

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

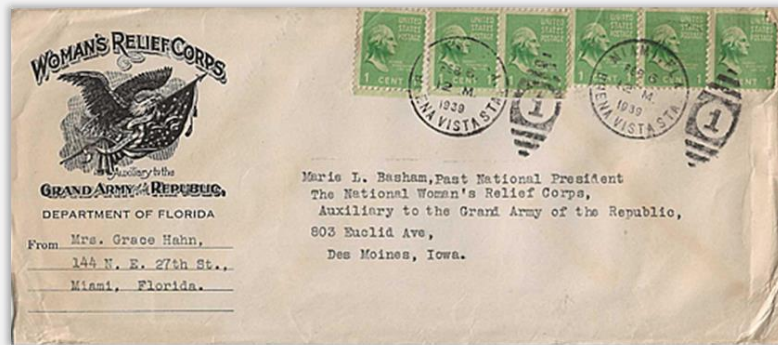


Promoting Philately in the Sunshine State

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Department of Florida, Woman's Relief Corps

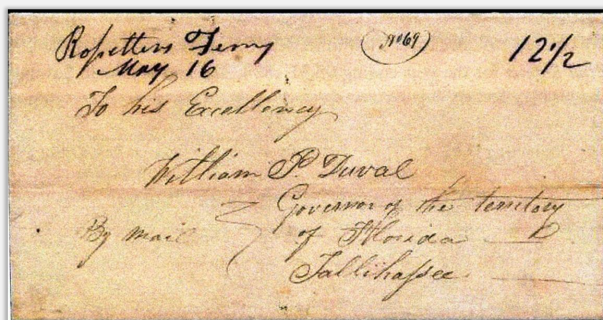
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State Revenue Stamps of Florida –
Tobacco Products



Indian Rocks Beach, Florida



Rossetter's Ferry and PO



1918 Cover From North Carolina
to Orlando

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Department of Florida, Woman's Relief Corps

By Dan Maddalino



Group portrait, Woman's Relief Corps. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress)

Postal history of correspondence to and from the Department of Florida, Woman's Relief Corps (NWRC) Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), is quite scarce. It is a forgotten era. Florida's three Hs (Heat, Humidity, and Hurricanes), fires, and floods have ravaged many small troves of old records. With no requirement to retain the records of NWRC Departments (States), most are lost¹.

Figure 1 is a SAINT PETERSBURG FLA. JUN 10, 1933, mailing from Julia W. Poole, President of the Department of Florida unit, to Mrs. Jennie Smith, Miami, Florida.



Figure 1. Department of Florida, Woman's Relief Corps, 1933 mailing to Miami, Florida.

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was formed in 1866² as a soldier's aid society organized to support the returning Union veterans of the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865). Their motto was "Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty." They worked hard to aid and comfort the unfortunate Union veterans who upon return from the war had no jobs, many were disabled, and most discouraged.

In addition, there were many widows and orphaned children suffering from the lack of the basic means of survival. An economic depression was crippling the northern states. The GAR was a small organization at first, and thus was not able to make a significant impact³.

Beginning in the early stages of the war, as wounded veterans returned to their hometowns, small groups of women began to form local aid and relief circles. They cared for their friends and neighbors. These small relief groups blossomed and were spreading throughout the Union and former Confederate States. By wars end there were several dozens of these small-town women-organized charitable groups.

During 1881, these women leaders saw the need for a national organization to coordinate the relief efforts and begin large-scale fund-raising campaigns. In July of 1883, fifty-seven former Civil War nurses representing their local relief groups gathered in Denver, Colorado to organize into one national (and more powerful) relief effort.

With the support of the GAR, the National Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic, was founded on July 25, 1883. They immediately went to work organizing each state's local groups into Departments.

The new NWRC's membership medal, Figure 2, became the image of their stationery cachet. An example of this is shown in Figure 3 on a mailing from the New York unit's president, Mrs. E.T. Barrett.



Figure 2. NWRC membership medal.



Figure 3. Membership medal cachet on NWRC mailing.

The Department of Florida was founded in Jacksonville in 1884⁴. As seen on Figure 1, the Department of Florida chose a bold, more patriotic cachet.

The Department of Florida followed the Union veterans into northern Florida and set up local organizations called Posts⁵. In addition to Jacksonville, early Posts were established in Lynn Haven (Panama City) Eustis, Key West, and St. Petersburg/Tampa.

Most GAR Posts had an organized NWRC affiliated with them and frequently shared meeting halls. By the turn of the twentieth century, there were approximately 225 former Union soldiers making the ranks of the GAR in Florida⁴. By the early 1900s, GAR membership had risen to over 400,000 nationally. Eventually, there were forty-five Posts in the State of Florida.

However, age was on their heels. As membership began to decline, and to keep a pledge of memorializing the Union Veterans, the Florida Department of the National Woman's Relief Corp turned their efforts towards monument building⁶. During the 1930s, the Miami Post of the GAR was struggling to finance and build a monument to the Union veterans. The Miami NWRC partnered with the GAR and by 1939 was successful in having a monument erected in Miami's Woodlawn Cemetery.

Figure 4 shows the cover communicating this accomplishment to the 1922 Past National President and current project coordinator Marie L. Basham.

