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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

EDITOR'S COMMENTS – THE TED LIGHT COLLECTION

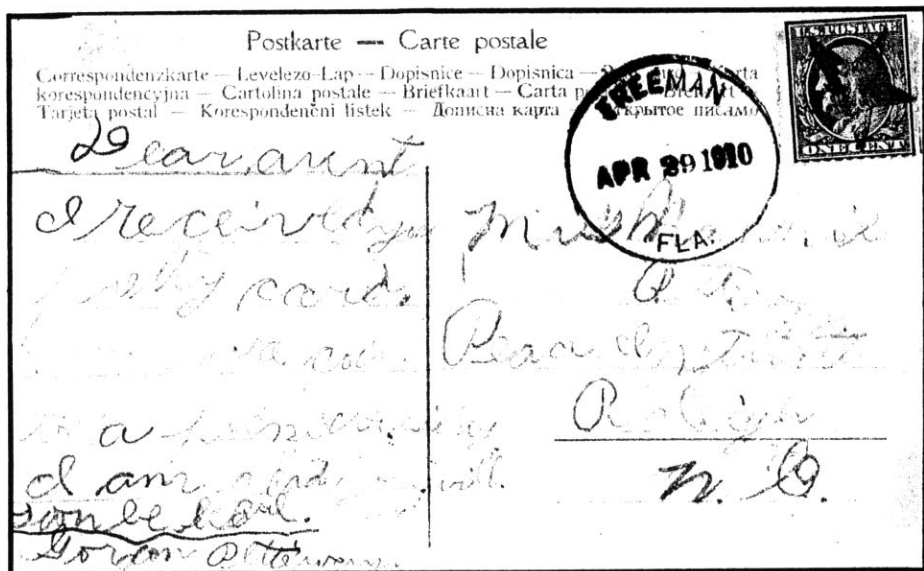
Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

As I mentioned in our last journal, Matthew Bennett auctioned the stampless Florida collection of Ted Light on October 2, 2004. The Bennett auction catalog was nicely illustrated with nearly all covers shown in the entirety in color. Each description of the lots was very detailed and accurate. Many reflected the research done over the past 10 years by Ted Light and contained reference from our FPHS book *Florida Stampless Postal History – 1763-1861*, which Ted continually helped to update. This sale was the first major Florida collection to be auctioned since the Robert A. Siegel sale of the Herbert P. McNeal collection in the late 1990's and the Charles F. Meroni sale by David G. Phillips in 1985. All but a couple of lots of the Light material were sold and most exceeded the high estimates. Highlights included a manuscript Chattahoochee territorial (\$1150), a Magnolia territorial straightline to Canada with postmaster free frank (\$850), a Rocky Comfort territorial manuscript postmark (\$1300) and St. Augustine territorial straightline (\$1050), manuscript territorial (\$1150), and boldly struck red oval with FREE (\$1050). The statehood section contained several outstanding lots including manuscript postmarks from Bellville (\$950), China Hill (\$950), Fort Dade (\$700), Indian River (\$1150), Jasper (\$850), and Uchee Anna (\$475). Several of the large lots of more common material brought excess of \$1000 and will probably be broken up and should enter the market individually or in dealers stocks in the near future. This should give Florida collectors an excellent opportunity to obtain stampless Florida territorial and statehood covers that have not been available at dealers tables for many years.

Ted Light will be completing his two-year term as president of the Florida Postal History Society and will be turning over the gavel to our next president at our annual meeting on February 5, 2005. Why not try to attend this meeting and congratulate Ted on his leadership and enthusiasm for Florida Postal History. Ted will be giving an interesting talk on Collier County postal history with special interest in his hometown of Naples. Lets have a great turn out for him.

FREEMAN FLA. STAR DUPLEX POSTMARK

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



FREEMAN FLA APR 29 1910 Postmark with Duplex Star killer.

The above postmark is an unusual type of duplex postmark with a star killer. Most duplex killers are oval grids or concentric circles. It is also unusual in that the date type set is all on one line and not with the year date placed below the month and day. The Freeman post office was a short lived Hernando County post office with date of establishment 26 January 1900, and discontinuation 31 August 1910. Emma B. Freeman was the postmaster and the post office may well have operated out of her home or a family store. This post office must have been quite small, and when the post office was closed, there was no recorded neighboring post office to have mail directed. Usages from Freeman are quite uncommon and this is the first example I have seen.

FLORIDA STEAMBOAT MAIL BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

Steven M. Roth

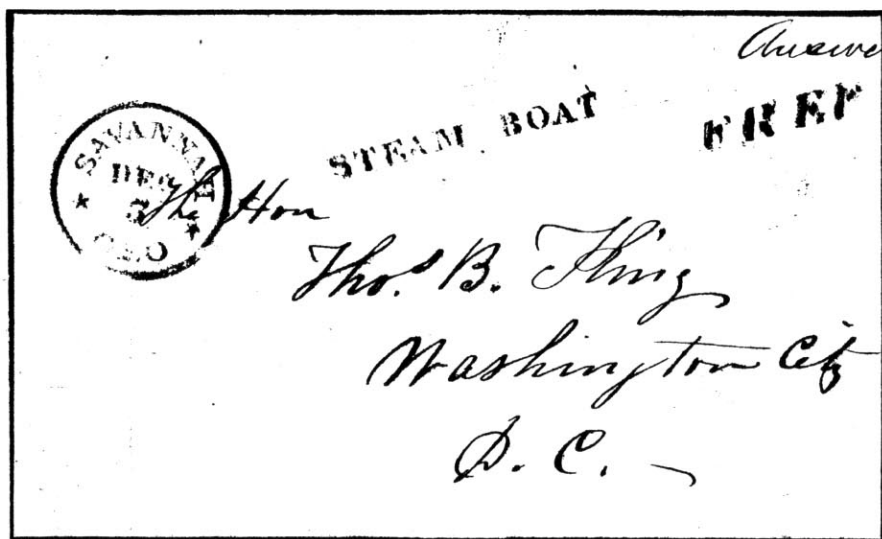


Fig. 1 SAVANNAH / GEO DEC 3 (1848) red cds postmark with red STEAM BOAT handstamp and FREE rate on cover datelined Mandarin, East Florida.

