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*Promoting Philately in the Sunshine State*



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## Felix Varela: Social Reformer

By Juan L. Riera

**F**elix Varela was born on November 20, 1788 in Havana, the Spanish colony of New Spain, and spent his formative years in St. Augustine, Spanish Florida. He passed away on February 27, 1853, in St. Augustine, Florida, and in between was of great influence in Cuba, Spain, and in the greater New York City area and to a lesser extent in the St. Augustine area.

Felix Varela was the grandson of Lt. Col. Bartolome Morales (1737 - ?), commander of military forces in Spanish Florida. He helped raise Felix after the death of Felix's mother, Maria Josefa Ignacia, a few days after childbirth. Morales also served as Lieutenant Governor in Holguin, Cuba, interim governor of East Florida, and commander of the Third Battalion of the Cuban regiment at the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine. Morales arrived in St. Augustine with his daughter Rita Josefa and grandson Felix. Felix was raised in large part by Aunt Rita.



*The mausoleum where Felix Varela was originally buried remains at the Tolomato Cemetery in St. Augustine, Florida.*



*Early photograph of  
The Very Reverend Felix Varela,  
D.D.*

At about the age of 14, his grandfather offered Felix the opportunity to attend military academy in Spain so he could become an officer as had his father and grandfather. Surprisingly, Felix declined and because of the influence of Father Miguel O'Reilly asked for permission to pursue a life in the priesthood. It was common to find Catholic Irish throughout the Spanish Empire who found it more desirable

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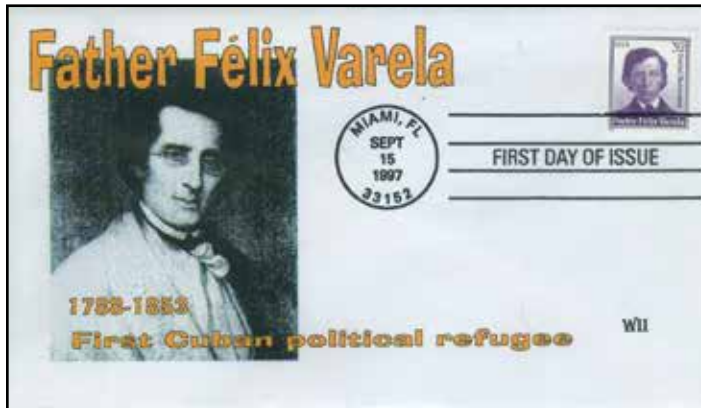
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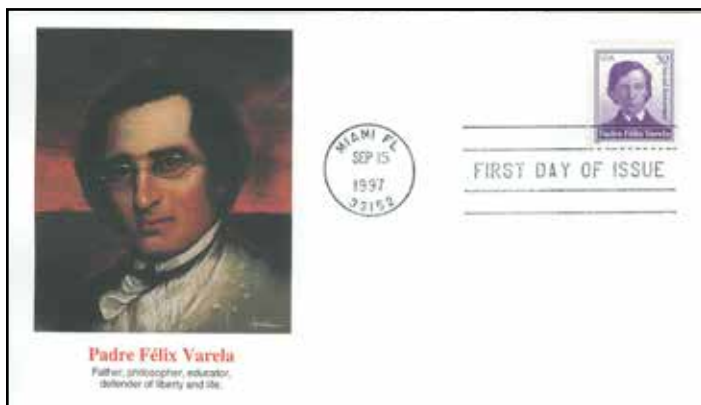
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than living under British Protestant rule in Ireland. Examples include Arturo O'Neil, governor of Spanish West Florida, and Bernardo O'Higgins, Viceroy of Chile, and his son of the same name who was a revolutionary in the wars of Spanish independence. Felix Varela attended San Carlos and San Ambrosio Seminary in Havana, the only seminary in Cuba at the time and simultaneously attended the University of Havana where he studied law. He was ordained at the age of 23. A year after being ordained he joined the faculty teaching philosophy, physics, and chemistry. While there he taught many illustrious Cubans and established a literary society.



*Examples of U.S. first day covers from 1997 for Padre Felix Varela.*



In 1821, Varela was chosen to represent Cuba in the Cortes Generales of Spain in Madrid. He joined in a petition to the crown for the independence of Latin America and published an essay for the abolition of slavery in Cuba. Varela also advocated for the autonomous governance for the island of Cuba. In this particular aspect he was influenced by Father Jose Agustin Caballero (1771-1835) who wrote and spoke on this particular idea extensively. Varela was his pupil at the San Carlos and San Ambrosio Seminary in Havana. After the French invasion of Spain (1823) overthrew the liberal government and restored Ferdinand VII to the throne, he brutally suppressed all opposition, and Varela was sentenced to death. Before being arrested he fled to Gibraltar and on to the United States -- specifically to New York City.

In New York City he founded the first Spanish newspaper in the United States (*El Habanero*), but it only produced seven issues. He went on to publish other newspapers such as *El Mensajero Semanal*, and *The Protestant's Abridger and Annotator*. He also published many articles about human rights, religious tolerance, cooperation between English and Spanish-speaking communities, and the importance of education.

Varela worked extensively with the Irish immigrant community and learned Gaelic ... probably recalling the influence of Father Miguel O'Reilly. In 1827, Varela founded the Church of the Immigrant in the poor Five Points neighborhood of Manhattan (the area was portrayed in the movie *Gangs of New York*), later known as Chinatown, and the congregation as the Church of the Transfiguration. It continues to serve a large immigrant

# A Philatelic View of Englewood, Florida

By Christine C. Sanders

As a native Floridian, I am partial to anything concerning the early history of Florida. Thus, my eye was caught by an 1899 cover postmarked “Englewood, FLA” (**Figure 1**) at a recent stamp show. This town in southwest Florida lies on Lemon Bay (the intracoastal waterway) just a barrier island away from the Gulf of Mexico. Its location 14 miles from Interstate 75 has helped to keep it a secret from developers until recently. As of the 2010 census, the population of this unincorporated town that now straddles both Sarasota and Charlotte counties was 14,863. But the number of souls inhabiting this area swells in the winter months with many visitors from northern U.S. and Canada.

An examination of the 1899 cover and its contents revealed a treasure trove of information about the founding of Englewood by three brothers, Herbert N., Howard S. and Ira Nichols, who lived in Englewood, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. They were introduced to this little-known area of Florida at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. A booth at the Exposition extolled a newly develop-



**Figure 1**

*An 1899 cover from the Lemon Bay Company, developers of Englewood, Florida.*

## *Felix Varela: Social Reformer*

*Continued from page 3*

community to this day, and houses a memorial to Varela.

