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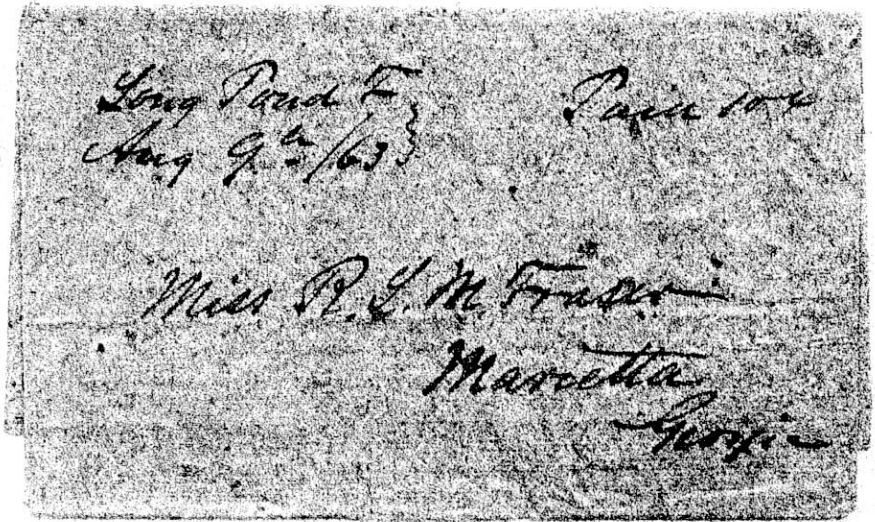
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LONG POND FLORIDA – A NEW CONFEDERATE LISTING

William A. Fox



Long Pond F Aug 9th/63 black manuscript postmark with Paid 10c rate on Confederate cover to Marietta, Georgia.

The Long Pond post office was established in Levy County on 31 May 1854, and functioned through the Civil War. Only a single stampless cover from 1855 is recorded during the pre-war period. There are no known examples with adhesive usage. The above cover represents the newest addition to Confederate Florida postal history and was not listed in either Dietz or American Stampless Cover Catalog. After the Civil War, the post office was re-opened as a name change to Levyville on 20 July 1866.

The post office at Long Pond had a fairly large volume of mail as the postal receipts for the year ending 30 June 1859, amounted to \$43.89. For the 6 month period ending 30 June 1861, there was \$19.19 in postal receipts.

WILD WOOD SUMTER CO. FLA. POSTMARK

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

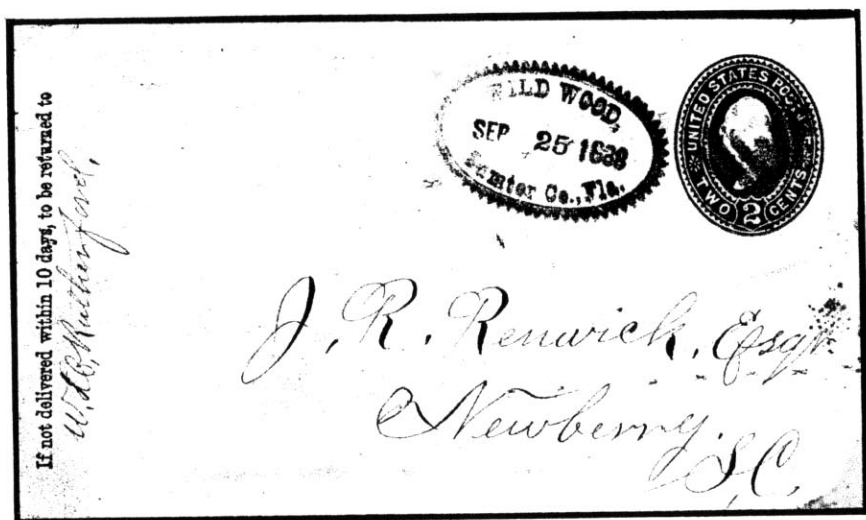


Fig. 1. WILD WOOD, / Sumter Co., Fla. SEP 25 1888 serrated oval county postmark with grid cancel on 2c green entire.

I am currently doing research on Florida postmaster and county postmarks which were used during the 1870-1890 period of rapid expansion of small towns in Florida. Numerous small towns were established with annual postal receipts insufficient for the postmaster to be issued a P.O.D. postmarking device. Since the postmaster had to purchase his own devices from private manufacturers, several different companies developed oval, rectangular, or large round handstamps which included the postmaster's name and/or the county name. These postmarks from Florida towns are generally quite rare with only a few towns having over 10 known recorded examples. I have been keeping a census of all Florida postmaster and county postmarks for the past 20 years and am now putting things together in order to publish a small book on the subject.

The above Wild Wood (sp. Wildwood) is one of four recorded examples and an example of a serrated oval postmarking device which was commonly used. It is a nicely struck example and I am planning to use a reproduction in my book. What a surprise when I turned the cover over and discovered that it was a “**fumigated**” cover. Two clear rows of perforations are noted on the reverse but only barely visible on the front. The period of use of fumigated covers was from August 20, 1888, until December 17, 1888 for the La Villa Junction station near Jacksonville. I should have recognized the September 1888 date of the postmark on the Wildwood cover as a likely fumigated cover.