I have been collecting, recording, and researching steamboat and coastal non-contract ship mail markings, rates and routes (contract and non-contract) for almost eight years. My interests encompass the entire physical range of such mail from our northern borders with Canada, south through Florida, and from the Atlantic seaboard into Minnesota, west as far as the Mississippi flows. In this regard, I have been maintaining several databases of related records (of certain markings, routes, dates of use, names of boats, etc.).

I have never recorded an in-period steamboat marking that I can attribute to a Florida post office. I have, however, recorded covers (as have others in the FPHS) which were carried as loose letters aboard non-contract steamboats in Florida waters or which originated in Florida towns or were destined to Florida towns.

The interesting article published by Niles Schuh in the *Florida Postal History Journal* (Vol. 8, No.2 September 2001 and the more recent article published by Herbert P. McNeal (Vol. 10, No.2 June 2003) prompted me to revisit my Florida steamboat database and to reexamine the four stampless Florida related steamboat covers in my holdings. I offer them here for interested readers.

Fig. 1 is a cover, which originated at Mandrin, East Florida. It entered the mails at Savannah on December 3, 1848, where the Savannah cds (type RF-1) postmark was applied. It also received the red handstamp "STEAM BOAT" marking and the red handstamp "FREE" rate as the letter was addressed to Congressman Thomas B. King.

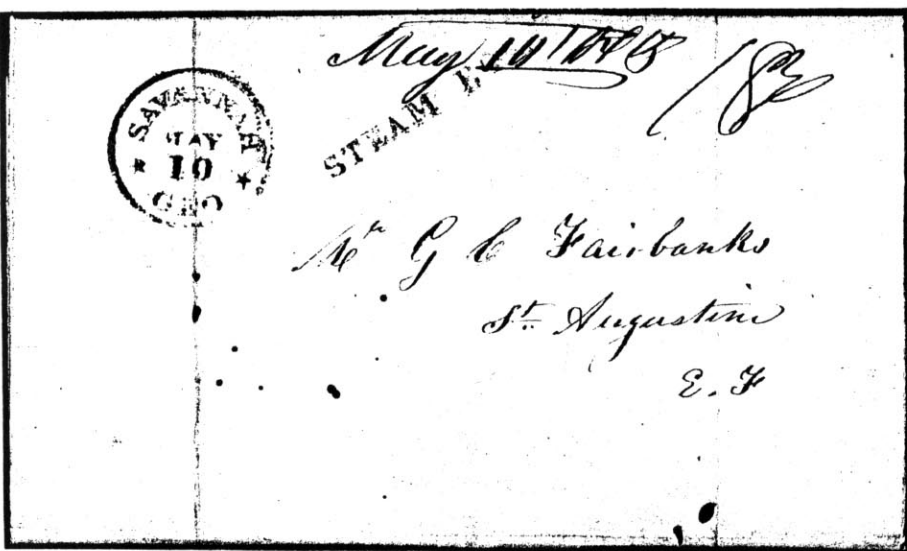


Fig. 2 SAVANNAH / GEO MAY 10 (1845) red cds postmark with red handstamp STEAM BOAT and manuscript 18 ¾ unpaid rate on cover originating in Charleston, S.C.

The cover in Fig. 2 originated at Charleston, S.C. on May 9, 1845 and was addressed to St. Augustine, East Florida. The letter was carried by non-contract vessel to Savannah where it entered the

mails the following day and received the Savannah cds (type RF-1) and the "STEAM BOAT" handstamp and was rated unpaid 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ for contract mail to the port of entry at St. Augustine (150-400 miles). Both handstamp markings are in red.

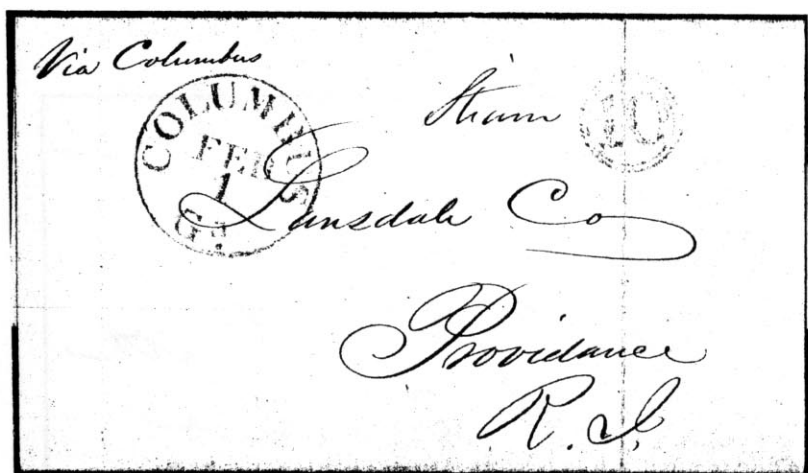


Fig. 3 COLUMBUS / Ga. FEB 1 (1847) red cds postmark with red unpaid 10 handstamp rate and manuscript "Steam" on cover datelined Apalachicola, January 29, 1847.

The cover in Fig. 3 originated in Apalachicola, Florida where it was datelined January 29, 1847 and docketed "Via Columbus". This letter traveled by non-contract steamboat up the Apalachicola River to the Chattahoochee River and then on to Columbus, Ga. where it entered the mails and received the red Columbus postmark and the red handstamp 10 rate reflecting an unpaid letter going over 300 miles. It traveled to Providence, R.I. overland via closed bag.

