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Promoting Philately in the Sunshine State



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Santa Fe Canal from Waldo to Melrose

By Phil Eschbach

The first settlers in the Waldo area were the Sparkman family who came in 1819, while Florida was still a Spanish territory. They were burned out by the Seminoles but rebuilt on the shores of Lake Alto. Florida became a U.S. Territory in 1821 and John Bellamy was contracted to build the first official state road from St. Augustine to Tallahassee in 1824. He used his own slaves to build the road, which had to be 20 feet wide with tree stumps cut no more than 12 inches from the ground so wagons could straddle them.

The town of Waldo was on the Bellamy Road close to the intersection with the Micanopy Trail, which was an old Indian trail from Georgia to Micanopy. The community was named Waldo by David Yulee who ran a railroad through the community.

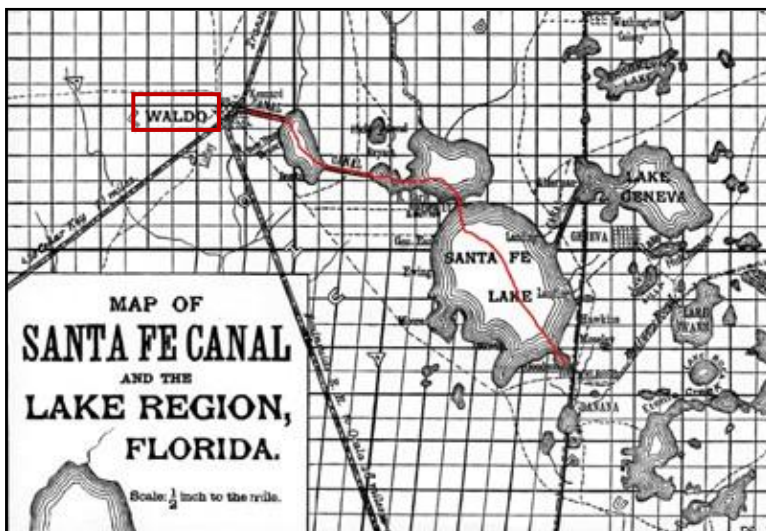


Figure 1

Late 1800s map showing the Sana Fe Canal from Waldo to Melrose through Lake Alto.



Figure 2

Cover to Tallahassee [sic] from Fort Harley [Harlee].

Yulee's railroad became the first major railroad in Florida, completed just before the Civil War, running from Fernandina to Cedar Key. Yulee renamed the town in honor his friend, Dr. Benjamin Waldo, who was not a resident of the town.

Because the town now had a railroad and the population increased, a post office was established there on August 5, 1858 in favor of the Fort Harley office that was closed on April 15.

Continued on page 3

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Santa Fe Canal from Waldo to Melrose <i>by Phil Eschbach</i>	1, 3-5
New Book: <u>Florida Postal History During the Civil War</u> , Deane R. Briggs, MD	6
E.G. Barnhill: Florida Photographer, Artist and Promoter <i>by Juan L. Riera</i>	7-9
George Rainsford Fairbanks Cover <i>by Deane R. Briggs, M.D.</i>	10-11
Journal Writers Competition Winners	12
President's Award for Meritorious Service	12
World War I Camp Johnston Training – Postcards Tell the Story <i>by Steve Swain</i>	13-17
FPHS Meets at Sarasota Stamp Show	18
President's Drivel – Spring 2018 <i>by Francis Ferguson</i>	19

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The rails had been disturbed during the war and were not restored until August of 1865 when postal service was begun again by Postmaster Samuel Kennard. At the end of the war, it was in Waldo that Jefferson Davis' papers were confiscated. Soon the agriculture industry began to revive.

The town of Melrose was at the southeast end of Lake Santa Fe and connected to Waldo by the Bellamy Road, which was a dirt road and well rutted. It was a long ride between the towns, over four hours to haul produce, and soon there was talk of building canals to connect the waterways between the towns so that passengers and freight, as well as the mails, could be transported more easily between the two. Waldo had the nearest railroad connection to the northern states.

Melrose was chartered in 1877, and plans that same year were made to start digging the canals with the charter of the Santa Fe Canal Company. The engineer for the canal project was Ned E. Farrell.

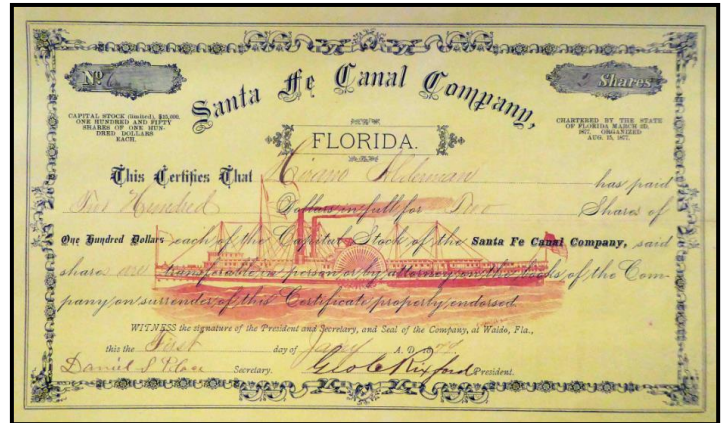


Figure 3
Santa Fe Canal Company stock certificate.

The postcard in **Figure 4** has the unusual Waldo octagon postmark dated Jan 5, 1888. The reverse has an extremely uncommon magenta steamboat agent marking Ned E. Farrell, Santa Fe Canal, Waldo, Florida Jan 6, 1888, placed likely onboard or at the docking in Melrose of the steamboat. It is the only known example of a Santa Fe Canal agent marking.

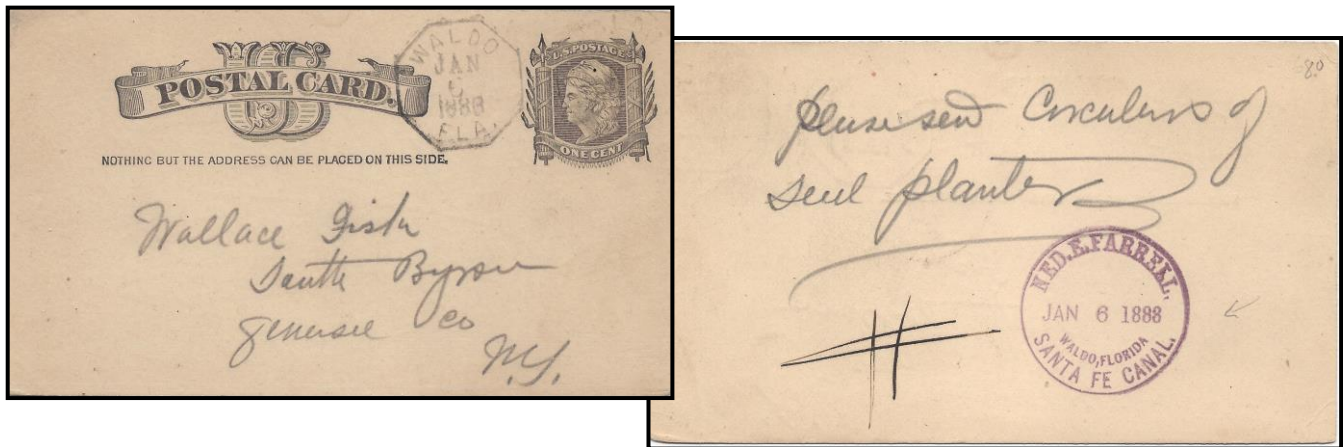


Figure 4
Waldo octagon postmark. Reverse shows Ned E. Farrell agent marking.

