

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

Vol. 17, No. 1

January 2010



This photograph is reproduced from the January 2, 1963 issue of the Orlando Sentinel newspaper, and shows David Taylor and David Jr. in front of the Shiloh Store and Post Office.

The store -- and everything else in town -- was eventually demolished by NASA.



Postmark at left is dated March 28, 1899 and is thus an early Shiloh mark. Postmark at right is last day of the Shiloh Post Office.



Promoting Philately in the Sunshine State



**FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY
OFFICERS
2010**

PRESIDENT -	STEPHEN PATRICK
PAST PRESIDENT -	WILLIAM H. JOHNSON, D.D.S.
VICE PRESIDENT -	ALEXANDER HALL
SEC. - TREASURER -	DEANE R. BRIGGS, M.D.
JOURNAL EDITOR -	DEANE R. BRIGGS, M.D.
JOURNAL PUBLISHER -	DR. EVERETT L. PARKER
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. Telephone: (863) 299-1251, fax: (863) 299-7666, e-mail: drb@gte.net or by link on our webpage: www.FPHSonline.com

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Florida Postal History Society Officers	2
Shiloh, the Florida town that time forgot	
<i>by Dr. Everett L. Parker</i>	4-7
High valued stamps used from Florida	
<i>by Deane R. Briggs, M.D.</i>	8-13
St. Nicholas fancy postmark	
<i>by Phil Eschbach</i>	14-16
Tampa independent state covers	
<i>by Phil Warman</i>	17-20
FLOREX photographs	21-22
President's Page	
<i>by Stephen Patrick</i>	23
Florida Postal History Society	
Contributing Members	24

Shiloh, the Florida town that time forgot

By Dr. Everett L. Parker

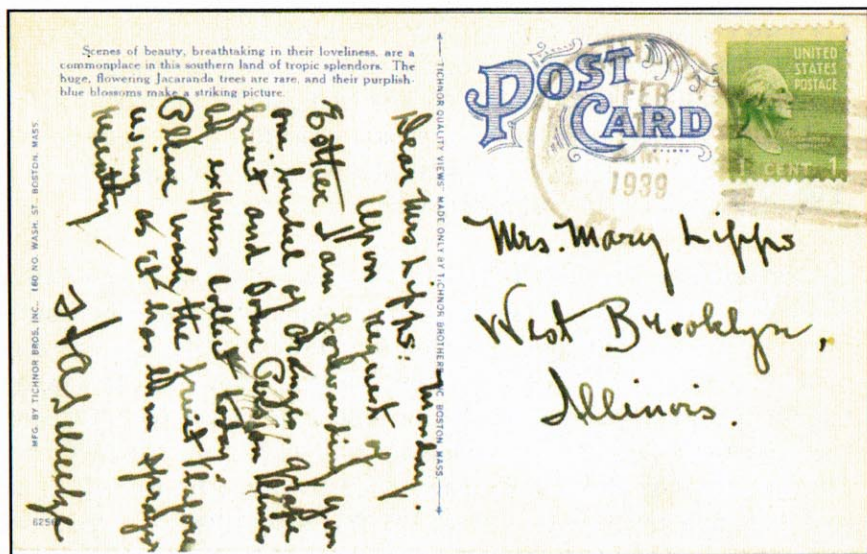
Shiloh was once a small town on the northern fringe of what is now the Kennedy Space Center. Today virtually nothing remains of this settlement, but if you know precisely where to look among the palmettos and whispering pines, you can still find traces of what once was. This is the second and final part of a series started in the October 2009 issue of the FPHS *Journal* tracing the evolution of the town that time forgot.

The most significant evidence of what once was is a tiny cemetery tucked back in a grove of oak trees on a hillside south of the Volusia-Brevard county line. The site was in the middle of a vast orange grove when I first visited it in the late 1960s while researching my book, *Space Center Ghosts*. Much of the grove was killed in the Florida freeze of 1984-85. The tiny cemetery contains the remains of two children, John and Charles Griffiths. Charles was born and died on November 13, 1897. John was born and died on August 9, 1901. The cemetery has a small chainlink fence around it, like others on space center property.

Text continued on page 6

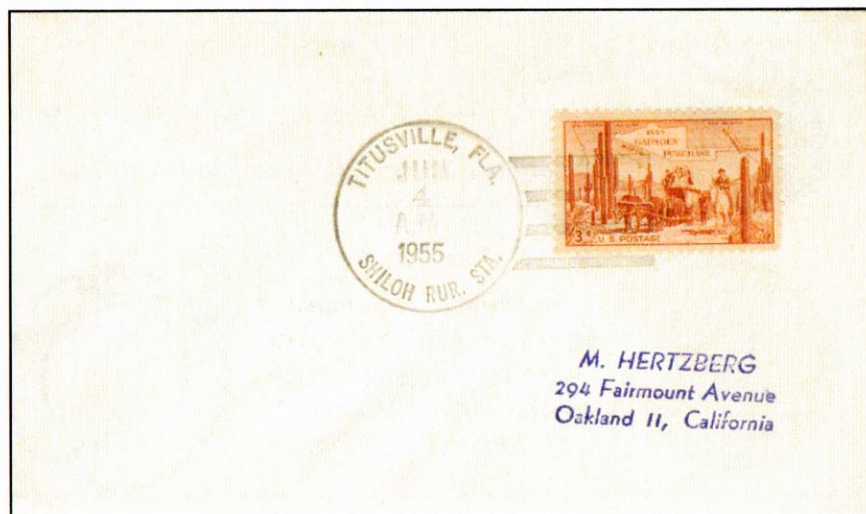


This photograph is reproduced from the January 2, 1963 issue of the Orlando Sentinel newspaper, and shows David Taylor and David Jr. in front of the Shiloh Store and Post Office. The store -- and everything else in town -- was eventually demolished by NASA.