The cover in Fig. 4 originated in Columbia, S.C. and was carried by non-contract steamboat to Charleston, S.C. where it entered the mails and received the red Charleston postmark and the red handstamp STEAM-BOAT markings. The cover was rated unpaid 25 in manuscript to reflect an over 400 mile distance to its final

destination, St. Augustine. This letter was carried by closed bag from Charleston to St. Augustine. It most likely dates during the territorial period or possibly a usage in 1845 during the early statehood period. Although no year date is noted in this folded letter, the postal act of March 3, 1845 (effective July 1, 1845) established a 10 cent rate for letters over 300 miles.

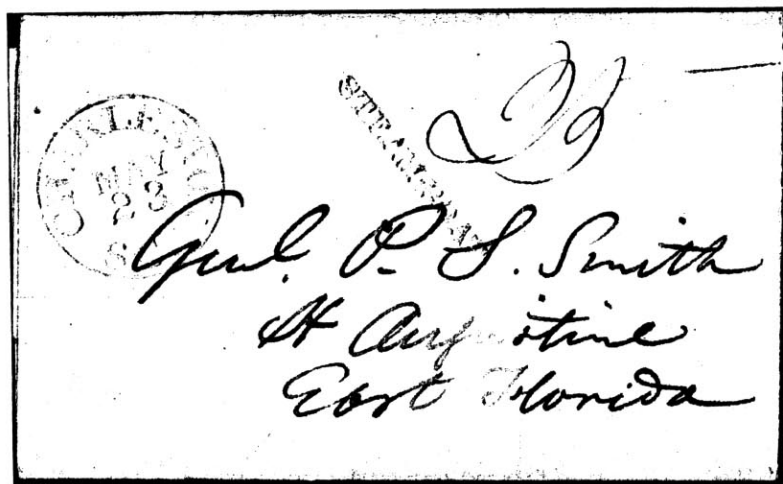
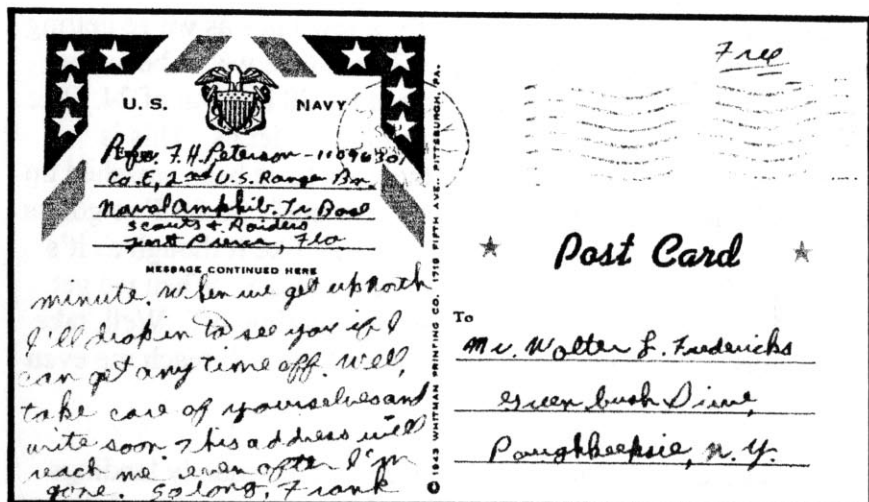


Fig. 4 CHARLESTON / S.C. MAY 23 red cds postmark with red handstamp STEAM-BOAT and manuscript unpaid 25 rate on cover to St. Augustine but originating in Columbia, S.C.

FORT PIERCE AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING BASE

James Moses



U.S. NAVY SEP 1943 machine cancellation with manuscript Free rate on U.S. Navy postcard.

I've come across an interesting part of Florida history in the form of a U.S. Navy post card from the Naval Amphibious Training Base (ATB) on Hutchinson Island, Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County. It has a standard Navy cancel dated September 1943 and is from an army private of Company E, 2nd U.S. Ranger Battalion, Scouts and Raiders. (The Unit was established at Camp Forrest Tennessee in 1943 and deactivated at Camp Patrick Henry Virginia in 1945.

The base was commissioned on January 26, 1943, and by the time of it's closing over 110,000 Scouts, Raiders and, after July 1943, "frogmen" (the original underwater demolition teams, precursor of the SEALs) had been trained and sent to war. The base was created as a joint Army-Navy operation to train crews who would be expert in amphibious landing assaults and the disembarking of troops. Navy crews were taught how to maneuver attack boats and other vessels and amphibious vehicles used to carry troops to the beach in

all conditions and while under enemy fire. Army personnel were trained in the difficult skill of loading troops down cargo nets into the landing craft.

