

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

VOL. 14, NO. 2

JULY 2007

2007 Annual Meeting 1

**Edwards Fla Type I Doanes
Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 2**

**1852 Fort Jefferson Construction Letter
Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 7**

**1865 Blockade Cover to Florida?
Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 11**

**Jack & Key West R.P.O. Route Agent
Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 12**

**Beauclerc Fla. Usage to Belgium
Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 13**

**Pilatka #9 Usage
Herbert P. McNeal 15**

**Schooner Whale
Deane R. Briggs, M.D. 16**

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - WILLIAM H. JOHNSON, D.D.S.

PAST PRESIDENT - EDWARD R. JOYCE

VICE PRESIDENT - STEPHEN PATRICK

SEC. - TREASURER - DEANE R. BRIGGS, M.D.

JOURNAL EDITOR - DEANE R. BRIGGS, M.D.

REGIONAL EDITORS - DAVID LINGARD

THEODORE LIGHT

HERBERT P. McNEAL

WEB PAGE - www.FPHSonline.com

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 or www.FLHSONline.com

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

2007 ANNUAL MEETING

William Johnson

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Florida Postal History Society was held at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition on Saturday, February 3, 2007. 16 members and two guests were in attendance with an additional 5 member dealers attending the show.

Following the introduction of members and guests, Secretary-Treasurer Deane Briggs reported that the society now has 118 members with a treasury balance of \$4320 which should be sufficient for future publications of our journal and another book. He reported that if members continue to submit articles, three publications per year should continue.

The results of the election of officers were noted and William Johnson was installed as president for the 2007-2009 term. Steven Patrick was elected Vice-President and Deane Briggs continued as Secretary-Treasurer.

Yamil H. Kouri, M.D. presented a very scholarly presentation on Postal History in the Spanish Americas based on research he obtained in the Spanish archives as well as from New Orleans. He also reported on a new postal marking which generated a great deal of interest from Spanish Florida collectors.

At the conclusion of the meeting Deane Briggs requested that members with Florida Confederate covers with stampless markings or unusual examples send copies to him for possible use in a new Confederate Postal History book which will be published in 2010 by the Confederate Stamp Alliance and will be a comprehensive update of the 1985 Dietz catalog.

The next meetings of the FPHS will be at FLOREX in November with our annual meeting at Sarasota on Saturday, February 2, 2008. Information on the November FLOREX meeting will be made available in our October Journal issue.

EDWARDS FLA TYPE 1 DOANES

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

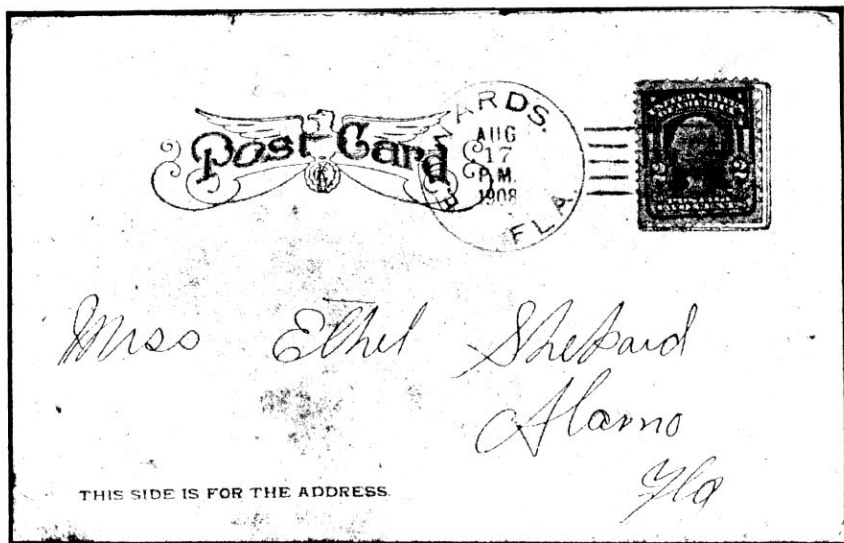


Fig. 1 EDWARDS, FLA. / AUG 17 1908 magenta type I (2) doane postmark on cover to Alamo, Fla.