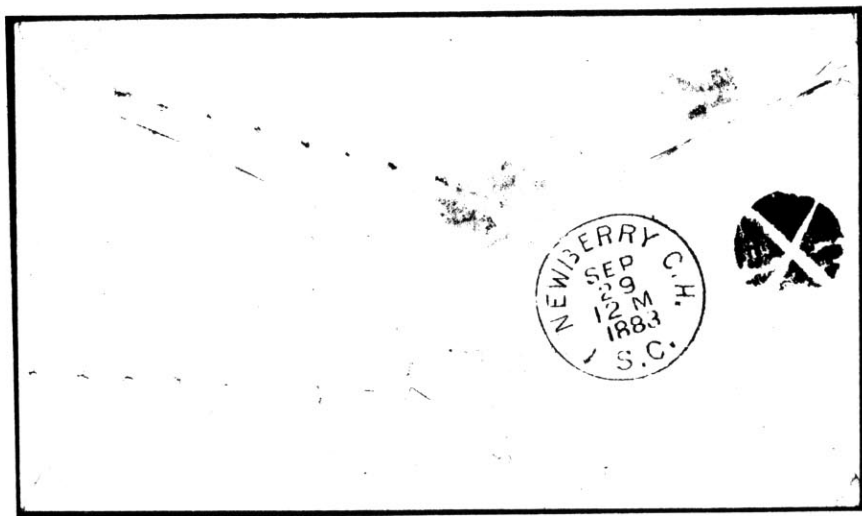
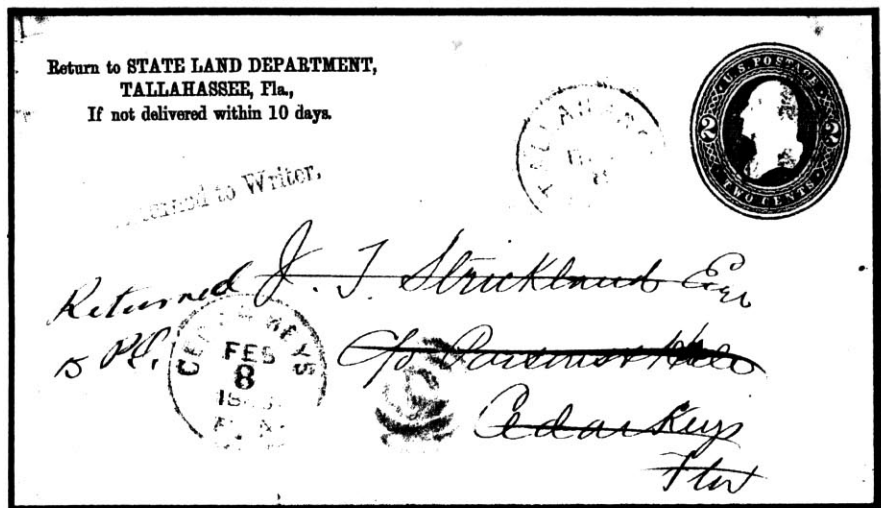


Fig. 2. Reverse of cover with “fumigation” markings and Newberry C.H., S.C. Sep 29 1888 receiving mark.

The author would appreciate photocopies of any Florida postmaster or county postmarks in member's collections. When the book is published I hope to list all known recorded examples in order to place a relative scarcity value on these uncommon covers.

CEDAR KEYS "RETURNED TO WRITER" COVER

Herbert P. McNeal

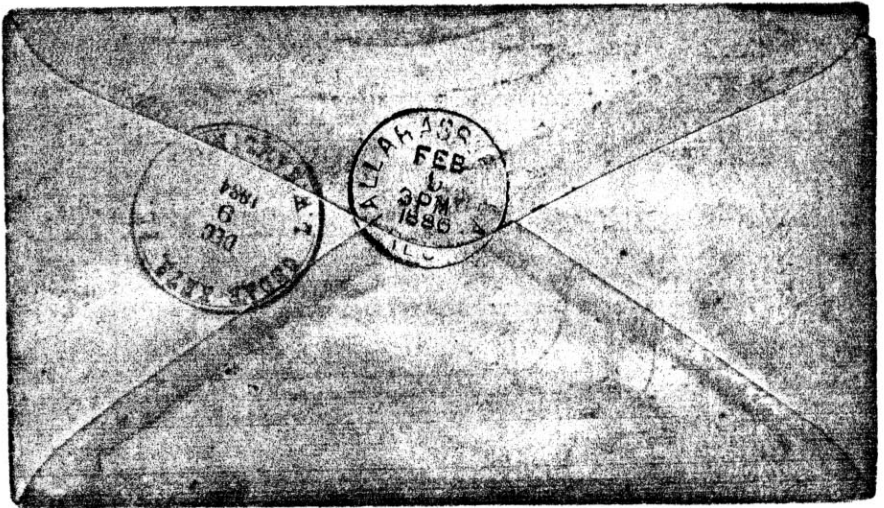


TALLAHASSEE/ FLA. DEC 8 postmark on 2c brown entire with CEDAR KEYS / FLA. FEB 8 1886 forwarding mark.

The above cover looks for all intents as a common item of postal history with a forwarding postmark and "Returned to Writer" hand stamp marking. The letter was sent from the State Land Department in Tallahassee to an attorney J. T. Strickland in Cedar Keys care of Parsons & Hale. There is a docketing "Returned to P.O." at the left. All in all a fairly nondescript cover. That is what I thought until I looked at the back.

