



FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

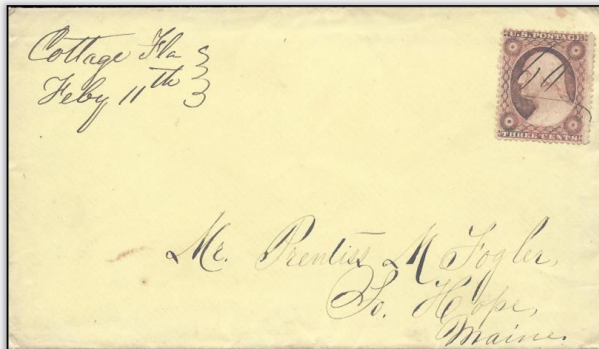
Promoting Philately in the Sunshine State



Vol. 30, No. 3

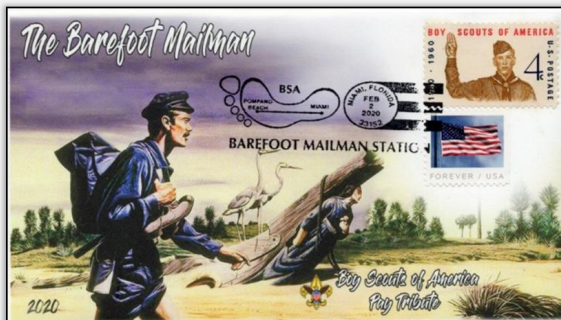
September 2023

Whole No. 85



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

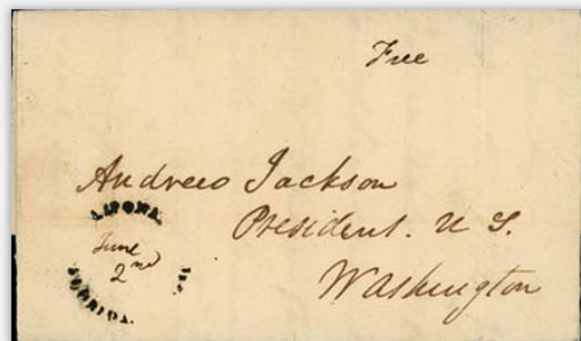
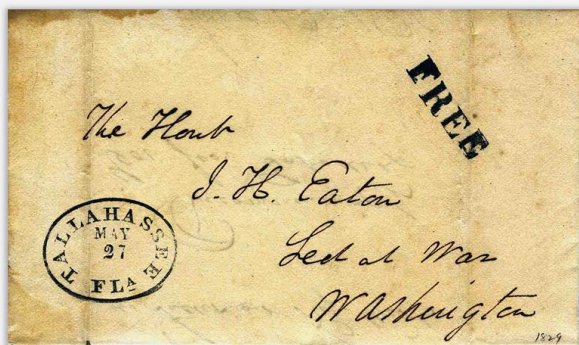
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



The Barefoot Mailman



The Death of William Banghart



Florida Correspondence of James Gadsden

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

by Thomas Lera and Arnold Davis 3-7

The Barefoot Mailman

by Juan L. Riera 7-12

Florida Correspondence of James Gadsden

by Phil Eschbach 13-18

The Death of William Banghart

by Todd D. Hause 19-23

Florida Cover Seen at Auction 23

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.
www.CentralFloridaStampClub.org

We also thank the

Florida Stamp Dealers' Association

for their financial help as website sponsors.
www.FloridaStampDealers.org

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

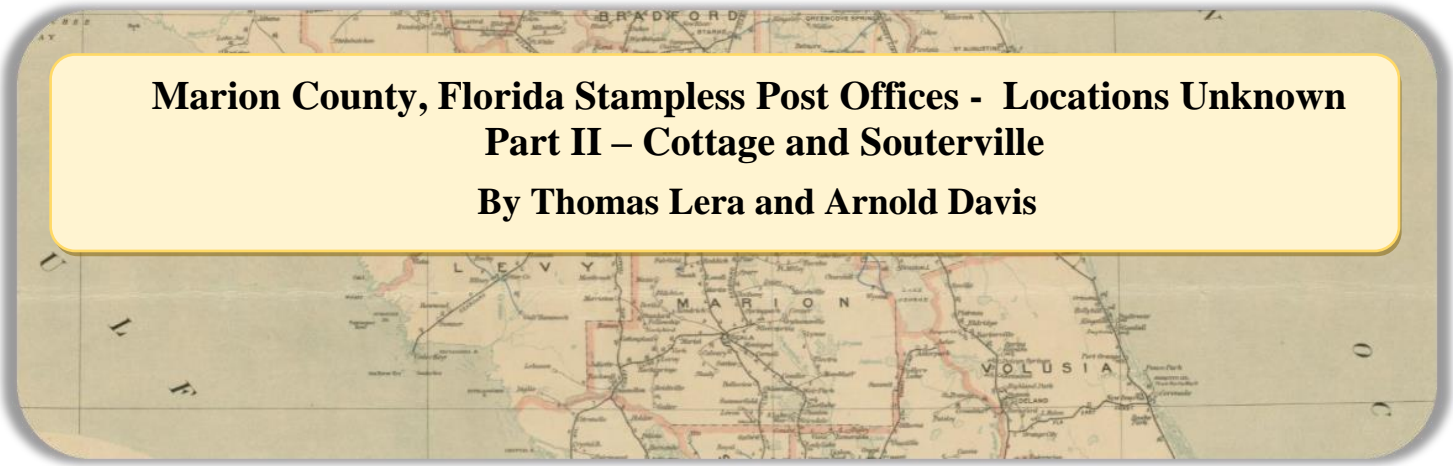
President	Dr. Vernon R. Morris pres@fphsonline.com
Vice President	Mr. Juan L. Riera vpres@fphsonline.com
Secretary	Mr. Todd Hause sec@fphsonline.com
Treasurer	Dr. Deane R. Briggs treas@fphsonline.com
Director At-Large	Mr. Stephen L. Strobel atlarge1@fphsonline.com
Director At-Large	Mr. Thomas M. Lera atlarge2@fphsonline.com
Director At-Large	Mr. Steve Kennedy atlarge3@fphsonline.com
Past President	Mr. Francis Ferguson ferg@FloridaStampShows.com
Journal Editor and Publisher	Mr. Steve Swain jedit@fphsonline.com
Webmaster	Mr. Francis Ferguson ferg@FloridaStampShows.com

Membership in the Florida Postal History Society is open to all.

Membership applications can be obtained from:

Todd Hause
846 Angle Street NE
Palm Bay, FL 32905
email: sec@fphsonline.com

or by link on our webpage:
www.FPHSonline.com



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.

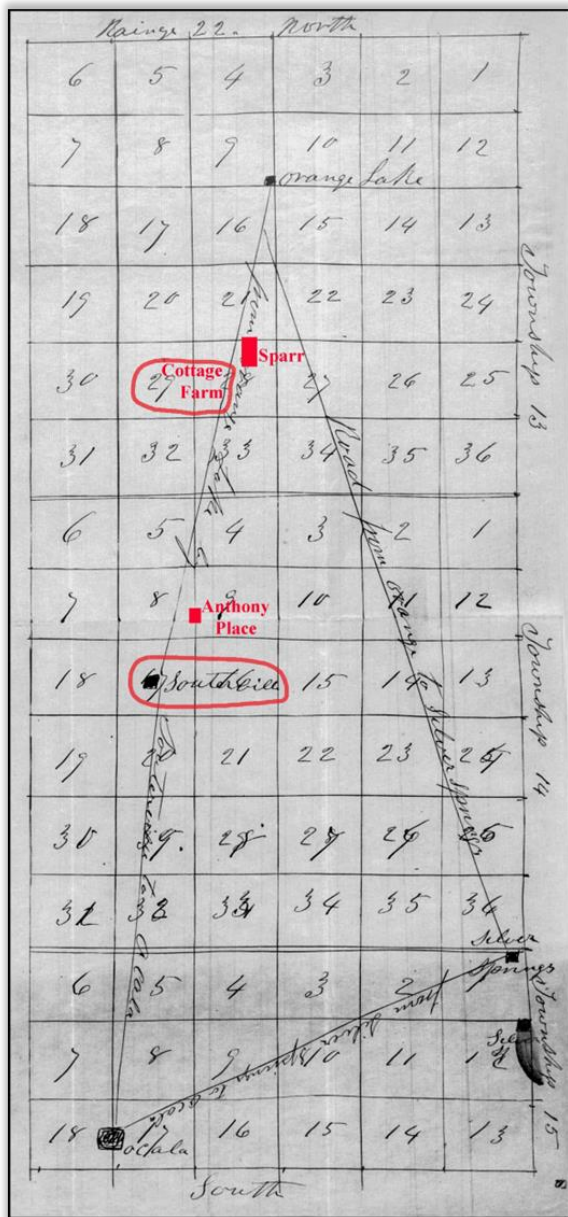
Cottage

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



Florida seceded from the Union January 10, 1861. A Provisional Congress made up of six Southern States, including Florida, held a meeting February 8, 1861, at the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama, and approved the Provisional Constitution of the Confederate States. Florida joined the Confederation of States on April 22, 1861, when it ratified the Constitution of the Confederate States.

As mentioned, William F. Smith's land sale was recorded at the county office March 12, 1861. It is interesting to note the specified deed payment of \$1,800 was to be made in lawful money of the Confederate States. Since Florida approved the Provisional Constitution of the Confederate States, I suspect the seller did not want what would amount to the non-valid currency of the United States.