The above postal entire has an example of 4 known Edwards, Fla. Type I doane postmarked covers with recorded usage from 27 February 1904 to 17 August 1908. The reverse has an ALAMO type II (1) doane postmark used as a receiving mark. When I first purchased this cover several years ago from member Herbert P. McNeal, I thought it to be a nice type I Florida Doane example, which are not at all common. Recently, I purchased another Edwards Doane postmarked post card from the same Shepard correspondence to Alamo, Fla. It was listed as a type I doane, but to my surprise, it indeed had the 5 bar type I (2) killer, but also a 32 mm dial from either a type III doane, or more likely a 4-bar postmarking device. (Fig. 2.) This is classified as a Doane composite and is a listing example.

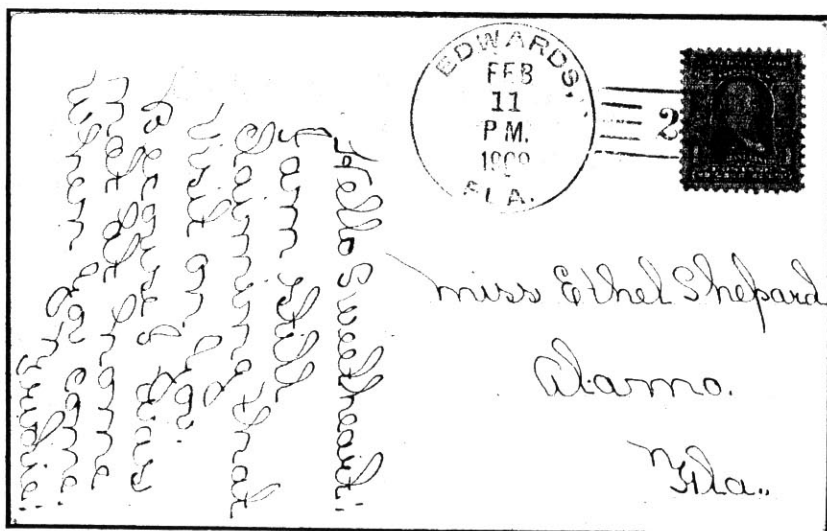


Fig. 2. EDWARDS, FLA. / FEB 11 1909 doane composite postmark with type I (2) killer bars and 32mm. dial, usage to Alamo, Fla.

The Edwards, Florida post office was established in Gadsden County, on 21 June 1886, with farmer and Civil War veteran, William W. Edwards as postmaster. The town is located on maps few miles south of Gretna, (Fig. 3.) in a rural area not serviced by

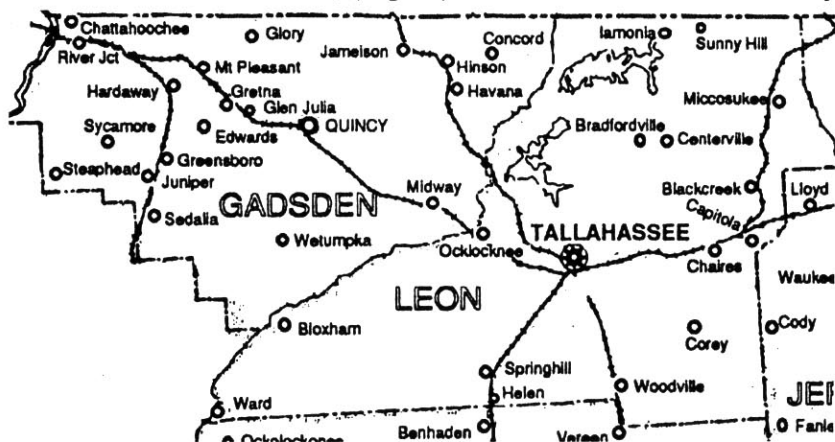


Fig. 3. Map with location of Edwards post office.

railroad or major roads. The post office was discontinued less than 3 months later on 11 September 1886, with mail handled at the Alamo post office. The post office was re-established two years later on 30 October 1888, and continued until it was discontinued permanently on 15 July 1909. An example of the Edwards postmark used prior to the Doane device is shown in Fig. 4. with a Quincy same day routing mark on the reverse.

