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Natural Bridge, Florida Post Offices

By Thomas M. Lera

ECONFINA (NATURAL BRIDGE), FLORIDA POST OFFICE
(05/29/1855 – 03/29/1867; 06/07/1871 - 07/15/1919)

William Gainer, a surveyor and mathematician, came to the Econfina area in 1824 or 1825 and established his homestead on a large ranch on the west side of Econfina Creek. The Gainer homestead reportedly served as a church, school, and the area “post office” until 1855 when the U.S. post office was established (*Figure 1*).



The village of Econfina was located in Washington County, north of St. Andrews near a creek of the same name. The name derives from the Creek Indian “ekana” (earth) and “feno” (bridge) or in other words, “Natural Bridge”.

Gainer family members served as postmasters between 1884 and 1919 when the post office was discontinued, and mail was then handled by the post office at Bennett.¹

Econfina Natural Bridge was along Econfina Creek which was created from the discharge of several springs in the area. Because it was primarily a transportation route of the many logging operations who used the creek to float logs in early Florida history, it disappeared around 1830.

Figure 1. Portion of the 1876 Preliminary post route map of the state of Florida showing the location of Econfina before the postal routes were added. 1876 Florida Post Route Map²

Continued on page 3

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Figure 2 is a manuscript postmark from 1856.



Figure 2. July 18th / [18]56 manuscript postmark with pen cancelled stamp.

**POSTMASTERS
ECONFINA POST OFFICE
WASHINGTON AND BAY COUNTIES FLORIDA**

<u>Postmaster</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>
Daniel B. Coleman	05/29/1855
Henry Howard	05/14/1856
George Howard	08/27/1857
Discontinued 03/29/1867; Reestablished 06/07/1871	
Ann M. Vickery	06/07/1871
Benjamin B. Brown	11/27/1872
John W. Gaines	12/28/1874
Catherine Evans	11/16/1875
William B. Gaines	02/01/1877
William A. Gaines	03/21/1877
Mrs. Martha J. Porter	12/15/1879
James M. Matthews	01/09/1883
Joshua Mengo	12/31/1883
Mary J. Gainer	02/11/1884
Florida C. Gainer	08/20/1892
Sarah A. Gainer	11/23/1892
Post Office now located in Bay County	
Sarah A. Gainer	07/01 1893
Florida C. Gainer	04/24/1913
Robert L. Gainer	04/04/1919
Discontinued 07/15/1919 with mail to Bennett	

Figure 3 shows the post routes of mail delivery to and from Econfina. In 1897, a direct route connected St. Andrews Bay and Chipley. In 1911, the Atlanta and St. Andrews Bay Railroad dropped the mail off at the Fountain Station, which then delivered it six times a week to Econfina, 7 ½ miles away.

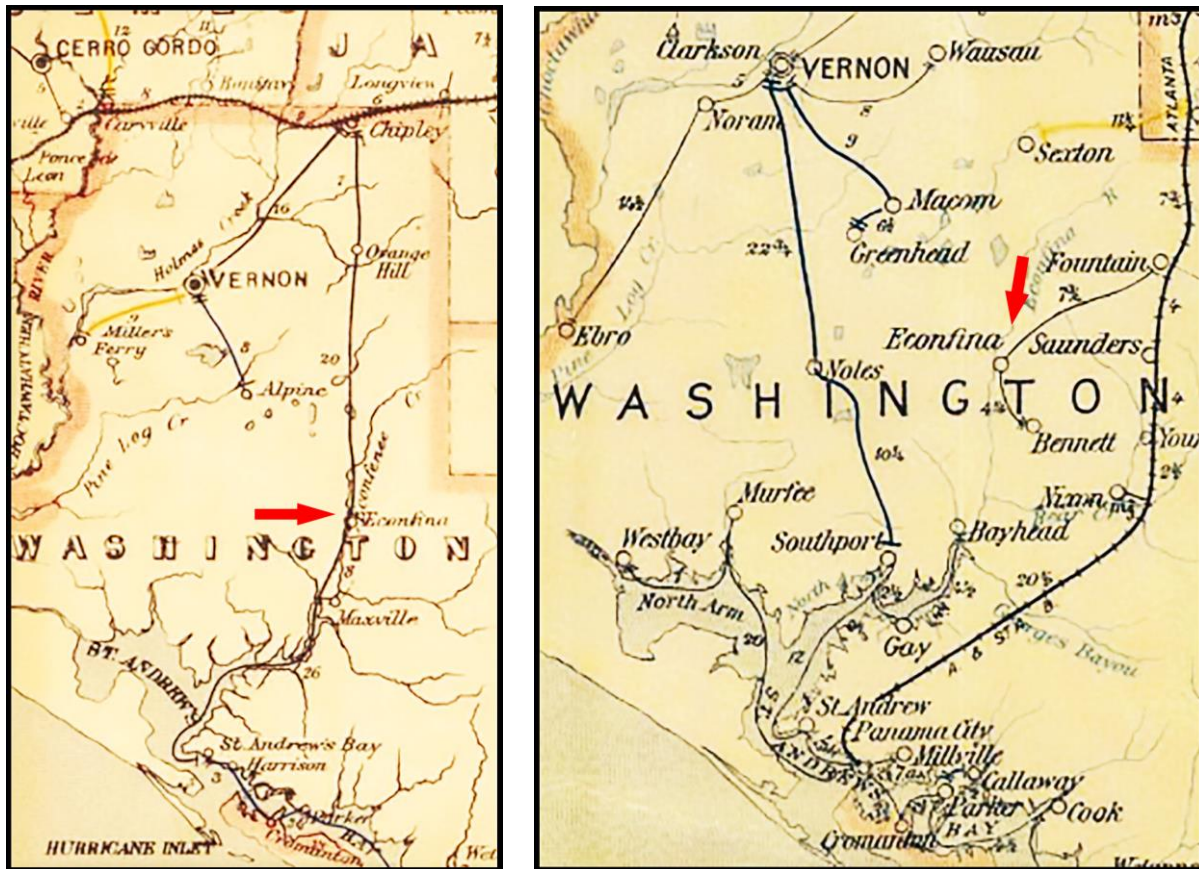


Figure 3. Left: Portion of the 1897 Florida Post Route Map. ³
Right: Portion of the 1911 Florida Post Route Map with the Atlanta and St. Andrews Bay Railroad (A&StAB) which carried the mail from Panama City. ⁴