One canal would be needed from the town of Waldo for a short distance out to its nearest lake, Lake Alto. A rail spur was constructed to the dock on the Waldo Canal which would connect to the lake. Then a longer canal was needed to connect Lake Alto with Little Lake Santa Fe, a distance of a couple of miles. This was done with a dredge (**Figure 5**) which was built in Waldo by Mr. Elgin who also designed the first paddle wheeler called the *F.S. Lewis*, a 70-foot-long steamer which had two decks (**Figure 6**).

The canal was 30 feet wide and 5 feet deep and was completed in 1881. The *F.S. Lewis*, with Captain S.C. Barker in command, was ill-fated. On its first trip, it broke a drive shaft and was never able to stop at the intermediate town, Earleton, for mail delivery because its draft was not shallow enough. Earleton was on Big Santa Fe Lake, which connects with Little Santa Fe Lake through a wide pass. After only a few trips, the boiler on the *F.S. Lewis* caught on fire, tipped over, and the vessel sank in 1884. It was a loss of \$6,000 and it was uninsured.



Figure 5
*Dredge in operation on the Santa Fe Canal
in the late 1800s.*

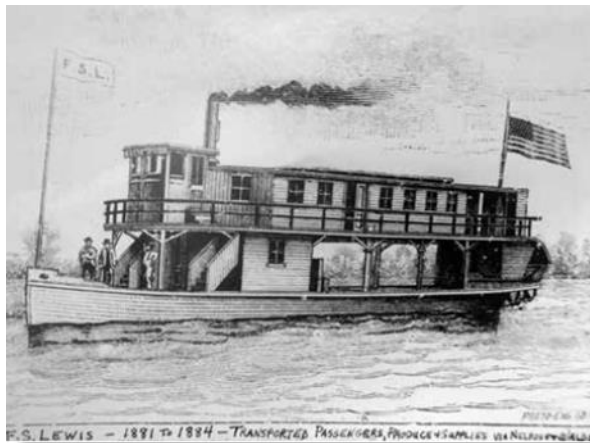


Figure 6
*The F.S. Lewis shown between 1881 and 1884
as it transported passengers, produce and supplies.*



Figure 7
Landing freight on the canal between Melrose and Waldo.

As a result of several railroad mergers in the North of Florida, a new company was formed, The Florida Railway and Navigation Company, which soon purchased the *Alert* (Figure 8), formerly a tugboat in Jacksonville, and delivered by rail to Waldo. It was 60 feet long, with a 14-foot beam, and carried both passengers and freight, as well as the mail.

In the March 27, 1886 issue of the *Melrose Daylight Flashes*, it was reported that many folks traveled from Melrose to Waldo to see the Blanche Curtis company's production of the play, "Only a Farmer's Daughter" at the Waldo Opera House, returning at midnight.

Goods carried by the steamers included citrus, strawberries, peaches, vegetables, cotton, navel stores, and coffins of deceased northern settlers and visitors. Businessmen, local travelers, tourists and visitors traveled by boat until hyacinths clogged the canal. The Great Freeze of 1894-5 put a damper on the agricultural industry, especially the citrus growers. However, the steamer *Alert* continued to carry passengers and freight until it sank around 1920.



Figure 8
Colorized and black-white photos of the steamer Alert in the Santa Fe Canal.

The postmasters in Melrose during the highlight years of the canal passage were M.C. Goodson (January 3, 1878 – November 7, 1879) and William T. Craig (November 7, 1879 – November 15, 1880). The postmasters at Waldo were Samuel Kennard (February 9, 1874 - February __, 1880) and Robert Campbell (February __, 1880 - July 12, 1881).

Shown below in **Figures 9 – 12** are early covers postmarked in Melrose, Earleton and Waldo.



Figure 9

Melrose postmark with the 2-cent Washington tied to the cover with a Maltese Cross fancy cancel.

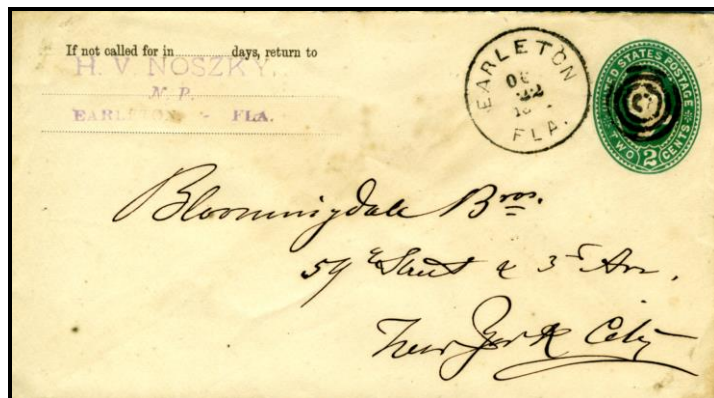


Figure 10

An Earleton mailing from H.V. Noszky, to Bloomington Bros, New York.



Figure 11

March 12, 1894 cover to South Carolina. The corner card is for D. Hicks & Sons, Wagon and Carriage Makers in Waldo.

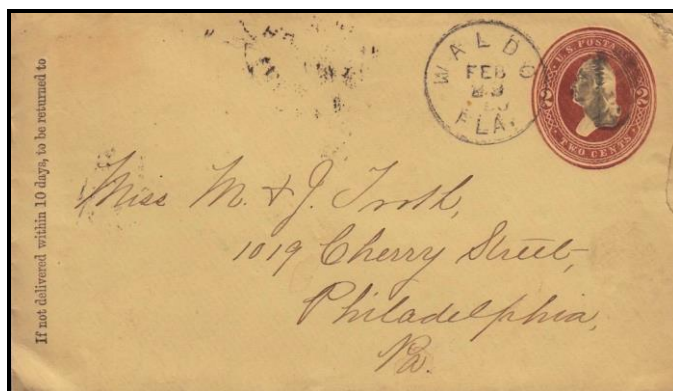
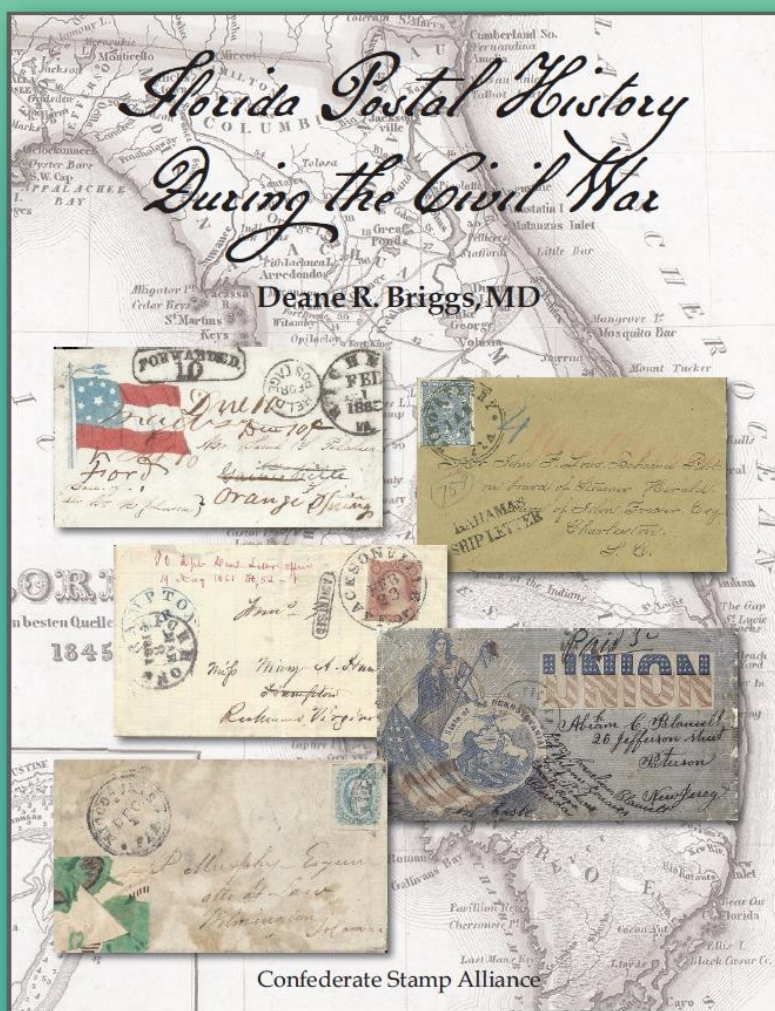