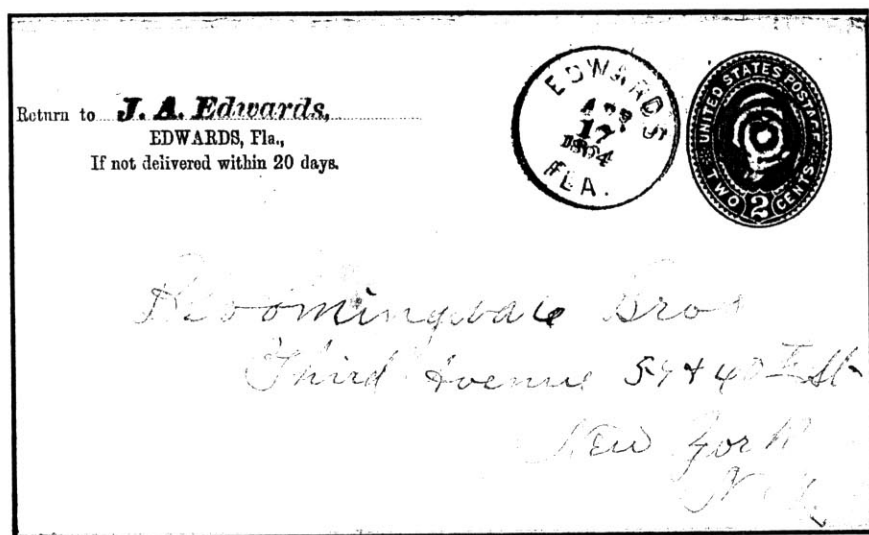


Fig. 4. EDWARDS FLA. / APR 17 1894 postmark on 2 c. entire with J.A. Edwards, Edwards, Fla. return address.

After the closure of the Edwards post office, there is no record of mail being handled at any nearby post office, and there is no mention of the location of any town of Edwards that I could find on the Internet, aside from the Edwards cemetery. The Edwards cemetery has 25 Edwards buried there out of 40 total interred, so the Edwards family must have been the main farmers in the area. The cemetery (and the site of the town by inference) can be located as follows: "From Quincy, FL., take Hwy. 90 west to Hwy. 12 south, turn left and go to Hwy. 65 south. Turn left and go 0.8 miles and turn left on dirt road and go 0.3 miles. Veer left and then turn

back to your right and go 0.2 miles. Then turn right and go 0.1 miles to the cemetery. It is on the backside of a 40 acre field." The site sounds like it would be hard to find without a four-wheel drive vehicle!!

Information about postmaster William W. Edwards was equally hard to uncover. The only information I could obtain came from his Confederate Pension records. He was born in Gadsden County Florida, on 8 November 1846. He enlisted in Company L, 1st Florida Infantry in 1864, at Camp Miller in Quincy, Florida, under Captain S. S. Gilcrest. He was discharged on 5 May 1865, at Madison, Florida, after the CSA surrender. In the 1860 census, he was listed as a farmer with 20 acres of improved land and 1000 acres of unimproved land with a value of \$6000. There are no records of him being postmaster or of a marriage. He applied for Military Pension on 28 September 1903, as pensioner 2805, and was approved for \$100 per month on 15 October 1903. He listed his occupation as a farmer. His physician listed ruptures on both sides, asthma and a 25-year chronic cough as his medical ailments. He listed Edwards, Florida as his residence. A final pension record dated 18 August 1909, listed his residence as Gretna, Florida, RFD #1. That was after the Edwards post office had been officially closed and might reflect that mail was handled at Gretna except for the fact that there is recorded a 1910 postmark from Edwards in the Margie Pfund Memorial Postmark Museum and Research Center. (Fig. 5) It is anyone's guess where that postmark was applied.

I could not believe that William Edwards would have been the postmaster in the early 1900's when the Doane devices were used. He was on Civil War pension and quite infirm. I contacted a postmaster friend, Bernie Cook, the Lake Placid, Florida postmaster, who, through another lead, Cathy Watts, led me to the postmaster of Greensboro, Florida, Mary Suber. She informed me via email that in the early 1900's, the Edwards post office was a "Community Post Office" (CPO), not an actual post office, in an area called Providence. Community post offices are just a contract with the postal service to handle the mail for a small community and act on their behalf. While the individual handles all of the

