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The Islamorada, Florida Post Office

By Juan L. Riera

Islamorada (Purple Island) is a name given by the Spanish in the 16th century to an area of islands just south of Key Largo (*Figure 1*). The area was inhabited by native Americans about 500 A.D., but archaeologists have had difficulties identifying what cultural group inhabited the area. The debate revolves around the possibility that the natives of this area were Tequesta, as those from southeast Florida (Greater Miami area), or Calusa, as those from southwest Florida (Naples/Ft. Myers area), or a hybrid or completely different group that has been referred to as the Matecumbe Indians, the name given to the group by the Spaniards who encountered them.

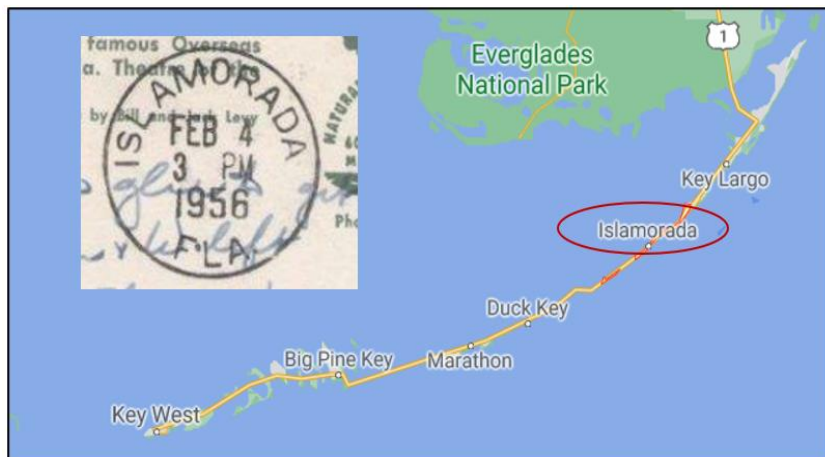


Figure 1. Islamorada islands, south of Key Largo.

The modern village of Islamorada was incorporated on November 4, 1997, consisting of 7.2 square miles (7.1 of land and 0.1 of water). In 2010, the population consisted of 6,119 people.

Famous people who reside, or have resided there, include Jimmy Johnson, college and NFL coach; Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox; and Gene Hackman, the actor.

The village consists of five islands: Tea Table Key, Lower Matecumbe Key, Upper Matecumbe Key, Windley Key and Plantation Key. Tea Table Key is also known as Terra's Key and is located at mile marker 75 along U.S. Highway 1. Lower Matecumbe Key is located between mile marker 75 and 78 and had Indian mounds, middens, and natural wells that were destroyed in the railroad era. That period was from the very earliest 20th century to 1935 when Henry M. Flagler was extending his Florida East Coast Railway to Key West until it was destroyed by the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935.

The southwest end of the island was the site of a sand mining operation. Anne's Beach, a popular attraction for locals and tourists, is found at mile marker 74 Oceanside. Upper Matecumbe Key is the site of the original settlement of Islamorada. There are many Indian mounds and habitation sites located here that in recent years have been studied by various archaeologists from a few universities, such as Tracy Aldren of the University of Miami.

Continued on page 3

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Islamorada has an intriguing post office history including differing opinions by postal historians as to the first and second postmasters. According to the Historic Preservation Society of the Upper Keys website¹, the upper keys obtained semi-reliable mail service with the arrival of the railroad in 1908. As the site maintains, this prompted a post office application for Islamorada by Elsie M. Rue. However, an application made by John H. Russell predated Ms. Rue's application leading to Russell's appointment as postmaster on June 1, 1908. Subsequently, Elsie Rue was appointed postmaster on October 21, 1908 and held the post until June 2, 1909 when John A. Russell became postmaster, continuing 59 years of service by the Russell family.

Contrary to this account, John S. Gallagher indeed agrees in his "Florida Post Offices"² that the Islamorada post office opened on June 1, 1908, with John H. Russell as postmaster, but Gallagher makes no mention of Elsie M. Rue.

However, Ms. Rue's service is "validated" with the cover shown in **Figure 2** presented by Richard Helbock and Jerry Wilkinson in their *La Posta* 2004 article, "Postmarks Among the Palms: A Postal History of the Florida Keys."³

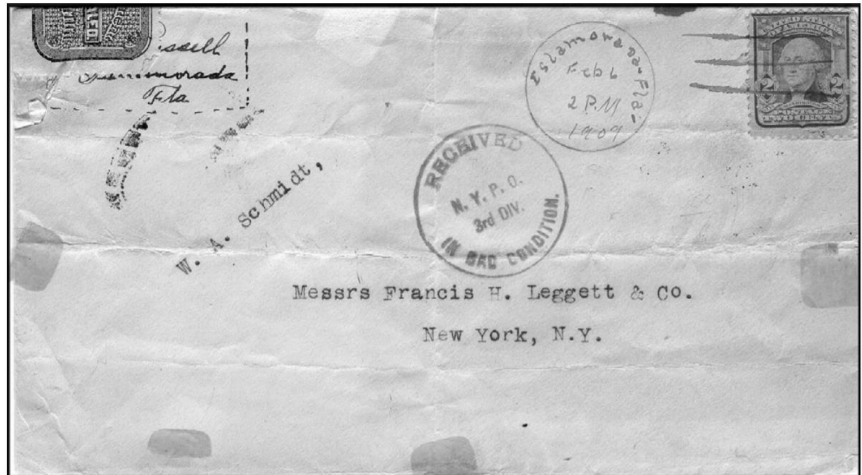


Figure 2. 1909 Islamorada cover with hand drawn provisional postmark.

The authors state that the "early cover from Islamorada bears a hand drawn provisional postmark that dates from February 1909 while Elsie M. Rue served as the Islamorada postmaster." In this same article, the authors present the cover in **Figure 3**, courtesy of Dr. Deane R. Briggs collection, saying, "This postcard displays an impression of Islamorada's first official handstamp dating from what appears to be June 9, 1909." However, the authors do not associate the postcard with being serviced by either Elsie Rue or John A. Russell.

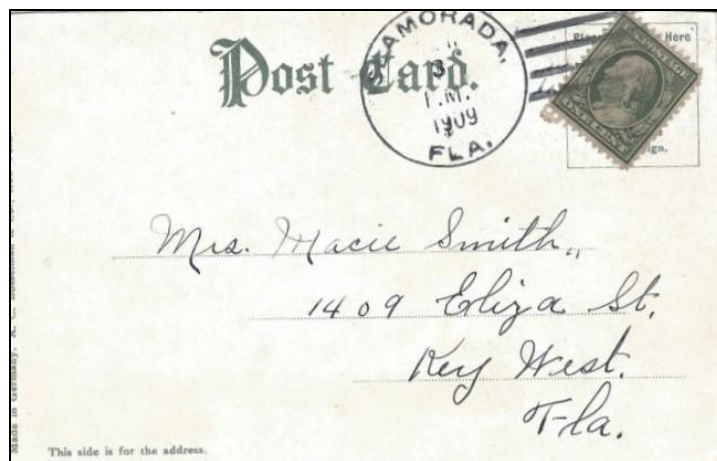


Figure 3. 1909 Islamorada postcard with first official handstamp.

