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*Promoting Philately in the Sunshine State*



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## Jacksonville “Mailomat” First Day Cover?

By Steve Swain

Shown in Figure 1 is the “Mailomat,” a coin-operated postage meter machine for public use manufactured by the Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Company. The device provided a single, streamlined operation of purchasing postage and mailing letters.

The customer dropped money into the coin slot, dialed the correct postage denomination and inserted the letter into the machine. The Mailomat<sup>1</sup> printed on the letter or card a meter stamp containing the city name and date of the mailing and held the letter until it was collected by postal workers.

At a recent show, I was sorting through a dealer’s box of first day covers and came upon the postcard shown in Figure 2 with the prominent “MAILOMAT” First Day Cover red handstamp. Embracing what I have always considered to be the definition of a “first day cover,” I quickly pulled the card from the box to obtain a closer look at the upper right hand corner. After all, even the American First Day Cover Society defines a First Day Cover as “an envelope or card bearing a stamp which is cancelled on the day the stamp is initially placed on sale by the postal authorities.”<sup>2</sup> However, there was not an adhesive stamp on the card. Instead, there was a one-cent meter marking with a “JACKSONVILLE / FLA. MAY-6’48” city/date.

Knowing nothing about the Mailomat machine, as described on the back of the card, and given the prospect of a unique addition to my Florida postal history collection, I purchased the card and returned

home to do research on the true purpose of the “First Day Cover” marking on the card.

I will gladly admit to some naiveté in what I discovered. According to the National Postal Museum, the first Mailomat was placed in public service in the United



**Figure 1**  
*Mailomat Metering Machine.*

States in New York City on May 17, 1939. My Internet search revealed several of the New York City “First Day Covers,” such as the one shown in Figure 3.

*Continued on page 3*

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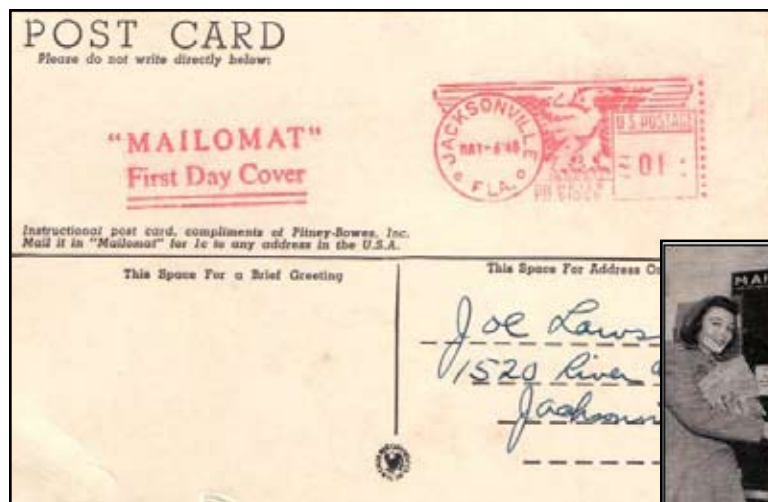
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The key to solving my self-imposed mystery was the language in the left-side box of the cover explaining that the envelope was a limited edition prepared specifically for the installation ceremony of the Mailomat in New York City. A "First Day Cover" marking on such

"Envelope") in the description of the commemorative piece and the handstamp language applied to the Jacksonville postcard certainly suggests that someone did indeed know the philatelic use of that word. These commemorative pieces just may well have had a



**Figure 2**  
*Left, "Mailomat" first day cover posted at Jacksonville, Florida on May 6, 1948. Below is the reverse side of the card, showing the "Mailomat."*



**Figure 3**  
*First day cover of New York "Mailomat."*

mailings, therefore, commemorated the first day of the general public operation of the Mailomat in the particular city. And, since the Mailomat was, in essence, a sophisticated metering device, there would never be an adhesive stamp affixed to the envelopes and cards, irrespective of a first day of issue consideration.

However, the use of the word "Cover" (instead of

more philatelic motivation and purpose than first thought. At any rate, I now embrace a somewhat liberal definition of "first day cover" and willingly accept the fact that sometimes marketing objectives can take priority over philatelic terminology. My May 6, 1948 Jacksonville "First Day Cover" holds a prominent place in my Florida postal history collection.

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Website: <http://www.worldmeterstamps.com/mss.html>

<sup>2</sup> Website: <http://www.afdc.org/fdcourse.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Website: <http://stampwants-stamps.bidstart.com/U-S-General-Issues-1939-Mailomat-First-Day-Cover-/w0823676/a.html>.



# Florida Excess *FREE* Rate

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

A provision in the U.S. Postal Act of March 3, 1825, authorized the payment of "Excess Postage" for FREE franked mail by establishing a weight limit of ½ ounce per letter or packet for such mail and requiring that any excess over that weight be charged at the regular rates of postage. At that time, postage was based on the distance and the number of sheets. Letters weighing over one ounce were charged an additional rate for each excess of ¼ ounce or fraction thereof. The Act of March 3, 1825, also changed the rate for single letter with distance of 150 - 400 miles from 18 ½ cents (Act of April 9, 1816) to 18 ¾ cents to reflect the currency circulating at that time of 1 ½ reales = 18 ¾ cents.

The cover in Figure 1 is the only recorded example of the use of the Excess Free rate from Florida. Such use of this Excess Free rate is extremely uncommon. Bernard Biales, who is an authority on these usages, has only seen about three dozen examples in over 30 years of study, none from Florida. Most of the examples seen by him were from Northeastern states with several of these covers coming from a single correspondence repeatedly using the Excess Free rate. The Florida example was postmarked at Pensacola with a manuscript July 31st (1827) postmark and a manuscript Free rate endorsed by I.W. Exum, Post Master / Athens, Ala. with an added "½ oz" docketing.