The above post card was mailed from Shiloh on February 13, 1939 and has a 4-bar Type B circular datestamp. Below is a June 4, 1955 circular datestamp indicating Shiloh was a "rural station" of Titusville. Shiloh was changed to a rural station on June 1, 1955.

All postal history items illustrated in this article are from the collection of Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



The final chapter in the story of Shiloh occurred in the early 1960s, and it turned the sleepy town upside down. NASA announced it was purchasing the town site as part of a 14,800 acre land grab for the moon-landing Nova project. Many residents were clearly upset that they would have to abandon houses, businesses, and properties which in some cases had been in families for two and three generations.

The comment of Mrs. David Taylor, printed in the January 2, 1963 issue of the *Orlando Sentinel* newspaper, perhaps summed up the sentiments of many residents. "I think it's wasted money. I don't think we're intended to get to the moon. We might get there but what do we do when we get there?" Attempts to persuade NASA not to seize the North Brevard County land were futile, and today it remains a part of the Kennedy Space Center. The Space Shuttle glides to its runway directly over the foundations and roots of Shiloh. Interestingly, the land purchased by NASA -- with several settlements in addition to Shiloh -- was never developed or utilized by NASA for anything other than antenna sites.

SHILOH POSTMASTERS

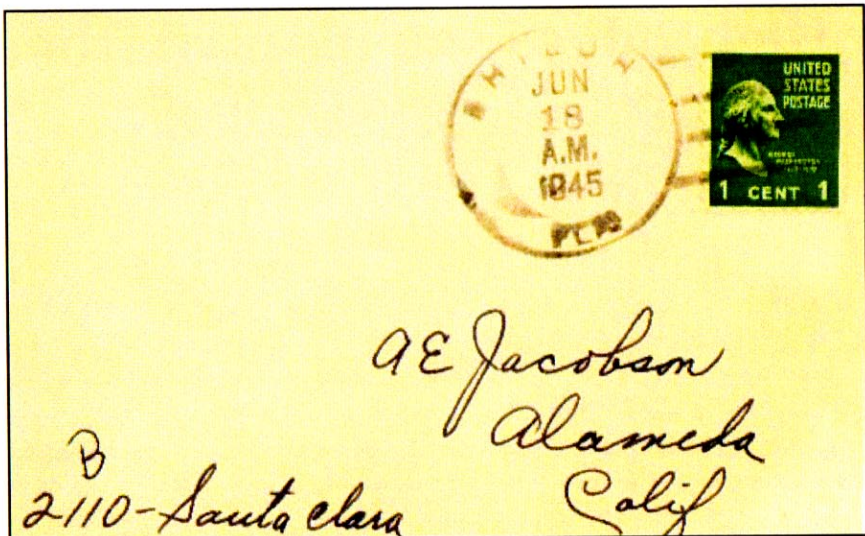
George C. Kuhl (<i>first postmaster</i>)	Dec. 1, 1884 to Dec. 10, 1903
Hattie Griffis	Dec. 11, 1903 to Nov. 30, 1920
Aaron Taylor	Dec. 1, 1920 to Aug. 12, 1924
David Taylor	August 4, 1924 to June 1, 1955

Post office discontinued June 1, 1955; mail to Titusville.

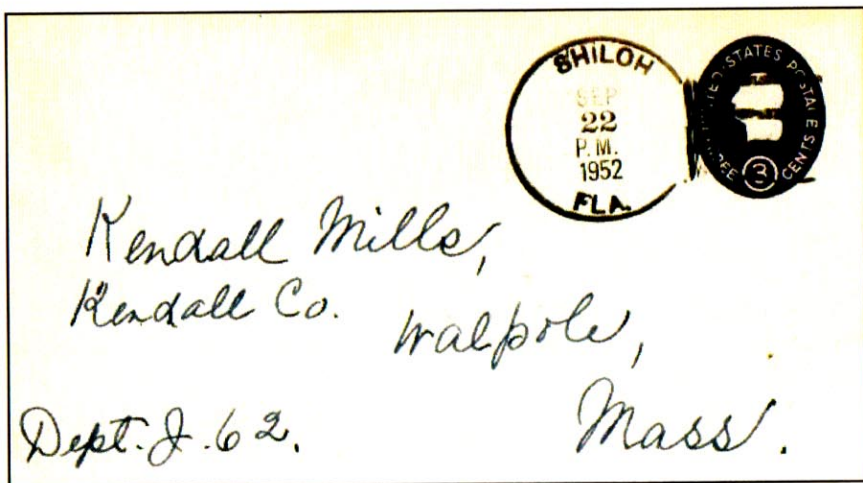


Postmark at left is dated March 28, 1899 and is thus an early Shiloh mark. Postmark at right is last day of the Shiloh Post Office.