On the reverse is a very nice strike of a magenta CEDAR KEYS, FLA. / L. W. HAMLIN, P.M. dated DEC 9 1884. This is a very collectable postmaster postmark, but when combined with the Tallahassee Feb 9, 1886 receiving mark, it documents a period of 14

months from the time the letter was sent until it was returned to the sender. This is a very long period for the cover to have remained with Parsons and Hale before being returned to the post office to be returned to the writer. The docketing "Returned to P.O." appears to have been written by Parsons and Hale and the hand stamp "Returned to Writer." was placed at the Cedar Keys post office where the Cedar Keys Feb 8 1886, (forwarding) postmark was applied. Quite a lengthy time for a letter to remain delivered and out of the post office only to be later returned to the post office to be sent back to Tallahassee without any additional postage being charged. I doubt that could happen today.



**CEDAR KEYS, FLA. / L. W. HAMLIN, P.M. DEC 9 1884
magenta receiving postmark with TALLAHASSEE FLA /
REC'D FEB 9 1886 black receiving mark on reverse.**

'AUBURNDALE, FL. "Destined to become prominent"

David C. Lingard

The story of Auburndale, like so many Florida towns, is a story of the railroad. This railroad belonged to Henry B. Plant and the South Florida Railroad. Henry Plant completed the S.F.R.R. from Kissimmee to Tampa in late 1884. This route traveled across North Polk County (see map Fig. 1.). Several communities sprang up along the new R.R. almost overnight. Among the new Polk County towns that began during 1884 and 1885 were Acton and Lakeland to the west, Lake Alfred and Haines City to the east, and directly in the middle was Auburndale. The name Auburndale was coined by Mrs. R.M. Pulsifer, wife of the Vice Pres. of the S.F.R.R. Mrs. Pulsifer suggested the name from Auburndale, Mass.

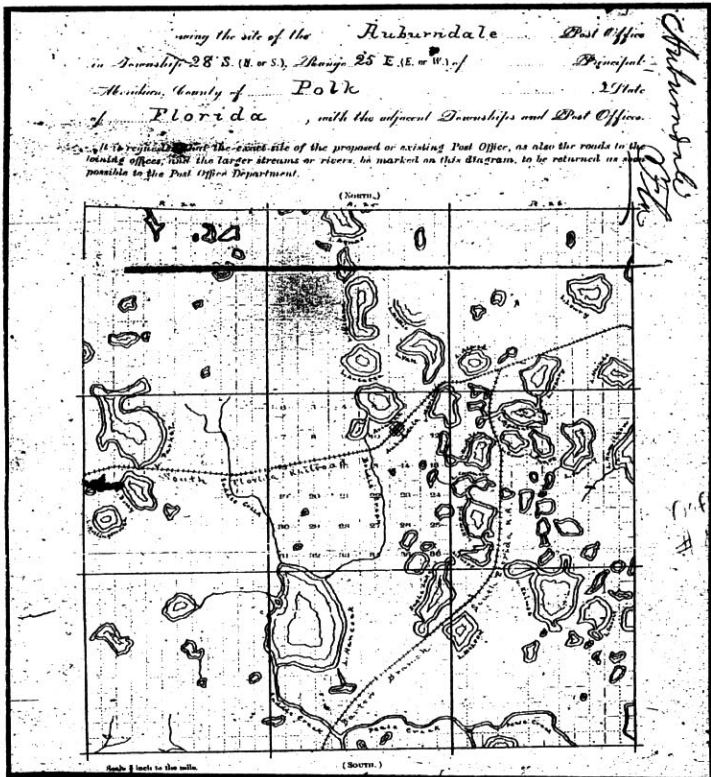


Fig. 1. Map from original post office application of May 19, 1884.

tourist and provide easy transportation for farmers, particularly citrus growers. Many hundreds of acres of citrus were planted nearby. Just as things were beginning to pick up however, circumstances changed drastically. A devastating freeze occurred in 1886, which killed all citrus trees in the area. This was followed by a yellow fever scare of 1888 that severely hampered all business. Land values collapsed and bankruptcies were common. Many people left. In 1889, a survey done by the Florida State Board of Health found only 42 people still living in Auburndale. The little village of Auburndale somehow managed to survive and started to grow again.

The post office and the postmasters were very important to small communities like Auburndale. When a postmaster left, they would be sorely missed. A Feb. 15, 1899, newspaper stated, "Mr. A.H. Zachry (the 4th postmaster) has tendered his resignation...it is safe to say that every patron of the office is sorry of his move, for he has been courteous and accommodating. His conduct won the good will of every one." The postmaster who replaced him seemed to be of considerable means as stated in a July 11, 1900, newspaper article. "Postmaster (William A.) Sands has recently sold 5,000 acres to a turpentine firm, who will erect stills at Sanataria and Raymond." (both Sanataria and Raymond would have their own post offices)

As the town of Auburndale grew, tensions began to rise because of the small size of the post office (see photo Fig.3.). A Dec. 12, 1908 newspaper article printed a letter from a winter resident which said, "I only stay here part of the year, but it really makes me, as well as other winter residents mad every time we have to go into our little insignificant cigar box of a post office. We learn our postmaster gets it for nothing....why don't he make a place or use some of the vacant buildings.....we have determined along with the year round residents to make a big kick to the Post Office Dept. at Washington and see if they will not have something done." Postmaster Sands quickly responded and wrote in the Dec. 17, 1908 newspaper, "There are 2 vacant buildings in town, one is large enough for a grain warehouse, the other too far removed from the center of business...He wants me to make a place...whoever heard of a postmaster of the 4th class getting sufficient income to erect a building for his office?...the public is not

