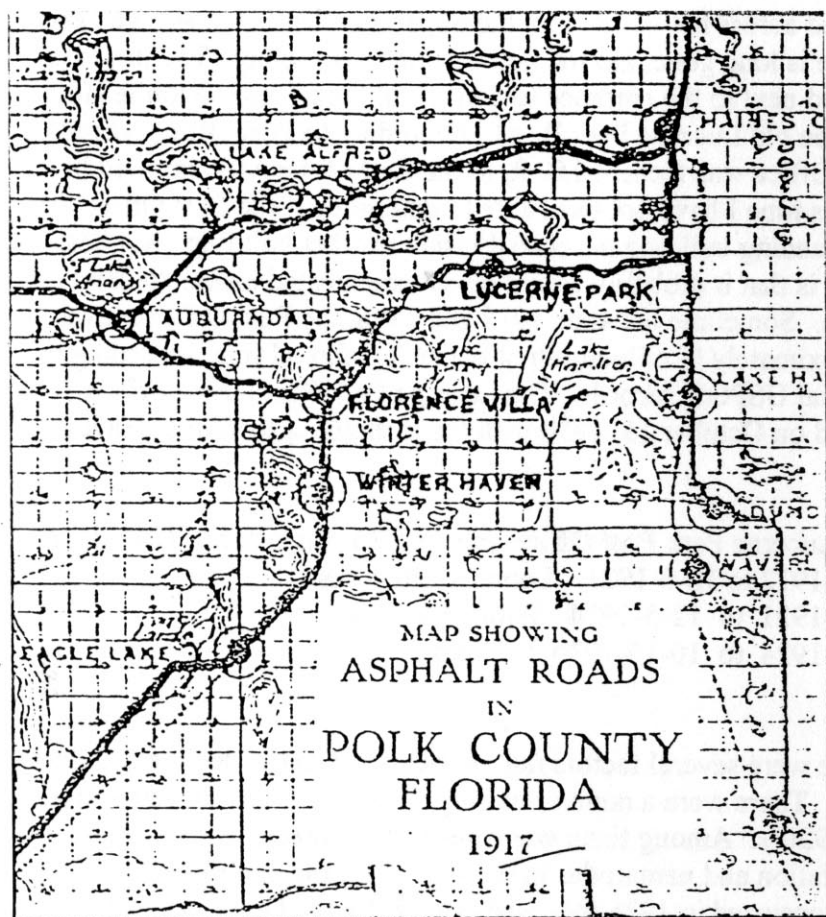
The Post Office officially began operation on July 26, 1912. According to a story written by Jean S. Kaas, the Post Office was

located across the street from the Superintendent's house. The Post Office is long gone, but the house remains till today. The house is located next to the entrance to Swiss Golf and Tennis Mobile Home Park on old Lucerne Park Road. According to Post Office records the Post Office was located 150 ft. to the East of the ACL railroad line. At this time I have not been able to determine if the Post Office was a freestanding building or located inside another building. My best guess is that it probably would have been located inside the land sales office. Sometime between 1912 and 1928, the Post Office moved approximately ½ mile South of the ACL railroad line, according to Official USPOD records. The Lucerne Park Post Office officially closed on October 15, 1930 with the mail going to Winter Haven.

The Lucerne Park Post Office only had 3 Postmasters. They were:
7-26-1912 to 12-6-1921 Leon Dewitt Niles
12-7-1921 to 12-5-1924 William T. Keyes
12-6-1924 to 10-15-1930 William S. Scott

There were several factors that probably led to the decline of Lucerne Park. There were a number of plagues that infected the citrus trees in the 1920's. Among them was a serious Mediterranean fruit fly infestation and nematodes in the soil. Also the great Florida Land Bust occurred in 1926 followed quickly by the Great Depression in 1929. Lucerne Park is one of the few Polk County DPO's, that I can not find a definitive reason why or who it was named for. Today the original citrus community is long gone, replaced by 2 Golf courses, a large industrial park, several mobile home parks, and a cattle ranch.

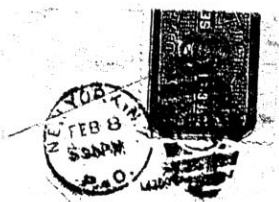
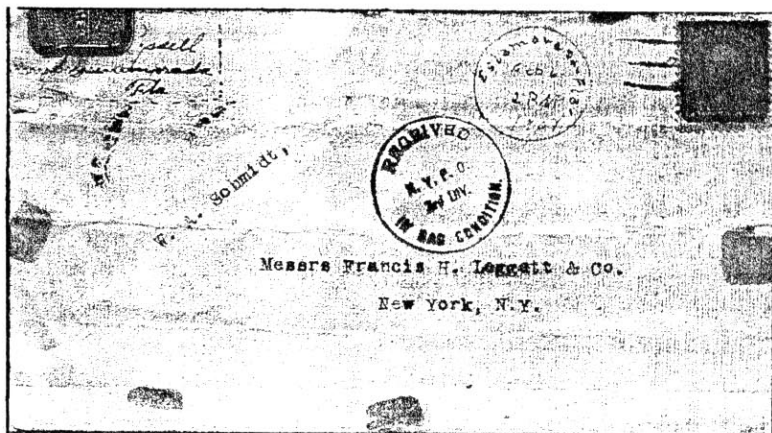
According to "A Checklist of Florida Post Offices", by Richard Helbock, Lucerne Park has a scarcity rating of "2." I do not have an example of a postmark from Lucerne Park, nor have I ever seen one for sale. If you have Lucerne Park postmarks, I would be forever grateful for a photocopy for my records as I continue my research on Polk County Post Offices.