*The cover above was sent from Shiloh to California on June 18, 1945.
 The cover below was sent to Massachusetts on September 22, 1952.
 These Shiloh covers and the postmarks at the bottom of page 6 are
 from the Margie Pfund Memorial Postmark Museum
 and Research Center, Bellevue, Ohio with examples
 from the Willett-Thompson Collection.*



High valued stamps used from Florida, 1858-1866

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

The usage of high denomination (12¢, 15¢, 24¢, 30¢) stamps from Florida is extremely uncommon and as such command a premium for Florida use. Most of these uses are from Pensacola during and shortly after the Civil War. Although no census of these covers is known to the author, a notation on the reverse of the cover in Figure 5 and 6 records that the cover is the “only one known from Fla(.)” with single use of the 30¢ stamp, Scott #71. Although this is likely incorrect, nevertheless, the following examples are worthy of recording and should be of interest to collectors of Florida postal history.

The cover in **Figure 1** is an extremely rare Florida use of the 12¢ black 1857 issue (Scott #36) used to prepay a triple weight (over one ounce, but less than 1½ ounce) cover to Nottingham, England. The cover was postmarked at “New Port, Flor.” on September 8, 1858, and was carried to New York in domestic mails. In New York, it was noted to be underpaid, according to the British-American transatlantic closed packet mail treaty of December 15, 1848. That treaty authorized a 24¢ rate for letters from the United States not exceeding ½ ounce in weight. The treaty also spelled out how the prepayment would be divided between the sending and receiving countries.

On mail from the United States sent by British packets, the United States retained 5¢ postage on a single rate cover while Great Britain received a credit of 19¢. Double weight letters would be double these amounts; quadruple weight letters would be quadruple. The treaty did not provide for triple weight letters and all letters weighing between one and two ounces were treated as quadruple rates. All insufficiently prepaid letters were treated as though they were totally unpaid. For a small Florida town like New Port, used to the domestic mail provision for a triple rate, the lack of a triple weight provision for British mails probably went unnoticed. When the letter arrived in New York, it was postmarked with a British Packet

Text continued on page 10



FIGURE 1

Three pairs of 12¢ black (Scott #36) prepaying non-existent triple weight 72¢ (24¢ x 3) rate on cover to England with “NEW PORT / Flor. SEP 8” (1858) postmark with multiple boxed **SHORT PAID** handstamps. Manuscript debit 20¢ and NEW YORK BR. PKT SEP 15 markings and British manuscript 4/- sterling due (96¢), reflecting total charge as totally unpaid.

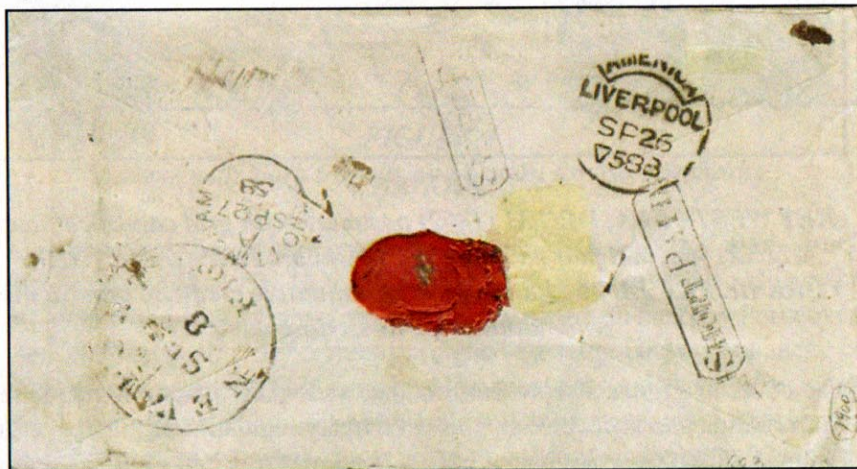


FIGURE 2

Reverse of Figure 1 with additional “NEW PORT / Flor. SEP 8” postmark and two boxed “**SHORT PAID**” markings with Liverpool and Nottingham receiving marks.

“Sep 15” handstamp, additional SHORT PAID handstamps to reflect underpayment and a manuscript “20” cent debit to Great Britain as none of the affixed stamps were recognized.

The reverse of the cover (**Figure 2**) has an additional New Port postmark and two boxed SHORT PAID handstamps and receiving marks from Liverpool (September 26) and Nottingham (September 27). The cover was carried by the Cunard steamer *Africa* which departed New York on September 15, 1858, and arrived at Liverpool on September 26, 1858. It was at Liverpool where the manuscript 4/- sterling due (1 shilling x 4) marking was applied to the front.



FIGURE 3

KEY WEST / FLA. DEC 31 (1862) postmark with grid cancelled Scott #71 x2, #68, and pair #63 on cover to Callan, Ireland with “NEW YORK Br. PKT JAN 6” handstamps and multiple credit 20 handstamps with manuscript 4/- sterling due.