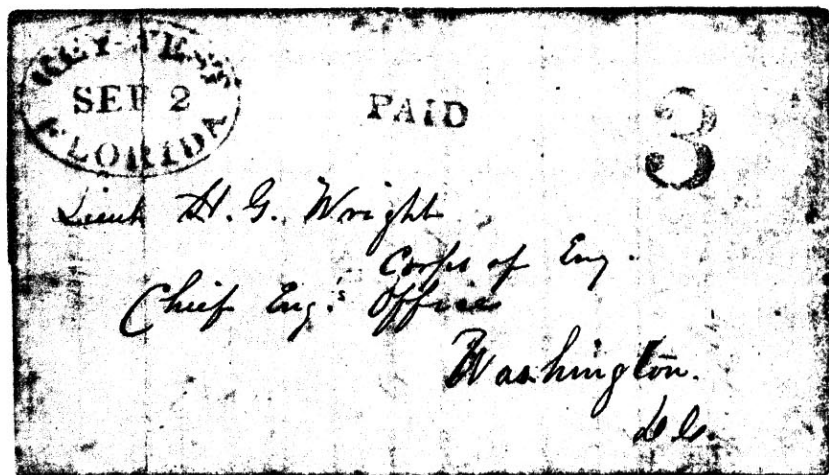
same affairs as a postmaster, they are not given the official title. This may explain how an Edwards postmark shows up in 1910, after the office was officially closed. O.J. Edwards was the "postmaster" in charge of this office and he lived from 1885 until 1963. It is possible that he was a son of the original postmaster, William Edwards. O.J.'s son, Hubert Edwards is still alive and I contacted him for more information about his father, but alas, he could offer nothing of importance.



Fig. 5. EDWARDS FLA. / AUG 19 1910 postmark, slightly different from the pre-doane postmark in Fig. 4. with larger dial and additional time date slug.

1852 FORT JEFFERSON CONSTRUCTION LETTER

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



KEY WEST / SEP 2 (1852) red oval postmark with PAID 3 rate on cover datelined "Garden Key" to Washington, D.C.

The above cover is a nicely struck example of a statehood stampless usage of the oval KEY WEST postmark and PAID 3 handstamped rate (type IIIaD). This rate marking is not common with only 2 usages recorded with the large 3 handstamp rate (D) in red ink. The enclosure is a detailed letter from a member of the Corps of Engineers who withstood a hurricane gale during the construction of Fort Jefferson, and was able to record the pressure changes 12 hours prior to the gale onset, in time to save most of the construction equipment at the building site. The enclosure reads:

Garden Key, Tortugas, Augst 26 1852

Lieut H.G. Wright Sir,

We experienced at this place on the night of the 22nd and morning of the 23rd Augst, a gale of wind, which commenced at the N.E. and veered into S.E. where it ended. Neither the vessel nor

Buildings has rec'd any damage, except Tool-house, on the N.W. side of the outer wall, one end of which has broken down, the worms having destroyed the supports.

The "Sympiesometer" indicating a blow, about twelve hours previous to its commencement, I made every thing about the Brick-buildings doubly secure (having at the time with me, plenty of help) not withstanding all which, was kept employed keeping out the water. The ceilings of the 2nd Story got a little wet, and those of the 3rd much more so, from the leakage of the roof. I have kept the House open for the purpose of drying them, and at this moment, to all appearances, they are perfect.

Things in general are in about the same condition as when you left, except "Schr. A", which vessel is well baked and should be cared for as soon as possible. Persons and animals, belonging to the place are well. J.C. is expecting every day.

Permit me to suggest to you the great advantage in possessing at this place, a "Sympiesometer" you may implicitly rely, on a good one, for notice of a Gale, at least, Twelve hours, in advance. I think the "Schooners" saved the House from inemdation.

With much respect

Your Obt Svt

Francis Watlington

Be pleased to notify me in advance of your return, that I may remove my family in time.

F.W.

This letter is a very interesting first hand account of what sounded like a very strong hurricane hitting the construction site of Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas. The mention of the "Sympiesometer" as allowing a 12 hour notice before the gale hit is of historical interest. It was a sophisticated barometer invented by Alexander Adie in 1818, which recorded atmospheric pressure using a tube with hydrogen and almond oil. This device was used by Captain Fitzroy on the "Beagle" during Darwin's voyages in the 1830's and could record a sudden severe drop in pressure consistent with readings we read about in Florida today when a hurricane is developing. Over 2500 sympiesometers were sold before an improved aneroid barometer was introduced in the 1850's. Today, with sophisticated methods of noting barometric pressure drops, we are fortunate to have many days of advance notice of an impending storm.