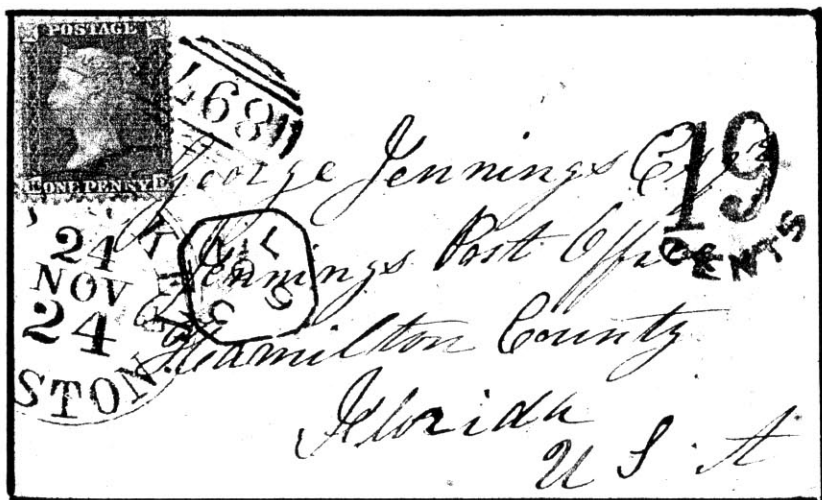
The post card reads: "Just have time for a few lines as we're getting ready to ship out again at any minute. Ever since we've been here we've either been on, in, or under the sea for 20 hrs. out of 24. The other four hours we can sleep if the mosquitoes let us. This is damned tough training and a few of the boys have been smashed up making landings on rocky shores in a heavy surf. So far I've gotten away with only a few bruises and cuts. I sure like it though as it's interesting with plenty of excitement every minute. When we get up north I'll drop in to see you if I can get any time off. Well, take care of yourselves and write soon. This address will reach me even after I'm gone. So long. Frank"

This unit scaled the Pointe du Hoc during the Normandy landings June 6, 1944, suffering 70% casualties. I have searched the Internet but could not discover if Pfc. Frank H. Peterson survived.

Don't forget to mail in your Election of Officer ballot. Check the new 2004 membership roster and notify the editor of any corrections. Please also consider paying the FPHS 2005 dues at this time when you mail back your ballot. It will help minimize the cost of regular dues mailing in January. The editor is also continually in need of new articles and will help write them up if necessary. Lets keep this journal one of the better state postal history society journals.

1855 USAGE TO JENNINGS POST OFFICE

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



One Penny red Great Britain stamp cancelled by 897 grid postmark on small 1855 cover to the Jennings Post Office, Hamilton County, Florida USA

The above cover is a very attractive usage to the small town of Jennings, Florida. It was addressed to George Jennings, Esq. who was the town postmaster. He was likely the proprietor of a store where the post office was located and the town was likely named after him. The town of Jennings is located in Hamilton County near the Georgia line on a post road connecting Bellville to White Springs. Mail was handled at this time by postal route 3517 and the annual postal revenues for the Jennings post office was only \$15.64 and Mr. Jennings received only \$12.62 as postmaster. The Jennings post office was established as a name change from Woodland on 23 December 1847 with Mr. George S. Jennings as postmaster. The post office continues to function to date. Only three known covers are recorded from Jennings during the stampless period and I am unaware of any examples with postal stamps. This cover left England on November 9, 1855 and was received in Boston where a packet rate of 24 cents was charged. The one cent stamp gave a 5 cent US credit, resulting in the underpaid 19 cents due at Jennings.

A NEW APOPKA DOANE LISTING

Richard F. Bergmann

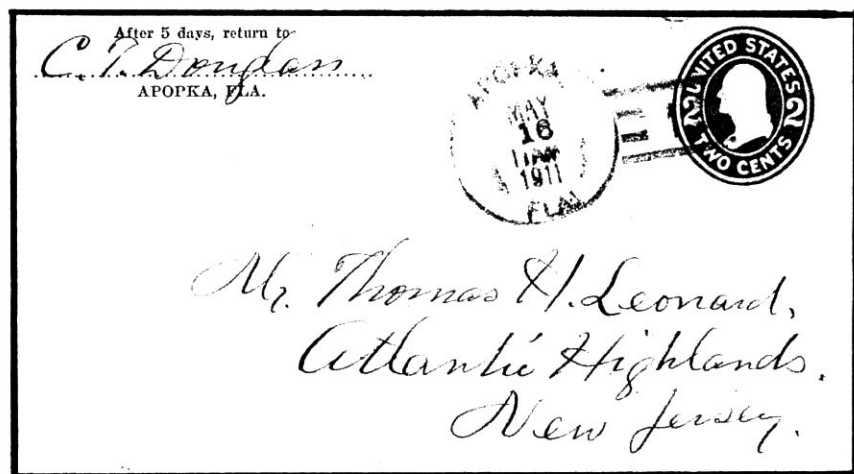


Fig. 1 APOPKA / FLA. MAY 16 1911 type III (1) Doane postmark on 2c postal entire

The above cover in my collection has a very clear 1911 Doane type III (1) postmark from Apopka, Florida. When I checked to see if this late usage could be a LKU in Richard W. Helbock and Gary Anderson's book, *United States Doanes, 2nd Edition*, I found only a listing for a type III (7). As my example showed a quite clear "1" in the killer bars, I contacted Deane R. Briggs, the Doane coordinator for Florida. He noticed that this was possibly a new or composite Doane postmark and has assisted with this article.

The Apopka post office was a fairly large class 4 post office during the period of issue of the Doane postmarking devices. The initial device must have been issued during the time of delivery of the type III devices (July 1905 – fall of 1906) and was produced with a "7" in the killer bars to reflect a \$600-700 annual post office volume of business. The earliest recorded usage of this device is 17 October 1906, and the latest currently recorded usage is May 5, 1909. Fig. 2 reproduces a clearly struck example of this late usage of the type III (7) Doane postmark.

