

# FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

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## CONTENTS

Editor's Page

Deane R. Briggs . . . . . 2

David G. Phillips Honored

. . . . . 3

Jacksonville, Florida During The Civil War  
Confederate and Federal Occupation Usage

Deane R. Briggs . . . . . 4

Maytown, Florida (a present day Ghost Town)

Donald L. Arey, Jr., M.D. . . . . 26

Incoming Fumigated Letter From 1888 Epidemic

Herbert P. McNeal . . . . . 30

More Florida RFD's

Herbert P. McNeal . . . . . 32

Problem Cover For This Issue

Deane R. Briggs . . . . . 35

Smoak, Florida

Herbert P. McNeal . . . . . 36

# 1995 ANNUAL MEETING

## FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the Florida Postal History Society will be held as usual in conjunction with FLOREX on Saturday, **November 11, 1995** from 12:00 - 2:00 P.M. at the Exposition Hall in the **Buena Vista Palace Hotel**, at the Walt Disney World Village Resort Area, off I-4 at exit 27. Please note that this is a **CHANGE** from previous Florex locations at the OMNI and Orlando Expo Centre.

The Mail Bid Sale proposed in the January issue of the FPH Society Journal will not take place for lack of interest. In addition to the normal business meeting at this year's annual meeting, a discussion of our Society project, the update of the Florida Stampless Handbook will be open for member input. This is a worthy project and we still need help from members with Florida stampless and manuscript postmarked usages or ancillary markings. Only a handful of members has submitted any data. We are trying to get an idea of scarcity and need as much input as possible. Please send your list of stampless Florida markings to Don Thompson or myself.

As editor of your Journal, I again am only receiving articles from a few members. In this issue there is one from a non-philatelist, but avid Florida historian, Don Arey. Let's get more people involved in making this journal a great one.



## DAVID G. PHILLIPS HONORED



### 50-Year Member

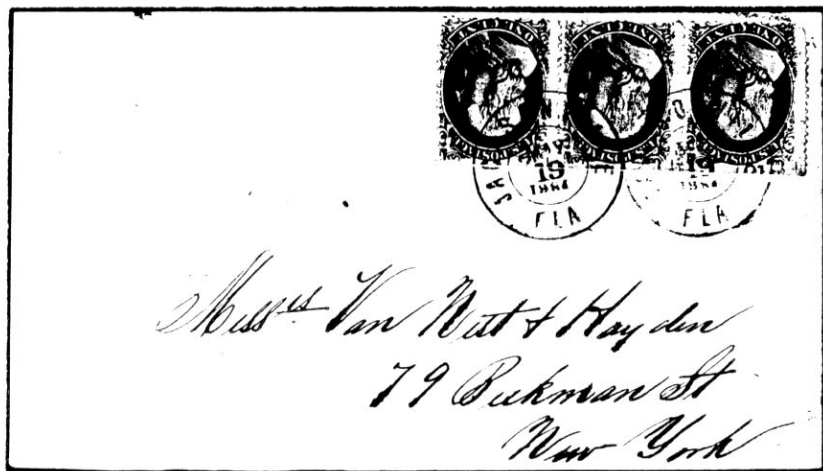
David G. Phillips, left, of North Miami, Florida, received a medallion recognizing his fifty years of membership in the American Philatelic Society at the fifteenth annual APS Summer Seminar in Philately in State College, Pennsylvania, in June. Phillips, an auctioneer and publisher, was a seminar faculty member. Presenting the medallion was Robert E. Lamb, APS executive director.

David G. Phillips, our current Florida Postal History Society president, was recently recognized by the American Philatelic Society for fifty years of membership in that Society. That's right 50 years!! Congratulations young man!! This picture and caption is from the September 1994 issue of The American Philatelist.

# JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA DURING THE CIVIL WAR

## Confederate and Federal Occupation Usage

DEANE R. BRIGGS



At the time of Secession of the State of Florida, January 10, 1861, Jacksonville was one of her more prosperous towns with an established Northern tourist industry. Many Northern businessmen had established other commercial enterprises in Jacksonville, including banking, real-estate, insurance, shipbuilding and ironworks which supplemented the local native fishing, lumber and farming ventures. Jacksonville, with an 1860 population of almost 3000 was evenly divided between Union sympathizers and Secessionists. When it became apparent in early 1862 that the Confederacy would not protect Florida's coastal cities from Union occupation, most Confederate loyalists evacuated to Baldwin (twenty miles west of Jacksonville) and to the Florida interior. It is logical that Confederate postal history from Jacksonville would show an early use of U.S.



postage mainly to northern cities (presumably by Federalists) and a Confederate use after June 1, 1861, declining in early 1862, consistent with the Secessionist evacuation. Considering the population of Jacksonville and voluminous stampless and pre-war adhesive examples, surviving postal history from Confederate Jacksonville is scarce. More than half of the entire surviving Jacksonville Confederate postal usages are from a single correspondence, and there are no recorded usages after February 19, 1862, nearly three weeks before the Federal occupation.

Two very distinct postmarking devices were used by the Confederate postal system in Jacksonville. A 26 mm double circle year date JACKSONVILLE / FLA handstamp postmark (Fig. 1.) was used during the period of Confederate use of U.S. postage rates and early during the period of Confederate postal rates until June 18, 1861.

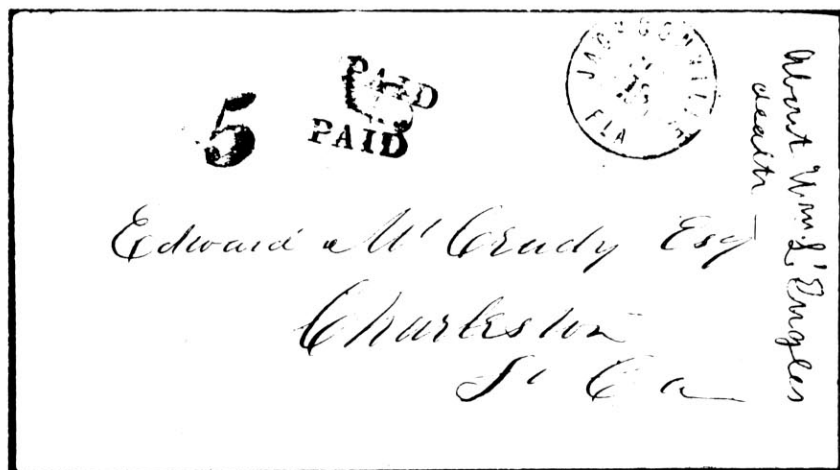


Fig. 1

This same DC handstamp without date slug was used on at least one surviving example as a backstamp control marking for "Postmaster Provisional Handstamped Envelopes". (Fig. 2, Fig. 3) This Jacksonville "Provisional" was not discovered and recorded until 1991, and has the distinction of being the most recent addition to the Confederate Postmaster Provisional Handstamped Pairs from any

state. A large 35 mm balloon JACKSONVILLE / Flor. handstamp

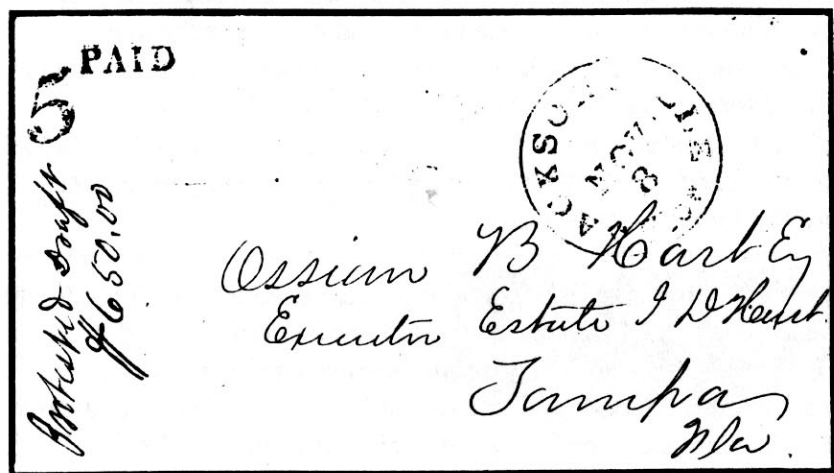


Fig. 2

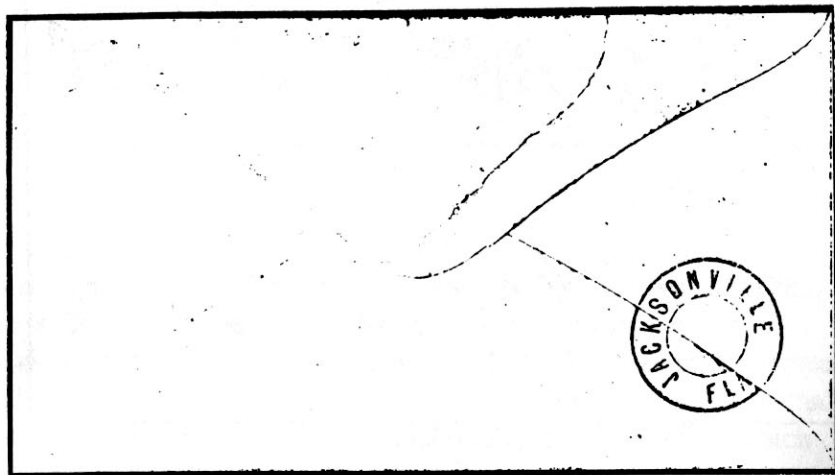


Fig. 3

postmark (Fig. 4) extensively used during the pre-war and stampless period was also used during the period of Confederate use of U.S. postage rates. One example is known on a forwarded cover with a Richmond advertised rate and a "Dead Letter Office" notation. This balloon postmark was used exclusively during the period after June

18, 1861. The significance is unclear, but perhaps the small double circle handstamp became defective or too clumsy to use with small date plugs to change daily.

