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EVER HEAR OF NATHAN, FLORIDA? *An early history of the Space Center*

By Phil Eschbach

The cover shown in *Figure 1* is postmarked on the reverse side, “Nathan, Fla.” Few people have ever heard of this remote outpost on what is now federal land at Cape Canaveral. It was a small settlement which only had a tiny post office, and mail to or from this virtually unknown wilderness spot in the early 1900s is very scarce. The cover was sent, along with the enclosure shown in *Figure 2*, to Mrs. Lena C. Schuyler. The name is not one known to history enthusiasts, so she may have been a visitor, particularly since the enclosure speaks of railroad transportation to New York.

The cover was sent from Richmond, Virginia and canceled on the back at Eau Gallie, and then sent to Nathan. It is heavily marked up in pencil on the front and back and in pen with forwarding address on the back, I think. It's postmarked in Richmond on March 17 and in Eau Gallie on March 18 (pretty fast service!), but I can't make out the Nathan date other than the year. There is quite a bit of rather strange writing on the back side of the envelope (*Figure 3*). My wife, a French teacher, translated the pencil writing at the bottom, that I assume was written by some collector along the way. It says: “(without fear and without reproach) a name considered upon (Pierre de Terrail Bayard).” This makes no sense to me. And on the front is written in pencil: “Subconstitutionalist.” I can't figure out if it's been forwarded back to New York as to the address on the back but the date is earlier than the postmarks! Very strange, maybe someone can figure it out!

Nathan was located on the Canaveral peninsula in what later became Cape Canaveral (not to be confused, note the Kennedy Space Center was located on North Merritt Island), somewhat west of Sunrise Beach, site

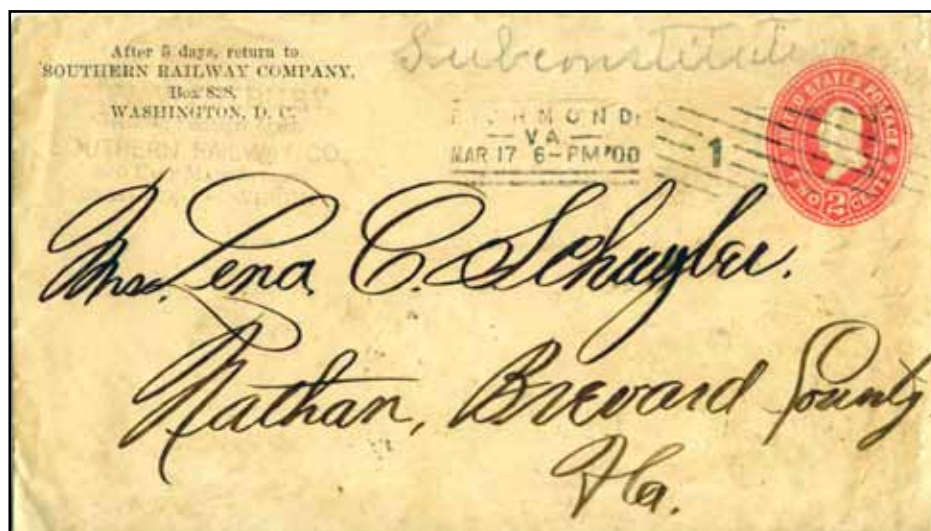


Figure 1

Cover sent to “Nathan, Brevard County, Fla.” from Richmond, Virginia and dated March 17, 1900. The corner card is for the Southern Railway Company in Washington, D.C.

Continued on page 3

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of the former Canaveral Club. There were about 50 houses and other buildings at Sunrise Beach in the 1950s. It doesn't appear there was a road connecting Sunrise Beach and Nathan, but the latter was located on the shore of the Banana River northwest of the Canaveral lighthouse. Little is recorded of the settlement (not certain it should even be called a town). It did have a post office for a few years, and the settlement was named after Nathan O. Penny, who was also the first postmaster. The post office was established on January 11, 1895 and was discontinued on May 15, 1911. Penny served as postmaster only until May 15, 1895, when his son took over. Penny was listed as a resident of Canaveral in 1886. It is not known whether he moved a few miles north during the period and began the settlement bearing his name, or if he lived there from the beginning and was merely listed as living in Canaveral. There is a burial plot at Canaveral bearing the name Maria L. Penny, but research in the 1960s never located a plot for Nathan O. Penny.

The only other "structure" in the area was a fishing pier jutting into the ocean near the lighthouse during the 1920s and 1930s. It was still listed in the 1945 Titusville phone book. The Air Force ordered burning of several buildings around the lighthouse in July 1967, citing poor condition of the structures and no need for them. Whether that burn order reached to Nathan is unknown.

The names on the letter don't mean anything to me from an historical perspective (i.e., local residents). A visitor perhaps, given the letter with train schedules? It's interesting there is a manuscript "February 1900" at the top reverse flap, but the obverse shows a date of March 17. Ideas?

Editor's Note

Thanks to Phil Eschbach of Winter Park for the excellent illustrations. During the late 1960s and 1970s, I explored all of the area on North Merritt Island that became the Kennedy Space Center, and explored the Canaveral Peninsula with Dr. George Long of NASA (it was even then on "restricted access" land). Few people now remember that there were several towns and settlements in the area that later became the space center. Many families were relocated to mainland towns and cities during the 1960s, and descendants of those families live there today.

My book, *Space Center Ghosts*, is the story of those settlements, but unfortunately, it remains without a publisher because, I am told, there is "no interest" any longer in that era. On the following pages is a listing of the post offices which once dotted the space center, with postmasters as known. Amplifications or clarifications are solicited! The editor's email is: eparker@ne.twcbc.com.

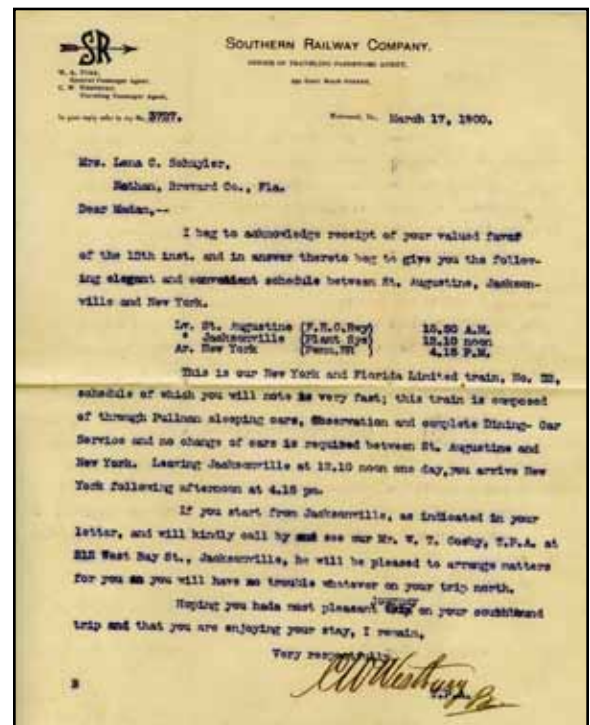


Figure 2
Letter enclosed in cover shown in Figure 1 from the Southern Railway Company providing information on rail connections to New York.