The cover in **Figure 3** represents another underpaid quadruple rate letter from Florida and is covered by the same treaty regulations as the cover in **Figure 1**. This cover originated in Key West and was initially mailed as a triple weight cover with two 30¢ Scott #71, a 10¢ #68 and a pair of 1¢ #63 to pay the 72¢ rate to Callan, Ireland. The letter was postmarked “KEY WEST / FLA. DEC 31” (1862). It was sent presumably in the domestic mails to New York where the “NEW YORK JAN 6 BR.PKT” exchange office marking was applied and the letter bagged. It was at New York that

the letter was noted to be over 1 ounce in weight and noted in manuscript "ov 1 oz" which was insufficiently pre-paid by treaty regulations and a handstamp debit 20 (cents) to Great Britain was applied to reflect the 20 cents (5¢ x 4) owed to the United States for a letter to two ounces. As the next mail to England was actually leaving from Boston, the closed bag was sent to Boston where it was placed on the Cunard steamer *Europa* which departed Boston on January 7, 1863, and arrived in Queenstown on January 17, 1863. It was at the Queenstown exchange office that the manuscript 4/- sterling mark was applied to reflect the amount due from the recipient.

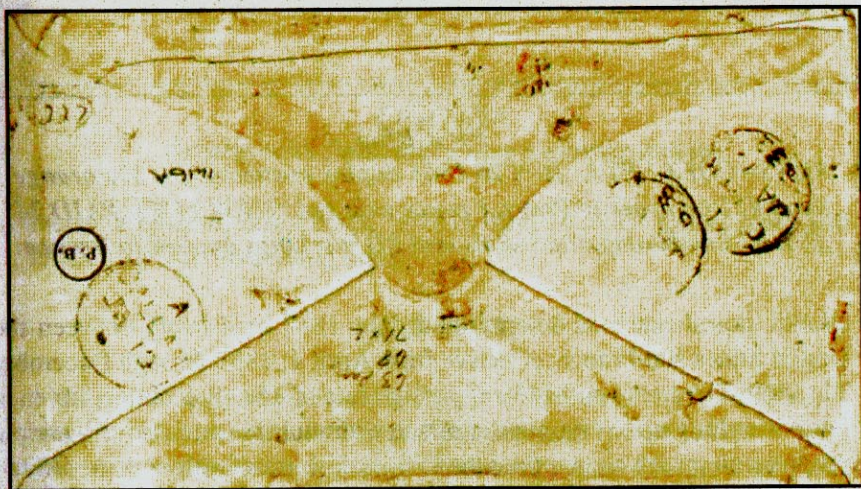


FIGURE 4

Reverse with Cork transits and Callan arrival postmarks.

The reverse of the cover (*Figure 4*) shows "CORK JAN 17" mark struck twice and a "CALLAN JAN 19" arrival mark. This cover also shows the problem with triple weight covers; in this case, as with the New Port cover, the Key West postmaster correctly weighed the letter but was not aware of the correct postal rate. This same problem must have existed at other small town post offices which did not handle much overseas mail. The United States-British postal treaty was revised, and the rate lowered to 12¢ effective on January 1, 1868.

The cover in *Figure 5* is another example of a Florida usage of the 30¢ stamp, Scott #71. The letter was addressed to Passy, France, and the trans-

Continued on page 12



FIGURE 5

PENSACOLA / FLA. JUN 26 1866 duplex postmark ties 30¢ orange Scott #71 on cover to Passy, France with red “NEW YORK PAID 24 JUL 3” handstamp and Calais and PD markings applied in France.

atlantic postal rate was determined by the 1857 mail treaty between the United States and France, effective from April 1, 1857 through December 31, 1869. The treaty called for a postage rate of 15¢ (8 decimes) for each letter weighing up to one-quarter ounce with multiple rates being a simple progression (much clearer than the U.S.-British treaty although the United States did not use the same quarter-ounce weight progression). Similar to the British mail treaty, all credits to France on prepaid mail would be shown in red, and all debits in black. The cover in **Figure 5** documents how a properly rated, prepaid letter was handled.

This double rate (under ½ ounce) cover with killer tied 30¢ Scott #71 stamp was postmarked at “PENSACOLA / FLA JUN 26 1866,” and carried to New York where it was correctly noted as paid with a 24¢ credit to France (France was responsible for payment to Great Britain for ocean carriage from this amount) with the red “NEW YORK JUL 3 PAID 24” handstamp. The United States would retain the remainder (6¢) as their share. The next mail steamer handling French mails was from Boston on the British Packet Cunard Line steamer *China* which departed Boston on July 4, 1866, and arrived at Queenstown on July 13, 1866. It was then transported in closed bag across Great Britain to France. It arrived at Calais on July 15 and a red PD mark and red packet mark were applied. The



FIGURE 6
Reverse with Paris and Passy receiving marks.

reverse (**Figure 6**) has a black “PARIS 3pm 15 JUL” transit mark and a “PASSY 16 JUL” receiving mark.