In 1837 Varela was named Vicar General of the Diocese of New York. He served on the council that reformed Catholic education in the United States for nearly a century where he advocated teaching science in the vernacular language, English. He was awarded a doctorate in Baltimore, Maryland, originally founded as a Catholic colony. In 1848, he developed severe asthma and retired to St. Augustine, where he died in 1853. He was buried in a mausoleum in the Tolomato Cemetery. Materials were brought from Cuba as well as laborers to build the mausoleum. In 1911 his remains were removed to Cuba where he was reinterred in La Gran Aula at the University of Havana. The mausoleum remains at the Tolomato Cemetery, (see illustration), where I served for a year on the board of the Tolomato Cemetery Preservation Association. I am also lifetime member number 1.



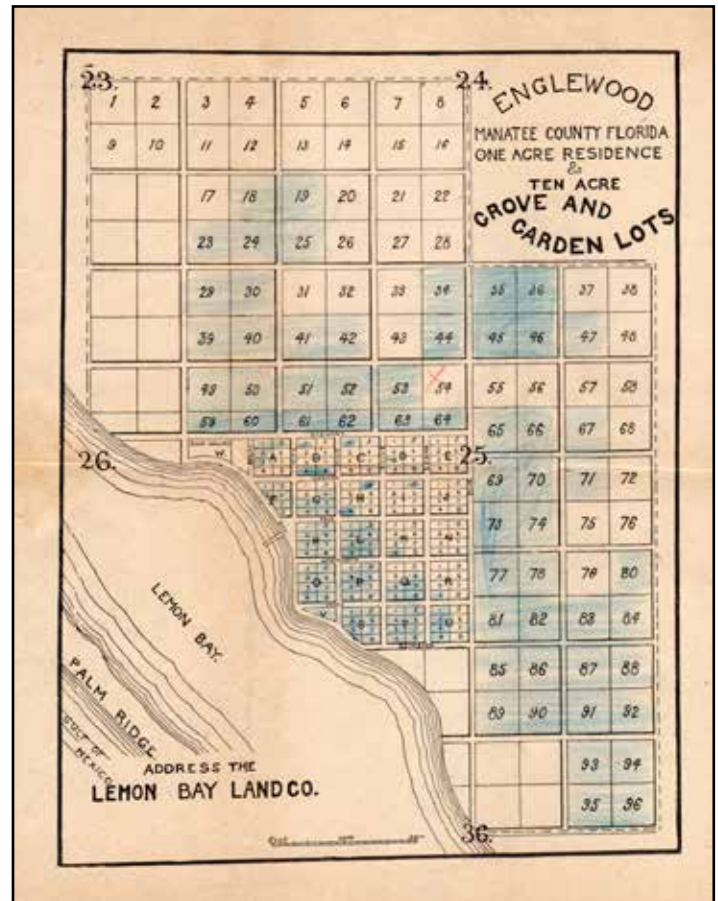
*Cuba issued this stamp in 2003 in recognition of the 150th anniversary of Felix Varela's death in St. Augustine, Florida.*

The 32¢ Felix Varela stamp was released in Miami on September 15, 1997. A post office named in his honor is located at 14310 SW 8th Street (Tamiami Trail) in Miami. There is also a high school in Miami named in his honor and a street is named for him in St. Augustine, ironically misspelled as “Varella” Street. The San Carlos Institute in Key West is possibly named in honor of the seminary where Felix Varela studied. It is one of two possibilities.

ing area, Grove City, with a salubrious climate perfect for growing citrus, waters full of fish and land full of game.

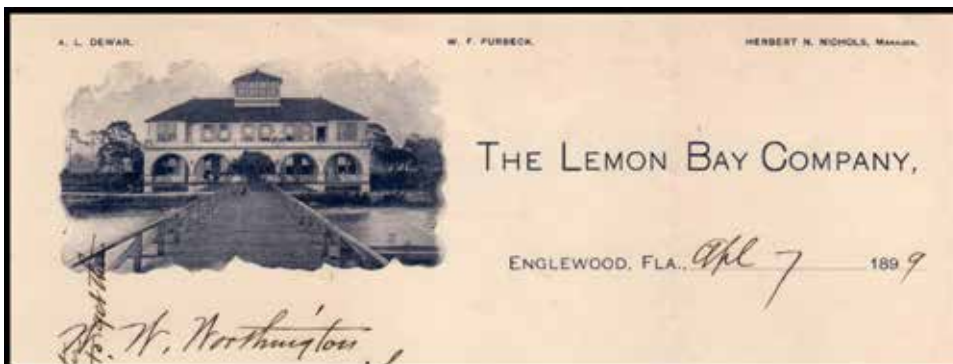
In 1894, the brothers purchased 2,000 acres of land north of Grove City, planning to plat another town that they would market as an area in which one could buy a one-acre lot for a home with a 10 acre lot for a lemon grove. The grove would produce enough profit through the sale of lemons (a high priced commodity in those days) that the owner could live off the profit and fish all day. Severe freezes in December 1894 and January 1895 destroyed that marketing plan along with many of the young citrus trees that had been planted in the area. Thus, in August 1896, when the Nichols brothers recorded their plat of Englewood, their marketing approach was to sell the area as a winter resort.

The 1899 cover had been mailed to a "W. W. Worthington, Collector and Taxidermist," in Shelter Island Heights, New York from the Lemon Bay Company, owned and operated by the Nichols brothers. Inside was a plat of the town as it had been registered showing the smaller residential lots and larger grove and garden lots (**Figure 2**). The areas in blue were those already purchased at the time Mr. Worthington received this communication. The letter enclosed with the plat was from Herbert N. Nichols of the Lemon Bay Company and dated April 7, 1899. It assured Mr. Worthington that the past winter's cold did not affect anything in the area except a few tender vegetables, and that the orange and grapefruit trees have "never been touched here." He added that the mosquitoes are not bad, only a "few" in the rainy season in summer. He suggests Mr. Worthington purchase lot 54 (checked in red in **Figure 2**) as it was close to town and near a large pond. The lot was priced at \$300 with \$30 down and \$10 per month until paid off. Mr. Nichols assured him that he would find all sorts of specimens for his business in the area, and could build a small house for \$75 to \$100 as lumber was cheap in the area. The top of the letter, illustrated with an image of the Englewood Inn, is shown in **Figure 3**.