NATURAL BRIDGE, FLORIDA POST OFFICE (11/11/1878 – 02/28/1908)

Natural Bridge, in the extreme north central part of Walton County near the Alabama state line, is named after a spring that flows into a pool, then under a road forming a natural bridge, then out to the creek. The spring and adjacent land is privately owned.

The Yellow River Railroad line was completed around 1892, and in April 1899, a train made up of both freight cars and a combination baggage-mail-express-passenger coach was in operation. Drawn by the small wood-burning locomotive, the Old No. 2, it carried mail to and from Florala, Alabama, where it was sorted and delivered to Natural Bridge twice a week (**Figure 4**).

The post office opened in late 1878 when James M. Williams was appointed postmaster. It was discontinued in 02/28/1908. The author has not seen any postmarks from this post office.

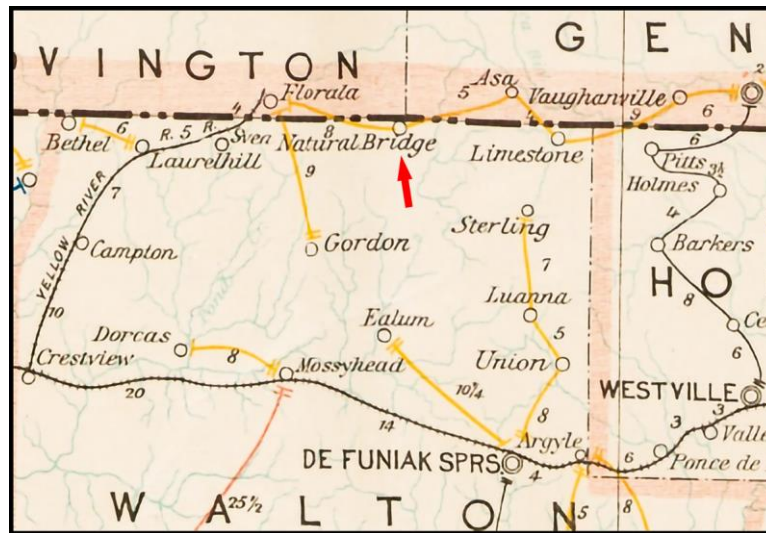


Figure 4. Portion of the 1897 Post route map of the state of Florida showing Natural Bridge post office.⁵

POSTMASTERS⁶
NATURAL BRIDGE POST OFFICE
WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>
Jas. M. Williams	Postmaster	11/11/1878
Jesse W. Tucker	Postmaster	12/06/1882
George W. Kierce	Postmaster	10/25/1887
Charles H. Kelley	Postmaster	02/26/1890
George W. Miller	Postmaster	10/03/1894
Discontinued 02/28/1908: mail to Florala, Alabama		

References:

- ¹ Briggs, D. R., Ferguson, F., and Lera, T. M., (2018). *Florida Postal History 1763-1861*. In publication.
- ² United States Post Office Department. 1876 Preliminary post route map of the state of Florida, with adjacent parts of South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, and the neighboring West India Islands; [Washington]. (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph298380/ (accessed April 23, 2018).
- ³ Von Haake, A., and United States. Post Office Dept. "1897 Post route map of the state of Florida showing post offices with intermediate distances and mail routes in operation on the 1st of December 1897." *Norman B. Leventhal Map Center*, <https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:cj82kk817> (accessed April 23, 2018).
- ⁴ Von Haake, A., and United States. Post Office Dept. "1911 Post route map of the state of Florida showing post offices with the intermediate distances on mail routes in operation on the 1st of December 1911." Washington. *Digital Commonwealth*, <https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/cj82km51q> (accessed May 04, 2018).
- ⁵ Von Haake, A., and United States. Post Office Dept. "1897 Post route map of the state of Florida showing post offices with the intermediate distances and mail routes in operation."
- ⁶ Prior to 1971, the primary sources of information are National Archives Microfilm Publication M1131, *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, October 1789 – 1832*, M841, *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832 – September 30, 1971*, and Record Group 28: *Records of the Post Office Department, 1773 – 1971*. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/17027522>.

Woodstock, Florida Cover

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



Figure 1. WOODSTOCK / FLA. SEP 14 postmark with 3c. banknote stamp on cover to Baltimore P.O. Maryland "Advertise".

The cover in *Figure 1* is a small envelope postmarked WOODSTOCK / FLA. SEP 14 with a 3-cent banknote stamp addressed to Tom Lawrence to be advertised by the Baltimore P.O. This is an unusual notation to be added to the addressee.

The cover was received at Baltimore on September 19 and postmarked BALTIMORE MD. SEP 21 with a small ADVERTISED DUE handstamp (*Figure 2*). The addressee apparently did not pick up the letter for over 30 days as there is a NOT FOUND marking and BALTIMORE / MD. OCT 25 handstamp on the reverse). This is a lot of handstamp markings on a small cover.

The Woodstock post office was opened on December 31, 1874, in Nassau County near the



Figure 2. Cover back with NOT FOUND handstamp.