ENDNOTE

The author appreciates the assistance of Richard Frajola in clarifying the treaty rates and the actual packets used to carry these covers. The author would also appreciate receiving copies of other high value stamped covers from Florida or information on examples from philatelic auctions or sales to form a census.

Stamp Club and Stamp Show News

The *Journal* now includes local chapter meeting times and locations as well as local stamp shows and bourses free of charge. Members should contact their stamp club and encourage club membership. Special show cancellations will also be announced for postmark collectors. Please send information to be listed to the editor with a three month lead time if possible.

St. Nicholas fancy postmark

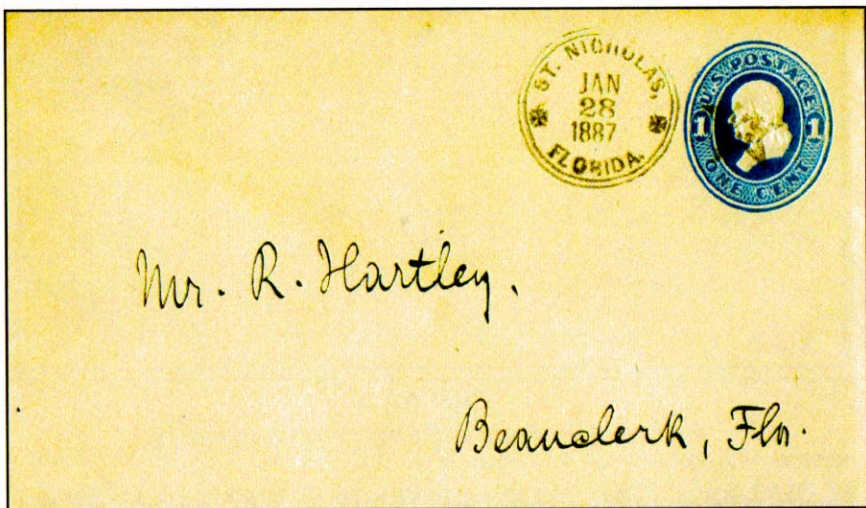


FIGURE 1

***“ST. NICHOLAS, / *FLORIDA* JAN 28 1887” postmark with
Star cancellation on open circular cover to Beauclerc.***

By Phil Eschbach

As a new member of the Florida Postal History Society and beginning a collection of Florida postal covers, I recently purchased the cover in Figure 1. It is an open circular one-cent entire postmarked at St. Nicholas and sent to Beauclerc, a short distance away. At first glance, there was nothing special about the postmark, but on close examination, there are two small Maltese crosses used on either side of “FLORIDA” where small fleurons are often located on postmarks from other towns. As such, this may be a unique type of Florida fancy postmark.

The St. Nicholas post office was established in Duval County on August 7, 1871, with William D. Ferris named postmaster. The post office was discontinued on May 31, 1908 with mail handled by the South Jacksonville office. St. Nicholas is now a part of Jacksonville, located just south of the main part of town. The Beauclerc post office was established in Duval County on October 29, 1878 and discontinued 21 years later on December 15, 1899 with mail handled at Jacksonville. Beauclerc is now a subdivision

of Jacksonville, located on the east side of the St. John's River, between downtown Jacksonville and Mandarin.

The St. Nicholas postmark on the cover in Figure 2 is the more commonly found postmark on covers dated from the 1880s. This postmark is known in blue and black ink.

ENDNOTE

Articles on both St. Nicholas and Beauclerc by Edward R. Joyce can be found in the *Florida Postal History Journal*, Vol. 5, No.1, February 1998.

Figure 3 is on the next page.

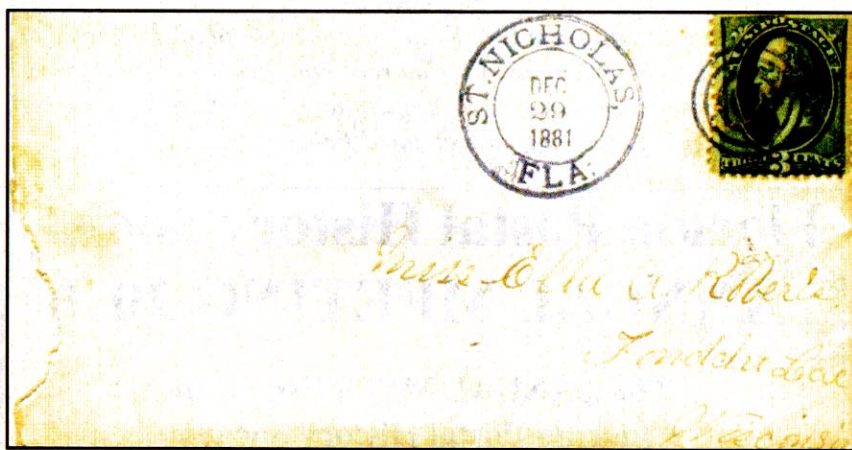


FIGURE 2

“ST. NICHOLAS/ FLA. DEC 29 1881” double circle blue postmark on cover with three-cent green banknote (pre-use torn stamp) tied by killer.

