

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

VOL. 10, NO. 2

JUNE 2003

Florida "Censored" Mail

Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 3

Palmetto, Fla. Reconstruction Usage

Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 8

Warrington / Fla. A New Stampless Listing

Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 9

Florida Steamboat Markings

Herbert P. McNeal 11

A New Florida County Postmark

Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 14

A "Peculiar" Florida Usage to Cuba

Herbert P. McNeal 15

Afghanistan To Florida – Modern Postal History

Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 17

Lordia (Lorida) Florida

Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 18

Rood, Fla. Provisional Usage

Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 20

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	THEODORE LIGHT
PAST PRESIDENT -	DONALD G. THOMPSON
VICE PRESIDENT -	EDWARD R. JOYCE
SEC. - TREASURER -	DEANE R. BRIGGS, M.D.
JOURNAL EDITOR -	DEANE R. BRIGGS, M.D.
REGIONAL EDITORS -	NILES F. SCHUH
	THEODORE LIGHT
	HERBERT P. McNEAL

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 - 2003

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 past year. The continued support of these members keeps our Society financially sound and enables it to publish our journal and books such as our recent publication, *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!!

**Lee R. Andrus
Hector Arvelo
Deane R. Briggs, M.D.
Conrad L. Bush
William E. Callihan
Dan Curtis
James P. Doolin
Harry G. Dow
Richard Frajola
William A. Fox
William J. Hancock
Todd D. Hause
Richard W. Helbock
Henry Higgins
William Johnson
Edward R. Joyce
John L. Kimbrough
Lon King
Alan E. Knight
Theodore Light**

**David C. Lingard
William C. Lyons
Millard H. Mack
Gordon McHenry
Herbert P. McNeal
Charles F. Meroni, Jr.
James Moses
Burnham S. Neill
Brenda Noah
Dr. Everett L. Parker
Kenneth L. Rice
Niles Schuh
Han T. Siem, M.D.
Katherine L. Steele
Donald G. Thompson
S. George Trager
Phillip V. Warman
John Watford
Robert B. Whitney
C. Michael Wiedemann**

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING 2003

The annual meeting of the Florida Postal History Society was held on Saturday, February 2, 2003 at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition. The meeting was very well attended by 18 members and guests. Outgoing president Donald Thompson introduced our new president, Theodore Light from Naples. Ted has been very active in Florida postal history and helped with our Stampless postal history book and continues to send in new listings and updates. He presented a nice talk on unique or examples of only 1-2 known from various Florida stampless covers in his collection.

Secretary-Treasurer, Deane Briggs, reported that our Society is sound financially and able to publish three issues of our journal annually. The next project for the Society is the publication of a small book on the small late 19th Century Florida towns with either postmaster or county postmarks. Anyone with examples of these postmarks is to send photocopies of them to Dr. Briggs to aid in an accurate census of known examples.

During the meeting a discussion was held regarding modern Florida postal history. Examples of various First Day postmarks from Eatonville for the Hurston stamp were shown and well received.

FLORIDA "CENSORED" MAIL

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

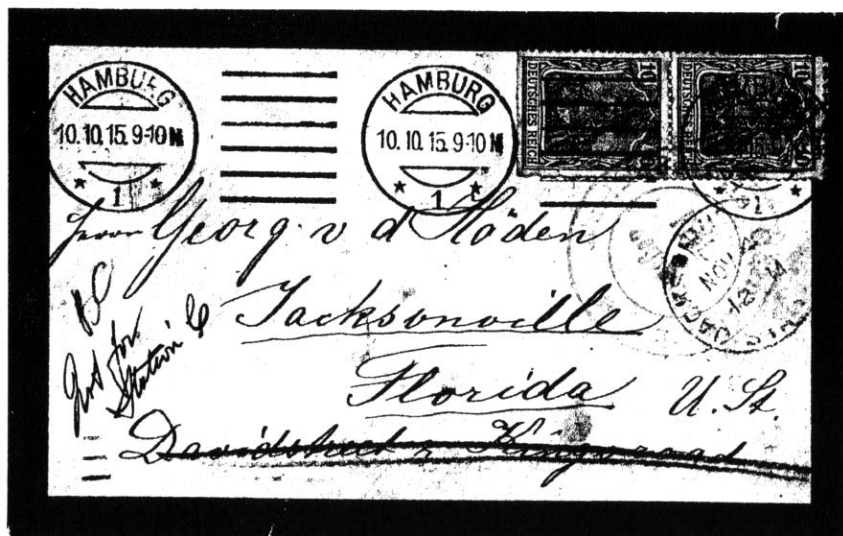


Fig. 1. HAMBURG OCT 10 1915 postmark on Mourning Cover to Jacksonville, Florida with red German Censor marking.

During wartime mail to or from enemy countries was often censored. This article will demonstrate various examples of censored mail related to 20th Century Florida postal history. These are examples from my collection and are meant to introduce members to this type of postal history. Prisoner of war covers dating back to the Civil War period were censored and most prison postmarked covers from that period are recorded with examining markings on the cover, many of which are hand stamped. This subject is extensively discussed in Galen D. Harrison's book, **Prisoner's Mail from the American Civil War.**

The above cover is an interesting example of a censored cover originating in Germany on October 10, 1915, during the First

World War. It is a pretty mourning cover with black borders, addressed to Jacksonville. A red double circle German censor's handstamp ties the pair of 10-pfennig stamps, which are also tied by the Hamburg postmark. A Jacksonville receiving mark on the reverse is dated Nov. 3 but apparently was for station C. The cover was sent on to another Jacksonville Station (postmark on front is unclear as to the actual station) dated Nov. 4. There is no evidence of an examination of this letter by U.S. postal employees and no U.S. censor markings.