Figures 2 and 3 show two letters with William Smith's manuscript postmarks on February 11 and June 5, 1860, respectively.⁴

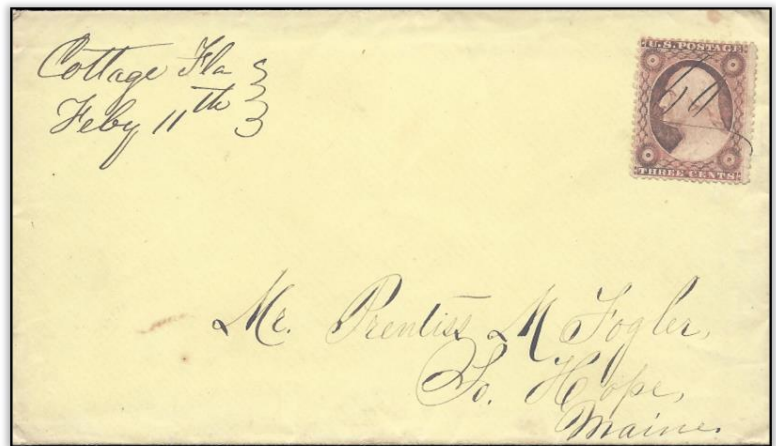


Figure 1. Hand-drawn map by John J. Gornto, Assistant Postmaster, Orange Lake Florida, showing the mail routes from Orange Lake to Silver Springs and Ocala.

Figure 2. Cottage, Florida February 11, 1860, manuscript postmark.



Figure 3. Cottage, Florida June 5, 1860, manuscript postmark.

Figure 4 lists the Cottage postmasters and their appointment dates.⁵

Postmaster	Postmaster Appointment	Reporting Data	Postmaster Compensation	Net Accrued Post Office Receipts
William F. Smith	02.11.1857	yr. end 06.30.1859	\$22.74	\$18.11
		3 qtrs. end 06.30.1861	\$15.07	\$1.85
James S. Smith	08.08.1861	Confederate appointment		
Joseph H. Ringo	01.11.1862	Confederate appointment		
P.O. Discontinued	03.28.1867			

Figure 4. Cottage Postmasters.

After the Cottage Post Office closed in 1867, it was not until September 27, 1882, when the Sparr Post Office was opened with Milton L. Sparr, Postmaster. The post office was twenty-five yards east of the Central Florida and Peninsular Railroad station.

Souterville

The Souterville Post Office, originally part of postal route No. 6522 between Cottage and Ocala, opened July 5, 1857, and was discontinued December 29, 1858.⁶

In 1861, at the beginning of the Civil War, mail on postal route 6522 was advertised as leaving Pilatka Monday and Friday at 1 AM. Mail terminated at Ocala by Orange Springs, Orange Lake, Cottage, and Souterville by 4 PM, returning at 9 AM Tuesday and Saturday, terminating at Pilatka by 12 Midnight. The journey was fifty-four miles each way. Souterville was originally a post office on this route, between Cottage and Ocala, but was discontinued in 1861.⁷

During the early spring of 1862, service was suspended on the entire route because of the presence of Union troops near Pilatka but resumed on May 1, 1862. The contract was readvertised in 1862 and awarded to J. W. Woods July 9, 1863, with the annual fee of \$1500. After the Civil War, the Souterville Post Office was not reestablished.

As presented in Figure 1, in researching the United States Post Office Department site survey for Marion County, the 1876 survey for Orange Lake included a detailed hand-drawn map by John J. Gornto, Assistant Postmaster, Orange Lake Florida, showing the mail routes from Orange Lake to Silver Springs and Ocala. The Ocala route showed the location of Souterville (Section 17E, Township 14E, Range 22) near Anthony Place Post Office that was established March 13, 1877.

On the note accompanying his map, Gornto wrote:

"It is impossible to mark the meanderings of the road from Orange Lake to Silver Springs. It is a nearby way that has never been opened out for any public travel and never can be made a road fit for a Stage Route in the consequence of the heavy sand and scarcity of water. It on an average detains the mail on its return from Ocala to this office two hours."

Figure 5 shows the only known cover from Souterville, with Daniel Souter's manuscript postmark, dated July 23, 1858.⁸



Figure 5. Souterville, Florida July 23, 1858, manuscript postmark.

Figure 6 lists the Souterville postmasters and their appointment dates.⁹

Postmaster	Postmaster Appointment	Reporting Data	Postmaster Compensation	Net Accrued Post Office Receipts
William B. Bowen	07.05.1856	from 07.23.1856	\$5.49	---
Daniel Souter	09.27.1856	2 qtrs. end 06.30.1857	\$9.62	\$6.91
			\$7.76	---
P.O. Discontinued	12.29.1858	2 qtrs. end 06.30.1859		

Figure 6. Souterville Postmasters.

What is interesting is the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad was completed between Orange Lake and Silver Spring and Ocala after the closing of both post offices. The Anthony Place Post Office opened in 1877 near Souterville, and in 1882 the Sparr Post Office opened near Cottage. For a ten-year period, residents had to travel eight to ten miles to the nearest post office.

There are several additional towns where the location is not known. They are: Beasant's, Nassau County (1833-1835), Broomsville, Liberty County (1857-1857), Chapel Hill, Gadsden County (1830), Economy, Gadsden County (1846-1847), Goolsby's, Columbia County (1839-1842), Ringgold, Jackson County (1846-1848), and Troy, Madison County (1846-1847). Any information would be appreciated.

We would like to thank Annabelle Leitner for her review and genealogical information.

Endnotes

¹ Briggs, Deane R., Francis Ferguson, and Thomas M. Lera, *Florida Postal History 1763-1861, Second Edition*, Florida Postal History Society, Winter Haven, Florida, USA, 2022, 123-124.

² *National Archives Record Group 28: Records of the Post Office Department, Series: Reports of Site Locations, Florida: Manatee – Monroe*, Microcopy 1126 Roll 94, Images 697-702.

³ *Marion County Deed Book 1*, Page 287 - 288 Marion County, FL.

⁴ Briggs 2022, et.al., 123.

⁵ Briggs 2022, et.al., 124.

⁶ Briggs 2022, et.al., 386.

⁷ *Confederate States Post Office, Contract Bureau, Route Books 1861-1865*. Record Group 109, Ch. XI. National Archives, Washington DC.; *Confederate States Post Office, Contract Bureau, Record of Proposals to Carry the Mail 1862-1863*. Record Group 109, Ch. XI. National Archives, Washington DC.

⁸ Briggs 2022, et.al., 386.

⁹ Ibid.

The Barefoot Mailman

By Juan L. Riera

From 1885 to 1892, mail was carried along a sixty-eight-mile route from Lake Worth, Florida to the communities of Lemon City, Coconut Grove, and Miami to the south on the shores of Biscayne Bay. Approximately twenty-eight miles of the route was by boat, crossing various inlets, rivers, and creeks. The remaining forty miles of the route was done on foot by the mailman walking along the hard-pack sand of the beach.

Initially known as the “barefoot route,” the postal carriers were referred to as “beach walkers” or “beach walkists.” The term “barefoot mailman” came about around 1940 and its use solidified in 1943 by the publication of *The Barefoot Mailman* novel by Theodore Pratt (Figure 1). The book became a movie in 1951 (Figure 2).

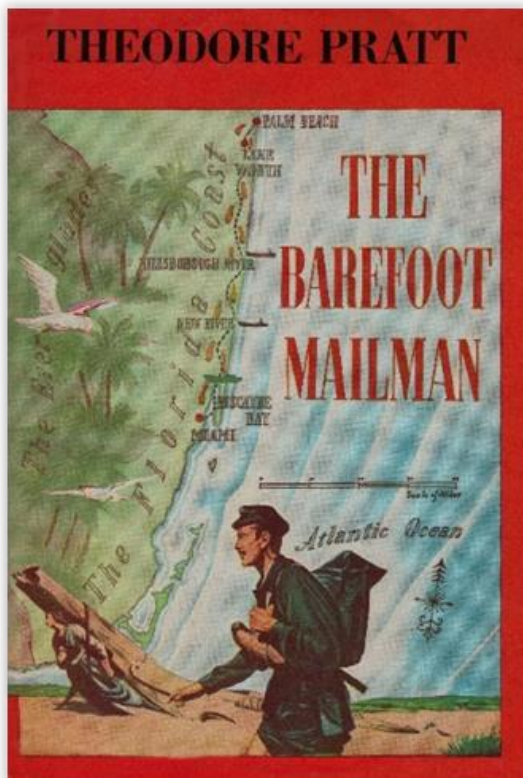


Figure 1. *The Barefoot Mailman*, by Theodore Pratt.

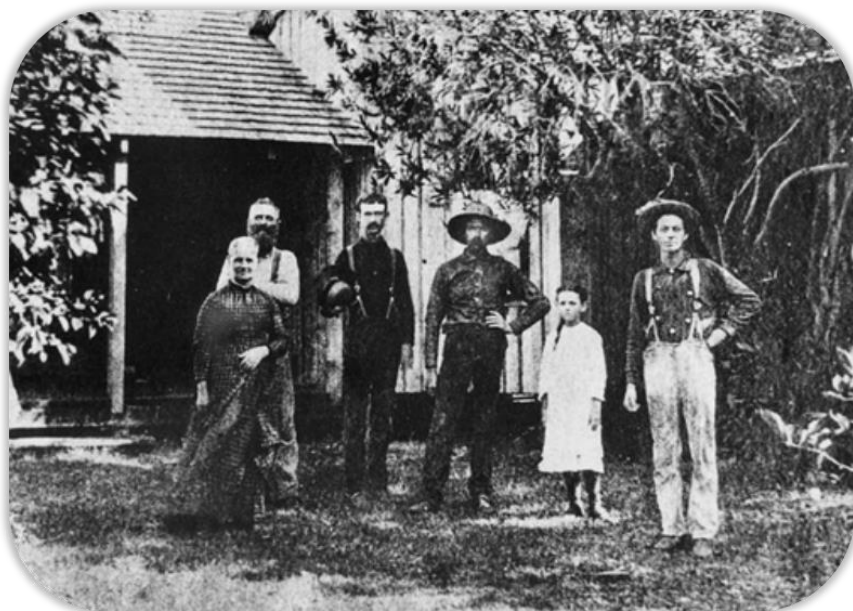


Figure 2. *The Barefoot Mailman*, starring Robert Cummings.