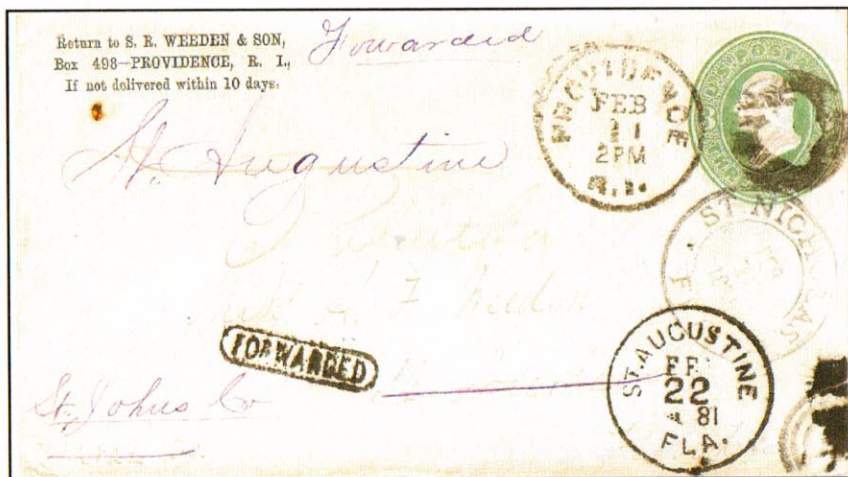


FIGURE 3

This cover was sent from Providence, Rhode Island on February 11, 1881. It has a St. Nicholas, Florida receiving mark of February 19. The cover was forwarded to St. Augustine, where it was postmarked with a receiving cancel dated February 22, 1881.

Florida Postal History Society ANNUAL MEETING 2010

The ANNUAL MEETING of the
Florida Postal History Society
will be held in conjunction with the
Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition
on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 12:00 p.m.
at the Convention Center on U.S. 40 in Sarasota.
All members are encouraged to attend.
For further information, please check the
Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition web page.

Tampa independent state covers

By Phil Warman

The cover in Figure 1 was in the collection of the late Herbert P. McNeal and considered by him to be a possible Independent State use. Without a clear postmarked date or a year date in the docketing, it has gone unsold in my dealer's stock. At a recent FLOREX show and Confederate Stamp Alliance meeting, I noticed a similar cover in the exhibit of Florida Confederate covers by Deane R. Briggs. He immediately recognized this cover as being from the same correspondence as two covers in his collection, both clearly struck with 1861 Tampa Independent State postmarks. To make this finding even more exciting, he also has the actual postmarking device used to cancel this cover.

The covers in Figure 2 and Figure 3 are in the Briggs collection and are from the same correspondence as the cover in Figure 1, apparently written

Text continued on page 19

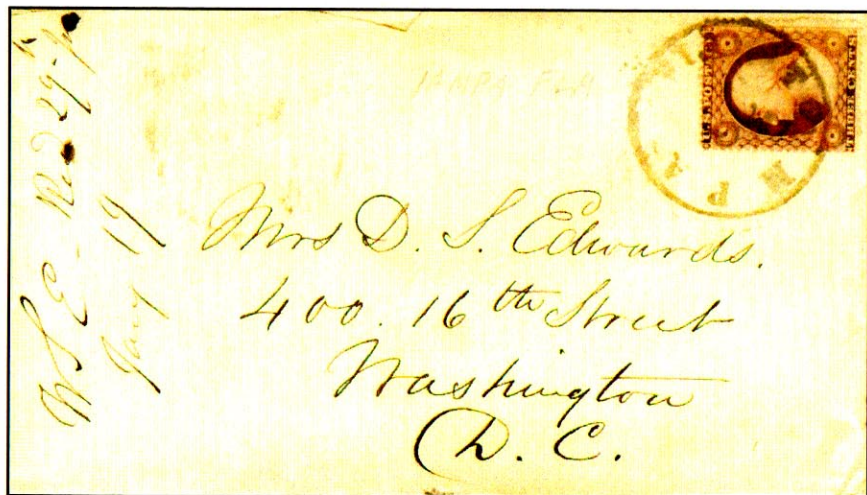


FIGURE 1

Partial "TAMPA / Fla." postmark with unclear date ties Scott #26 to cover docketed W.L.E. Rec'd 29 Jan / Jan'y 19.

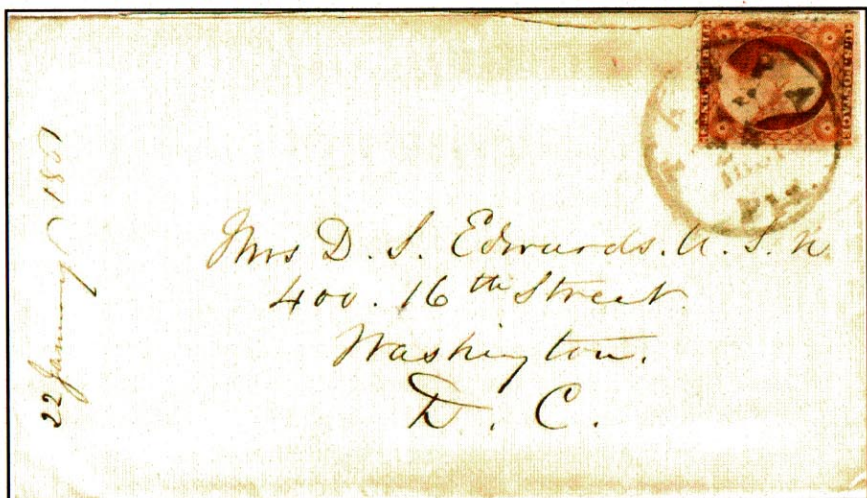


FIGURE 2

"TAMPA / Fla. JAN 24 1861" postmark ties Scott #26 on cover to Washington, D.C. docketed 22 January 1861.