Georgia border and was operational until April 12, 1881, when mail was handled by the Kings Ferry post office. There had been a Woodstock Mills post office established on May 15, 1844, at the site of a lumber saw mill and 600-acre plantation run by the Woodstock Mills postmaster Edwin R. Alberti. The name was changed to Kings Ferry on February 7, 1856, and continued until October 15, 1926, when it became Hilliard, which is operational to date. It is likely that the town of Woodstock was located near the old Woodstock Mills lumber yard and a post office was established for a short seven-year period of time. This is the only cover I have seen from the town of Woodstock.

Territorial and statehood covers from Woodstock Mills are not common. The serrated rim postmark is a classic Florida stampless marking, also known with adhesive use.

The following Woodstock Mills pages from our new society book, Florida Postal History 1763-1861, show what each town listing will be like. Publication will be coming shortly. Be sure to order one as the number of copies will be limited.

WOODSTOCK MILLS

05.15.1844 – 02.08.1856



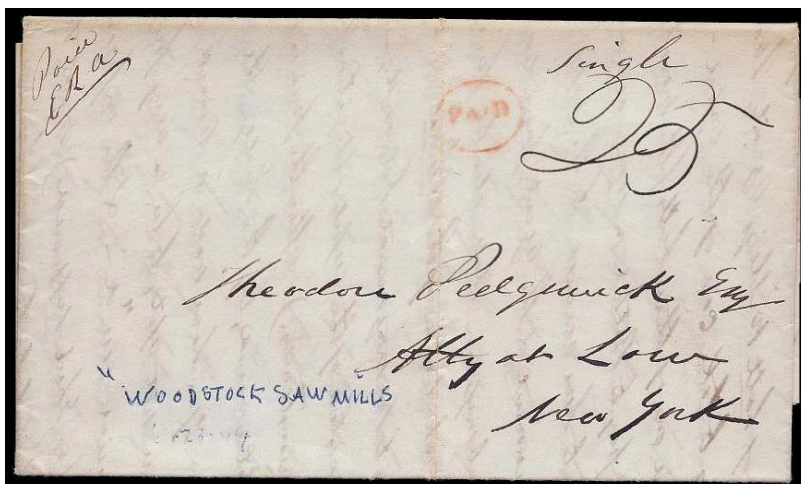
Type I (territorial ECU).

Woodstock Mills was located in northern Nassau County on the southern shore of the St. Mary's River. It was the site of a saw mill run by postmaster Alberti and one cover is datelined "Woodstock Steam Saw Mill, near St. Mary's Geo". Most of the known postal history is from Alberti correspondence, many using his free franking privilege. The post office name was changed to King's Ferry a few miles to the southwest in 1856 although both sites are located on later period maps.

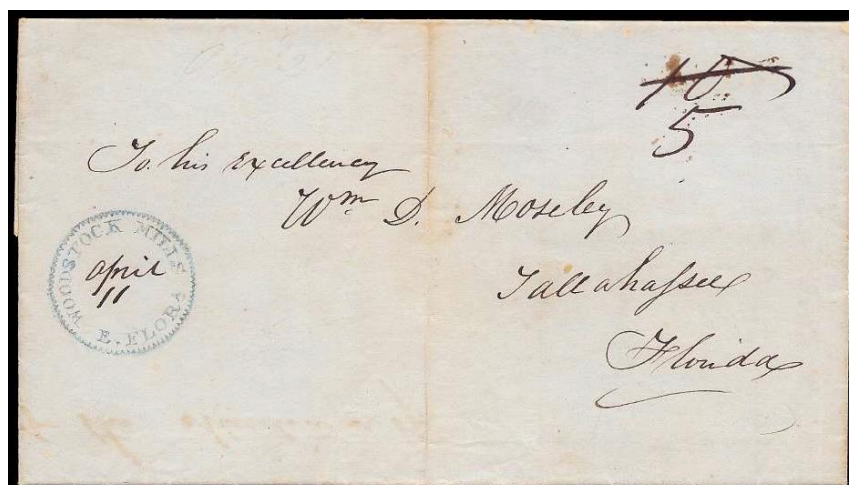
Postmaster	Postmaster Appointment	Reporting Data	Postmaster Compensation	Actual Post Office Receipts
Edwin R. Alberti	05.15.1844	09.10.1844 to 06.30.1845	\$42.28	\$84.72
		yr. end 06.30.1847	\$53.06	\$85.90
		yr. end 06.30.1849	\$60.21	\$81.76
		yr. end 06.30.1851	\$58.24	\$79.40
		yr. end 06.30.1853	\$39.88	\$23.76
		yr. end 06.30.1855	\$58.98	\$14.19
P.O. Discontinued	02.08.1856	as name change to King's Ferry		

Territorial Usage						
I	WOODSTOCK MILLS / E. FLORA	10.12.1844 / 02.08.1845	blue		ms. rates	3 - 5
a	no postmark, (postmaster) E.R.A. Paid	06.10.1844	red		PAID oval	1 known

Statehood Usage						
I	WOODSTOCK MILLS / E. FLORA	03.29.1845 / 1853	blue		ms. rates	10 - 20
b		12.15.1846 / 05.03.1852	blue		PAID	5 - 10
I	WOODSTOCK MILLS/E.FLORA	02.28.1853	blue		#11	1 known



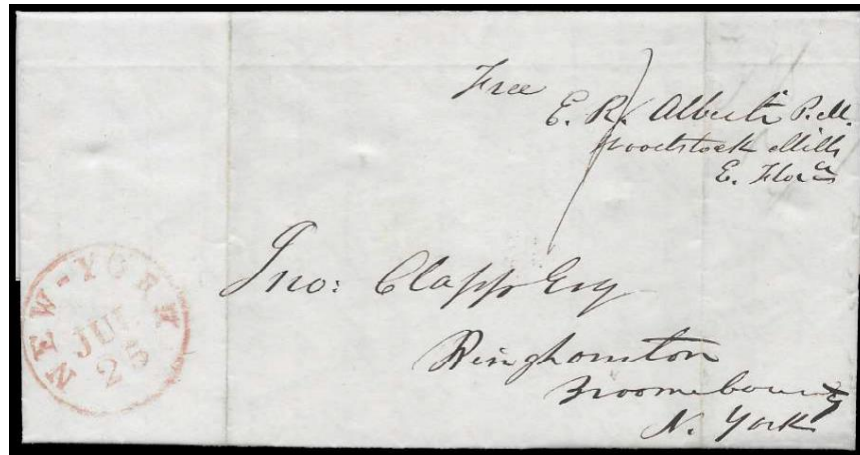
Type I a (initialed Paid ERA by the postmaster).