Figure 12

FEB 89 cover to 1019 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

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- All photos courtesy of Rosemary Daurer, Melrose historian, Historic Melrose, Inc., unless otherwise noted.
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Florida Postal History During the Civil War is the definitive text documenting the Confederate and Union postal systems operating in Florida between 1861 and 1865. Most of the major Confederate and Union covers are reproduced in color, with a complete census of over 1600 covers.

Author Deane R. Briggs, MD, has spent 30 years researching and exhibiting Florida postal history. His research uses records from auction catalogs dating to the 1930s as well as archival material from the Florida State Archives, making this an

invaluable Confederate postal history reference.

All Florida towns that had post offices during the period are listed, together with the names of postmasters, compensation rates, and post office receipts. All postal routes used during this period are described in detail.

Official Union occupation post offices and the Key West, Fort Pickens, and Fort Jefferson post offices that operated during the war are recorded along with examples of all known Union Florida postal markings.

Hardbound, 304 pages, full color, bibliography, index

Prepublication price (through July 15, 2018) \$55.00 + \$5.00 shipping

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CONFEDERATE STAMP ALLIANCE

E.G. Barnhill: Florida Photographer, Artist and Promoter

By Juan L. Riera

Esmond Barnhill (1894–1987) was a professional photographer who brought an artistic twist to his profession and, in the process, became a promoter of Florida, even if he didn't realize it. Esmond was born in Saluda, South Carolina, the middle of five children. The family lived for a few years in Tallulah Gorge, Georgia, where Esmond learned about tourism since Tallulah Gorge was known as the "Niagara of the South." In his mid-teens, Esmond and an older brother became treasure hunters. After some success, Esmond bought a yawl, a sailboat with two masts, and travelled the West Indies and Panama.

In about 1913, Barnhill arrived in the Tampa Bay area and made his home in St. Petersburg. For the next 3-4 years, he travelled extensively throughout Florida, New Jersey (where he met his wife, Helen), Alaska, and out west. During these travels, he met or was influenced by well-known photographers, such as Richard Le Sense (1880-1946), William H. Gardiner (1861-1935), and Edward Curtis (1868-1952). The last would have been especially important to Esmond since his mother was part Cherokee and she always encouraged him to explore and learn about Native American culture.



Figure 1
Signed Barnhill photographs.

In November of 1917, Esmond opened his Florida Photo Studio selling cameras, film, processing film for tourists, and taking photos for postcards sold in his store along with other paper products. This was his first independent venture, the first of at least five. Eventually he began hand-coloring postcards and prints getting multiple images from the same photograph. An example of alterations to photographs is one of Bok Tower (the Singing Tower) in Lake Wales, Florida, under construction. Barnhill removed the construction scaffolding from the photo and prepared the image for postcards (*Figure 2*).

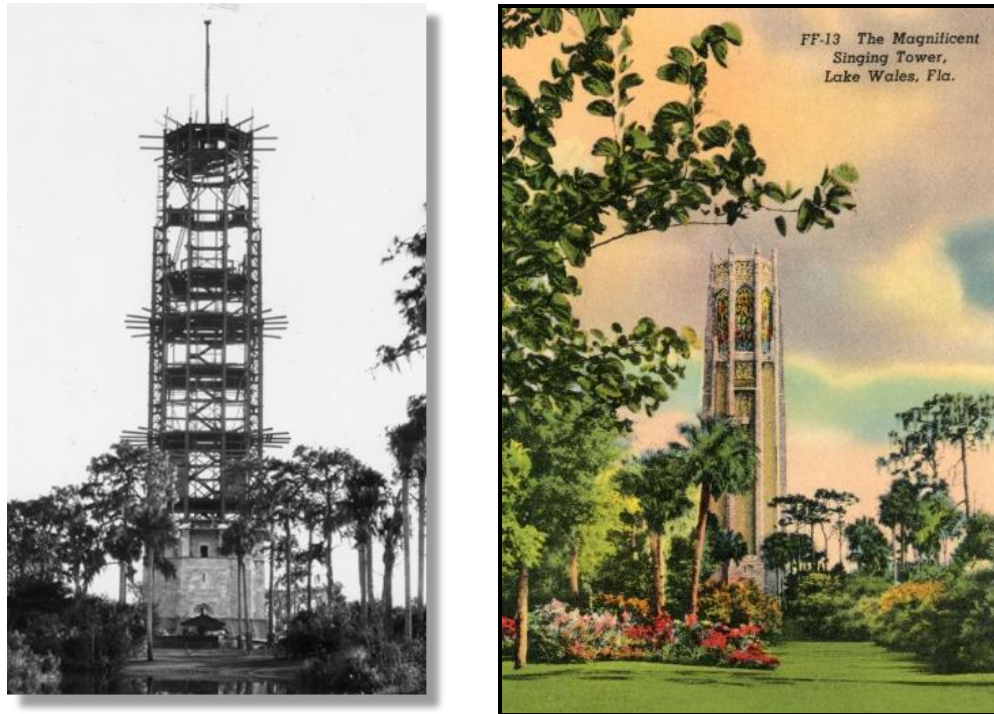


Figure 2
The Singing Tower under construction and Barnhill's version for postcards.

It is notable that Barnhill frequently added butterflies to his images, something connected to his Native American roots. He also took the innovative step of printing postcards and photo-prints in a matte format that more easily absorbed the colors.



Figure 3
Unused postcard with banana plant, bougainvillea and Florida great blue heron.