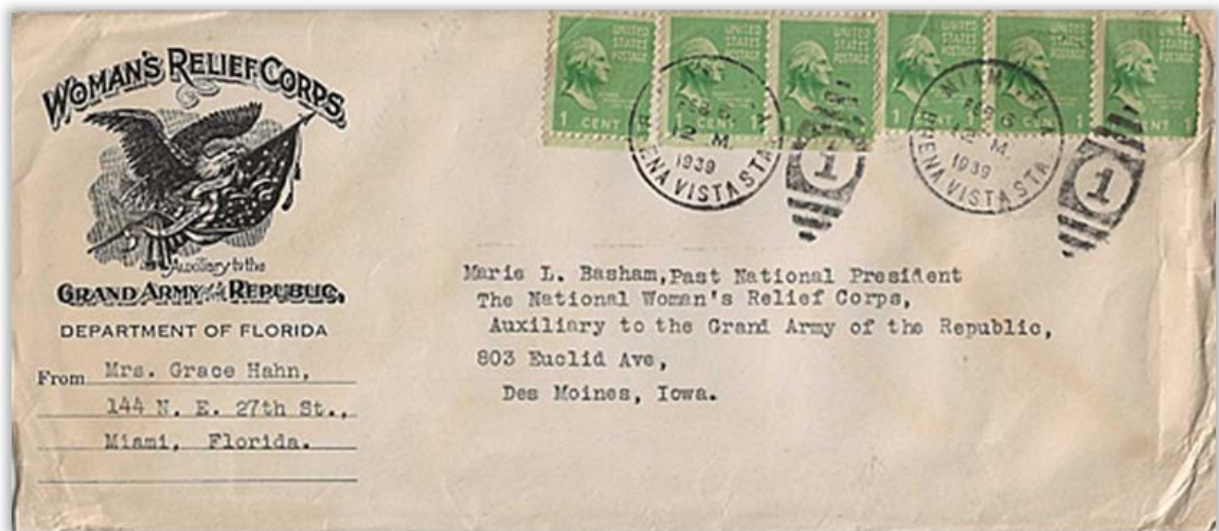


Figure 4. Mrs. Grace Hahn, Department of Florida President, to NWRC National President.

Mrs. Grace Hahn (Grace Houlette Hahn, 1876-1971)⁷ was a prominent resident of Miami. Her husband, William Lloyd Hahn (1877-1937)⁸, had served during the Spanish American War (1898) in the 1st Florida Volunteer Infantry⁹. Together in 1921, they constructed a hotel (today known as The Hahn Building) in downtown Miami¹⁰.

Grace Hahn was an active leader in local, state, and national patriotic and charitable organizations¹¹. But, most importantly, she was the Star of the Miami Post having served as Miami Post President, followed by becoming the 1939 President of the Department of Florida and in 1940, was elected National President of the National Women's Relief Corps. Through 140 years, she is the only corps member from Florida to have ever been elected National President.

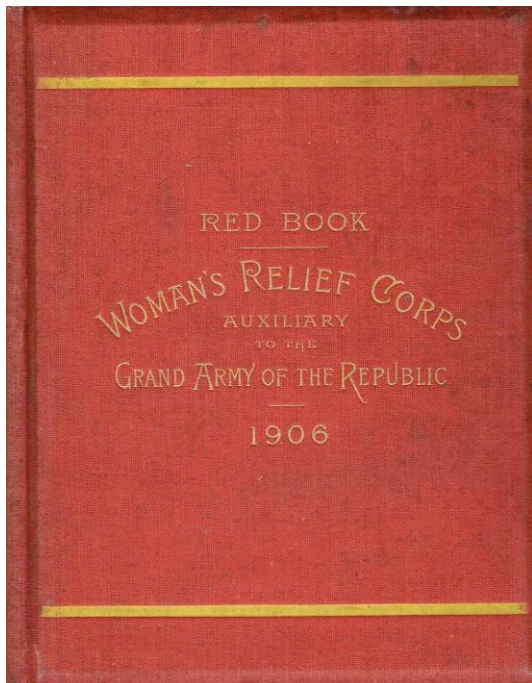
Following the 1949 death of the last verified Union Veteran of the Civil War, the Grand Army of the Republic lost its purpose and dissolved in 1959¹². Today the National Woman's Relief Corps has shrunk in membership to less than 2,000 nationwide but, they remain in existence. Headquartered in Riverton, Illinois, they perform charitable projects and fund educational scholarships¹³.

The Florida Department of the National Woman's Relief Corps no longer exists. This forgotten era of the National Woman's Relief Corps, and Florida's Star, Grace Hahn, is now only remembered through the scarce postal history preserved and shared by collectors of Florida postal history.

Endnotes

- ¹ Internet: <http://www.britannica.com>. Accessed April 23, 2023
- ² Internet: <http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/4248950>. Accessed April 24, 2023
- ³ Internet: <http://www.womansreliefcorps.org>. Accessed April 20, 2023
- ⁴ Department of Florida, Grand Army of the Republic; *Proceedings of the Thirty-Sixth Annual Encampment, St. Petersburg, Florida; April 1st and 2nd, 1919*. Original document in the author's possession.
- ⁵ Internet: <http://www.freepages.rootsweb.com>. Accessed April 23, 2023
- ⁶ William B. Lees and Fredrick P. Gaske, *Recalling Deeds Immortal, Florida Monuments to the Civil War* (Gainesville, Florida; University of Florida Press). 2014. p. 170
- ⁷ Internet: <http://www.findagrave.com>. Accessed April 19, 2023
- ⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹ Internet: http://www.fortwiki.com/1st_Florida_Volunteer_Infantry Accessed April 24, 2023
- ¹⁰ Internet: <http://www.historicpreservationmiami.com>. Accessed April 19, 2023
- ¹¹ Internet: <http://www.newspappers.com>. "Obituary", "Hahn, Mrs. Grace H.". The Miami Herald, Miami, Florida. Thursday, March 4, 1971. p.145. Accessed April 26, 2023
- ¹² Internet: <http://www.britannica.com>
- ¹³ Internet: <http://www.womansreliefcorps.org>

All covers are from the collection of the author.



Editor's Note: Additional information about the Woman's Relief Corps is available in *Woman's Relief Corps Red Book*, containing the Rules and Regulations of the Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic and Decisions and Opinions Thereon. Adopted by the Twenty-third National Convention, Denver, Colorado, 1905.

Publisher: Griffith-Stillings Press, Boston; 1906.

“Seminole Incursions in 1835-6 Along the Halifax River in Mosquito County”

An Article by Phil Eschbach

Available on the Florida Postal History Society’s Website

In association with the research and articles related to the Seminole War Fort series that began in the *Florida Postal History Journal’s* May 2021 issue, Society member Phil Eschbach has written an article about the Mosquito Roarers, a volunteer militia formed to aid federal troops with conflicts during the Second Seminole War, 1835–1842. The Roarers’ goal was to ensure the safety of clusters of settlers near towns along the Matanzas, Halifax, and Mosquito Rivers (now the Indian River).

The Mosquito Roarers were headquartered in St. Augustine and commanded by Brigadier General Josef Marion Hernandez, a local attorney. Hernandez and other militia leaders led groups of volunteers primarily in efforts to defend plantations in the St. Augustine area.