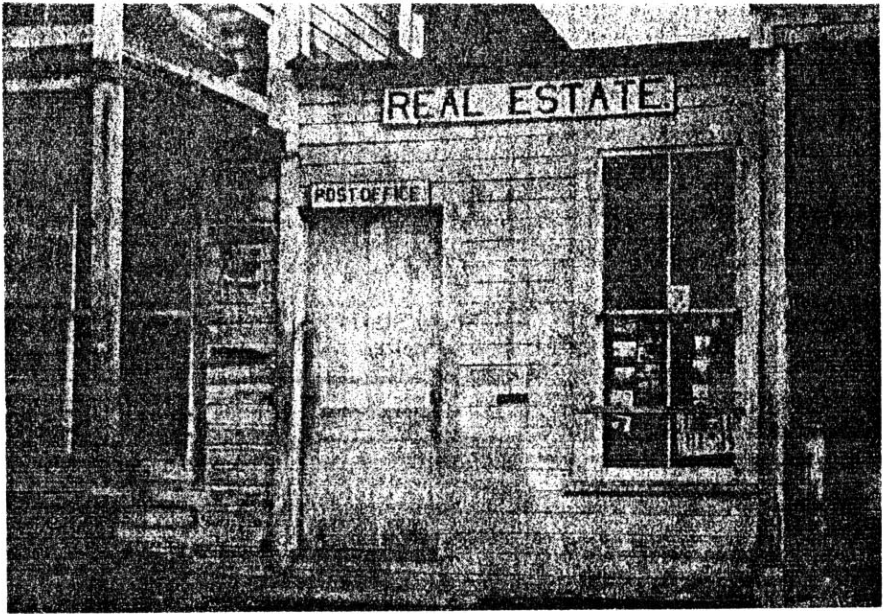


Fig. 3. 1911 photograph of Auburndale “Cigar Box” post office.

materially inconvenienced by the size of the office, for the (public) side of the cabinet is larger in comparison than the postmasters and it is behind the cabinet where the work is done!”

It would be for the next postmaster, John McLain to move the post office. He moved the post office to much larger quarters in late 1911/early 1912 (see photo Fig. 4.). Unfortunately this new post office would soon burn down in one of two disastrous fires. The first fire occurred in Nov. 1912. A newspaper stated, “A fire destroyed many businesses of Auburndale including the post office.” A Jan. 30, 1913, newspaper article recorded the loss as follows, “J.P. McLain Postmaster and stationary and cigar store, loss of \$500, no insurance.” The post office moved to new quarters which was called the Triangle Building (see photo Fig. 5.). That proved to be a fortuitous move, because another, more severe fire swept the business district in Nov. 1913. A newspaper article of Nov. 27, 1913, stated that, “the entire business section of Auburndale was reduced to ashes last night, with the exception of the State Bank building” (Triangle Building). This building is still in use today.



Fig. 4. Auburndale post office circa 1912 with old “cigar box” office directly to the left.

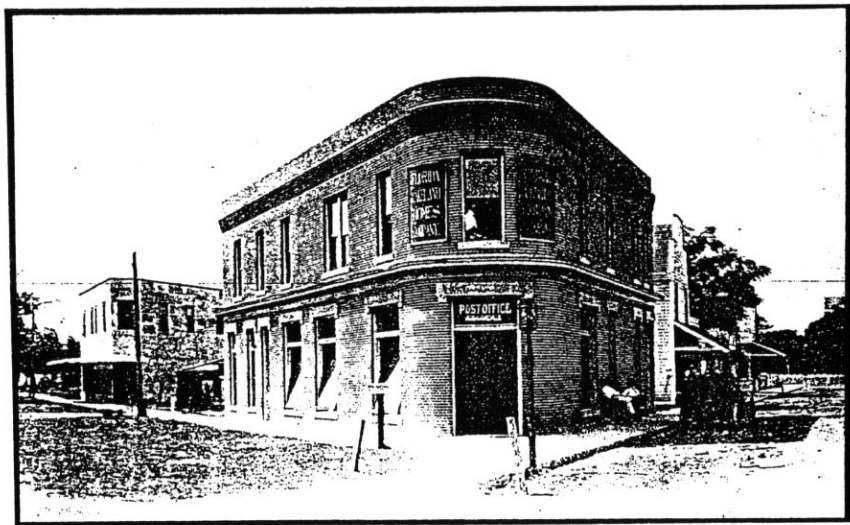


Fig. 5. “Triangle Building” Auburndale post office circa 1913.

The post office and Auburndale overcame this setback and continued to prosper. Citrus growing and citrus processing plants sprang up and employed many people. Auburndale has grown from a small village to a vibrant community nestled between Winter Haven and Lakeland.

Following are a couple of notable items about the Auburndale post office. From establishment in 1884 through 1956, there were three women among the twelve postmasters. The first woman and third postmaster, Mrs. Naomi Thorpe, served five years from October 10, 1891, until January 28, 1896. This was very unusual in early Polk County history. Nine Polk County DPOs would send their mail to Auburndale when they closed. They include: Nettie, Green Pond, Morse, Sanitaria, Wahneta, Tilson, Raymond, Fitzhugh, and Blanch.



Fig. 6. AUBURNDALE, / FLA. MAY 28 1885 postmark on registered advertising cover with S.F.R.R notation on return address. Note the accolades of Auburndale in the advertising corner card (excelled by none). This is an example of the earliest type of Auburndale postmark.