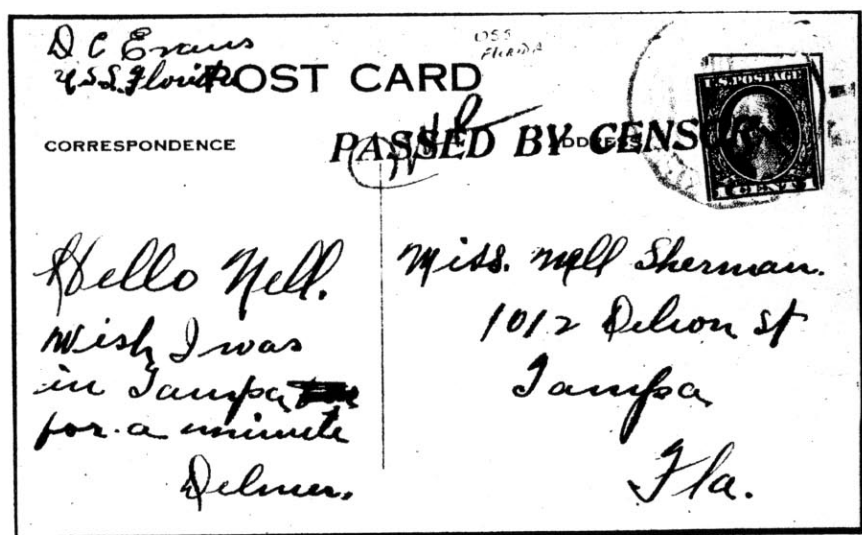


Fig. 2. USS FLORIDA four bar postmark with unclear year date ties #424d to post card with blue "PASSED BY CENSOR" hand stamp at top with censor's initials.

The post card in Fig. 2. has a bold blue colored oblique serif lettered "PASSED BY CENSOR" hand stamp with pencil initials of the censor. Although the date of the postmark is unclear, it appears to be a known WW I, USS Florida postmark, and the card is endorsed by "D C Evans / USS Florida" and sent by the sailor to his girl friend in Tampa.

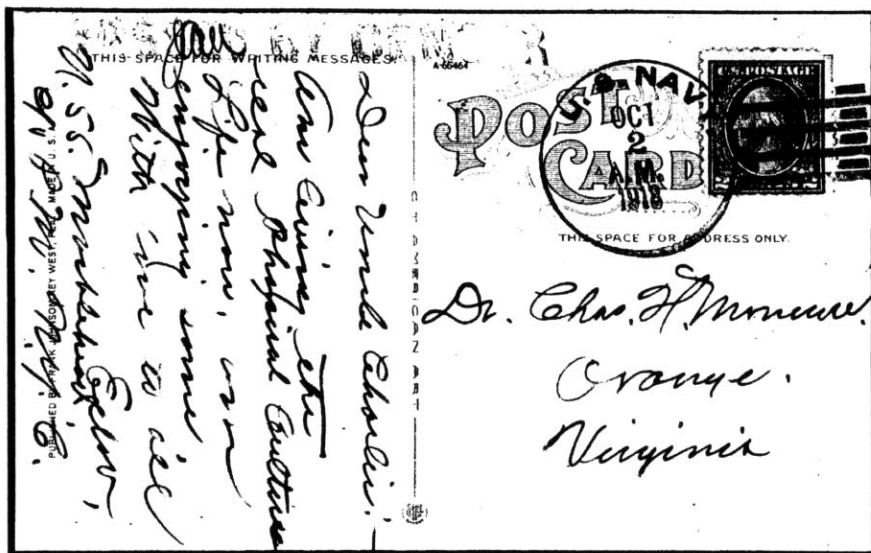


Fig. 3. U.S. NAVY OCT 2 1918 four-bar postmark ties #499 to Key West post card with “PASSED BY CENSOR” handstamp in magenta and censor’s initials at top.

The post card in Fig. 3. originated onboard the U.S.S. Marblehead and entered the mails at Key West, Florida. A U.S. Navy four-bar postmark dated Oct 2, 1918 cancels the stamp and a magenta “PASSED BY CENSOR” hand stamp is noted at the top of the post card with the initials of the censor in ink. It is unclear why a post card (with message clearly evident) mailed by a U.S. sailor and entering the mails from a U.S. ship would need to be censored.

The cover in Fig. 4. was postmarked in Jacksonville on August 6, 1917, and sent to London, England. A London receiving mark is on the reverse with an August 27, 1917 receiving date. The envelope was opened by a censor and resealed with a printed “OPENED BY CENSOR 6231” seal, closing the front and back of the left side.

**OPENED BY
CENSOR.**



Lady Barkley

30 Dragon Gardens

19 Earls Court Rd.

W 8.

London

England.

6231

Fig. 4. JACKSONVILLE / FLA. AUG 6 1917 machine cancel tie two #498 on cover to London, England. A taped "OPENED BY CENSOR 6231" paper seal closes the left edge of the cover.

Hi Butch,

TARJETA POSTAL

*Well I'm in Mexico
but you can have my
part of it. I've had
fun speaking Spanish
with the people but
that is all. Things are
hiked here than in the
States,
Love, Mac*

POST CARD

12250

Mr. C. V. Ridge

3123 Martin Ave.

Tampa, Fla.

U. S. A.



No. 55 Arzobispo Mexicano - Mexican Indian transporter

Printed in Mexico

Fig. 5. U. S. CENSORSHIP EXAMINED by 12250 magenta circular handstamp on Mexican postcard postmarked June 21, 1943, and addressed to Tampa, Florida.

The post card in Fig. 5. originated in Mexico during World War II, with a June 21, 1943 postmark. A magenta large circular censorship hand stamp is noted with the censor's pen written number 12250. This post card was apparently from a tourist and a small Curio Shop (next to the Catholic Church) circular handstamp is noted. It is again unclear why a post card from an American tourist in Mexico would need to be censored upon delivery to the United States.