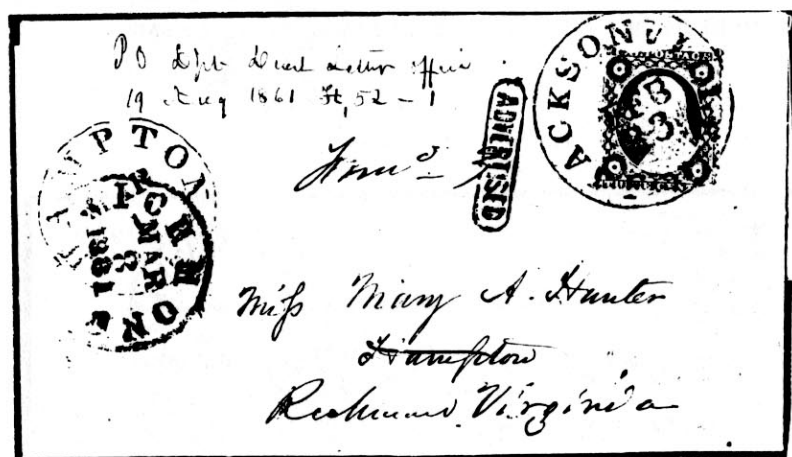


Fig. 4

At least three other Jacksonville covers are possible "Postmaster Provisional Handstamped Envelopes" with PAID 5 rates revalued 10 for usage to Richmond, Virginia. (Fig. 5) These covers have the same PAID 5 (type IA) rate handstamp and the same JACKSONVILLE / Flor. balloon postmark as the known Provisional usage. No DC control mark is present however on the reverse. The 1945 edition of The Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Handbook recorded an entire section on Revalued Handstamped Pairs and considered "them definitely in the class of Provisionals, a position, far-reaching in its consequences". These Jacksonville covers were the lone Florida listing. Considerable controversy must have ensued as the next edition of Dietz (1959) eliminated this separate section of revalued pairs, although an acknowledgment was made that a number of these may have been prepared as "provisionals".

It is the author's opinion (obviously biased as the owner of one of the three known revalued examples) that these were in fact envelopes



purchased in advance with a PAID 5 rate. The reasoning is namely that these covers are from the same Gibbs correspondence, written in the same hand, and mailed to Richmond, Va. or Salisbury, N.C. The Jacksonville postmaster should have had no difficulty in correctly noting the 10c (over 500 mile) rate to such a well known and common destination as Richmond. All other examples from the same

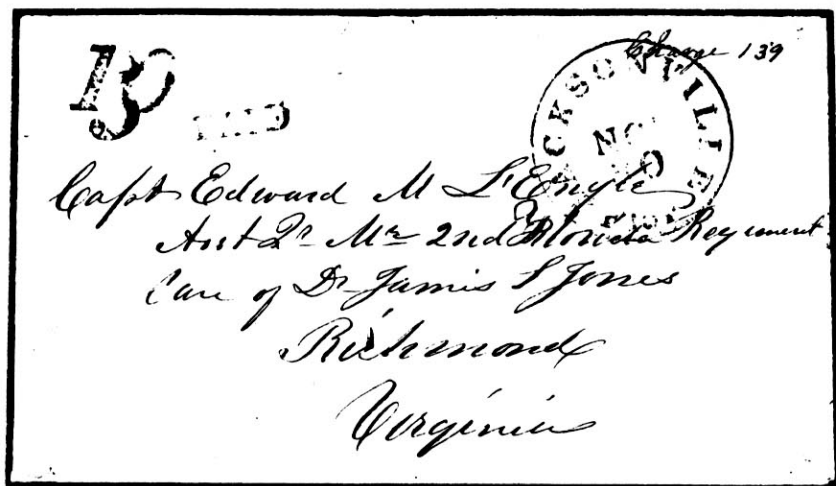
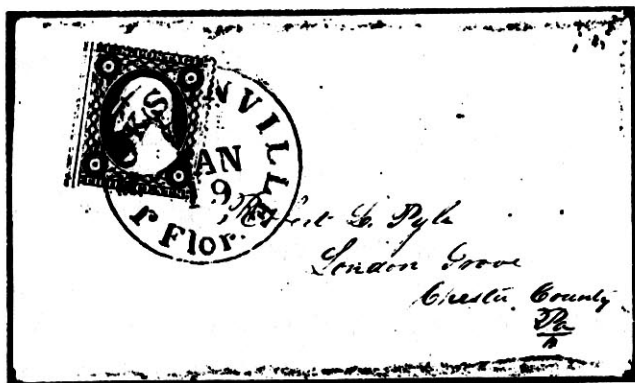


Fig. 5

correspondence mailed before or after these three examples did in fact have the correct PAID 10 rate. It is my belief that the PAID 5 envelopes were purchased earlier (perhaps in November 1861) as provisional envelopes and revalued when posted to reflect the correct rate for usage to Richmond, Va. or Salisbury, N.C., with the additional postage paid and "charged to account 139". The lack of the DC backstamp "control marking" is the obvious negating factor, and the the main reason why these revalued markings were de-listed as provisionals in 1959.

The following is a listing of known Jacksonville, Florida, Confederate postal history usages:

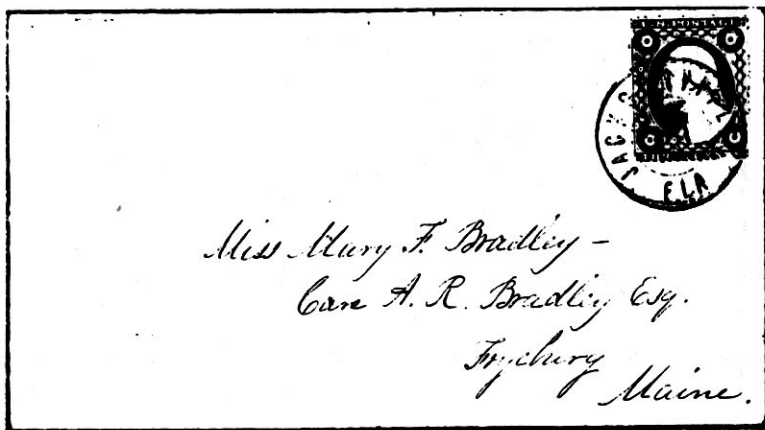
**CONFEDERATE USE OF U.S. POSTAGE RATES  
INDEPENDENT STATE USAGE**



January 19, 1861, #26, usage to London Grove, Pa,  
35 mm balloon postmark

January 29, 1861, #26, usage to London Grove, Pa.,  
DC postmark

**CONFEDERATE STATE USAGE**



February 23, 1861, #26, usage to Hampton, Va.,  
"Ford - 3" to Richmond with "Advertised" and  
"Dead Letter Office" notation, 35 mm balloon  
postmark

March 2, 1861, #U-27, usage to New York, DC  
postmark

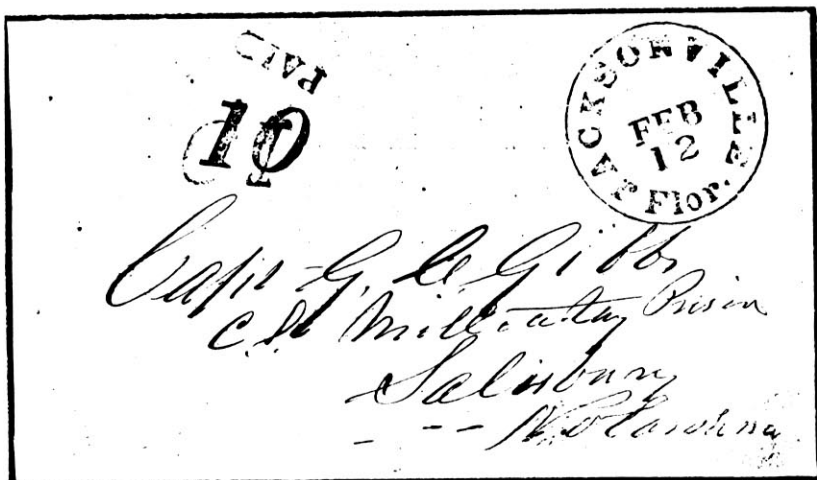
March 15, 1861, #26, DC postmark  
 April 11, 1861, #26, usage to New York, DC  
 postmark  
 April 29, 1861, #26, DC postmark  
 May 19, 1861, #24, strip of 3, usage to New York,  
 DC postmark  
 May 21, 1861, #U-27, DC postmark  
 May 28, 1861, #26, usage to Maine, DC postmark  
 ? Date, #24, circular or drop rate, DC postmark,  
 recorded in Dietz

## CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA POSTAL SYSTEM

### 26 mm DC POSTMARK

June 7, 1861, PAID 5 (type IA), usage to Tallahassee  
 June 18, 1861, PAID 5 (type IA) struck twice, usage to  
 Charleston, S.C.

