

# FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

**Vol. 14 No. 3**

**November 2007**

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## **FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS - 2007**

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 helps underwrite the cost of a third journal issue this year. The continued support of these members keeps our Society financially sound. This enables us to respond to member and non-member inquiries regarding Florida Postal History and furnish copies of our Journal .

**Albert Aldham  
Hector Arvelo  
Donald Ball  
John Beirne  
Richard F. Bergmann  
Deane R. Briggs, M.D.  
Conrad L. Bush  
Walter S. Clarke  
Daniel B. Curtis  
James L. Diamond  
James P. Doolin  
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Alan E. Knight  
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William Lyons  
Millard H. Mack  
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Charles F. Meroni, Jr.  
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Robert B. Whitney  
C. Michael Wiedemann**

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

William Johnson, D.D.S.

It is with great sadness that I report the recent deaths of two distinguished members of our Florida Postal History Society.

**Theodore "Ted" Light** died this summer in Naples, Florida, where he had resided after a move from Chicago. Ted was an authority on Afghanistan postal history and sold his award winning collection before his move to Florida. He subsequently became interested in Florida postal history and contributed articles for our journal and was a past president. He also presented several talks for our annual meetings.

**Herbert P. McNeal** died September 2, 2007, in Winter Park, Florida, where he had resided for the past 36 years following his retirement from the U.S. Navy. Herb was a noted authority on Florida postal history and co-authored our society book, *Florida Stampless Postal History – 1763-1861*. He helped many of our members become interested in postal history and actually mentored more than a few of us. Herb was our society's second president and instrumental in re-activating our society in 1988. Herb will be remembered as a part-time dealer who frequented most shows by walking the floor and offering an assortment of covers to both dealers and collectors. He published many articles in the philatelic press and his last article was submitted to our editor only 5 days before his death. His article on "Gainesville College Covers" includes many covers from his alma mater, The University of Florida.

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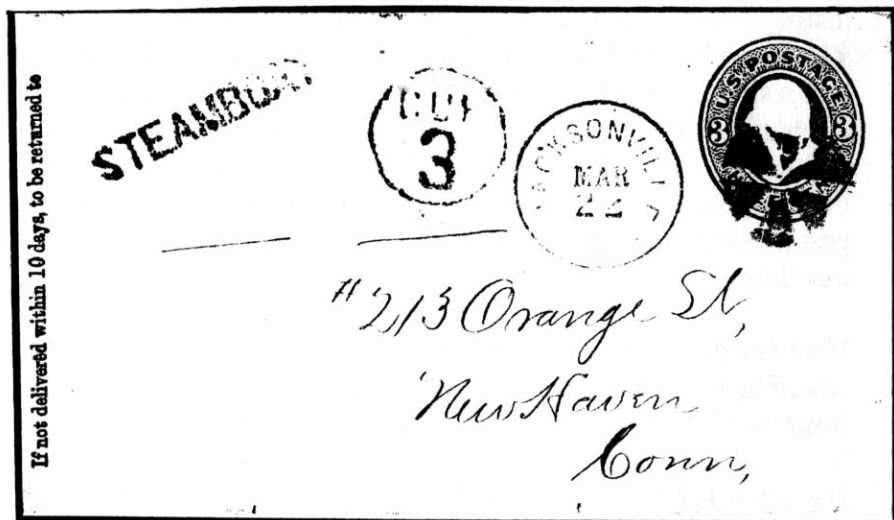
## FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Florida Postal History Society will be held at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition on Saturday, February 2, 2008 at 12:00pm. Members are encouraged to attend.

## JACKSONVILLE STEAMBOAT COVER

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

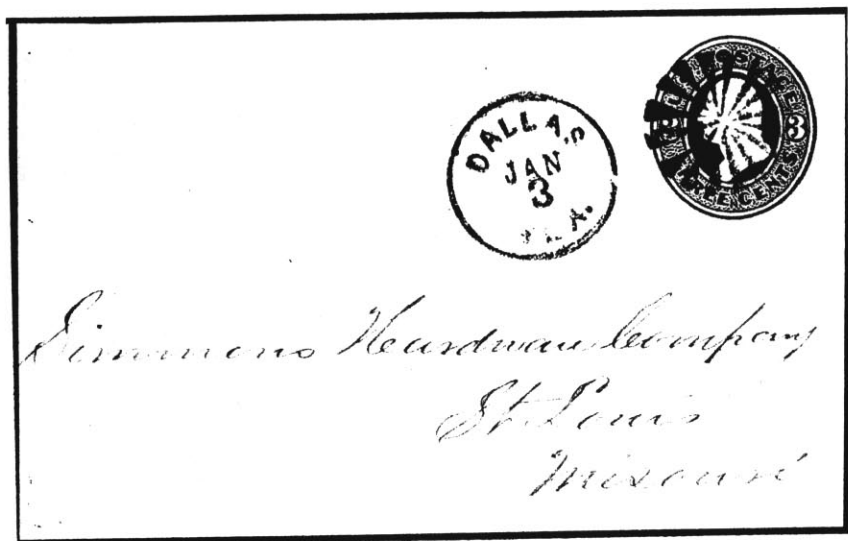


**JACKSONVILLE / FLA. cds with circle of wedges killer on 3cent entire c. 1870's with "STEAMBOAT" and DUE 3 handstamps**

The above cover dates from the late 1870s and has a nicely struck STEAMBOAT straightline marking with an additional DUE 3 rate on a prepaid 3cent entire #U163. Prior to the Act of April 1, 1855, a steamboat captain was authorized to collect 2 cents in addition to the regular postage for letters carried on non-contract vessels and delivered at the port of entry. The 1855 act abolished the 2 cent fee for pre-paid letters, but allowed 6 cent postage charged for unpaid steamboat letters. In addition, it allowed for an additional 2 cents for delivery beyond the receiving post office. In 1863, the rate was changed to double the regular postage whether pre-paid or un-paid. Thus, for this cover, despite it being delivered to an address beyond the New Haven, Conn. post office, the correct rate was double the pre-paid 3 cent rate and thus the DUE 3 additional rate. This cover is interesting in that there is no named addressee, just a couple of bars.