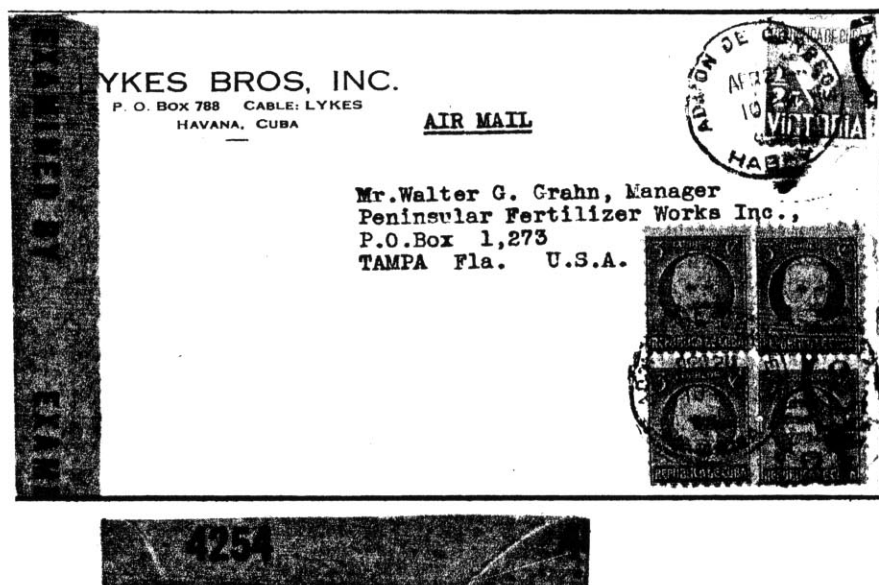


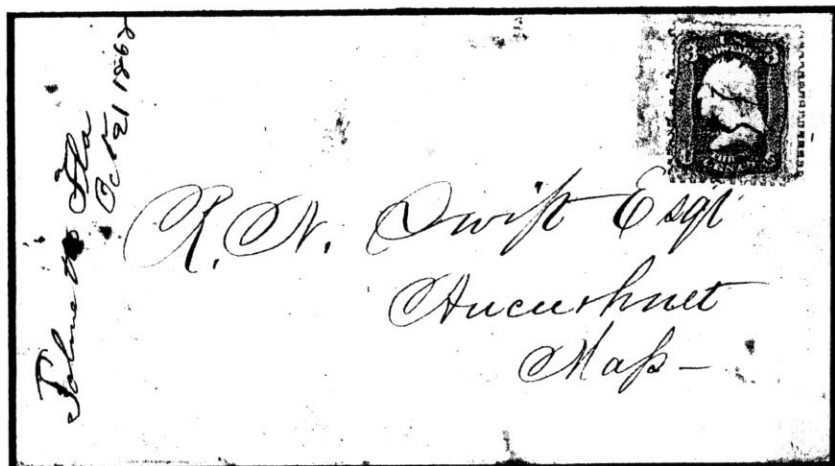
Fig. 6. EXAMINED BY 4254 censor's tape at left edge of cover originating from Cuba, addressed to Tampa, Fla.

The cover in Fig. 6. originated in Cuba and has an "EXAMINED BY 4254" scotch tape band on the left edge, sealing the censored opening. Although there is no clear year date in the postmark, this must have been a World War II censored letter.

The author would appreciate any information on these covers and is happy to publish other censored mail addressed to or from Florida.

PALMETTO, FLA RECONSTRUCTION USAGE

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

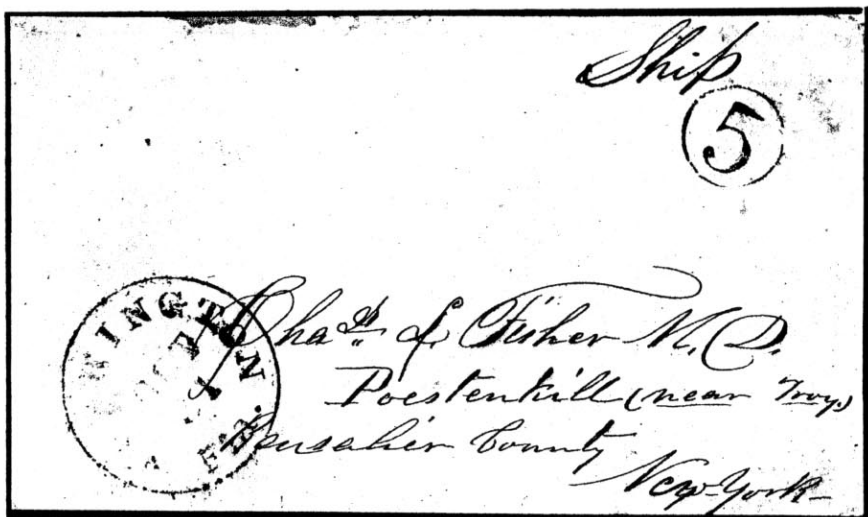


Palmetto Fla Oct 21 1868 manuscript postmark with pen cancelled #65 on cover to Massachusetts

The above cover is an early usage from the recently opened reconstruction Palmetto post office. The Palmetto post office was opened in Volusia County on 21 July 1868, and discontinued only two years later on 12 July 1870, with mail handled by the St. Augustine post office. The only postmaster of Palmetto was Samuel P. Wemple. After the conclusion of the Civil War, Florida was under an initial military occupation until a reconstruction government was established. All prior Confederate post offices were discontinued and only the larger cities had military post offices functioning at the end of the war. It often took several years to reopen pre-war post offices and newly established offices were slow to go through the process. Thus, to have a totally new post office such as Palmetto established by July 1868 is unusual. The fact that it only lasted two years is unusual, but perhaps it was discontinued because of the existence of a Manatee County town with the same name. The Manatee County post office was established on 15 September 1873, and persists to date.