When John A. Russell was appointed postmaster on June 2, 1909, he built a wooden post office building near the train depot. This remained in use until 1926 when he built a coral rock post office building attached to a store, restaurant and gas station that was in use until the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane that destroyed it (**Figure 4**).



Figure 4. Remains of Islamorada post office after 1935 Labor Day hurricane.⁴



Figure 5. Islamorada post office built by John Russell after 1935 Labor Day hurricane.⁵

The current post office building at 82801 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada, FL 33036 (**Figure 6**), was dedicated in 1970, built a few feet north of where John Russell built the small wooden post office in 1909.

Figure 6. Current Islamorada post office.⁶



Figure 5 is a circa 1939 view of the small wooden building erected by Russell to be the Islamorada post office after the hurricane.

James Clifton Russell became postmaster in 1937 and built a concrete post office building on the highway at mile marker 83.2 Oceanside. He retained his position until retiring in 1967.

Under James' management, rural mail delivery was established in the early 1950s with Rural Free Delivery beginning on July 9, 1961. At that time, there were no official street addresses, thus requiring postmasters to assign such addresses. Jenevieve Stout became postmaster after James Russell retired.

Postal history items showcasing Islamorada include many tourist related postcards, especially from the 1950s through the 1970s. **Figures 7 and 8** are such postcards.

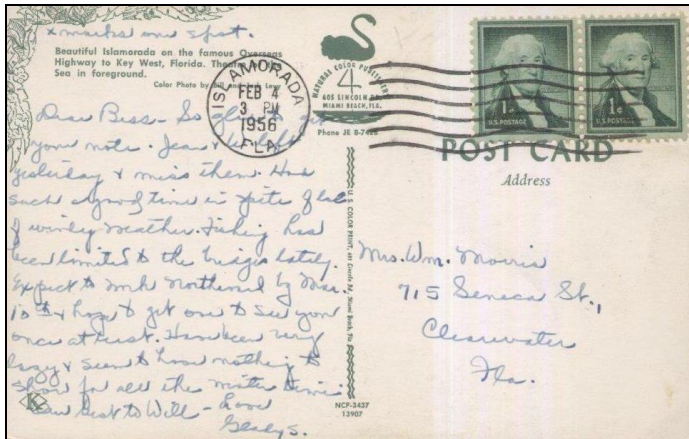


Figure 7. February 7, 1956
Islamorada ariel view.

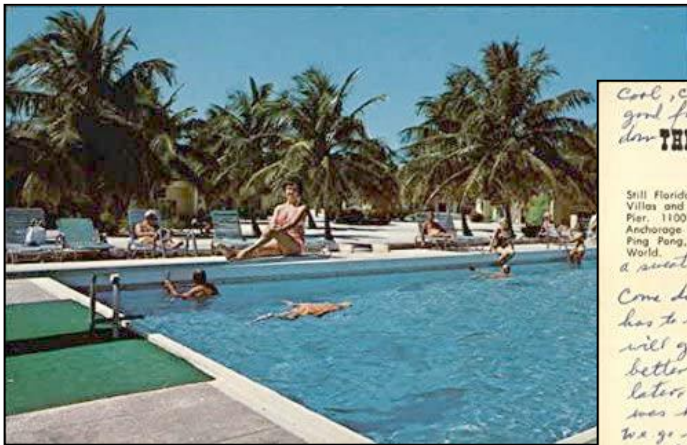
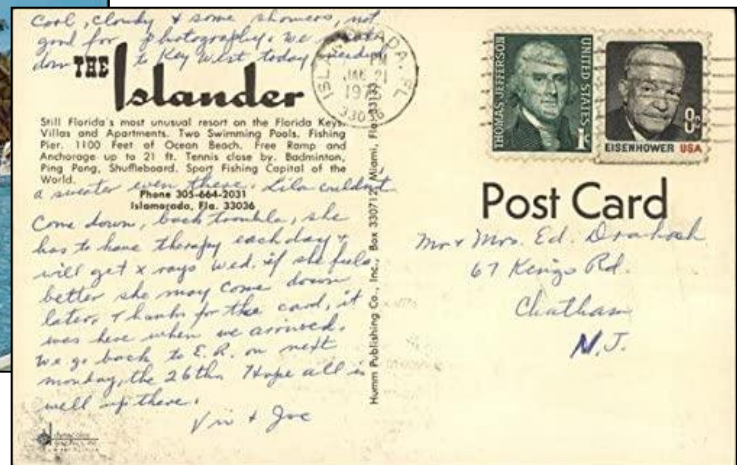


Figure 8. January 21, 1975
Islamorada Islander Hotel.



A bit of Islamorada postal history whimsy is seen in **Figure 9**, offered by Worthpoint Antiques, Art and Collectibles.



The cover is postmarked January 17, 1984, ISLAMORADA, FL | CONCH REPUBLIC. The Conch Republic is a micronation declared as a tongue-in-cheek secession of the city of Key West, Florida from the United States on April 23, 1982.

Figure 9. ISLAMORADA / CONCH REPUBLIC January 17, 1984
"cover."

The Republic has been maintained as a tourism booster for the city. The term "Conch Republic" has been expanded to refer to all the Florida Keys. The event showcased on the cover was when Lucky the Turtle was rescued at Mile Marker Zero with damaged flippers which were restored with rubber prosthetic replacements. Lucky was successfully returned to his tank with other sea turtles.

The cover carries a commemorative local "stamp" to mark the "first successful marine animal surgical implant in the world." The red cachet identifies the team of doctors who treated Lucky.

Endnotes

¹ keyshistory.org/postoffices.html.

² John S. Gallagher, *Florida Post Offices* (The Depot, January 1, 1997).

³ Richard Helblock and Jerry Wilkinson, "Postmarks Among the Palms: A Postal History of the Florida Keys", *La Posta*, March 2004, page 17.

⁴ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/keyslibraries/12702386095/in/photostream>.

⁵ keyshistory.org/postoffices.html.

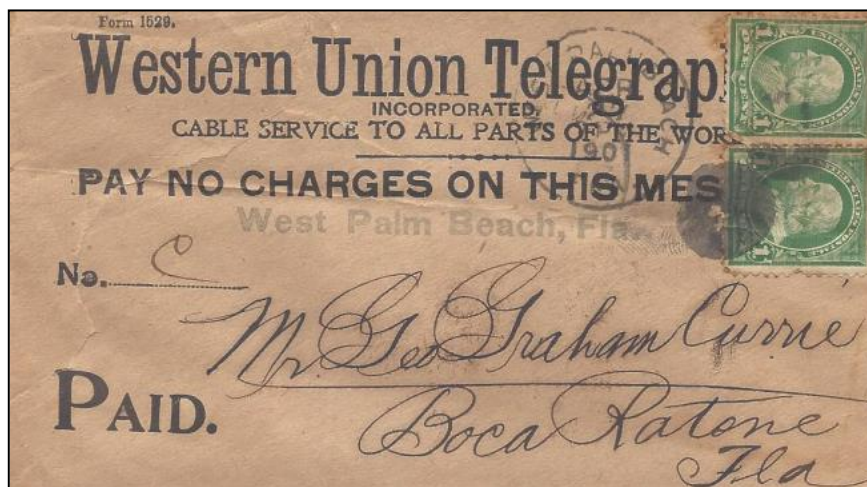
⁶ https://www.flickr.com/photos/aem-7_alp-44/33977615103.