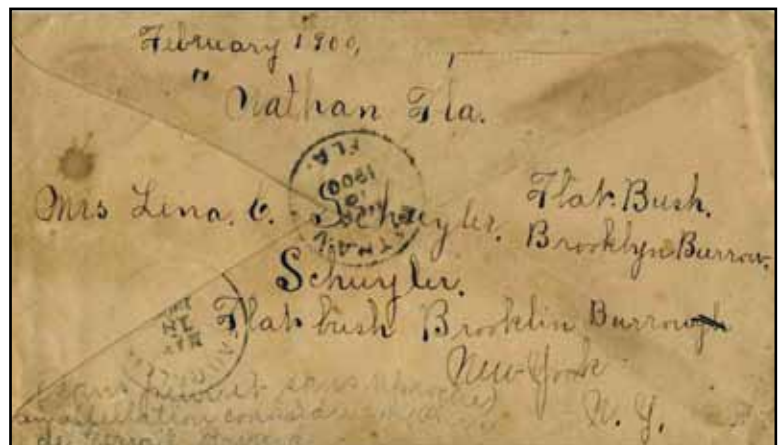


Figure 3
Curious writing on reverse side of the cover shown in Figure 1 includes "February 1900," "Nathan Fla.," "Flat Bush," "Brooklyn Burrough, New York, N.Y."

Canaveral Peninsula and North Merritt Island Post Office Openings and Closings

There were several post offices over the years on North Merritt Island and Cape Canaveral. In the early days, the post office was often in someone's business or house, and the facility would sometimes be closed for a time when one postmaster quit and before another took over. This listing is as complete as possible, but updates and new information would be appreciated. Send to the editor: eparker@hughes.net or mail information to Dr. Everett L. Parker, 117 Cedar Breeze South, Glenburn, ME 04401-1734.

ALLENHURST

Located at the Haulover Canal on North Merritt Island.

Post office was established on January 14, 1909.

POSTMASTERS

James H. Allen: January 14, 1909 to August 24, 1910.

Arthur Jackson: August 25, 1910 to June 6, 1912.

George H. Rumfelt: June 7, 1912 to September 16, 1913.

John K. Rowley: September 20, 1913 to October 8, 1917.

Mary Ann Rumfelt: October 9, 1917 to December 30, 1920.

Alberta Nauman: December 31, 1920 to January 23, 1922.

Millard Webster: January 24, 1922 to October 22, 1924.

Rowena M. Teague: October 23, 1924 to September 30, 1943.

The post office was discontinued effective September 30, 1943, and mail was sent to Titusville.

ARTESIA

Located on the Cape Canaveral peninsula near the present south gate of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Post office was established on May 19, 1891.

POSTMASTERS

John A. Hogan: May 19, 1891 to April 5, 1911.

Elizabeth A. Eberwein: April 6, 1911 to January 30, 1940.

Elizabeth J. Holmes: April 6, 1940 to September 15, 1961.

Post office name changed to Port Canaveral on January 1, 1954.

Post office name changed to Cape Canaveral on September 1, 1962.

Note: Elizabeth J. Holmes transferred from postmaster at Artesia on September 15, 1961 to clerk at the Port Canaveral Post Office.

CANAVERAL

Located on the Canaveral Peninsula north and east of Artesia and south of Nathan.

Post office was established on June 15, 1883.

POSTMASTERS

Henry Wilson: June 15, 1883 to September 3, 1913.

Samuel L. Jeffords: September 4, 1913 to December 21, 1917.

Thomas J. Thompson: December 22, 1917 to January 31, 1919.

Post office discontinued on January 31, 1919, recommissioned as "postal facility" on February 2, 1922.

Robert G. Burns (Acting): February 3, 1922 to June 17, 1922.

Julius Jeffords: June 8, 1922 to September 7, 1926.

William H. Moore: September 8, 1926 to September 27, 1929.

May C. Moore: September 28, 1929 to July 31, 1938.

Commission signed and mailed March 18, 1930. Assumed charge on March 21, 1930.

Margaret Chamberlain: August 1, 1938 to March 17, 1942.

Confirmed September 9, 1938. Commission signed September 28, 1938, assumed charge on October 1, 1938.

Wilmer R. Tomlinson: March 18, 1942 to July 7, 1943

Appointed Acting Postmaster on April 8, 1942. Confirmed June 10, 1942, commission signed June 19, 1942.

Assumed charge on June 24, 1942. Resigned voluntarily (no date).

Grace Tomlinson: June 8, 1943 to July 15, 1950.

Assumed charge on July 8, 1943;

commission signed on July 11, 1944.

The post office was discontinued on July 15, 1950.

CANAVERAL HARBOR

Located north of present day Port Canaveral on the Canaveral Peninsula.

Post office was established on November 9, 1927.

POSTMASTERS

William A. Norseworthy: November 9, 1927 to November 30, 1928.

The post office was discontinued on November 30, 1928 and the mail was sent to the Artesia Post Office.

CLIFTON

Located north of the Haulover Canal on North Merritt Island.

Post office was established on January 9, 1889.

POSTMASTERS

Leon W. Vann: January 9, 1889 to February 19, 1891.

John D. Vann: January 29, 1890.

Order of appointment rescinded on April 22, 1890.

Post office discontinued on February 19, 1891.

Post office reopened on March 14, 1891.

Thomas R. Crook: March 14, 1891 to August 4, 1893.

Nellie Fairbanks: August 5, 1893 to March 14, 1896.

Post office discontinued on March 14, 1896.

Mail was sent to Shiloh.

Post office reopened on September 28, 1897.

Henry Walton: September 28, 1897 to July 15, 1910.

The post office was discontinued on July 15, 1910.

HAULOVER

Located in the area on both sides of the Haulover Canal on North Merritt Island, although primarily the area on north side of the canal was considered "Haulover."

Post office was established on September 14, 1882.

POSTMASTERS

Charles H. Nauman: September 14, 1882 to May 2, 1883.

Post office discontinued on May 2, 1883.

Mail was sent to Titusville.

Continued on page 6

Post office reopened September 28, 1883.

Charles H. Nauman: September 28, 1883 to July 8, 1888.

Leon W. Vann: July 9, 1888 to January 8, 1889

*Name changed to Clifton Post Office on January 9, 1889, and
Mr. Vann was named postmaster.*

HEATH

*Located on North Merritt Island between Orsino and Wilson,
north of present-day Vertical Assembly Building (VAB).*

Post office was established on November 22, 1887.

POSTMASTERS

Frank B. Sackett: November 22, 1887 to January 21, 1891.

Post office discontinued on January 21, 1891.

Mail sent to Titusville.

Post Office reopened on February 9, 1915.

Oscar S. Worley: February 9, 1915 to July 15, 1918.

Post office closed on July 15, 1918.

Mail sent to Titusville.

MORTONHURST

*Located northwest of Heath and south of Wilson, currently the
approximate site of the former Space Shuttle runway.*

Post office was established on December 2, 1891.