## DALLAS / FLA. FANCY POSTMARK

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

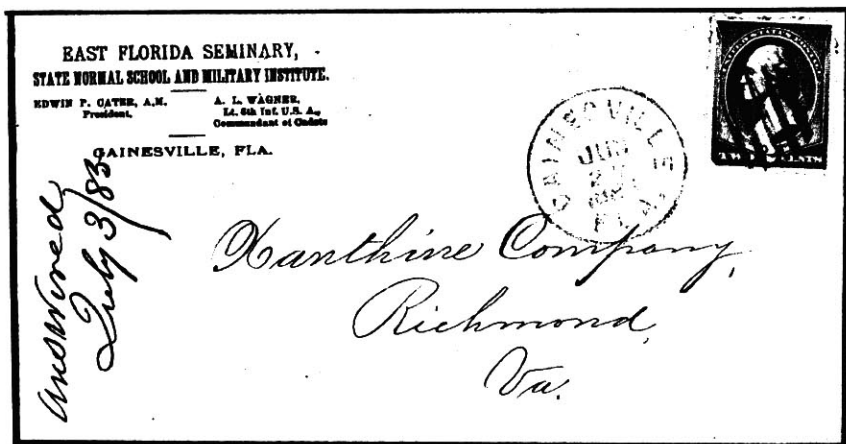


**DALLAS / FLA. JAN 3 duplex postmark with “fancy” circle of small wedges killer on 3 cent entire.**

The above cover from Dallas, Florida has an unusual killer cancellation. It is a circle of very small wedges unlike most other circle of wedges killers. It also is almost a “bulls eye” strike. The period of use of this postmark must have been the late 1880’s since the Dallas post office was opened in Marion County on 10 February 1888, and discontinued on 12 May 1894. This postal entire has known usage from the 1870’s to 1880’s. The Dallas post office did re-open from 15 January 1905 until 15 October 1915, when it became a DPO with mail handled by the Summerfield, Florida post office. All postmarks from Dallas, Florida are uncommon, and this is the first example I have seen from the 1888-1894 period.

## GAINESVILLE FLORIDA COLLEGE COVERS

Herbert P. McNeal



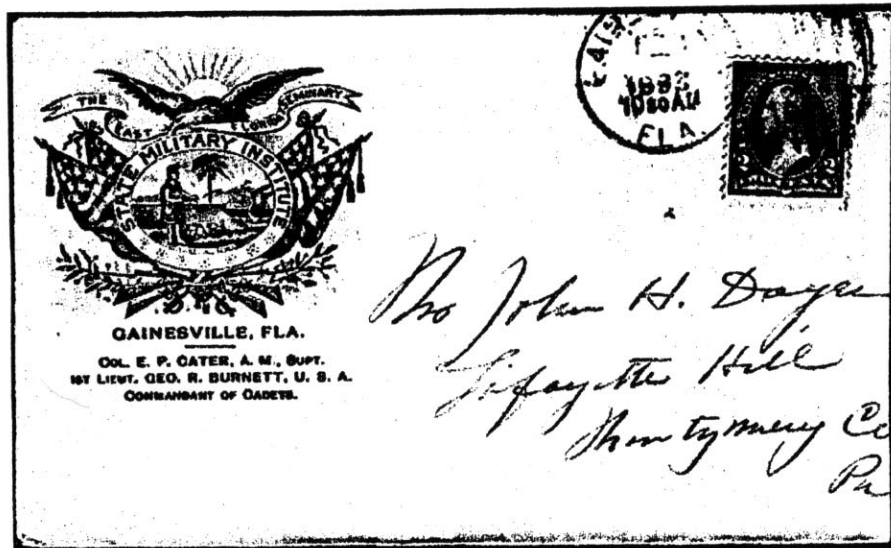
**Fig. 1. GAINESVILLE / FLA. JUN 27 1883 postmark with grid killed #210 on East Florida Seminary corner card cover.**

In the July 2005 issue of the *Florida Postal History Journal*, Vol. 12, No.2, Deane R. Briggs wrote a nice article on the East Florida Seminary and recorded an 1893 corner card cover (Fig. 2) that he felt was the earliest example he had seen. It has taken me two years to dig through my covers, but I finally found a group of early Gainesville college corner card covers. The above cover in Fig. 1. records an example of an East Florida Seminary corner card dated ten years earlier than the Briggs cover. It is interesting that after a ten-year period, the president was the same person. The school was also called the "State Normal School and Military Institute" which was shortened to the "State Military Institute" on the 1893 cover.

Dr. Briggs' article is worth reviewing as he records how the State of Florida established taxpayer supported state schools in 1851 in