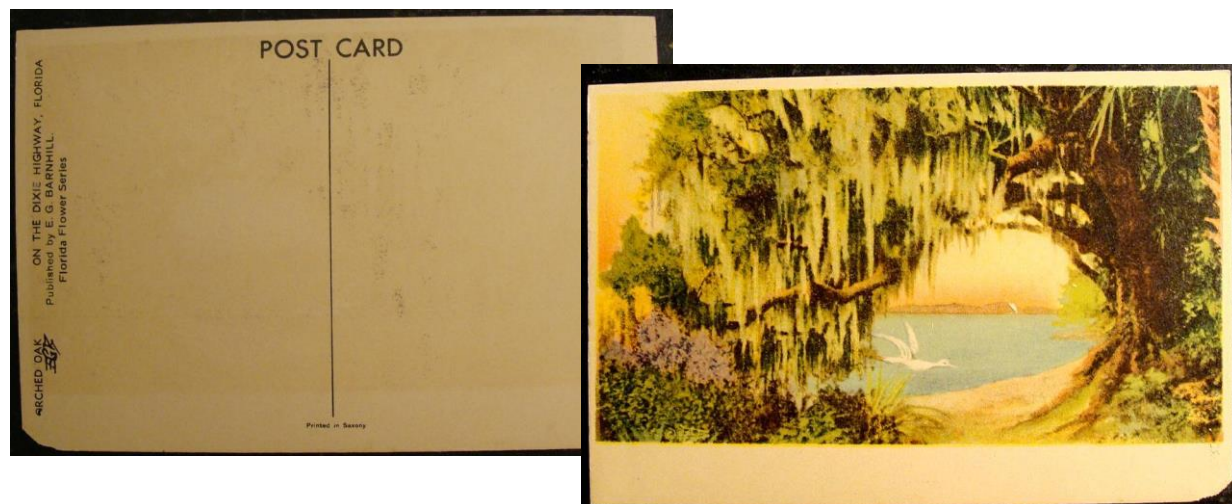


Figure 4

Unused postcard “On the Dixie Highway, Florida”.

Esmond pioneered the use of uranium dyes in his printmaking and in 1932 he won an award in Vienna for a Tampa Bay Weedon Island photograph he submitted. Barnhill claimed to have invented a part for a camera to avoid double exposures by forcing the user to hand-advance the photo, but someone else patented the invention first. If you are around my age or older you’ll remember this feature that is still used on mechanical rather than electronic cameras.



Figure 5

Ancient America Trading Post

With the decline of the photographic industry, Esmond opened souvenir shops in Dania and Ft. Lauderdale. From 1953 to 1958 he operated Ancient America (**Figure 5**), 24 acres in Boca Raton that was part zoo, trading post, and museum. It included an Indian burial mound that with the help of a professional archaeologist was investigated and a clear tubal tunnel was placed though it for the public to look at the inside. It is now named in his honor.

For four years in the early 1970s, he ran an Indian Springs Museum in Palm Bay. With the opening of Disney World, Barnhill established the Indian Museum and Trading Post

along Highway 192 in Kissimmee. This is still my favorite way to get to Kissimmee and Orlando rather than the Turnpike. This lasted until the mid-1980s, after Barnhill was beaten by robbers. He closed the doors and retired to Delray Beach in 1986 and he passed away in Tiger, Georgia, in 1987 at the age of 93. He is buried at the Boca Raton Municipal Cemetery next to his wife.

Even though Esmond Barnhill is not extensively well-known he did much to promote Florida through his photography, paintings, postcards, souvenir shops, and attractions. In this aspect, he is frequently overshadowed by his contemporary William James Harris (1868-1940) who had a St. Augustine shop and through his paintings portrayed the uniqueness of the beauty found in natural Florida.

The majority of the information in this article comes from a book titled *E.G. Barnhill: Florida Photographer, Adventurer, Entrepreneur* by Gary Monroe, who has also written on the Highwaymen.

If by any chance you ever met Esmond Barnhill or visited any of his attraction or have come by any of his material, I would love to hear from you.

George Rainsford Fairbanks Cover

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

As early as the 1850s, it is clear that people attempted to re-use postage stamps to defraud the government of proper payment of postage. The cover in **Figure 1** clearly shows such attempted use with a cancelled #11 on cover to George R. Fairbanks, Esq., in St. Augustine, East Florida.



Figure 1

JACKSONVILLE / Flor AUG 13 postmark with (due) 5 rate on cover with attempted “re-use” of 3c #11.

The Jacksonville postmaster was alert enough to recognize this attempted use and wrote “Stamp used” under the stamp and correctly applied a handstamped Type A unpaid 5 rate.

The postal Act of March 3, 1851 changed the postal rate for a single letter of ½ oz. not exceeding 3,000 miles, prepaid to 3c from the prior 5c rate. The act further noted that if not prepaid the rate remained 5c. The postal Act of March 3, 1855 established compulsory prepayment for domestic mail.

Covers addressed to George R. Fairbanks before the Civil War are extremely common on both stampless and covers with adhesive stamps. Most are addressed to his legal practice while he lived in St. Augustine.

George Rainsford Fairbanks (**Figure 2**) was born in Watertown, N.Y. on July 5, 1820, graduated from Union College in 1839, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1842. In 1842, he moved to Florida and this remained his home for most of his life. He was appointed Clerk of the Superior Court of East Florida in St. Augustine from 1842 until 1846. That year he became a Florida State Senator with the help of William Duval and David Yulee.

He was one of the most educated minds in Florida at the time, immersed himself in the history of Florida, and even learned Spanish to read the original accounts from Spanish explorers. He established the Florida Historical Society in 1856, and served as its Vice President. The following year he served as mayor of St. Augustine.

His book, *The History and Antiquities of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, Founded A.D. 1565* was published in 1858. He also published the *History of Florida from its discovery by Ponce de Leon, in 1512, to the close of the Florida war, in 1842*, in four editions, first published in 1871, with the 1904 third edition designed for and used as a textbook in the Florida school system.

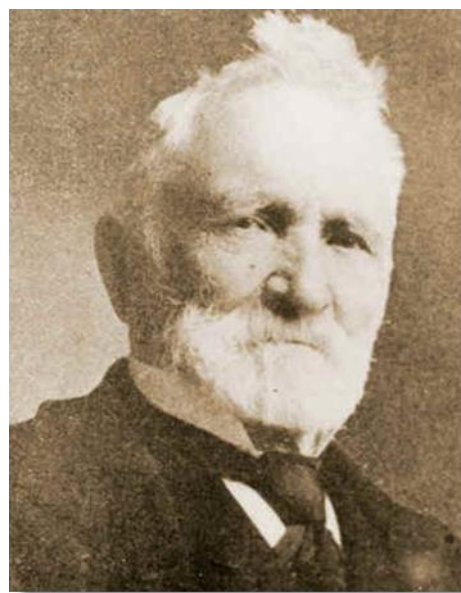


Figure 2

George Rainsford Fairbanks

Fairbanks became a great friend of David Yulee and his father, Moses Levy, and tended to their legal matters. At that time, the Yulee and Levy families were some of the most important landowners in Florida. Fairbanks himself acquired significant land holdings in Nassau, Duval, Clay, Putnam, St. Johns, Volusia, Lake, Marion, Brevard, and Alachua Counties. He was on the board of Yulee's Florida Railroad and a major shareholder. He continued to practice law in St. Augustine until 1859, when he moved to Sewanee, Tennessee, where he became a co-founder and treasurer of the University of the South.

During the Civil War, Fairbanks was commissioned a major under General Braxton Bragg, and served most of his time in Atlanta in the quartermaster's department. During this time, he became a close associate of William Bryant, brother in law of Winston Stephens, and Fairbanks is mentioned several times in Bryant letters in the *Rose Cottage Chronicles*. After the war, Fairbanks returned to Sewanee to help re-build the University of the South which had been badly damaged. For the rest of his life, Fairbanks would spend a portion of the year in the cabin he built near the campus, the "Rebel's Rest", which still stands to this day.



Figure 3

Fairbanks' 1885 home in Fernandina, Florida, photo by Ebyabe

George R. Fairbank's legacy lives on today and his Fernandina home still stands on South Seventh Street. It is currently run as a Bed and Breakfast. The Confederate Army coat he wore as a Major hangs in the Amelia Island Museum of History (**Figure 4**). The Florida Historical Society he helped found exists actively to this day and several of his books are still used as source material in text books read by students across the state. He was truly a remarkable man, an attorney, state Senator, mayor, newspaper editor, soldier, author, and above all, a great historian.