WARRINGTON / Fla. A NEW STAMPLESS LISTING

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



WARRINGTON / Fla. OCT 31 (1859) black cds postmark with unpaid "Ship" 5 rate on cover from Mexico

The stampless period of United States postal history supposedly ended with the Act of March 3, 1855, effective April 1, 1855, which established the compulsory "prepayment" of domestic mail. Incoming foreign or ship letters and outgoing foreign mail were authorized without prepayment of postage. There were exceptions to this rule and many Florida stampless covers are known with usage after this 1855 date. Most of these usages are from smaller towns without an available supply of adhesive stamps. The latest known Florida stampless usage is from Orlando, dated September 3, 1860, with usage to Thomaston, Georgia.

Prior to 1861, the rate for incoming ship mail was established by Act of 1851 at 5 cents for delivery beyond the port of entry (3 cents domestic rate plus 2 cents ship fee). Interestingly, the rate for incoming ship mail delivered to the port of entry was 6 cents!! The

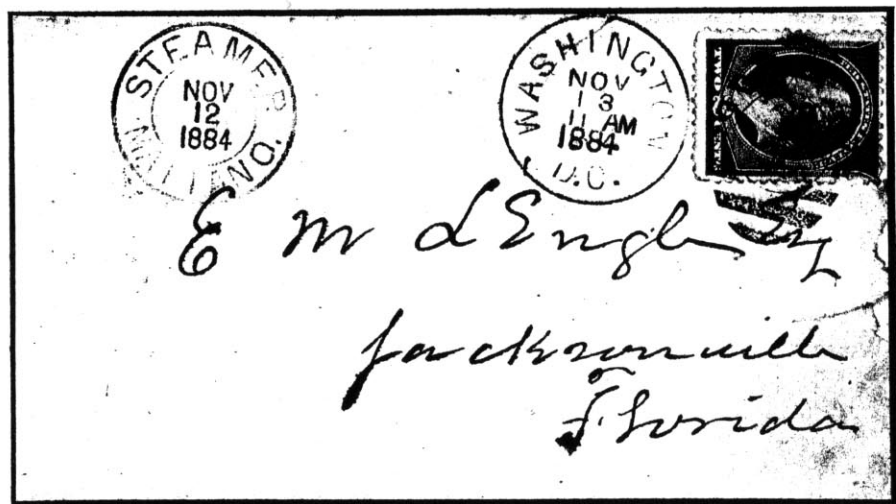
above cover is an example of incoming ship mail from Mexico with the correct unpaid 5 cent rate for delivery beyond the port of entry. This cover has a previously unrecorded stampless example of the WARRINGTON / Fla. 33 mm. postmark which was commonly used during the Confederate period (1861-1862) prior to the evacuation of Warrington in May 1862. An enclosure datelined: Mexico, 4th Oct. 1859 / U.S. Ship Savannah off Vera Cruz, places this new Warrington usage to 1859. The unpaid 5 in circle rate marking is the known Warrington type B hand stamp used from 1850 and throughout the Confederate period.

The enclosure is quite interesting and is reproduced in part: "After a long passage we have arrived at our post of destination, and will probably remain here for at least four or six months. You must not hesitate to write or send papers for fear that they will not reach me, for they will. All letters directed to any Government vessel are particularly cared for and delivered to their proper owners and follow the vessel wherever she may go. – You must not forget to send me some papers & magazines, for there is nothing to read on board and it is as lonesome as a dungeon."

It is interesting to note that the Warrington post office was doing nearly the same volume of postal revenue as Key West and Jacksonville at this time (1859) and roughly half that of Tallahassee, the state capitol. Despite this large postal volume, very little stampless or adhesive postal history is known from pre-Confederate Warrington.

FLORIDA STEAMBOAT MARKINGS

Herbert P. McNeal



No. 1 STEAMER MATTANO. / NOV 12 1884 blue double circle handstamp on cover to Jacksonville, Florida, with WASHINGTON D.C. / NOV 13 11AM 1884 duplex postmark

The cover reproduced above, (No 1.), is a most unusual example of a steamboat handstamp marked cover with usage to Florida. It has a blue double circle **STEAMER MATTANO NOV 12 1884** handstamp (Milgram #874) which was applied on Chesapeake Bay, somewhere between Baltimore, Md., and Washington, D.C., before the steamer arrived in Washington. This letter was postmarked at 11 AM on Nov. 13, 1884 in Washington and sent on to Jacksonville, Florida, presumably by rail as the letter was received in Jacksonville at 1 PM the following day, Nov. 14. (no.2.). The two day delivery time for a letter from a steamer in Chesapeake Bay to arrive in Jacksonville, Florida, ready for pick up at the post office, would be difficult today even with airmail service. A similar cover is reproduced in *Vessel-Named Markings on United States Inland and Ocean Waterways*

1810-1890 by James W. Milgram, M.D., on page 463, with a reversed usage from Washington D.C. to Baltimore, Md.



Fig. 2 JACKSONVILLE, FLA. RECD. / NOV 14 1 PM receiving hand stamp on reverse

Florida steamboat markings are extremely rare with only two such markings recorded in Milgram's book. The **Stmr. Indian River** handstamp marking (Milgram #642) was written up as a problem cover in the *Florida Postal History Journal* vol. 3 no. 2, by Deane R. Briggs with a thorough discussion and photo in a follow up article in vol. 4, no. 1. Milgram notes only three examples of this marking. It (no. 3.) is a very striking magenta straight-line handstamp marking.