**Figure 2**

**Original plat of Englewood showing smaller residential lots with named streets and larger grove/garden lots. Areas in blue had been sold. Red "X" marked the lot suggested for purchase by Mr. Worthington.**



**Figure 3**

**Top of illustrated stationery used for the letter to Mr. Worthington showing the Englewood Inn.**

This luxury hotel was located at the end of Perry Street (see location #2 in details of the plat in **Figure 4**) with a dock that extended 250 feet into the bay. It was built in 1898 and was featured on many postcards in the early 1900s (**Figure 5**). It burned in 1909.

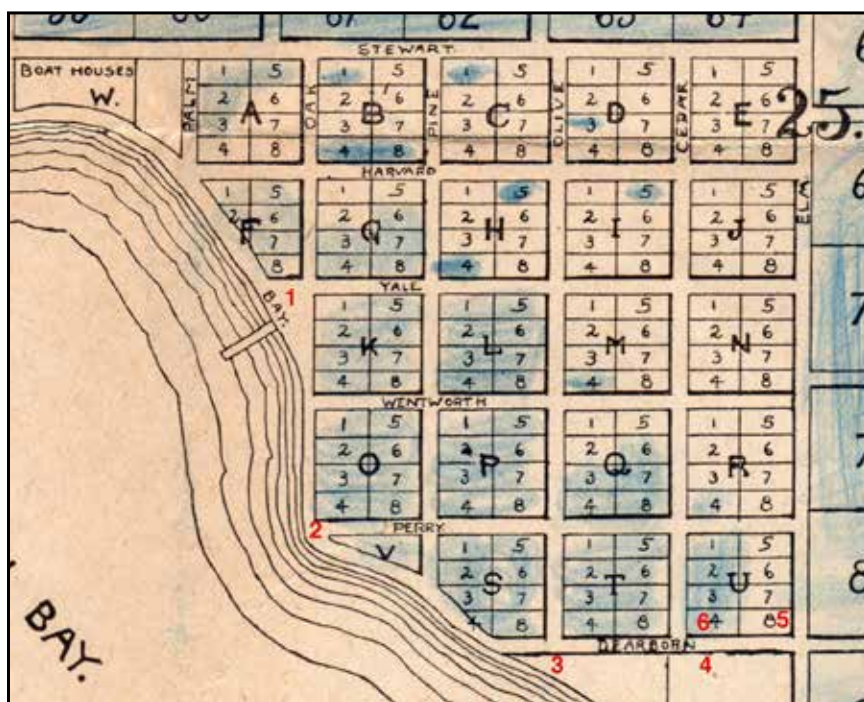
The Englewood Trading Company, owned by the Nichols brothers, was located at the end of Yale Street (see location #1 in **Figure**

4). A 1905 cover from the store ordering a patent medicine is shown in **Figure 6**. The 10¢ Webster Second Bureau issue paid the 2¢ first class plus the 8¢ domestic registry rate.

The post office in Englewood was established in 1895 and located in the Englewood Trading Company. John S. Gibbons was the first postmaster. In the early years, mail was brought by boat from Punta Gorda to Myakka City. It was picked up there and delivered on horseback or by wagon to the Englewood Post Office 10 miles away. When there was room, travelers to Englewood would use the mail wagons to reach the town. This short trip could take as long as three hours.

Two other items from the early days of the post office when it was located in the Englewood Trading Company are shown in **Figure 7** and **Figure 8**. Both items are postmarked with a Doane 3/2 handstamp. The date of the Doane 3/2 shown in **Figure 8** is the latest known example of this postmark for Englewood. A 1906 Manatee County directory listed the residents in Englewood as 36 farmers, two tailors, one sailor, two sawmill workers, two teamsters, one merchant, one chemist, two real estate salesmen, one vegetable grower, one laborer, one mechanic, one capitalist and one postmaster. In 1910, the U.S. census showed 75 inhabitants in the area that included small nearby settlements like Grove City.

There were no roads into Englewood until 1917. Thus, supplies for the town were received at the Englewood Trading Company via sharpie sailboats that delivered goods from Punta Gorda where the railroad ended. This method of transport would continue until the early 1920s. Since the railroad never came into Englewood, the



**Figure 4**

**Enhanced residential area of the Englewood plat showing in red numerals the location of: 1. Lemon Bay Co.; 2. Englewood Inn; 3. Buchan's Landing; 4. Ziegler's General & Hardware Store; 5. Englewood Post Office, 1946-59, in Army barracks; and 6. Englewood Post Office, 1959-72.**



**Figure 5**

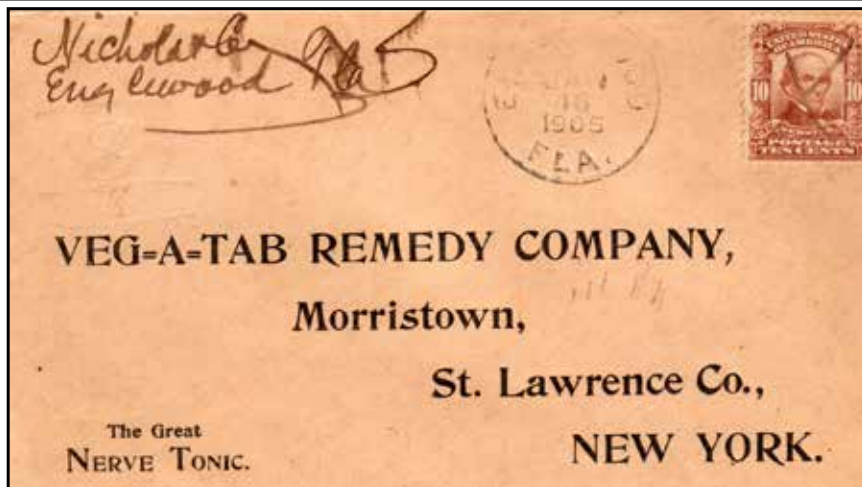
**Postcard showing the Englewood Inn, postmarked with Doane 3/2 handstamp dated December 17, 1906.**

wealthy from the north ultimately looked elsewhere for their winter resorts.

In 1912, Peter Buchan took over the Englewood Trading Company from the Nichols and became the postmaster as well (see *Table 1* for a complete listing of postmasters). He built his own store at the end of Dearborn Street in 1916 complete with dock for receiving supplies and moved the post office to the new location (see location #3 in *Figure 4*). The area became known as Buchan's Landing (*Figure 9*). He remained postmaster until 1921 when his wife, Florence, took over and served until 1928.

