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David Yulee

*Senator, lawyer, builder of
the Florida Railroad. See
article beginning on page 4.*



Promoting Philately in the Sunshine State



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David Yulee Free Franks

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

If there was one person most influential in helping to develop Florida into the populous state that she is now, it would be David Yulee. Born David Levy on June 2, 1810 on St. Thomas in the British West Indies, he came with his father, Moses Elias Levy to then-Spanish Florida after the War of 1812, to settle a plantation near Micanopy. David Levy was educated in Virginia and later studied law with Robert R. Reid (a later governor of Florida).

He was admitted to the bar in 1832, and practiced in St. Augustine. It was there that he began his public career as a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention of 1838, and as a clerk to the Florida Territorial legislature in 1841. He was elected as a Florida Territorial delegate to the United States House of Representatives from 1841 to 1845.



FIGURE 1
*David Levy Yulee,
Florida's first U.S. Senator.*

After Florida gained statehood on March 3, 1845, he was elected Florida's first U.S. Senator (*Figure 1*). It was at that time he officially changed his name to David Levy Yulee. After losing the 1850 Senatorial election to Stephen Mallory, he was re-elected to the Sen-

ate in 1854, and served until his resignation January 21, 1861 at the onset of the Civil War. While a state senator, Yulee promoted economic development in Florida and spearheaded the “Internal Improvement Act of 1855,” which made it possible for railroads in Florida to obtain land grants. Yulee used these land grants to obtain credit to build the Florida Railroad from Fernandina to Cedar Key. He was president of this railroad from 1853 to 1866, and even conducted railroad and real estate business while imprisoned at Fort Pulaski in Savannah, Georgia.



FIGURE 2

“D. Levy” Free Frank with “WASHINGTON/D.C. APR 19” (1842) postmark. Mr. Yulee was a Territorial delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives at the time.

I had the pleasure of reviewing the extensive (42 boxes) of letters and documents of Yulee papers at the Smathers Research Library at the University of Florida in July 2011. Although most of the material contained only the enclosures, many folded letters had early Florida stampless markings, none of which, unfortunately, were new listings. These letters dealt with personal communication with his father and wife, plantation business as well as records from the Florida Railroad. It was interesting to see several letters sent to him,

Text continued on page 7



FIGURE 3

D.L. Yulee U.S. Senate free frank with “WASHINGTON D.C. MAR 15” (1849) postmark.



FIGURE 4

D.L. Yulee free frank with “PILATKA/ Flor. JUN 23” (1851) postmark and handstamped “FREE” rate, addressed to his wife in Kentucky.

while imprisoned, from the financial officers of the railroad detailing the profit and losses for the prior month. The loss of mail contacts after the war did hurt the bottom line. Although the University of Florida Yulee archives are enormous, there are fortunately many covers available to collectors, most recently a release of 22 covers without enclosures from another university archive. Two of those covers (Homosassa and Patrick) were new listings of Florida Confederate usage and discussed by the author in this *Journal* (Vol. 13, No. 3, September 2006), and are not reproduced in this article.



FIGURE 5

D.L. Yulee free frank with “SAVANNAH/GEO AUG 25” (1851) postmark and handstamped “FREE” rate, “Missent & ford” from “KNOXVILLE/Te.” (Tennessee).

The cover in **Figure 2** (page 5) is a free frank from the period before Yulee changed his name to David Levy Yulee. These Levy free franks are much less common than the examples in **Figures 3, 4, and 5** with the D.L. Yulee (post-name change) franking. The remainder of these archival covers were addressed to Yulee as a senator and sent free by the sending post office to avoid the recipient (Yulee)

Continued on page 8

from paying the postage.

The cover in **Figure 6** is unusual in that it was sent unpaid “Due 5 Cts” from New York, likely about railroad business, according to the docketing. The Pilatka postmaster, however, corrected the unpaid rate to “overcharged 5” and forwarded the cover to Yulee with a “FREE” rate.



FIGURE 6

Cover from New York sent (“Due 5 Cts”) to Yulee in “Pilatka” but corrected by the Pilatka postmaster to “Overcharged 5” and forwarded to St. Augustine with a “PILATKA/ Flor AUG 4” postmark and “FREE” handstamped rate.