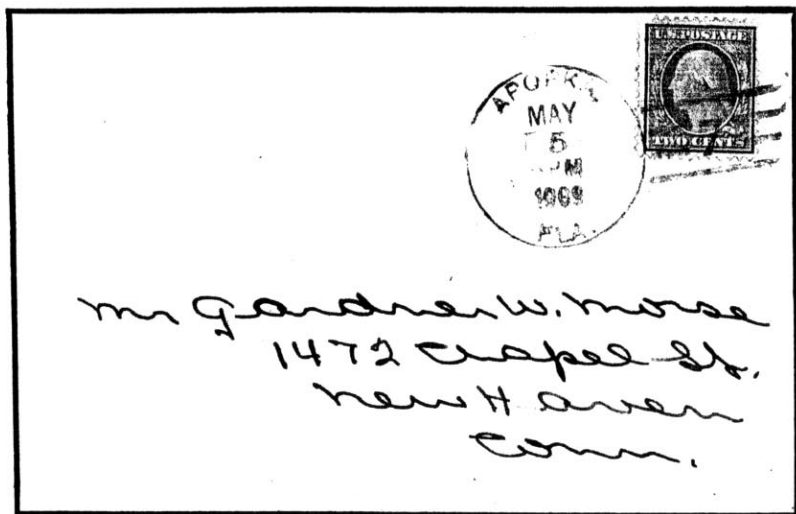


Fig. 2 APOPKA / FLA. MAY 5 1909 type III (7) Doane

For some reason, unknown to the author, the postmarking device was altered or changed during 1911 to become a type III (1). This time period is much later than the Doane period and thus this hand-stamp could not have been from an official USPD issue device. The dial appears to be identical to the earlier "7" issued postmark which leads the author to surmise that the later used postmarking device had been altered with new killer bars and number. The top bar touches the rim of the dial and has a very clear "1". This could not have been a "7" which had been broken, as the "7" clearly goes up at an angle and the "1" is vertical. The upper killer bar on the original Doane postmark is two mm. away from the dial rim. The feeling is that this is a composite Doane with an early issued cds dial and an added killer bar with "1" from some other source. It may well have come from a discarded device from a smaller neighboring post office which had been issued 4-bar devices and no longer needed the Doane postmarking device. The current Doane Florida census now lists both of these postmarks with an EKU for the type III (1) as 18 April 1911 and a LKU as 12 July 1912.

TEMPLES MILLS, FLA.

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

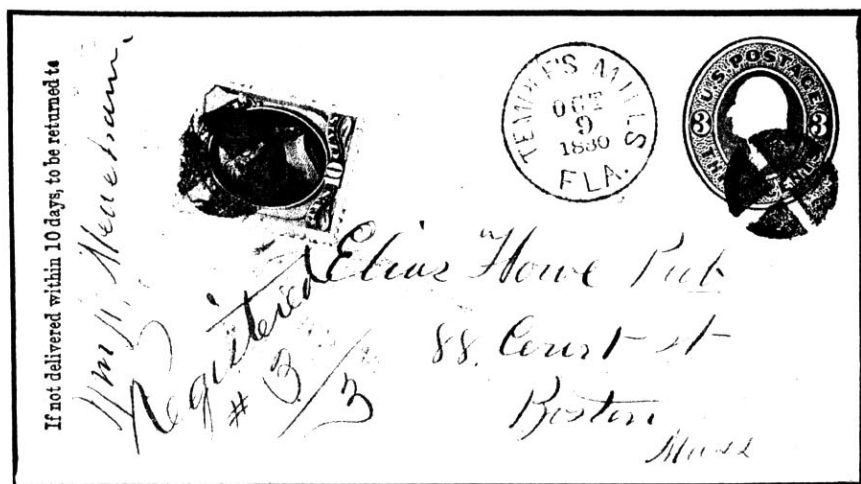


Fig. 1. TEMPLE'S MILLS / FLA. OCT 9 1880 postmark with cork crossroads killer on registered cover.

The town of Temple's Mills was established in Bradford County at the site of a mill operated by Simon J. Temple. The post office was established on 3 December 1877, with Simon J. Temple as the first postmaster. Postal activity must have been fairly low since the cover in Fig. 1. represents only the third registered letter sent during the third year of the post office's operation. This strike is very clear and shows an apostrophe in Temple's Mills. It was sent by Wm. Menchum, a Civil War veteran on \$2 per month pension for a gunshot wound to his arm. The cover in Fig. 2. was mailed by the postmaster, S. J. Temple, and presumably the manuscript postmark is in his writing. This postmark is Temples Mills Fla without the apostrophe. The postmark in Fig. 3 is yet another spelling of Temples Mills with the name Temples Mill. This marking again does not use an apostrophe but uses the singular Mill. The post office was discontinued on 15 February 1896, with subsequent mail

handled at Starke. The town never really grew, as its population by 1895 was only 23. It did have a railroad and express office. It is quite unusual for such a small post office in existence for only 19 years to have three different spellings for the post office name.

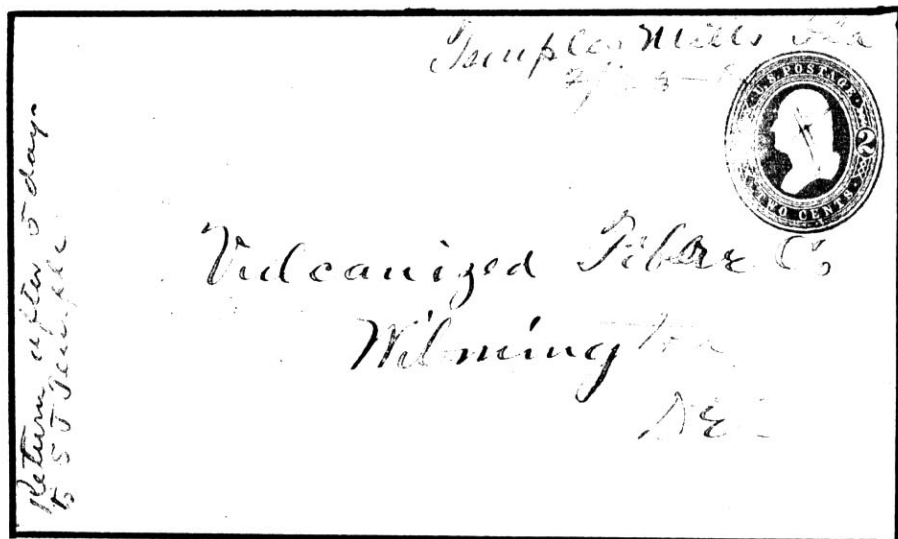


Fig. 2. Temples Mills Fla 2 / 25 – 84 manuscript postmark on cover from postmaster S J Temple