### 35 mm BALLOON POSTMARK



July 31, 1861, PAID 10 (type I) rate in manuscript,  
 usage to Hickory Hill, Texas.  
 August 1, 1861, PAID 5 (type IA) struck twice, usage  
 to Charleston, S.C.



November 8, 1861, PAID 5 (type IA) with DC control  
 mark, usage to Tampa  
 November 11, 1861, PAID 10 (type IB), usage to  
 University Place, Tennessee  
 November 30, 1861, PAID 5 (type IA) revalued 10  
 (type B), usage to Richmond  
 December 4, 1861, PAID 10 (type IB), usage to  
 Richmond  
 December 9, 1861, PAID 5 (type IA) revalued 10  
 (type B), usage to Richmond  
 December 27, 1861, PAID 5 (type IA), usage to  
 Fernandina, Florida  
 January 18, 1862, PAID 10 (type IB), usage to  
 Richmond  
 January 24, 1862, PAID 10 (type IB), usage to  
 Richmond, forwarded to Salisbury, N.C.  
 with boxed Richmond forwarding h.s.  
 February 10, 1862, PAID 10 (type IB), usage to  
 Salisbury, N.C.  
 February 12, 1862, PAID 10 (type IB), 10 struck twice  
 usage to Salisbury, N.C. (doubtful a 20c rate)  
 February 12, 1862, PAID 5 (type IA) revalued 10  
 (type B), usage to Salisbury, N.C.  
 February 14, 1862, PAID 10 (type IB), usage to  
 Salisbury, N.C.  
 February 19, 1862, PAID 10 (type IB), usage to  
 Salisbury, N.C.

Jacksonville itself was occupied and abandoned four times before the  
 end of the war and each time reprisals from the occupying forces left  
 the city devastated. The first occupation of Jacksonville (March 12,  
 1862 - April 8, 1862) followed the occupation of St. Augustine a day  
 earlier. On March 11, 1862, a Federal squadron of 4 gunboats, two  
 armed launches and a transport carrying the 4th New Hampshire  
 Infantry arrived at the mouth of the St. John's River. Before  
 evacuation, Confederate troops and sucessionist evacuees from  
 Fernandina systematically burned eight steam sawmills, four million

board feet of lumber, and destroyed an iron foundry, nearby ironworks, and a gunboat under construction. The yacht "America", being fitted to become a Confederate cruiser was sunk.

Confederate bands of non-military irregulars began to intimidate Union sympathizers and began to indiscriminantly burn private homes and the Judson House (Jacksonville's largest tourist hotel). A merchant was shot dead in the street as were two Unionists trying to escape before the Federal forces arrived. The city was saved complete destruction by a heavy rain which extinguished most of the fires. The next morning, March 12, 1862, rumors spread that secessionist irregulars were returning to burn the property of all who attempted to remain in Jacksonville. A desperate rush to leave the city ensued and all available drays and small boats were seized in an attempt to cross the St. John's River. By noon of March 12th the Federal gun boats cut off all escape routes and Jacksonville was "occupied" to the jubilant relief of the few remaining citizens. The photograph in Fig. 6 shows the occupied Jacksonville unloading docks along the St. John's River at Bay Street with a Union sentry atop the warehouse.



Fig. 6

The number of Unionists remaining in Jacksonville numbered only

several hundred (mostly merchants, lumbermen and real estate agents protecting their investments). These citizens were rightfully fearful of Confederate reprisals if the Union occupation forces evacuated Jacksonville. They even petitioned the Federal government to maintain sufficient forces in Jacksonville to protect their "person and property". General Thomas W. Sherman, commander of Federal forces in Florida, held a meeting with about one hundred citizens in the courthouse on March 20, 1862. A resultant resolution declaring the Ordinance of Secession null and void was established and a statement that the State of Florida "is an integral part of the United States" was adopted. A subsequent meeting established a date of April 10, 1862, for a State Convention to be held in Jacksonville to form a new Federal State government. Calvin L. Robinson was appointed postmaster effective April 9, 1862, but must never have served as will be subsequently noted with the Union evacuation completed by that date. No post office was officially established during this occupation and to date there is no known Jacksonville datelined correspondence, not even anything mailed from St. Augustine, the nearest established Federal occupation post office (established on April 4, 1862).

Initial reinforcements of the 97th Pennsylvania arrived on March 24, 1862, but it soon became evident that Confederate forces under Colonel W. S. Dilworth (2700 men) with two Georgia infantry regiments could easily recapture Jacksonville. Confederate raids on Federal pickets at West LaVilla (suburb of Jacksonville) had already resulted in four Union pickets killed and three captured. As a result, additional Union reinforcements were denied and Jacksonville was ordered to be evacuated "in view of the --- already too extended lines of operation of our forces in this district".

The Federal evacuation of Jacksonville was established for April 9, 1862. Prior to this action, three conferences between Confederate Colonel William Davis and General Horatio G. Wright, the Federal commander at Jacksonville were held concerning the plight of Jacksonville's few remaining citizens. The two officers agreed that bands of Florida secessionist refugees would return and exact a heavy vengeance upon the remaining Unionists. As a result, an unofficial



truce was observed and regular Confederate troops were allowed to move back into Jacksonville on the night of April 8, 1862, after the Federal troops had evacuated to their gunboats on the St. John's River. The next morning, the Federal flotilla sailed down the river while the Confederate infantry was already repairing the docks only a few yards from the Federal vessels!!

The remnants of the city of Jacksonville that remained after April 8, 1862, was not strategically important and Jacksonville was never again regularly occupied by either Confederate or Union forces until the February 1864 Federal troop buildup preceeding the invasion of the Florida interior (Battle of Olustee). Confederate detachments would intermittently enter the town for intelligence purposes only to withdraw. Federal forces returned for only brief periods of occupation from October 5-9, 1862 (Second Occupation) and from March 10-29, 1863 (Third Occupation). An example of mail addressed to Jacksonville during the period between Union occupation is shown in Fig. 7. This is one of three Stephens

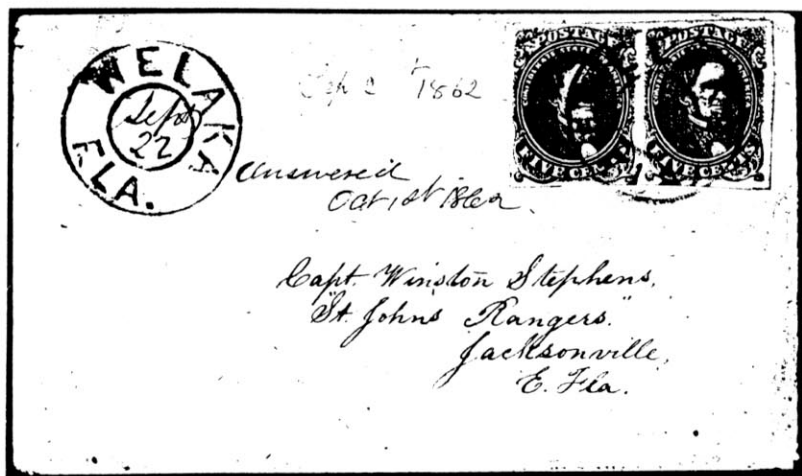


Fig. 7

correspondence covers from September 22 - October 5, 1862, addressed to Jacksonville. Obviously this Confederate letter was not delivered to a non-existent postoffice but was delivered in the field to the troops encamped outside Jacksonville. There are several other

Confederate examples addressed to "Camp Finegan, near Jacksonville" during the actual time of Union occupation of Jacksonville.

The Third Occupation of Jacksonville (March 10-29, 1863) had definite political overtones. An attempt to organize a loyal Federal government in Jacksonville could bring Florida itself back into the Union. Colonel Thomas W. Higginson led this occupation with two regiments of Negro troops (the 1st and 2nd South Carolina Volunteers). The 6th Connecticut and 8th Maine reinforced these troops on March 22 and 23. The presence of Negro troops was felt by Higginson to be a means of getting more Florida Negroes to enlist as Federal recruits, but this effort failed. In fact, Confederate General Finegan used this presence of Negro troops in Jacksonville to rally Confederate support. The fact that Union sentiment was non-existent outside of the Union picket lines around Jacksonville and the increased Confederate troop buildup in the vicinity of Jacksonville led to the third Federal evacuation of Jacksonville on March 29, 1863.

This time, prior to the Federal evacuation, Union soldiers began attacking private homes, stores and even churches. Doctor Alfred Walton, a Unionist who had practiced in Jacksonville before the war and returned with the third occupying troops noted in his diary: **"Saturday, March 28, 1863 . . at 9:00 A.M. some of the boys set fire to the Catholic Church, and it (together with the parsonage, all furnished) was destroyed. Two other houses were also burned. Sunday, March 29, 1863 . . Before we were ready to embark the boys began to set fire to the city, and soon we had to hurry up for the smoke was getting rather uncomfortable . . . (I) ran into St. John's Church and groping through the smoke and fire I took from the altar a large gift bound prayer book . . . Further down on Market Street I entered a burning building . . . and took . . . a manuscript map of . . . Jacksonville. Farther down I saw some negro soldiers setting fire, and from their songs and shouting they appeared to be having a good time."** (1) Jacksonville would surely have been destroyed by fire had not General Finegan rushed all available Confederate troops into the city to fight the flames. As it was six city blocks were ravaged.