Construction of Fort Jefferson was initiated in 1846, by the U.S Corps of Engineers, and continued for nearly 30 years. The initial labor force was made up of slaves from Key West. Construction was never completed as changes in weaponry made a fort at its location in the Dry Tortugas obsolete. After the Civil War, Fort Jefferson was used as a federal prison and housed Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, the infamous surgeon who set the broken leg of Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth. Dr. Mudd did help wipe out a yellow fever epidemic at the fort in 1867, and for that effort had his sentence commuted two years later and was released. The fort was permanently abandoned in 1874, but has remained a historic site and since 1992, a national park. Postmarks from Fort Jefferson are limited to the oval cds marks used during the Federal occupation of Fort Jefferson from 1862-1865, and "Tortugas" postmarks used from 1900-1907.

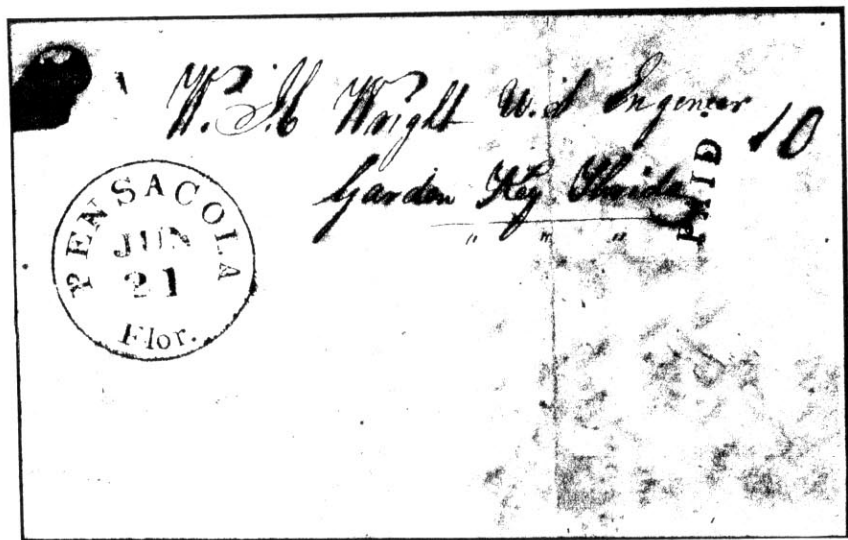


FORT JEFFERSON / FLA. oval postmark used 1862-1865, black, red, blue ink examples known.



TORTUGAS / FLA. cds used 1900 – 1907, a rare Doane III(3) postmark is known from 1906-07.

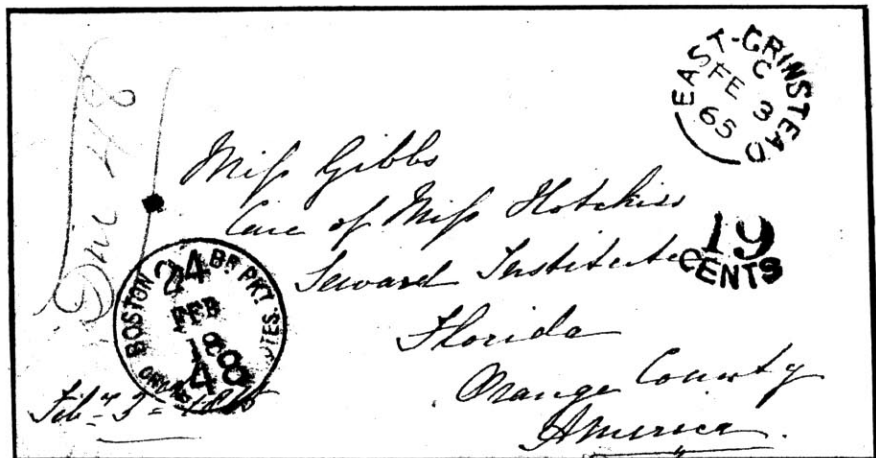
As I was completing this article, I found a related cover from a P.O. Neil, requesting a position as a mason for the construction at Garden Key. It was postmarked Pensacola, 12 June 1847, shortly after construction was begun, and postmarked PAID 10. What is interesting is that the letter was address to W. H. Wright, U.S. Engineer, Garden Key, Florida. Was this the same Wright to whom the 1852 letter was addressed in Washington? I would assume so, as he was the engineer in charge of the construction. I am not sure how the letter was delivered as there was no official post office or postal route at Garden Key during this period of 1847-1852. It must have reached the site by boat from Key West, the closest post office.