In 1921, the south end of Manatee County was designated Sarasota County. Thus, the post office changed its county designation. In 1925, Englewood incorporated its 13 square miles and became the second largest town in Sarasota County. Included in its domain were four miles of beach on the Gulf of Mexico and eight miles on the mainland on Lemon Bay. Its first bank arrived in 1925, and plans were made to run U.S. 41, the Tamiami Trail, through the town. The first bridge across Lemon Bay to the beach was built in 1927.

In 1928 the post office was moved eastward up Dearborn Street to Ziegler's General & Hardware Store (*Figure 10*; location #4 in *Figure 4*), and



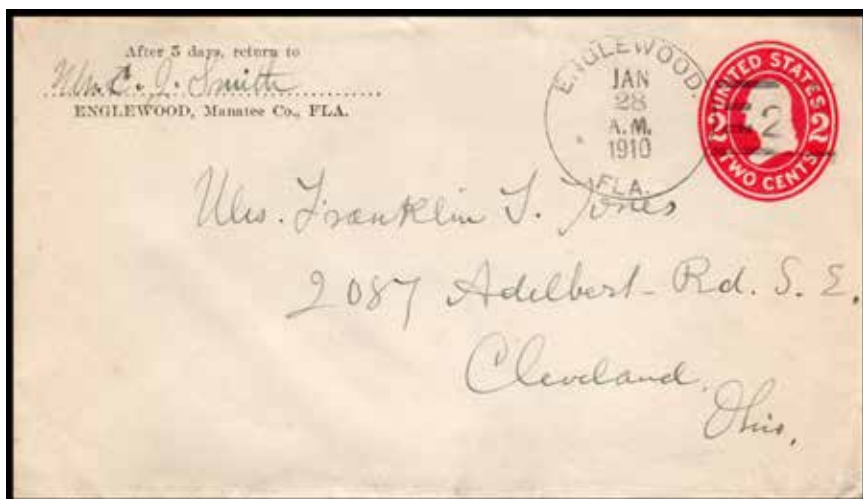
**Figure 6**

*Commercial reply cover from the Nichols brothers' store, 1905.*



**Figure 7**

*Englewood postcard postmarked in 1908 with Doane 3/2 handstamp.*



**Figure 8**

*Postal stationery dated January 28, 1910, bearing latest known use of Englewood's Doane 3/2 handstamp.*

Mary Green became postmaster. The post office earned a third class designation in 1929 due to its larger volume of business. However, the Florida land boom ended in 1928, and the Great Depression hit in 1929. This eliminated the town's cash flow, and the town had to unincorporate. It could not pay the \$50 fee required. The sole bank in town failed due, in large part, to the banker absconding with its money. Englewood would have no other bank until 1957. The route of the Tamiami Trail was changed to bypass Englewood. Seafood, especially fish, had always been a major industry around Englewood, and it

supported the town during the lean years of the Depression and beyond.

Harry C. Green became acting postmaster in 1942 and postmaster from 1943 until 1960. After World War II, a military barracks was purchased from the Venice Army Air Base and moved to the corner of Elm and Dearborn Streets (see location #5 in **Figure 4**). This served as



**Figure 9**

***Buchan's Landing as it appeared in 2017. The post office was located here from 1912 to 1928.***



**Figure 10**

***Ziegler's General & Hardware Store as it appeared in 2017. The post office was located here from 1928 to 1946.***

the first free-standing post office from 1946 until 1959. There were 400 boxes in this post office, and customers had to come pick up their mail as there was no carrier service until 1960. A postcard with the barracks post office is shown in **Figure 11**.



**Figure 11**

***Postcard showing the Englewood Post Office in old Army barracks (1946-1959).***

In 1953 the population of Englewood was nearing 2,000 inhabitants. In 1957 the Chamber of Commerce incorporated and began functioning as a city center since there was no municipal government, and the unincorporated town now straddled two counties, Sarasota and Charlotte. The Chamber brought the first dentist and doctor into town. Phone service started and by 1960 there were 1,000 phones in town. By 1969, it was possible to direct dial long distance. The Chamber of Commerce building that served Englewood for over 40 years beginning in the 1960s is shown in the postcard in **Figure 12**.



**Figure 12**

***Postcard showing Englewood Chamber of Commerce circa 1960s.***

The post office was moved again in 1960 from the barracks to an old Sears building located directly across Dearborn Street from the hardware store that housed it in the late 1920s until the mid 1940s (See location # 6 in **Figure 4**).

Florence S. Johnson became the postmaster in 1961 and served until 1980. In 1962, the post office received its first class designation.

The influx of “snow birds” in the winter helped the town grow. Many who migrated to this area from the north in winter arrived in trailers fully stocked for the season with food canned on their farms. Thus, they were nicknamed the “tin can tourists.” Large trailer parks emerged in the area like the one shown in **Figure 13**. It boasted of city water, paved streets, a master TV antenna system and recreation facilities.

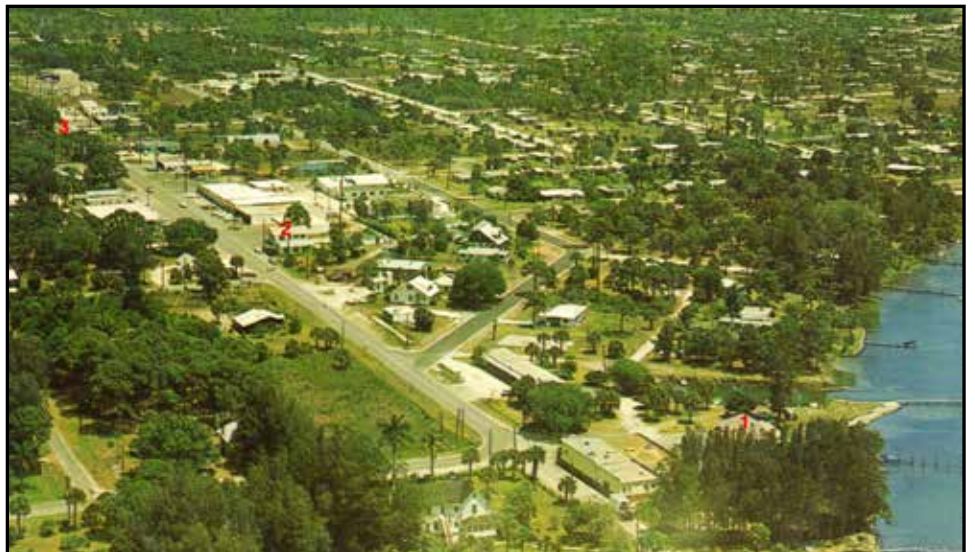
A 1967 postcard with an aerial view of Englewood is shown in **Figure 14**. It looks southeastward up Dearborn Street. Locations of various post offices are indicated in red on the postcard.