⁷ <https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/1984-key-west-cover-local-post-lucky-1734318344>.

Florida Telegraph Covers

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

Florida Telegraph covers are uncommon. I have come across only two. The two examples are certainly later usage than the stampless telegraph covers recorded in the American Stampless Cover Catalog¹ which documents the early use of telegraph message sending in the early and mid-nineteenth century.



The example in *Figure 1* was pre-paid at West Palm Beach and sent by regular mail to Boca Ratone (sic), Fla with a pair of 1-cent stamps, Scott 279, and posted Apr. 27, 1901.

Figure 1. Western Union Telegraph Co. cover with fee "PAID" from the West Palm Beach, Fla. Office to Boca Ratone, Fla.

The cover's reverse (*Figure 2*) has a Boca Raton, Fla backstamp (cropped, rotated image) with an unclear date of Apr. 28, 1901, likely delivered the day after it was sent. The cover's reverse also denotes that Money Orders could be sent by telegraph.

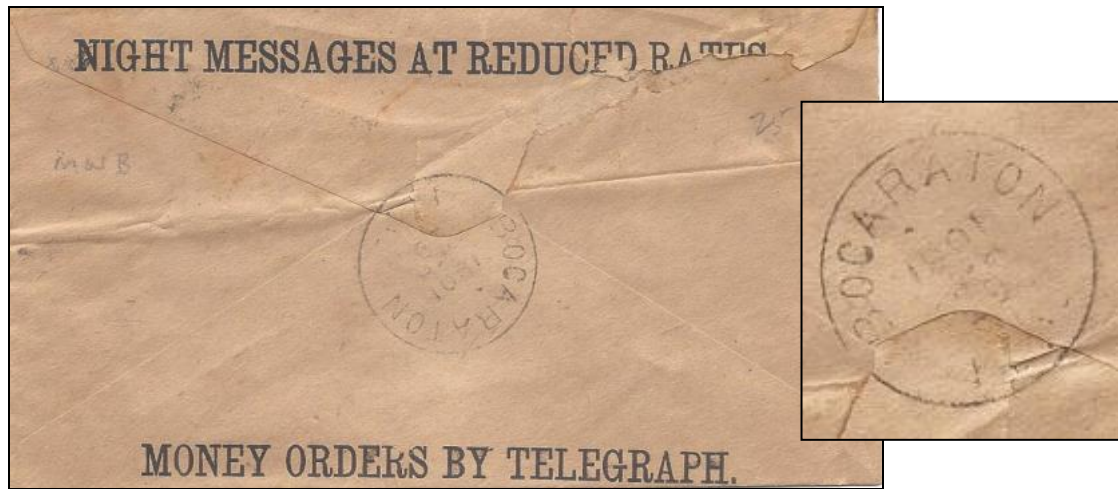


Figure 2. Boca Raton, Fla. Backstamp receiving mark.

The cover in *Figure 3* is a South Florida Telegraph Co. envelope apparently used at the Ocala House hotel where the message was received in the office of the hotel. It was charged 45c (45 cents) and delivered to R. a Burford, a likely guest at the Ocala House. There is no evidence of any postal use.

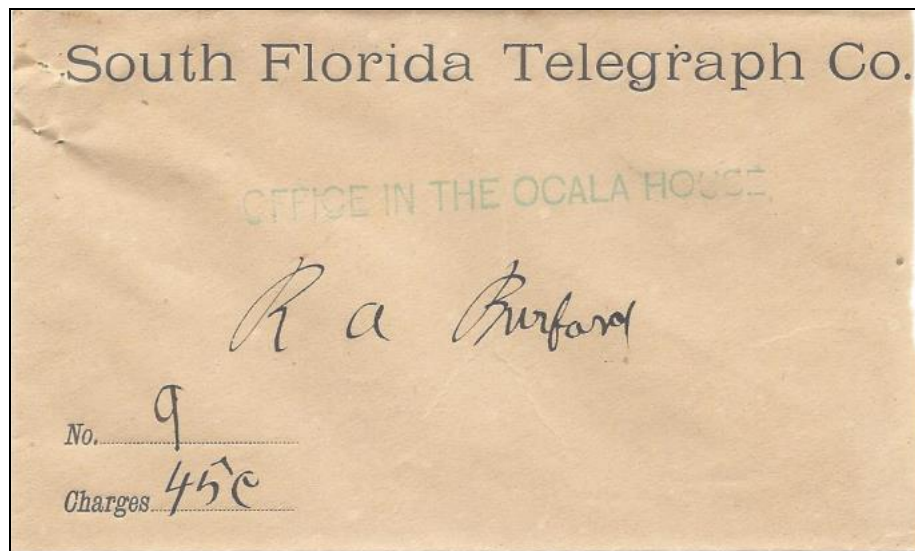


Figure 3. South Florida Telegraph Co. envelope used from the Office in the Ocala House with a 45c charge.

Endnote

¹ Robert Dalton Harris, "Stampless Telegraph Cover Catalog," American Stampless Cover Catalog Vol. III, David G. Phillips Publishing Co., Inc., North Miami, Florida, 1993.

Dr. Deane R. Briggs Receives American Philatelic Society's Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Award

Congratulations are extended to Deane R. Briggs, M.D. for his recent American Philatelic Society (APS) Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Award honoring outstanding efforts of APS volunteers at the national, regional and local levels. Dr. Briggs' award was for National Service.

Dr. Briggs has been active in Florida and national philately for over 40 years. In 1992, he helped reestablish the Florida Postal History Society (Affiliate 227). Over the past 27 years, Dr. Briggs has held every officer position for the society. From 1994 to 2008, he served as editor of the *Florida Postal History Journal* and has written 227 articles for the journal.



Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

Dr. Briggs was one of the editors of the first edition of *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861*, as well as co-editor of the second revised and extended edition, *Florida Postal History 1763-1861*, published in December 2018. An active member of the Confederate Stamp Alliance (Affiliate 73), Dr. Briggs has served as trustee, Vice-President and, most recently, President from 2016-2020. The Alliance published his award-winning book, *Florida Postal History During the Civil War*, which included a census listing of all recorded covers from Florida towns during the Civil War.

Dr. Briggs was an organizer of the Civil War Exhibition and Symposium held at the American Philatelic Center from October 24-26, 2019. The extremely successful symposium showcased 125 frames of the finest Union and Confederate exhibits ever assembled.