Fig. 7. AUBURNDALE / FLA. JUN 24 1886 postmark on registered cover to the Land Commissioner in Tallahassee with notation of \$80 from Sam W. Jetton, Polk Co. Settler. This is an example of the 2nd type of postmark used in Auburndale.

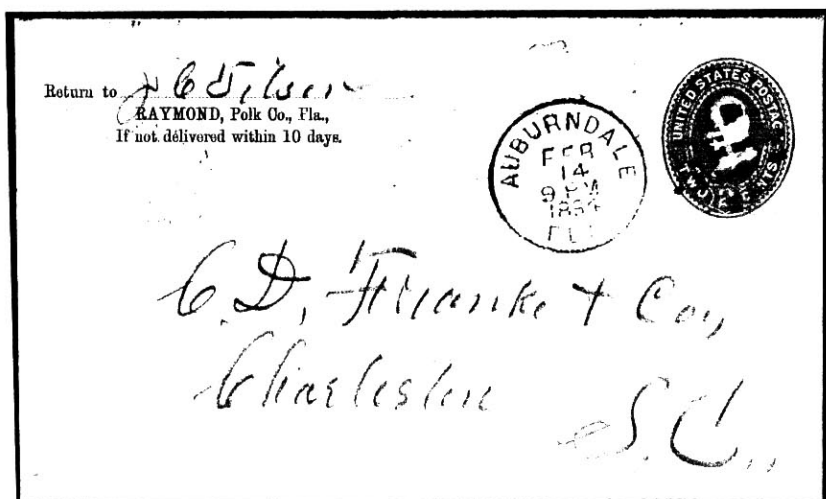


Fig. 8. AUBURNDALE / FLA. FEB 14 1894 postmark on cover with Raymond, Polk Co. Fla. Letterhead. This is the 3rd type of postmark used in Auburndale. The Raymond post office functioned from 1890-1902 when it closed with mail handled at Auburndale.

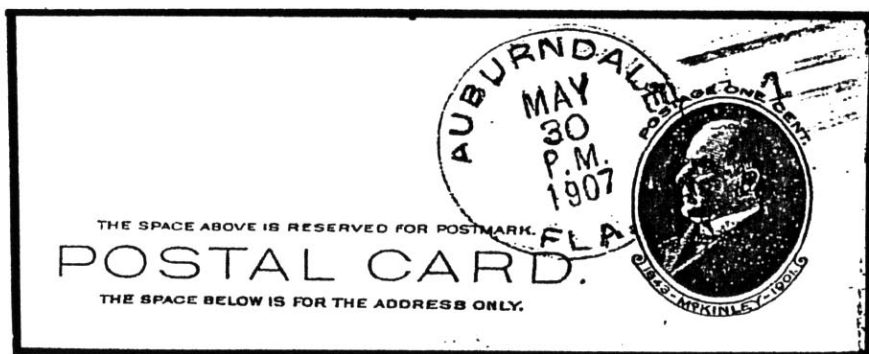


Fig. 9. AUBURNDALE / FLA. 1907 doane type II (4) postmark.

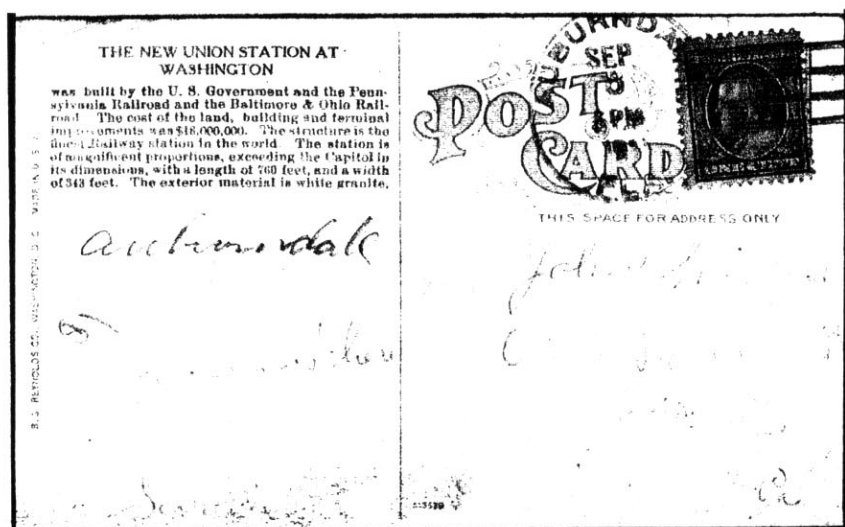


Fig. 10. AUBURNDALE / FLA. 1911 type A 4-bar postmark.