In 1972 the post office moved outside of the area of the “old town” to its current location on River Road -- essentially an extension of Dearborn Street that today runs 14 miles to Interstate 75. A photograph of the current post office is shown in **Figure 15**. A 1972 cover bearing the cachet from the 1971 FLOREX stamp show in Orlando was mailed from Englewood (**Figure 16**).

As with many post offices, Englewood used precancels to speed mail processing. Englewood precancels from the Prexie, Liberty, and Prominent American series are shown in **Figure 17** and **Figure 18**. Many were prepared upside down.



**Figure 13**  
*Postcard for Holiday Mobile Estates, one of many trailer parks in Englewood accommodating residents and “snow birds.”*



**Figure 14**  
*Postcard from 1967 of Dearborn Street with locations of post offices indicated by red numerals: 1. Buchan's Landing; 2. Ziegler's Hardware Store; 3. Barracks Post Office. Operating post office in 1967 was directly across the street from #2.*



**Figure 15**  
*Current Englewood Post Office (2018).*

### Postscript

Whatever happened to Grove City, the nearby town established in 1886, that had stimulated the Nichols brothers to invest in Englewood? Well, it never expanded. Its post office was established in 1887 and was located in the grand Grove City Tarpon Hotel built in 1893. Unfortunately, the wooden hotel burned in 1904 and only the mail and post office equipment were saved from the fire. The post office was discontinued in 1910. Even in the late 1950s, residents of Grove City had to go to Englewood to receive their mail. By the



Figure 16

*Cover from 1971 FLOREX mailed from Englewood.*



Figure 17

*Englewood precancels on prexies.*



Figure 18

*Englewood precancels on Liberty and Prominent Americans.*

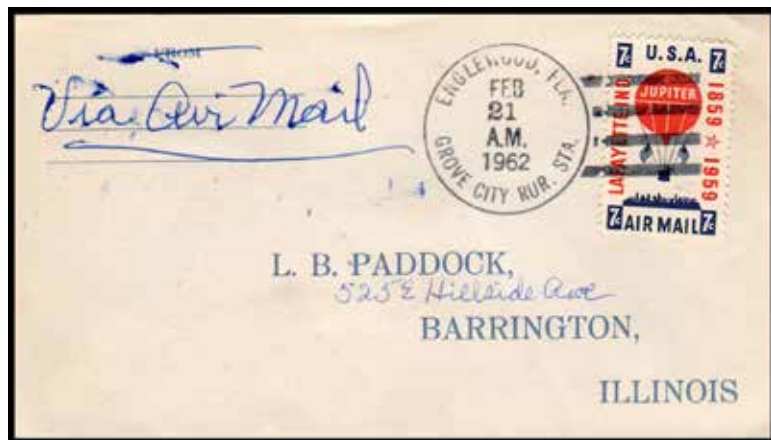


Figure 19

*Cover mailed in 1962 from Englewood's Grove City Rural Station.*



Figure 20

*Postmark dated October 31, 2013 from Grove City CPU.*

1960s, a post office was established as a rural station of Englewood (**Figure 19**). Today, it is a contract postal unit in a gift shop (**Figure 20**). It maintains post office boxes for the use of residents on nearby Palm Island who receive no mail delivery due to the lack of a bridge to the island. Thus, Grove City residents still receive their mail from the Englewood Post Office. However, they can use the nearby Grove City Post Office to send out their mail or purchase stamps since it tends not to have the long lines found in the Englewood Post Office. However, like many CPU's, it tends to run out of stamps, especially in snow bird season.

The postcard in **Figure 21** shows why Englewood thrives today -- its Gulf beaches and associated waterways that still lure sunbathers and sports fishermen to try to catch local snook, snapper, trout, redfish and tarpon. Its protected waters have also become favorite haunts for kayakers and paddle boarders.

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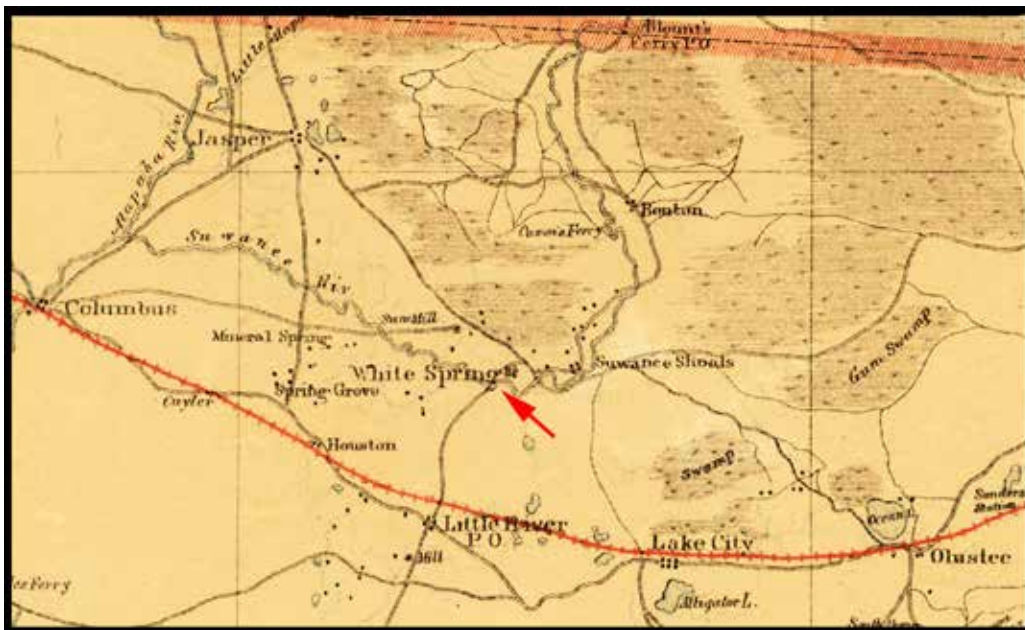


**Figure 21**  
**Postcard showing**  
**Englewood's Gulf beaches.**  
**The bridge to Englewood on**  
**the mainland is shown in**  
**the background.**