Again, congratulations to Deane Briggs for his well-deserved, prestigious National Service award.

Princess Catherine Daingerfield Willis Gray Murat By Phil Eschbach

Editor's Note: This article is a companion piece to Phil's September 2018 article, "Lipona and Its Postmaster, Achille Murat."

Catherine Daingerfield Willis, born in 1803, was the daughter of Colonel Byrd Charles Willis and Mary Lewis of Virginia. Mary was the granddaughter of Fielding Lewis who was George Washington's brother-in-law. Lewis was also a relative of explorer Meriwether Lewis. Catherine first married Atchison Gray in 1818, who died a year later. She became a princess when she later married Prince Charles Louis Napoleon Achille Murat in 1826. Achille Murat's mother was the sister of Napoleon and his father was king of Naples. They had to flee Italy to Austria when Napoleon was deposed but Achille emigrated to New York. He later moved to Florida where he met Catherine.



Achille died in Tallahassee in 1847, leaving Catherine childless and nearly bankrupt. Due to indebtedness, Catherine lost their large plantation near Monticello called Lipona. She moved to a smaller house called Belleview closer to Tallahassee. For the next twenty years she continued living a high society life in the state's capital, hosting many of the prominent people there at various social events.

Figure 1. Princess Catherine Dangerfield Willis Gray Murat oil on canvas by Jacques Amans 1837. Courtesy of DAR Museum, Washington, DC.

When Napoleon III came to power in France, he granted Catherine a lifetime annuity from the French government. As such, she continued her financial dealings with her favorite store in New York called J.L. Smallwoods.

James Smallwood was the brother of Robert Smallwood of Bainbridge, Georgia, just across the Florida border from Tallahassee.

The Smallwoods were an entrepreneurial family dealing in buying and selling goods from the Florida/Georgia area to New Englanders. They sent James north to New York to represent the family as their northern agent. Robert Smallwood was married to my third great grandfather's daughter, Tabitha Williams. Their other son, Robert Jr., migrated south and established the Smallwood Store in Chokoloskee in 1906, still in operation today.

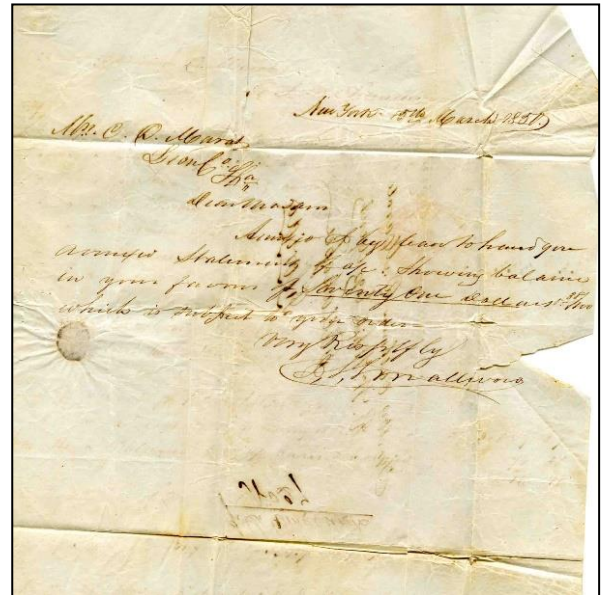


Figure 2. Correspondence to Catherine Murat in Tallahassee from the New York Smallwood operation.

The **Figure 2** stampless cover in my possession (address and reverse sides) is a reporting of Catherine's account with the New York branch of the Smallwood operation. Her account may have been number 27, as noted in the lower left of the cover. It is addressed to Mrs. Catherine D. Murat. Apparently, she did not use her maiden nor first married name but only her given names. Even though she was known locally as Princess Murat, she did not use the title officially.

Warm Mineral Springs

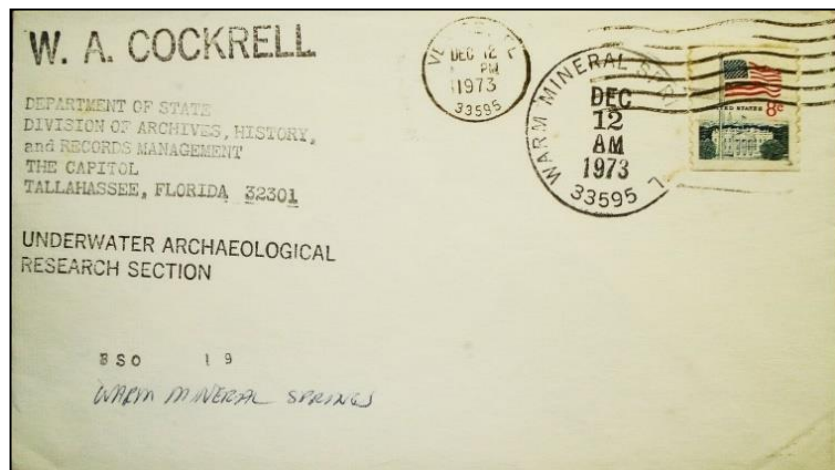
By Thomas Lera



Figure 1. Aerial view of Warm Mineral Springs.

The Warm Mineral Springs archaeological site is comprised of terrestrial and under water deposits in and around a 230-foot deep, 240-feet across spring-fed sinkhole in Sarasota County, FL. Also called Little Salt Springs, it has a cave with stalactites now submerged about 80 feet below the surface. A burnt log found in the cave was carbon dated 10,000 years before present (BP), indicating the cave was dry (above water) for a considerable period before it flooded over 7,000 years ago. Besides the log, bones of seven human beings were found [Cockrell, 1990].

Geologically, Warm Mineral Springs is a solution hole in a karst plateau. Florida is underlain by highly porous limestone and many areas, especially in Central Florida, are characterized by sinkholes where the ground water is being depleted. In prehistoric times, however, they would open during extreme drought or, principally, through a lowered sea level. Since the 1950s, Warm Mineral Springs was promoted as a Fountain of Youth which had thousands of visitors throughout the year.



The cover in *Figure 2*, mailed by Wilburn A. Cockrell, principal investigator at Warm Mineral Springs, has a Venice, FL machine cancel and a Warm Mineral Springs handstamp with Zip Code 33595. The Warm Mineral Springs post office is not listed so it must have been a contract postal unit.

Figure 2. Venice, FL: Warm Mineral Springs, FL, December 12, 1973.

A contract post office is an “approved postal provider” that is operated by a private business or community and not staffed by USPS workers. There are basically two types: a contract postal unit (CPU) and a community post office (CPO). A CPO is a contract postal unit in which a small rural community, rather than a local business, assumes the responsibilities of providing postal services. As of March 2012, there were 241 Florida CPUs.