Editor's Note: This article is the direct result of a letter I received from member Dr. Everett L. Parker, who requested an article about Lucerne Park and Florence Villa, which were located near where his in-laws live. He had just finished a visit and drove by the present day site of these "ghost towns". The editor is appreciative of David Lingard's knowledge and research of the Polk County post offices and his willingness to write this article. I too, have never seen any item of post history related to Lucerne Park. A future article by Dave on Florence Villa and Dr. Fred Inman will be published next year. There is much to write about that man and his "Florence Villa".

ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA PROVISIONAL

Richard Helbock

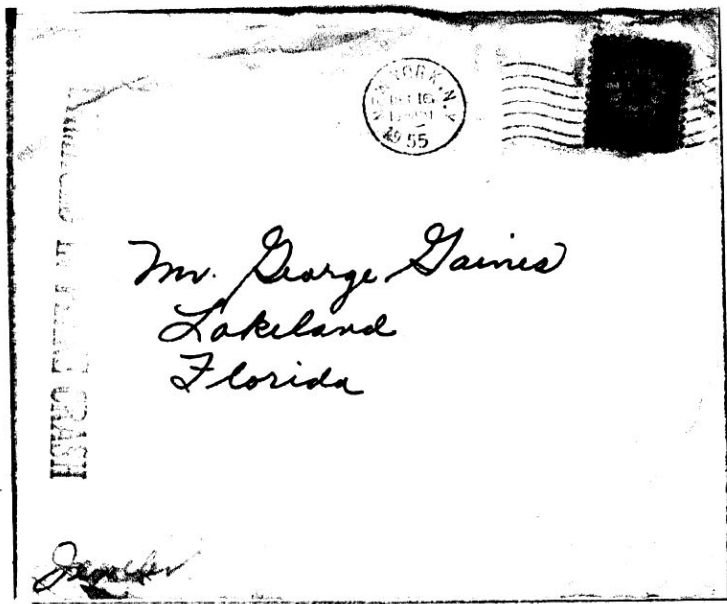


ISLAMORADA / FLA FEB 6 2P.M. 1909 manuscript "provisional" mimic of a 4-bar postmark which ties #319 on damaged cover to N.Y. with Feb 8 New York receiving mark

The article by Deane R. Briggs, M.D. in the last issue of the *Florida Postal History Journal* has prompted me to document yet another Florida **provisional** postmark used shortly after the establishment of the Islamorada post office. The postmark is unusual in that it is actually a manuscript postmark made to resemble a cds 4 bar handstamp but with only three bars in the killer. The Islamorada post office was established on 01 June 1908 with John H. Russell as postmaster. Apparently no handstamping device had been obtained by him in over 9 months. The cover also is unusual in that it has an **Officially Sealed** stamp at the upper left. A **RECEIVED IN BAD CONDITION** handstamp was applied by the New York receiving post office as well as a received mark of Feb 8 (only two days transit time is not bad even today).

ANOTHER FLORIDA "CRASH" COVER

William Hancock



"DAMAGED IN PLANE CRASH" handstamp on cover from New York addressed to Lakeland, Florida

The article in the last issue of the Florida Postal History Journal on the "Jacksonville Crash Cover" reminded me of a similar cover I have had for many years. The above cover was given to me in 1956 by a stamp dealer in Lakeland, Florida. He stated that this cover was from an Eastern Airlines plane crash at Jacksonville, Fla. I have no more information about the cover. It was mailed on December 16, 1955 from New York and postmarked at 7:30 pm. Only 3c postage was paid yet the cover appears to have been sent on a plane headed south bound toward Florida. The exact location of this crash and the time is unknown for sure. It might very well have been in or near Jacksonville since the "Damaged In Plane Crash" handstamp is identical and probably was applied at Jacksonville. It seems to be a different crash from the cover reported by Dr. Briggs, yet only 4 days apart. It seems like mid-December of 1955 was a dangerous time to be a pilot carrying the mail either to or from Florida.

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Benbrook, TX 76126
(817) 244-2447

GORDON D. McHENRY

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

HERBERT P. McNEAL

520 Lakemont Ave. South
Winter Park, FL 32792
(407) 644-4012

ED PALMER

P.O. Box 8083
North Port, FL 34287
(941) 426-6369

DAVID G. PHILLIPS

P.O. Box 611388
North Miami, FL 33161
(305) 895-0470

JOEL RIND

14 W. 8th Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402
(423) 266-0523

S. GEORGE TRAGER

1090 Kane Concourse, #201
Bay Harbor, FL 33154
(305) 868-4727

PHIL V. WARMAN

Suncoast Stamp Co., Inc.
3231 Gulf Gate Dr. #102
Sarasota, FL 34231
(941) 921-9761

C. MICHAEL WIEDEMANN

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