# History of the White Spring(s) Post Office

By Thomas Lera and Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

**W**hite Springs is a small Hamilton County town along the Suwannee River in extreme north Florida. It is at what originally was the junction of the post road which connected Jasper with Suwannee Shoals and Alligator (later Lake City), and the road that connected Blount's Ferry and Benton with Little River. The White Spring(s) post office was established April 13, 1842 with William M. Reed as postmaster, and service was by postal route No. 3517. On April 14, 1851, William P. Purviance was awarded the route for \$620 annually. It left from Alligator at 1 p.m. Wednesday by White Springs, Jasper, Jennings, Belleville, Cherry Lake, Clifton and Aucilla, arriving at Monticello, by 8 p.m. on Friday, a total of 96 miles. The return occurred between 5 a.m. Saturday and 12 p.m. the next Monday.<sup>1</sup>



*“Northern Part of Florida,’ Compiled and Published at the United States Coast Survey Office, A.D. Bache, Superintendent, 1864.  
Drawn by H. Lindenkohl. 1 inch to 10 miles.”<sup>2</sup>*

During the stampless mail period, there were six different types of postmarks recorded with Types I, II, and VIB. On April 29, 1853, the Type VI postmark changed to a circle datestamp with the town name “White Springs.”

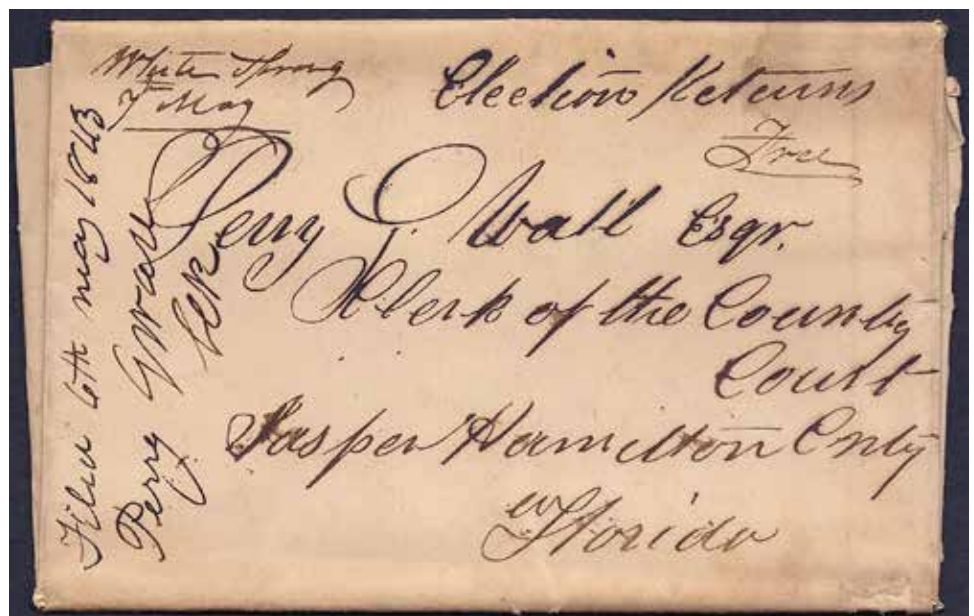
In 1836, Bryant & Elizabeth Sheffield constructed a hotel and spring house, and advertised the ability of the mineral waters to cure nervousness, kidney troubles, and rheumatism, among other problems. The spring was initially called “Upper Mineral Springs,” was later renamed “White Sulphur Springs,” and became very popular as Florida’s first tourist attraction.<sup>3</sup>

Albion W. Knight was appointed U.S. Postmaster on February 28, 1850, and on July 25, 1861, during the Civil War, was appointed Confederate postmaster. Mail was handled on the 70 mile one-way postal route #6545

(changed to #1524 in 1863) from Lake City (Alligator) to Madison via Huntsville, White Springs, Jasper, Jennings, Belleville every Wednesday and returned on Thursday by 5 p.m. to Lake City. W. E. Howell of Madison was awarded the contract for \$590 per annum. The Huntsville office was discontinued on December 30, 1861. On June 2, 1863, the contract was rebid and awarded to J. M. Richardson, of Gainesville, for \$1,456 per annum.<sup>4</sup>

Albion W. Knight retired on December 5, 1866 when Augustine D. Knight was appointed. Illustrated are three White Springs Confederate letters.

White Springs was incorporated in 1885 following the Civil War, and the tourist business slowly returned to the resorts around the spring. Health-seekers arrived, first by stagecoach and then by the Georgia Southern and Florida Railroad. In 1903, the spring was enclosed by concrete and coquina walls that included multiple water gates and galleries to prevent water intrusion from river flooding. A four-story wooden bathhouse was constructed around the spring,<sup>5</sup> next to a resort with 60 rooms to accommodate



*White Spring Territorial Cover, Type I manuscript,  
May 7, 1843 (only one known).*



*White Spring, Fla. Type II manuscript, July 9, 1846  
(only one known).*



*White Springs, Type VIB  
CDS, Aug 29, 1853, with  
a "PAID 3" in a 24mm  
circle, and a Type C "5 in  
circle" rate deleted with  
triple strike of Type 15 x  
7mm straight line "PAID"  
(only known "PAID"  
example).*

up to 200 guests, doctors' offices for patient examination and treatment, dressing rooms, space for concessions, and an elevator. At the time, water flow was calculated at 32,400 gallons per minute, or nearly 47 million gallons per day.

In the 1980s, Union Carbide's phosphate plant mining operations hit the springs' aquifer which caused, you guessed it, a huge water geyser resulting in the spring drying up. Today the spring has only the covered walkway around the top of its original foundation. No swimming or taking of the waters is allowed, as only murky, stagnant water puddles the ground once covered by the mineral water.

Much of the original town still stands, including the Adams Brothers Store (established 1865 at the end of the Civil War by Robert W. Adams), turn-of-the-century churches, and many homes.<sup>6</sup> The general store served as the post office for more than 50 years with Robert W. Adams as postmaster from January 14, 1873 to July 16, 1878. Later Owen K. Paxton, one of his partners, was postmaster from October 17, 1883 to April 16, 1889. His son, Owen Jr., was postmaster from February 6, 1914 to October 15, 1922.<sup>7</sup> The Adams General Store bore his name until 1905, when it was incorporated as Adams Brothers. The store operated for nearly 100 years, finally closing in 1958. In 1970, the Suwannee River Crafts Guild took over the Adams Country Store and made it a popular craft outlet for tourists. It offers an amazing array of collectibles old and new, and is worth a visit. Currently it is open Thursday-Sunday. The store is



*Albion W. Knight, Postmaster, Free Frank.*



*July 8, 18?? Circle datestamp ties a pair of CSA #7.  
(Courtesy of the Deane R. Briggs, M.D. Collection)*



*October 20, 1863 Type A, "PAID 10" struck twice.  
(Courtesy of the Deane R. Briggs, M.D. Collection)*



*Contemporary photograph of the Adams Country Store in White Springs.  
(Photograph by Thomas Lera)*



*August 15, 18?? circle datestamp ties CSA #12.  
(Courtesy of the Deane R. Briggs, M.D. Collection)*

within in sight of the entrance to the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, across the roadway on U.S. 41.

### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Deane R. Briggs, ed. *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861*. (North Miami: David G. Phillips Publishing Co., Inc, 1999), pp. 46, 303-04.

<sup>2</sup> "Northern Part of Florida." Compiled and published at the United States Coast Survey Office, A. D. Bache, Superintendent. 1864. Drawn by H. Lindenkohl. 1 inch to 10 miles. 19 x 25. Railroad lines and State boundary in red; drainage features in blue. Roads, swamps, lighthouses, forts, towns, and smaller settlements are shown,

*Continued on page 16*

and scattered comments describe the vegetation. RG 23: Special Maps.

<sup>3</sup> "History of the Town of White Springs." City of White Springs, Florida. Accessed December 25, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Jaronski, Stefan T. "The Postal Routes of Confederate Florida Part 2." *The Confederate Philatelist*, 37:2 (1992) p. 59.

<sup>5</sup> "Interior of Bath House, White Springs, Florida." 191(?). State of Florida, Division of Library and Information Services. Accessed December 25, 2016; "Bath House, Spring Street, White Springs, Hamilton County, FL." Historic American Buildings Survey (Library of Congress). Historic Map Works. Accessed December 25, 2016.

<sup>6</sup> Marsanne Petty, *Images of America - Hamilton County*. (Mt. Pleasant, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2006), p. 9.

<sup>7</sup> <http://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postmasterfinder/welcome.htm>, White Springs. Accessed December 26, 2016.



*Commercial chrome postcard #58276, published by  
McLeod & Sons, White Springs Florida, circa 1910.  
(Courtesy of the Thomas Lera Collection)*



*Springhouse at White Springs 2016. (Photograph by Thomas Lera)*

## Florida Postal History Society joins Confederate Stamp Alliance at mid-year meeting in Tallahassee

A joint meeting with Florida Postal History Society members and the Confederate Stamp Alliance was held in Tallahassee over the December 8-9 weekend. The CSA invited FPHS members to attend this social gathering with a dinner at the home of FPHS member Alex Hall and his wife Carol on Friday. Member dealer John Kimbrough had a small bourse which allowed members to fill in some missing covers.

Three great programs were presented by Tom Lera on the Florida Confederate Railroad Mail Routes, complete with covers from stops on the four railroads that were in Florida at the time. Ken Miller presented a talk on use of Confederate postage stamp Scott's #1 on covers from the capitals in the Confederacy.

A Tallahassee native and past president of the Natu-



*Florida Postal History Society member Larry Baum at right enjoys the hospitality in Tallahassee with (from left) Wayne Farley and Judy and Frank Crown.*

ral Bridge Battle Field state park, Mark Remminger, gave a great talk on the battle that prevented the Union forces from advancing into Tallahassee, the only Confederate capital east of the Mississippi River not to be occupied. On Sunday he gave a walking tour of the battlefield for those who would bear the 40 degree weather. It was worth it.

The following FPHS members were in attendance: Larry Baum, Deane R. Briggs, Phil Eschbach, Alex Hall, Stefan Jaronski, John Kimbrough, Tom Lera, Richard Murphy, and past member Ken Miller.



*Florida Postal History Society member Tom Lera with his wife, Sandy (left) with Jonye Briggs (second from right) and Wayne Farley.*

## *FPHS meets at FLOREX stamp show in Orlando*

By Dan Maddalino

**T**hank you to everyone who came to our general membership meeting held during FLOREX. Following a world class presentation titled "Florida Nesbitt Postal Entire Usage," by Deane Briggs, M.D., President Ferguson brought those present up to date on the near completion of the *Florida Stampless Postal History* book.

He then reviewed the website "hits" history and shared a story that emphasized the importance of the FPHS to maintain an active internet presence. There followed a report on the proposed journal writer's competition. A three-level competition with cash awards to be selected and awarded during the annual business meeting was agreed upon. Dr. Briggs volunteered to head this activity.

A report on the membership outreach project emphasized the seasonal residence influence during summer months at the local stamp club meetings. This proj-



*This photograph shows Deane R. Briggs, M.D., center, showing Tom Lera (left) and Steve Patrick some covers.*

either the president or secretary with the positions you seek. Your society depends on your volunteerism.

The 2018 membership renewal invoices have been delivered to all members as of November 15. All memberships expire December 31. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so as quickly as possible.



ect is ongoing, and the membership will be updated as it develops. The members present also approved the placement of a promotional advertisement into the bi-annual *FSDA Dealers Membership Directory*. Mr. Ferguson reminded everyone that 2018 is an election year. All officers and director positions must be filled from the membership. The new terms begin following the annual meeting on February 2, 2019. Do not wait to let your desire to serve be known. Contact (in writing or email)



*Lots of stamp talk during FLOREX in Orlando. From left, Deane R. Briggs, M.D., Tom Lera, Bill Johnston (standing) and Steve Patrick (seated). Secretary Dan Maddalino is standing at right.*

## *President's Drivel - More Than A Couple of Points*

By Francis Ferguson

As I write this in early December, the cold fingers of winter are descending on Florida. While the change is somewhat welcomed, I do not enjoy being cold.

The bi-monthly newsletter continues to provide a connection to our members that is timely and informative. Material is always gladly accepted for future use. I am in serious need of material for the Jan/Feb 2018 issue and beyond. I am now begging – again.

(1) The dues renewal process for 2018 has begun with the mailing of dues notices in early November. According to a recent update by our secretary, a little over two-thirds of the membership has responded. If you have not sent in your 2018 dues, please do so immediately. So far it appears that our membership numbers are going to reflect very little change as we move into 2018.

(2) The MEMBERS ONLY section of the website continues to add items as they come available. This is where you will find current membership rosters. The updated membership roster will be posted on the website in the first part of March 2018, after the renewal period comes to an end. The password to the MEMBERS ONLY section can be obtained by contacting Deane or myself – write it down for future reference.

(3) Work has resumed on the book. Now that FLOREX 2017 is behind me, I can restart my efforts towards completing the project.