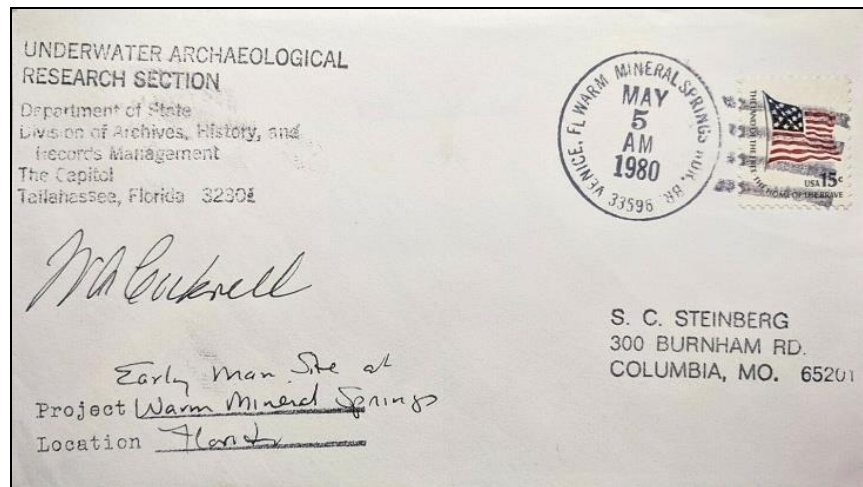


Figure 3. On July 1, 1977, the CPO's Zip Code changed from 33595 to 33596.

Figure 3 shows a change in the Zip Code and includes "Rur. Br." (Rural Branch) in the handstamp. It closed several years ago. Other examples of the handstamp can be found on the Warm Mineral Springs postcards listed on eBay, and both covers can be purchased there.

Sources

Cockrell, Wilburn A. 1990. *Archaeological research at Warm Mineral Springs, Florida*. American Academy of Underwater Sciences. pp. 69-78.

Rubicon Foundation: <http://archive.rubicon-foundation.org/9533> (accessed March 16, 2020).

Daytona, Florida Post Offices

By Juan L. Riera

The two items that typically come to mind when people think of Daytona are the beach and car races. But that Daytona really did not come about until 1926. A few months before the end of 1925, city leaders from Seabreeze, Daytona and Daytona Beach met and agreed to merge the three cities under the name of Daytona Beach effective January 1, 1926. The history of the post offices, and associated postal history items, related to the pre- and post-consolidation of the cities is an intriguing story.

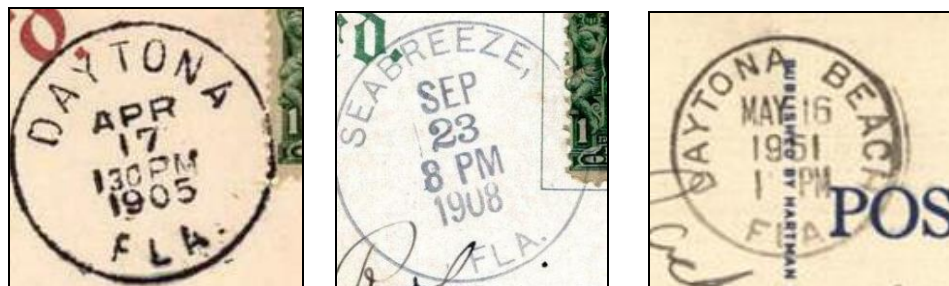


Figure 1. Seabreeze, Daytona and Daytona Beach postmarks.

During the British period of Florida occupation (1763-1783), the King's Road connecting St. Augustine and New Smyrna ran through what is today Daytona Beach. In 1787, Samuel Williams was granted land by the Spanish that became a sugarcane and citrus plantation known as Orange Grove Plantation, currently the Daytona Beach Historical District on the west side of the Halifax River Lagoon. In 1804, Williams was granted an additional 3,000 acres on the east side of the Halifax where he cultivated cotton, rice and sugarcane. Each side of his plantation was burned on several occasions during the Seminole Wars and abandoned by the family after his death.

In 1871, Mathias Day, Jr. of Mansfield Ohio purchased the 3,200-acre tract of the former Orange Grove Plantation and built a hotel around which a settlement began to grow. Due to financial difficulties, Day lost title to the property in 1872, yet residents named the settlement Daytona in his honor. The city of Daytona was incorporated in 1876.

The Daytona post office was in existence from May 12, 1871 to October 31, 1925 when it was consolidated with the Daytona Beach post office. The first postmistress of Daytona was Isabella McCauley. In 1886, the St. Johns and Halifax River Railway arrived in Daytona and in 1889 was purchased by Henry M. Flagler and consolidated into the Florida East Coast Railway.

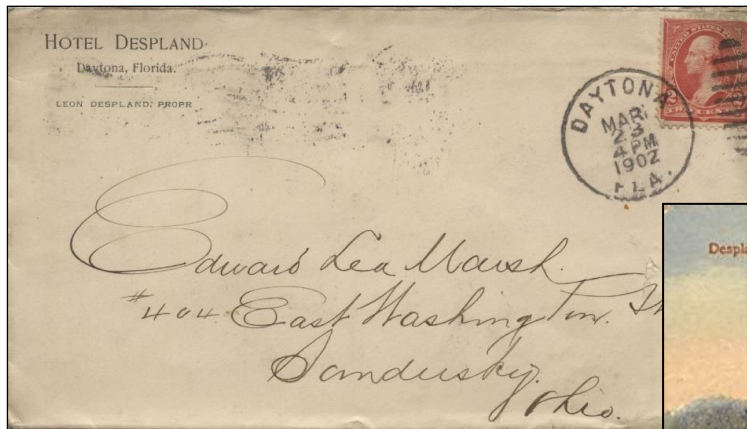


Figure 2. March 23, 1902 Hotel Despland advertising cover.

An enjoyable postal history collecting theme for Daytona are hotel advertising covers. **Figure 2** is a March 23, 1902 Hotel Despland advertising cover accompanied by the image side of a Despland Hotel postcard (**Figure 3**).

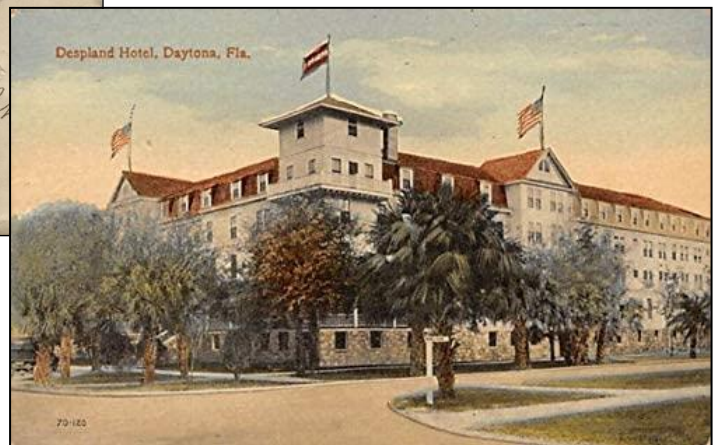


Figure 3. Despland Hotel postcard.

The Palmetto Hotel is advertised on the **Figure 4** February 11, 1920 corner card cover.