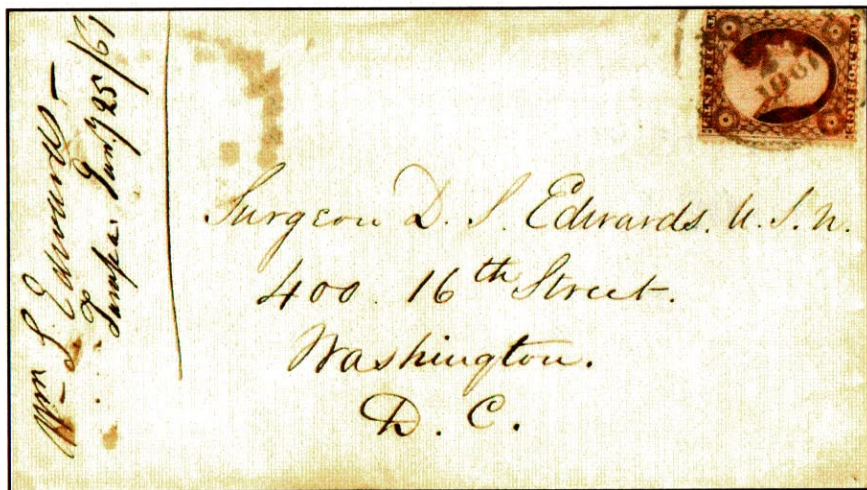


FIGURE 3

"TAMPA / Fla. JAN 27 1861" postmark ties Scott #26 on cover to Surgeon D.S. Edwards U.S.N., docketed Wm. L. Edwards Tampa Jan'y 25 / 61.

three and six days later. They are written in the same hand and to the same Washington address.

The cover in Figure 3 is addressed to the husband of the addressee on the prior covers. The docketing also correlates with the cover in Figure 1 and presumably is that of a son who sent the covers. Putting all three covers together certainly confirms that the cover in Figure 1 is in fact an "Independent State" usage mailed in January 1861.

The handstamp postmarking device shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5 is from the Briggs' collection and is the only known surviving Florida Confederate example. This device was recorded by Dr. Briggs in *The Confederate Philatelist*, Vol. 36, No. 6 (Whole No. 264), November December 1991, pp. 203-205. The device has a steel outer tube that encases a boxwood core with letters "TAMPA Fla." cut around the margin. The center area is mortised and houses the exchangeable date (month, day, year) held in place with a hand-turned screw. The "MAY 8 1863" date has damage to

Continued on page 20



FIGURE 4
The Tampa handstamp postmarking device.

the “3” which probably led to the use of the device to be discontinued at that time. All letters in the device are “serifs.” The device is believed to have been produced by Edmund Hoole.

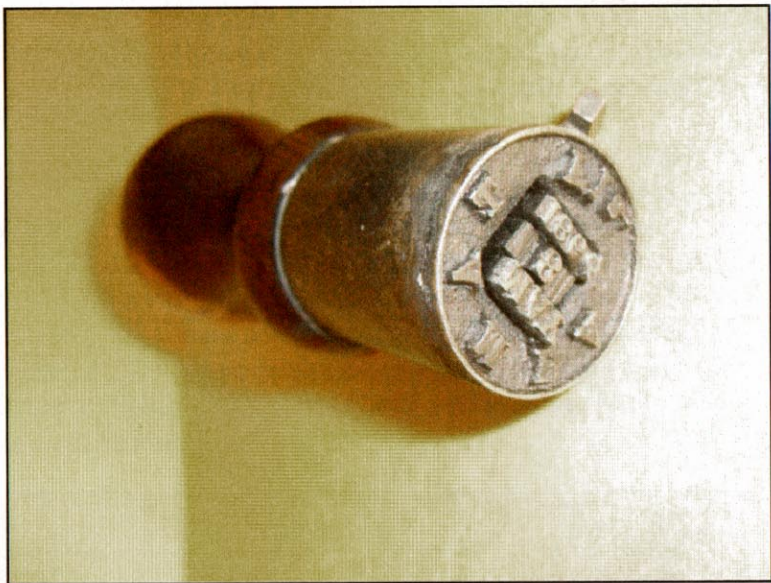


FIGURE 5

End view of the device showing a May 8, 1863 date slug.