This well-researched and image-rich study is being made available on the Society’s website under the Research section, accessed from the home page, left-side menu.

Great American Stamp Show 2023 Literature Awards



Congratulations are extended to the following Society members for awards earned in the literature competition of the 2023 Great American Stamp Show.

Gold

A Cammann Imprint Discovery that Changed a Catalog Listing, Plus Insights on Dr. James T. Patterson - Patricia A. Kaufmann

Large Silver

Introduction to Trinidad & Tobago Semi-Postal Stamps - Dan Maddalino

Silver

The Sikorsky S-38 in the British West Indies - Juan L. Riera

Silver Bronze

Breadfruit is Found on Numerous Stamps - Juan L. Riera

State Revenue Stamps of Florida: Tobacco Products

By Richard G. Lomax

This is the fifth article in the series of state revenue stamps of Florida. In this piece, we look at Tobacco Products. We again utilize the categories and subcategories of the Wrisley catalog (*The State Revenue Catalog: Revenue Stamps and Related Materials of the States of the United States of America*, 2013, State Revenue Society).

The Tobacco Products subcategories are as follows: (a) Cigarettes; (b) Cigarette Meter Stamps; (c) Cigarette Meter Stamps, State-Local; (d) Cigarettes, Native American; (e) Cigarette Meter Stamps, Native American; and (f) Cigarette Vending Machine. We now consider the specifics of each type of stamp, including some examples from my collection.

The first subcategory is Cigarettes, which has been in force since 1943. These stamps are denoted by the system of C1-C52. However, C49 has not been seen, and there are a few variations and specimens as well. All of these stamps are decals of some sort, except for the self-adhesives of 1985 (C34-35), and are affixed to individual packs of cigarettes. C4 is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. C4 Florida Cigarette revenue stamp. Single and sheetlet of ten.



Figure 2. CM7 Florida Cigarette Meter stamp.

The second subcategory is Cigarette Meter Stamps. These have also been in use since 1943 but are metered stamps instead of decals. Just an alternative in order to tax and regulate cigarettes. These stamps are unlikely to be found in use now as the primary manufacturer of the machines is not making them anymore. There are thirteen stamps altogether using the system of CM1-CM13. Figure 2 depicts CM7.

A related subcategory is Cigarette Meter Stamps, State-Local. This was a combined state and local metered stamp in use only from 1945-1949. These are denoted by CLM1-CLM3, with a total of six stamps amongst six cities (Apalachicola, Gainesville, Miami, St. Augustine, St. Petersburg and Key West). These are very similar to CM and thus are not shown.

A fourth subcategory is Cigarettes, Native American, which were for untaxed cigarettes sold to the Seminole Native American tribe. These were also decals, numbered from CNA1 to CNA7, and required from circa 1979 to 2009. Since then, a different system has been in place to collect taxes. There were also Cigarette Meter Stamps, Native American, circa 1979, with just one metered stamp, CNM1 being shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3. Cigarette Meter Stamps, Native American, CNM1.

The sixth and final subcategory of Tobacco Products is Cigarette Vending Machine. These decals were required beginning in 1949 and affixed to cigarette vending machines. Early on, this was mandated for each machine in each location. More recently, this was only required for one machine in each location.

Only two such decals are reported in Wrisley, VC1S (specimen with no serial number) and VC3Sa (specimen with serial number as well as being punched). These decals are quite rare. See Figure 4 for VC1S, courtesy of Eric Jackson.

We have one more category of Florida revenue stamps to cover. In the upcoming final article, we will have a look at Agriculture Products. Until next time.

Figure 4. SRS FL VC1S 1949-50 black & red. Lewis M. Schott signature Specimen. No serial number.



Indian Rocks Beach, Florida

By Juan L. Riera

I recently acquired a cover (Figure 1) from a fellow Florida philatelist, which I find to be interesting in that it was mailed from a tiny lakeside village, Liverpool, New York, with a long history, to a tiny seaside village, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, with a pretty short recent history.

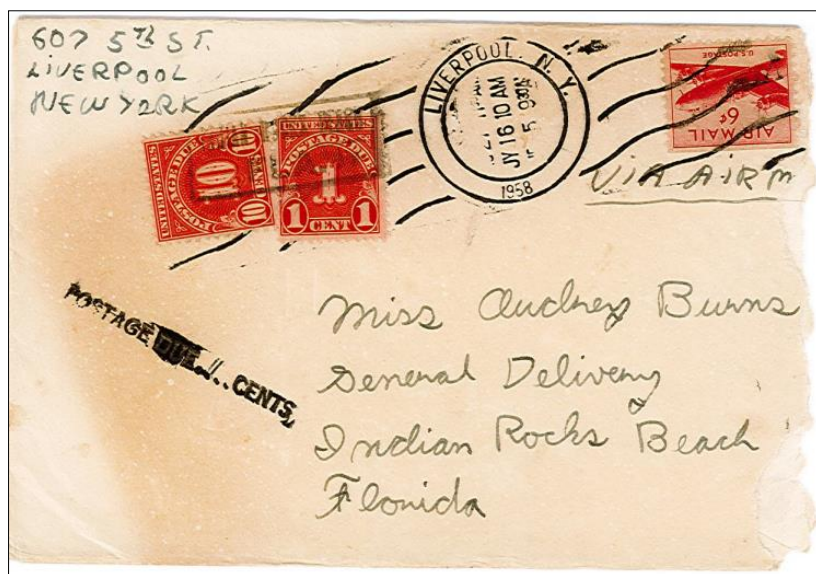


Figure 1. July 16, 1958, mailing to Indian Rocks Beach, Florida.

The cover was mailed on July 16, 1958, at 9:30 a.m. by airmail and arrived the next day, according to the backstamp (Figure 2).



Figure 2. July 17 “received” backstamp.

A Scott C25 Transport Plane stamp (Twin-Motored Transport Plane Issue) was affixed to the mailing satisfying the 6-cent domestic airmail service, at least at the time the letter was posted.

This carmine stamp was printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing using the rotary press printing method. Perforations were 11 by 10.5 and it was a very common stamp with 5,746,527,700 being printed.