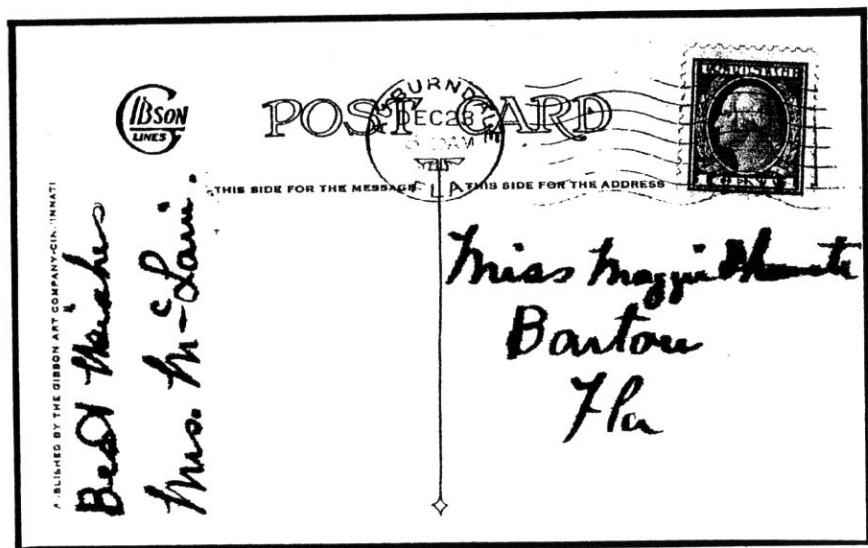
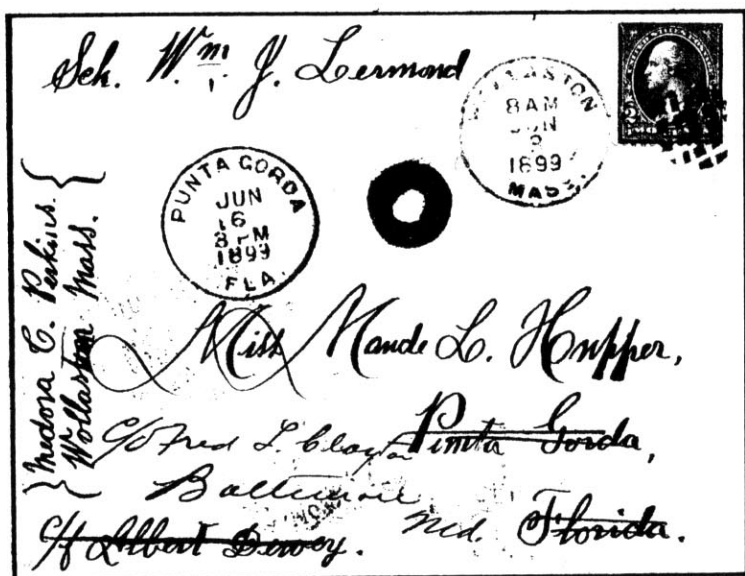


Fig. 11. AUBURNDALE / FLA. 1920 early machine cancel.

Editor's Note: David Lingard is a regular contributor to the Florida Postal History Journal and specializes in Polk County Florida postal history. He also writes articles for the Polk County Historical Society and has helped with displays in the Polk County Historical Museum. He has requested that members submit photocopies of examples of postmarks from any Polk County town (except Auburndale, Bartow, Fort Meade, Haines City, Lakeland, and Winter Haven) for research purposes and for the Museum files. Most Polk County towns have not had postmarks documented at the Museum. His address is: David C. Lingard, 1510 Sycamore Dr., Ft. Wayne, IN 46825-4733. Phone: (260) 482-4328, email: david.lingard@hotmail.com.

SCHOONER "WM. J. LERMOND"

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



PUNTA GORDA / FLA. JUN 6 1899 duplex forwarding postmark with unusual killer on "Sch. Wm. J. Lermond" docketed cover.

The above cover has an unusual killer in the Punta Gorda duplex postmark. I have not seen such a boldly inked killer. Perhaps it was originally a concentric circles killer that took on too much ink. I bought the cover not only for the boldly stuck postmark and killer, but also because it had a name of ship docketing. To date only four handstamped ship markings are known with Florida usage. Manuscript ship markings are more common but still scarce. The "William. J. Lermond" was a schooner built in 1885 in Thomaston, Maine for Watts & Co. Sidney G. Hupper was her first captain. She serviced the waters of New England until she sank in Chesapeake Bay in October 1923. In 1885, William J. Lermond was himself a noted ship captain for Watts & Co. He was later involved in a terrible shipwreck in the early 1900's which he survived but which killed many crew members and his onboard wife.

U.S.S. YANKEE

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

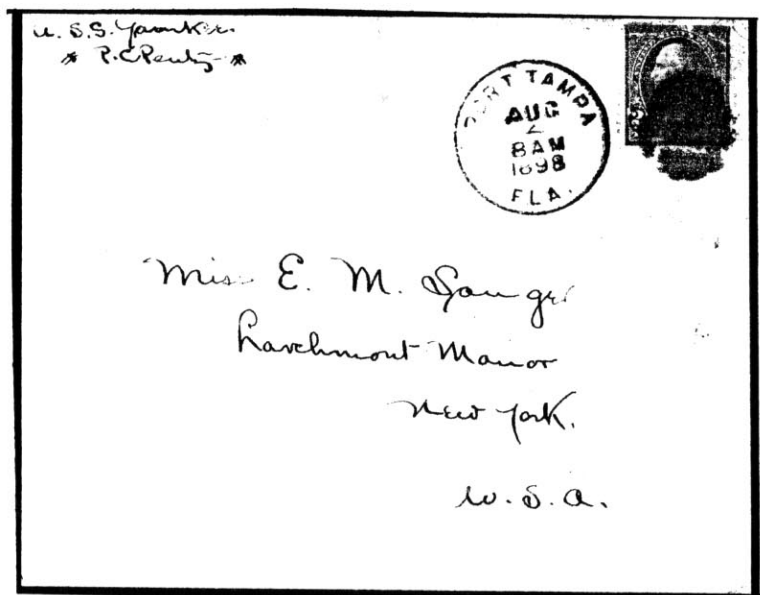
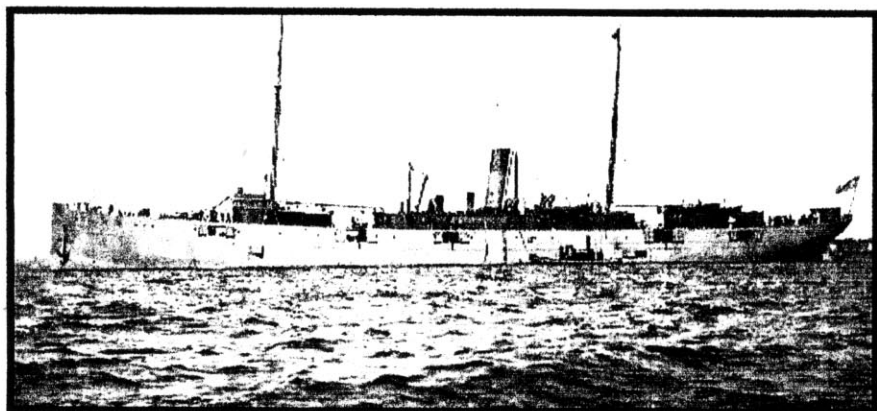