The cover is an outer letter sheet which must have had an enclosure as noted by the recipient's docketing on the reverse which stated "31 July 1827 / I W Exum / Enclosing a plat explaining his mode of surveying P

Claims." The Pensacola postmaster accepted the Free franking privilege from the Athens, Alabama postmaster while correctly adding the unpaid "Excess 18 ¾" rate covering the over 150 mile distance to Tallahassee for the extra enclosure.

I.W. Exum must have had a fairly large correspondence with Col. Robert Butler in Tallahassee. The cover in Figure 1 has a number 33 written on the inside of the outer letter sheet. Another cover from this correspondence has a number 41 on the inside of the outer letter sheet postmarked six weeks later at Yellow Water, Florida, on September 13, 1827.

This cover has a manuscript Free rate endorsed by I.W. Exum, Post Master / Athens, Ala. It also had an enclosure confirmed by the reverse docketing of Col. Butler which stated "Sept 13 1827 / from I W Exum / Inability to

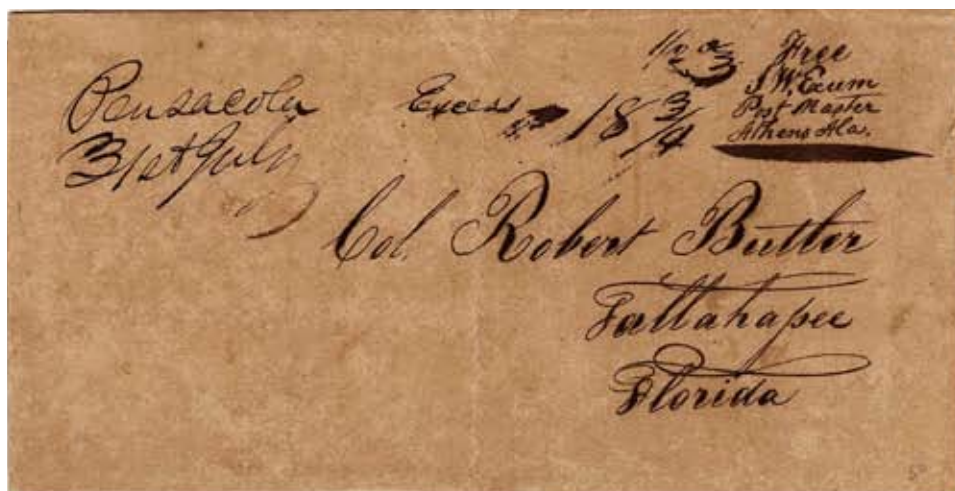


Figure 1

*Excess 18 ¾ (due) rate on Pensacola 1827 postmaster FREE cover.*

complete the surveys from extreme sickness of the assistants / Answered Sep 18th 1827."

This cover obviously also had an inner enclosure and should have been rated "Excess 18 ¾" by the Yellow Water postmaster. That post office was very small, existing for only 15 months (from January 31, 1827 until May 5, 1828) [name changed to Almirante] with postal receipts of only \$3.74 for the year ending March 31, 1828. It is quite likely that the postmaster at Yellow Water was unaware of the Excess Free rate or just failed to note the enclosed sheet.

Col. Robert Butler was a large, domineering man. His father, Col. Thomas Butler, was a close friend of Andrew Jackson, who raised Robert upon his father's death.

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# The Pine, Florida Post Office

*By Ronald E. Gotcher*

**T**he story of the Pine, Florida post office is really a story of my family (the Perry family), which settled in Marion County in 1855. It is a story not unlike those of many early Florida settlers. William Perry and his wife Caroline traveled by covered wagon from South Carolina to Florida, crossing the Ocklawaha River at Sharpes Ferry and passing Fort King, to settle in Section 9 where Eureka is currently situated.



*Figure 1*

*Perry family home circa 1886. Pine post office located as a small side building (not shown).*

It was on a high bluff overlooking the Ocklawaha River that they built a small log cabin. They eventually moved to Souterville near the present town of Sparr and established a small farm. Shortly after the onset of the Civil War, William Perry and his eldest son Thomas were mustered into the Roll Company H (Marion Hornets) of the 7th Florida Infantry on April 12, 1862, and fought in several battles throughout the South. William's youngest son, William Preston Perry, joined Captain J.J. Dickison's calvary and stayed throughout the war in Florida.

Fortunately, all the Perrys survived the war and William Preston eventually married Cherry Ann Grantham on January 6, 1867. They settled in Section 7, Town-

ship 13, Range 23 East and established an orange grove. They expanded their property and built a large two storied house and sawmill on land with tall pine trees (*Figure 1*). Next to the house they built a small structure which on December 18, 1894, became the first Pine Post Office with Cherry Ann the first postmistress. (*Figure 2*). She named the community in the surrounding pine forested area "Pine" as a change from an area previously known as "Greenwood."



*Figure 2*

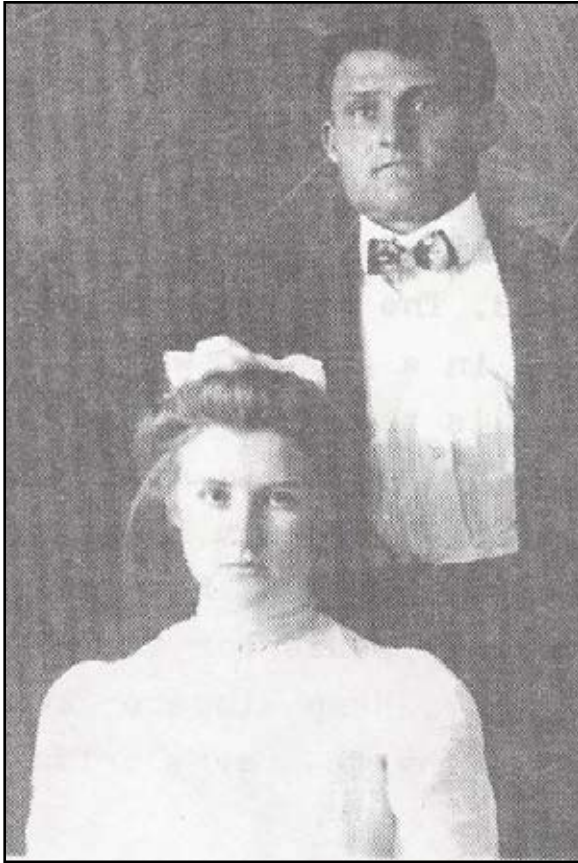
*Cherry Ann Perry, first postmistress of Pine Post Office.*