The cover in **Figure 7** is a Congressional free frank from Henry May, who was elected to the House in 1854 and 1860, the same period Yulee was a Senator. He must have been close to Yulee politically and during the Civil War in 1861, he left his seat in Congress to confer with Confederate authorities in Richmond on peace measures. During his absence, an attempt to expel him for disloyalty was made and he was imprisoned in Fort Lafayette for several weeks. After his parole, he completed his term in the House. One can only wonder how influential he was for the remaining three years of his term.



FIGURE 7

U.S. Congressman Henry May free-franked cover to Senator Yulee in Washington, D.C. with “BALTIMORE / Md JUL 10” postmark with “FREE” rate.

The covers in **Figures 8** and **9** are most uncommon Key West “Free” usages. The oval marking is known with “Free” use between 1832

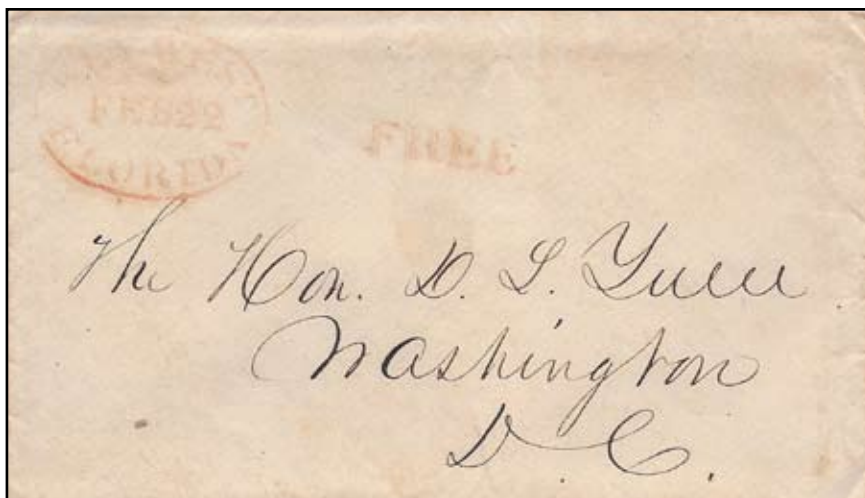


FIGURE 8

“KEY WEST / FLORIDA FEB 22” red oval postmark with red “FREE” rate on cover to Hon. D.L. Yulee in Washington, D.C., most likely a Senatorial usage.



FIGURE 9
“KEY WEST FLA / FREE AUG 12” Type V postmark to
Honorable D.L. Yulee in Washington, D.C., likely
late 1850s to 1860 usage.

and 1838, but not during the statehood period. It is not documented with later use, but this cover must have been a statehood 1846-50 usage after Yulee changed his name and while in his first term as senator. A second February 8 usage is also included in the collection but is badly oxidized.

The “KEY WEST FLA FREE” usage is known as Type V in our society book, *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861*. Although only one example of this marking was known in 1999, when this reference was published, there has been one additional example recorded with October 4, 1861 usage. This would likely date this cover to the 1859-1860 period and is now the third known example of this postmark.

David Yulee was captured shortly after the end of the Civil War and imprisoned in Fort Pulaski (near Savannah) until pardoned by President Grant. During his internment, several efforts were made to facilitate his release, and his wife and business partners were often at the prison. The cover in **Figure 10** is addressed to his wife, “Pres-

ent,” and was a Department of the South official business envelope, likely given to Yulee by the commanding officer. One entire box of correspondence in the Smathers Library archives contains similar covers and the enclosures.

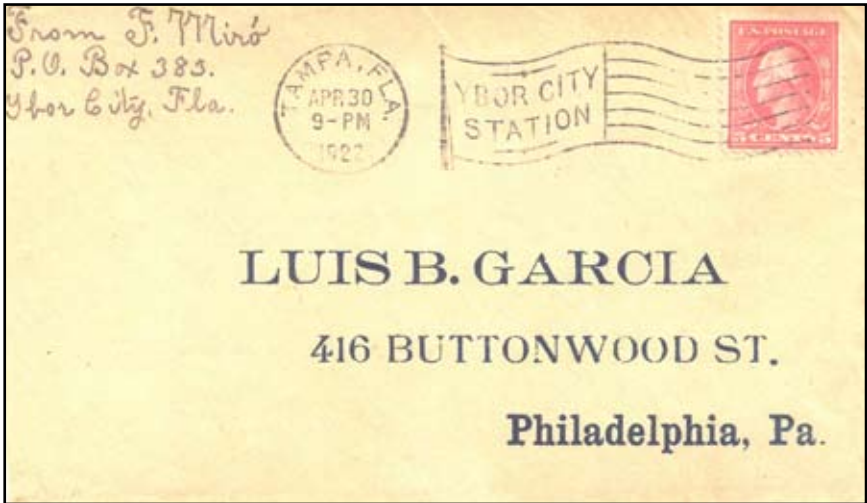
After his release in March 1866, Yulee continued to restore vitality to the Florida Railroad system and expanded his real estate holdings. He eventually sold the Florida Railroad to outside investors and moved to Washington, D.C., where his wife’s family resided. He died in October 1866, and the *Washington Post* eulogy noted of him, “Senator from Florida, he was better known than the state he represented.”