The 136-mile round trip would take six days, leaving Lake Worth to Miami and back. Keep in mind that Broward and Palm Beach counties did not exist at this time. The entire area was Dade County. The carrier would depart on Monday, spending the night at the Orange Grove House of Refuge, in modern-day Delray Beach. On Tuesday, he would continue southward spending the night at the Fort Lauderdale House of Refuge and on Wednesday the carrier would travel by boat down the New River to its inlet and walk down to the north end of Biscayne Bay and go by boat to Miami. Wednesday night was spent at the Biscayne House of Refuge on what became Miami Beach in 1915. On Thursday, the barefoot mailman began the northward leg of this route.

The “barefoot mailman” route was operated as a Star Route contracted by various post offices along the way. A Star Route had to provide celerity, certainty, and security of transportation. Weary of repeatedly writing these words in ledgers, postal clerks substituted three asterisks (* * *) and the phrase “Star Route” was born. In the 1870s and early 1880s, Star Routes were investigated due to the level of rampant fraud and the vast majority were eliminated, although some continued or were resurrected in alternate formats.

There were at least fifteen barefoot mailmen including Edward Ruthven Bradley, the first Mailman, sometimes accompanied by his son, Louie; James “Ed” Hamilton; Andrew Garnett; Charles W. Pierce; George Charter; Bob Douthit; Dan McCarley; Frederick Matthaus; Otto Matthaus; George Sears; and a man known only as Stafford. The last carrier under contract, and probably the fastest, was Henry John Burkhardt. The last to walk the route were Edward “Ned” Peat and Dan Kelley from 1891-1893, but neither was under contract with the U.S. Postal Service.



In October 1887, Carrier James “Ed” Hamilton, the most famous of the barefoot mailmen, mysteriously disappeared along the journey. It is believed he lost his life at the Hillsboro Inlet attempting to retrieve a dingy he used to get across the waterway.

Three of the original barefoot mailmen are shown in the Figure 3 photo taken between 1884-1886 at the home of Capt. Hannibal Pierce on Hypoluxo Island. Left to right, standing in back, are Capt. Hannibal Pierce and his wife Margretta, Andrew W. Garnett, Ed Hamilton, Lillie Pierce Voss, and Charles W. Pierce.

Figure 3. Circa 1884 photograph of three of the original barefoot mailmen.
(Courtesy of Harvey E. Oyer, III.)

Post offices involved, or possibly involved, with the Barefoot Mailman route include:

- Hypoluxo, established May 18th, 1886, with Andre W. Garnett as the 1st postmaster; mail forwarded to Lake Worth
- Lake Worth, in operation May 31st, 1880, to March 30th, 1901, Valorus O. Spencer was the 1st postmaster; mail forwarded to Magnolia
- Lantana, in operation from August 1st, 1892, to September 29th, 1900; the 1st postmaster was Morris B. Lyman

- Ft. Lauderdale, established August 18th, 1891, with William C. Valentine as postmaster
- Biscayne; in operation from March 23rd, 1892, to September 30, 1915
- Lemon City, established May 29th, 1893, with William A. Filer as postmaster
- Coconut Grove, in operation August 25th, 1884, to November 30th, 192.
- Miami, re-established September 22nd, 1877, and still in operation to this day, with William Ewan as postmaster

The need for the barefoot mailman ended in January 1893 with the building of a road from Lantana (eight miles south of Palm Beach) to Lemon City (six miles north of Miami). This signaled the official end of the Pioneer Era in South Florida and the beginning of the Henry Flagler Era.

Postal History Artifacts

“Home of Barefoot Mailman Ed. Hamilton”

Postmarked STUART FLA. MAR 24, 1952, the image side of the Figure 4 postcard is a photograph of the Hypoluxo, Florida post office. The upper left caption on the address side of the card (Figure 5) reads:

Hypoluxo named by Indians for bordering on Lake Worth means “Water all around – no get in – not get out.” Settled in 1872 by H.D. Pierce. Post Office established in 1886 with three mails weekly by lake boat named Hypoluxo. Now served by five trains daily. Home of Barefoot mailman, Ed. Hamilton.

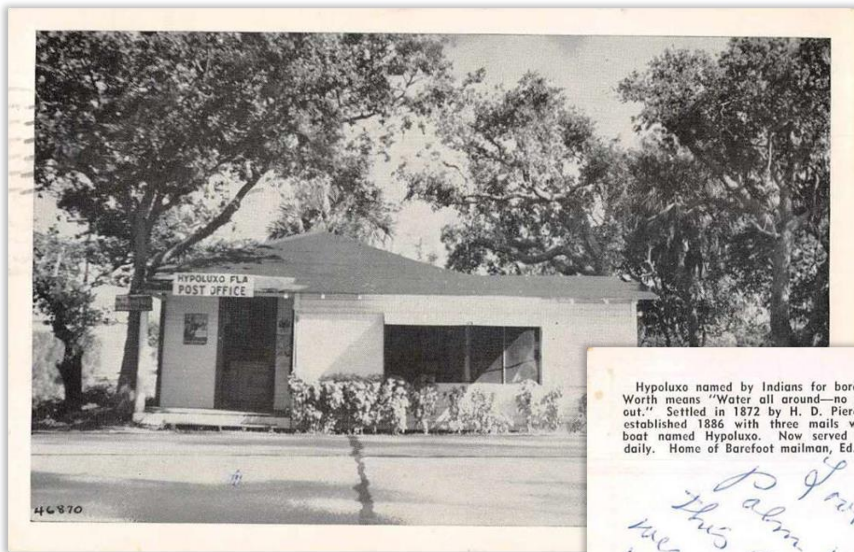


Figure 4. Hypoluxo, Florida post office.

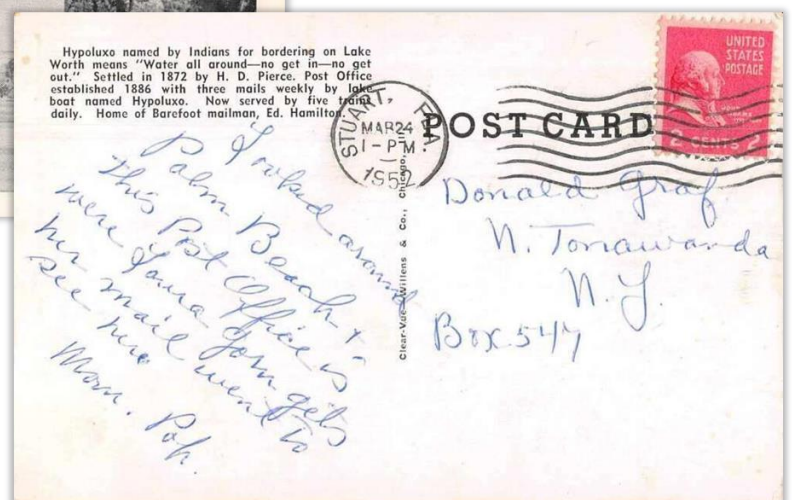
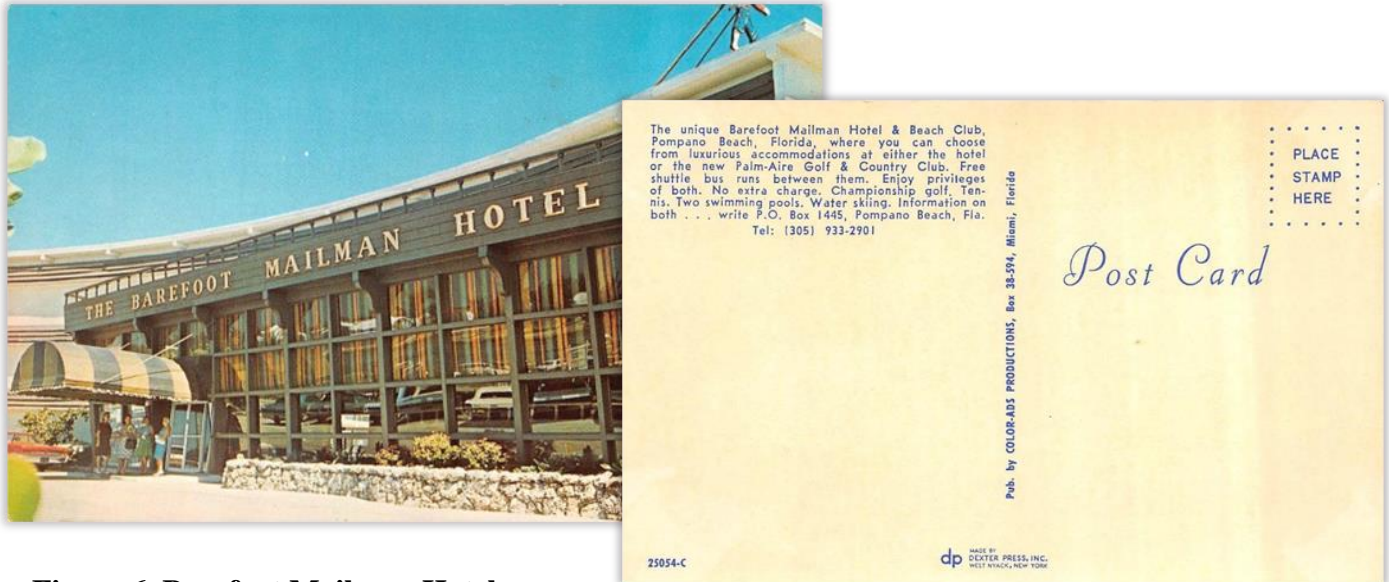


Figure 5. Home of Barefoot mailman, Ed. Hamilton.

The Barefoot Mailman Hotel

During its many years of operation, the Barefoot Mailman Hotel in Pompano Beach, Florida advertised its “resort” offerings on postcards with various photograph images. Figure 6 is the image side of an unmailed postcard with a photograph of the hotel.