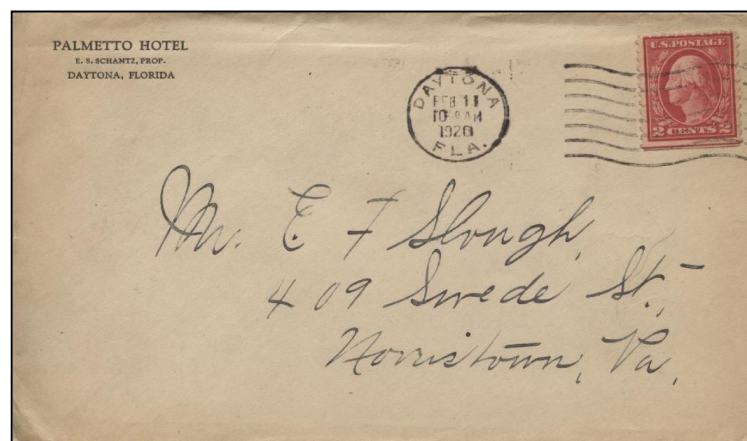


Figure 4. February 11, 1920 Palmetto Hotel advertising cover.

Figure 5 is an advertising cover for The Prince George hotel accompanied by the image side of a Prince George postcard (**Figure 6**).

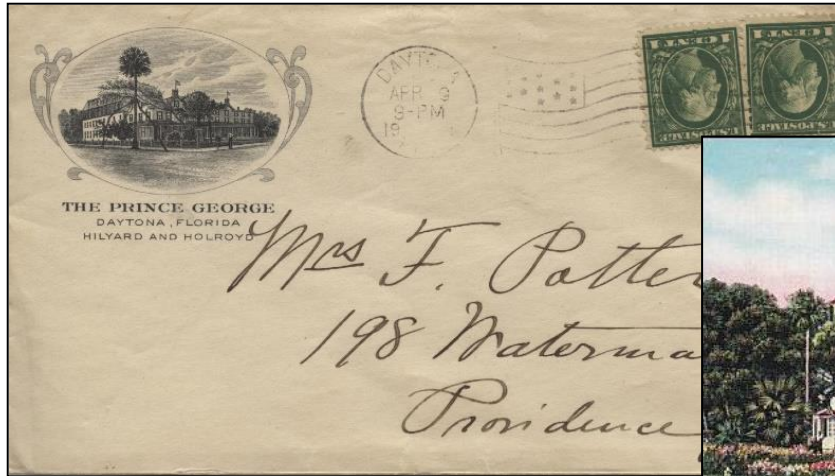


Figure 6. *The Prince George postcard.*

Figure 5. *The Prince George hotel, Daytona advertising cover.*



Seabreeze is a beachside neighborhood that once was an independent city from May 24, 1901 until consolidated in January of 1926. The area has been known as the Seabreeze Historic District since September of 1998 with University Boulevard, Halifax Road, Auditorium Boulevard and North Atlantic Avenue forming the boundaries. The area contains nearly 600 historic structures. In 1884, David D. Rogers bought 47 acres on the beach peninsula, Charles A. Ballough built a homestead further north of Rogers in 1885 and in 1886 Charles H. Brush built a homestead on 60 acres between Rogers and Ballough.

In 1886, a post office named Halifax was established on the peninsula, located on the riverfront near present-day Main Street. The first postmaster was Horace Mann. In 1890, the Post Office Department changed the name of this post office to Seabreeze to match the name of Rogers' development.

Figure 7 is a March 4, 1907 corner card advertising cover for The Colonnades. Note the Seabreeze-Daytona Florida location with the corner card.

In 1892, Colonel C.C. Post and his wife bought half of Ballough's property and developed the area with a general store, an opera house, a printing office and a residence for the family which became the core of the settlement known as Seabreeze.

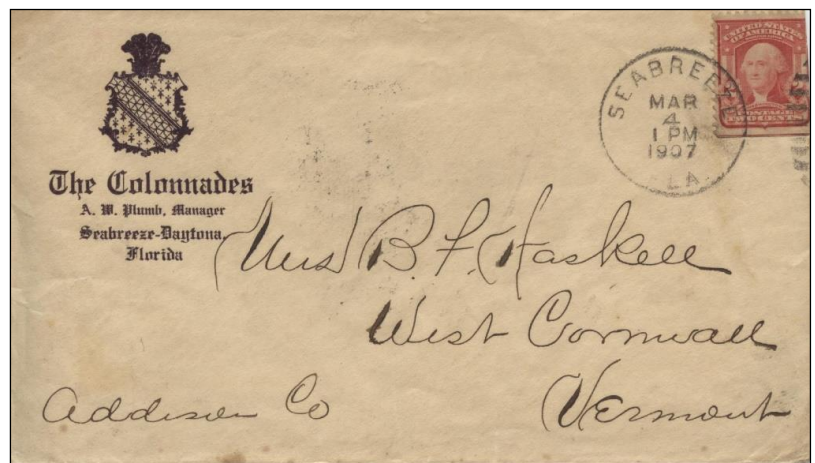


Figure 7. *March 4, 1907 Seabreeze cover.*

Post's wife, Helen Williams, founded a school of "Mental Science" and began publishing a paper named "Freedom." Due to the volume of mail associated with the school and the publications, the Post Office Department decided to move the Seabreeze Post Office north. This caused residents great displeasure at losing "their" post office prompting them to request a new post office. This request was granted with the opening of a post office named Goodall (a seemingly random naming after Congressman Ernest Goodall of Maine).

Goodall had a post office from April 23, 1901, until June 18, 1905 when the post office and the community had the name changed to Daytona Beach. The first postmaster of Goodall was Alfred S. Harroun.

The 1926 consolidation of Seabreeze, Daytona and Daytona Beach also led to absorbing of the small settlement of Kingston that had a post office from April 16, 1902, to May 30, 1925. The first postmaster there was James R. Cole.

Present day Daytona Beach encompasses the 32114-32126 and 32198 zip codes. The Daytona Beach Post Office was built as a Works Progress Administration project completed in 1932. Architect Harry M. Griffin designed the two-story Mediterranean Revival style building in which the front portico is faced with stone from the Florida Keys. A series of five arches frame the windows on the first floor. Four cast iron light standards on limestone bases are situated on either side of the two front entrances.

An entertaining collecting theme are postcards with photographs (real photo versions or colorized) of the Daytona Post Office. **Figure 8** shows two such postcards.