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<http://www.drbronsontours.com/bronsonfairbanksgeorgerainsford.html>
https://openlibrary.org/author/OL1478413/George_R._Fairbanks.
 Arch Fredric Blakey, Ann Smith Lainhart, and Winston Bryant Stephens, Jr, *Rose Cottage Chronicles*, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, 1998.

In 1880, at the encouragement of David Yulee, he moved to Fernandina, Florida, to become the editor of *The Florida Mirror* newspaper. In 1885, he built a lavish home (**Figure 3**) there with a 15-foot tower and fireplaces in every room. This was also the first home in Fernandina to have an elevator.

Fairbanks managed much of his business from Fernandina and continued to write about history. The *History of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee* was published in 1905. The following year he died at the age of 86 in Sewanee.



Figure 4

Fairbanks' Confederate Army jacket and arms, photo by Stephan Leimberg.

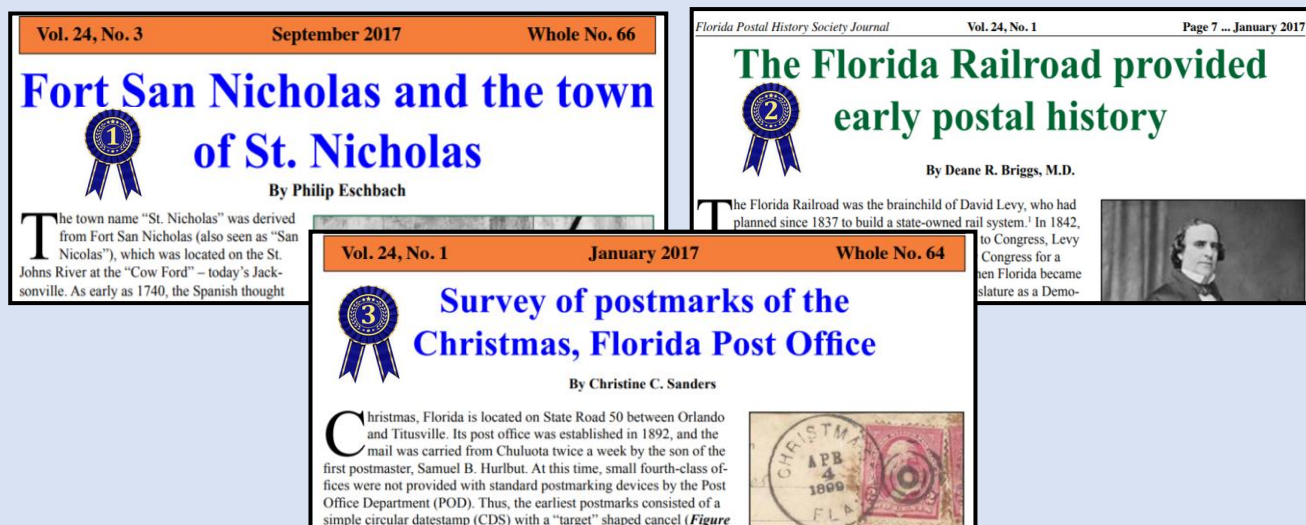
Journal Writers Competition Winners

At the Society's Annual Business Meeting (Sarasota), the first Journal Writers Competition winners were announced. Congratulations are extended to:

First Place: Phil Eschbach – *Fort San Nicholas and the Town of St. Nicholas*, September, 2017.

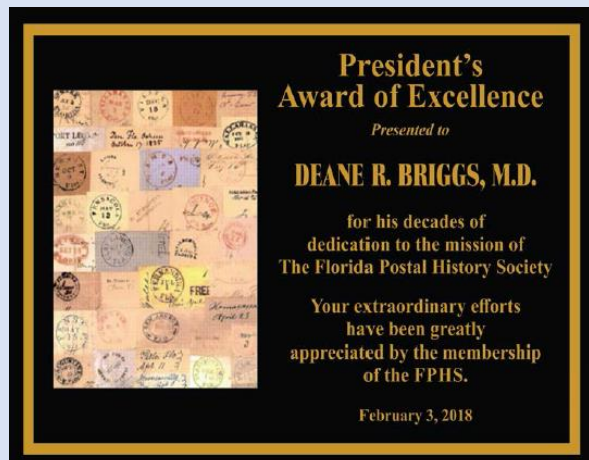
Second Place: Deane Briggs – *The Florida Railway Provided Early Postal History*, January, 2017.

Third Place: Christine Sanders – *Survey of Postmarks of the Christmas, Florida Post Office*, January, 2017



President's Award for Meritorious Service

Also at the annual membership meeting held at the Sarasota, Deane R. Briggs was presented with the first *Presidents Award of Excellence* by the Florida Postal History Society. Deane has served the Society relentlessly for almost three decades. His lifetime of service is gratefully acknowledged and applauded by every member of the Society past, present and future. We would like to also acknowledge the anonymous benefactor who underwrote the cost of the plaque.



Deane Briggs receiving his award from Society President Francis Ferguson.

World War I Camp Johnston Training - Postcards Tell the Story -

By Steve Swain

At the outset of World War I, the US Army numbered only 213,557 officers and men, both Regulars and National Guard in federal service. It was a formidable task to quickly expand and train this army into an effective force eventually numbering 3,684,474. In mid-March of 1917, planning began for building camps capable of housing up to one-million men. The Army had selected 32 camps (16 National Guard and 16 National Army) for training of the expanded force.

Located on the current site of the Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Florida's training camp was known as camp Joseph E. Johnston, a 600-building complex which trained thousands of soldiers during World War I. The camp was created in 1909 as a Florida National Guard base, then taken over and expanded by the Federal government in September 1917. The camp indeed served the Army as a training base for soldiers, but more specifically for the primary purpose of training officers.

The base was named after the Confederate General Joseph Eggleston Johnston (*Figure 1*) who was one of the senior Generals for the Confederate Army during the American Civil War. General Johnston served in the state of Florida and in 1860 reached the rank of Quartermaster General in the U.S. Army. This is significant to the identity of camp Joseph E. Johnston because the camp specialized in training Quartermasters in the Army.



Figure 1
General Joseph Johnston

Not having personal cameras, soldiers at Camp Johnston relied on postcards to provide families and friends back home a realistic view of life at a training camp. The cards contained images of activities associated with their training program, their work assignments, where they ate and slept and what occupied their free time.

Numerous postcards with photos were readily available, both singles and fold-out sets. Many of the photos were tinted to give the appearance of color photographs. In *Figure 2*, we see a fold-out "Souvenir Folder", with the stamp removed. *Figure 3* is a colorized postcard of several of the barracks.

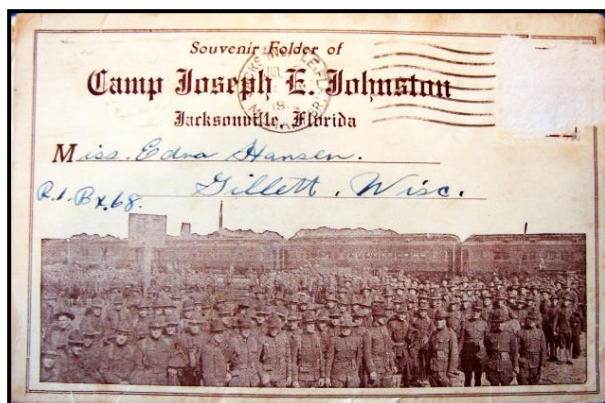


Figure 2
Souvenir card folder.