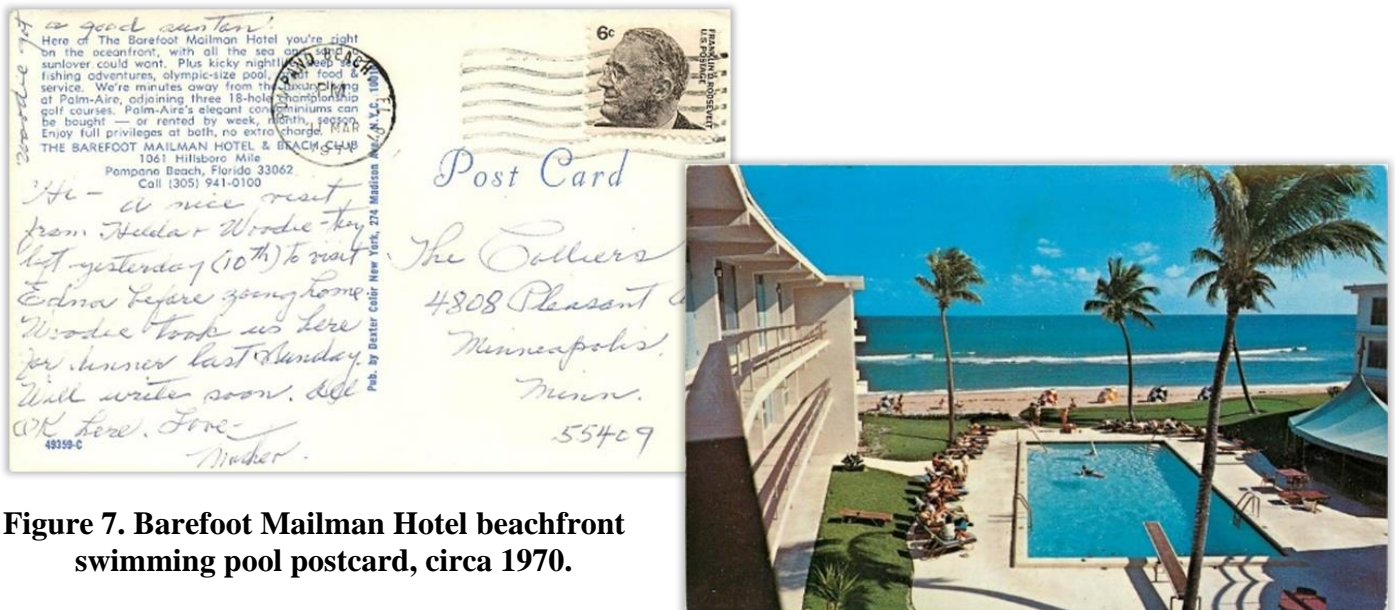


**Figure 6. Barefoot Mailman Hotel,
Pompano Beach, Florida.**

The card’s caption on the address side of the postcard reads in part:

The unique Barefoot Mailman Hotel & Beach Club, Pompano Beach, Florida, where you can choose from luxurious accommodations at either the hotel or the new Palm-Aire Golf & Country Club.

A circa 1970 postcard (Figure 7) franked with a six-cent Roosevelt (Scott 1284) shows the beachfront pool of the Barefoot Mailman Hotel.



**Figure 7. Barefoot Mailman Hotel beachfront
swimming pool postcard, circa 1970.**

An unmailed Barefoot Mailman Hotel postcard (Figure 8) offers an image of a barefoot mailman walking his route on the beach.

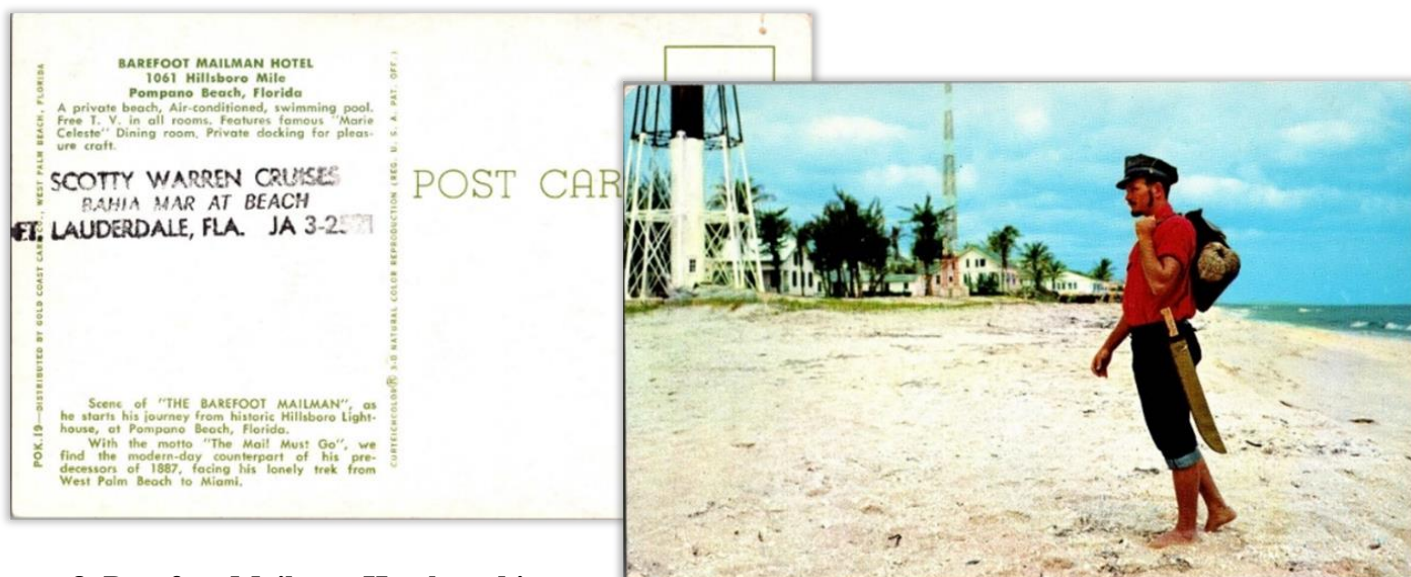


Figure 8. Barefoot Mailman Hotel card image of mailman walking his route on the beach.

Boy Scout Annual Barefoot Mailman Route Hike

The South Florida Council of the Boy Scouts sponsors a yearly thirty-five-mile, two-day hike along portions of the barefoot mailman route from Pompano Beach to the southern portion of Miami Beach. The Scouts carry official U.S. Mail on their hike. Just like the barefoot mailmen, the Scouts are self-sufficient, carrying food, water, and camping equipment.

On the first day of the hike each year, postal officials (Figure 9) affix a “BAREFOOT MAILMAN STATION” pictorial postmark (Figure 10) on letters the Scouts will carry on their journey.



Figure 9. USPS official applying BAREFOOT MAILMAN STATION marking to covers.

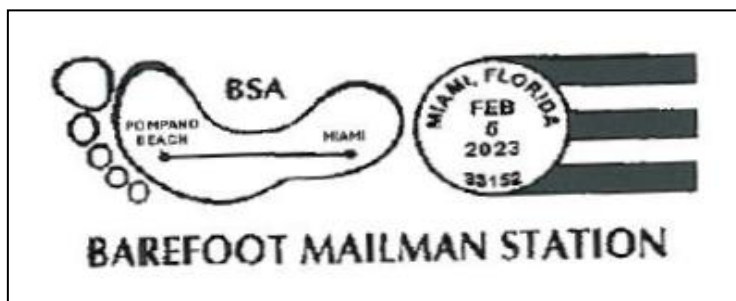


FIGURE 10. BAREFOOT MAILMAN STATION pictorial cancel.

The USPS official would also apply the postmark to cards and letters brought by local residents attending the event. Others could also obtain the postmark by addressing their requests to the Barefoot Mailman Station in Miami.

Courtesy of the *Florida News*, Figure 11 is a photograph of Scouts during their 2023 Barefoot Mailman hike.



Figure 11. Scouts hiking on the beach during the 2023 Barefoot Mailman event.

Figures 12 and 13 are commemorative Barefoot Mailman Scout hike covers.

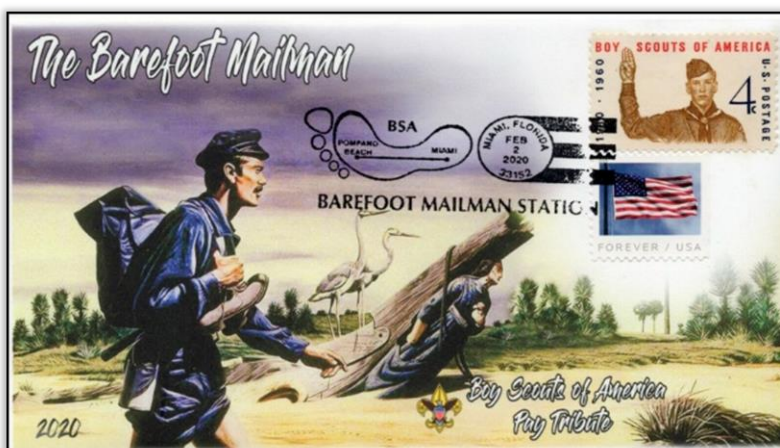


Figure 12. February 2, 2020, Barefoot Mailman Scout hike cover.



Figure 13. February 5, 2023, Barefoot Mailman Scout hike cover.

Florida Correspondence of James Gadsden

By Phil Eschbach

James Gadsden (1788-1858) (Figure 1), grandson of Christopher Gadsden of Revolutionary War fame, was born in Charleston, South Carolina. He was educated at Yale (his roommate was John Calhoun) and joined the military as an engineer in 1812.



Gadsden is best known and remembered for the Gadsden Purchase. The treaty was an agreement between the United States and Mexico, finalized in 1854, in which the United States agreed to pay Mexico \$10 million for a 29,670 square mile portion of Mexico that later became part of Arizona and New Mexico. Gadsden's Purchase provided the land necessary for a southern transcontinental railroad and attempted to resolve conflicts that lingered after the Mexican-American War.

Gadsden first appeared in Florida in 1818 during the first Seminole War as a lieutenant under General Andrew Jackson. They were pursuing a group of Indians in southern Georgia into Spanish Florida. Jackson ordered a small fort to be built near Prospect Bluff, close to present day Apalachicola, naming it Fort Gadsden after his protégé.