(4) The membership meeting that was held at FLOREX 2017 was well attended with about a dozen members and a handful of guests. Deane's presentation on Florida Nesbitt Use was informative.

(5) In an effort to expand our outreach, there will be a display ad placed in the Florida Stamp Dealers' Association's 2018 Membership Directory, which will be available the middle of March 2018. The hope is that by attracting more dealers as members and educating them as to the mission of the FPHS, that will translate into new members down the road.

(6) Place on your calendar the Sarasota National Stamp Show and Exposition February 2-4, 2018. The FPHS will hold the annual Membership Meeting from noon to 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 3. The meeting will be held in the Bayfront Room at the back of the

complex. We would like to see the LARGEST gathering of society members ever!

(7) As 2018 begins, this is my last year of service on the Board of Directors of the FPHS. I will continue to be available to provide guidance for those who step forward. Additionally, for the foreseeable future I will continue to handle our website and the updating of information. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact me. (My e-mail: ferg@FloridaStampShows.com; cellphone: 407-493-0956.)

### *Coming in our next issue!*



Phil Eschbach discusses the fascinating history of Waldo, which was originally settled by the Sparkman family in 1819. There is an interesting background to a canal project which was undertaken in the 1870s to connect Waldo and Melrose. All of this and much more will be in the spring issue of the FPHS *Journal*.

### **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.

## 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!

<b>TONY L. CRUMBLEY</b> P.O. Box 681447 Charlotte, NC 28216 (704) 395-1191 www.tonycrumbley.com	<b>PATRICIA A. KAUFMANN</b> 10194 N. Old State Road Lincoln, DE 19960 (302) 422-2656
<b>ELWYN J. DOUBLEDAY JR</b> Cover Crazy 2 P.O. Box 119 Alton, NH 03809-0119 www.covercrazy2.com	<b>JOHN L. KIMBROUGH</b> 10140 Wandering Way Benbrook, TX 76126 (817) 249-2447
<b>PHIL FETTIG</b> A&R Stamps P.O. Box 568334 Orlando, FL 32856-8334 (407) 859-9109	<b>JOEL RIND</b> 17 Ingleton Cir. Kennett Square, PA 19348-2000 (423) 266-0523
<b>ROBERT J. HAUSIN</b> New England Stamp 4897 Tamiami Trail East Naples, FL 34113 (239) 732-8000 newengstamp@aol.com	<b>JOE RUBINFINE</b> P.O. Box 1000 Cocoa, FL 32923 (321) 455-1666
<b>HENRY HIGGINS</b> 302 S. Irish St. P.O. Box 1553 Greenville, TN 37744 (423) 636-8361	<b>SCHUYLER RUMSEY</b> 47 Kearny Street #500 San Francisco, CA 94108 (415) 781-5127
	<b>PHILLIP V. WARMAN</b> Suncoast Stamp Co., Inc. 8520 S. Tamiami Trail Sarasota, FL 34238 (941) 821-9761

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE  
FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
DEALER MEMBERS**

**We proudly salute the  
Central Florida Stamp Club and  
the Florida Stamp Dealers Association  
for being our website sponsors!  
Thank you so much!**

## FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS - 2017

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*.

<b>Hector Arvelo</b>	<b>Michael S. Jones</b>
<b>Lawrence F. C. Baum</b>	<b>Edward R. Joyce, Jr.</b>
<b>Larry F. Beaton</b>	<b>Patricia A. Kaufmann</b>
<b>John J. Beirne</b>	<b>John L. Kimbrough, M.D.</b>
<b>Ronald J. Benice</b>	<b>Richard D. Kinner, CLU FIC</b>
<b>Charles L. Bradley</b>	<b>Howard A. King</b>
<b>Deane R. Briggs, M.D.</b>	<b>Leon King</b>
<b>Paul Broome</b>	<b>Dr. Vernon Kisling</b>
<b>Dr. John M. Buckner</b>	<b>Norman D. Kubler</b>
<b>Central Florida Stamp Club</b>	<b>Carolyn B. Lewis</b>
<b>Walter S. Clarke</b>	<b>Rev. David C. Lingard</b>
<b>Melvin Cline</b>	<b>Millard H. Mack</b>
<b>Joseph Confoy</b>	<b>Dan Maddalino</b>
<b>Charles V. Covell, Jr.</b>	<b>Jack M. Malarkey</b>
<b>W. Newton Crouch, Jr.</b>	<b>Jean M. Marshall</b>
<b>Tony L. Crumbley</b>	<b>Charles F. Meroni, Jr.</b>
<b>Michael Daley</b>	<b>Arlene Merves</b>
<b>Robert DeCarlo</b>	<b>Ray Messier</b>
<b>Gustav G. Dueben III</b>	<b>Ellsworth B. Mink</b>
<b>Phil Eschbach</b>	<b>Vernon R. Morris, M.D.</b>
<b>Francis Ferguson</b>	<b>James H. Moses</b>
<b>Phil Fettig</b>	<b>Richard F. Murphy</b>
<b>Douglas S. Files, M.D.</b>	<b>Burnam S. Neill</b>
<b>Florida Stamp Dealers Association</b>	<b>Timothy O'Connor, M.D.</b>
<b>Ronald E. Gotcher</b>	<b>Stephen B. Pacetti</b>
<b>Alex Hall</b>	<b>Dr. Everett L. Parker</b>
<b>Dawn Hamman</b>	<b>Stephen Patrick</b>
<b>William J. Hancock</b>	<b>Louis Petersen</b>
<b>Jack Harwood</b>	<b>William D. Radford</b>
<b>Todd D. Hause</b>	<b>Joel Rind</b>
<b>Robert J. Hausin</b>	<b>Steven M. Roth</b>
<b>John H. Hayner</b>	<b>Joe Rubinfine</b>
<b>Jerry Hejduk</b>	<b>Schuyler Rumsey</b>
<b>Gary G. Hendren</b>	<b>Christine C. Sanders</b>
<b>William L. Hendry</b>	<b>Jack Seaman</b>
<b>Henry C. Higgins</b>	<b>Casimir Skrzypczak</b>
<b>Richard E. Hinds</b>	<b>Steve L. Swain</b>
<b>Todd A. Hirn</b>	<b>University of Texas, Dallas</b>
<b>Liz Hisey</b>	<b>Phillip V. Warman</b>
<b>Stefan T. Jaronski</b>	<b>Jim West</b>
<b>William Johnson, D.D.S.</b>	<b>Western Philatelic Library</b>
	<b>Mary Whitney</b>
	<b>Richard T. Witt</b>