POSTMASTERS

George W. Morton: December 2, 1891 to June 19, 1893.

Post office closed on June 19, 1893.

Mail sent to Titusville.

NATHAN

Located at the north end of the Canaveral Peninsula north of Canaveral.

Post office was established on January 11, 1895.

POSTMASTERS

Nathan O. Penny: January 11, 1895 to May 15, 1895.

Nathan N. Penny: May 15, 1895 to May 15, 1911.

Post office closed on May 11, 1911.

ORSINO

Located south of Heath near industrial area of what is now the Kennedy Space Center.

Post office was established on October 5, 1915.

POSTMASTERS

Orsino T. Smith: October 5, 1915 to July 30, 1918.

Nellie Rudesill: July 31, 1918 to March 30, 1922.

Marie Elliott: March 31, 1922 to January 11, 1925.

C.V. Roberts: January 12, 1925 to March 30, 1927.

Horace Hutzler: March 31, 1927 to May 31, 1942.

Juanita M. Hutzler: June 1, 1942 to December 30, 1946.

Polly W. Brown: December 31, 1946 to July 14, 1947.

Pauline Jacobsen: July 15, 1947 to June 21, 1963.

Post office closed on June 21, 1963.

Mail sent to Merritt Island.

SHILOH

*Located at north end of Merritt Island straddling the
Brevard-Volusia County line, extreme north end of present-day space center.*

Post office established on December 1, 1884.

POSTMASTERS

George C. Kuhl: December 1, 1884 to December 10, 1903.

Hattie Griffis: December 11, 1903 to November 30, 1920.

Aaron Taylor: December 1, 1920 to August 12, 1924.

David A. Taylor: August 13, 1924 to June 1, 1955.

Post office closed on June 1, 1955.

Mail sent to Titusville.

WILSON

Located along State Road 402 at intersection of State Road 3.

Post office opened on January 8, 1915.

POSTMASTERS

Guy Austin: January 8, 1915 to November 14, 1917.

John W. Healy: November 15, 1917 to February 8, 1923.

Myra G. Wheeler: February 9, 1923 to March 3, 1924.

Myrtle L. Anderson: March 4, 1924 to March 11, 1925.

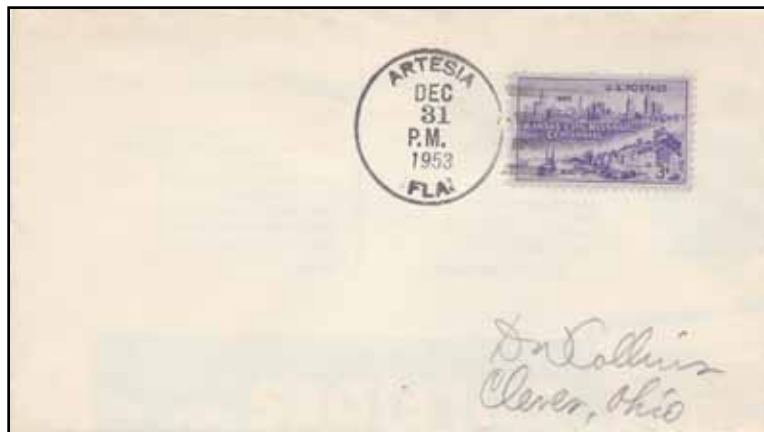
William F. Wheeler: March 12, 1925 to September 30, 1928

William H. Hazelwood: October 1, 1928 to March 1, 1930.

William K. Hazelwood: March 2, 1930 to June 30, 1933.

Post office closed on June 30, 1933.

Mail sent to Titusville.



*This is a last day of operation cover from Artesia, located
on the south end of Cape Canaveral.*

Examples of Space Center town postmarks

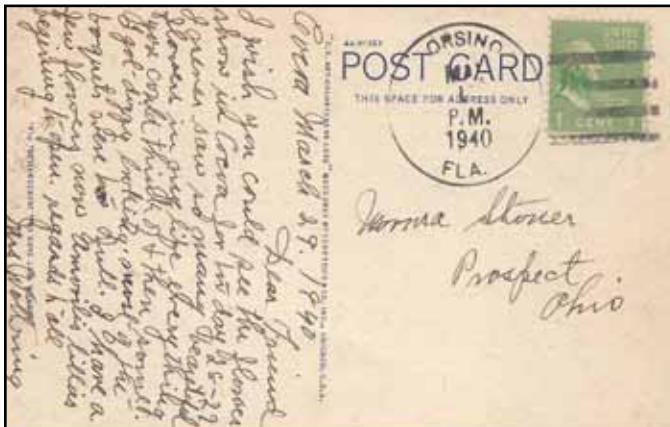
The images shown here are from the Dr. Deane R. Briggs Collection.



This postcard was mailed from Shiloh, on the very north end of the Space Center property and straddling the Brevard-Volusia County line.



Among the postmarks on this card is Canaveral (upper center) and Nathan as well as Titusville.



Postmarked at Orsino in 1940, this postcard was mailed to Ohio.



Nathan was a tiny post office on what is now Space Center property (see cover article). This postcard to Livermore Falls, Maine, was posted in February 1909.



This postcard carries the postmark of Clifton, a small community near the Haulover Canal on North Merritt Island.



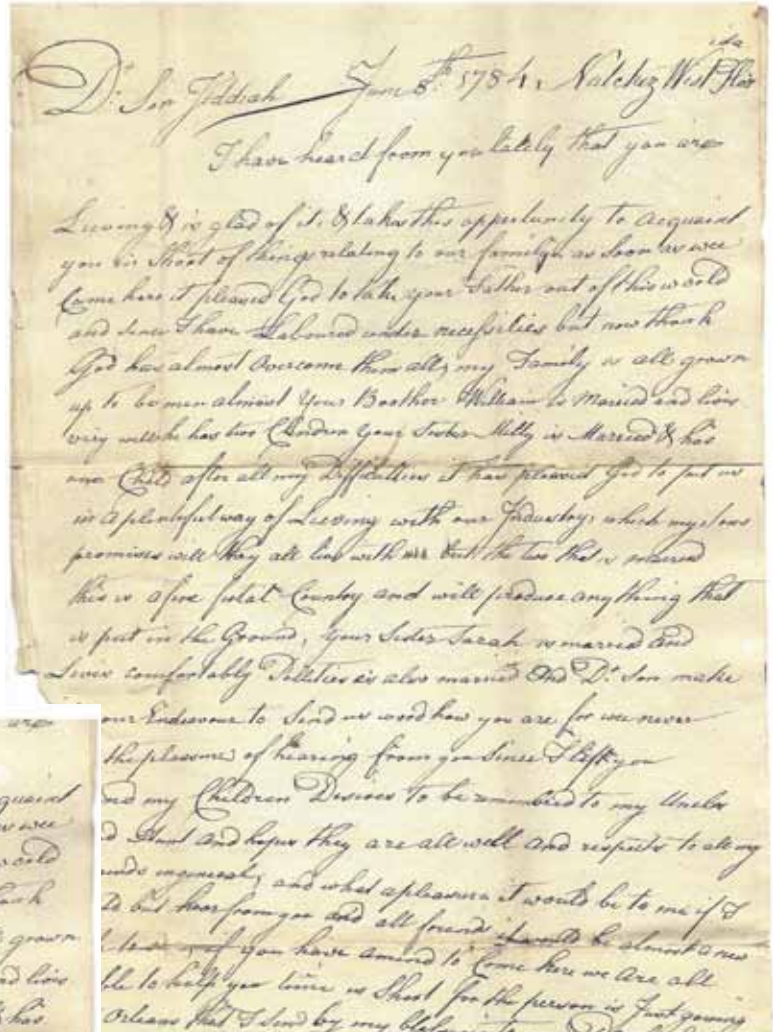
Allenhurst was a small town with post office at the Haulover Canal on North Merritt Island.