The year 1895 was a bad one for the Perry family. A severe freeze killed all the citrus and William died at the age of 48. Cherry Ann survived financial ruin on the 75¢ to \$1.00 per day post office revenue, enough to

*Continued on page 6*



buy products not produced by her son Thomas on their small farm. By 1900, the Pine Post Office had grown along with the post-freeze Marion County timber based

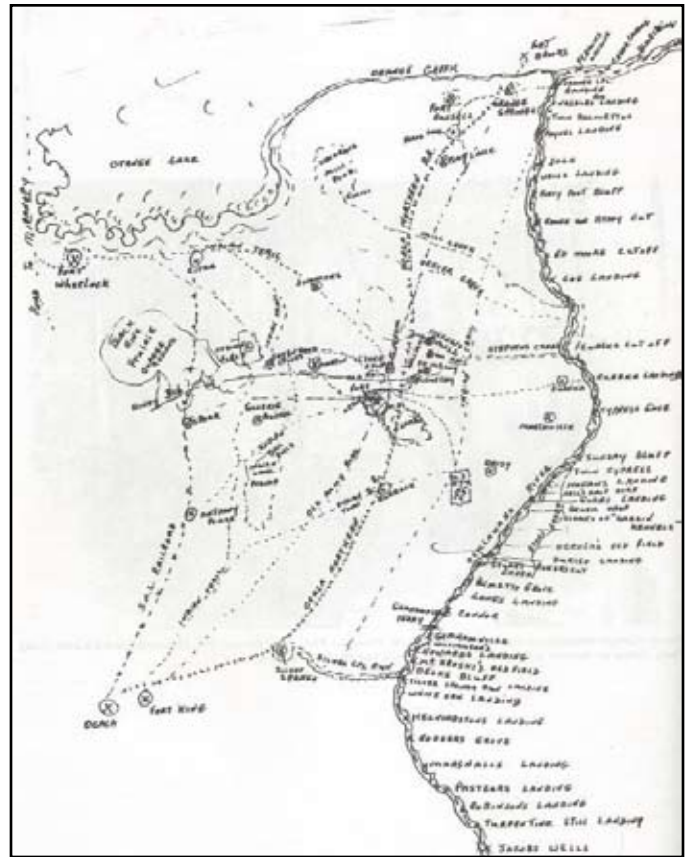


**Figure 3**

**Thomas J. Perry and Mary Catherine Perry,  
last postmistress of Pine Post Office.**

economy and Cherry Ann received good revenue as postmistress.

Tom married Mary Catherine Wingate (my grandmother) in 1903 and became prosperous with a sawmill, strawberry farm and cattle business (**Figure 3**). By 1910, Mary Catherine became postmistress of the Pine Post Office. On February 15, 1918, the Pine Post Office was discontinued with mail service continuing as a Rural Free Delivery



**Figure 4**

**Map showing location of Pine (Greenwood)  
in center, just west of Fort McCoy.**

from the Citra post office.

By 1930, there were only four or five families living in the Pine community, all descendants of original settlers, including the Perry family. There is no mention of Pine on any maps today, but the Greenwood United Methodist Church survives as does Pine Church Road just west of Fort McCoy. The Fort McCoy forest tower currently is just south of where Pine once flourished. My aunt Faye Perry Melton wrote two books on the history of Pine and Fort Mc-



**Figure 5**

**Post card to Cherry Ann Perry at Pine.**

**Continued on page 18**

# Jacksonville 1888 Subtropical Exposition Postmarks

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

In the January 2001 issue of the *Florida Postal History Journal*, I wrote a lengthy article on the Florida Sub-Tropical Exposition and recorded many covers and several medals which were struck for the event. That article and follow up articles by myself, Herbert P. McNeal, James Moses, and Harry Dow enhanced

During the winter of 1886-1887, the state of California began a vigorous advertising blitz to lure tourists away from Florida and to California. The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad allowed the railroad companies to offer very low rates for travel to California (presumably to fill empty passenger cars). During the 1884-1885 season, Jacksonville recorded 60,000 tourist arrivals and as a result, the Everett Hotel spent



*Figure 1*

*Jacksonville Sub-Tropical Exposition buildings, opened January 12, 1888.  
(Courtesy of Florida Photographic Archives)*

the subject and added new postmarks, a special pass, a discussion of the Ocala Sub-Tropical Exposition which was supposed to take the place of the one in 1889 in Jacksonville, and a letter about the last exposition of 1891. All of these articles are referenced at the end of this article and are recommended to be viewed on our Florida Postal History Society website, [www.fphsonline.com](http://www.fphsonline.com) under the journal archives. This article will document several newly obtained postmarks, an exposition invitation, and some wonderful photographs of the exposition from the MetroJacksonville.com website.

\$100,000 in an addition, the Windsor Hotel, \$75,000, and even smaller boarding houses spent considerable money on improvements.

The California advertising effort expanded vigorously, with tourist bureaus opened even in Florida. Tourist brochures were flooding the country touting California tourism. The result was successful and Jacksonville tourism fell during the 1886-1887 season to the alarm of Jacksonville businessmen. A mass meeting of citizens was held in the spring of 1887, and it was decided to

*Continued on page 8*

establish in Jacksonville a great exposition, to be held annually during the winter months. An association was formed and capitalized at \$100,000. A part of Waterworks Park at the corner of Pine (Main) and First streets

even a zoo (*Figures 2, 3, 4*).