Figure 1. James Gadsden.
(Painted by Charles Fraser, circa 1831.)

When Florida became a United States territory in 1821, Gadsden acquired property in what was to become Jefferson County in 1827. He established a plantation he called Wacissa which was fully functioning by 1825. Today, Wacissa (Figure 2) is a small unincorporated community and census-designated place (CDP) in Jefferson County, Florida.



Figure 2. Wacissa, Jefferson County, Florida.

With the accession of Florida in 1821, Andrew Jackson was appointed the first governor, but at that point preferred military life and resigned in favor William Pope Duval (Figure 3).



Figure 3. William Pope Duval, 1784-1854.



Richard Keith Call (1792-1862) (Figure 4), another of Jackson's protégés, was appointed the first legislative representative from the territory of Florida to Washington.

All positions of governor and legislative representatives were appointed until 1827 when they became elected. James Gadsden then ran for elective office several times but never won a seat.

One of the election returns from the town of Pea River (Figure 5), postmarked Alaqua, shows the count for Gadsden of four votes and Joseph White fourteen.

Figure 4. Keith Richard Call.

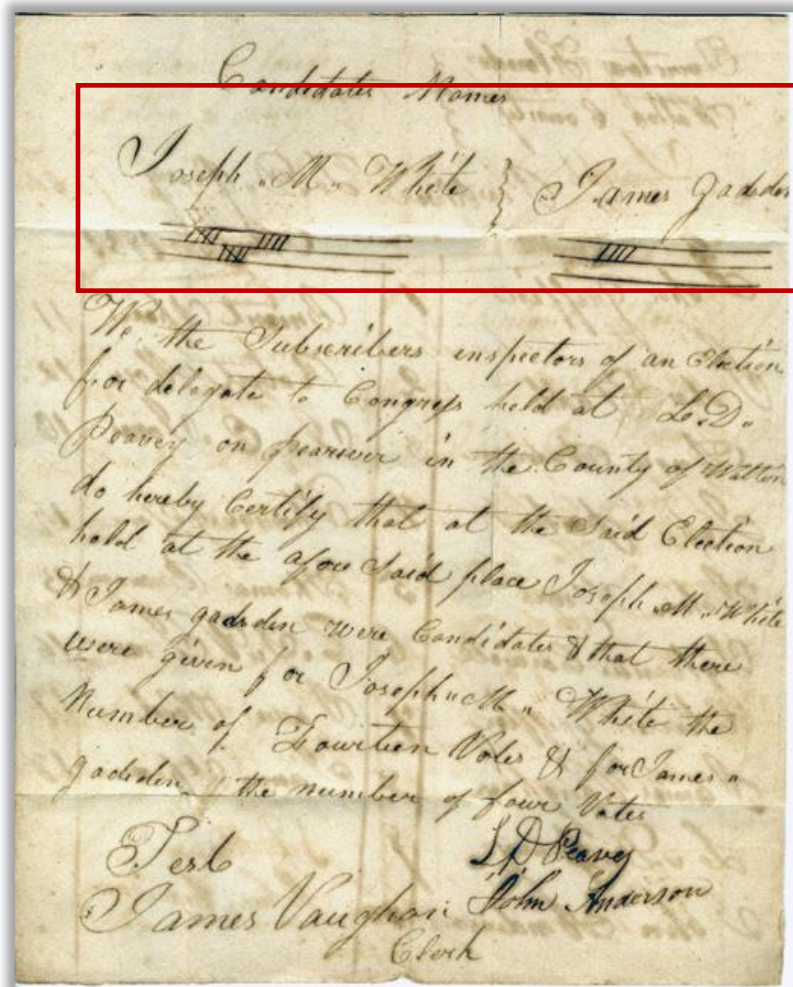


Figure 5. Pea River Election Returns.

Originally from the Deane Briggs' collection, Figure 6 is a folded letter from James Gadsden to Secretary of War John Eaton (1790 – 1856) (Figure 7). Postmarked Tallahassee, May 27, 1829, the mailing has a Free franking (Type IVc).

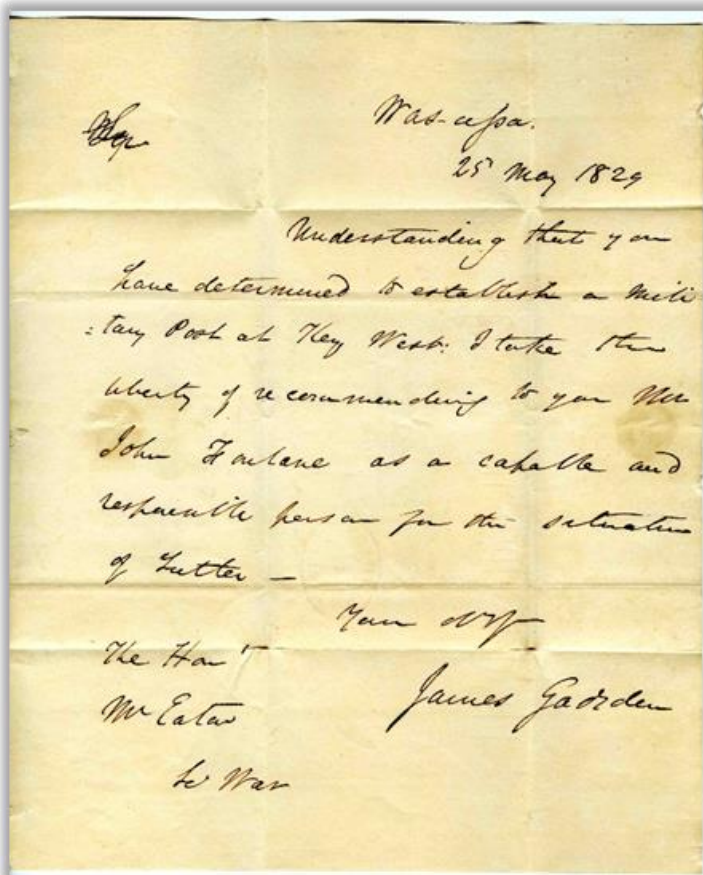


Figure 6. James Gadsden to John Eaton, Secretary of War.



Figure 7. John Eaton.

Note that the FREE franking privilege for Gadsden was by virtue, at this time (1829-30), of his appointment as a commissioner in charge of dealing with the expulsion of the Seminoles to the western reservations.



The letter (Figure 8) is datelined Wassisa 25 May 1829. It is interesting that Gadsden is giving advice to the Eaton as to whom to appoint as sutler to the newly formed military base in Key West.

A sutler was a civilian merchant who catered to soldiers on military posts. Gadsden recommended John Farlane. No information could be found about Farlane.

"Understanding that you have determined to establish a military post at Key West, I take the liberty of recommending to you Mr. John Farlane as a capable and responsible man as for the position of sutler."

Figure 8. "...recommending to you Mr. John Farlane as a capable and responsible man as for the position of sutler."

After 1821, President Monroe sent Commodore David Porter with a Navy fleet to clear out the pirates who had used the Keys for hideouts. Porter referred to Key West as the "Gibraltar of the Gulf."

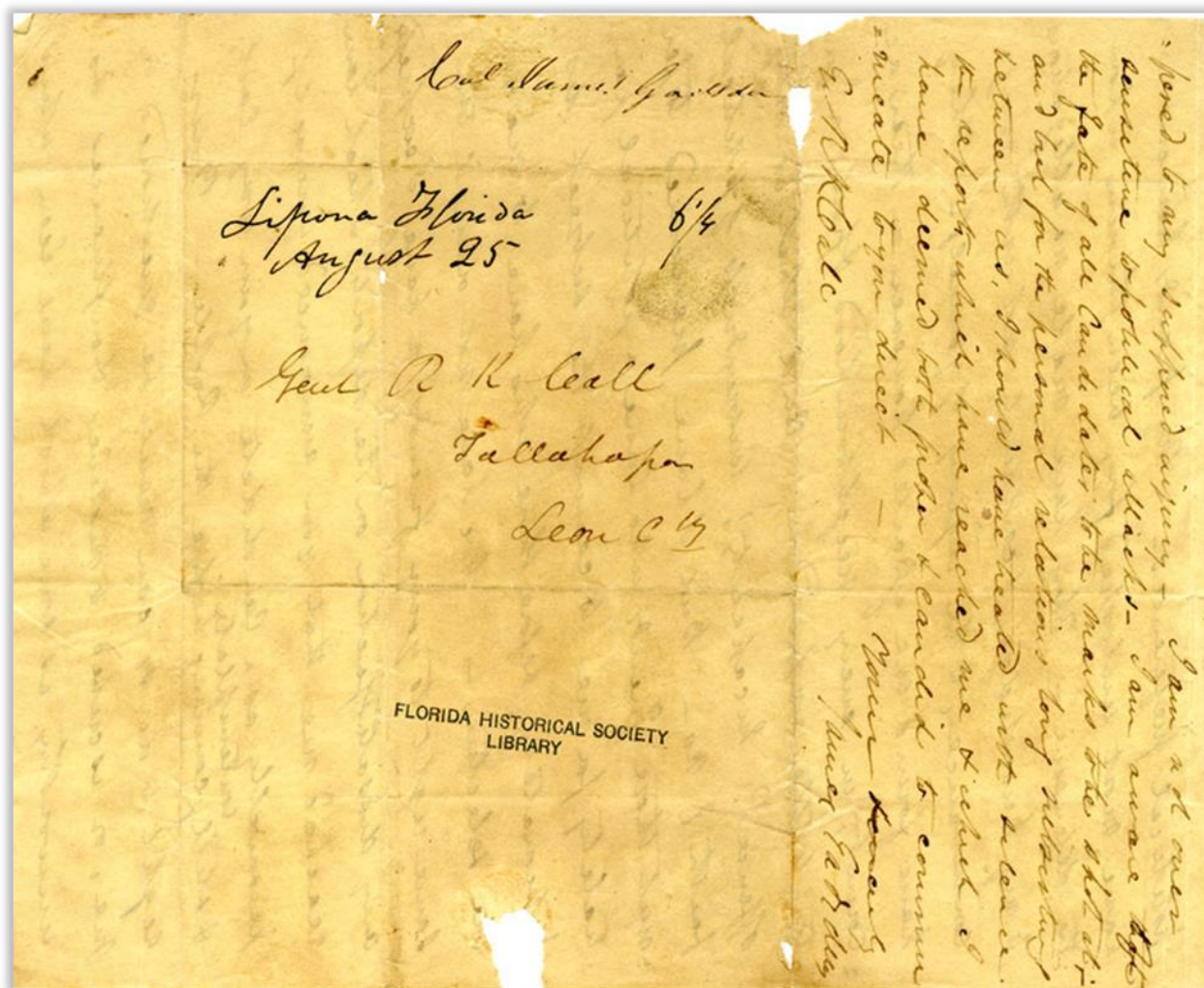
Then in 1822, Lt. Commander Mathew Perry (1794 – 1858) (Figure 9) sailed in, officially proclaiming Key West and the rest of the keys as part of the US territory of Florida.