Letter from Natchez, West Florida in 1784

By William Johnson

The document shown here and on the following page is a one page letter with address panel datelined "June 8, 1784 Natchez, West Florida." At this time this was Spanish West Florida. It was written by Sarah Smith, who came to Natchez in 1776 with her Loyalist husband and 10 of her children. The letter is addressed to Jedidiah Smith, a son who had remained in Granville, Massachusetts. This was the first letter she had written to him since leaving Massachusetts for then-British Natchez during the Revolutionary War.

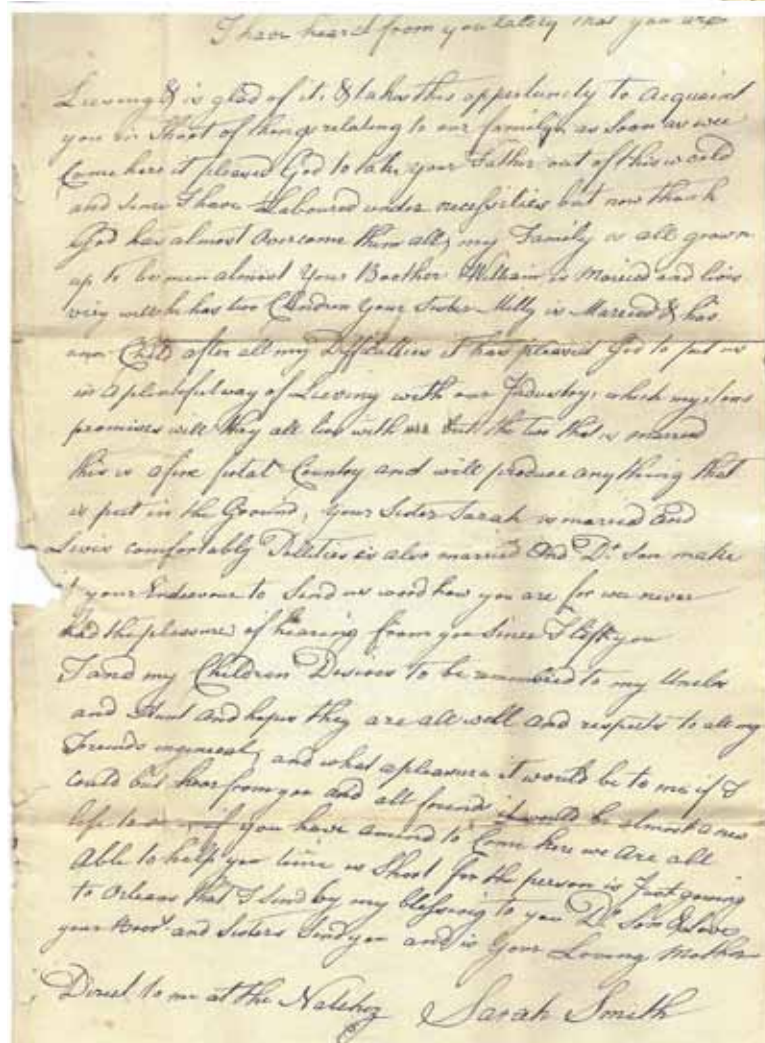
The stampless folded letter has no postal markings as there was no organized postal service between Spanish West Florida and the United States. Letters



D. Sir Jedidiah June 8th 1784 Natchez West Flor

I have heard from you lately that you are

Living & is glad of it. & has this opportunity to acquaint you in short of things relating to our family as soon as we came here it pleased God to take your father out of this world and since I have laboured under necessities but now thank God has almost overcome them all, my family is all grown up to be men almost your Brother William is married and lives very well he has two Children your Sister Betty is married & has one Child after all my Difficulties I have pleased God to put me in a plentiful way of Living with our Family, which my sons promises will they all live with me but the two that is returned this is a fine great Country and will produce anything that is put in the Ground, your Sister Sarah is married and lives comfortably & sister is also married and D. can make our Endeavour to send us word how you are for we never had the pleasure of hearing from you since I left you and my Children Desires to be remembered to my Uncle and Aunt and hope they are all well and respects to all your friends and what a pleasure it would be to me if I could hear from you and all friends I would be almost as well as to hear of you have arrived to come here we are all able to help you time is short for the person is just coming Orleans that I send by my letter to you D. Sir I am Dear Sir



I have heard from you lately that you are

Living & is glad of it. & has this opportunity to acquaint you in short of things relating to our family as soon as we came here it pleased God to take your father out of this world and since I have laboured under necessities but now thank God has almost overcome them all, my family is all grown up to be men almost your Brother William is married and lives very well he has two Children your Sister Betty is married & has one Child after all my Difficulties I have pleased God to put me in a plentiful way of Living with our Family, which my sons promises will they all live with me but the two that is returned this is a fine great Country and will produce anything that is put in the Ground, your Sister Sarah is married and lives comfortably & sister is also married and D. can make our Endeavour to send us word how you are for we never had the pleasure of hearing from you since I left you and my Children Desires to be remembered to my Uncle and Aunt and hope they are all well and respects to all your friends and what a pleasure it would be to me if I could hear from you and all friends I would be almost as well as to hear of you have arrived to come here we are all able to help you time is short for the person is just coming Orleans that I send by my letter to you D. Sir I am Dear Sir

Dear to me at the Natchez Sarah Smith

were usually privately carried to New Orleans and taken by ship to ports in the United States.

In this letter, Sarah writes in closing that "time is short, for the person is just going to Orleans that I send my blessing to you." She addressed the letter to "Mr. Jedidiah Smith, in Boston Government in Granville These." The word "These" is a short version of "these present." The reference is to Jedidiah Smith being in Boston Government in Granville, Massachusetts.