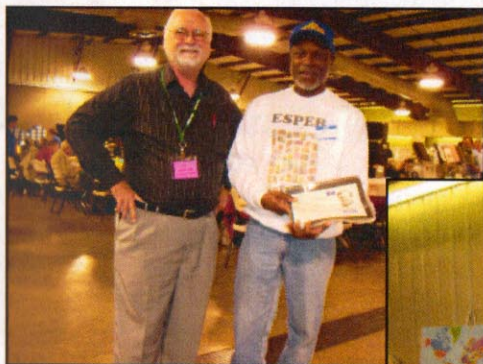
FIGURE 6

Recent handstamp impression.



Scenes from FLOREX

FLOREX was held in early December in Orlando with a lot of philatelists getting together to “talk shop” and visit with a number of dealers. Several members of the Florida Postal History Society exhibited at the event, including Francis Ferguson, Millard Mack, Ron Klimley, and Conrad Bush.



Florida Postal History Society President Steve Patrick (left) and fellow collector at FLOREX in Orlando.

A view of the Central Florida Stamp Club table (right) at FLOREX in Orlando.




Col. Deane R. Briggs receives the CSA Trophy from Gen. Trish Kaufmann at the Confederate Stamp Alliance Southern Supper, part of FLOREX activities in Orlando in December.





A view of activity at FLOREX in Orlando in early December. Florida Postal History Society members John Kimbrough and Phil Warman at back. The other man is unidentified. It appears the photograph may have been taken before the event opened to the public.



VENICE STAMP CLUB

PO BOX 1501, VENICE, FL 34285
ESTABLISHED 1963 A.P.S. #51446

Monthly Meetings 3rd Tuesday except Dec.
Doors open 5PM Business Meeting at 6PM
Venice Main Public Library
Bourse at Jacaranda Library, 1st Sat. 10A-2P
Call Larry Ancil at 493-4040 for Information

President's Page

Steve Patrick

The Florida Postal History Society held a meeting in Orlando at FLOREX on Saturday, December 5, 2009, from noon to 2 p.m. It was reasonably well attended with many dealer members attending to their bourse tables in an adjacent room. Deane R. Briggs presented two PowerPoint programs on Confederate topics as the Confederate Stamp Alliance was holding its annual meeting at FLOREX as well. A program on Jacksonville Confederate postal history outlined the various uses during the short period of Confederate operation prior to the Union occupation of March 12, 1862. Union occupation uses were also demonstrated. A second program on the Stephens-Bryant correspondence documented various Confederate covers including several with the unusual Welaka woodblock double circle postmark. All in all it was a great FLOREX with many members finding some wonderful covers at the bourse. The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at noon at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition. This meeting is usually well attended and members are encouraged to attend.

Dues are now payable for the year 2010 and will become delinquent on April 30, 2010. A separate dues announcement is enclosed. Please remit promptly to keep your membership active. We now have over 115 members, which is an all time high, and the society wishes to retain and expand our membership. Please consider a Contributing Membership to help offset the costs of *Journal* publication and postage which seems to continue to escalate.

Please note the Venice Stamp Club announcement in this issue. It was submitted by Secretary Bette S. Gore. Our journal is pleased to publish such announcements and encourage other Florida stamp clubs to submit similar announcements.

2010 Dues Announcement

Dues for 2010 are now payable. To remain a member, please remit by April 30, 2010. The dues statement is enclosed with this issue of the Florida Postal History Journal.

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS - 2009

The following members of the Florida Postal History Society have been denoted as “**Contributing Members**” for their additional contribution to the Society. The support of these members keeps our Society fiscally sound and enables us to respond to member and non-member inquiries regarding Florida postal history and send sample copies of our *Journal*.

Hector Arvelo
Donald Ball
Lawrence F. C. Baum
Wade H. Beery
John J. Beirne
Richard F. Bergmann
Deane R. Briggs, M.D.
Conrad L. Bush
Walter S. Clarke
Joseph Confoy
Daniel B. Curtis
James L. Diamond
James P. Doolin
Harry G. Dow
Gus Dueben
Richard Frajola
Alex Hall
William J. Hancock
Robert J. Hausin
Richard W. Helbock
Gary G. Hendren
William L. Hendry
Henry Higgins
Todd A. Hirn
Stan Jameson
Stefan T. Jaronski
William Johnson, D.D.S.
Michael S. Jones
Edward R. Joyce, Jr.
Patricia A. Kaufmann
John L. Kimbrough, M.D.
Howard King
Leon King
Dr. Vernon Kisling

Ron Klimley
Alan E. Knight
Alvin L. Krasne, D.D.S.
Carolyn B. Lewis
David C. Lingard
William Lyons
Millard H. Mack
Charles F. Meroni, Jr.
Vernon R. Morris, M.D.
James Moses
Mike Mullins
Richard F. Murphy
Burnam S. Neill
Kevin Nichols
Dr. Everett L. Parker
Stephen Patrick
David G. Phillips
Vincent P. Polizatto
William D. Radford
Kenneth L. Rice
Joel Rind
Steven M. Roth
Joe Rubinfine
Schuyler Rumsey
Niles Schuh
S. George Trager
Phillip V. Warman
John Watts
Robert B. Whitney
C. Michael Wiedemann
Dave Wrisley
Central Florida Stamp Club
Postal History Foundation