In 1825, President Adams authorized a naval presence there and a post office was established. Most inhabitants were either fishermen or wreckers and amazingly the town of Key West was the richest town per capita in the United States in 1830. The population, as well as the naval presence, grew until Fort Taylor was built in 1845.



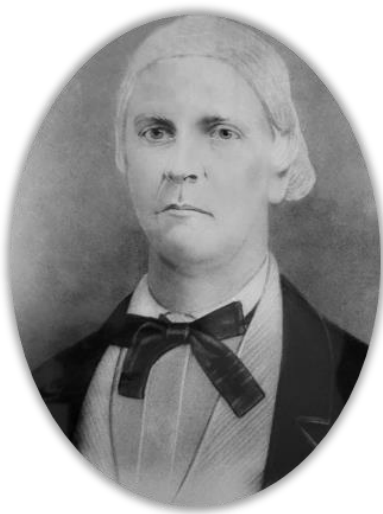
Figure 9. Lt. Commander Mathew Perry.

Another Gadsden cover (Figure 10) was written to representative Richard Keith Call in 1833, postmarked from Lipona, Florida, manuscript Type II, with the rare 6¼ postal rate.



**Figure 10. James Gadsden to Richard Richard Keith Call, 1833.
(Courtesy Florida Historical Society.)**

Interestingly, the postmaster at Lipona was Octavious Gadsden (Figure 11), James' brother, who was living on Achille Murat's Lipona plantation, which abutted Gadsden's Wacissa plantation. (See my article on Murat/Lipona in the September 2018 issue of the FPHJ.)

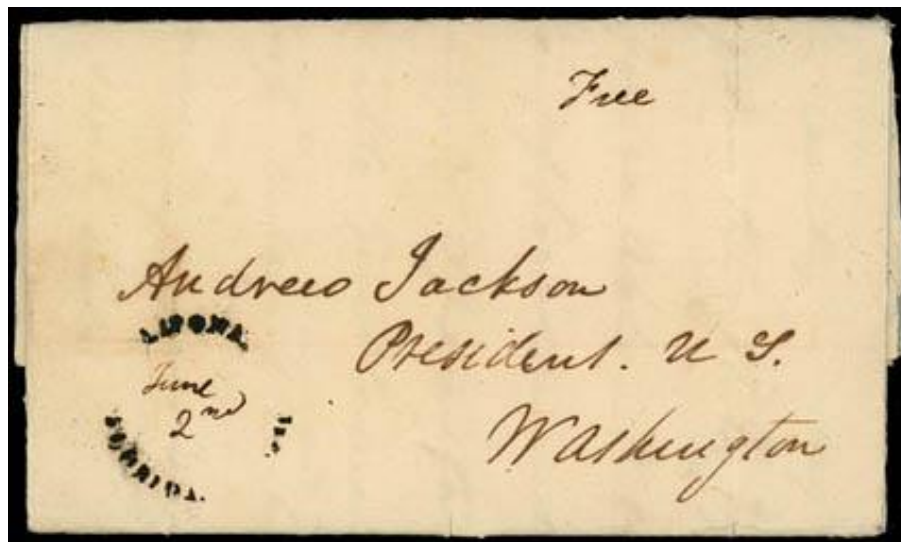


Gadsden and Call were close friends, and this four-page letter discusses Florida politics of the day. Gadsden addresses Call as "My Dear Call".

Another Gadsden folded letter cover (Figure 12) was written from Wacissa and postmarked Lipona, June 2, 1830 (Type III) with "Free" rating, and datelined June 1, 1830, to President Andrew Jackson, in which Gadsden addressed the president as "Dear General."

Lipona was on the postal route No. 2455, which ran from Jacksonville to Tallahassee with stops along the way, operated bi-weekly. It was contracted out at \$950 a year to my ancestor, William Henry Williams, who was the brother of Eliza Williams Bellamy, a neighbor of the Gadsdens.

Figure 11. Octavious Gadsden. (Compliments of Jack Carswell.)



**Figure 12. James Gadsden to President Andrew Jackson, June 2, 1830.
(Courtesy Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, 2017.)**

Sources

Jerrell Shofner, *Jefferson County, Florida*, Publisher: Sentry Press, Tallahassee FL. Publication Date: 1976.

A.J. Hanna, *A Prince in their Midst. The Adventurous Life of Achille Murat on the American Frontier*. With drawings by John Rae. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1946.

Louise White, *History of Key West*: Great Outdoors Publishing Company, 1959.

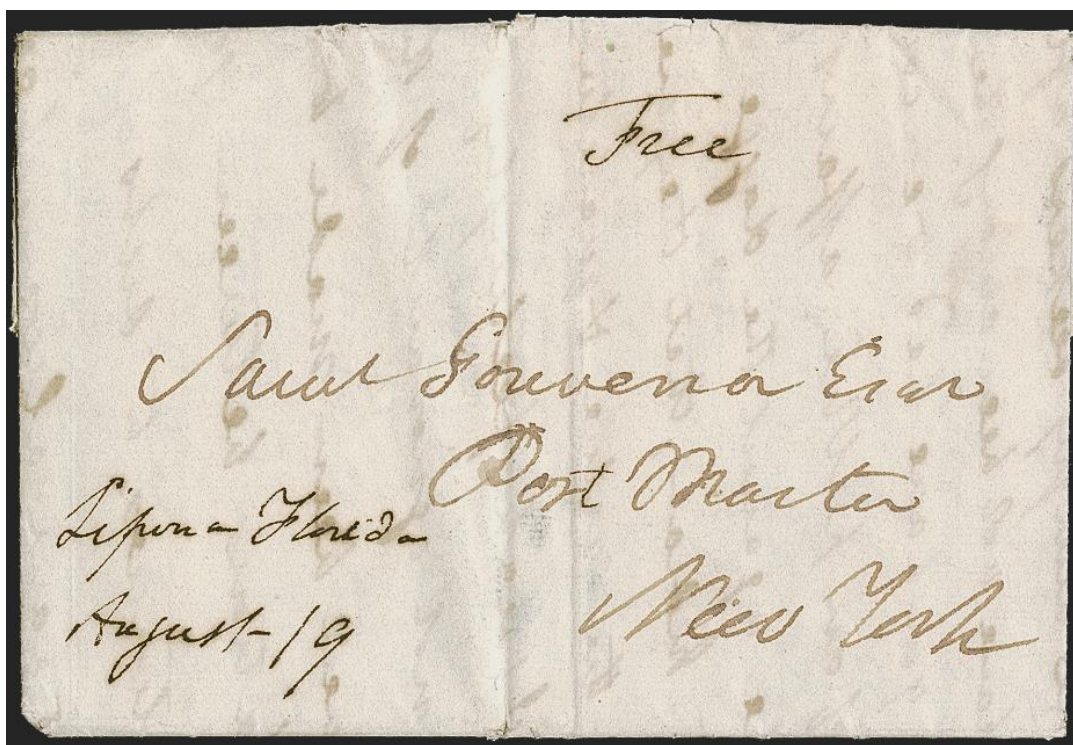
Conversations with Jack Carswell (great great grandson of Octavious Gadsden).

Editor's Note

James Gadsden joined the U.S. Army in December of 1812. He served as a commissioned officer commanded by General Andrew Jackson, who was later elected President in 1828. The postal history associated with James Gadsden offers many items of correspondence from Gadsden to Jackson.

Online resources that are available for examples of and research about Gadsden's correspondence with Jackson include Vanderbilt University Special Collections, Chicago History Museum, Loc's Public Domain Archive, and the University of Miami Archival Collections.

Gadsden letters related to Andrew Jackson are also periodically included in philatelic auctions such as the cover below offered in the July 25-26, 2023, Siegel Auction Galleries Sale 1291.



The cover has a manuscript postmark of "Lipona - Florida August 19" (1832) (Lipona was next to Gadsden's plantation) with a matching "Free" on the folded letter datelined "Wascissia Augt. 16th 32" from James Gadsden to Saml. Gouverneur, the postmaster in New York City. The mailing's contents include one page to the Gouverneur and also a copy of contents sent by Gadsden to President Jackson (Gouverneur's father-in-law).

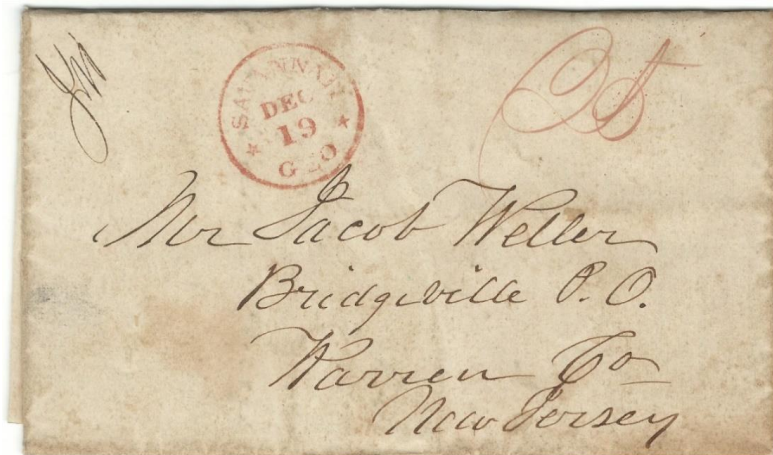
Lipona's post office was established in 1828 on the 10,000-acre plantation of Prince Achile Murat, a nephew of Napoleon and exiled son of the King of Naples.