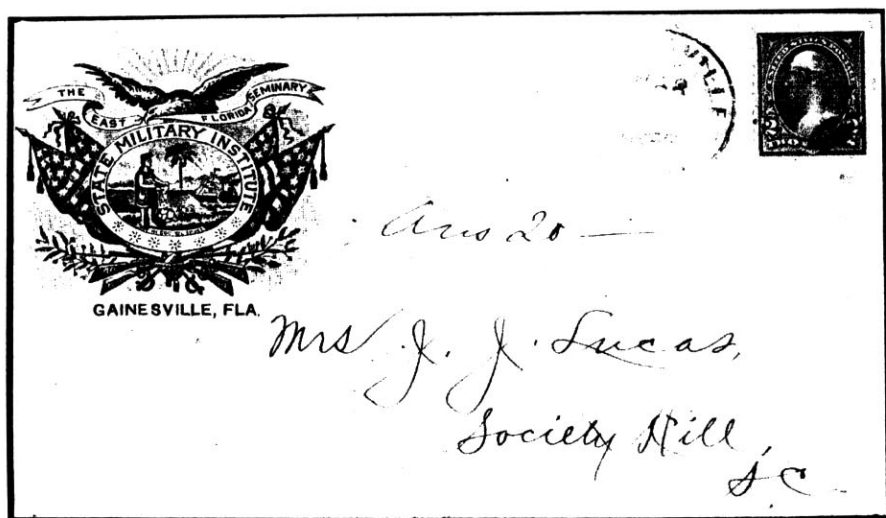


East and West Florida. The East Florida Seminary was opened in Ocala in 1852, but moved to Gainesville in 1866. I am unaware of any covers from the period when the East Florida Seminary was located in Ocala. Several other state supported schools were established in towns throughout Florida after the Civil War and a land grant college opened in Lake City in 1884. The Buckman Act of 1905 eventually consolidated these schools to form just three state supported universities. The East Florida Seminary in Gainesville was combined with the Florida Agricultural College in Lake City, which was known at the time as the “University of Florida”, and with the St. Petersburg Normal and Industrial School, and the South Florida Military College to become the “University of the State of Florida” with Gainesville chosen as the location. Florida State University for female white students and FAMU for African-American students were the other two state supported schools which were consolidated in 1905.



**Fig. 2. GAINESVILLE / FLA. 1893 duplex postmark on “East Florida Seminary” corner card cover.**

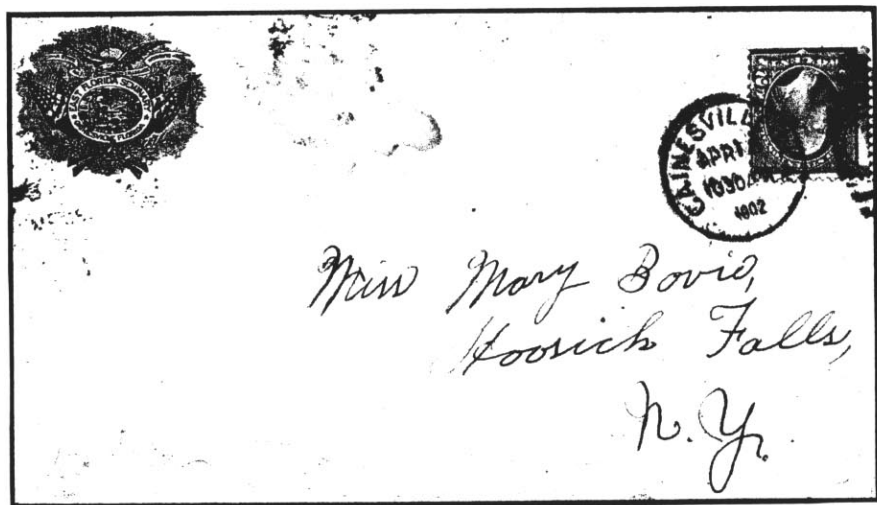
An example of another “East Florida Seminary” corner card is shown in Fig. 3 with an 1895 use confirmed by a receiving mark on the reverse. It is very similar to the 1893 example shown in Fig. 2 but does not have the names of the Superintendent or Commandant of Cadets. It might be that by 1895, Edwin P. Cater, A.M. was no longer the president or superintendent but the upper portion of the corner card is identical. Briggs also recorded a 1902 “East Florida Seminary” cover with an entirely different, very small corner card in blue ink and with the banner at the top now reading “A State Military and Collegiate Institute” (Fig. 4).



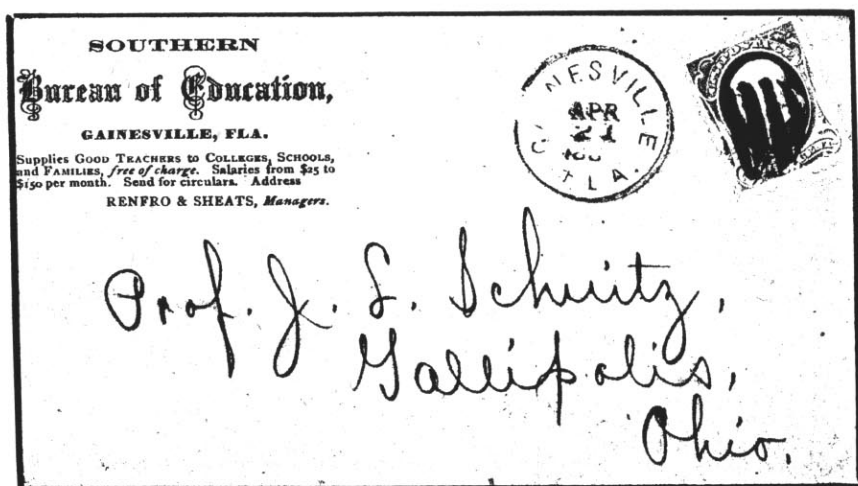
**Fig. 3. GAINESVILLE / FLA. 1895 postmark with killer cancel on #267 “East Florida Seminary” corner card cover.**

Gainesville must have been a center for education as well as a supplier of “good teachers to Colleges, Schools, and Families” as noted in the corner card cover in Fig. 5. This cover has a “Southern Bureau of Education” corner card with an 1888 or 1889 Gainesville postmark based on the use of the 1 cent #212 stamp.