Fig. 1. PORT TAMPA / FLA. AUG 4 1898 postmark on Spanish American War “U.S.S. Yankee” docketed cover.

Tampa was one of the major training centers for soldiers during the beginning of the Spanish American War. Tampa, Fernandina, and Jacksonville are known to have had patriotic multicolored covers that are highly collectable. Some were even overprinted on hotel advertising corner card envelopes. Tampa had its own special “involutud flag” machine cancel, which was applied at a temporary military post office at Henry Plant’s Tampa Bay Hotel, now the University of Tampa student union and a museum. This cover has nothing like those to make it especially interesting except for the docketing “U.S.S. Yankee”. Name of ship notations during the Spanish American War are very scarce and I am unaware of any others from Florida.

The U.S.S. Yankee was a 6225 ton auxiliary cruiser that was originally built in 1892 at Newport News, Va., for commercial use by the Southern Pacific Co as the passenger liner "El Norte". The U.S. Navy acquired the El Norte on April 6, 1898, and fitted her with 10 five-inch guns, 6 six pounders and two machineguns. The photo in Fig. 2. shows her at the Brooklyn Navy Yard on April 27, 1898. Her commanding officer was Willard H. Brownson. Her first duty as with the North Patrol Squadron before leaving on May 29th to join the fleet of the US Navy off Cuba. She was involved in battles with the Spanish gunboats "Alvarado" and "Sandoval" on June 13, 1898, putting both ships to flight. During the rest of June and July 1898 she was involved in blockade duty and later as a training ship. It may well have been a training or transport mission that brought her to Tampa in August of 1898. Following cessation of hostilities, she was decommissioned on March 16, 1899. She was recommissioned in 1903 as a training and transport ship and later ran aground and sank on September 23, 1908. Attempts to salvage the ship failed after she was refloated, as she again sank while being towed for repair. She now lies in about 50 feet of water and is a site for sport fishing.



The Auxiliary Cruiser YANKEE

Fig. 2. U.S.S. Yankee during active duty off Cuba in 1898.

USS Yankee

The *USS Yankee* was a 406 ft. 1½ in. long, Iron hulled, Auxiliary Cruiser of Spanish American War vintage. December 5, 1908, heavy seas caused the steamer to founder in Buzzard's Bay, while in tow to New Bedford.