The cover is perhaps one of two recorded examples of the Lipona manuscript postmark and has a market value of \$1,000.

The Death of William Banghart

By Todd D. Hause

While looking at a dealer's box cover postmarked SAVANNAH, GEO DEC 19 (Figure 1), I noticed a small notation on the back of the sleeve which said "Jacksonville, Fla Terr 1844." The letter was sent by "Moore & Wood" to Mr. Jacob Weller. On close examination of the mailing's contents, I found an intriguing story that brought to life all of those involved in the events it described.



Mr. Jacob Weller was a lifelong resident of Warren Co., New Jersey. The contents of the letter (Figure 2) were regarding Mr. William Banghart, another lifelong resident of that area. The Bridgeville post office it was addressed to, established in 1840, was at a small town along the Pequest River about two miles from where it intersects the Delaware River which forms the boundary between New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

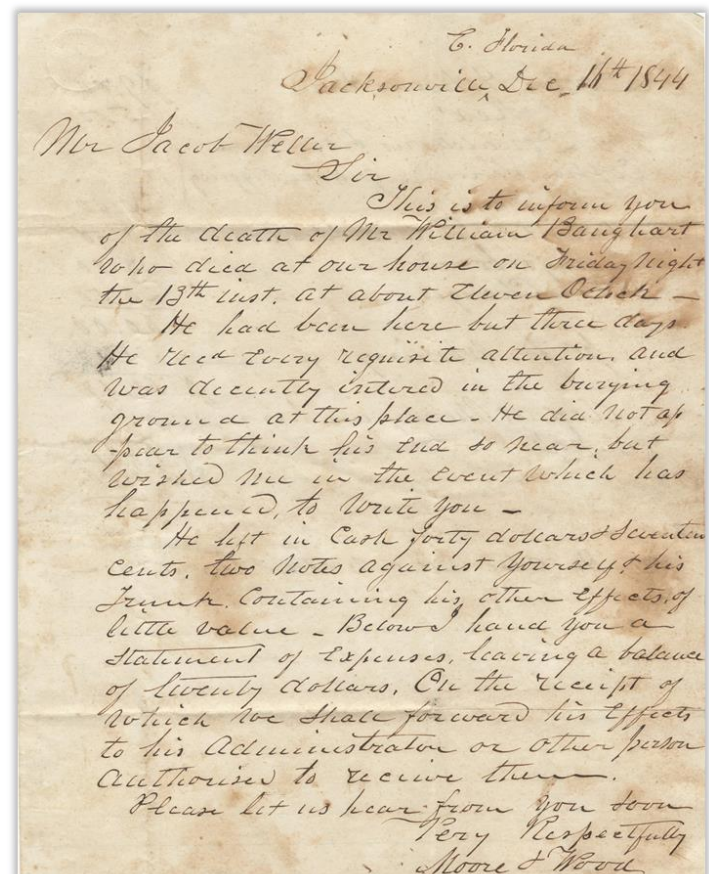
Figure 1. To Mr. Jacob Weller; postmarked December 19, 1844.

Mr. William Banghart is believed to have been born December 6, 1767. His birthplace is unknown to this writer. However, it appears that he and his family lived in that part of Warren County nearly their entire lives.

William was the father of Sarah Banghart who was born there in 1814 and who in 1832 married the addressee, Mr. Jacob Weller of Oxford, New Jersey, a town about four miles southeast of Bridgeville.

On Tuesday, December 10, 1844, six days before the posting of this letter at Savannah, Mr. Banghart, at age seventy-seven, arrived at Jacksonville. What brought him there is unknown. Perhaps he sought the warmer climate or perhaps he longed for an adventure. Mr. Banghart was staying at the Wood's Hotel. He had been in Jacksonville three days when this story unfolded.

Figure 2. Contents of letter to Jacob Weller.



He had been here but three days.

During this part of the 1840s, Oliver Wood built the first hotel in Jacksonville which was called Wood's Hotel. Apparently, he had a partner named "Moore". The hotel was located at the corner of Adams and Newman Streets (Figure 3, Hotel).¹

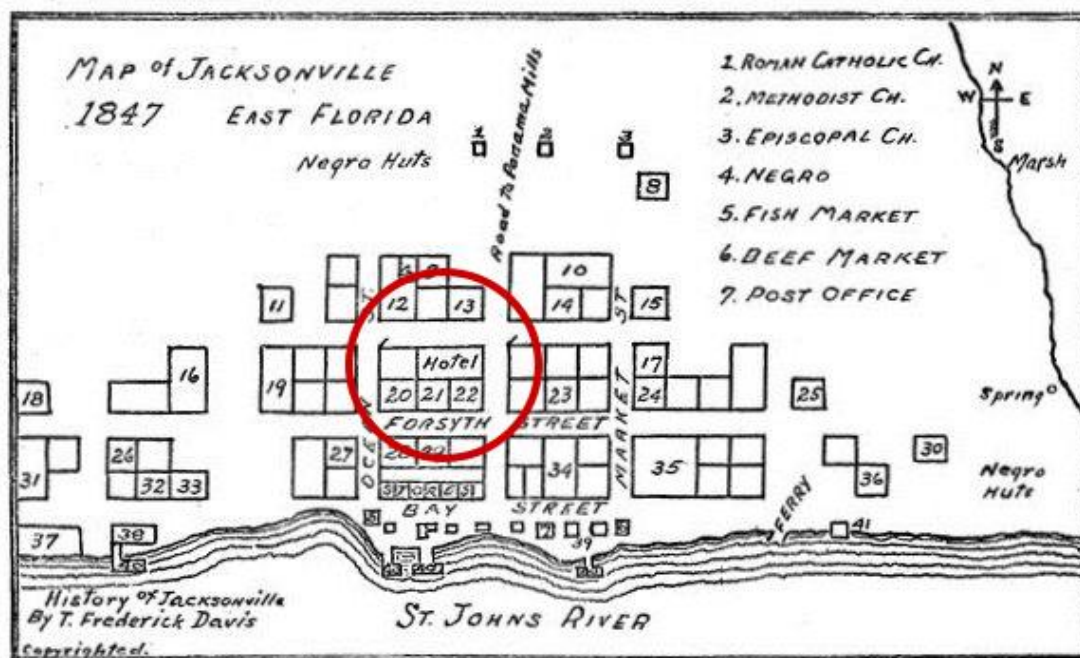


Figure 3. N.R. Child 1847 map of Jacksonville.

Several years later in 1851, Wood sold the hotel to Samuel Buffinton who renamed it Buffinton House and greatly expanded it to nearly 100 rooms² (Figure 4).



Figure 4. The Buffinton House, formerly Wood's Hotel.
(From the 1859 Map of the City of Jacksonville, East Florida.)

On Friday evening, December 13, while at the "house" of Moore and Wood, Mr. Banghart became ill.

at our house

It is possible Mr. Banghart's stay was before Wood (and Moore) opened their hotel, or "house." Or this may have just been how Wood referred to the establishment.

Banghart was attended to by Physician Henry D. Holland who lived on the other end of the block, at the corner of Newman and Forsyth streets (Figure 3, #22).

Doc Holland had become Jacksonville's physician through unusual circumstances which are revealed in the following account³ (Figure 4):

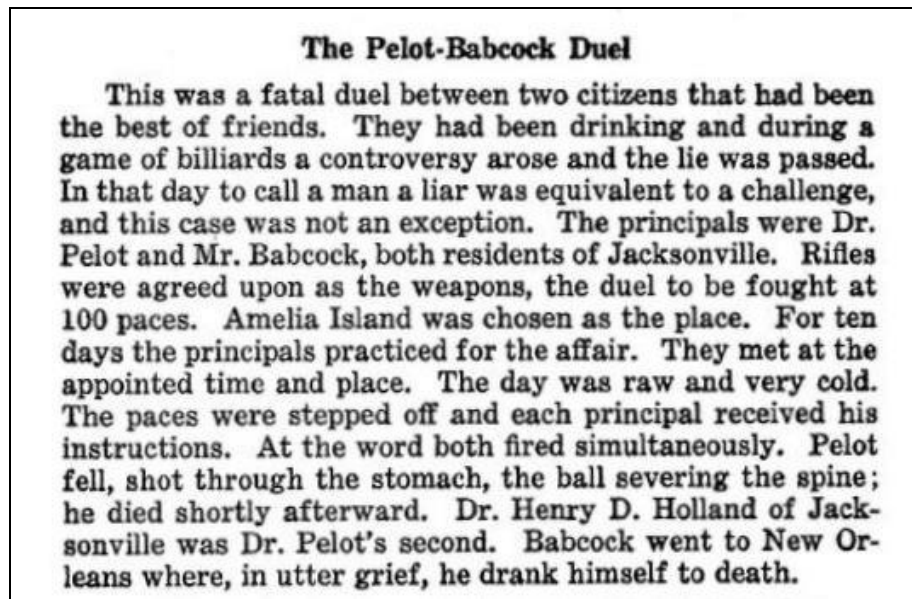
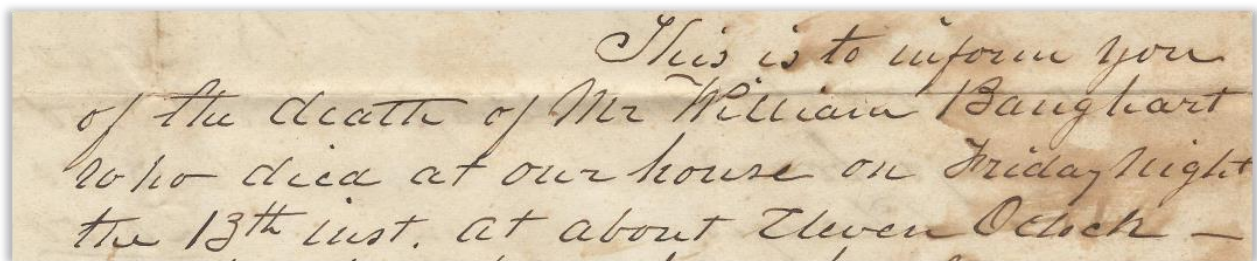


Figure 4. "Dr. Henry Holland of Jacksonville was Dr. Pelot's second."

