

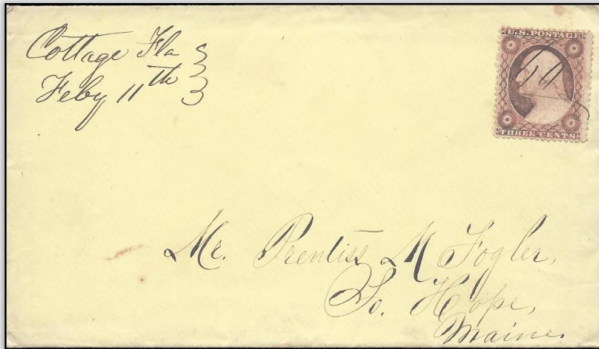


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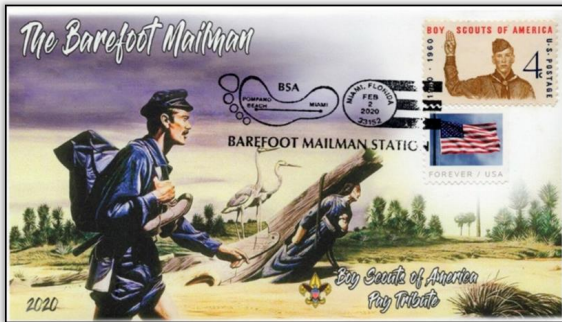
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Vol. 30, No. 3 September 2023 Whole No. 85



**Marion County, Florida Stampless Post Offices – Locations Unknown
Part II – Cottage and Souterville**

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Florida Correspondence of James Gadsden



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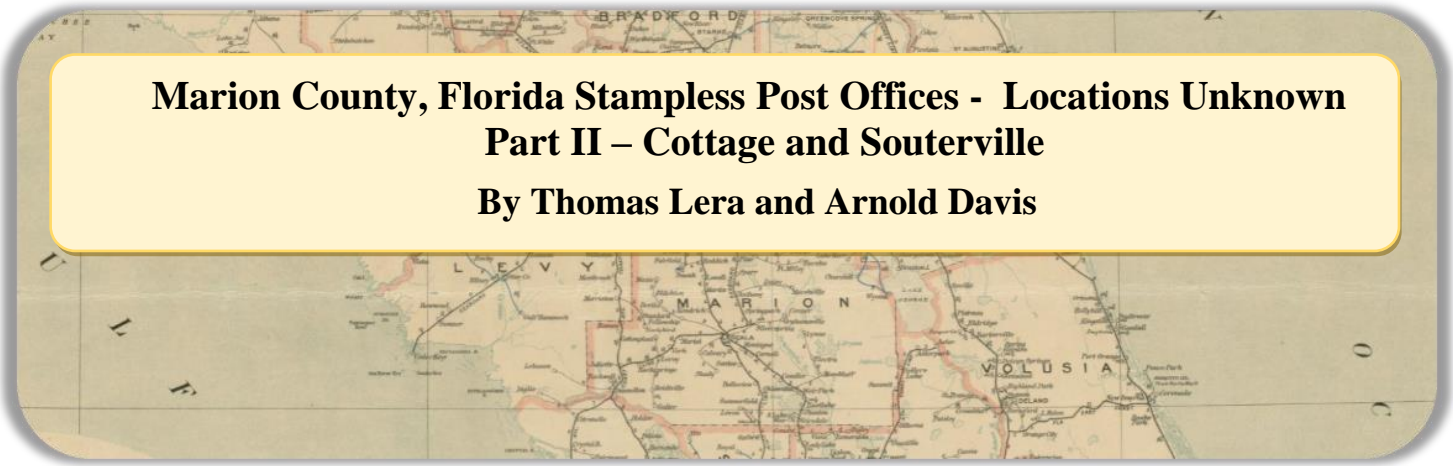
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**Marion County, Florida Stampless Post Offices - Locations Unknown
Part II – Cottage and Souterville
By Thomas Lera and Arnold Davis**

There were three towns on known post roads in Marion County, Florida, but their exact locations are unknown: Number 2 (Two), Cottage, and Souterville. After reviewing over fifty Florida and Marion County maps from 1828 – 1870, none of these towns could be located.

Our first article was about the post road from Ocala to Archer Station, through Number Two as well as Tyner's, Willis', Rawls' and Shell Pond, which in the 1850s, were major documented stops along this post road. Number Two was identified as Fort Hook.

Early settlers living in the general area of Cottage and Souterville picked up their mail at Ft. McCoy, Flemington or Ocala. *The Florida Postal History 1763-1861 Second Edition* shows the Cottage Post Office in Marion County, on postal route No. 6522 from Pilatka by Orange Springs, Orange Lake and Cottage, terminating at Ocala. The post office was established February 11, 1857, and discontinued on March 29, 1867.¹

Arnold followed a line of investigation at the Marion County Genealogical Society for any information on Cottage and Souterville Post Offices, while I focused on U.S. Post Office Department information. We located both towns.

Cottage

Research into the family names on the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records website, <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>, revealed the name "William F. Smith" who was the first Cottage postmaster.

The search identified twenty-two documents, four of which were in Marion County. The Marion County land documents were concentrated in an area just south of the present-day Sparr in Sections 28 and 29 of the Figure 1 map created by John J. Gornto, Assistant Postmaster, Orange Lake Florida. A note written by Gornto accompanying his map explains that the black dots are post offices.²

Identified on pages 287 and 288 of the *Marion County Deed Book 1* was a deed executed February 25, 1861, by William F. Smith to William A. Owens for three parcels of land in Sections 28 and 29.

Information on page 288 stated: "the three pieces of land aforesaid containing two hundred and forty acres and fifty hundredths of an acre more or less as the whole further known and designated as the Cottage Farm." The county clerk recorded the deed March 12, 1861.³