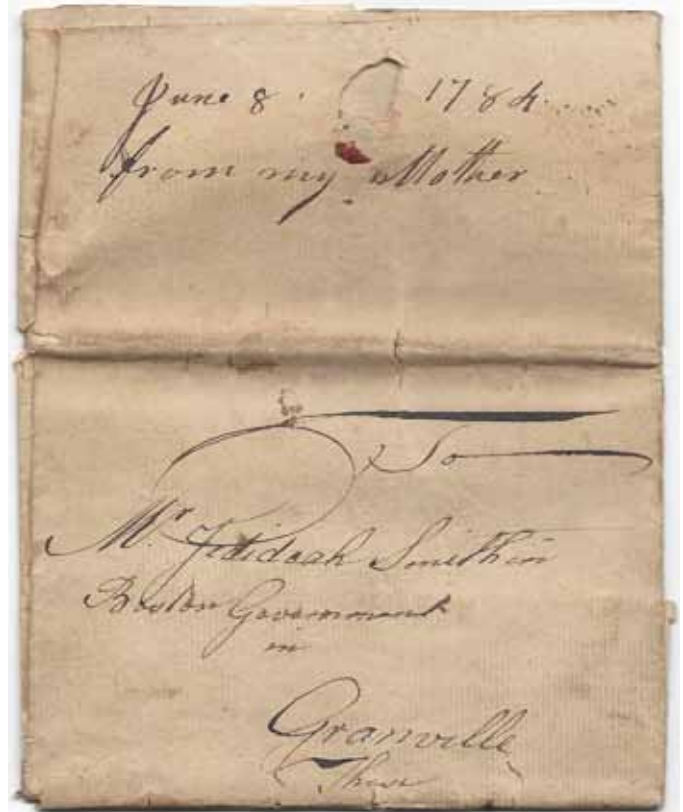
The letter has great content, in which Sarah writes that she has received word that Jedidiah is alive. The first thing she tells him is that his father died "as soon as we came here." She then writes of how her other children were prospering and that the

Continued on page 10

Natchez area is “a fine fertile country and will produce anything that is put in the ground.” She then suggests she would like to hear from him and even offers help should he “have a mind to come here.”

This is a fabulous bit of early Florida postal history in great condition.

At right is the exterior of the folded letter with the address “Mr. Jedidiah Smith, in Boston Government in Granville These.” The word “These” is a short version of “these present.” The reference is to Jedidiah Smith being in Boston Government in Granville, Massachusetts.



A Special Thank You!

We have completed our dues renewal process this year with a minimum of problems since we started sending out dues renewal notices. The newsletter that Francis Ferguson, our president, sends out should also help make the annual renewals easier. I am especially appreciative of the following members who contributed a significant “extra” donation, often accompanied by a personal note of thanks, which means a lot to me as Secretary-Treasurer for the past 23 years.

-- Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

We especially thank the following for their generous donations.

**John Beirne
Charles Covell
Robert Decarlo
Alex Hall
Todd Hause
Henry Higgins
Jack Malarkey
Burnham Neil
Louis Petersen
Steve Swain**

South Bay, Florida, and its postmistress of 1928

By Dan Maddalino

Sometimes looking for the first or oldest cover for a particular post office can cause one to miss other covers which may be even more significant. Take the cover in *Figure 1*, for example. Rather dull in appearance and not even the earliest cover for South Bay, Florida. After all, John Gallagher in his book, *Florida Post Offices*, records the target date for those earliest cancellation collectors as April 30, 1919.¹ This is the date the post office was established. The postmark on this cover is June 4, 1928. Not even close. But it is significant in its proximity to events yet to unfold in this tiny town on the south shore of Lake Okeechobee.

When South Bay was settled in 1912, it had a population of only 12 white families.² The major industry was agriculture. The harvesting of peppers, beans and cukes for pickling involved the employment of many hundreds of African-Americans (mostly descendants of former slaves) and Caribbean seasonal workers. Today, a population of less than 5,000 struggles to keep this tiny town solvent. Agricultural jobs have been declining throughout the glades region for decades.

Handling this letter on June 4, 1928 would have been the town's third postmaster, Mrs. Maude E. Hartline.³ This would mean that the envelope shown in Figure 1 is probably written in her handwriting. She, along with her husband, Maud E. (1886-1966),^{4,5} and son Eric D. Hartline (1908-1982)⁶ would have likely lived right there in the town.

This envelope was dated June 4, 1928, only a short three months before the greatest disaster to hit Florida in recorded history. When the great Okeechobee hurricane hit on September 16, the little

town of South Bay was totally obliterated. The post office, Mrs. Hartline and nearly all South Bay residents were washed away. These residents, along with approximately 3,000 in Palm Beach County, many being caught out in the fields for the harvest, were drowned as a result of the hurricane. In the glades region the Red Cross stopped counting the dead at 1,836 people⁷ along the southern rim of the lake.

The storm struck the south shore of Lake Okeechobee at about 7:30 p.m. on September 16. A small earthen dike holding the waters of the lake back from the town gave way and released a wall of wind-forced water peaking at 15 to 20 feet to spread out over 75 square miles around the area (see map in *Figure 2*).⁸

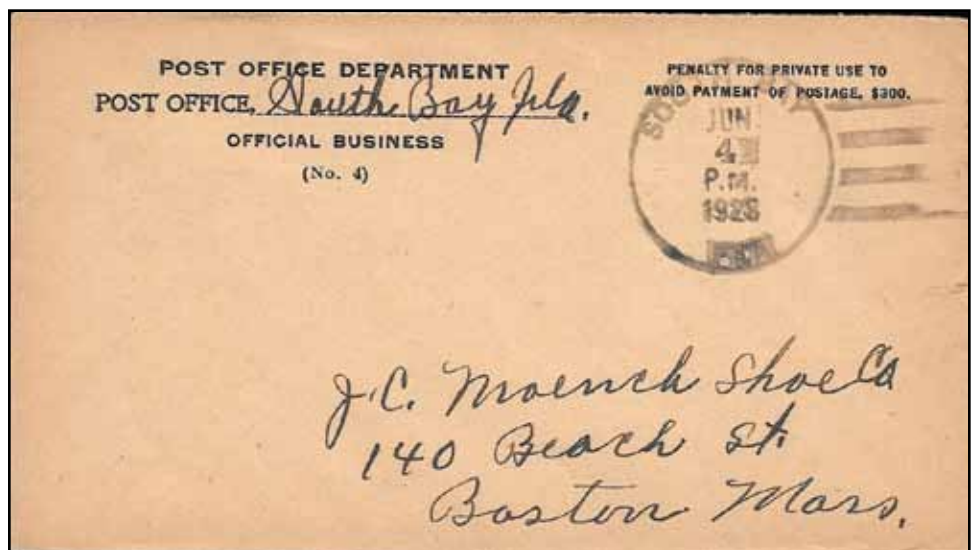


Figure 1
Penalty envelope from South Bay, Florida to Boston, postmarked June 4, 1928.

Continued on page 12

Most of the glades region victims were never identified and were quickly burned in place or buried in mass graves. Even years later farmers recovered bodies and skeletal remains from the vast agricultural fields.⁹ Mrs. Hartline was never listed among the survivors in this region. In addition, she does not appear on the 1930 U.S. census for this enumeration district. However, her husband and son do. Sadly, her husband lists himself as widowed.¹⁰ Thus, we are led to believe the postmaster was among the dead. The envelope shown in Figure 1 is a rare lasting memento to her service to this little town on the south shore of Lake Okeechobee, Florida.

FOOTNOTES

¹ John S. Gallagher, *Florida Post Offices*. (Lake Grove, Oregon: The Depot, 1997), p. 141.