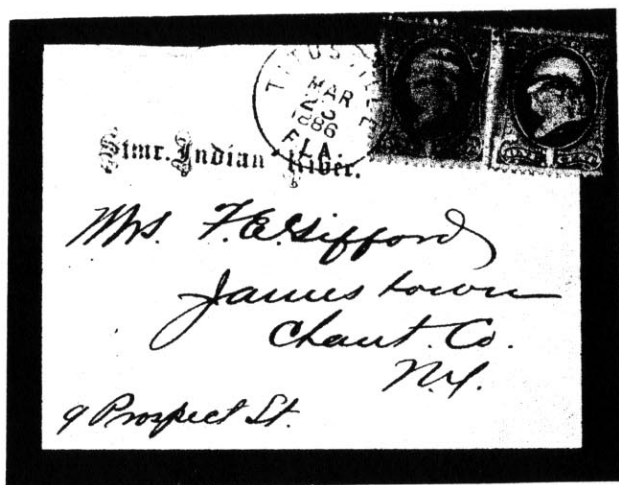


Fig. 3. "Stmr. Indian River." magenta straight-line handstamp on mourning cover postmarked TITUSVILLE FLA./ MAR 23 1886

The only other Florida steamboat marking recorded in Milgram is the unusual **S. S. Mascotte** blue Maltese cross handstamp marking (Milgram #873). The known example of this marking (no. 4.) was from the collection of Charles Meroni and sold in the 1985 David Phillips sale as lot #573. It appears to have been used on mail carried between Tampa, Key West, and Havana, but is not an R.P.O. marking. This handstamp was applied aboard the S.S. Mascotte before arrival at Tampa with a May 1, 1887 date in the handstamp. It was postmarked on the train to Jacksonville with a **JACK & TAMPA R.P.O. MAY 1** postmark. The letter arrived in New York on May 3rd and received a 12 noon receiving mark. This cover implies a direct delivery of mail from the Steamer Mascotte to the mail train near the docks at Tampa, as it did not go through the regular Tampa post office for postmarking. Note the docketing at the left with the writer Sam Wolf KW (Key West) implying the S.S. Mascotte handstamp was applied between Key West and Tampa.

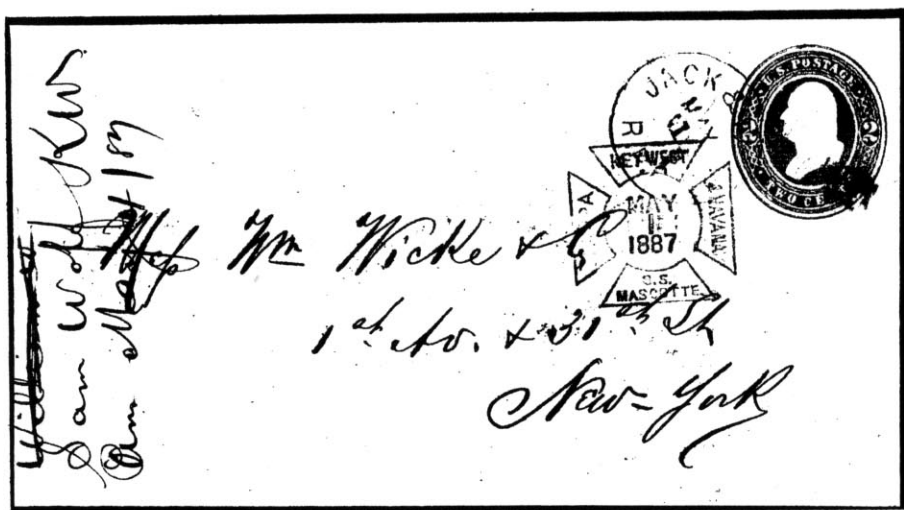
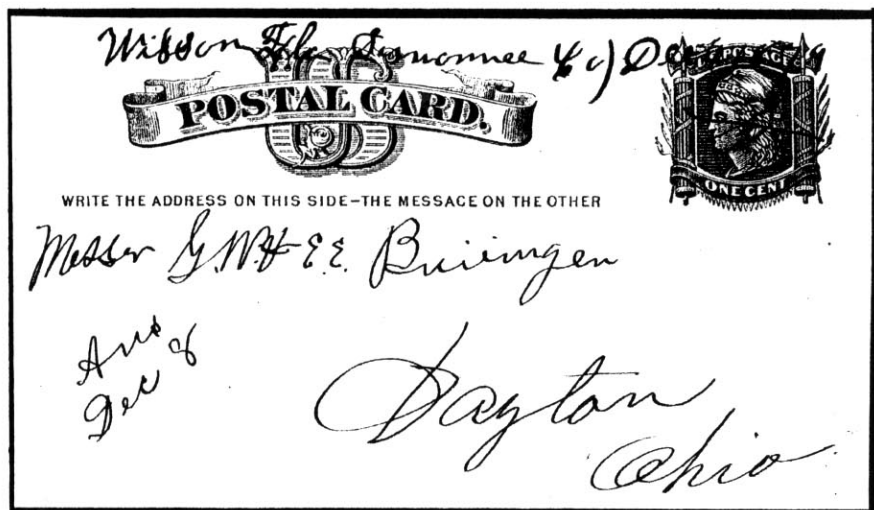


Fig. 4. TAMPA KEY WEST & HAVANA S.S. MASCOTTE. MAY 1 1887 blue Maltese cross handstamp on cover to New York, postmarked JACK & TAMPA R.P.O. MAY 1