Thus, Doc Holland was summoned to the hotel where he attended to the ill Mr. Banghart and gave him medicine. But "on Friday night the 13th at about eleven oclock," Mr. William Banghart died:



Over the weekend, Wood and Moore made the necessary arrangements to bury Mr. Banghart. Evidently before passing away, Mr. Banghart had requested that should it be necessary, Wood and Moore contact his son-in-law Jacob Weller in New Jersey.

After having interred Mr. Banghart, they itemized his possessions and tallied their expenses. Thus, the December 16 letter to Jacob Weller regarding the events that had transpired, along with the statement of expenses, less the \$40.17 Mr. Banghart had in his possession (Figure 5).

The expenses included:

- 1 shirt & 1 pr drawers furnished – 3.00
- Mr. Donaldsons bill for coffin, shroud, grave digging – 20.00
- Pd for washing - .17
- Dr. Hollands Bill – 14.00
- Our Charges – 20.00

Doctor Hollands Bill \$9.00
 Res' 5.00
 Mr " Donaldsons bill for
 Coffin, Shroud, grave digging }
 &c &c 20.00
 1 Shirt & 1/2n Drawers furnished - 3.00
 3 days board - 3.00
 Ovr Charges - - 20.00
 60.00
 pd for Washing 1/4 - 17
 \$ 60.17
 Deduct Money in his }
 possession - 40.17
 \$ 20.00
 He also left a watch & pencil case

Figure 5. Statement of expenses related to Mr. Banghart's medical and burying services.

Mr. Banghart was interred in the Jacksonville "burying grounds" which was located just northeast of the Episcopal Church (Figure 3. Place #3) where what is now Church Street, east of Market Street.

Posting the letter

It's hard to say why the cover was not entered into the mails at Jacksonville. It was written on Monday, December 16 and probably mailed that day or certainly December 17 at the latest. Perhaps when Moore & Wood arrived to mail it, the mails had been closed and already delivered to the mails' steamship.

The cover bears no steamship marking but maybe they were still able to place it onboard with a passenger. The two- or three-days transit is about right considering the other stops the steamship made between Jacksonville and Savannah. A land route would have most likely taken longer.

Savannah to Pilatka postal route by water at the time was Route 3528, Established Sept. 1843 – Dec. 1846, once a week. Leaving Savannah with stops at Darien, Brunswick, St. Mary's, Jacksonville, Mandarin, Gary's Ferry and Picolata.⁴

The letter was postmarked SAVANNAH, GEO. DEC. 19 and rated at twenty-five cents for over 400 miles.

The Jacksonville Postmaster at the time was John M. Pons who for the year ended 6/30/1845 had compensation of \$353.63 and receipts of \$675.82.

Epilogue

New Jersey probate records show that on August 9, 1845, Mr. Jacob Weller probated the estate of Mr. Banghart as amounting to \$671.46, which was little more than what he had taken with him to Florida. The largest portion being the two notes against Mr. Weller which amounted to \$650 plus interest and that Mr. Banghart had in his possession at the time of his death.

One has to wonder what would possess this aged gentleman to leave his lifetime home, with his few worldly possessions, and travel to the wilds of Territorial Florida. We don't know where he had been before arriving in Jacksonville. Perhaps he had been in Florida for a while. I prefer to think he came for the adventure and can only hope that whether it was three months, three weeks or just the three days we know about, his Florida experience was satisfactory to him when he passed.

Endnotes

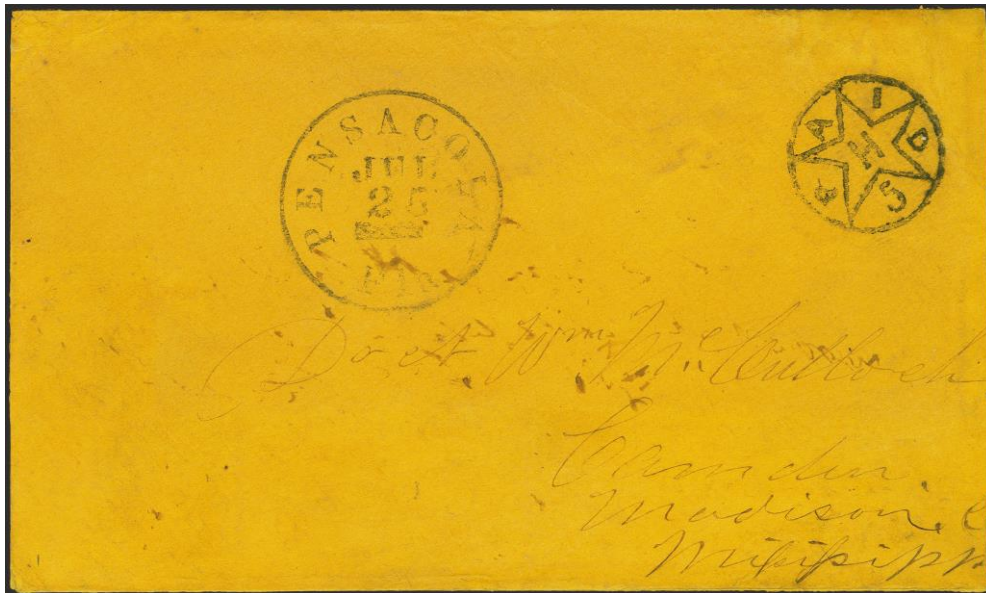
^{1, 2, 3} Davis, Thomas Frederick, *History of Jacksonville, Florida and Vicinity, 1513 to 1924*. (Jacksonville, Florida: The Florida Historical Society, 1925.)

⁴ Feldman, Hugh V., *U.S. Contract Mail Routes by Water (Star Routes 1824-1875)*. (Collectors Club of Chicago, 2008.)

Florida Cover Seen at Auction

H.R. Harmer GPN, Inc. Sale - 3066

The "Erivan" Collection of United States and Confederate States Part IX - June 21, 2023



5-cent black entire, provisional "PAID 5" surrounding star in circle handstamp with "PENSACOLA FLA. JUL 26" datestamp on 1861 cover to Camden, Mississippi. Very fine and rare. One of just four recorded examples of the 5-cent Pensacola provisional envelope.

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. CRUMBLEY

P.O. Box 681447
Charlotte, NC 28216
(704) 395-1191
tcrumbley2@bellsouth.net

PATRICIA A. KAUFMANN

10194 N. Old State Rd.
Lincoln, DE 19960
(302) 422-2656
www.trishkaufmann.com

ELWYN J. DOUBLEDAY, JR

Cover Crazy 2
P.O. Box 119
Alton, NH 03809-0119
www.covercrazy2.com

PHIL FETTIG

A&R Stamps
P.O. Box 453506
Orlando, FL 32856
(407) 859-9109

ALEX BLANCO

DBA Never Hinged, Inc.
P.O. Box 453506
Miami, FL 33245
(888) 699-2909 x 701
alex@neverhinged.com

JOHN KIMBROUGH

10140 Wandering Way
Benbrook, TX 76126
(817) 249-2447

THOMAS HART

Box 1183
Winter Park, FL 32790
(321) 278-3333

HENRY HIGGINS

302 S. Irish Street
P.O. Box 1553
Greenville, TN 37744
(423) 636-8361

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

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS - 2023

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.

Peter Abreu

Hector Arvelo
Dr. David L. Auth
Ted Bahry
Larry F. Beaton
Ronald J. Benice
Deane R. Briggs, M.D.
Paul Broome
Dr. John M. Buckner
Central Florida Stamp Club
Deborah Cohen-Crown
Charles V. Covell, Jr.
Tony L. Crumbley
Dan Culbert
Michael Daley
Gustav G. Dueben, III
George W. Edwards
Charles Epting
Phil Eschbach
Francis Ferguson
Phil Fettig
Dr. Michael J. Fields
Dr. Douglas S. Files
Florida Stamp Dealers' Association
Donald Franchi
Alfredo Frolich
Victor S. Geiger
Ronald E. Gotcher
Mary L. Haffenreffer
Dawn Hamman
Ronald R. Harmon
Thomas Hart
Todd D. Hause
Todd A. Hirn
Liz Hisey
Stefan T. Jaronski
Michael S. Jones
Patricia A. Kaufmann
David Kerr

John L. Kimbrough, M.D.

Leon King
Howard A. King
Richard D. Kinner
Dr. Vernon Kisling
Dr. Yamil H. Kouri
Norman D. Kubler
Thomas M. Lera
Carolyn M. Lewis
Eugene McDermott Library
Rev. David C. Lingard
Richard Lomax
Millard H. Mack
Dan Maddalino
Jack M. Malarkey
Evan Mark
Arlene Merves
Vernon R. Morris, M.D.
James H. Moses
Richard F. Murphy
Burnham S. Neill
Robert J. Novander
Dr. Timothy O'Connor
A. Stephen Patrick
Louis Peterson
Juan L. Riera
Frank Robb
Robert G. Rose
Christine C. Sanders
William R. Schultz
Jack Seaman
Casimir Skrzypezak
St. Petersburg Stamp Club
Bradley Sloan
Robert B. Spence
Stephen L. Stobel
Steve L. Swain
Thomas C. Tomlinson
Patricia S. Walker
John L. Walker
James West