² Internet website: www.pbchistoryonline.org/page/city-of-south-bay.

³ Internet website: www.webpmt.usps.gov/pmt003.cfm.

⁴ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:SB3C-ST2>: accessed September 30, 2015), Maud Hartline, South Bay, Palm Beach, Florida, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 0057, sheet 5A, family 106, line 46, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 328; FHL microfilm 2,340,063.

⁵ Internet website: www.gensocofpbc.org/detail/cemeteryRecordDetail.php?crd=34645.

⁶ Internet website: www.findagrave.com (Eric Memorial #150295789).

⁷ John M. William, and Iver W. Duedall, *Florida Hurricanes and Tropical Storms, 1871-2001*. (Gainesville, Florida: University Press of Florida, 2002), p. 17.

⁸ Internet website: www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/?n=okeechobee.

⁹ *Op. cit.*, William, p. 17.

¹⁰ United States Census, 1930.

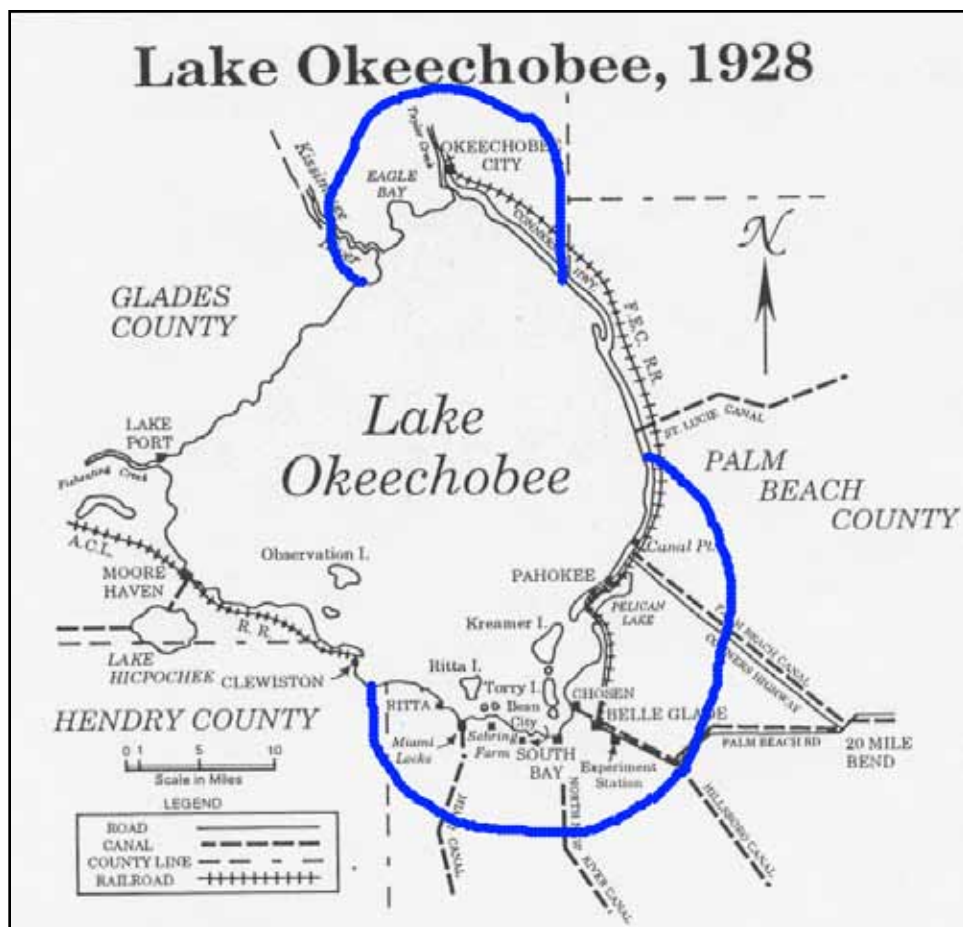


Figure 2
Flood plain of the 1928 hurricane.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!

Your editor's email address has been changed. Please note the new address as the hughes.com address is no longer valid:

eparker@ne.twcbc.com

The Amphibious Training Center at Carrabelle, near Tallahassee

By Steve Swain

Background

The Amphibious Training Center program of World War II had its origins in a disagreement between the Army and Navy as to appropriate amphibious training methods. At the outbreak of the war, the military had two amphibious corps consisting of Army and Marine units commanded by the Navy. An April 1942 report for Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall declared that the “planning, preparation, and training for amphibious operations up to that time had been so deficient that a real operation against a competent enemy could end only in disaster for American forces.”¹ The report stressed that “only the Army had both the means and the grasp of the problem to plan, prepare, and train the necessary ground and air forces for joint amphibious operations on the scale envisaged.” Thus, the creation in 1942 of the Army’s Amphibious Training Center program.



*Figure 1
Barracks and Chow Hall at Camp Gordon Johnston.*

Florida Centers

Selected by the Army in April 1942, the site for the Florida amphibious center was a rural area approximately 50 miles southwest of Tallahassee surrounding the city of Carrabelle. It was originally named Camp Carrabelle, but in early 1943 it was renamed “Camp Gordon Johnston” honoring Colonel Gordon Johnston, a decorated soldier who served in the Spanish-American War in Cuba with the Rough Riders, in the Philippine-American War, and World War I. See *Figure 1* for a photograph of the barracks and chow hall at Camp Gordon Johnston.

The camp was initially used to train three Army infantry divisions in amphibious operations, but that mission ended in late 1943. The camp was then used for basic training as well as training for boat crews and amphibian truck operators.² Another Florida amphibious center was located in Fort Pierce. However, the Fort Pierce facility was a Naval training base, not a newly created Army amphibious training center.³

Continued on page 14

Postal History

My philatelic collecting interest in the amphibious centers are covers (including postcards) with the short-lived, six-line machine cancel having the all upper case “AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING CENTER” prominently centered in the marking, as seen on the cover in **Figure 2**.

An interesting item related to this cover is its postmark of “JAN 23 1944.” As previously mentioned, Camp Gordon Johnston’s amphibious training mission ended in late 1943. However, even by the end of January of the following year, the cancellation announcing the camp’s

purpose had yet to be taken out of service for camp mail. Instead of a Camp Gordon Johnston postmark, **Figure 3** presents a cover with a “MAY 22 1943 TALLAHASSEE FLA.” circular datestamp and the six-line “AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING CENTER” machine cancel. Note that the return address shows “Camp Gordon Johnston, Florida.” Given the large volume of mail from the many soldiers stationed at Camp Gordon Johnston, it appears that some of that mail was transferred to Tallahassee to be processed in a timely manner.



Figure 2
“JAN 23 1944 CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON FLA.” AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING CENTER cover.



Figure 3
“MAY 22 1943 TALLAHASSEE AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING CENTER” cover
and closeup of circular datestamp cancel.

Figure 4 displays a “FEB 10 1943” Tallahassee postcard mailing to Pineville, Louisiana, with the manuscript “FREE” for soldier’s mail, cancelled with the six-line “AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING CENTER” machine marking. The soldier’s lonesome message to his wife is charming:

Hello Darling how are you are you lonesome for me are you just like the girl on the picture laying down and thinking of me and having sweet memories of me come to your thought bye bye darling and sweet dreams, love and hugs be good girl xxxxxxxx.