FIGURE 10
Hand-delivered cover
written in David Yulee’s
hand to his wife while
imprisoned in Fort Pulaski
in 1865-66.

Tampa Scott #505 Five-Cent Rose Error usage

By Daniel B. Curtis



*Five-cent rose color error, Scott #505 on cover with
"TAMPA/FLA. APR 30 1922 YBOR CITY STATION"
machine cancel.*

The above cover has a very fine usage of the five-cent rose color error of Scott #505 from Tampa. This example is the only known use of #505 from Tampa and may well be the only known surviving usage from Florida as I am unaware of other examples. The postmark is a nice strike of the "YBOR CITY / STATION" machine flag cancel. As the Ybor City area of Tampa had a large Cuban population engaged in the cigar industry, this preprinted envelope to a Luis Garcia in Philadelphia suggests a regular correspondence from F. Miro, possibly for commercial orders of goods or services. The cover does not appear to be philatelic. Any reader with other examples of this #505 or the Scott #467 color error with usage from Florida should contact the author or editor.

U.S.Sc. *Porpoise* 1823 letter

By William H. Johnson, D.D.S.

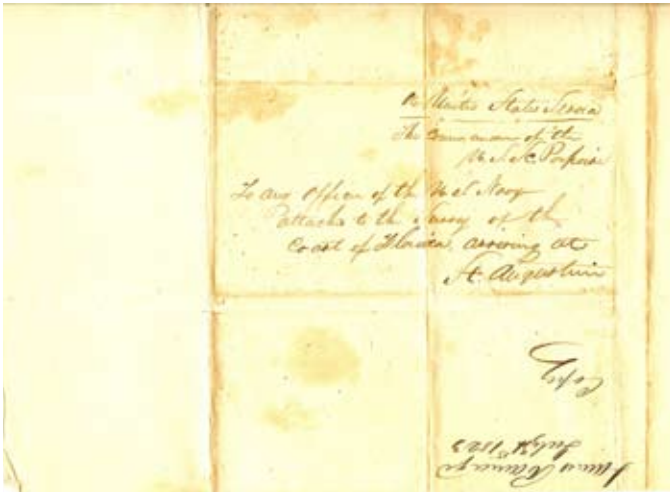


FIGURE 1
1823 cover
docketed “On
United States
Service / The
Commander
of the U.S.
Sc(hooner)
Porpoise.”

The above cover is an interesting early 1823 cover from the commander of an early U.S. Naval survey of the coast of Florida and addressed to any officer of the U.S. Navy attached to the Survey of the Coast of Florida, arriving at St. Augustine. The enclosure is from James Ramage and is datelined “U.S. Schooner *Porpoise* / off St. Augustine / 31st July 1823.” It informs any officers ordered to this vessel who may arrive at St. Augustine that the vessel will be found at or near Key West. He apparently was not going to land at St. Augustine and that the officers would have to make their own arrangements to meet the vessel in Key West. The letter is docketed that it was received on August 12, 1823 by the Governor of Florida at St. Augustine. The U.S. Schooner *Porpoise* was a 177-ton, 86-foot Sailing Schooner with 12 six-pound guns, and was built in 1820. She was the first topsail schooner in the U.S. Navy. Lieutenant James Ramage was her initial commander and she was used in the West Indies from 1821-1823 hunting pirates. Obviously she was assigned surveying duty off Florida in mid-1823. From 1824-1825 she was cruising the West African coast engaged in the suppression of the slave trade. She was wrecked on a reef off Point Lizardo in the West Indies in 1833.