The Sub-Tropical Exposition opened on January 12, 1888, and was heralded as by far the most pretentious undertaking of its kind ever attempted in the state. President Grover Cleveland accepted an invitation and arrived on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1888, pulled from the railroad station in a specially made horse drawn Presidential coach (*Figure 5*). The Sub-Tropical Exposition officially closed for the season



*Figure 2*

*Interior of the main exposition hall with exhibits showcasing Florida products.  
(Courtesy Florida Photographic Archives)*

was leased from the city for \$1.00 annual rent. The Exposition building, (*Figure 1*) 352 x 152 feet, was constructed in the fall of 1887, and was a spectacular structure topped with towers and minarets. Inside the hall was an electrically-lit fountain with a pond containing rare fish. Exhibits included a Seminole Indian camp, displays of Florida and West Indies products, two artificial lakes and

on April 20 despite the note on a special pass stating



*Figure 3*

*Interior of exposition hall with exhibits of Florida citrus and vegetables.  
(Courtesy Florida Photographic Archives)*



it was good until May 15, 1888 (**Figure 6**). An invitation noted a continuation of at least four months (**Figure 7**). This invitation showed a view of the entire site on the reverse (**Figure 8**) and was in the Charles F. Meroni collection, sold by David Phillips in 1985, and recently re-sold last year in an Ebay auction. Financially, the Exposition was a success with receipts of \$21,013 and expenses of \$12,134.



**Figure 4**

*Outside exhibit of Seminole Indian camp and one of two lakes.  
(Courtesy Florida Photographic Archives)*

Two special Exposition Station postmarks were made for the 1888 Exposition, a 34mm double circle postmark

(**Figure 9**) and a 34mm serrated outer rim receiving mark (**Figure 10**) which are listed in William Bomar's book, *Postal Markings and Postal History of United States Expositions* as Bomar Number J88-01 with only three known and Bomar Number J88-02 with only four known.

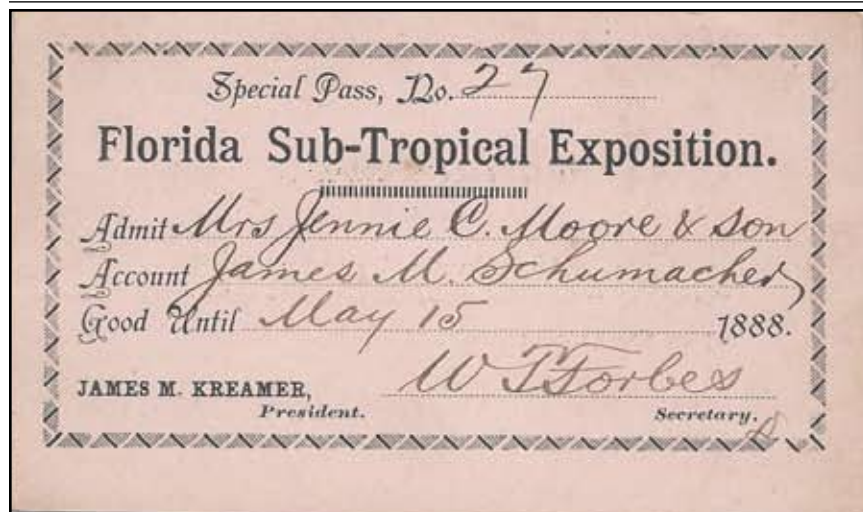


**Figure 5**

*Exterior view of the Exhibition buildings with minarets and towers with horse drawn coach to carry visitors from the railroad station to the site.  
(Courtesy Florida Photographic Archives)*

A second example of this receiving mark (**Figure 11**)

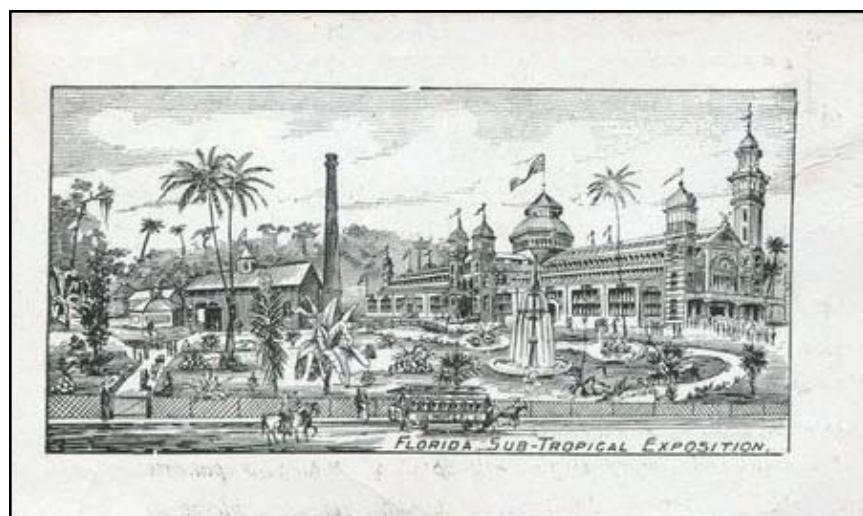
*Continued on page 10*



**Figure 6**  
**Florida Sub-Tropical Exposition Special Pass,**  
**"Good Until May 15 1888."**



**Figure 7**  
**Florida Sub-Tropical Invitation with untied killer cancelled 2¢**  
**brown #210 to Mr. W. O. Ensign, Rutland, Ill. No postmark to**  
**prove stamp originated on card.**



**Figure 8**  
**Reverse of Invitation card with view of**  
**Exposition site.**

similar to and with the same date as was in the McNeal collection was auctioned by Schuyler Rumsey in sale No. 33, April 26, 2009 along with a matching postcard with the Exposition Station postmark (**Figure 12**) as lot 2012. This example is a new LKU listing and adds an additional example to the Bomar census. A copper medal was also struck for the 1888 Exposition (**Figure 13**).