Beyond postmarks and cancellation markings, an additional postal history attraction are letters from soldiers providing insight into their daily lives, whether in training camps or during deployment. Particularly interesting

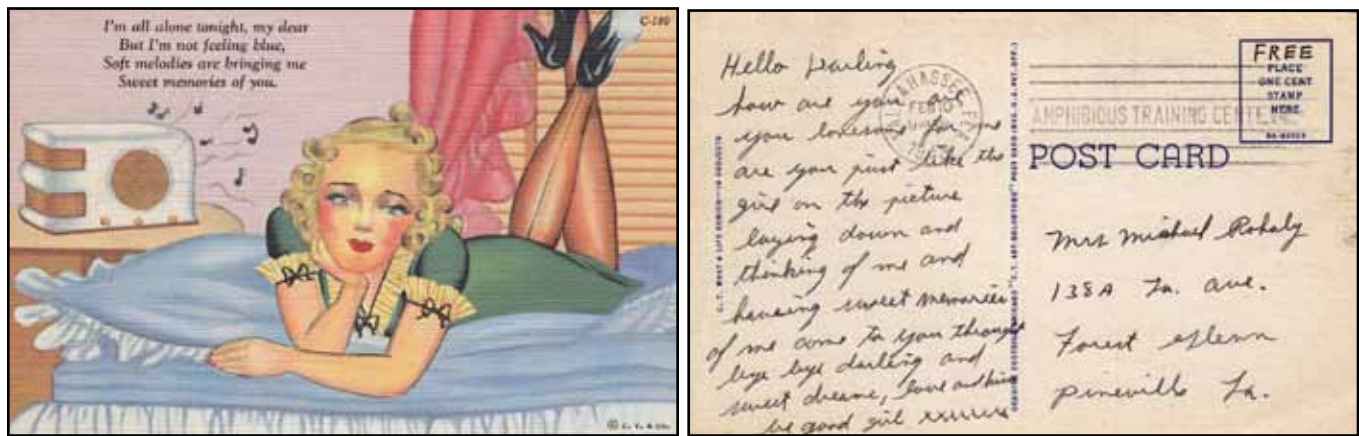


Figure 4
Postcard dates “FEB 10 1943 TALLAHASSEE FLA.” to Louisiana.

as related to the present topic are letters from soldiers stationed at Camp Gordon Johnston attesting to the difficult conditions at the camp and the intense training.

At a recent show, I was fortunate to find in a dealer’s “dollar box” the “DEC 27 1943” cover shown in **Figure 5**. Granted, the “AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING CENTER” machine cancel on the manuscript “Free” is very light, but still discernable. The letter (**Figure**

6) from Cpl. Adrien G. Morin to his sweetheart, Miss Iris Stiles of Nashua, New Hampshire, was still in the mailing. Cpl. Morin apologizes for not writing to Miss Stiles sooner and then recounts his recent trials and tribulations substituting for the furloughed Company Clerk and Commanding Officer while at the same time attempting to satisfy his duties as a camp mail clerk. He asks about how Iris spent her Christmas day and then laments that his was “a dull and dreary day, and what a filthy hole to spend Christmas in.” Morin says the



Figure 5
“DEC 27 1943 CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON FLA. AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING CENTER” cover to New Hampshire.

troops “have been training awfully hard lately; it’s the last training phase before deployment overseas and they (the trainers) certainly believe in dishing it out all at once.” Morin closes with reminding Iris of his upcoming furlough and his anticipation of some relaxation after 14 months in the Army. “I think it’s long enough,” he says.

FOOTNOTES

¹ The Army Ground Forces, *The Amphibious Training Center*, Study No. 22, Capt. Marshall O. Becker, Historical Section, Army Ground Forces, 1946, Chapter 1.

² Coles, David J. “Hell-By-The-Sea, Florida’s Camp Gordon Johnston in World War II: *Florida Historical Quarterly*, July 1994. This is an intriguing history of Camp Gordon Johnston. Also visit the Camp Gordon Johnston website at <http://www.campgordonjohnston.com/museum.htm> for additional information and current activities commemorating the camp.)

³ See James Moses’ article about a September 1943 U.S. Navy postcard: Fort Pierce Amphibious Training Base, *Florida Postal History Journal*, Vol. 11, No. 3, (October, 2004).

Lottievile Doane postmarks: new listing

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



Figure 1

*“LOTTIEVILLE, FLA. JUL 10 1908” Type II (1)
Doane postmark.*

Figure 1 shows a newly discovered Doane postmark example from Lottievile, Florida. It is a Type II (1) Doane dated July 10, 1908 on a postcard to Chiefland, Florida. The Lottievile Post Office was established in Alachua County on April 25, 1905 and discontinued on July 15, 1912, with mail handled by the Trenton Post Office. Osborn G. Barker was the first postmaster. The county name changed to Gilchrist County on December 4, 1925. Lottievile was located on the railroad line connecting Gainesville and Wilcox. Both the Glendale and Lottievile post offices must have been quite small as these are the only postmark examples I have seen from either of those towns.



Figure 2

*A 1916 map showing Lottievile on railroad line between
Trenton and Wilcox.*

Sisco, Florida - a ghost town

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

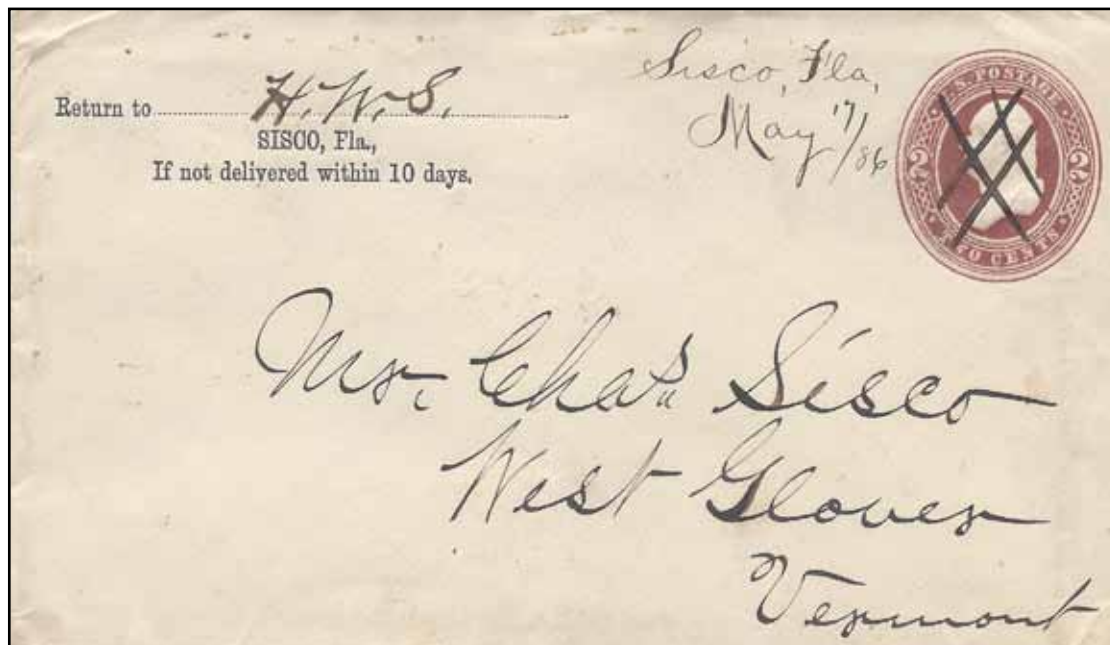


Figure 1

“Sisco, Fla. May 17/86” manuscript postmark on cover from postmaster and town founder, Henry W. Sisco.