A NEW FLORIDA COUNTY POSTMARK

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



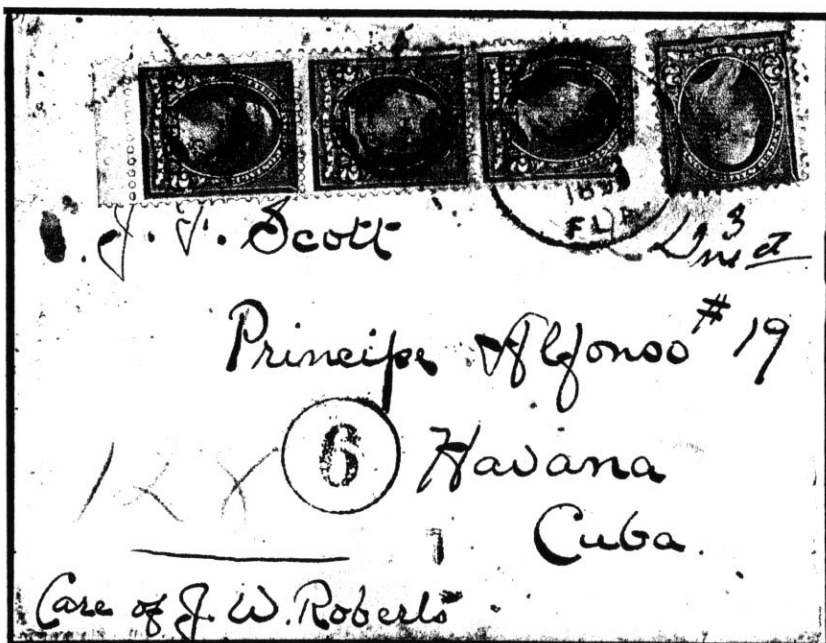
Wilson Fla Suwannee Co Dec 4 1879 manuscript postmark with pen cancel on 1 cent postal card

The above postal card has an unusual manuscript postmark with a "County" designation in the postmark. This is a most uncommon form of Florida "County Postmark" and is known from only 4-5 towns, whereas upwards of 30 different handstamped county or postmaster postmarks are recorded. The author is currently putting together a data base of Florida "County or Postmaster" postmarks and would appreciate any additional listings being submitted by photocopy. A full census is hoped to be published in the next year for members of the Florida Postal History Society.

The Wilson post office was a short lived DPO, established in Suwannee County, on 10 February 1879, by postmaster William K. Wilson, presumably at his store. It was discontinued on 24 May 1887, with mail handled at Little River.

A "PECULIAR" FLORIDA USAGE TO CUBA

Herbert P. McNeal



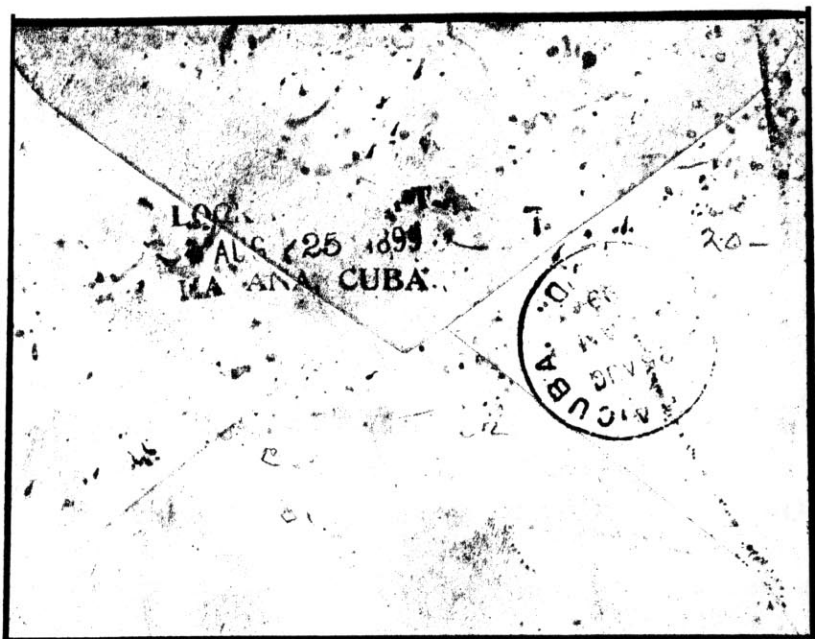
ORMOND FLA. AUG 21, 1899 postmark ties 2c red #267 on cover to Havana, Cuba, with manuscript "Due 3 ct" and Cuban unpaid (6) handstamp with strip of 3 #222 paying postage due.

The cover illustrated above originated at Ormond, Fla. on August 21, 1899, while Cuba was under U.S. military government control. The postmark is largely obscured by the top stamp of a vertical strip of 3 2c red U.S. stamps overprinted "Cuba 2c de Peso", but peeling back the stamp reveals the Ormond date stamp.

There is a manuscript "Due 2ct", presumably to make a 5c rate, but instead of the 3 cents due, 6 cents in stamps was added, and the

circled 6 hand stamp indicates postage due in that amount. The cover does not appear to have been overweight, and it is unclear why postage due of 6 cents was imposed as the rate to Cuba at that time was 5 cents.

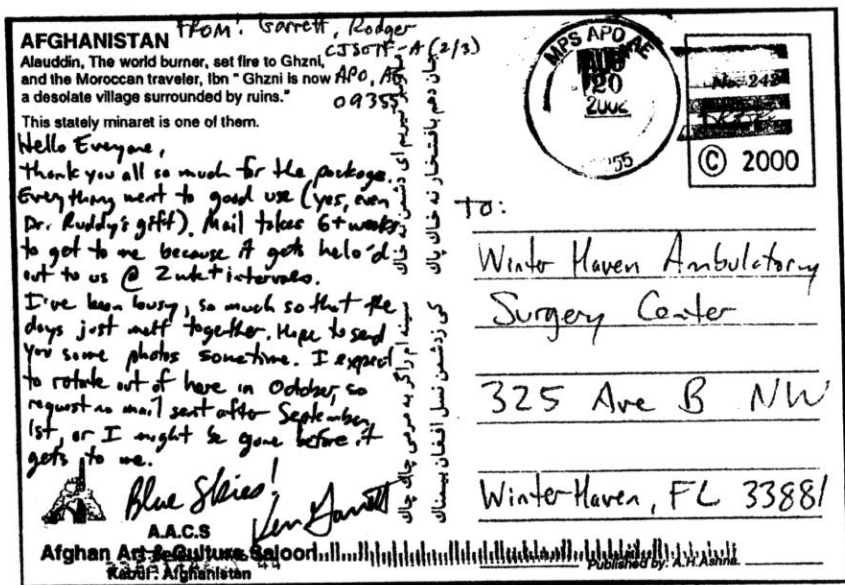
The back stamps on the reverse of the cover are mostly unclear; although one is a Havana Aug. 25 Rec'd mark. The other is a magenta straight line hand stamp which also is dated Aug 25, 1899, and may represent a route agent marking or a ship marking. The first line of the hand stamp is not readable.