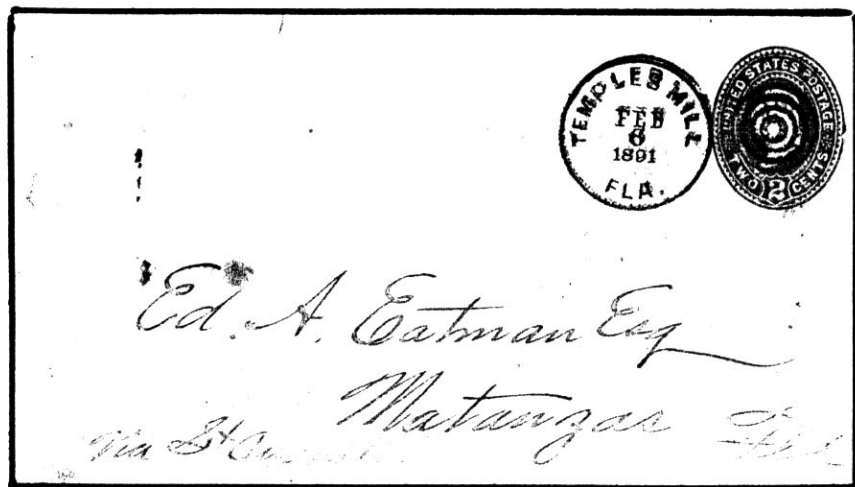


Fig. 3. TEMPLES MILL / FLA. FEB 6 1891 cds postmark

FLORIDA CHRISTMAS AND OTHER SEALS

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

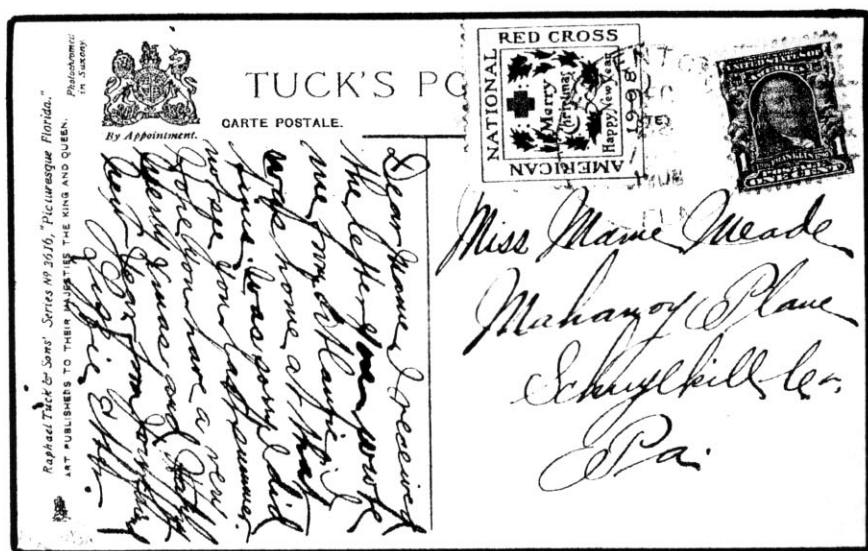


Fig. 1. ELLENTON / FLA. DEC 22 1908 black four bar postmark ties WX3 Christmas seal and #300 to post card with Christmas and New Year's greeting.

This article will introduce our membership during this holiday season to an area of collectables related to Florida postal history, namely Christmas Seals and other related seals. Herbert P. McNeal wrote a brief article on this subject in the *Florida Postal History Journal*, Vol. 4, No.2, September 1997. The covers represented here are by no means rare examples, but really are types of items to look for at stamp shows and antique shops as they are not all that common. Christmas seals were first issued in 1907 by the Delaware chapter of the American National Red Cross and sold on December 7, 1907 in Wilmington, Delaware, with net proceeds of \$3,000. Christmas seals issued and sold by the American National Red Cross were issued nationally the following year and are actually more valuable than the Delaware seals despite generating sales of

\$135,000. The above post card (Fig. 1.) has a very nice red and green colored Christmas seal (the first year of issue by the American National Red Cross) tied by the 1908 Ellenton postmark. The post card in Fig. 2. shows a different type of Christmas seal, one issued by the Federation of Florida Women's Clubs in red and green color and using the red double cross symbol, which was later to become the symbol of the National Tuberculosis Association. It has the distinction of preceding the Christmas seals sold annually by the National Tuberculosis Association by ten years. This seal is tied by a Nashua, Fla. Jan. 1, 1910 postmark. The Florida Federation of Women's Clubs also issued Christmas seals in later years and the Christmas postal cards in Fig. 3. and Fig. 4. show different designs with the year dates of 1912 and 1913 present on the seals. These also have the double cross symbol used later by the National Tuberculosis Association on them.