Interestingly, the cover also had 11-cents postage due. There are not any markings on the cover to explain the postage due, i.e., there is no indication the mailing was intended to be special delivery or registered. A probable explanation is since the 1958 air mail postage rate was six cents per ounce, the cover contained something that exceeded the one-ounce rate and, thus, additional postage was required.

Indian Rocks Beach is a 1.89 square mile municipality on the barrier island of Sand Key in Pinellas County (Figure 3). The land area is a mere 0.84 square miles. It is part of the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area. The municipality was incorporated in 1956, about two years before the cover was sent.

A couple of years after the cover was sent, the population of the city was a mere 1,940. The city has over two miles of beach along the Gulf of Mexico with twenty-six public beach access points. As is to be expected, tourism is the main, or primary, industry for the city. The population hit a high point in 2000 with 5,072 residents but has been declining since. The zip codes for Indian Rocks Beach are 33785 and 33786.

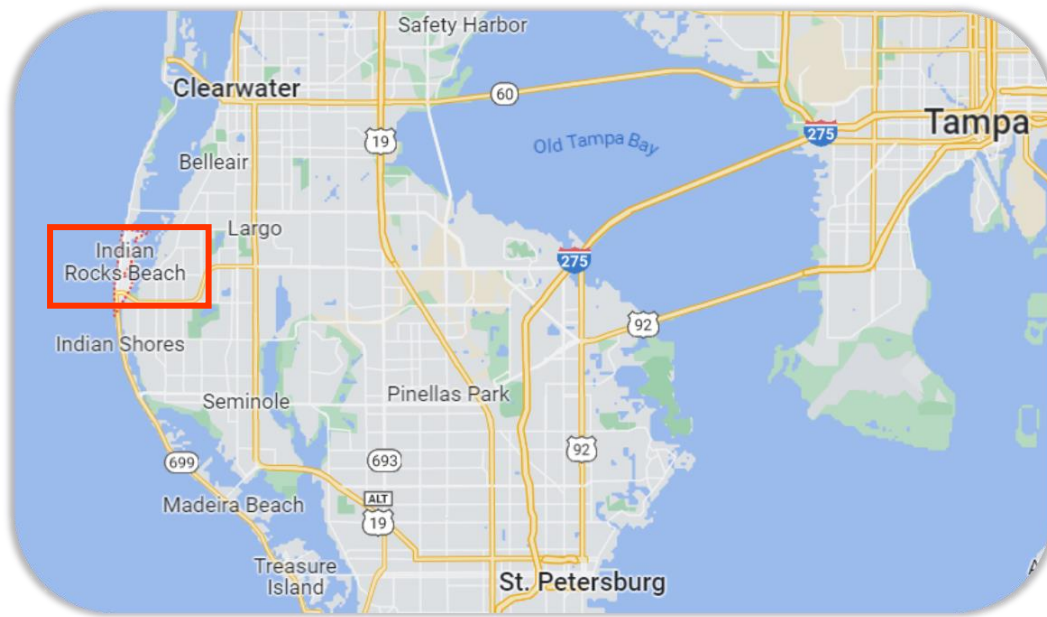


Figure 3. Indian Rocks Beach, Florida.

The Figure 1 letter was sent from Liverpool, New York which is a shoreside village of Onondaga Lake and a northwestern suburb of Syracuse, New York. In 2020, the population was 2,242, and has been inhabited since the sixteenth century, at that time by the Iroquois who were missionized by Canadian French Jesuits. The village was incorporated on April 20, 1830. Industry in the village included salt works, a sawmill, and cigar manufacturing. The area also lies near the Erie Canal and on the Oswego Canal.

The current Indian Rocks Beach Post Office is located at 204 4th Avenue with a zip code of 33785-9998 (Figure 4). Based on a reference I located, 4th Avenue is also called Miami Avenue.



Figure 4. Indian Rocks Beach Florida post office.

The Figure 4 post office opened in August of 1960 and doubled in size by October of 1978. The original post office opened on December 10, 1914, on a mainland dirt road leading to a ferry in the Narrows part of the Intercoastal Waterway. Today the road is 113th avenue and the area is considered unincorporated Seminole.

The ferry was replaced in 1916 by a wooden swing bridge and remained the only automobile bridge for the barrier island until replaced in 1958 by the Walsingham Bridge, about a mile north. Just off the well-beaten path to the beach sat the tiny post office.

The first postmaster of Indian Rocks was Dr. Max Friedlander, a physician who conducted his medical practice behind the post office. He also housed a general store and a real estate office in the little wooden building. Next door his wife, Josephine, managed their Gulf View Hotel. Since that time, the post office has moved four times and is the smallest post office in Pinellas County with thirteen postal workers.

As with most Florida tourist towns, Indian Rocks Beach postcards are abundantly available with images of local hotels, beach scenes, and full-time residences.

Postmarked INDIAN ROCKS BEACH FL < ? > 14 1971, Figure 5's postcard shows the SUN AND SURF APTS. The card's address-side caption reads: "Beautifully furnished one and two room efficiency apts. Heated, air conditioned, T.V., tile bath, shuffleboard, carports. Picture windows frame the setting sun over the Gulf of Mexico."

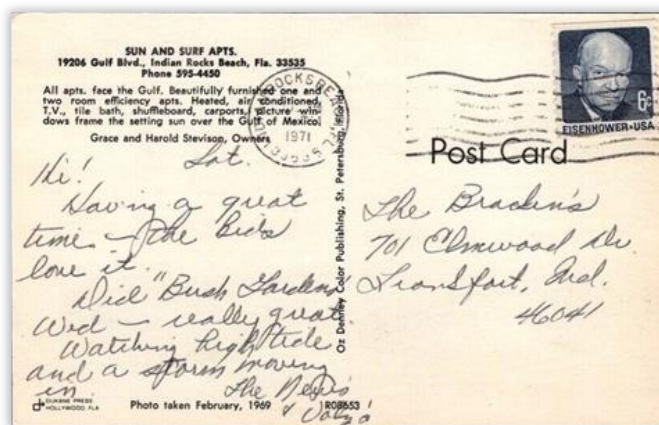


Figure 5. Indian Rocks Beach to Frankfort, Indiana.