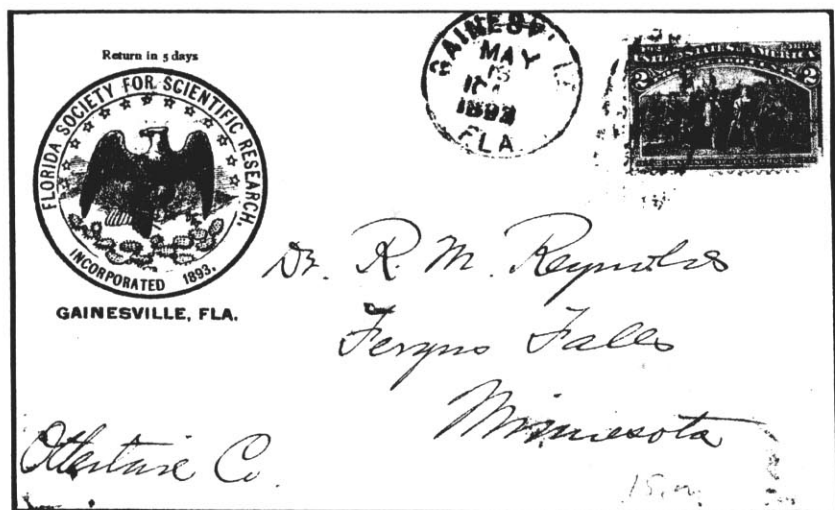




**Fig. 4. GAINESVILLE / FLA: APR 15 1902 duplex postmark on East Florida Seminary cover with small blue corner card.**



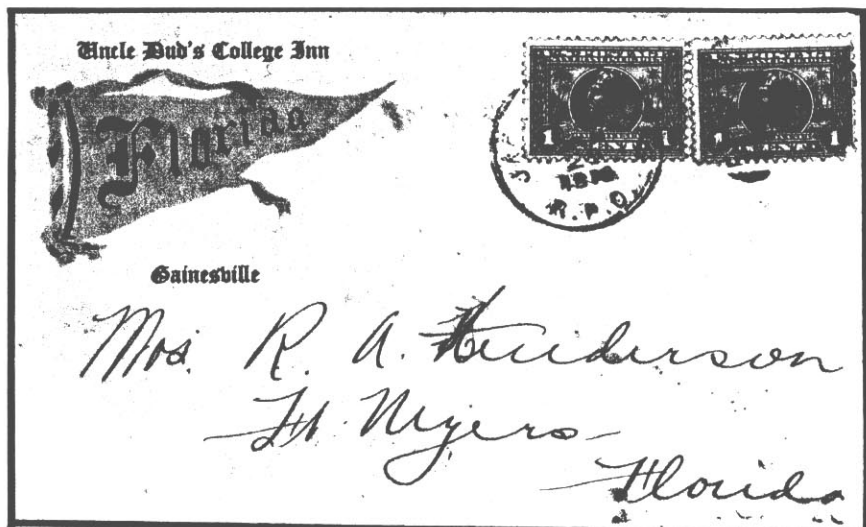
**Fig. 5. GAINESVILLE / FLA. 188x postmark with grid cancelled #212 on "Southern Bureau of Education" cover.**



**Fig. 6. GAINESVILLE / FLA. MAY 13 1893 duplex postmark ties 2c Columbian to Florida Society for Scientific Research corner card cover.**

Another educational institution, the “Florida Society for Scientific Research” was incorporated in Gainesville, Florida in 1893, and the cover in Fig. 6. records a very early use of a corner card for that institution.

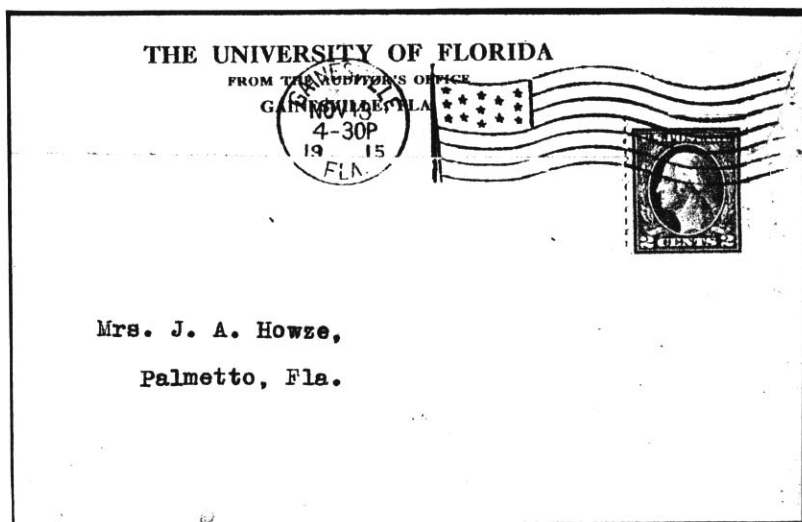
The University of the State of Florida changed its name to the “University of Florida” in 1909, and the following covers are early examples of usages with nice corner cards. Fig. 7 records a 1913 multi-color corner card for “Uncle Dub’s College Inn” in Gainesville. The flag pennant is yellow with blue Florida lettering. The University of Florida colors must have changed to orange and blue at some later date. Nearly a century later, the College Inn is still operating in Gainesville.