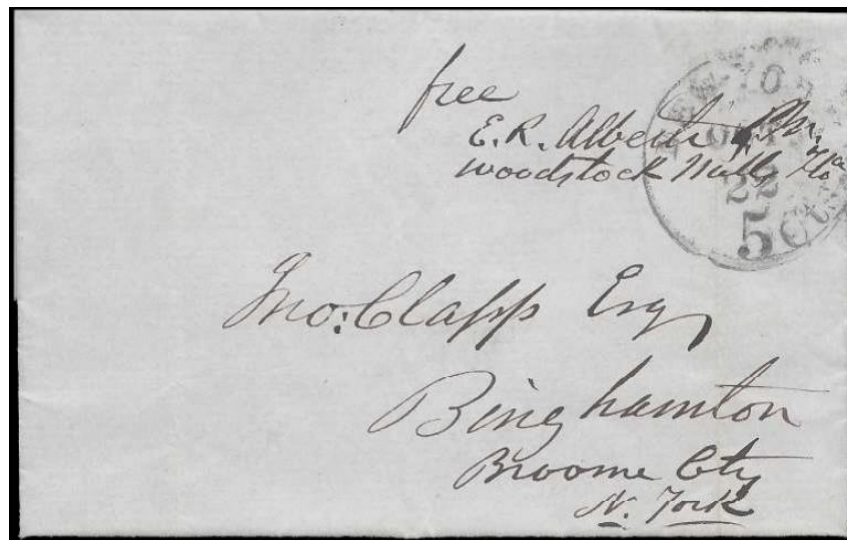
Type I (statehood).



Type I b.



Postmaster Alberti free frank used in New York.



Postmaster Alberti free frank used in New York with integral 5cts in postmark.



Type I postmark with pen cancelled margin copy of #11.

Giant Magnolia on a Blue Velvet Cloth

By Juan L. Riera

The 1890 oil-on-canvas painting *Giant Magnolia on a Blue Velvet Cloth* (**Figure 1**, *Courtesy of the National Gallery of Art*) is one of the better known paintings by Martin Johnson Heade (**Figure 2**), who moved to Florida to become the first full-time professional artist to reside in Florida. His fame and fortune were made in Florida thanks to the interest of Henry M. Flagler.



Figure 1. *Giant Magnolia on a Blue Velvet Cloth.*

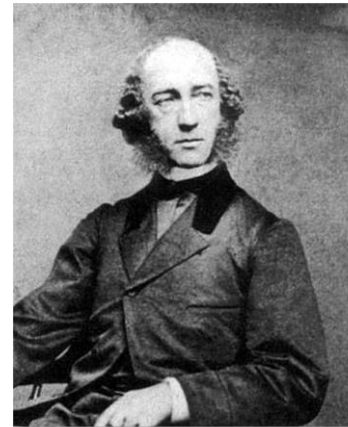


Figure 2. *Martin Johnson Heade.*

Shortly after initiating his business interests in St. Augustine, Henry Flagler became the first significant patron of Martin Johnson Heade, purchasing paintings of Florida nature scenes for personal pleasure, for his hotels, and for the FEC railway offices. Eventually, Heade became a fixture in studio #7 of the Ponce De Leon Hotel Art Colony. Heade's paintings of Florida nature scenes became so popular that winter tourists almost lined up to buy one as a souvenir to show family and friends up north who were suffering cold and snow.

Among Heade's recognitions was the 37-cent stamp (Scott 3872) issued on August 12, 2004, in Sacramento, California, based on *Giant Magnolia on a Blue Velvet Cloth* (**Figure 3**). The art director and designer for the USPS on this project was Derry Noyes. *Giant Magnolias* also made the cover of the 2004 commemorative stamp yearbook published by the USPS (**Figure 4**).

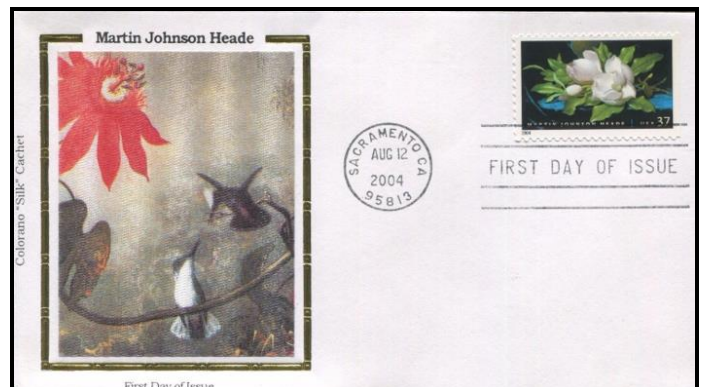
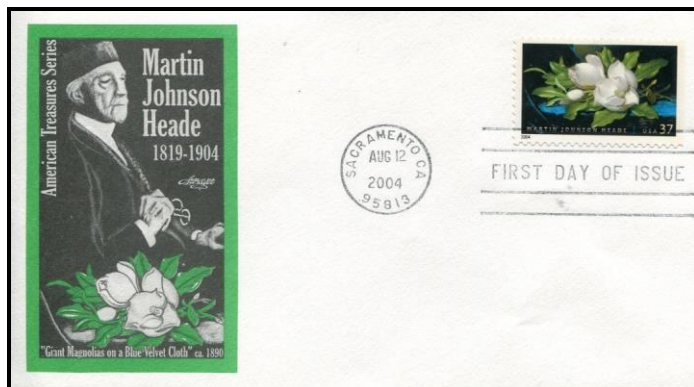