Reverse of cover with back stamp Havana, Cuba Rec'd 25 Aug 1899, and a magenta straight line marking with same date.

AFGHANISTAN TO FLORIDA – MODERN FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

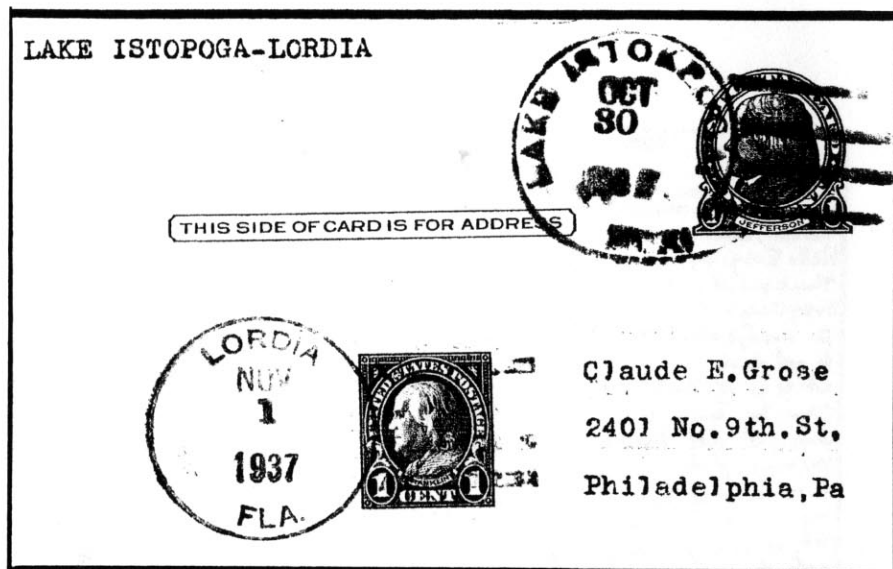


**MPO APO AE / 09355 AUG 20 2002 black postmark with
"FREE" rate on soldier's mail from Afghanistan**

I received the above post card from Afghanistan in a surgery center where I work, and it just goes to show that Florida postal history can be found almost anywhere. This is a nice modern example of military usage with the "free" rate and proper endorsement. With the military occupation troops presently in Afghanistan and other hostile actions around the world, letters and mail from troops overseas will become collectable at some point in the future, if for anything, just for the messages and glimpses at life away from home. The note on this post card tells of 6+ weeks for mail delivery, and then only every two weeks by helicopter.

LORDIA (LORIDA) FLORIDA

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



**LAKE ISTOKPOGA OCT 30 1937 last day postmark with
LORDIA NOV 1 1937 first day of use postmark on same pc.**

Philatelic postmarks are not nearly as desirable as normal postal usages, but occasionally such philatelic usages as the above example become quite unique. The Lake Istokpoga post office in Highlands County was a relatively short lived post office with an established date of 12 September 1925, and a discontinued date of 30 October 1937. What makes the above postal card unique is that the first day of use of the Lordia post office is on the same card but misspelled as Lordia. This misspelling was apparently noted as a correct postmark was in use a month later as demonstrated in fig. 1. That postal card is also a philatelic usage of the first day of the correct spelling of the Lordia post office with the postmaster's signature on the reverse (fig. 2.). This Lordia hand stamp must have been an entirely new device as the letters are smaller than the Lordia postmark. It is strange that it would take over 30 days to correct the spelling of the post office but that's our USPOD for you.

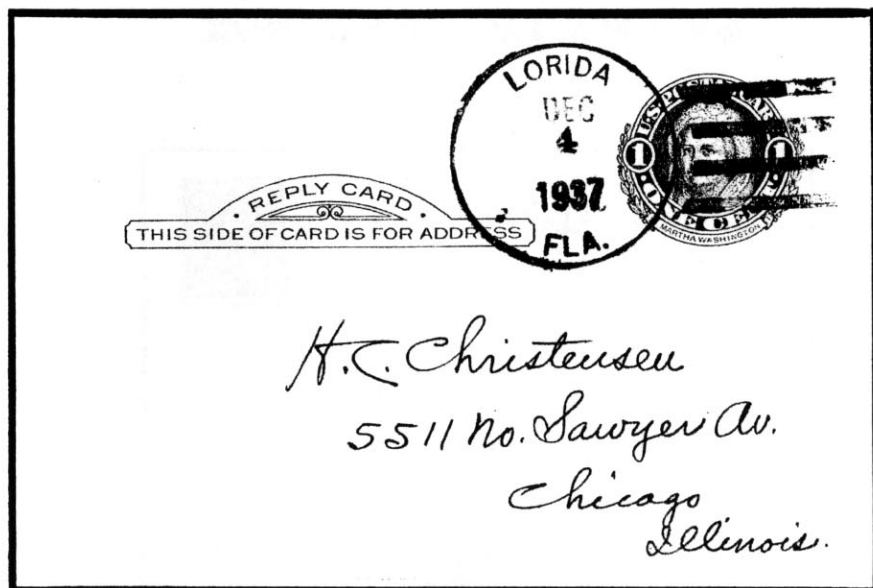


Fig. 1. LORIDA FLA. DEC 4 1937 postmark on postal card.