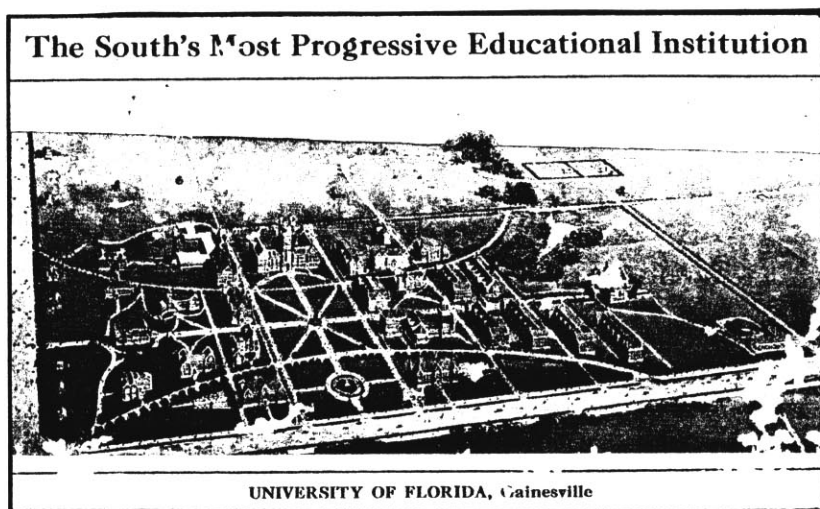
**Fig. 7. JAN 28 1913 R.P.O. postmark ties #397x2 on yellow and blue advertising corner card for “Uncle Dub’s College Inn” in Gainesville.**

The cover in Fig. 8 is a nice example of a 1915 official cover from the Auditor’s Office of the University of Florida. In addition to the corner card, the reverse (Fig. 9.) is a full cover advertisement for “The South’s Most Progressive Educational Institution”. With a current enrollment of over 46,000 students, the University of Florida continues today to be “most progressive”.

Lest we think that Gainesville only catered to young men’s education in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the cover in Fig. 10 show a very nice corner card for yet another Gainesville institution. It is a 1913 use with a “Southland Seminary For Young Ladies” corner card.

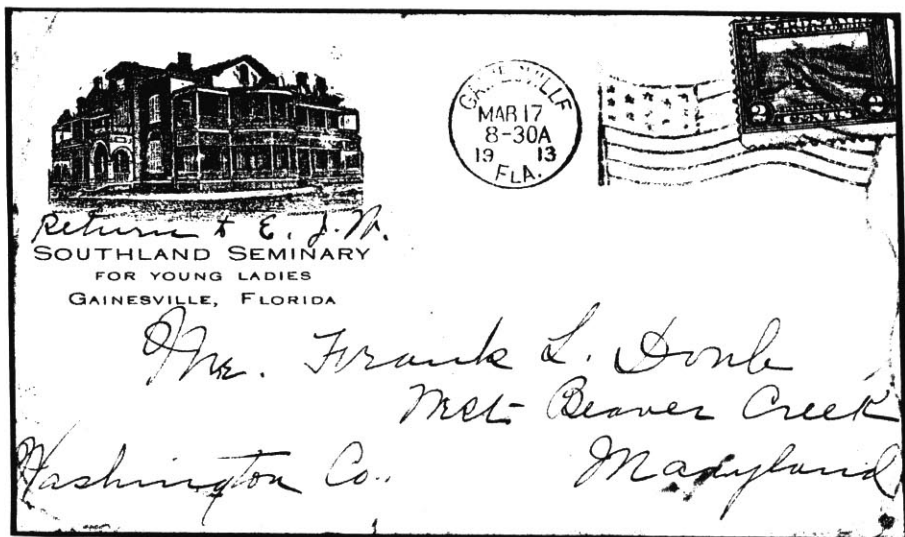


**Fig. 8. GAINESVILLE / FLA. NOV 13 1915 flag machine cancellation of #406 on University of Florida Auditor's Office corner card cover.**



**Fig. 9. Reverse of cover in Fig. 7 with full cover advertisement for the University of Florida, Gainesville. "The South's Most Progressive Educational Institution".**





**Fig. 10. GAINESVILLE / FLA. MAR 17 1913 flag machine cancel ties # 398 to "Southland Seminary For Young Ladies" corner card cover.**

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## **FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

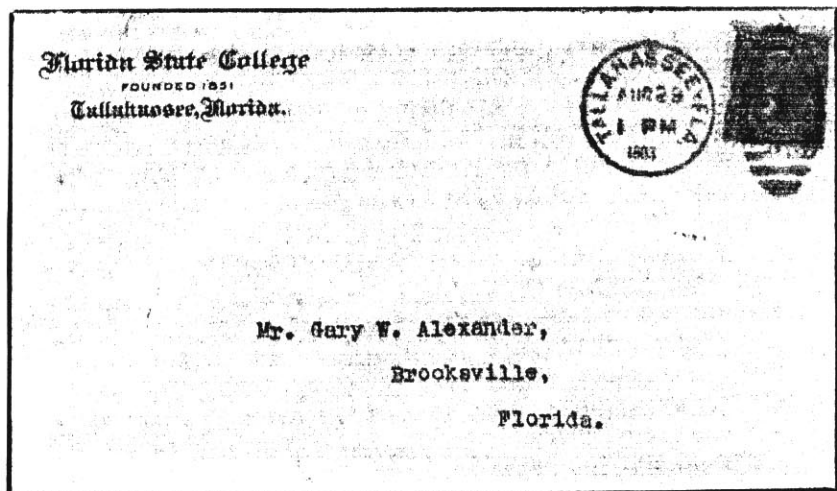
### **ANNUAL MEETING**

**Saturday February 2, 2008**

The Annual Meeting of the Florida Postal History Society will be held at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition at 12:00 noon on Saturday, February 2, 2008. Please try to attend this meeting and support your society. Attendance the past few years have been very good with informative presentations. Lets keep these meetings successful.

# TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA COLLEGE COVERS

William J. Hancock



**Fig. 1. TALLAHASSEE / FLA. AUG 29 1903 duplex postmark on "Florida State College" corner card cover.**

The four covers in this article make for a nice follow up on Herb McNeal's article of Gainesville college corner card covers. On January 24, 1851, the Florida General Assembly established two state supported Seminaries of learning, one west of the Suwannee River and the other to the east of it. A private school, the Florida Institute, which was opened in 1855, was acquired by the State of Florida in 1857, and became the "Seminary West of the Suwannee". This became shortened to the name West Florida Seminary. During the Civil War the school was known as the "Florida Collegiate and Military Institute". It's cadets and faculty made a famous defense of Tallahassee at Natural Bridge on March

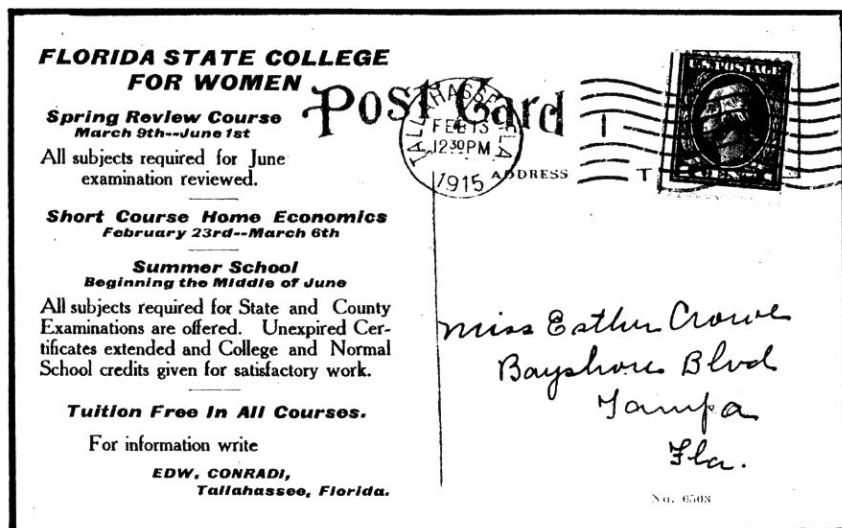
6, 1865. The West Florida Seminary name was changed to the "Florida State College" in 1901 and was co-educational. The Beckman Act of 1905 changed the school to a strictly female one with the name changed to "Florida Female College". This name became objectionable and in 1909 the name was changed to the "Florida State College for Women". It remained such until 1947, when both the University of Florida and the Florida State College for Women became co-educational and necessitated yet another name change. This time the school became the "Florida State University" which has persisted to date.



**Fig. 2. TALLAHASSEE / FLA. JAN 2-, 191- machine cancel postmark on "Florida State College For Women" corner card cover.**

The cover in Fig. 1 is an example of a Florida State College corner card cover used during the four-year period when the school was so named. The example in Fig. 2 is a cover from the early 1910's with use shortly after the name was changed to the Florida State

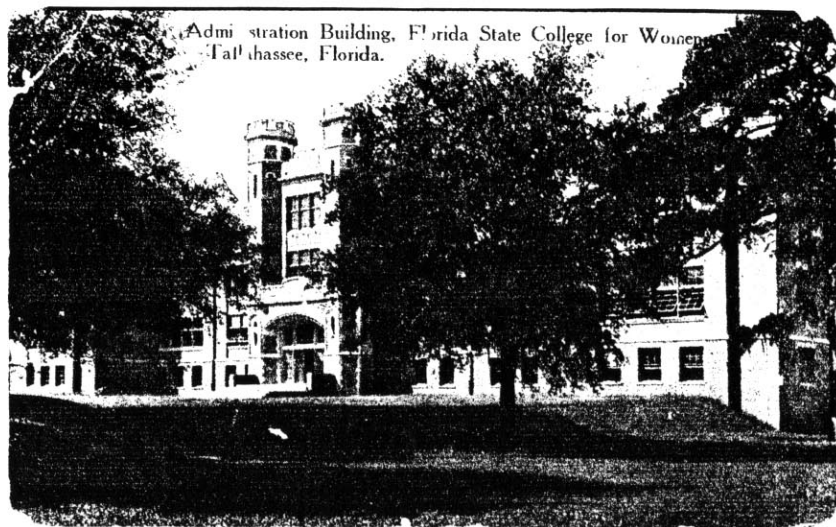
College for Women. Unfortunately, I do not have an example of a corner card used during the period with the "Florida Female College" name. A post card (Fig. 3) from 1915 notes courses available to a student and the statement "Tuition Free in all Courses". That is no longer the case for state residents in Florida Universities. The reverse of this card shows the Administration Building (Fig. 4)



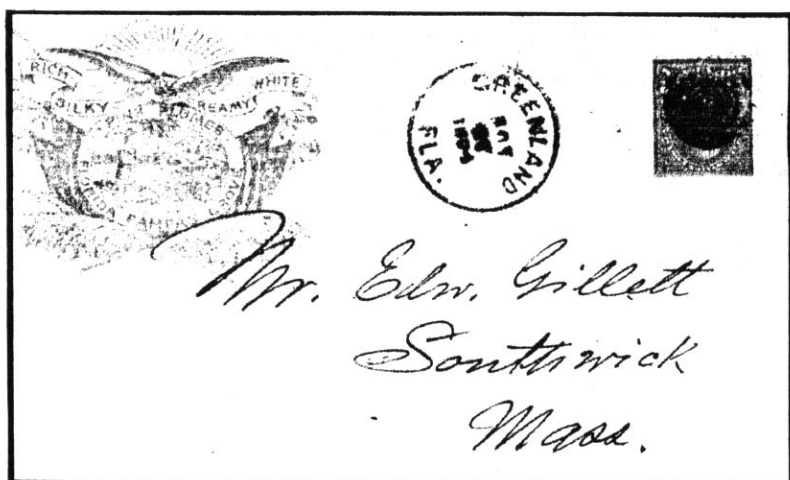
**Fig. 3. TALLAHASSEE / FLA. FEB 13 1915 machine postmark on "Florida State College For Women" post card.**

The cover in Fig. 5 is unrelated to the Tallahassee covers but has the identical corner card design as Herb McNeal reproduced for the "East Florida Seminary". The only difference is the lettering. It appears that the design must have been a stock one for the printer, with just a different lettering for this commercial use. The cover in Fig. 6 is from the same business but with only the central circular design without the ribbons.