Jacksonville Territorial Covers

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

Jacksonville, Florida is currently the largest city in terms of both population and land area in Florida and the largest by area in the entire United States. A consolidation of city and Duval County governments in 1968 incorporated most of Duval County into the city of Jacksonville.¹ The area where Jacksonville is currently located has been inhabited for between 12,000 and 16,000 years, most recently by the Mocama, a coastal subgroup of the Timucuan Indians who may have numbered about 150,000 at their peak.² The largest Timucuan village in the region was Ossachite which stood near where the courthouse stands today.³ It was known much later

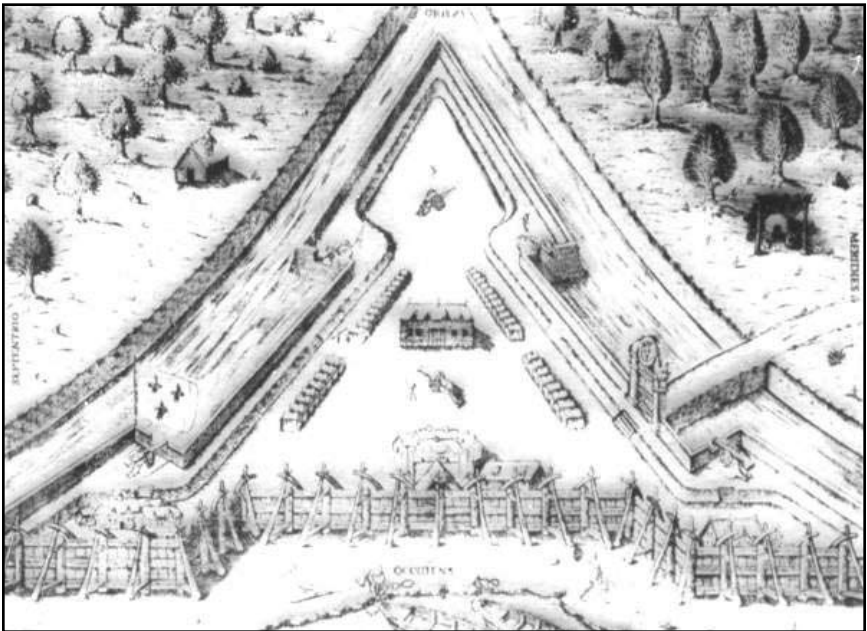


Figure 1

Early drawing of French Fort Caroline (1564) located at St. John's Bluff, 5 miles from present day Jacksonville.



Figure 2

Early drawing by French artist Jacques Le Moyne showing Timucan Indians killing an alligator.

as “Wacca Pilatka” meaning “cow’s crossing” to the Timucans and Cowford (Cow Ford) to the British. The site is on the St. John’s River where a sharp bend produces a narrow, shallow crossing point before heading into the Atlantic Ocean. A historical marker at the foot of Liberty Street denotes the actual location.

The first Europeans with Ponce de Leon landed about 25 miles from the site in 1513, when he “discovered” Florida. For the next 50 years the site became a battleground between the Spanish and French for control of “Florida” and the entrance to the St. John’s River. The French under Jean Ribault landed near present day Saint John’s Bluff in 1562. He planted a stone pillar with his name and the arms of France to claim the area for France and stayed two days to trade with the Indians. He then sailed north and established a 28 man garrison named Charles Fort near present day Port Royal,

South Carolina. Two years later, Laudonniere returned and built Fort Caroline (*Figure 1*) for the French on the flat knoll at St. John's Bluff five miles from the mouth of the St. John's River. Accompanying him was the artist Jacques Le Moyne. The drawings and narratives of these men are the earliest accounts of the land and the culture of the Timucans. These were published by Theodore deBry in 1591, and included a map of Florida depicting the original site of Charles Fort and Fort Caroline and several views of the Indian villages, their ceremonies, and method of killing alligators (*see Figure 2*).

The Spanish who already had a foothold in Florida at St. Augustine and held lucrative Mexican trade routes, did not want the French presence in Florida. In 1565, King Philip II of Spain sent Pedro Menendez to drive the French from Florida. On September 20, he attacked and captured Fort Caroline and in the process massacred 138 Frenchmen who had surrendered. Laudonniere and LeMoynes were able to escape by ship. Menendez renamed the fort San Mateo. The French retaliated in 1567, and destroyed San Mateo and hanged all the Spaniards they captured.⁴ For the next 200 years, the area was left to privateers and pirates with little governmental support for settlers.