Unlike the Federal occupations of Pensacola, St. Augustine, and Fernandina, there was no postal service established during the first three Federal occupations of Jacksonville. The periods of occupation were so short (less than three weeks) and the numbers of troops (two regiments or less) so few that post offices were not necessary. There are however, four known "cross the lines" usages from Confederate headquarters in Lake City and Madison addressed to Judge Burritt in Jacksonville with dates of use between February 2, 1863 and May 22, 1863. All of these covers are noted "official" or "official business" and have PAID 10 rates. No additional U.S. postage was required as there was no official U.S. postal service to Jacksonville. Fig. 8. shows an example of these cross the lines usages with the following interesting enclosure:

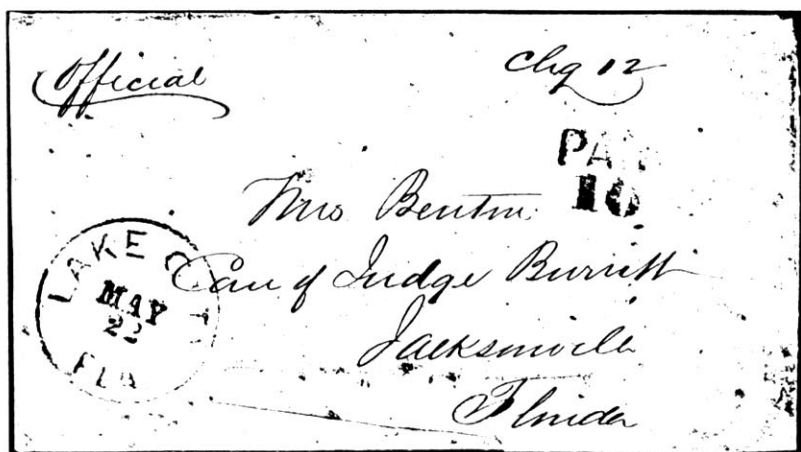


Fig. 8

Head Quarters Dist E Fla.  
Lake City May 20th 1863

Madam.

A recent letter of Mrs. Phillips your daughter complaining of your detention here induces the Brig Genl Commd again to direct that permission be granted to you to pass the enemys (sic) lines at Fernandina where evy (sic) facility will be offered you by our officers & a flag of truce sent with you. I send you herewith

the necessary orders for your passing to Fernandina. The permission for you to go in the gunboat would be cheerfully granted but there are many objections to that mode of communication.

**Mrs. Benton**  
**Respectfully**  
**Care of Judge E C Burriss**  
**Jacksonville, Fla**  
**W Call aaG**

The fourth and final Union Occupation of Jacksonville (February 7, 1864 - 1866) began as a troop buildup for an eventual invasion of the Florida interior. Only some twenty-five families remained in Jacksonville as the result of three prior occupations and the plundering evacuations. Union transports docked at Jacksonville on February 7, 1864, and meeting no resistance established a camp by evening. The initial occupation was brief with most of the troops proceeding on to take Baldwin by February 9, 1864, while Sanderson, 33 miles west of Jacksonville, was occupied by February 11. The Federal troops eventually numbered over 5500 and were finally encountered by Confederate General Finegan and his 5000 troops at Ocean Pond, outside Lake City. The resultant Battle of Olustee on February 20, 1864, was an overwhelming victory for the Confederates with the Federal casualties totalling 1861, compared to 946 for the Confederates. A hasty Federal retreat back to Jacksonville was made and for the duration of the war, Jacksonville remained heavily occupied by Federal forces. By March 1, 1864, Jacksonville had over 8000 troops, but by April 8, 1864, the troops were beginning to be retired, leaving a small garrison of 2500-3000 mostly Negro troops to provide for defense of Jacksonville and to allow small raids toward Gainesville and along the St. John's River. Politically, Jacksonville remained a Union stronghold and eventually on May 17, 1864, held a convention of "Union Men of Florida" to elect a delegation to the Republican convention in Baltimore. Union authorities cooperated by allowing steam transport of the delegation of St. Augustine and Fernandina to come to Jacksonville.



A Federal Occupation postal system was finally established in Jacksonville at the beginning of this fourth occupation. Edward H. Reed was appointed postmaster effective February 15, 1864, with initial mail apparently handled through the Port Royal, S.C. post office. Mail service during this Jacksonville occupation was for soldiers and the accompanying Union civilian support. Local citizens were for the most part excluded from the postal system. The earliest known recorded Jacksonville occupation postal history is a March 27, 1864, letter from a soldier in the 15th Maine postmarked Port Royal, S. C., April 1, 1864. (Fig. 9) The actual Jacksonville Federal

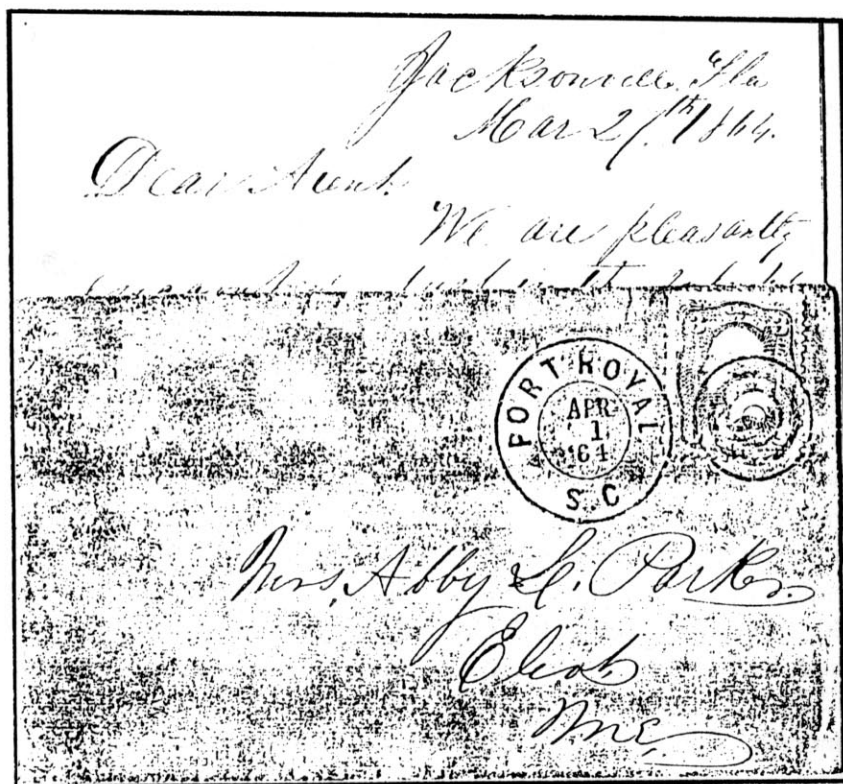


Fig. 9

occupation post office must have been established in April 1864 with the earliest recorded Jacksonville occupation postmark, a manuscript April 16, 1864, with usage to Conn. A second manuscript

postmarked usage to Maine of April 18, 1864, is shown in (Fig. 10). No other manuscript usages have been reported to date.

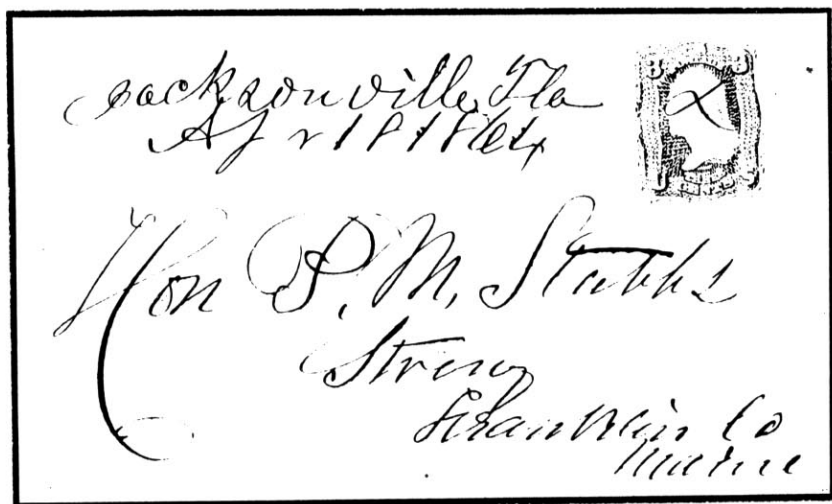


Fig. 10

A rare "printer's typeset" arc handstamped postmark is known with an extremely short window of use from April 20-24, 1864. (Fig. 11) Only three examples of this marking are known, all with U.S. #65 or U.S. #U35 entire, with all usages going to New York.