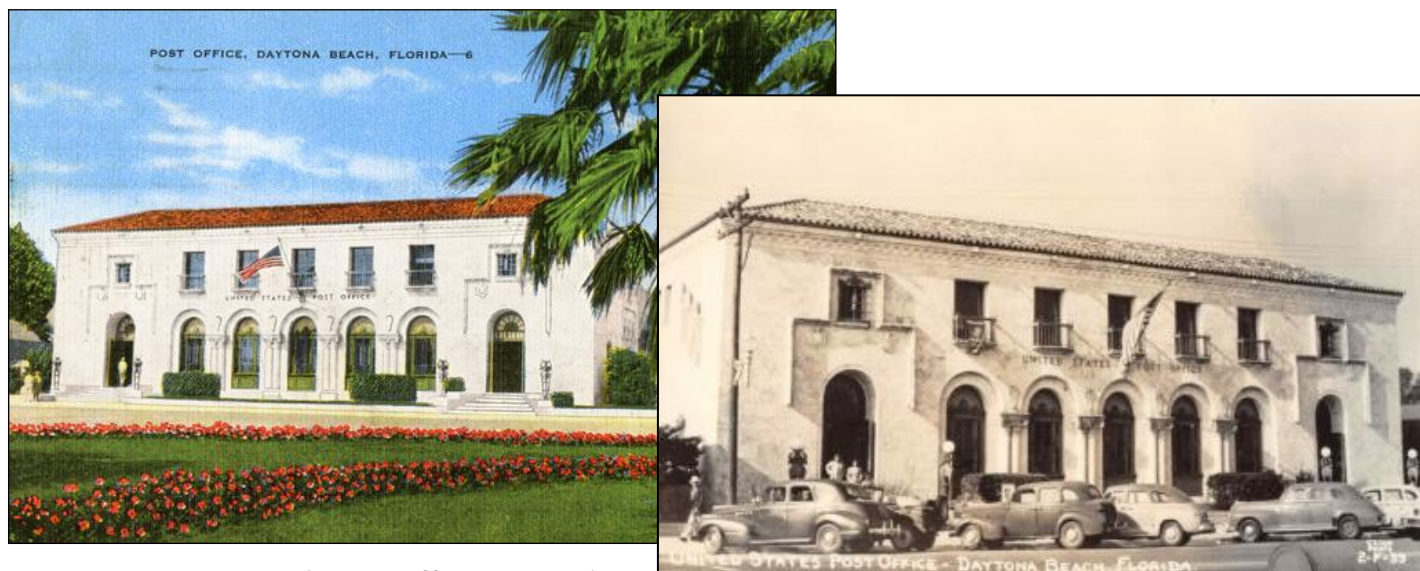


Figure 8. Daytona Beach Post Office postcards.

Postal history items associated with Daytona Beach are plentiful, such as first flight covers (**Figure 9**), land speed trials commemorations (**Figure 10**) and tourist postcards (**Figure 11**).



Figure 9. Daytona Beach first flight cover.

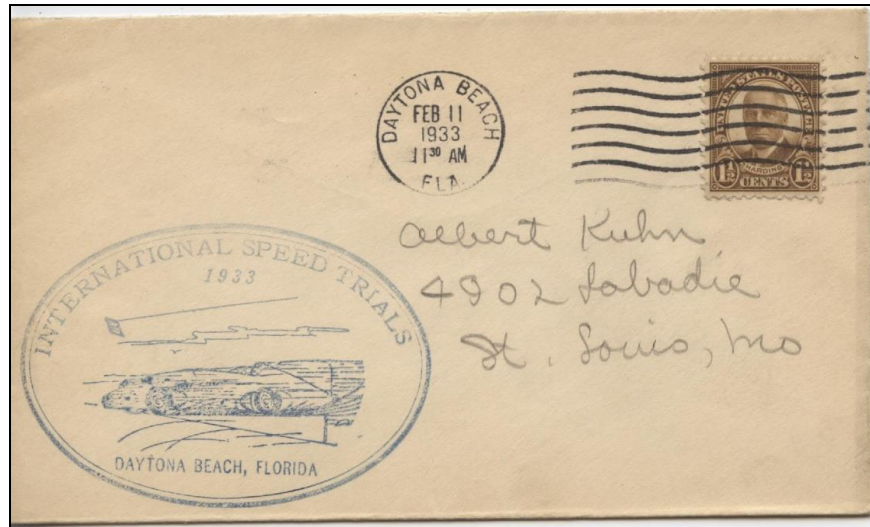


Figure 10. Daytona Beach International Speed Trials cover.



Figure 11. Daytona Beach tourist postcard.

For a town known for its beaches and races that attract tourists, I would like to point out one attraction that caught my eye that apparently brought tourists in an earlier period. It is commonly known as the Tourist Church, also known as Seabreeze United Church of Christ and the First Congregational Church. It is located at 501 North Wild Olive Avenue, i.e., the Seabreeze neighborhood. The church was built in 1929 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It was designed by architect Harry Griffin who also designed the post office.

Daytona, Daytona Beach, Kingston, Seabreeze, Goodall and Halifax. The history of the post offices associated with the pre- and post-consolidation of these cities and towns is indeed an intriguing and noteworthy story.

Bellamy Letter – More Information

By Ed Evan and Francis Ferguson



Editor's Note: Phil Eschbach's article, *Bellamy Letter*, Insert C of the October issue of the Central Florida Stamp Club's newsletter, *Philatelic Missive*, discussed a stampless letter, *Figure 1*, sent from Charleston, S.C. on December 2, 1831 to Phil's ancestor, Abram Bellamy. The letter was addressed to Tallahassee and forwarded to Monticello on December 13, 1831. The distinctive characteristic of this this mailing is a 6¼ cents "due" charge.

The article below provides additional information about the 6¼ cents rate on stampless covers. The two example covers are taken from the *Florida Postal History 1763-1861* book, pages 81 & 107, from the collection of Deane R. Briggs M.D.

Access Phil's article under Archives | Archived Newsletters at www.CentralFloridaStampClub.org.

Figure 1. December 13, 1831 letter to Abram Bellamy.

As a transplant to Florida from New Jersey almost 50 years ago, I have more than a passing interest in Florida's history, as Florida was a Spanish colony whereas New Jersey was British, and the circumstances of life and law were different.

In the early 1800s all the action in Florida was well north of Orlando! Most correspondence would have been from and to places between New Orleans and Jacksonville or from other coastal ports. Phil's Bellamy Letter originated in Charleston, South Carolina, was addressed to Tallahassee and then forwarded to Monticello. The forwarding from the original address apparently required a 6¼ cents addition to the "due" charges. As Phil says: "This is the earliest recorded 6¼ cents emergency rate from this office."

As it happens, I was working as an Estate Settlement Officer for the Bank of Clearwater, Florida in the early 1980s and discovered that we had handled the settlement of the estate of E. N. Sampson, the famous stampless cover cataloger. I accidentally came across the old file in storage and found a complete inventory of his philatelic estate, including what appears to be an unpublished article he wrote, which I share with you here, presenting a list of 6¼ rate covers.

Some years later I purchased a 6¼ cents piece of currency, *Figure 2*, issued by the Philadelphia Bank to illustrate my collection of fractionally denominated stamps as the Sampson inventory did not have a copy of one.