Figure 3. *First Day of Issue covers with Heade's Giant Magnolia stamp.*

Martin Johnson Heade was born August 11th, 1819, in Lumberville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where his family ran the general store and post office. Artistically, his training left a lot to be desired, being limited sometimes under the tutelage of folk artist Edward Hicks. For many years he painted portraits which led to much travel throughout the Midwest and some throughout the south where he felt socially uncomfortable prior to the Civil War. Portraiture painting also led to travels in Europe.

Heade took advantage of three opportunities to travel to the tropics which he loved - Brazil for eight months, Colombia, and Panama. On these trips he began painting orchids and hummingbirds and changed his entire artistic focus to nature scenes rather than portraiture. This in turn led to Heade being classified as a member of the Hudson River School, a misclassification as far as I can tell from my readings. During his career, Heade seems to have “adopted” Frederic E. Church as his mentor, even though he was six years younger than Heade. They had a firm and long standing historical association, including both having 10th street studios adjacent to each other in New York City, as well as extensive correspondence as a legacy.

Heade initially came to Florida on vacation and explored extensively, more so than Flagler did initially, deciding to settle in St. Augustine. He bought a house on the “shell road” north of the city gate from General Frederick T. Dent, brother-in-law of Ulysses S. Grant. Once the road was paved and renamed formally, he was at 105 San Marco Avenue. For those of you familiar with St. Augustine, the house stood until the 1950s on what is now the Prince of Peace Church on the grounds of Mission Nombre de Dios.

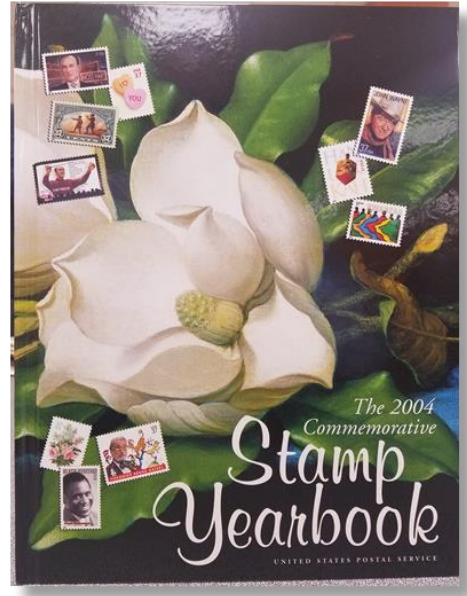


Figure 4. 2004 Commemorative Stamp Yearbook highlighting Head's Giant Magnolia.



Figure 5. Heade's Cherokee Roses.

Having moved to St. Augustine the house became a home when on October 9th, 1883, Heade (age 64) married Elizabeth Smith of Southampton, Long Island. She was 40. Apparently, the love of younger women was something Heade and Flagler had in common. Heade eventually focused on flowers that sold very well to tourists, specifically roses, such as Cherokee roses (**Figure 5**) that commonly grew wild at the time.

During this period, Heade would have met and known Laura Woodward who visited St. Augustine several times and moved there in 1893. She focused her paintings on Royal Poinciana trees and became associated with Henry Flagler moving to Palm Beach in 1894. She became influential in Florida painting as well. Heade would have also known or been aware of William Henry Jackson who was hired by Flagler to photograph his hotels before they opened. Jackson photographed so extensively during this period that he had an inventory used for Florida postcards for years to come. Also during this period there was talk of sending Heade to the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago as a representative of Florida in the state pavilion.

Part of what caused Heade to fall in love with Florida was his love of the outdoors - specifically of hunting and fishing. As such, he often wrote in *Forest and Stream* and, as was customary for contributors, he selected a pseudonym - "Didymus". He wrote extensively criticizing politicians for not passing laws to protect fish, birds, and manatees. Heade also criticized the wholesale destruction of nature and women's fashion that caused that destruction. It seems that he had a bit of guilt on his mind having hunted for feathers for his wife's fashion needs.

Heade passed on September 4th, 1904, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York. Elizabeth Smith Heade kept studio #7 until at least 1908 with an annual reception as she sold her inventory of Heade paintings. She also kept the cottage until 1912 for winter use.

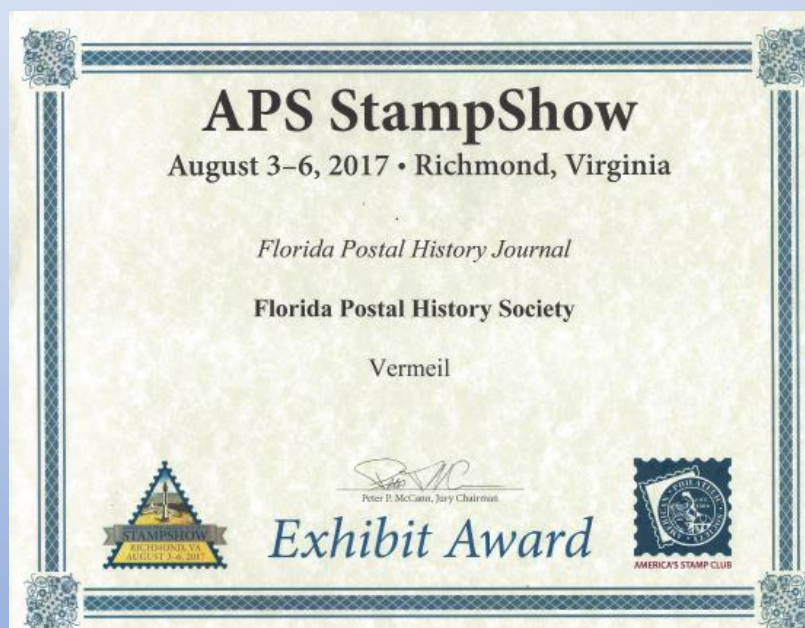
From my research, I found it interesting that apparently so many tourists bought Heade's work never realizing that he had become "popular". There are a large number of his works that are found in garage sales, flea markets, and thrift stores for a few dollars and are then sold at auctions for hundreds of thousands of dollars. His works are also found in many of the finest museum collections and private collections. In one case, a relative of Henry Flagler's third wife, surname of Keenan, donated a Heade painting on behalf of another Keenan relative to a fine arts museum in North Carolina where the family was from. So, look around the garage and if in doubt let me know if you think you have a Heade painting. I'll give you a few dollars for it!