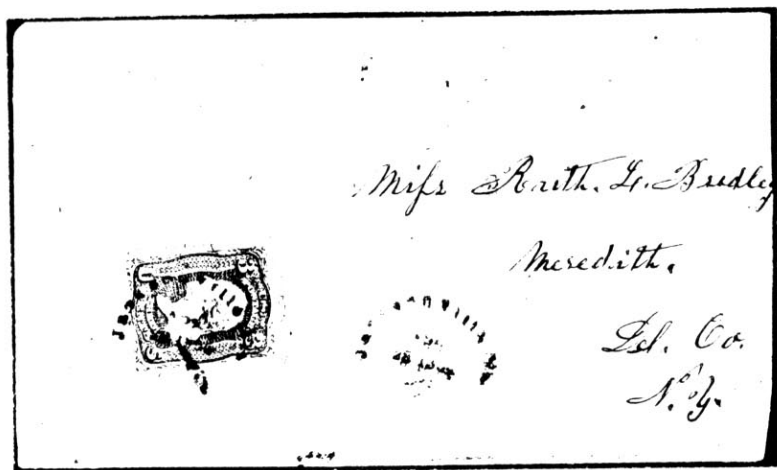


Fig. 11

One example has an enclosure datelined: "Camp near Jacksonville, April 21, 1864", and a second example is datelined: "157th NYV / Jacksonville, Fla. Apl. 20th 1864". It appears that this postmarking device was used in the field for New York troops but until other examples surface, this exclusivity is not to be considered meaningful. This handstamped postmark has for a long time been recorded in error as a stampless marking in the American Stampless Cover Catalog, but will be de-listed in future editions as, to date, it is not known with stampless usage.

The manuscript and typeset arc handstamped postmarks can probably be considered "provisional" postmarks with use by a postmaster for the troops in the field before an authorized postmarking device was available. An official U.S.P.O.D. supplied double circle handstamp served as the exclusive postmark used during the remainder of the Jacksonville occupation with known use from May 13, 1864, through May 1865. Adhesive use of U.S. #65 and stampless "Due / 3" and "Due / 6" usages are known with over 15 recorded examples of this postmark. (Fig. 12) This DC postmark appears to be the official "Federal Occupation" postmark for Jacksonville and is only known with black ink. The use of this postmark appears to end with the cessation of the Civil War in May 1865.

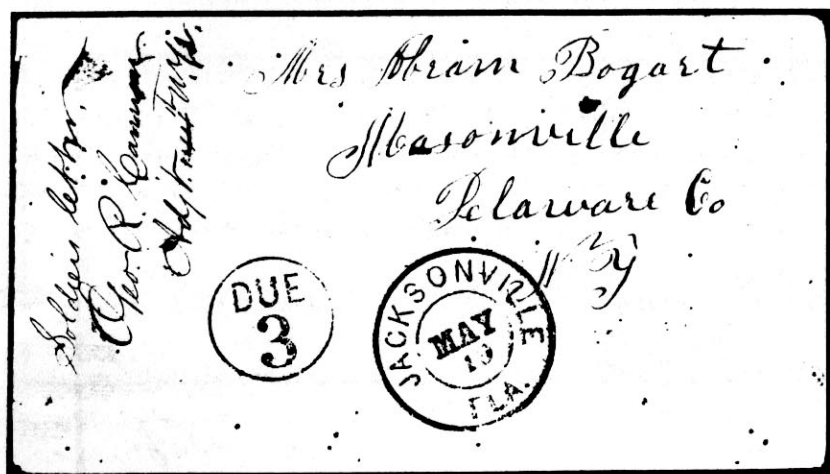


Fig. 12

An extremely rare handstamped Union Jacksonville occupation

"receiving" mark is known on a single "flag of truce - cross the lines" cover, ex Meroni. (Fig. 13) This shows a 20 mm black handstamp struck twice as RECEIVED HD. QTS. / DIST OF FLA. FEB 25 1865 as well as a manuscript censor's notation on a cover from Confederate re-occupied Baldwin, addressed to Union occupied St. Augustine. No postage was recorded as the letter was apparently carried outside of the mails, perhaps by "military flag of truce" courier.

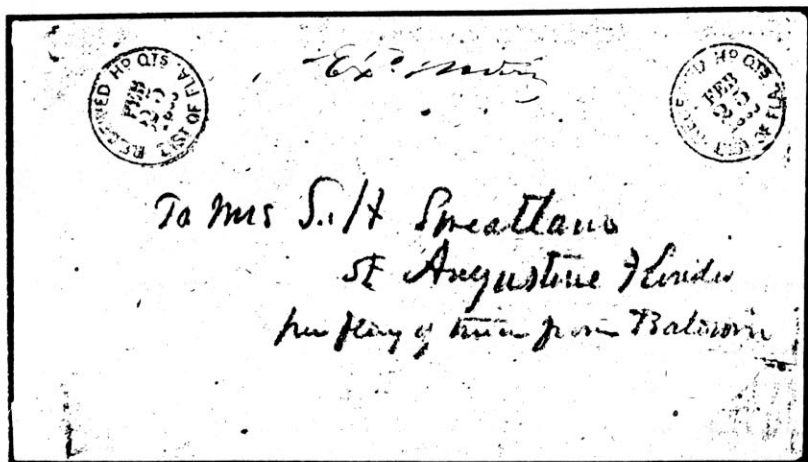


Fig. 13

Edward H. Reed was reappointed postmaster of Jacksonville on March 11, 1865, and continued during reconstruction until July 27, 1871, when he was replaced by Charles M. Hamilton. Following the end of the Civil War, "Reconstruction" occupation forces remained in Jacksonville until 1866 and a new postmarking handstamp was used. This was a 23 mm JACKSONVILLE / FLA cds postmark, occasionally used with a fancy killer, and is recorded in black ink. Fig. 14 shows a cover with a "prisoner of state" usage to ex-Senator David L. Yulee, who was captured when martial law was established in post war Florida and imprisoned at Fort Pulaski, Savannah, Georgia on May 22, 1865. He was released in the Spring of 1866 upon the intervention of President Grant. While technically this 23 mm postmark is an "occupation" postmark, it was apparently only used after the war ended and during the reconstruction period and later into

the early 1870's. It is not a true Civil War "Federal Occupation" postmark. It is known in "stencil" as a cds postmark in

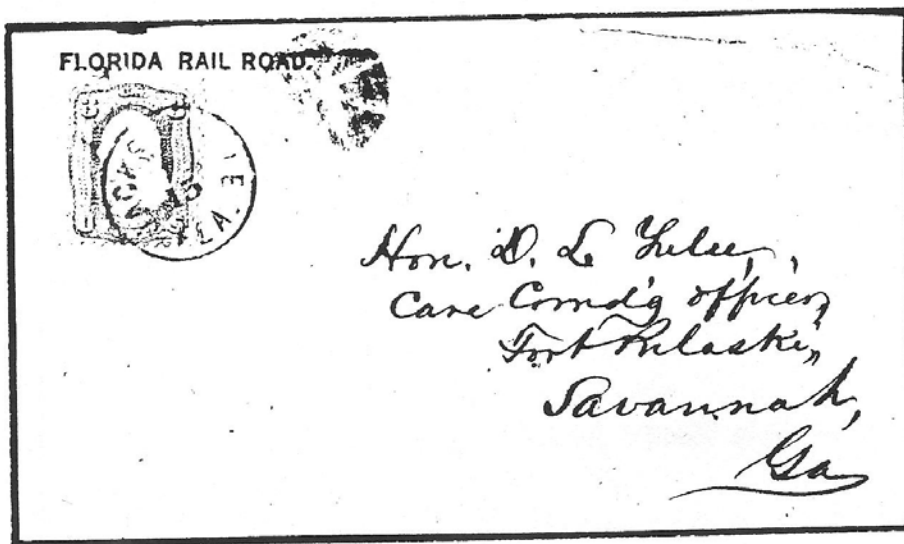


Fig. 14

blue ink and with many beautiful "killer" cancelling handstamps. It is the author's feeling that the use of blue ink and the stencil postmark did not begin until 1866-1869, and that only the black ink postmark was used during reconstruction. Anyone with documentation of use of these marking during the actual Federal occupation are requested to notify the author. Until such use is documented, the stencil and fancy killer tracings in Richard B. Graham's April 1972 article "Federal Occupation of Florida" in The American Philatelist (tracing # 10) should be deleted.

Unlike Union Pensacola and Saint Augustine covers, Jacksonville Union occupation markings and covers are not at all common, and despite the huge troop population there are no recorded Union occupation "Patriotic" covers from Jacksonville. Richard B. Graham was nice enough to show me a beautiful blue Union Patriotic cover with an "untied" Jacksonville black ink postmarked stamp. (Fig. 15) It is possible that this was used as an adversity envelope in 1865 or 1866 during the early post war reconstruction period when patriotic

sympathies were high. It does not appear to this author to be a Federal occupation usage.



Fig. 15

This article will conclude with a listing of the dates of Union occupation of Jacksonville, Florida, with the known troops participating in the occupation. Anyone with additional examples of Confederate or Occupation covers are requested to forward photocopies to the author for documentation. The author appreciates the encouragement and assistance of Richard B. Graham and Stefan T. Jaronski in the preparation of this article.