The Figure 6 linen postcard with an image of an Indian Rocks Beach shoreline scene was posted in Dunedin, Florida on April 2, 1962, and sent to Cincinnati, Ohio.

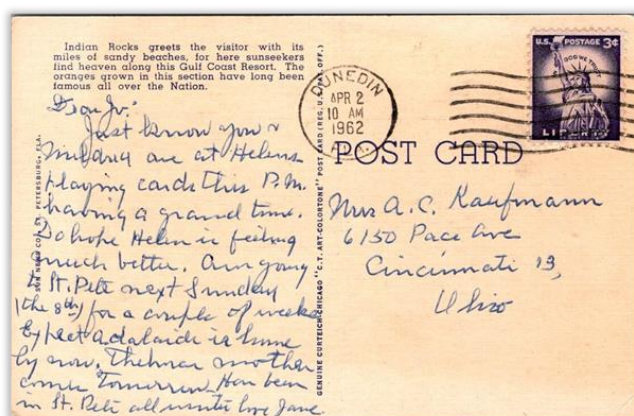


Figure 6. Indian Rocks Beach shoreline postcard to Cincinnati, Ohio.

Research revealed this was a circa 1949 card as is supported by the apparent vintage of the black automobile shown on the right edge of the card's image.

Indian Rocks Beach. A fascinating Florida town with interesting and entertaining postal history.

Rossetter's Ferry and PO

By Phil Eschbach

The Rossetter family emigrated from England in the 1600s to Massachusetts and Connecticut. Timothy Rossetter fought in the American Revolution, after which he moved to Georgia with his son Appleton, among the founders of the town of Sparta and the County of Hancock in 1818. In 1825, Appleton, having won a land grant in Irwin, now Lowndes County, Georgia on the Florida border near the Withlacoochee River, moved there. But later in 1825, the Florida/Georgia border line was re-surveyed and moved slightly north. As a result, the Rossetters found themselves in Florida.

Rossetter's Ferry (sometimes spelled Rosseter) was founded by Appleton around 1826 in what is now Hamilton County, Florida. Interestingly, the ferry was not officially granted a license by the legislative council until 1833. The ferry was a crossing of the Withlacoochee River into Madison County, close to the border. A bridge replaced it after the Civil War, the remnants of which are still there (Figure 1).



After Appleton died in 1840 his only son, Arthur (1809-1891), who had fought in the Civil war, moved his family to Volusia County near Enterprise, Florida in 1866. Arthur's son James, born in 1863, one of thirteen children, moved to Jacksonville and was employed as an express agent for the railroad. In 1902 he moved to Eau Gallie and today his Rossetter House is now a historic museum.

Figure 1. The Bellville Bridge on the Withlacoochee River was constructed in 1912 by the Converse Bridge Company of Chattanooga, Tennessee,

Two of the few known examples of a Rossetter's Ferry manuscript cover Type I (Figures 2, 3) were both written on May 16, 1832, to William P. Duval, Florida Territory Governor, Tallahassee.

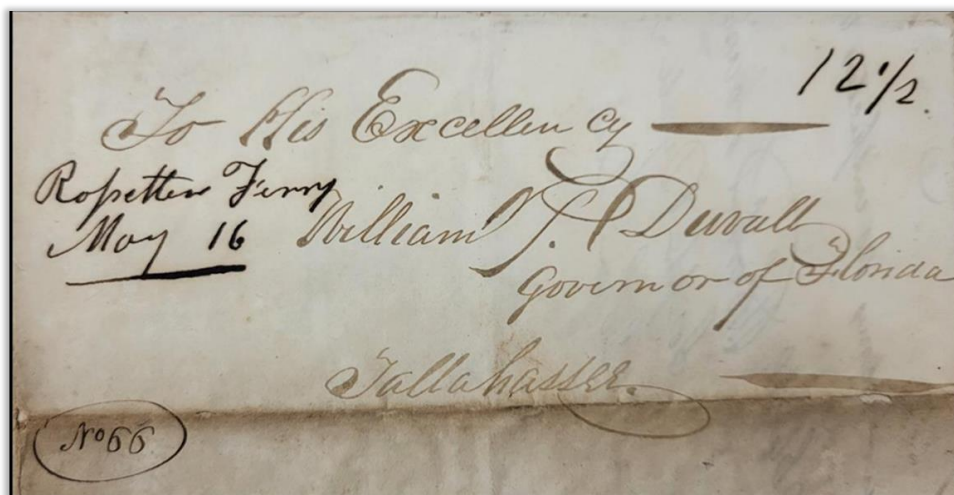


Figure 2. "Rossetter's Ferry" Type I manuscript postmark, May 16, 1832.

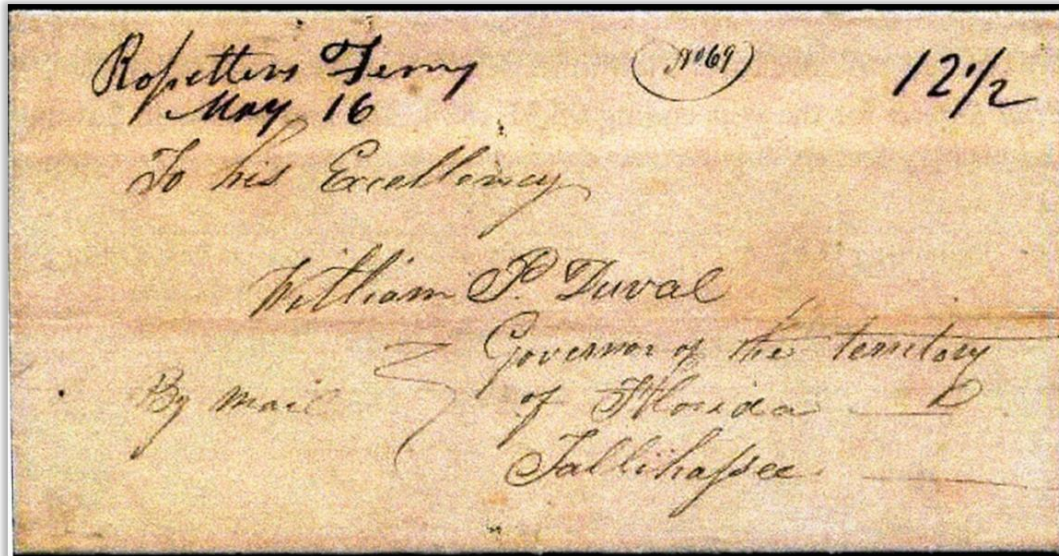


Figure 3. "Rossetter's Ferry" manuscript postmark, May 16, 1832.