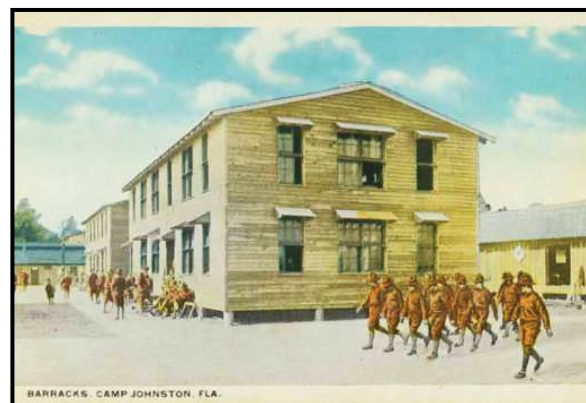


Figure 3
Postcard showing barracks.

An image of a receiving area for new recruits is displayed on the card in *Figure 4*. The camp post office is seen in the *Figure 5* card.



Figure 4
Receiving area.

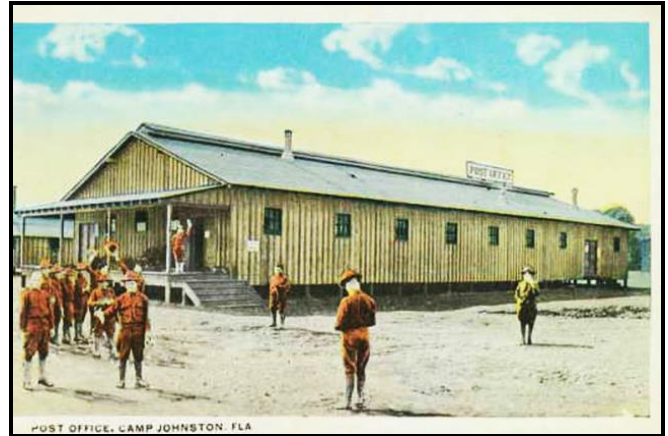


Figure 5
Camp post office.

One of the Officer's school buildings is portrayed in *Figure 6*. The *Figure 7* card has an image of the Grove "Y" Officer's club.

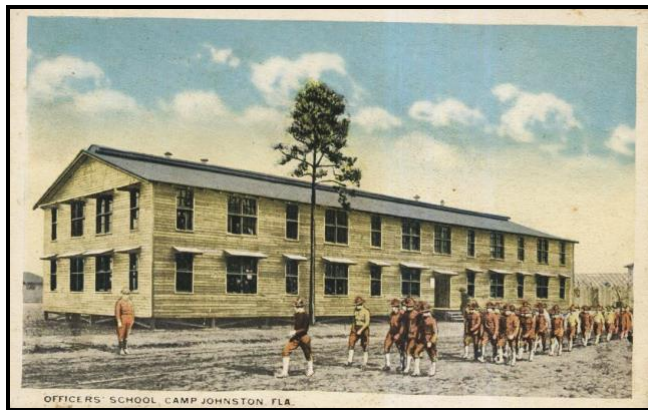


Figure 6
Officer's school building.



Figure 7
Grove "Y" Officer's club.

In stark contrast to the cards with the sometimes oddly colorized images, "real photo" postcards were available, such as seen in *Figure 8* with the front and back of an unmailed card showing company fitness exercises.

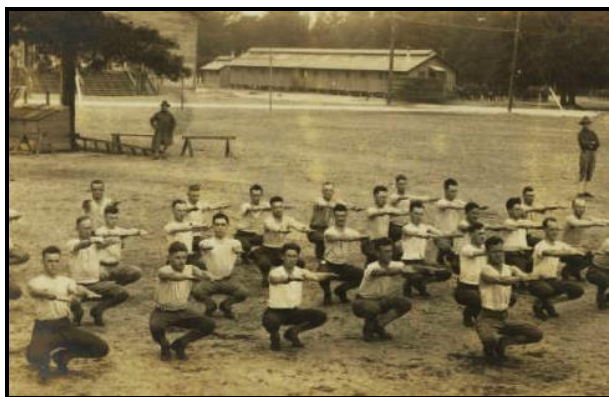


Figure 8 "Real Photo" postcard.

On most training camp cards, the caption would provide a description of the image as well as the name of the camp. However, there was never a guarantee that the place or activity depicted was from the camp indicated on the caption. For example, two cards in **Figure 9** use the same image depicting barracks accommodations, one at Camp Custer, Battle Creek Michigan, and the other at Camp Johnston, Florida. Quite possibly, the images used were not even representative of the barracks at either of the camps!

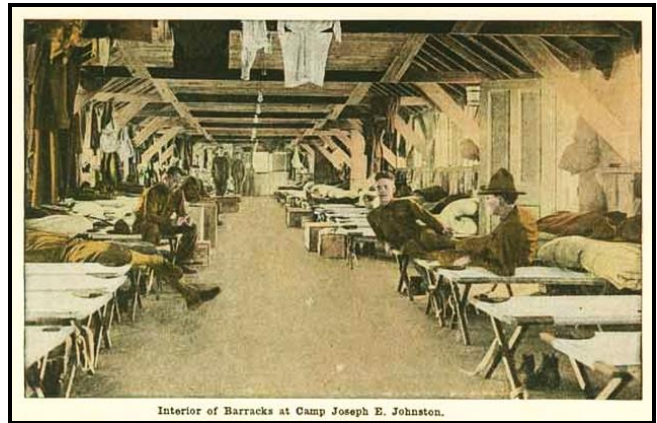
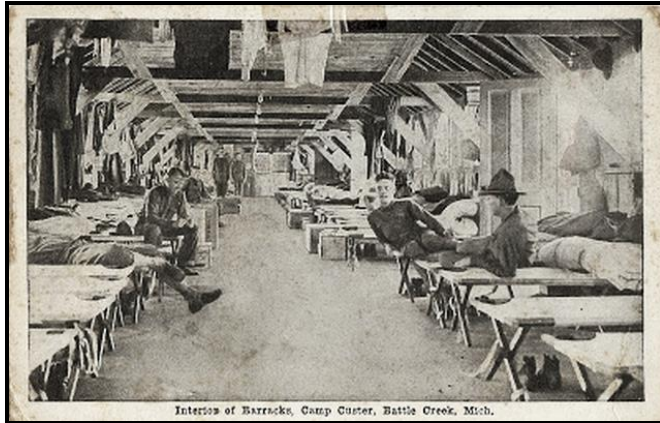


Figure 9
Same photo, different camps.

Although the writing area on postcards didn't allow for much detail, soldiers provided some interesting awareness about their daily camp life, when they may be shipped overseas, etc. A November, 1918 correspondence (**Figure 10**) to George Katz of Buffalo, NY highlights the daily drilling at Camp Johnston:

"I am doing the same thing you did. Here is the way we are drilling every day. My address is Co. #11, Road Regiment, Camp Joseph E. Johnston, Jacksonville, Fla. Write soon."

