

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

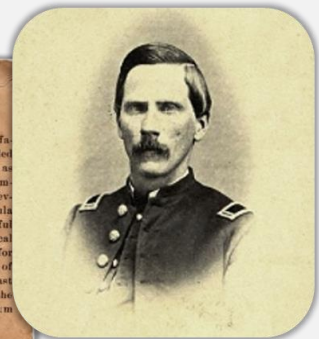
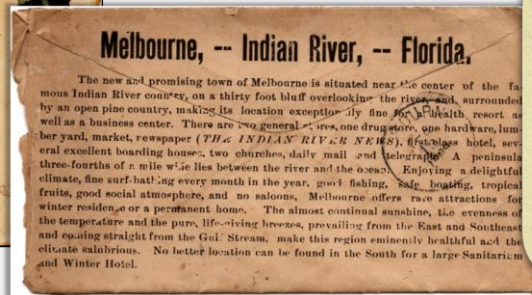


Promoting Philately in the Sunshine State

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Melbourne, Indian River, Florida

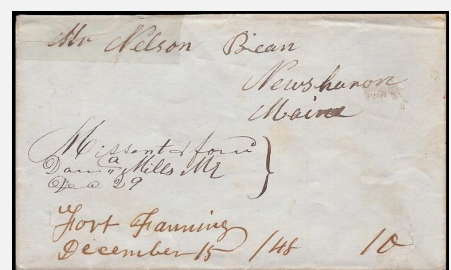
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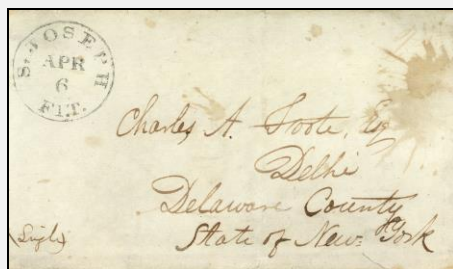
Orlando Cover to Germany



Gleason Romer Postcards



Fort Fanning, Florida



St. Joseph, Florida



Fort Jefferson, Florida

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Melbourne, Indian River, Florida

By Phil Eschbach

An interesting advertising cover with a nice backstory is the *Figure 1* cover postmarked TITUSVILLE FLA. AUG 13 1889. It was sent by John Phillips to his wife, the former Annette Marsh. John fought in the Civil War in Mississippi during the time he met Annette. Annette worked for the Freedman's Bureau and had gone to Mississippi to teach reading and writing to freed slaves.

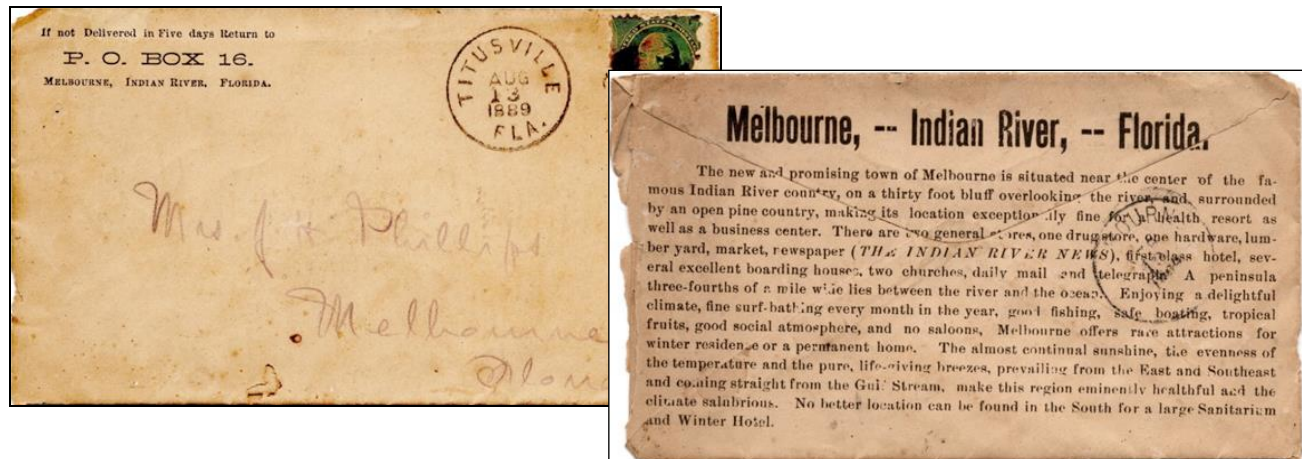


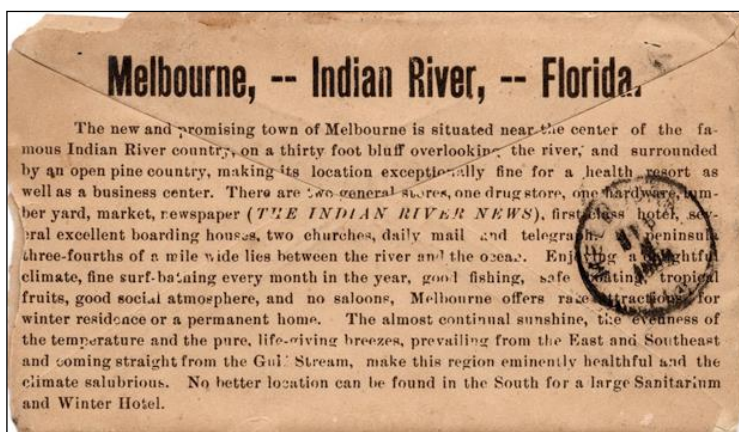
Figure 1. Melbourne, Florida advertising cover mailed in 1889 from Titusville, Florida.

John, *Figure 2*, and his twin brother, James, were born in 1840 to missionaries in India, but returned to the states in 1853 for their education. After the Civil War, the John Phillips family initially lived in the Chicago area where they adopted two children. They moved to Melbourne, Florida in 1886. Their daughter married Charles Horton of Melbourne, who later moved to Ft. Pierce. Many of their descendants live in Florida today.

It is interesting to note that the advertisement on the cover's reverse is for the city of Melbourne (probably printed by developers promoting the area) but was mailed from Titusville. Obviously, John picked up a few of these blank envelopes in Melbourne and used them for future letters back to his wife, this one from Titusville.



Figure 2. John Phillips.



There is another of these same advertising covers, *Figure 3*, that John used to mail to his wife from Marshall, Minnesota, where he had gone to visit his wife's sister and husband. Both covers have Melbourne backstamps. Titusville's post office was established in 1869 but Melbourne's did not exist until 1880.

Figure 3. Melbourne, Florida advertising cover sent from Marshall, Minnesota by John Phillips to his wife.