During the period of British control of Florida (1763-1784), plantations were established and small farmers from South Carolina and Georgia settled in the area north of and near St. Augustine. To assist commercial development, the British constructed the King's Road which connected St. Augustine to Georgia and crossed the St. John's River at Cow Ford. The Second Spanish Period (1784-1821) did not see a great deal of Spanish investment or development. The previous British settlers were allowed to stay and even maintain trading ventures with the Indians. Robert Pritchard became the first settler at Cow Ford with a Spanish Land Grant dated 1791. He lived there only a few years. Lewis Z. Hogans and his wife Maria moved into a log cabin at Cow Ford in late 1816 and are considered the first permanent settlers. In 1821, Sarah Waterman and her four daughters established the first inn, although John Brady had kept a tavern since 1818 and ran a ferry.⁵

Jacksonville was named after Andrew Jackson, Florida's pre-territorial military governor, but there is no record that he ever visited the town. The first recorded use of the name "Jacksonville" was on a June 15, 1822 petition to U.S. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, requesting that Jacksonville be named a port of entry.⁶ Isaiah D. Hart is considered the father of Jacksonville and authored the charter for town government which was approved by the Florida Legislative Council on February 9, 1832. He also established the first hotel in 1830, and was the second postmaster from January 19, 1827 until July 7, 1837. The population of Jacksonville was slow to grow with only 100 residents in 1830 and remained quite small with only 600 residents in 1840.⁷ Even with this seemingly low population, there is a large amount of postal history which has survived from the territorial period. The following covers will document the four different postmarks from territorial Jacksonville (Types I, II, III, and IV).

The earliest recorded use of a Jacksonville postmark is a manuscript archival example dated January 11, 1825, nine months after the post office was established on March 24, 1824, as Florida's fourth post office. *Figure 3* shows an example of a manuscript postmark



Figure 3
Jacksonville July 8 (1827) manuscript postmark with
Way 40 rate on cover to Tallahassee.

(Type I) with a “Way 20” corrected to 40 rate on an overweight cover to Tallahassee dated July 8, 1827. This is the earliest known non-archival Jacksonville cover. There is only one other manuscript example recorded, dated August 7, 1839. That cover is listed in the *American Stampless Cover Catalog*⁸ and has not been seen by the author.

The cover in **Figure 4** is the known example of the first handstamp postmark from Jacksonville. It is a rimless arc with angled lettering



Figure 4

JACKSONVILLE / FLO. Dec 27 (1827) rimless arc postmark with unpaid 25 rate in manuscript on cover to Washington.

with a manuscript date (Type II). It is dated December 27, 1827, and is in black ink. This postmarking device must have had a very short period of use as the fairly common Type III handstamp postmark had known use beginning from July 6, 1828. Most surviving covers have very weak or incomplete strikes of this Type III postmark. **Figure 5** shows an example of this postmark known only in red ink with a “FREE” (Type a) rate used from 1830 to 1838. This particular cover was sent by Isaiah D. Hart and endorsed by him at the top.

The example in **Figure 6** shows the use of a 29 mm circular date handstamp postmark which is also only known in red ink. It also has
Text continued on page 20



Figure 5
JACKSONVILLE / FLO. NOV 4 (1836) postmark with boxed FREE rate on cover to the “Post Master” at Salem, N.C.