Literature Competition Award

The *Florida Postal History Journal* won a Vermeil award at the American Philatelic Society Stamp Show 2017 in Richmond, Virginia, August 3-6, 2017. Our society journal had not been in competition previously and the judge's comments were mostly complimentary.

Our prior editor, Everett L. Parker, was instrumental in changing the appearance of the journal and began the full-color publication which we all enjoy.

Members are strongly encouraged to submit articles for future publication to our new editor, Steve Swain.



Lipona and Its Postmaster, Achille Murat

By Phil Eschbach

Charles Louis Napoleon Achille Murat (*Figure 1*) was a fascinating character. He was the nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte, being the son of his sister, Caroline (*Figure 2*) and her husband Joachim Murat, appointed Marshal of France by Napoleon. They were named king and queen of Naples, after Napoleon conquered Italy during the First French Empire. Their son, Achille was then the Crown Prince.



Figure 1. Achille Murat, circa 1830.



Figure 2. Murat (in uniform) with mother and siblings.

But when Napoleon's empire collapsed in 1815, Achille, his mother and siblings fled to Austria. When Achille turned twenty-one in 1821, he emigrated to the United States. Arriving in New York, he applied for American citizenship and renounced all his titles. He embarked on a grand tour of the United States and was accepted in all the social circles. While in Washington DC, he befriended Richard Keith Call, Florida's territorial representative, who convinced him to come to Florida, which had recently been acquired by the United States from Spain.¹

In 1824, Murat first went to St. Augustine where he rented a house on St. George St. and later purchased a 2,800-acre plantation south of town on the Matanzas River which he named *Parthenope* after the area around Naples, his former principality. While living there, he became close friends with his neighbor and militia leader, General Joseph Hernandez (famous or infamous for capturing Chief Osceola under a flag of truce). He also befriended a visitor to St. Augustine, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Of Murat, Emerson wrote: "A new event is added to the quiet history of my life. I have connected myself by friendship to a man...with as ardent love of truth as that which animates me, with a mind that surpasses mine in the variety of its research, & sharpened & strengthened to an energy for action to which I have no pretension by advantages of birth & practical connection with mankind beyond almost all men in the world".²

While living at *Parthenope*, Murat had the eccentric habit of swimming nude in the river. He invented a submersible chair, in which, while sitting, would only sink as far as neck level, leaving his head above water, which was covered with a mosquito net.

Murat was obsessed with eating every conceivable critter he could find. He was fond of baked turkey buzzard, boiled owl, roasted crow, stewed alligator, lizards and rattlesnakes. He disliked bathing and changing his clothes and washed his feet only when his shoes wore out.³

In 1825, Murat bought property east of Tallahassee in Jefferson County, to where he would later move and build a plantation which he named *Lipona* (**Figure 3**), an anagram for Napoli, his former home in Italy. He was persuaded by the Marquis de Lafayette to purchase land there, which was near his own land grant of thirty-six square miles. In 1826, he married Catherine Daingerfield Willis Gray, a widow and grandniece of George Washington. There he joined the militia as a colonel under his friend Brigadier General Richard Keith Call.



Figure 3. Road leading to Lipona.

Murat was a regular on the social circle, which included the likes of the Bellamys, Baileys and Eppes. He traveled back to France at least two times, visiting relatives.

Murat established a post office at his plantation on May 8, 1828. This functioned until 1847 when he died, at only forty-six years old, and the post office was discontinued. Murat was the

postmaster until 1831, when his friend Octavius Gadsden (**Figure 4**) took over. Octavius was the younger brother of James Gadsden who was the ambassador to Mexico and responsible for the Gadsden Purchase. They owned property in Jefferson County next to Lipona.

In 1839, Murat went bankrupt and had to deed over his Lipona plantation property to his friend Octavius Gadsden in lieu of his debts. After Octavius gained the Lipona property, he continued as the postmaster there till Murat died. Octavius was also the administrator of Murat's estate. Nothing is left of the Lipona plantation house, nor is there an image of it available.

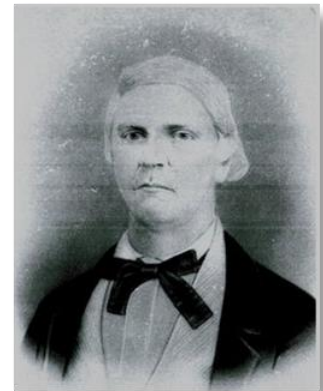


Figure 4. Octavius Gadsden.

After Murat died, his widow moved closer to Tallahassee with an annual stipend for life, a gift from Murat's cousin, Napoleon III. She lived at her new plantation, named Belle Vue,⁴ until she died there in 1867.