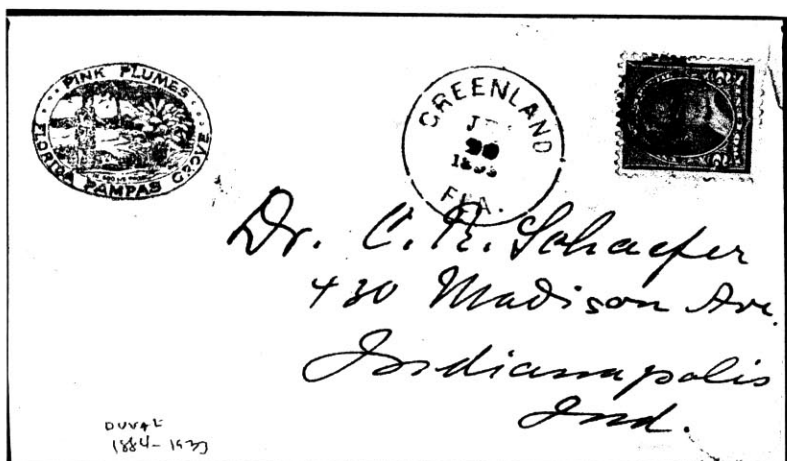




**Fig. 4. Reverse of the above post card with the Administration Building, Florida State College for Women.**



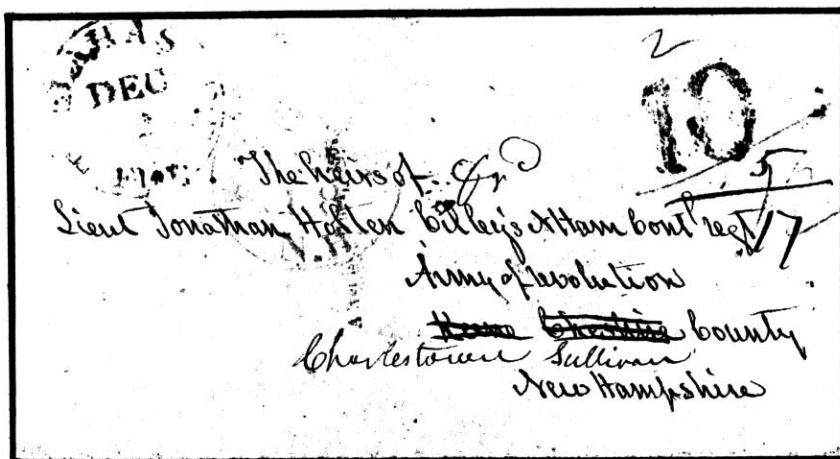
**Fig. 5. GREENLAND / FLA. NOV 27 1894 postmark on cover for "Florida Pampas Grove" with "Rich Milky Creamy White" in the upper ribbon and "Pink Plumage" in the middle.**



**Fig. 6. GREENLAND / FLA. JUN 20 1895 postmark on  
“Florida Pampas Grove” corner card cover.**

## 1849 REVOLUTIONARY WAR CLAIM

Deane R. Briggs



**TALLAHASSEE / Flor. DEC 2 (1849) green cds postmark with green (unpaid) 10 rate on folded letter to Keene, N.H., advertised with pencil 2 rate and forwarded to Charlestown, N.H. with orange KEENE / N.H. postmark and orange V rate.**

This folded letter was written by John P. Duval, brother of Governor William P. Duval, to the heirs of the late Lieut. Jonathan Holten, Cilley's N.H. arm Cont. Regt, Army of Revolution, Keene, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, soliciting his services as a lawyer. The letter was sent unpaid and was advertised in Keene with a 2 cent rate in pencil totaling 12 cents. The letter was subsequently forwarded to Charlestown, N.H. on Feb. 18 with a 5 cent additional rate totaling 17 cents due. This is a very nice multicolored example with both a green and orange postmark and rate (although lightly struck).

In researching John P. Duval, I find that he was born in 1790, educated at William and Mary and received his law degree and in

1811, entered the bar in Richmond, Va. He served in the U.S. Army as a Lieut. From 1811-1815. Following the Texas wars he returned to Richmond to practice law. He moved to Florida in 1827 when his brother was Governor of the Florida Territory and purchased the Belle Aire Plantation near Tallahassee. Poor health led to a move to Kentucky in the 1830's but he returned to his plantation after being appointed the Secretary of the Territory of Florida by President Martin Van Buren on 19 September 1837. In 1840, he tabulated all of the laws enacted by the Territory of Florida. He also served as postmaster of Tallahassee for a while from 29 March 1842 until 9 July 1842. He became a mason and was the 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Florida.

The enclosure is very interesting and it appears that Duval is trying to use some political influence to his gain. The enclosure reads:

Tallahassee Nov 29, 1849

To the heirs of the officer named will receive information in relation to his revolutionary claims by inclosing a fee of ten dollars for the investigation. Terms for the prosecution of the claim will be moderate and then made known. I am in possession of very valuable revolutionary documents admitted authentic at Washington. The commutation pay of a Lieut. with interest is now \$8000 – and also 200 acres bounty land from the U. States. I refer you to my M.C. E. C. Cabell and Senators Wescott and Morton. Letters post paid directed to Genl. John P. Duval will be attended.