## **JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA FEDERAL OCCUPATION**

### **1 ST OCCUPATION - MARCH 12 - APRIL 9, 1862**

4th New Hampshire  
97th Pennsylvania (March 24 - April 9, 1862)

### **2 ND OCCUPATION - OCTOBER 5 - 9, 1862**



### **3 RD OCCUPATION - MARCH 10 - 29, 1863**

1st South Carolina Colored  
2nd South Carolina Colored  
6th Connecticut (March 22-23, 1863)  
8th Maine (March 22-23, 1863)

### **4 TH OCCUPATION - FEBRUARY 7, 1864 - 1866**

47th New York (February - April 1864) Col. William  
B Barton's brigade  
48th New York (February - April 1864)  
115th New York (February - April 1864)  
7th Connecticut (February - April 1864) Col Joseph  
R Hawley's brigade  
7th New Hampshire (February - April 1864)  
8th United States Colored (February - August 1864)  
1st North Carolina Colored (February - April 1864)  
Col James Montgomery's brigade  
54th Massachusetts Colored (February - April 1864)  
40th Massachusetts Mounted (February - April 1864)  
Col Guy V Henry's brigade  
1st United States Artillery, Battery B (February - April  
1864)  
4th Massachusetts Independent Cavalry (February -  
April 1864)  
3rd United States Artillery, Battery E (February 1864 -  
?) Captain John Hamilton  
3rd Rhode Island, Section C (February 1864 - ?)  
1st United States Artillery, Battery M (February 1864 -  
?)  
3rd Rhode Island, Section B (February 1864 - ?)  
35th United States Colored (February 1864 -  
November 1864)  
3rd New Hampshire (April 1864)  
3rd United States Colored (February 1864 - July 1865)

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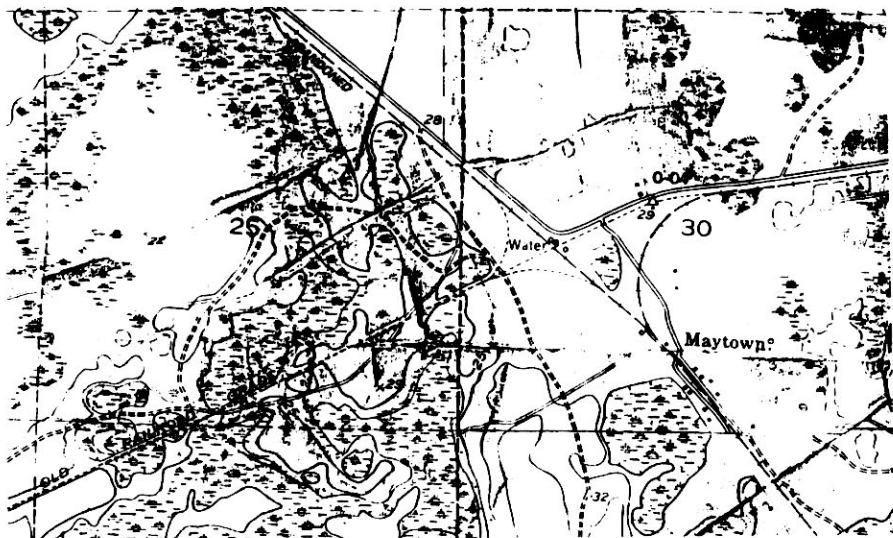
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- (1) "Diary of Doctor Alfred Walton", Florida Times-Union, October 30, 1893. Doctor Walton returned the prayer book and map later.



## MAYTOWN, FLORIDA (a present day Ghost Town)

Donald L. Arey, Jr., M.D.

As a collector of memorabilia and an avid metal detector enthusiast, I have hiked many miles of abandoned railroad rightaway in Florida. I am always amazed when I find evidence of a once bustling town, now only an overgrown mass of weeds and once stately trees hiding the foundations of old buildings. That is all that remains, just old bricks and occasional chips of glass and tin. My metal detector allows me to dig through the dirt and debris and occasionally I do come across something unusual like a Civil War belt buckle or piece of a cannon ball. Most of the time all I find is the proverbial "Ghost Town". Florida is full of these places, now almost impossible to reach except by trail bike or on foot (rattlesnake leggings are a must). One such place that fascinates me is Maytown in Volusia County and the topic of this article.



In 1886 a 36 mile railroad was completed from Enterprise Junction on the St. John's River to Titusville along the Indian River.

Approximately half way between the two towns a small whistle-stop was created and named Maytown. The origin of the name is lost to history. This small settlement eventually had a population approaching

100 with a hotel, saw mill, and of course a post office.

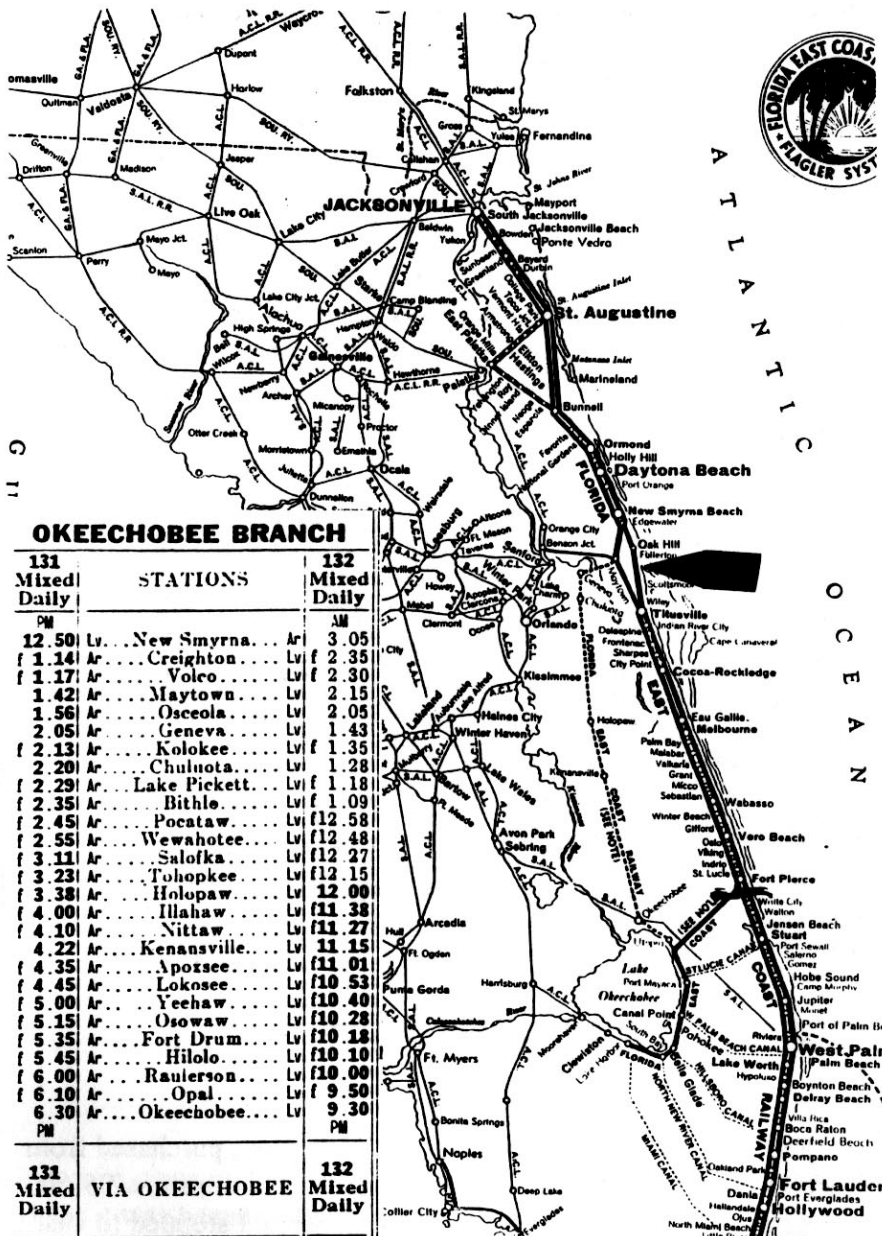


The Florida East Coast Railroad absorbed the line into the Flagler system in 1902. In 1911 a branch line was constructed to Maytown from New Smyrna Beach and in 1912 a long branch line was begun from Maytown to Lake Okeechobee, to tap the rich Everglade farm land. This created "Maytown Crossing" and the tiny settlement grew rapidly. The post office was established on 18 June 1886 but discontinued by 18 May 1888 with mail serviced at Osteen (12 miles to the West). A post office was re-established on 10 June 1899 but discontinued for good on 15 May 1935 with mail service at Oak Hill to the East. The demise of the town began in 1947 when the Florida East Coast Rail Road built a 30 mile cut off between the mainline at Fort Pierce and Lake Okeechobee. This resulted in the abandonment of the branch line from Maytown. The Enterprise (sp. changed in 1937) to Titusville line was likewise abandoned in 1971 and all trackage has been removed. All that remains today are two small houses and foundations of the railroad platform. A coaling facility, water tank, warehouses and maintenance facilities once existed along the railroad right of way, but little evidence of their exact location remains today. Remains of an old saw mill (a branch of the Bond Lumber Co. from Lake Helen, Fl.) can be found 1 1/2 miles south of the crossings.

Anyone interested in a visit to the site are blessed by a dirt road West from Oak Hill or by traversing the Maytown Road East from Osteen and turning south on Maytown Spur Road. Seth Bramson was good enough to forward perhaps the only surviving photograph of Maytown railroad station complete with the postal clerk. This is truly a great photograph!