In 1830, postal route No. 2472 was established from Jacksonville to Tallahassee, a distance of 250 miles, which made a stop in Lipona on a bi-weekly basis. The contractor was William Henry Williams, who was the step-son of General Joseph Hernandez of Mosquito County, and the author's great-great-great uncle. This route went from Tallahassee through Lipona, Waukeenah, Dells, Spring Grove, Wanton's, Whitesville, to Jacksonville and back once in two weeks.

It was to leave Tallahassee every other Sunday at 3 am and arrive at Jacksonville the next Friday by 4 pm. Then it was to leave Jacksonville every other Monday at 3 am and arrive in Tallahassee the next Saturday by 6 pm. It was to be conveyed by horseback for \$950 a year. Receipts for 1830 were \$59.88. In 1838, route No. 2455 was increased to weekly service and let to Lewis Mattair at \$10 per mile.

There is scant postal history from the Lipona post office despite a relative large volume of business. Murat received \$31.51 in postmaster compensation for the year ending March 31, 1829, and while Gadsden was postmaster, he received \$43.60 in compensation for the year ending March 31, 1835.

One of the most spectacular territorial Florida postmarks is the type III rimless circle postmark with the "JEF." County notation ⁵ (**Figure 5**). There are three recorded examples of this classic marking while Murat was postmaster, dating from November 4, 1829 to June 27, 1830.



Figure 5. Type III LIPONA JEF. FLORIDA rimless circle postmark.

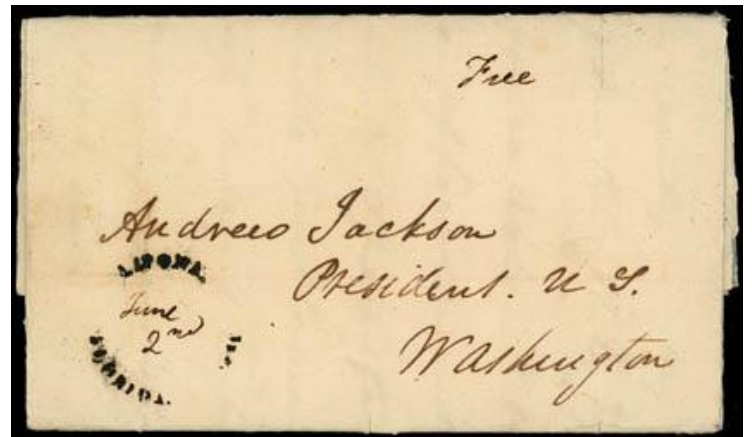


Figure 6. Lipona postmark. To Andrew Jackson.

Editor's Note:

At the April 27-30, 2017, Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic Auctions Westpex sale, a Lipona, Jeff., Florida rimless circular datestamp cover was offered (**Figure 6**). The cover has a manuscript "June 2nd" date and matching "Free" rating. The mailing was an 1830 folded letter from Col. James Gadsden to Andrew Jackson, President U.S., Washington. (<https://stampauctionnetwork.com/sr/sr7441.cfm>)

Of special note is that James Gadsden's great grandson is a cousin of the author, Phil Eschbach. Living in Monticello, FL, the great grandson has many Gadsden memorabilia that have come down through his family. Gadsden moved near to Monticello when he retired.

There were two different manuscript postmarks which were used prior to the use of the rimless circle postmark. Several archival examples of the type I "Lipona, Jef. Florida" postmark are recorded from November 24, 1828 to November 4, 1829. Two examples of the type II "Lipona Florida" manuscript postmark are known with a latest known use of October 24, 1835 (**Figure 7**). Interestingly, there are no known postal history examples after that usage despite the post office being open until December 16, 1847 and with \$35.45 in postal revenue for the year ending June 30, 1843. ^{6,7}

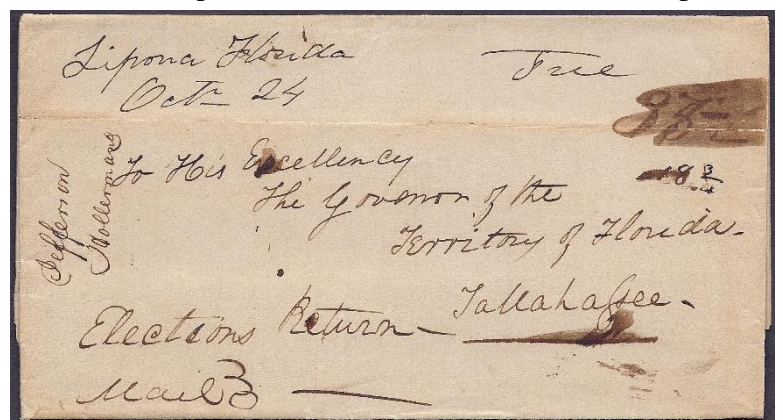


Figure 7. Type II Lipona Florida manuscript postmark.

References:

- ¹ Hanna, A.J. *A Prince in Their Midst*. Norman. University of Oklahoma Press. 1946, page 59.
- ² Field, Peter S. *Ralph Waldo Emerson*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003, page 74.

³ Burnett, Gene M. *Florida's Past: People and Events That Shaped the State*. Sarasota: Pineapple Press, 1996, page 103.

⁴ Byrd, S.M. *The American Illustrated Methodist Magazine, Volume 4, 1901, page 24.*

⁵ Briggs, Deane R., *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861*, North Miami, David G. Phillips Publishing Co., 1999.

⁶ Carter, Clarence E. *The Territorial Papers of the United States, Volume XXIV, The Territory of Florida, 1828-1834*. National Archives, Washington, 1959.

⁷ Stanaback, Richard J., "Postal Operations in Territorial Florida, 1821-1845," *Florida Historical Quarterly*, October 1973, Vol. LII, No. 2.