PENSACOLA / Flor. JUN 21 (1847) stampless cover with PAID 10 rate to "Garden Key Florida"

1865 INCOMING BLOCKADE COVER TO FLORIDA?

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

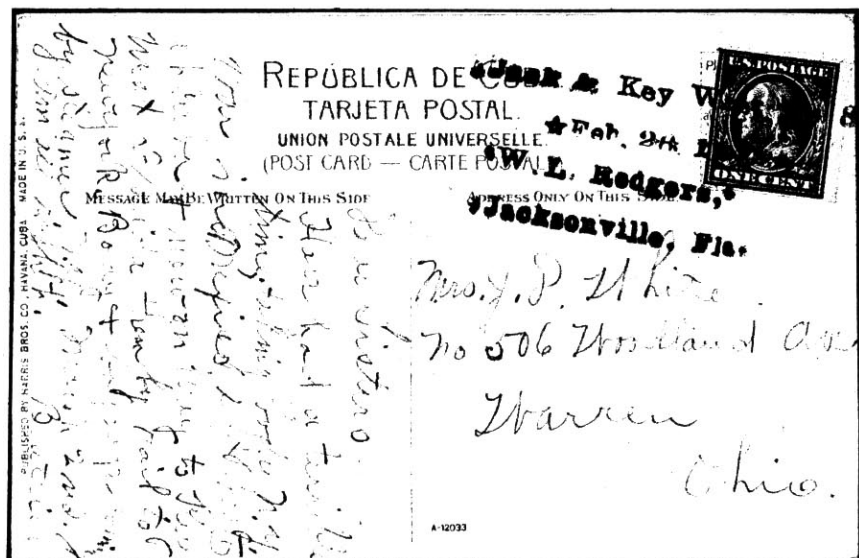


EAST GRINSTEAD (England) FE 3/ 65 postmark with 19/CENTS rate marking on stampless cover to Florida, Orange County, America with Boston packet rate receiving mark.

As an avid Florida Confederate postal history collector, I was anxious when I saw the above cover in a dealer's stampless cover holding with a nominal price. It was addressed to a Miss Gibbs, Seward Institute, Florida, Orange County, America. Since there was an Orange County in Florida, and the Gibbs family was very prominent in Florida during the Civil War, I immediately considered this a potential incoming blockade usage from England to Florida. The Boston packet marking obviously could not be explained. A quick Internet check deflated my enthusiasm as I found a school, the Seward Institute, located in the city of Florida, New York, which operates to date. Nevertheless, this is a nice cover with a red London Feb 4/ 65 routing mark on the reverse.

JACK & KEY WEST R.P.O. ROUTE AGENT MARKING

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



**Jack & Key West Tr. 8 / *Feb. 26 1924* / *W. L. Rogers,* /
Jacksonville, Fla magenta route agent postmark.**

Jacksonville & Key West R.P.O. postmarks are quite common but specific route agent markings are quite scarce. Most of the known agent markings are in magenta ink and are applied on the reverse of covers as transit markings while the stamp is cancelled with the actual R.P.O. handstamp. This post card is from a woman returning the body of a family member and written while in passage from Cuba to Key West. It must have entered the mails on board the train from Key West. The message is enlightening. "Dear Sisters - Have had a terrible time taking body (to) N.Y. (due to) War in Mexico. Left boat at Cuba & now on way to Key West Florida, then by rail to New York. Body & baggage coming by steamer (to) N.Y. March 2nd. Am all right. Beatrice".