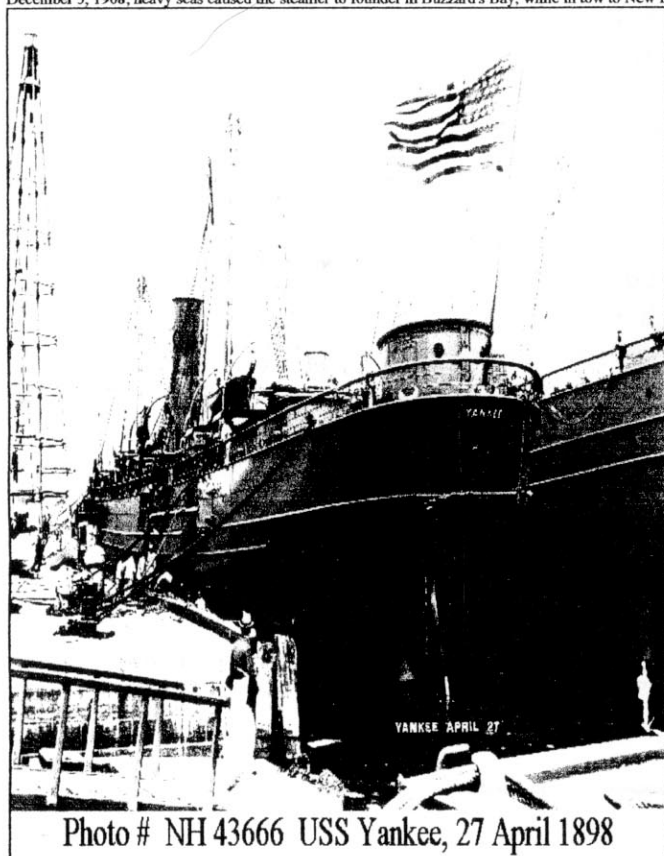


Photo # NH 43666 USS Yankee, 27 April 1898

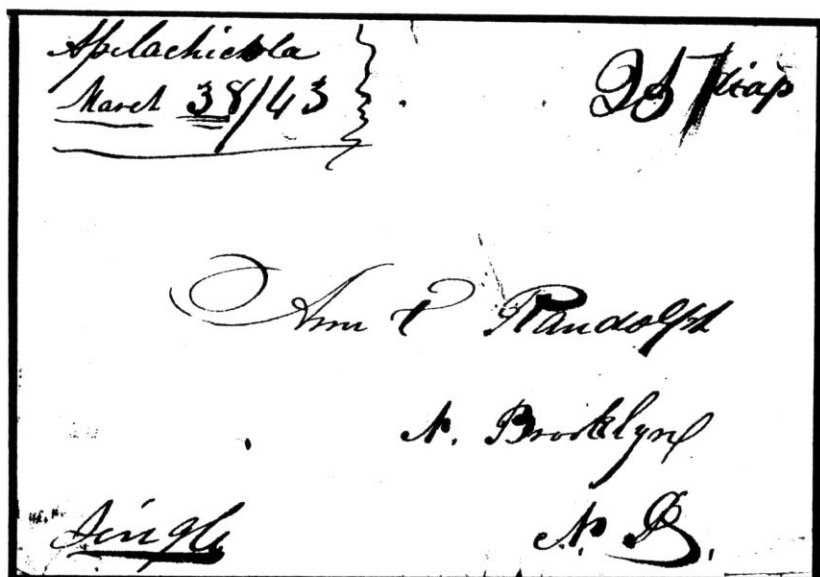
Fig. 3. U.S.S. Yankee, at Brooklyn Navy Yard, April 27, 1898.

Editor's Note:

This is the second of two articles about "ship" notations on Florida covers. If other members have similar docketed covers, the editor would be happy to assist in writing them up for publication. Each issue of the Florida Postal History Journal has up to ten articles and the editor needs more material from the membership. Please check your collections. Something as simple as the above cover may well be of interest to our members.

APALACHICOLA – A NEW MANUSCRIPT EXAMPLE

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



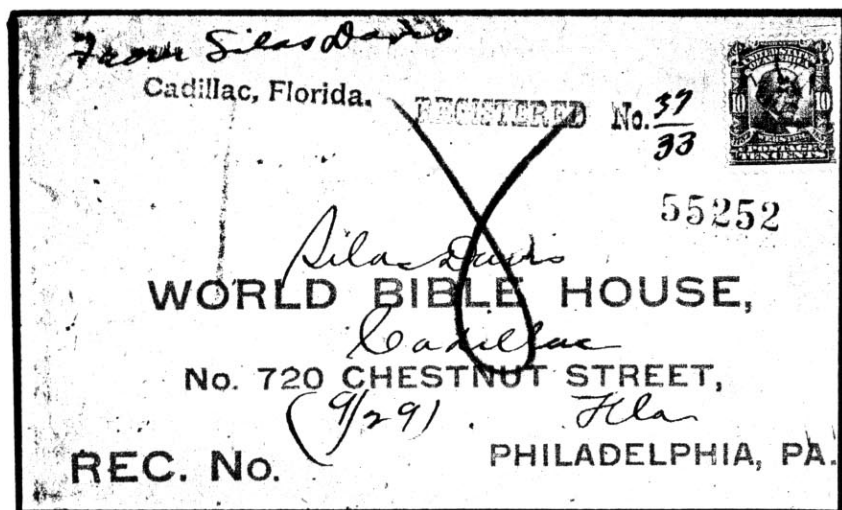
Apalachicola March 38/43 manuscript postmark with 25 diap (sic) rate on cover to Brooklyn, N.Y.

The above cover is from the Kramer collection and is most unusual in many ways. The postmark is only the second example of a manuscript postmark known from Apalachicola. The only other listing in our Society book "Florida Sampless Postal History 1763-1861" is from 23 January 1840, with a Way rate marking. But this cover has not been seen by any of the authors and has never been confirmed. It has remained a listing from Sampson's original Stampless Catalog.

The misspelling of Apalachicola in this postmark and the March 38 date is very confusing as is the reverse spelling of paid (diap). The handwriting appears the same for the addressee as in the postmark, but the letter enclosure was written by Telsworth who is not listed as serving as postmaster in Apalachicola. All in all this is a most interesting cover.

CADILLAC, FLORIDA "STRAIGHTLINE" POSTMARK

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



Cadillac, Florida. magenta straight-line postmark with pen cancelled #307 on September 1903 registered cover.

The Cadillac, Florida post office was officially established in Alachua County on 8 April 1902, with Louis C. McClenny as the first postmaster. Robert E. Long had attempted to establish a post office at Cadillac on 29 August 1900, but later records show it failed to qualify. The actual post office was discontinued shortly after its establishment, possibly on 7 November 1905, but it is not totally clear. Although the town of Cadillac still exists in Alachua County, there are no records a post office after 1905. The above cover is the only item of postal history from this town that I am aware of. A 1904 cut to shape cds from the PMCC CD is shown below.



CADILLAC / FLA. JAN 1 1904 cds postmark

DEALER - MEMBERS

CONRAD L. BUSH

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

WILLIAM A. FOX

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Naples, FL 34110
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