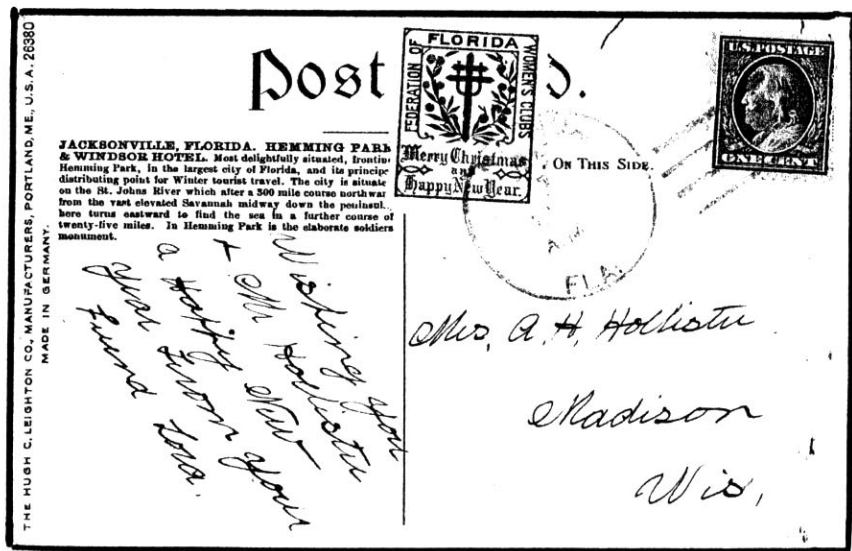


Fig. 2. NASHUA / FLA. JAN 1 1910 four bar postmark ties #331 and Federation of Florida Women's Clubs Christmas seal to post card with New Year's Greeting.

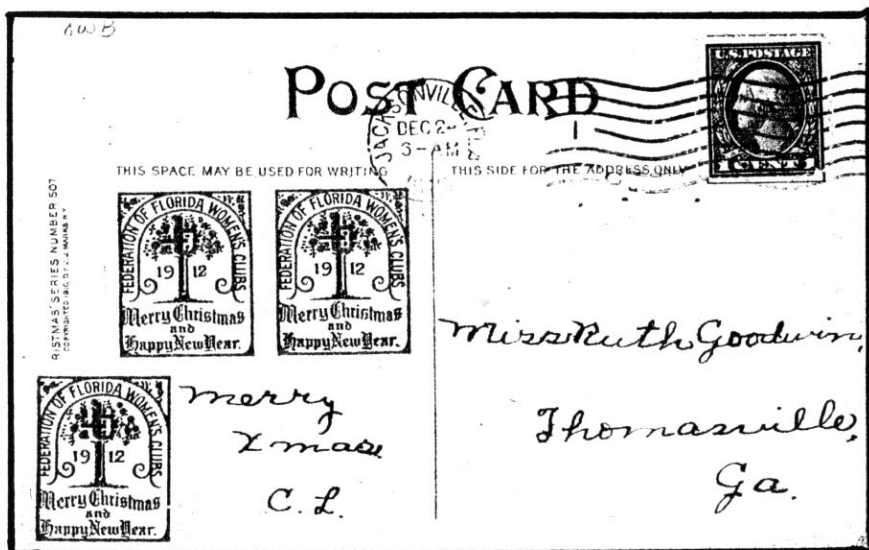


Fig. 3. JACKSONVILLE FLA. DEC 24 1912 machine cancel which ties #405 and pair of 1912 Federation of Florida Women's Clubs Christmas Seal on Christmas postal card.

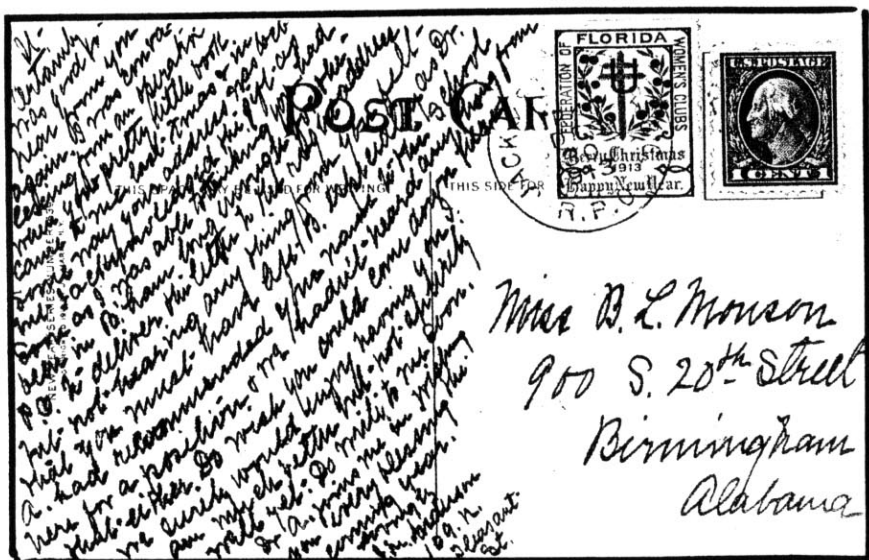


Fig. 4. JACK & ST. PETERSBURG R.P.O. DEC 30 1913 postmark ties 1913 Federation of Florida Women's Clubs Christmas Seal on New Year's postal card.



Fig. 5. JACKSONVILLE / FLA. DEC 23 1914 machine cancel ties UX15 and #405 to Christmas postal card.

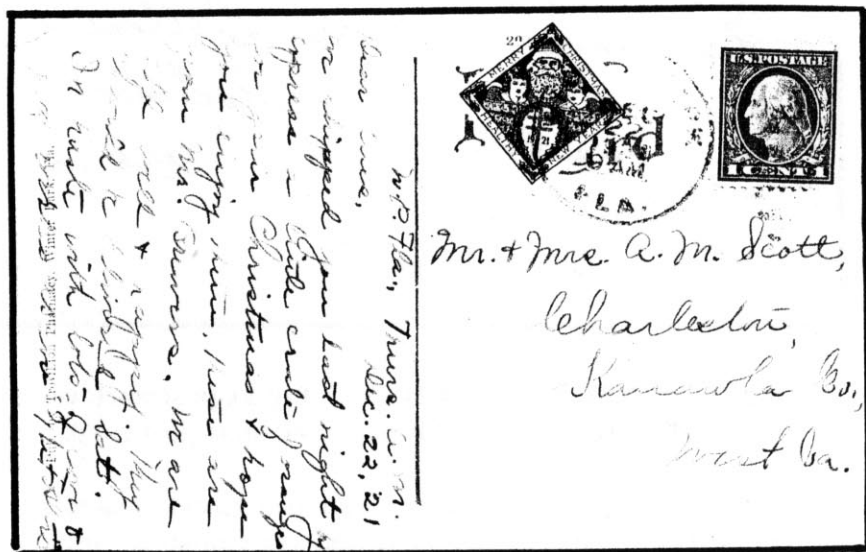


Fig. 6. WINTER PARK / FLA. DEC 22 1921 postmark ties WX28 Christmas seal to postal card.