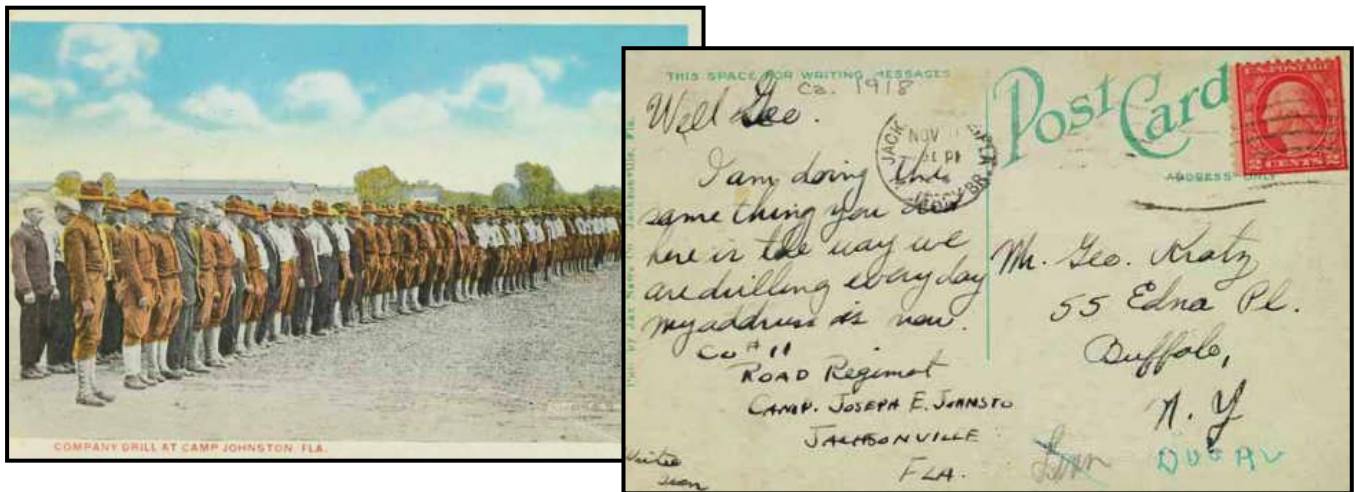


Figure 10
"Here is the way we are drilling every day."

Using a postcard with an image of soldiers standing at attention in a camp street (**Figure 11**), a December 7, 1918 message to a probable girlfriend, Miss Julia, provides an update on the soldier's next whereabouts:

I received your letter. Hope this leave you well. Will leave this camp one day this week for I don't know where to work. Don't have any idea when I will get to come home. Not anyways soon. Have a merry Xmas."

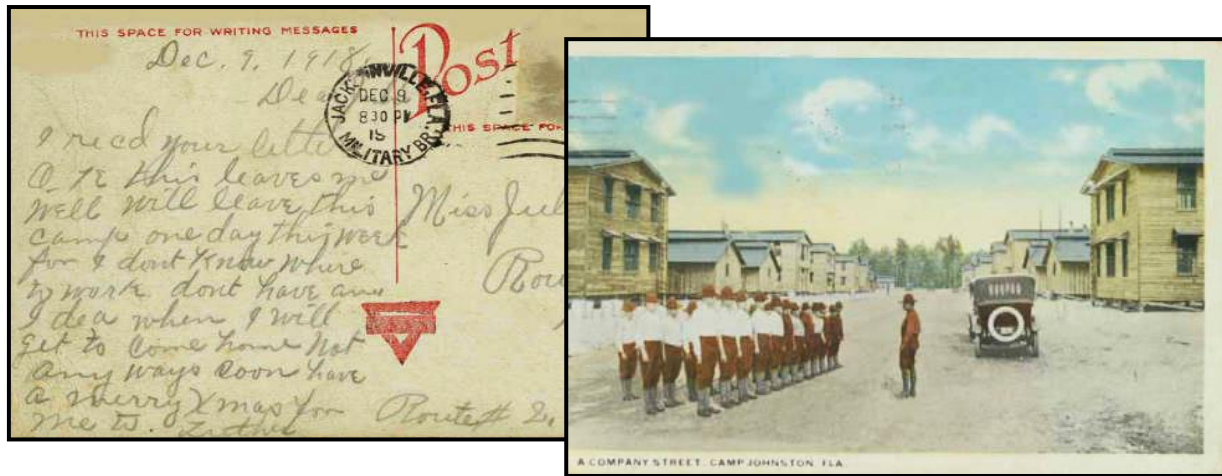


Figure 11

"Don't have any idea when I will get to come home."

A most interesting card is shown in **Figure 12** with an image of the "Detention Camps" at Camp Johnston. Unfortunately, the card was not mailed. If it had, it would have been intriguing to read what the soldier had to say about his detention!



Figure 12

Detention camps.

At most camps, recreation and entertainment was provided by the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) and YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association). Both organizations were significantly involved in supporting the troops, both during their training programs and on the war front.

Shown in **Figure 13** photo is the YMCA facility at Camp Johnston. **Figure 14**'s postcard presents a "Typical Night Crowd" at the camp's YMCA.

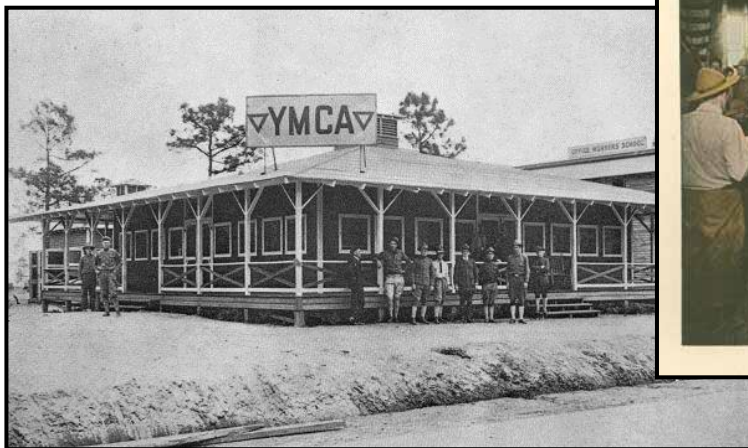


Figure 13

Camp Johnston YMCA facility



Figure 14

Typical night crowd.

Several camps also had YWCA Hostess Houses, staffed either by YWCA volunteers or by women employed by the YWCA. The houses were newly constructed, large, and durable buildings, some of which were designed by women architects. At these locations, women served as hostesses and offered soldiers a place to relax and have some temporary refuge from their daily training activities. The houses also served an important function in mediating public and private space to help control interactions between soldiers and their female friends and relatives.

Many of the postcards soldiers sent back home were available for purchase at the YWCA Hostess Houses. **Figure 15** shows an unmailed postcard with image of the exterior of the Camp Johnston Hostess House.

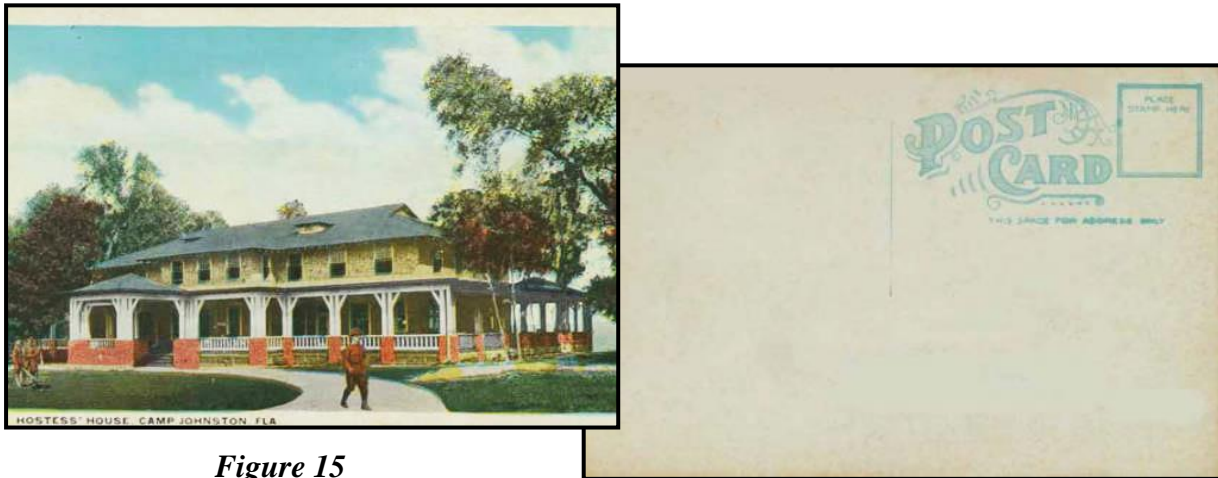


Figure 15
Camp Johnston YWCA Hostess House.