The opening of the Second Sub-Tropical Exposition of 1889 was questionable due to the yellow fever epidemic of August 8 - December 15, 1888, which left the city of Jacksonville quarantined, with discontinuance of all river boat traffic. Many of the inhabitants left the city and rationing of food for the unemployed was necessitated. In all, 4,704 cases of yellow fever were recorded in Jacksonville with 427 deaths. Refugees were finally allowed back into Jacksonville on December 15, with hundreds returning by trains and boats.

Business in Jacksonville recovered quickly and by January 1, 1889, scores of residences and stores had been opened and trade restored. Soon after the close of the yellow fever epidemic, the directors of the Sub-Tropical Association held a meeting and it was decided to again open the exposition for the winter. The second Sub-Tropical Exposition opened on February 20, 1889, but without as many elaborate exhibits. President Grover Cleveland again visited the exposition on April 4, as a guest of the Plant System Railroad officials. It closed with the successfully competitive Interstate Military Drills of April 10-12, 1889 (**Figure 14, 15**).



The third Sub-Tropical Exposition opened on January 9, 1890, and closed on April 12. Though not as elaborate, it continued to attract tourists. A special silver medal was struck for this 1890 Exposition (**Figure 16**). The fourth Sub-Tropical Exposition opened on January 15, 1891, and continued only until February 14. The Sub-Tropical Exposition was not opened again and the lease and buildings were sold to a private company of local citizens and opened as a county fair. The site continued to function as a place for conventions and local celebrations until 1897, when it was torn down to make way for a waterworks reservoir on the site.

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Herbert P. McNeal, "Ocala Florida International and Semi-Tropical Exposition," *Florida Postal History Journal*, Volume 8, No. 2, September 2001, pp. 1-3.

James Moses, "The Last Sub-Tropical Exposition," *Florida Postal History Journal*, Volume 8, No. 2, September 2001, pp. 4-5.

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*Continued on page 12*



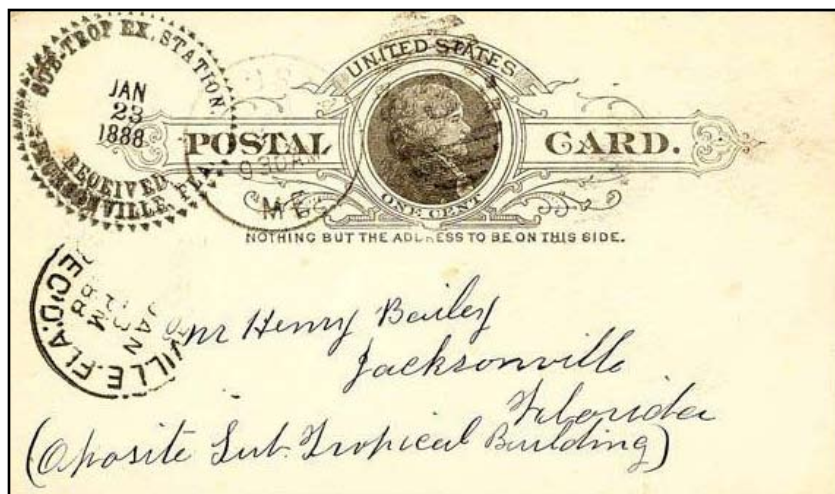
**Figure 9**

**"SUB. TROP EX. STATION / JACKSONVILLE, FLA. FEB 17 1888" postmark with grid cancelled 3¢ green, Scott #213, on cover to Maine, latest of three known examples.**



**Figure 10**

**"SUB. TROP EX. STATION / RECEIVED / JACKSONVILLE, FLA. MAR 2, 1888" sawtoothed outer rim handstamp placed at the Exhibition Station with "JACKSONVILLE, FLA. / REC'D. MAR 2 1PM 1888" post office receiving mark on cover from Maine, latest of four known examples.**



**Figure 11**

**Same receiving Exposition Station handstamp dated Jan 23, 1888 on postal card, earliest of four known examples.**



*Journal*, Volume 9, No. 2, May 2002, p. 3.

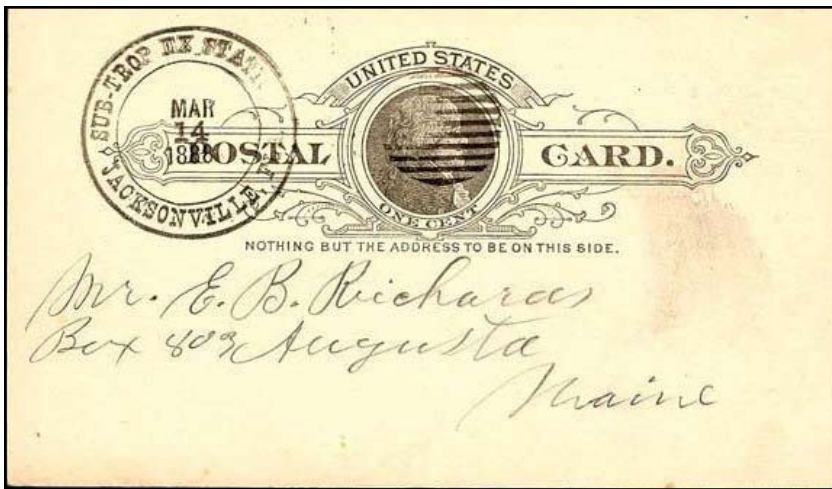
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David Savage, *William J. Bomar's Postal Markings and Postal History of United States Expositions*, Livermore, California, 2007, pp. 139-142.