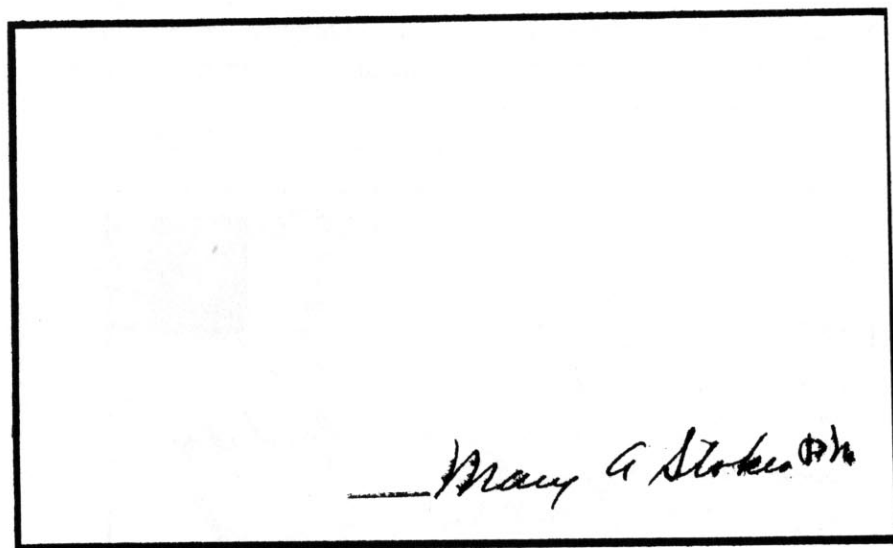
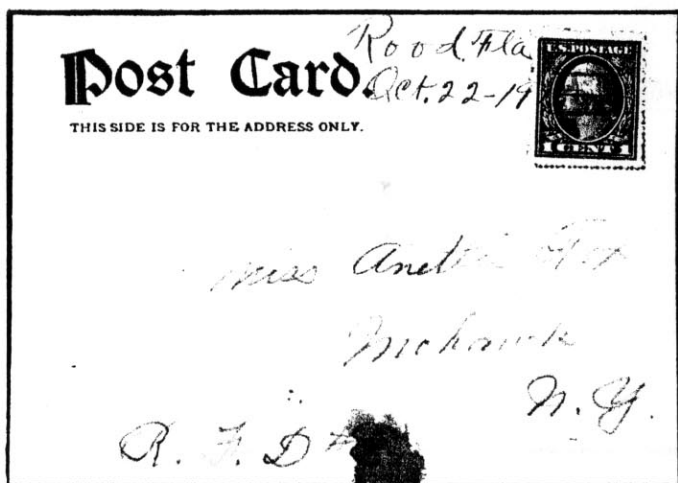


Fig. 2. Reverse of above postal card with signature of Lorida postmaster Mary A. Stokes

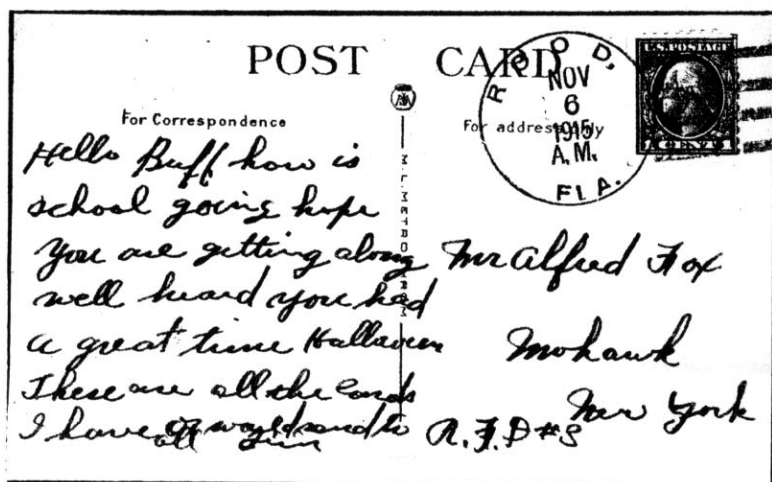
ROOD, FLA. PROVISIONAL USAGE

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



Rood Fla / Oct. 22-1915 manuscript "provisional" postmark

The Rood, Florida post office was opened on 25 September, 1915 in Palm Beach County and discontinued on 31 October, 1934 with mail handled by the post office in Jupiter. The above cover represents the known usage of a provisional ms postmark as the post card below has a bold strike of a 4-bar postmark used just two weeks later!



ROOD, FLA. / NOV 6 1915 4-bar postmark

DEALER - MEMBERS

CONRAD L. BUSH

205 Hughes St. N.E.
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
(850) 243-1638

ELWYN J. DOUBLEDAY, JR.

Box 32
Alton Bay, NH 03810
(603) 875-6310

WILLIAM A. FOX

4 Reef Club
Hilton Head, SC 29926
(843) 681-9455

RICHARD FRAJOLA

P.O. Box 2679
Ranchos De Taos, NM 87557
(505) 751-7607

GARY GROSS

P.O. Box 246
Commack, NY 11725-0246
(631) 499-5074

ROBERT J. HAUSIN

4897 Tamiami Trail East
Naples, FL 34113
(941) 732-7701

RICHARD W. HELBOCK LA POSTA

33470 Chinook Plaza
Suite 216
Scappoose, OR 97056
(503) 657-5685

STAN JAMESON

Empire Company
P.O. Box 264
St. Petersburg, FL 33731
(727) 526-5203

JOHN L. KIMBROUGH

10140 Wandering Way
Benbrook, TX 76126
(817) 244-2447

GORDON D. McHENRY

1615 Clower Creek Dr., T-177
Sarasota, FL 34231-8923
(941) 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) 886-3075

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
(800) 921-3316

C. MICHAEL WIEDEMANN

Box 6130A
Titusville, FL 32782
(321) 269-3377