The relatively brief 16-week training camp life during World War I has been well documented with the thousands of postcards soldiers sent back home before being deployed overseas. Consider beginning a collection of this intriguing chapter in US postal history. The cards are readily available at quite reasonable prices. Numerous collection themes include cards associated with a camp from your home state, colorized vs. black & white images, same image but different camps, postmarks and cancellation varieties, and more.

References:

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<https://www.ebay.com/itm/POSTCARD-CAMP-JOHNSTON-FLORIDA-FL-WW1-Army-Officers-School-Barracks-1910s-/321842003455>.

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<http://www.usgwarchives.net/fl/duval/postcards/ppcs-duval.html>.

- From the Editor -

As announced in the March-April *FPHS Newsletter* by Society President Francis Ferguson, I recently accepted the role of Editor for our Journal. I look forward to working with all members to continue to provide an entertaining, attractive and valuable publication. As Editor, one of my responsibilities is to collaborate with you, if you wish, on article research, content, images, etc. Please contact me at swain.steve9@gmail.com with ideas for articles or to send me completed manuscripts. Thank you.

Steve Swain

FPHS Meets at Sarasota National Stamp Show

The Society's annual business meeting was held February 3rd at the Sarasota National Stamp Show and Exhibition. Successful discussions were held – and decisions made - on various topics And, as reported in a prior section of this issue, awards were presented for the Journal Writers Competition and the President's Award for Meritorious Service. Presented here are photographs from the annual meeting.



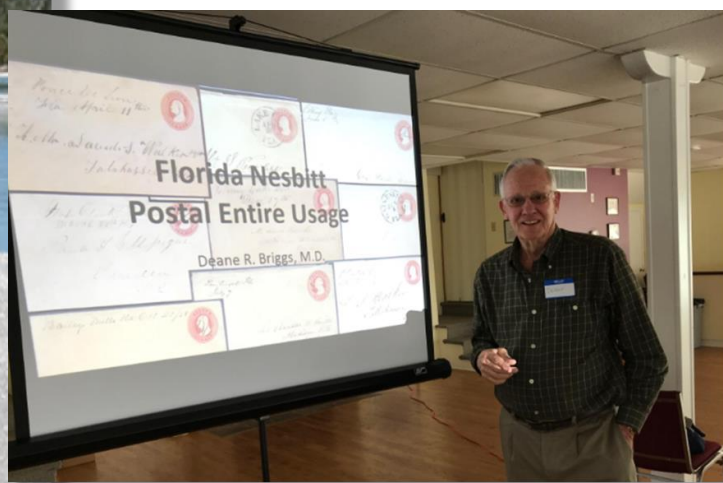
Members react to some philatelic humor!



Vernon Morris, Francis Ferguson and Dan Maddalino.



Tom Lera and Deane Briggs after a day of philatelic activity.



Deane Briggs presents Florida Nesbitt Postal Entire Usage.

President's Drivel – Spring 2018

By Francis Ferguson

As I write this in early April, Spring has been on full display in Central Florida. This is the most pleasant time of year in Central Florida – regrettably allergy season is here also!

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. Please keep in mind the constant need for material to publish.

- (1) The dues renewal process for 2018 has been completed with a loss of 4 members from 2017. Our membership roster stands at 104.
- (2) I would like to extend a hearty thank you to these individuals for making a monetary donation in 2018 over and above the dues amount; John Beine, Dawn Hammon, Todd Hause, Liz Hisey, Bill Johnston, Howard King, Jack Malarkey, Vernon Morris, Mitchel Sapp, Steve Swain, Central Florida Stamp Club, and Florida Stamp Dealers Association.
- (3) One of our members, Juan Riera from Miami – has made a couple of donations of FPHS material to the Library of Florida International University. Efforts like this are how we educate folks as to who we are. Thank you – Juan for making this happen.
- (4) The MEMBERS ONLY section of the website continues to add items as they come available. This is where you will find a current membership roster for 2018. The updated membership roster has been posted as of 04.02.18. The password to the MEMBERS ONLY section can be obtained by contacting Deane or myself – write it down for future reference.
- (5) Work on the updated Florida Postal History book has reached the 98% stage and is expected to be turned over to the publisher in the next 30-45 days. Nearly five years of work is coming to an end. This book, in full color, is a fabulous collection of information that will be required in everyone's reference library.

- (6) The membership meeting that was held at SNSE in February was very well attended. Much was accomplished in a short period of time.
- (7) Make sure to place on your calendar FLOREX 2018 which will be held November 30, December 1 & 2 at the Central Florida Fairgrounds. The FPHS membership meeting will be held on Saturday December 1, starting at noon. Come to the show and experience the largest WSP event in the southeast. The most current information can always be found online at www.FLOREXStampShow.com.
- (8) We have received a request to see if anyone can provide postal history of Duck Key. Should you be able to help, please contact Pete Martin at pmartin2525@yahoo.com. Post cards showing work on the Flagler Railroad or any other related material would help. Pete Martin has offered to make this article available to the FPHS for publication after it appears in *La Posta*.

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

[E-mail: ferg@FloridaStampShows.com or cell: 407.493.0956]

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.

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 and via their websites.**

TONY L. CRUMBLY
P.O. Box 681447
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(704) 395-1191
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www.covercrazy2.com

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San Francisco, CA 94108
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HENRY HIGGINS
302 S. Irish Street
P.O. Box 1553
Greenville, TN 37744
(423) 636-8361

A special "Thank You" is extended to the following members who made donations to the Society:

John Beirne
Dawn Hamman
Todd Hause
Liz Hisey
Bill Johnston
Howard King
Jack Malarkey
Vernon Morris
Mitchell Sapp
Steve Swain
Central Florida Stamp Club
Florida Stamp Dealers Association

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS - 2018

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.

Hector Arvelo
Lawrence Baird
Larry Beaton
John Beirne
Ronald Benice
Deane Briggs, MD
Paul Broome
Dr. John Buckner
Central Florida Stamp Club
Joseph Confoy
Dr. Charles Covell, Jr.
Tony Crumbly
Gustav Dueben III
Phil Eschbach
Francis Ferguson
Phil Fettig
Douglas Files, MD
Robert Fisher
Florida Stamp Dealers Association
Donald Franchi
Ronald Gotcher
Mary Haffenreffer
Alexander Hall
Dawn Hamman
Jack Harwood
Todd Hause
Robert Hausin
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Samuel Smith
Stephen Strobel
Steve Swain
Thomas Tomlinson
Univ. of Texas, Dallas
John Walker
James West
Richard Witt

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