ATLANTIC OCEAN



### OKEECHOBEE BRANCH

131 Mixed Daily	STATIONS	132 Mixed Daily
PM		AM
12.50	Lv. New Smyrna	Ar. 3.05
1.14	Ar. Creighton	Lv. 2.35
1.17	Ar. Volco	Lv. 2.30
1.42	Ar. Maytown	Lv. 2.15
1.56	Ar. Osceola	Lv. 2.05
2.05	Ar. Geneva	Lv. 1.43
2.13	Ar. Kolokee	Lv. 1.35
2.20	Ar. Chuluota	Lv. 1.28
2.29	Ar. Lake Pickett	Lv. 1.18
2.35	Ar. Bithlo	Lv. 1.09
2.45	Ar. Pocataw	Lv. 12.58
2.55	Ar. Wewahotee	Lv. 12.48
3.11	Ar. Salofka	Lv. 12.27
3.23	Ar. Tohopkee	Lv. 12.15
3.38	Ar. Holopaw	Lv. 12.00
4.00	Ar. Illahaw	Lv. 11.38
4.10	Ar. Nittaw	Lv. 11.27
4.22	Ar. Kenansville	Lv. 11.15
4.35	Ar. Apoxsee	Lv. 11.01
4.45	Ar. Lokosee	Lv. 10.53
5.00	Ar. Yeehaw	Lv. 10.40
5.15	Ar. Osowaw	Lv. 10.28
5.35	Ar. Fort Drum	Lv. 10.18
5.45	Ar. Hilolo	Lv. 10.10
6.00	Ar. Raulerson	Lv. 10.00
6.10	Ar. Opal	Lv. 9.50
6.30	Ar. Okeechobee	Lv. 9.30
PM		PM
131 Mixed Daily	VIA OKEECHOBEE	132 Mixed Daily
PM		PM
7.45	Lv. Okeechobee	Ar. 9.05
8.05	Ar. Upthegrove	Lv. 8.45
8.35	Ar. Utopia	Lv. 8.35
9.00	Ar. Port Mayaca	Lv. 8.06
9.17	Ar. Sand Cut	Lv. 7.50
9.35	Ar. Canal Point	Lv. 7.35
10.45	Ar. Belle Glade-Chosen	Lv. 6.45
11.05	Ar. South Bay	Lv. 6.20
11.30	Ar. Lake Harbor	Lv. 6.00
PM		PM



# INCOMING FUMIGATED LETTER FROM 1888 EPIDEMIC

HERBERT P. McNEAL

In concluding an article on yellow fever mail from the 1888 Florida epidemic, (FPH Journal, July, 1993) I stated: "someone has a cover fumigated at La Villa Junction, perhaps bearing a "FUMIGATED" handstamp known to have been used there...And someone may have an incoming cover addressed to Florida and fumigated for no reason which we can imagine."

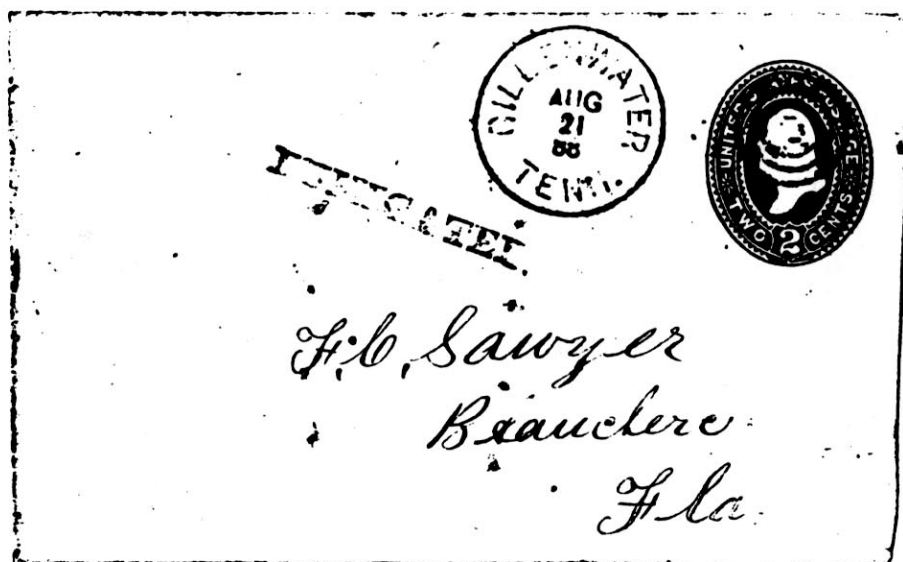


Fig. 1

I was able to confirm both predictions in one cover, purchased from Classic Philatelics, of Huntington Beach, Cal. at Stampshow 95. It was my last day at the show, and late in the day, when I stopped to chat at their booth. Usually they have few if any U.S. covers for sale, but the above cover, (Fig. 1) made my day!! The cover bears a Gillenwater, Tenn. Aug 21, 1888 postmark and is addressed to Beauclerc, Fla. with a handstamped "FUMIGATED" mark and two vertical rows of small punch holes. The backstamp is Beauclerc, Fla., Aug. 23 or 25.

Granville's R.R. and Township Map of Florida, 1880, shows Beauclerc on the east bank of the St. John's River, about ten miles south of Jacksonville. The postoffice existed only from 1878-1899.

The fumigation station at La Villa Junction began operating on August 20, 1888, so this cover was among the earliest mail to be processed there. The punch holes appear to have been made by small nails, and are quite different from those applied at the Waycross station. La Villa Junction is the only station known to have used the "FUMIGATED" handstamp during the Florida epidemic, and it is known on at least one other piece of mail, (Fig. 2) a postal card sent from Jacksonville to Switzerland, Fla, about ten miles up the St. Johns from Beauclerc. It was unnecessary to punch holes in cards like this one.



Fig. 2.

Why was a piece of incoming mail fumigated? We can only conjecture. Perhaps it was because the mail was handled in Jacksonville, where the epidemic was raging. There are still other discoveries to be made concerning the fumigated mail of the 1888 epidemic, but these covers fill in one more part of the larger picture.

Fig. 2 (courtesy of Kenneth L. Rice).

## MORE FLORIDA RFD'S

HERBERT P. McNEAL

The August 1994 issue of the Florida Postal History Journal included an article about a previously unreported handstamp RFD postmark from Route 2, Sanford. (Fig. 1)

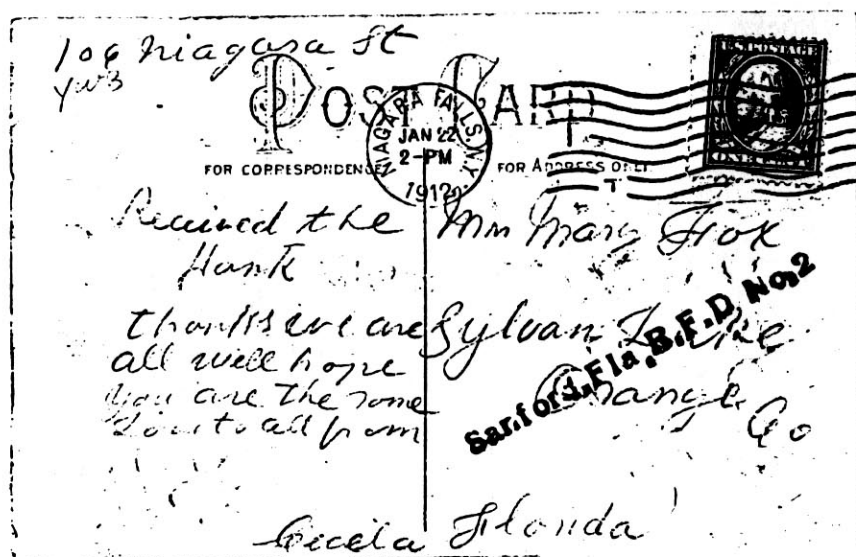


Fig. 1

A recently revised edition of Harold C. Richow's Encyclopedia of R.F.D. Cancels includes this Sanford listing, as well as the two previously known postmarks of Grand Ridge and Hawthorne. To these can be added three additional manuscript R.F.D.s from my collection. R.F.D. #1, 5-11-1910 A.M., Lakeland, Fla. is the manuscript postmark on a postcard depicting orange picking, St. Petersburg. (Fig. 2) This postmark is unusual in that it includes "A.M.". The time of day is seldom seen in R.F.D. postmarks. The second example includes only the date, 12/6/-09, and R#2. (Fig. 3) While it may also be a Lakeland