The only other known example of Type I is shown in Figure (4), sent on November 22, 1832, to William P. Duval.

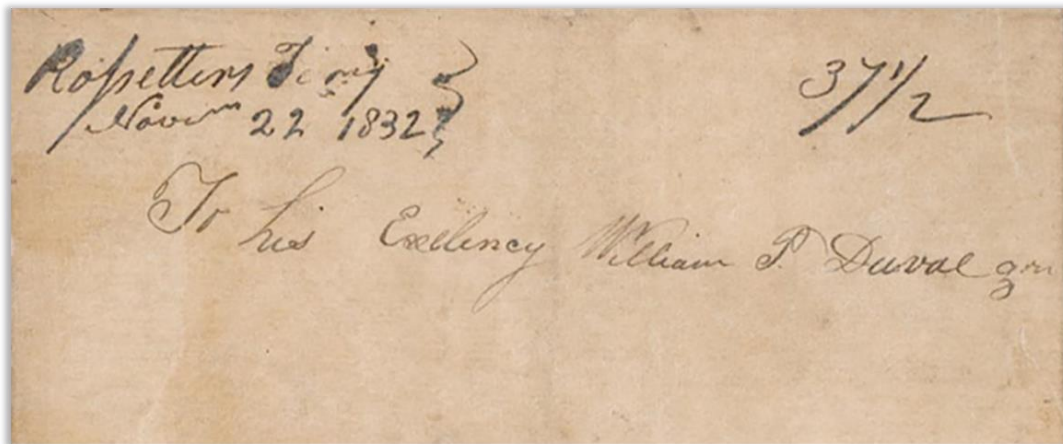


Figure 4. "Rossetter's Ferry" manuscript postmark, November 2, 1832.



Figure 5. "Rossetter's PO" Type II manuscript postmark, November 11, 1831.

The only known Rosetter's PO, Type II manuscript cover, postmarked Nov. 11, 1831 (Figure 5) is addressed to the Executive Office in Tallahassee.

The only known Type III cover (Figure 6) was written on October 14, 1831, also to Tallahassee. In fact, all the known covers from Rossetter's were sent to Tallahassee.

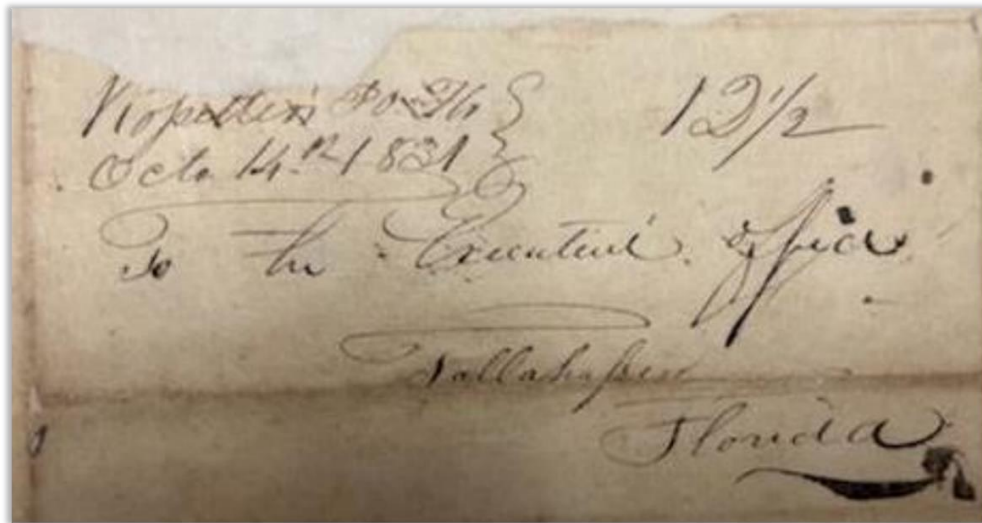


Figure 6. “Rossetter’s PO” Type III manuscript postmark, October 14, 1831.

Postal records show the post office was established in 1832. A reference in the philatelic literature states there might have been a Rossetter PO in Columbia County. There is confusion about this.

I was unable to find any person named Rossetter that ever lived in Columbia County, nor could I find a Rossetter’s Ferry there, having examined the census, election returns and other data for the county during those years.

I believe Rossetter’s Ferry and Rossetter’s PO to be one in the same.

The postal route number 2460 went there starting from Alligator and on to Cherry Lake once every two weeks in 1838. And later in 1852, the same route but now number 3517 from Alligator and continuing on from Cherry Lake to Monticello and back once a week.

Furthermore, the Figure 5, Type II cover was an election report from Hamilton County, as it is labeled from the county and Micco Town, a nearby town to the ferry and the county seat at the time. (Figure 7).

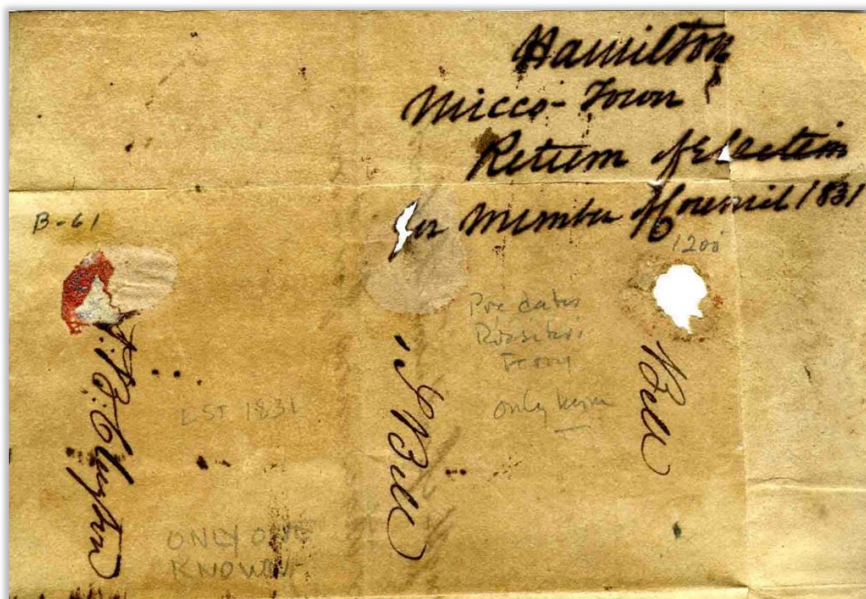


Figure 7. Contents: Hamilton election report.