BEAUCLERC FLA. USAGE TO BELGIUM

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

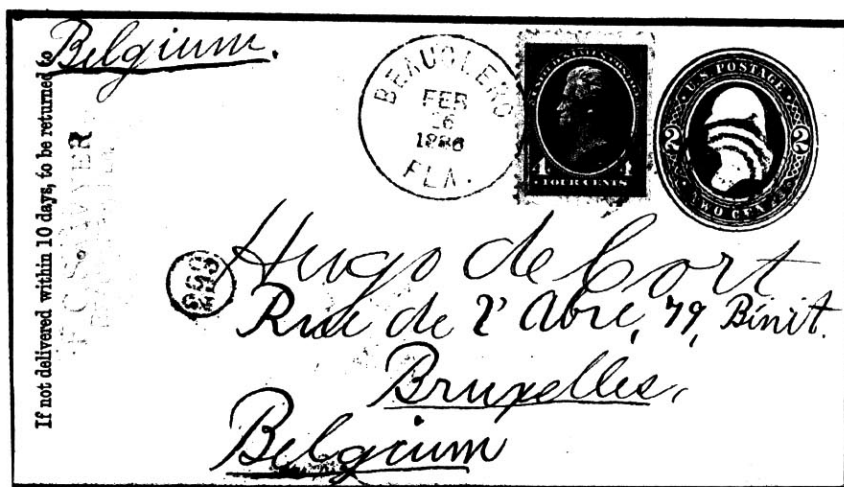
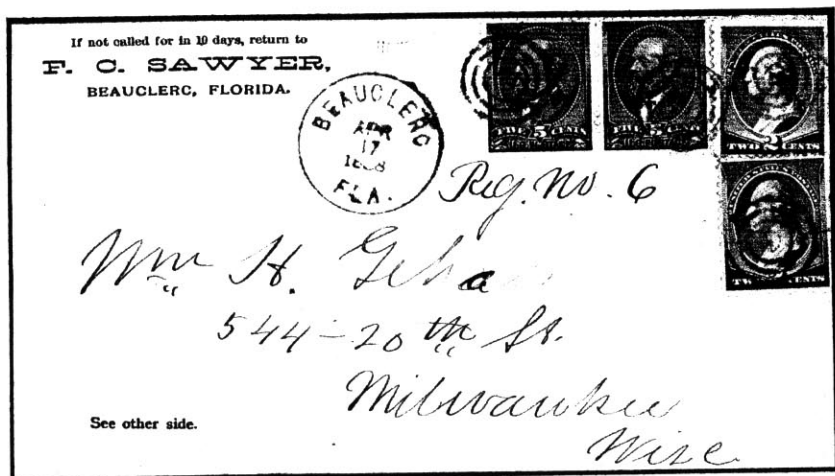


Fig. 1. BEAUCLERC / FLA. FEB 26 1886 cds postmark with ring of circles killer postmark on cover to Belgium.

The cover in Fig. 1 is a nice example of over payment of the 5 cent UPU rate to Belgium from the Duval County DPO post office at Beauclerc. The Beauclerc post office was established on 28 October 1878, with Timothy M. Pearson as postmaster. The office was discontinued on 15 December 1899, with mail handled at the Jacksonville post office. Nearly a century later, Beauclerc was re-established as a Station of Jacksonville on 12 April 1982, and changed to Station #13 of Jacksonville in 1988. This cover and most of the other known Beauclerc examples were sent by F.C. Sawyer. He was apparently a merchant who specialized in medicinal products. The cover in Fig. 2 was posted two years later with a nice printed corner card and a full cover advertisement for a liniment on the reverse (Fig. 3).



BEAUCLERC / FLA. APR 17 1888 postmark with rings of circles killer on registered cover to Milwaukee.

MERCHANT'S
GARGLING OIL LINIMENT

• YELLOW WRAPPER FOR ANIMAL •
 • WHITE FOR HUMAN FLESH •
 • ESTABLISHED •
 • 1833 •

Cures
 Burns and Scalds,
 Chilblains, Frost Bites,
 Scratches or Grease, Chapped
 Hands, Fresh Wounds, External
 Poisons, Sand Cracks, Galls of All Kinds,
 Sittfast, Ringbone, Poll Evil, Swellings, Tumors,

FOR MAN

Gargle in Cows, Calves, Lameness, Horn
 Distemper, Crownscab, Quittor, Foul
 Ulcers, Farcy, Abscess of the
 Udder, Swelled Legs, Thrush,
 Sprains and Bruises,
 Toothache, Foot
 Rot in Sheep.

MANUFACTURED AT
 LOCKPORT, N.Y., U.S.A.
 BY MERCHANT'S GARGLING OIL CO.
 JOHN HODGE, SECRETARY

MERCHANT'S
GARGLING OIL

IS THE OLDEST AND BEST LINIMENT
 NOW IN USE IN THE UNITED STATES

Founded
 Feet, Roup in
 Poultry, Cracked Heels,
 Epizootic, Stringhalt, Wind-
 galls, Spavins, Sweeney, Rheuma-
 tism, Lamé Back, Hemorrhoids or Piles,

& BEAST

Fistula, Mange, Caked Breasts, Sore
 Nipples, Curb, Old Sores, Corns,
 Whitlows, Cramps, Boils,
 Weakness of the Joints,
 Contractions of
 Muscles,