**Figure 12**

**"SUB. TROP EX. STATION / JACKSONVILLE, FLA. MAR 14 1888" postmark on postal card to Maine, latest of four known examples.**



**Figure 13**  
**Copper medal of 1888.**

***We need YOU to write an article for the Journal!***  
***Contact the editor with ideas, suggestions, thoughts!***



**Figure 14**

*Florida's Sub-Tropical Exposition, 1889 advertising cover noting the Grand Inter-State Military Drill with April 3, 1889 Jacksonville duplex postmark tying Scott #213.*



**Figure 15**

*Reverse of cover shown in Figure 14 with all over advertisement noting "A Mid-Winter Revelation of Tropical Luxuriance."*



**Figure 16**

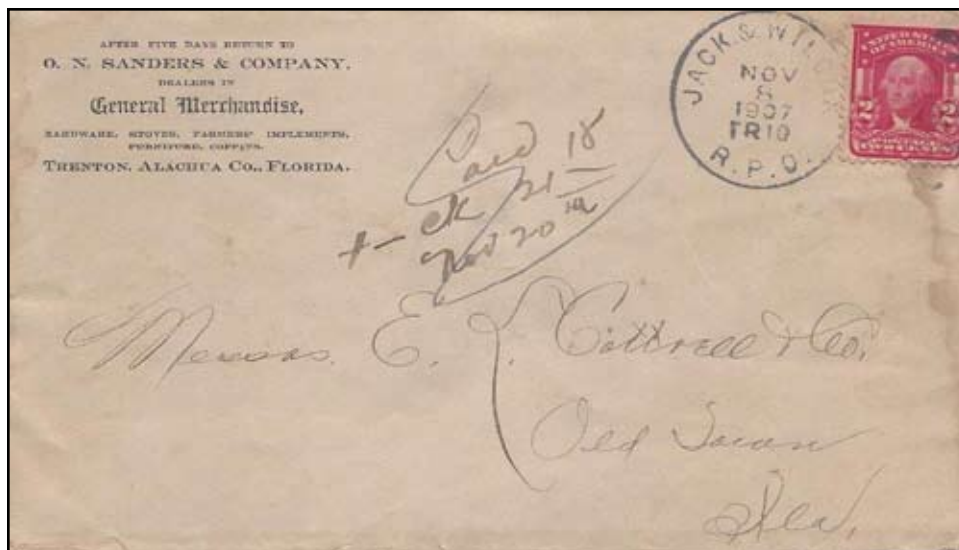
*Silver medal of 1890.*

# Florida R.P.O. new listings

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

It has been many years since new Florida R.P.O. postmarks have been reported. Decades of work by the late Charles L. Towle and Fred MacDonald resulted in a *Railway Post Office Postmark Catalog* which has been updated by the Mobile Post Office Society. My 2001 U.S. R.P.O. catalog revision comprises 1,148 pages with 180 supplement pages of corrections and additions to document literally thousands of postmarks. Many variations exist with separate catalog numbers for month, day, year and train number slug placements as well as

postmark size. Recently, Florida Postal History Society member Loring Ebersole sold me a correspondence of covers from the State Senator Cottrell and Martin families of Old Town, Florida. I was mainly interested in some new Doane postmarks from several small north Florida towns but was surprised to find three new Florida R.P.O. listings among the items.



**Figure 1**  
*JACK. & WILCOX R.P.O. / NOV 8 1907 / TR 10 new listing postmark on advertising corner card cover.*

The cover in Figure 1 is an advertising corner card for the G. N. Sanders & Company of Trenton, Alachua County, Florida. The postmark is the first known listing for the Jacksonville & Wilcox R.P.O. carried on the Jacksonville & Southwestern Railroad, a divi-



**Figure 2**  
*Rand McNally Handy Railroad Map of Florida showing A.C.L. route from Perry to Jacksonville.*





Figure 3

**NEWBERRY & PERRY R.P.O. / JAN 22 1914 / 3-42 postmark on postal card.**

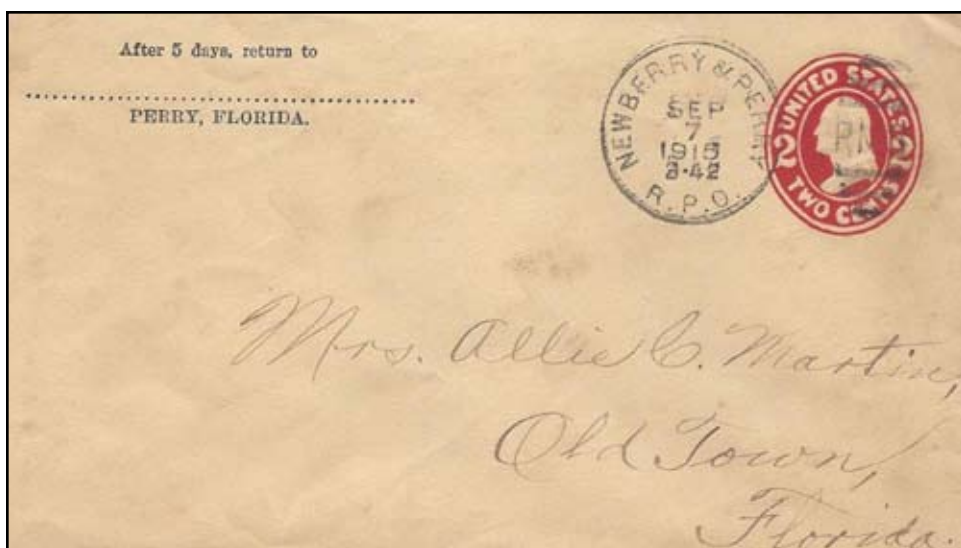


Figure 4

**NEWBERRY & PERRY R.P.O. / SEP 7 1915 / 3-42 postmark on cover to Old Town, Florida.**



**393-L-1**

Figure 5

**NEWBERRY & PERRY R.P.O. Towle 393-L-1 postmark tracing.**



**383-C-2**

Figure 6

**JACK. OCALA & TAMPA R.P.O. / 1913 DEC 11 TR3 new listing postmark, variant of Towle 383-C.**



**383-C-1**

sion of the Atlantic Coast Line. It ran between Jacksonville and Perry and serviced Burnetts Lake, Newberry, Wilcox Junction and eventually Perry. Service originated on August 10, 1901, as the Jacksonville & Newberry R.P.O., with an extension to Tyler for a few months before becoming the Jacksonville & Wilcox R.P.O. on May 13, 1907, covering 108 miles.