The town of Sisco, Florida was settled by Henry W. Sisco and his wife, Claire in 1884 at a location on the Jacksonville, Tampa, and Key West Railway, 10 miles north of Crescent City in Putnam County.¹ Henry became the town postmaster when the post office was established on December 9, 1885.² The town eventually grew to a population of 150 with a hotel, general store and sawmill. The great citrus freeze of 1895 led to the decline of the town and by the time the post office closed on August 31, 1920, the population was around 60. Today the site is listed as one of Florida’s many ghost towns with only the railroad crossing over U.S. 17 remaining.

Footnotes

¹ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sisco,_Florida&oldid=640302705.

² John S. Gallagher, *Florida Post Offices*. (Lake Grove, Oregon: The Depot, 1997), p. 158.

Figure 2

Putnam County map of 1890 showing Sisco (at lower right) on the rail line.



President's Drivel News & You Asked!

By Francis Ferguson

FPHS President

The start of 2016 has seen a good amount of positive progress. The yearly renewal process is nearly completed, regrettably we have lost eight to 10 members. It would be great to have every member of the FPHS recruit one new member in 2016! The society's website has been brought up-to-date with a new Membership Directory and additional documents that have been added to the "MEMBERS ONLY" section. The membership meeting at the Sarasota National Stamp Show was well attended and productive. Currently the By-Laws committee is in the middle of revamping the document and bringing the words into the 21st century. When the By-Laws document is approved it will be posted on the website. The Membership Outreach committee is also moving forward with some new ideas and methods of expanding our membership base. "Thank you" to everyone who participated in this meeting.

A major new benefit to the membership is the launch of a bi-monthly newsletter. This newsletter is intended to be rather free form because it will be only produced in an electronic format. Please send along short pieces of Florida postal history that you would like to share with the membership. All that is needed is a short write-up and a picture or two. Everyone should know how to access the society website. If you need the password please contact me using the information at the end of this column. At this point in time, I have volunteered to serve as the editor of the newsletter.

We now have a Facebook page for the FPHS. Barbara Kuchau who calls Live Oak, Florida home has agreed to be the administrator for the page. We are looking to use this social media resource to point folks to our website which is of course chock-full of information. Thank you, Barbara, for taking on this task. I would remiss in not once again thanking Deane Briggs and Everett Parker for doing so much to serve the society. So much of what these two individuals do is behind the scenes and never known by the membership. Their service to the society is priceless.

I thought I would finish out this column answering a question that has arisen in recent weeks. A member asking the question, wanting to know my background. It is a valid question as most of the membership I have never met. I am a life-long collector who started out as a child in the up-state New York area (Utica) where the winter snow is measured in feet, not inches. My parents had the good sense to move to Coral Springs on January 1, 1970. I spent my teenage years in what at the time was a very small town that was growing very rapidly. As a teenager, I was a youth member of the Gold Coast Stamp Club for four or five years, and that is where I learned the fundamentals of being a collector. That GCSC, at that time in the early and middle 1970s, was a large, vibrant (and noisy) club. Sadly, I do believe the club dissolved sometime in the 1990s. Through a connection with the BSA Troop in Coral Springs, I met a retired (and still active) stamp dealer named Robert Howell. He is the one that I give credit (read blame!) for starting my love of Washington/Franklin material specifically and U.S. classics in general.

I started at UCF in Orlando the fall of 1977; thus collecting was placed on hold. It was with regret but there was only so much time and very little "extra" money. After spending five years in a four year program, I emerged with a Business Administration Management Degree and a Computer Science minor. I have spent virtually all my working career in the computer field, and most of that time working for the University of Florida. I am set to retire in June of 2021 or October of 2022.

So that is the back story – the modern era for me being a stamp collector, began in 1998 when the “new” eBay site started to make waves. I decided in the fall of 1998 to sell all the stuff I had diligently hauled around for years. Quickly the sales of almost all of the material was accomplished and then I was bit again by U.S. classic material – and bit hard! Now I was more focused and went after a lot of nice material that I simply could never have afforded in previous years. Since that time the collecting bug has seen the creation of specialized collections that involve only a single stamp or series. That allows me to indulge my interest in FDCs, postal history, position pieces, plate blocks and EFO material. That is the short story of what I collect and how it evolved.

I have been involved in the Central Florida Stamp Club since March of 2000. Since I simply could not manage to keep my mouth closed – I ended up on the Board of Directors, and have served there ever since. The need to cover for an ailing club president in 2006 forced me to step up and cover his nearly full two year term. I then had two more two year terms as president and returning to an open Board of Directors’ position. I have recently assumed the president’s post again and expect to serve the club in that capacity through early 2020 when I will remove myself from the leadership of the CFSC.

In a similar way my involvement with FLOREX also happened because I just could not keep silent. I asked the long suffering FLOREX Chairman Phillip Fettig (also a CFSC member) if he needed any assistance. The reply of “yes!” is the reason why since 2002 I have been running FLOREX. I expect to continue as the General Chairman of FLOREX through the show in 2021 and then I retire.

Lastly my involvement with the FPHS also came about with a chance conversation about Florida postal history. I assumed the post of webmaster to fill a need for the society and have been involved ever since. I want to bring the FPHS into a position of stability before I ride off into the sunset. Thankfully, the society has been able to survive with the minimum of oversight since 1992, much of that thanks to Deane Briggs. Now the society needs to develop a more robust leadership base that can go forward for years to come. We are working towards that goal and will accomplish that with your help.

Reading this column, I am struck by the multiple use of “I” -- I apologize. However, that is about the only way to tell my story. Thank you, Dan Maddalino, for begging the question.

(E-mail: ferg@FloridaStampShows.com, or call my cell: 407.493.0956)

Dues are now due!

If you have not paid your 2016 dues, please send a check to Dr. Briggs immediately. Memberships were due for renewal January 1! Contact Dr. Briggs at 2000 N. Lake Eloise Dr., Winter Haven, FL 33884, or by email at drb@gte.net.

**We proudly salute the
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the Florida Stamp Dealers Association
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Thank you so much!**

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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

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-- Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY DEALER MEMBERS

Below is a listing of FPHS members who are also stamp dealers. Please support our dealer members when visiting stamp shows, or by mail!

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Titusville, FL 32781
(321) 269-3377

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

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS - 2016

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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