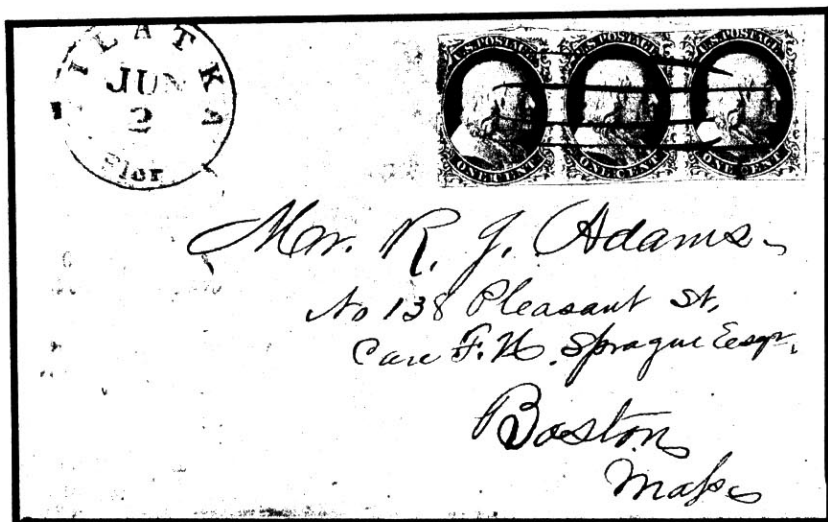
GARGLING OIL - LARGE SIZE: \$1.00 -
MEDIUM SIZE: 50 CENTS - SMALL SIZE: TWO KINDS: 25 CENTS

MERCHANT'S VEGETABLE WORM
TABLETS 20 CENTS PER BOX

Fig. 3. MERCHANT'S GARGLING OIL LINIMENT full cover advertisement on reverse.

PILATKA #9 USAGE

Herbert P. McNeal



PILATKA / Flor. JUN 2 (1856) postmark with pen cancelled strip of three #9 usage to Boston.

The above folded letter is a nice example of the unusual usage of a strip of three 1 cent #9 stamps to pay the three cent rate. Most usage during the 1851-1859 period was paid by a single 3 cent stamp #10 or #11 or by use of the Nesbit 3 cent entire envelope. Florida usage of the 1 cent blue stamps, #5-#9 are usually limited to "Circular" usage with either a single 1 cent rate or two stamps paying the 2 cent rate. The Act of March 3, 1851, established a circular rate of 1 cent for up to 500 miles and 2 cents for up to 1500 miles. Most of the Florida circular usage is from Apalachicola for cotton "prices current" sheets to New England. "Drop" and "Carrier" usage from Florida of the 1 cent stamps is extremely rare or non-existent prior to 1860.

SCHOONER WHALE

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

Schooner Whale
In the absence of Col. J. Burrows to J. D. Miner
Col. John Burrows
Key West
Florida

1833 stampless folded letter to Col. John Burrows, Key West Florida, carried out of the mails on the "Schooner Whale"

The above folded letter was sent out of the mails (by private vessel) on the Schooner Whale from Mystic Bridge, Connecticut, on November 26, 1833, with a shipment of several barrels of goods to be sold "to the best advantage". The goods to be sold included: "1 barrell (sic) of good round turnips in dirt cost \$1.00, 1 barrell of good apples cost \$1.50, 1 barrell of dried apples containing I do not know how many pounds cost 4 cents per pound, in the same barrel you will find 7 bottles of good sage. I send by the same to J.D. Miner, 1 box containing 5 quarts of dried Hurth Berries, cost 12 ½ cents per quart, 5 bottles of sage and some dried apples to fill the box and 2 small jars of Sweet Meats."

The Key West post office had been established 4 years earlier and mail handled through the post office should have be rated "due 6" if delivered in post office where received per Act of March 2, 1799.

DEALER - MEMBERS

CONRAD L. BUSH

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

WILLIAM A. FOX

2260 Imperial Golf Crs. Blvd.
Naples, FL 34110
(843) 681-9455

RICHARD FRAJOLA

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

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

HENRY HIGGINS

302 S. Irish St.
P.O. Box 1553
Greenville, TN 37744
(423) 636-8361

STAN JAMESON

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

PATRICIA A. KAUFMANN

10194 N. Old State Road
Lincoln, DE 19960
(302) 422-2656

JOHN L. KIMBROUGH

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

HERBERT P. McNEAL

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

DAVID G. PHILLIPS

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

JOEL RIND

14 W. 8th Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402
(423) 266-0723

SCHUYLER RUMSEY

47 Kearny Street #500
San Francisco, CA 94108
(415) 781-5127

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