Service lasted until May 2, 1909 (two years) when service was extended to Perry as the Newberry & Perry R.P.O. The "Rand McNally Handy Railroad Map of Florida" (Figure 2) clearly shows the A.C.L. route from Perry to Wilcox Junction, Newberry, Burnetts Lake, Lake Butler, Baldwin and Jacksonville.

The covers in Figures 3 and 4 have a Newberry & Perry R.P.O. postmark which differ from the one listed in

*Continued on page 16*

Figure 5 as 393-L-1 (30.5 mm.) in the U.S. R.P.O. catalog. Instead of a specific train slug, there is a 3-42 slug (presumably for trains 3 & 42) and the cds measures 29.5 mm. The correspondence has four examples of this postmark with dates from January 22, 1914 to September 7, 1915 and all having the 3-42 lower slug. The Newberry & Perry R.P.O. remained in service from August 23, 1909 to May 26, 1927, and covered 77 miles until it was extended to Jacksonville as the Jacksonville & Perry R.P.O. covering 161 miles.



Figure 7

**JACK. OCALA & TAMPA R.P.O. card dated December 11, 1913.**

Figure 6 has a previously undocumented postmark differing from the 383-C-1 and 383-C-2 catalog listings (Figure 7) with the year date slug at the top. The Jacksonville, Ocala, & Tampa R.P.O. was carried on the Seaboard Air Line Railroad and was in service from July 16, 1908 until April 12, 1928 when service was extended to St. Petersburg.

#### References

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Towle, Charles L. and MacDonald, Fred. *The United States Railway Post Office Postmark Catalog 1864-1977*, Revised Edition, Mobile Post Office Society, Inc., 2001.

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**If there is an insert  
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*Journal* reminding  
you that “dues are due,”  
please send a check  
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With a larger size journal, we  
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TODAY and help us  
GROW!**

# Florida Postal History Society 2014 update

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

Vernon Morris informed me last month of the unexpected death of our society Vice President Daniel B. Curtis. I was surprised that he did not attend our annual meeting in Sarasota as he is usually present at those meetings. Dan recently sold his outstanding collection of U.S. early issues which included many rare items and multiples. He also had a fine collection of Florida 1845 5¢ and 10¢ covers. He will be dearly missed.

The board of the Florida Postal History Society has selected our current webmaster, Francis Ferguson, to complete Dan's term as Vice President. I am pleased that Fergie has accepted this position in addition to his other duties for the society. He is currently working with me to update our 1999 book, *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861*. This is a time-consuming task as anyone familiar with our first book will know. At this time I am requesting that members with Florida stampless covers with nice clear strikes of either postmarks or rate markings send jpeg or tiff color scans at 300 to 600 dpi to me to be used in the new book. I am also requesting scans of covers with 1-2 known examples to send them even with poorly struck markings as we want to reproduce as many original markings as possible. We hope to finish this work by our next annual meeting in February 2015.

I have also been informed that long time member Richard Bergman died a year ago. He had an outstanding collection of Florida Doane postmarks, many of which are for sale by dealer Doug Weisz. I have looked at this material at the Sarasota National Stamp Exposition and there are at least five unique Florida Doane covers still available. Also, FPHS member dealer Elwyn Doubleday is selling many of Richard's other Florida covers on Ebay.

## 2014 DUES ARE NOW DELINQUENT

Members who have not paid the 2014 dues have been sent this issue of our *Journal* in an effort to maintain your support of our society. We currently have 120 members and 48 have not paid the 2014 dues as of this

date. If you are one and received a notice of dues delinquency in this journal issue, please remit and remain a member. We, like all small societies, are facing ever increasing costs to maintain a quality journal and don't want to lose members. If you like what we are doing, please continue your membership. If there are any suggestions for improvement, please let us know.

## 2014 ANNUAL MEETING – SARASOTA

The Annual Meeting of the Florida Postal History Society was held on Saturday, February 8, 2014, with good attendance. Gary Hendren gave a presentation on the Postmark Collector's Club and the archives which are available. Deane R. Briggs gave programs on Jacksonville during the Civil War and the Bryant-Stephens Correspondence in conjunction with the Confederate Stamp Alliance. Charles Covell mentioned his work with the Bryant-Stephens correspondence in the Smathers Library at the University of Florida.

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# **Florida Excess FREE Rate** Continued from page 4

Robert Butler learned at the side of Jackson to become a career military man, rising to the rank of Colonel. He became Jackson's Adjutant General and accepted the flag at the transfer of Florida from Spain to the United States in 1821. He was also an aide to Jackson during the Battle of New Orleans. With Jackson's aid and influence, Col. Robert Butler became the Surveyor General of Florida during the territorial period.

He established his headquarters in Tallahassee where he eventually built a large plantation that encompassed the current site of the Lake Jackson Mounds State Park. Butler remained Surveyor General for Florida until the anti-Jacksonian Whig administrations of Harrison and Tyler replaced him with Valentine Conway. Political changes following the Polk administration led to the re-appointment of Robert Butler again to the post of Surveyor General for Florida. Throughout his tenures as Surveyor General, Butler hired quality surveyors and with his strong military background, ran a competent organization.

I.W. Exum may well have been a surveyor or head of a surveying team hired by Col. Robert Butler to do work

in Northwest Florida near Pensacola in addition to being postmaster at the same time in Athens, Alabama.