San Carlos Institute – Birthplace of Jose Marti's Cuban Revolutionary Party

By Juan L. Riera

In the last few years, I have had the honor to be a volunteer, donor, employee, and board member for the San Carlos Institute in Key West (**Figure 1**). The Institute is a cultural and educational institution founded in 1871 by Cuban cigar workers. It functioned as Florida's first biracial and bilingual school for a century, from 1871 to 1970.



Figure 1. San Carlos Institute

During the past 145 years or so, the San Carlos Institute has had four buildings. The first building was made of wood and was located near the port and did not last long because of weather-storms and such. The second building was located on Ann Street, also made of wood. This building burned in the great fire of 1886 that burned the vast majority of structures on the island of Key West. Supposedly this fire was set by Spanish spies wanting to burn down the cigar factories so the cigar workers would not continue to pay for the war of independence. Because of the widespread destruction, sentiment turned against the Spanish remaining in Cuba.

The third building was built on Duval Street, using bricks so it would not burn. In this third building the famous Cuban exile Jose Marti would speak nine times and the Cuban Revolutionary Party would be founded.

José Martí (January 28, 1853 - May 19, 1895), was a poet, essayist, patriot and martyr. With many years of political activities and publications, he

became the symbol of Cuba's struggle for independence from Spain. His dedication to the goal of Cuban freedom made his name a synonym for liberty throughout Latin America. As a patriot, Martí organized and unified the movement for Cuban independence and died on the battlefield fighting for it. As a writer, he was distinguished for his personal prose and deceptively simple, sincere verse on themes of a free and united America.

In 1892, Martí was elected *delegado* ("delegate"; he refused to be called president) of the Partido Revolucionario Cubano ("Cuban Revolutionary Party") that he had helped to form. Making New York City the center of operations, he began to draw up plans for an invasion of Cuba. He left New York for Santo Domingo on January 31, 1895, accompanied by the Cuban revolutionary leader Máximo Gómez and other compatriots.

They arrived in Cuba to begin the invasion on April 11. Martí's death a month later in battle on the plains of Dos Ríos, Oriente province, came only seven years before his lifelong goal of Cuban independence was achieved.

In addition to postage stamps commemorating Martí issued by Cuba, the patriot has been richly celebrated on numerous stamps worldwide, both definitive and commemorative issues, seen below: Argentina 1995, China 1953, Colombia 1955, Costa Rica 1995, El Salvador 1953, Spain 1995, Hungary 1973, India 1997, Mexico 1955, Nicaragua 1983, Paraguay 1995, Dominican Republic 1954, 1995, 2003.



Note that the primary design for all of these issues is what is referred to as a “head shot” of Martí. The Cuban issues commemorating Martí certainly include the same type of design. But the Cuban stamps, understandably, also present more extensive, elaborate vignettes and designs showcasing the history of Martí's life, passions, and struggles for independence. As such, there are more philatelically intriguing collecting themes associated with the Cuban stamps, including family, publications, comrades, speeches, his death and burial, and stamps on stamps. Examples of such issues are shown below.



Moreover, Martí-related first day of issue covers, souvenir cards, postal cards, and air mail covers franked with Martí issues provide ample opportunities for additional postal history collections. (Next page.)



In June of 1986, a new board of directors for the San Carlos Institute was formed, the site was closed, and totally renovated. It reopened as a museum in 1992. The San Carlos remains active for events such as the yearly Florida Songwriters Seminar, The Key West Literary Seminar, Key West Community College graduations, and concerts by such luminaries as Jimmy Buffett. While still financially strapped, it remains open as a cultural and educational institution as it looks forward to its 150th anniversary.

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.

President's Drivel – Fall 2018

By Francis Ferguson

As I write this in early August, the temperature setting in Central Florida is at broil. The cooler temperatures of fall seem far into the future!

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 2019 will start in the first part of November with a mailing to the membership. Please respond at your earliest convenience to reduce the time it takes to complete this often-arduous process.
- (2) The election cycle for the next 2-year terms kicks off this fall. We have candidates for President, Treasurer and At-Large. We need folks for Secretary and another At-Large position. So far, we have an uncontested election. Please consider serving the Society – it really helps everyone.
- (3) One of our members, Juan Riera from Miami, has made another donation (in April) 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 the current membership roster for 2018. The updated membership roster has been posted as of 07.01.18. 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 been in the hands of the publisher since the middle of May and we expect ordering information very shortly – in time for FLOREX.

- (6) Make sure to place on your calendar – FLOREX 2018. The show has moved to a new location because of unresolvable issues with the previous venue. The dates remain the same, November 30, December 1 & 2, at the **Osceola Heritage Park, The Events Center, Hall B**. The new location is much more modern and welcoming. 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. FLOREX is always looking for exhibits – especially of Florida centric material. All the exhibiting information can be found on the website, or by calling the Exhibit Chair Robert Fisher at 407.855.7202. The deadline is 10.01.18 for applications.
- (7) I announced in the July/August Newsletter that I am stepping back from the operations of the Society when my term is completed at the Sarasota National Show in early February. The show dates are February 1, 2 & 3, 2019. The final newsletter that I will publish will be the March/April 2019 issue. If anyone is interested in continuing this bi-monthly effort to keep in touch with the membership, please contact myself or Deane. While I am stepping back from most things, I will continue to handle the website and do other minor things behind the scene. I am not going to disappear totally.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

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



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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.**

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

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Liz Hisey
Bill Johnston
Howard King
Jack Malarkey
Vernon Morris
Mitchell Sapp
Steve Swain
Central Florida Stamp Club
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The following members of the Florida Postal History Society have been denoted "Contributing Members" for their additional contributions to the society. The support of these members keeps us fiscally sound and enables us to respond to member and non-member inquiries regarding Florida Postal history and send sample copies of our Journal.

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