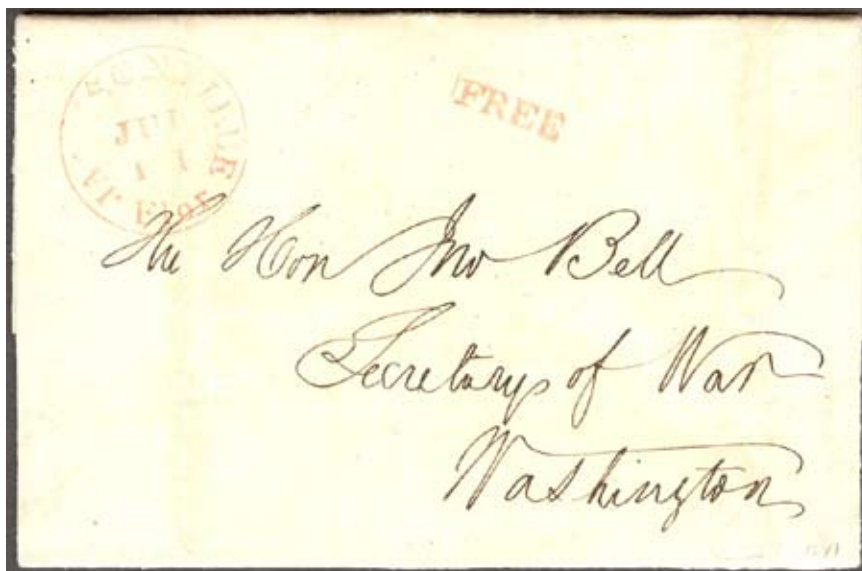


Figure 6
JACKSONVILLE / Flor. JUL 14 (1841) postmark with FREE rate on cover to Washington.

a FREE rate, this being a larger (Type c) variety used from 1840.

FOOTNOTES

¹ “Jacksonville, Florida.” Wikipedia at Internet site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacksonville_Florida.

² “About Jacksonville.” Internet site: <http://www.coj.net/About+Jacksonville/Jacksonville+History.htm>.

³ “History of Jacksonville, Florida.” Wikipedia at Internet site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Jacksonville,_Florida.

⁴ Charlton W. Tebeau, *A History of Florida*. (Coral Gables, Florida: University of Miami Press, 1980), 29-36.

⁵ *Ibid*, 146.

⁶ *Ibid*, “History of Jacksonville, Florida.”

⁷ *Ibid*, Tebeau, 146.

⁸ *American Stampless Cover Catalog*. (North Miami, Florida: David G. Phillips Publishing Co., 1997).

⁹ Deane R. Briggs, ed. *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861*. (North Miami, Florida: David G. Phillips Publishing Co., 1999), 156-157.



“Timucan Indians meeting with Georgia settlers near St. Augustine.” Drawing by Jacques LeMoyne.



“Jean Ribault stone pillar at St. John’s Bluff 1562 with Timucan Indians.” Drawing by Jacques LeMoyne.

Big changes are coming in January!

We're working very hard to bring you something ALL NEW with the January 2012 issue, but for right now, **it's a big secret!**

Want to know before January what's happening? Come to FLOREX in Orlando on December 3, 2011 and attend the Florida Postal History Society meeting beginning at noon. At that meeting, we will unveil this brand new direction, something that never has been tried before with the society. It is indeed BIG news and it will have a direct impact on each and every member! No, we're not going all digital, and you will still receive your journal, so don't be concerned with that!

If you haven't renewed your dues for the coming year, do so today so you'll know what is happening.

You won't want to miss this!

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.

President's Page

Alexander Hall

DECEMBER 3, 2011: MEETING AT FLOREX. The next meeting of the Florida Postal History Society will be held at FLOREX on Saturday, December 3, 2011, beginning at noon. FLOREX is held at the Central Florida Fairgrounds on west SR50 in Orlando. Members should try to attend as this is a large Champion of Champions Show with a great dealer bourse. Many of the dealers have large Florida holdings including inexpensive items. We will need more articles for the *Journal*. Members need to submit articles to editors Deane R. Briggs and Everett Parker.

FEBRUARY 4, 2012: ANNUAL MEETING IN SARASOTA. Our annual meeting will be held at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition on Saturday, February 4, 2012, beginning at noon in the balcony at the Convention Center on U.S. 4. This meeting is also a Champion of Champions Show with an outstanding bourse. This meeting is usually well attended.

NEW WEBSITE: At our last annual meeting, we authorized Francis Ferguson to be our new webmaster and he has completely revamped our society website. In addition, the society has paid to have all of our journals scanned and archived on the website. This is a great opportunity for new members to read 18 years of the *Florida Postal History Journal*. In addition, there is a pdf link for titles, keywords, authors, etc. for research purposes. Check out the new website at: www.fphsonline.com.

DUES: Although expenses have exceeded dues revenue for this past year, we are still in good financial condition and there will be no increase in dues for 2012. Many of our members have paid for two years and over half of the membership are Contributing Members. This is certainly appreciated and the only way we can remain solvent. Membership has decreased by over 10% this past year, and for the first time in many years is under 100, so please encourage other collectors to join our Society. A formal 2012 dues announcement will be sent with our January issue and will be the only announcement. Please renew your membership promptly at that time. We need to keep an active membership.

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS - 2010

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*.

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