It would be likely that his wife or an associate took over the postmaster duties while he was away. Athens is located several hundred miles north of both Pensacola and Yellow Water in far northern Alabama near Huntsville. It would be unlikely for Exum to be present in northwestern Florida during the period July – September 1827, when he wrote at least eight letters to Col. Butler with docketing related to surveys, unless he were actually doing survey work for Col. Butler. If so, his use of the Free franking privilege such a long distance away in Florida would be most unusual, but was allowed under postal regulations.

## Endnotes

David G. Phillips, *American Stampless Cover Catalog*, Fourth Edition, Volume 1, 1997, p. xix.

Joe Knetsch, "History Corner – Henry Washington vs. Robert Butler – A Case of Revenge?" *Professional Surveyor Magazine*, February 2006.

## **History of post office at Pine, Florida (Marion County)**

### **Continued from page 6**

Coy and included a hand drawn map of the area (**Figure 4**).

Postal history from Pine is very limited. The Melton book reproduces a 1907 post card from Dunnellon to Cherry Ann Perry in Pine (**Figure 5**) and Deane R. Briggs has an example of a Doane type III (1) postmark from 1906 routed via Citra to Lily, Florida (Figure 6).

## Endnotes

Faye Perry Melton *Pine Needles: The Story of PINE, FLORIDA and its people*, 1984.

Faye Perry Melton, *Memories of Fort McCoy*. Typeworld Printing & Typesetting, Ocala, Florida, 1986.



**Figure 6**  
**Doane type III (1) PINE, / FLA. DEC 31 1906 postmark on postcard to Lily, Fla.**

# Whatzit?

Here's an opportunity for members to offer their expertise and also play detective. There are many unanswered questions about Florida postal history. Countless strange and unusual pieces of postal history exist, and often they defy logical explanation. Or do they? Here is your chance to provide an answer or at least an opinion to help your fellow researchers. Send scans of your "problem covers" or unanswered questions to the editor at [eparker@hughes.net](mailto:eparker@hughes.net), or by snail mail to Dr. Everett L. Parker, 249 NW Live Oak Place, Lake City, FL 32055.

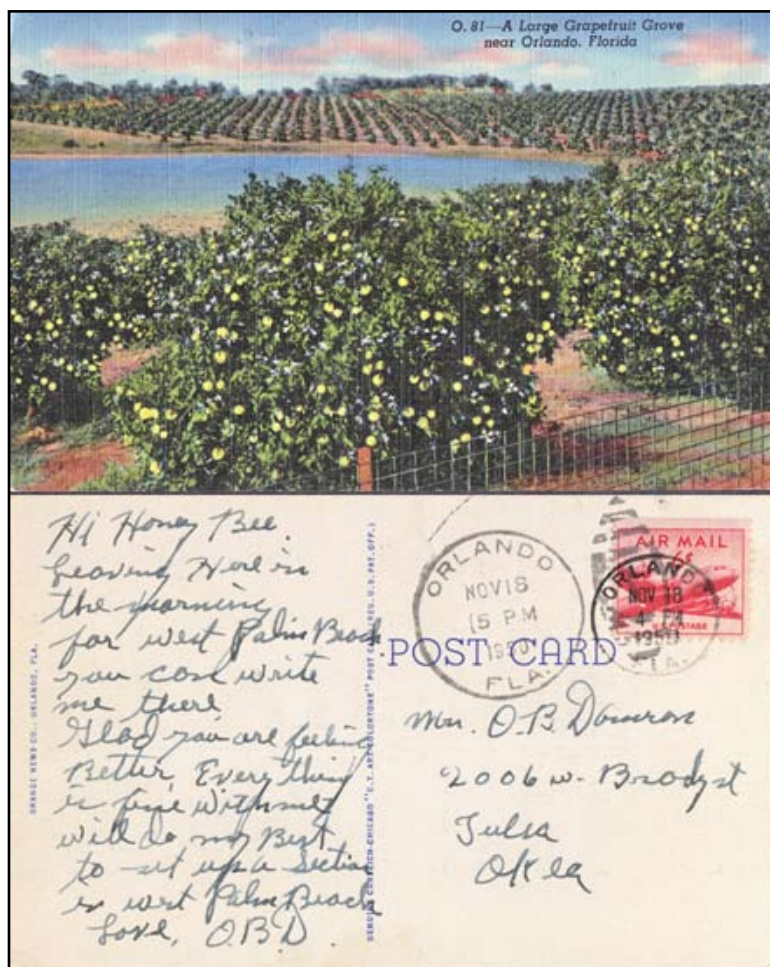
**By Henry Higgins**

I found this unusual postmark while sorting through a group of Florida postcards. It has two Orlando postmarks. The first is dated 4 p.m. on November 18, 1950 (directly over the stamp). Perhaps this is a simple machine cancel and just the wavy lines are missing. But then there is a duplex cancel dated at 5 p.m. on November 18 directly next to it. My question is about the two cancels ... is the small cancel (the 4 p.m. one) just part of a machine cancel or something different that Orlando used in 1950?

Deane Briggs responded to Mr. Higgins as follows: "I cannot explain the two postmarks. I would think the smaller mark is an off struck cds from a machine cancel and the other is obviously a duplex cancel. Perhaps the machine cancelled card was partially off the belt when cancelled and fell off the conveyor and was found on the floor later and placed with other mail to be duplex cancelled.

It is unusual to have two different cancellations on the same card, especially if one is not a receiving mark.

(Have a "problem cover"? Let us know and we'll feature it here. Others may have the answer.)



***Do you have a question about a cover, or Sunshine State philately in general that we can feature in this spot? Please send scans to the editor!***

## Special thanks

to the

### Central Florida Stamp Club

for their generous Contributing Membership and website sponsorship.

Several members of the group also belong to the Florida Postal History Society, and we thank them for their continued support and friendship.

We also thank the

### Florida Stamp Dealers Association

for their financial help as website sponsors.

-- Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

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The following members of the Florida Postal History Society have been denoted "Contributing Members" for their additional contributions to the Society. The support of these members keeps us 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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