The Christmas postal card in Fig. 5. shows an example of UX15 tied by a Jacksonville postmark with a 1914 usage to Miami. Note the use of a simple red cross in the design issued by the American National Red Cross but sold by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis.

The post card in Fig. 6. shows an example of the second year of issue of the Christmas Seal issued by the National Tuberculosis Association (1921) with the double cross symbol of that association, used previously by the Federation of Florida Women's Clubs.

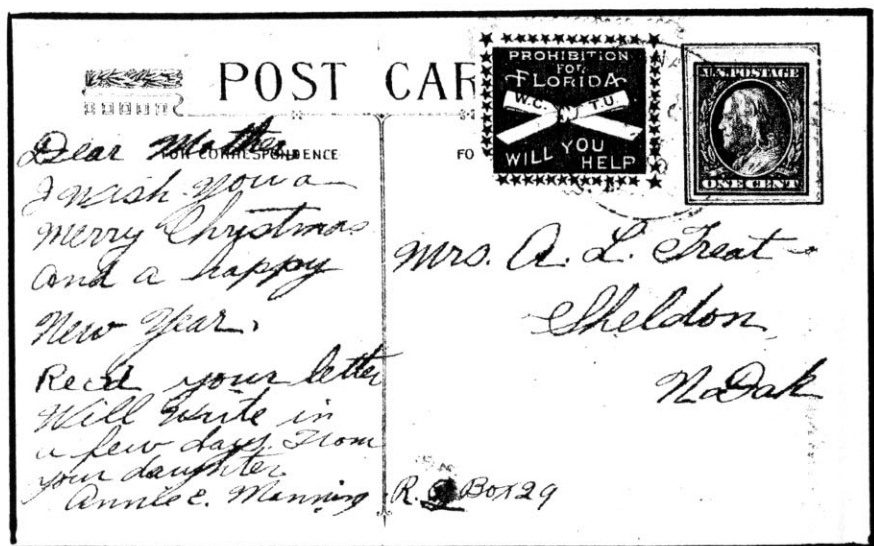


Fig. 7. DAYTONA BEACH 1910 duplex postmark ties W.C.T.U. seal and #331a to a Christmas post card.

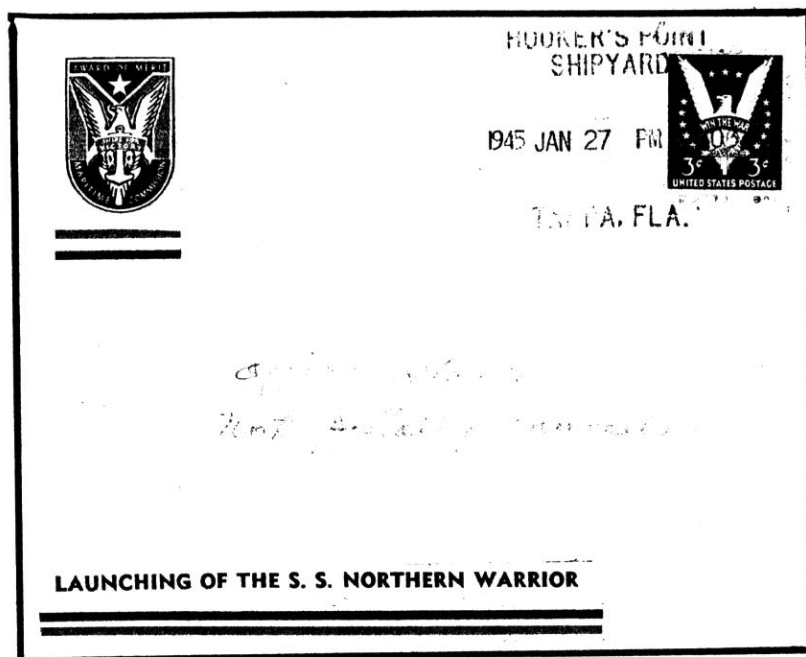
The post card in Fig. 7. documents yet another Florida seal (or sticker) used during this same time period as a Christmas or New Years seal. This seal was issued by the Women's Christian Temperance Union to popularize "Prohibition" and is tied by a Daytona Beach 1910 duplex postmark on a Christmas postal card.

[illegible]

19

HOOKER'S POINT SHIPYARD, TAMPA, FLA.

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



HOOKER'S POINT / SHIPYARD JAN 27 1945 / TAMPA, FLA. magenta cancellation on philatelic event cover.

The above cover has a most unusual cancellation with a patriotic red, white and blue "Maritime Commission" sticker commemorating the "Launching of the S.S. Northern Warrior". The cover is not addressed and appears to not have been postally used. The stamp is cancelled by what appears to be a hand stamp used in the Hooker's Point Shipyard mail receiving room with date and time to the minute (2:03 PM). I have attempted to research the S.S. Northern Warrior on the Internet and have not come up with any information. The Hooker Point Shipyard and the Tampa Shipbuilding and Engineering Company (TASCO) were the two shipyards in Tampa actively building ships during WW II. Anyone with information on the S.S. Northern Warrior should contact the author.

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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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