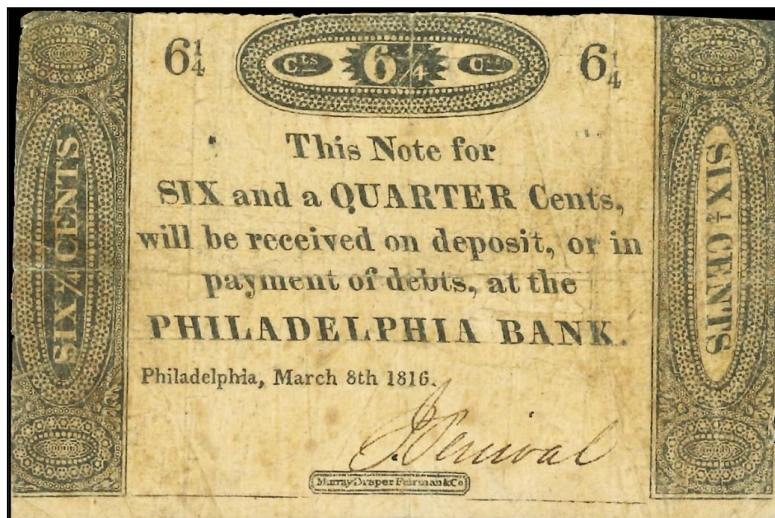


Figure 2. Six and a Quarter Cents currency issued by the Philadelphia Bank.

Sampson claims the rate was 6 cents and goes on to explain that hard, small change was difficult to come by in those times with many foreign coins circulating. He also wonders about that ¼ cent difference! Who benefited?

Here is the text, as written, of the unpublished article. Two covers, *Figures 2 and 3*, have been added to illustrate the rate.

6 ¼ Cent Rate on Stampless Covers by E. N. Sampson

The official rate for single letters sent not over 30 miles was 6 cents from May 1, 1816 until July 1, 1845. However, a number of stampless covers were used during this period for distances not over 30 miles showing a rate of 6 ¼ cents. No such rate is listed in any Postal Act and its use is somewhat of an enigma.

The best explanation I can offer is that during this period U.S. coins were limited in number and some foreign coins circulated freely in this country. The coins closest to 6 cents in value were the Spanish and Mexican half-reales, and the British 3 pence (thruppence) valued at 6 ¼ cents in U. S. money. The value of these coins was also duplicated in 6 ¼ cents fractional paper money issued privately by banks and other Commercial houses. Examples of these 6 ¼ cent pieces are shown on the opposite page.

The stampless covers shown in this collection all bear 6 ¼ rates, both paid and unpaid, for distances up to 30 miles. The earliest is dated 1828 and the latest 1842.

It is assumed that the postmaster received 6 ¼ cents for each of these letters, even though the official rate was only 6 cents. Did he report the overcharge in his returns to Washington or pocket the small difference?

Two other uses of a 6 ¼ cent rate occurred (1) in the Republic of Texas and (2) by private express and letter companies. These are described and illustrated with covers following the regular U. S. covers.

Figures 3 and 4: 6¼ cents cover examples taken from the *Florida Postal History 1763-1861* book, pages 81 & 107, from the collection of Deane R. Briggs M.D.:

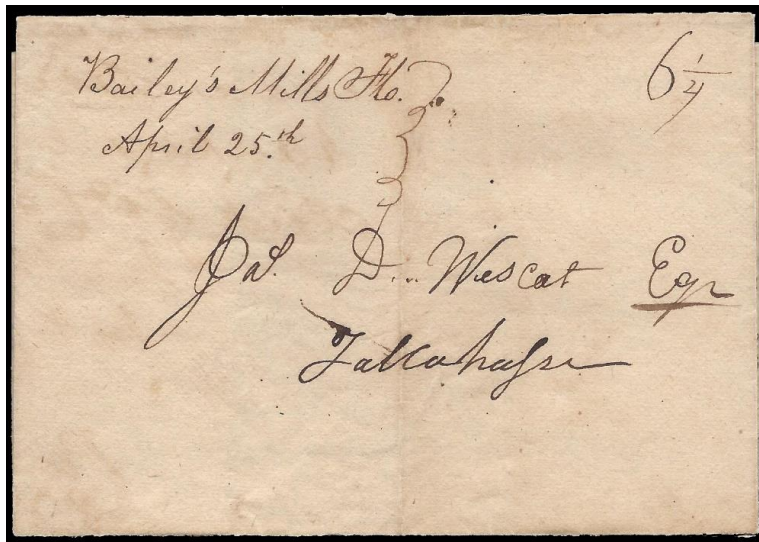
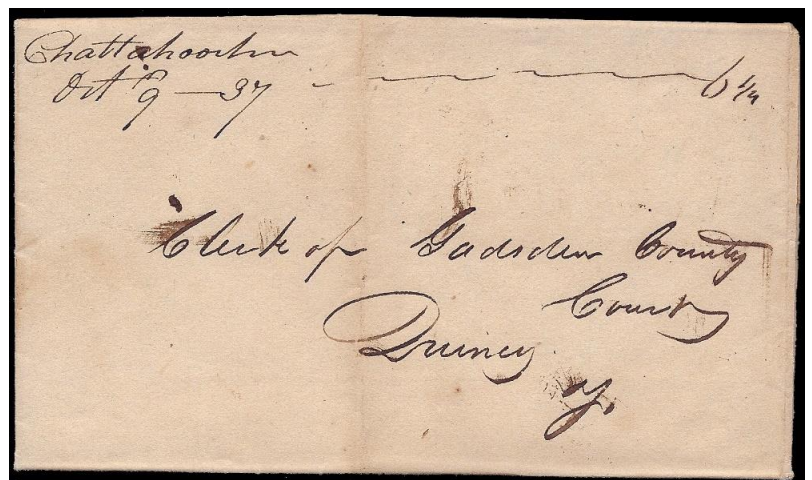


Figure 3. Bailey's Mills was located east of Tallahassee in Jefferson County.

When the post office reopened in 1858, the county was changed to Leon County. It lay on a postal route 2464 from Tallahassee to Monticello (45 miles, once a week) and on postal route 2463 from Tallahassee to Sharp's Store (70 miles, once a week). When the post office discontinued in 1882, mail was handled at Lloyd.

Figure 4. Chattahoochee (originally spelled Chattahoochie) was established in Gadsden County as a name change from Mount Vernon. It means "carved stone" in the Indian language.

It must have been an early settlement as it was located on a 1776 map as Catahocche. It is strategically located at Lake Seminole on the Georgia line where the navigable Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers flow into the Apalachicola River.



A U.S. Arsenal was located there, and many letters are datelined Chattahoochee Arsenal. Mail was handled by postal route 3523 on a post road connecting Bainbridge, Georgia with Apalachicola.

Editor's Note: See Bill Schultz and Jasmine Smith's, *SCARCE POSTAL RATE OF 6¼ CENTS*, a philatelic census of the 6¼ rate marking, at <https://sixandaquartercensus.omeka.net>. The census includes both covers and banknotes.

An intriguing element is the census revealed a surprising lack of relationship between bank notes and covers for 6¼ cents. Cities with post offices rating covers at 6¼ cents generally did not produce banknotes for the same amount, and bank notes from other cities had no relationship to the post office. Tallahassee, Florida stands out as the single exception.

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