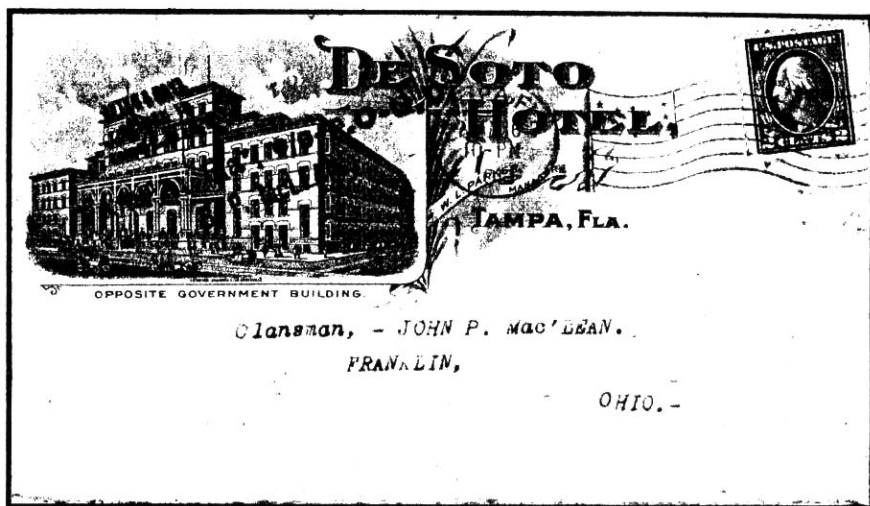
Yours John P. Duval

Not only was the letter sent “unpaid”, Duval requests that any response be “pre-paid”. He sounds like a scoundrel soliciting outrageous claims for a \$10 fee with additional undisclosed fees. I have found on the internet two other almost identical claims made by John P. Duval to the heirs of Sergeant Gabriel Murphy in Kentucky filed in 1835, and to the heirs of Lieut. Ralph Pomroy in Hartford, Conn. In 1845. There is even a U. S. Senate rejection of one of his claims. There is no record of him ever being a General as mentioned in his solicitation. John P. Duval died on 7 December 1854, and is buried with a Masonic tombstone in Tallahassee.



## TAMPA KU KLUX KLAN COVER

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

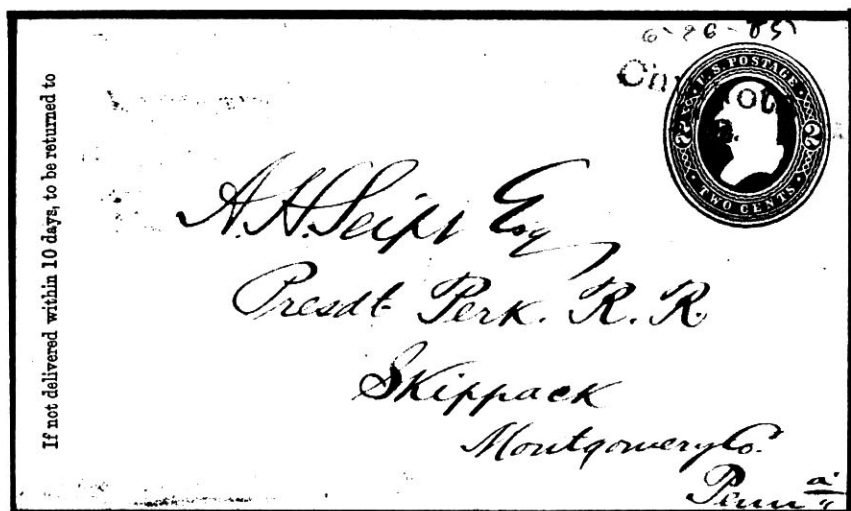


### TAMPA / FLA JAN 16 1913 flag machine cancel on DeSoto Hotel advertising corner card cover address to "Clansman, John P. MacLean, Franklin, Ohio

The above cover is a nice example of a hotel advertising cover with a common Tampa flag machine cancel. What is of interest is the addressee of a Ku Klux Klansman. A magenta hand stamped return address overstrikes the picture of the hotel and reads "After 8 Days Return to Tampa Fla; c/o P.O.-G.D. B. P. McLean". The sender was probably a relative despite the surname being slightly different. The reverse of the cover has another interesting advertisement struck in magenta. "Jan 15 1913/ DIXIE-LAND DEPARTMENT / "Dunhams" Original and Genuine "SHRED" COCOANUT. / TAMPA, Fla., c/o-P.O.-G.D. B.P. McLEAN." The Ku Klux Klan became quite active in Ohio during the period of 1910-1920 with some counties having over 50,000 members. I have no information on Klan activity in Franklin, Warren County, Ohio, or of either of the MacLeans.

## CHULUOTA, FLA. STRAIGHTLINE POSTMARK

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



**Chuluota / Fla. straightline “provisional” postmark with manuscript 6-26-85 date on 2 c brown postal entire.**

The Chuluota Florida post office was established on 21 January 1885, with Arthur B. Crosby as postmaster. The town was established in Orange County at a railroad depot along the recently constructed south western extension of the Florida East Coast Rail Road which connected New Smyrna with Maytown, Geneva and on to Chuluota. In 1913, the county name changed to the newly established Seminole County.

This postmark is certainly a “provisional” type postmark with type set lettering and not from a P.O.D. issued or purchased device. This is the only example of this early postmark that I have seen.

## 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**

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Naples, FL 34113  
(941) 732-7701

### **RICHARD W. HELBOCK**

**LA POSTA**  
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(503) 657-5685

### **HENRY HIGGINS**

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(423) 636-8361

### **STAN JAMESON**

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St. Petersburg, FL 33731  
727) 526-5203

### **PATRICIA A. KAUFMANN**

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Lincoln, DE 19960  
(302) 422-2656

### **JOHN L. KIMBROUGH**

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Benbrook, TX 76126  
(817) 244-2447

### **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

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Sarasota, FL 34231  
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### **C. MICHAEL WIEDEMANN**

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Titusville, FL 32782  
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