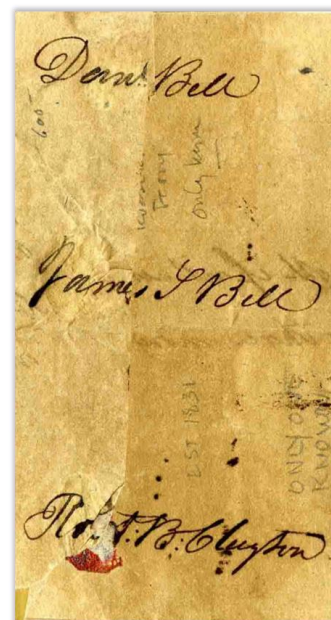


Figure 8. Rotated image of cover’s signatures.

Hamilton County was formed in 1827 and Columbia was not formed until 1832. That means the cover, dated 1831, could not have come from Columbia County, since the county did not exist until a year later. It was apparently sent by one of the three signees, Daniel Bell, James Bell or Robert Clayton (Figure 8). They probably were the election supervisors at the time. Daniel Bell, its first settler, is considered the founder of Hamilton County, along with his brother James.

Clayton and Bell are listed as postmasters of Micco Town in 1830 and 1831 respectively. In 1841 Clayton, a Justice of the Peace, was also postmaster at Rossetter's Ferry, which was later changed to Woodland. Micco was a nearby town as well as Bellville. In fact, Daniel Bell was postmaster at his Bell's Store in 1830, and his brother

Location	Postmaster	Date
Micco Town	Daniel Bell	27 Feb. 1832
Law's Store	Peter Law	28 Feb. 1833
Swift Creek	Nathaniel Bryan	28 Feb. 1833
Benton	Allen G. Johnson	8 Oct. 1841
Rossetter's Ferry	Robert W. Clayton	14 Feb. 1832
Woodland	Robert W. Clayton	16 Sept. 1841

James Bell was the postmaster later in Benton which was renamed Bellville, a nearby town just southeast of Rossetter's Ferry, named for the Bells. Therefore, in my opinion, this cover did not come from anywhere in Columbia County, but from a Rossetter's PO at or near Rossetter's Ferry.

Figure 9. Hamilton County postmaster appointment records.

The county records (Figure 9) show all three postmaster appointments in 1832-3.

An 1868 map (Figure 10) shows the placement of the towns.

What is quite interesting is the cryptic message one of them wrote on the inside of the cover. Obviously, since the postage was 50 cents, there had been several pages of correspondence included, adding to the weight, which were the election results.

But the message was written on the inside of the cover page (Figure 11) and reads:

Have I sent covers enough - if not send the books back and I send two or three more for I don't want Bellamy beaten.

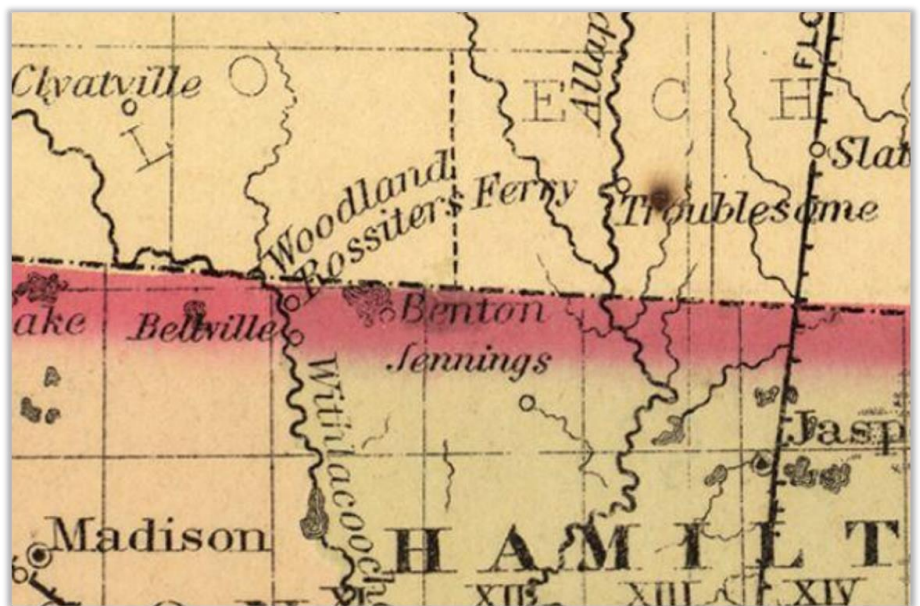


Figure 10. 1868 Hamilton County map (partial).

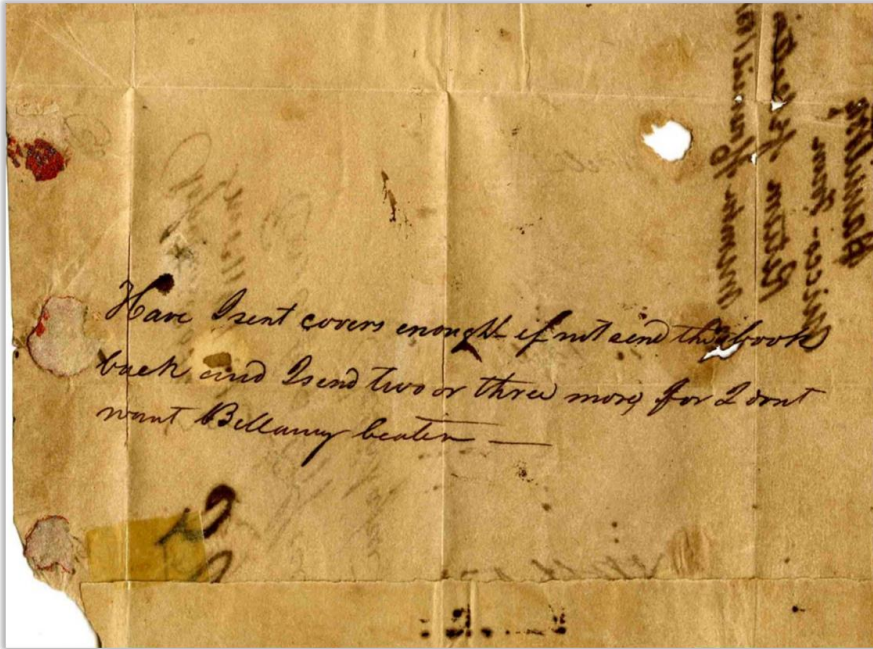


Figure 11. Message written on inside cover page.

Abram Bellamy was running for the position of president of the legislature (equivalent to speaker of the house now).

Bellamy did win, but was this an attempt to stuff the ballot box?

My ancestor, Abram Bellamy, died in 1839, but during the Territorial Period he was president of the legislature for four terms - longer than any other.

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Echoes of the Past, A History of Suwanee County, Suwanee History Committee, 2000.

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Territorial Papers of the United States, Territory of Florida Vol. XXIV, 1828- 1834, Clarence Carter, 1959.

Florida State Archives in Tallahassee.

Rossetter House Museum history brochure, Eau Gallie, Florida.

Conversations with Mrs. Margaret Lewis, Hamilton County Historical Society.

Conversations with Angela McHugh, curator at the Rossetter House Museum, Eau Gallie, Florida.

Thomas Lera for providing scans from the Florida State Archives of Figures 2, 10, 11.

1918 Cover From North Carolina to Orlando

By Francis Ferguson

Postal history can take you down some interesting rabbit holes as the nooks of the world wide web give up information. The rather ratty cover in Figure 1 was sent to Orlando, Florida on September 21, 1918, from a town in North Carolina that ends in 'TON'



Figure 1. September 21, 1918 to Orlando, Florida.



Efforts to figure out the exact town name have been fruitless as the badly struck cancel simply does not have enough ink to even guess at the name. Efforts to use image enhancement software also failed to make any determination, or even a guess. There are numerous town names in North Carolina that it could be.

The addressee of the mailing is a whole different matter. Mrs. F. A. Lewter - Linnie Wilkins Holshouser (1869-1955) - married Frederick Augustus Lewter (Figure 2) in 1885.

The family grew to include eleven children, the last one passing away in 2001 at the age of 91. I will discuss two of the children in more detail.

Frederick was born on December 14, 1854, in North Carolina and relocated to Orlando in 1884. As a point of reference, the small village of Orlando was incorporated in 1875.

Figure 2. Frederick Augustus Lewter.

The Lewter family settled into a six-room house on the corner of Orange Ave and Park Lake Street on a large tract of land just north of the present-day downtown core of Orlando. As the family expanded in size, so did the house to accommodate.

The original homestead was later bought by Florida National Bank in 1957 and razed to make room for a bank building. The 250-acre tract of land was to become important to the future development of the City Beautiful.

Lewter's vocation of being a real estate dealer and land developer (Figure 3) resulted in the family becoming very wealthy. Lewter could easily be called one of the early movers and shakers that made Orlando.

Frederick passed away on March 6, 1924, at the age of seventy and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Figure 4, just to the east of the downtown core of Orlando. Unfortunately, the family lost most of their wealth in the Great Depression.



Figure 4. Grave marker for Augustus Lewter.

Daughter Jewel May (1909-2001) was the last of the Lewter name in the Orlando area. She was a well-loved teacher of fifty years in Orange County. Her estate was bequeathed to Rollins College in Winter Park.

In a rather odd turn of events, as a member of the Central Florida Stamp Club, which meets twice a month at the Marks Street Senior Center (repurposed Orange County School), we are on land once owned by F.A. Lewter!

So much history from a small, rather ratty cover.

Editor's Note:

North Carolina postal historian author Tony L. Crumbley was consulted regarding the postmark on the cover presented in this article. Tony agreed that the faint postmark shows not much more than the last three letters ("TON") of the town name. However, since F.A. Lewter was born in Halifax County, North Carolina, the postmark's town name is very likely "Littleton" which is located in Halifax County.

As such, the mailing to Mrs. F.A. Lewter more than likely was sent by a family member still residing in Littleton, North Carolina.

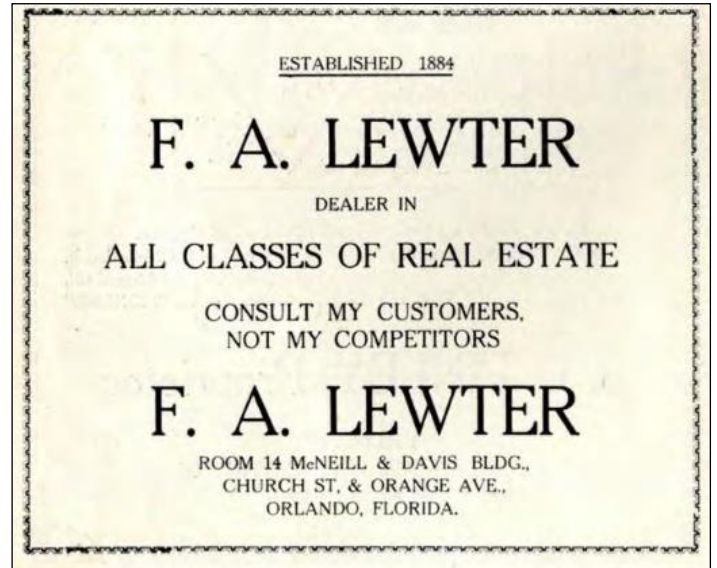


Figure 3. Advertisement for Lewter's real estate business.

Son Robert (1894-1919) was drafted into WWI and posted to Brielle's France (located in the northeast), where he helped to clear unexploded munitions. He was killed in a mine explosion on January 22, 1919. His last letter home was published in the Orlando Sentinel on April 29, 1919.

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