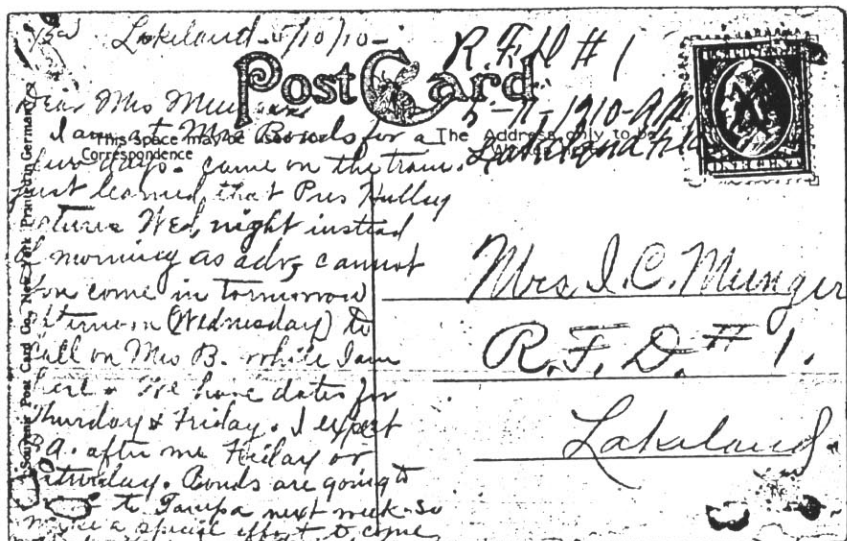


Fig. 2

R.F.D., since it appears on a postcard depicting Lake Hollingsworth, Lakeland, it is most likely from Welborn, Fla. reflecting the Route 2, Welborn address and the invitation to a party 3 days hence. The third marking, a scrawled R.F.D., (Fig. 4) is on a postcard of the College

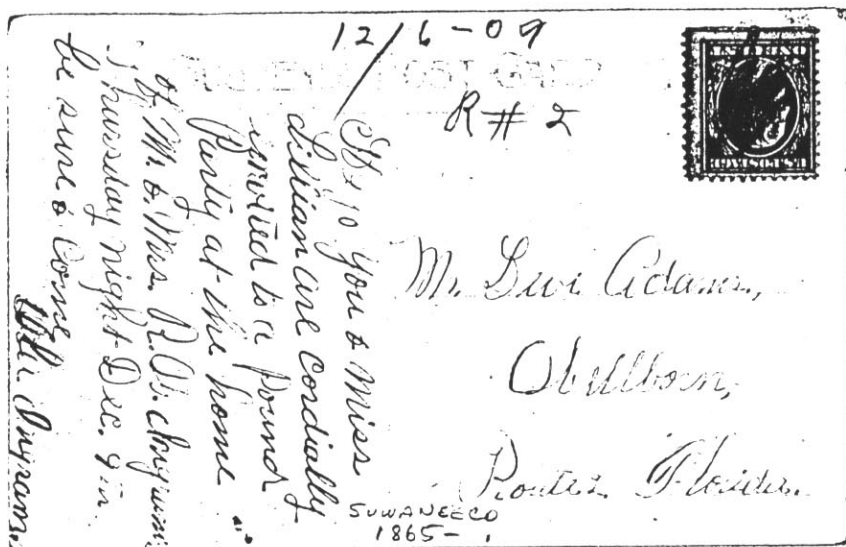


Fig. 3

Arms Hotel, Deland, which together with a mention of DeLeon in the message, probably indicates that it was mailed on a DeLand rural route.

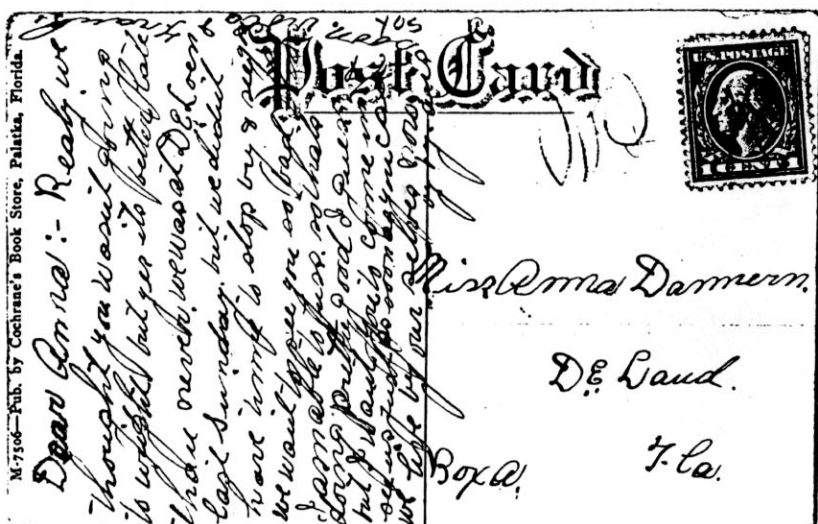


Fig. 4

A friend tells me that he also has a handstamped Florida R.F.D. in his accumulation, but has not been able to find it yet. Let's find it and get it reported. Keep an eye on those old postcards, especially greetings, for more Florida R.F.D.s.

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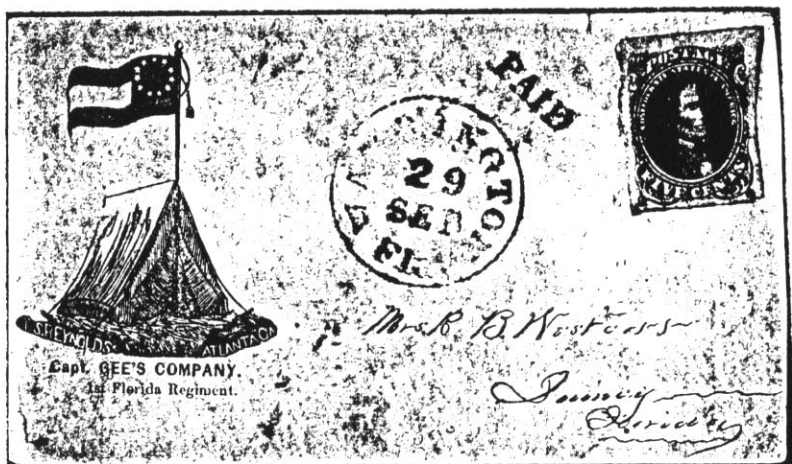
## FLOREX ANNUAL MEETING

Don't forget the annual meeting of the **Florida Postal History Society** on Saturday, November 11, 1995, from 12:00 to 2:00P.M. at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. (Exit 27 off I-4) This is a change from the OMNI where previous meetings have been held. A discussion of our Society's Stampless Handbook will be discussed in detail. Please try to come and contribute to this project.

## PROBLEM COVER FOR THIS ISSUE

DEANE R. BRIGGS

In the January 1995 FPH Journal issue, Theodore Light started what was hoped would be an ongoing series of problem covers. The cover he proposed was a PENSA stampless 1836 cover sent to Tallahassee enclosing election returns. The problem was the 18 cent due rate. To date there have been no responses and all I could elicit from casual discussions with members was that this was an error in rating the normal 18 3/4 cent rate for 150-400 miles. If this type of response from members continues, I will not continue these articles!! Let's start participating.



The above cover is worthy of member responses. It is a confederate tent and flag patriotic cover with WARRINGTON / Fla. SEP 29 (1861) cds and a Dietz type I PAID handstamp marking with pen cancelled, untied #1 usage to Quincy, Florida. Please forward comments regarding this cover to Deane R. Briggs, M.D., 160 E. Lake Howard Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33881.



## SMOAK, FLORIDA

HERBERT P. McNEAL

Smoak, Marion County, Florida was one of those early 20th century post offices which survived for only a few years. In this case, according to the Chronology of Florida Post Offices, it existed from 28 February 1903 to October 1909 -- just a bit more than six years. The cover illustrated (fig. 1) is from the extensive Veg-A-Tab correspondence, and was postmarked with a newly issued handstamp device on June 1, 1903, about three months after the office was established.

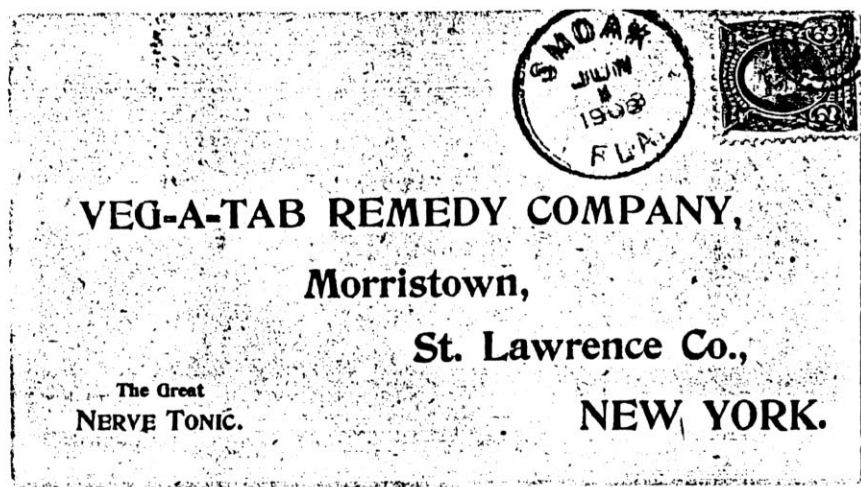


Fig. 1

The exact location of Smoak is not known to this writer, but the backstamps (fig. 2) provide some clues. The postmark of Fairfield, also on June 1, was probably applied before that of Reddick, also on June 1. Fairfield is a few miles west of Reddick, and both towns are located in northwest Marion County. It is conjectured that the letter left the Smoak post office, passed through the Fairfield office, then the Reddick office. The next marking is a New York City receiving mark

on June 3, and finally the Morristown, N.Y. receiving mark was applied at 11 a.m. on June 4, 1903.

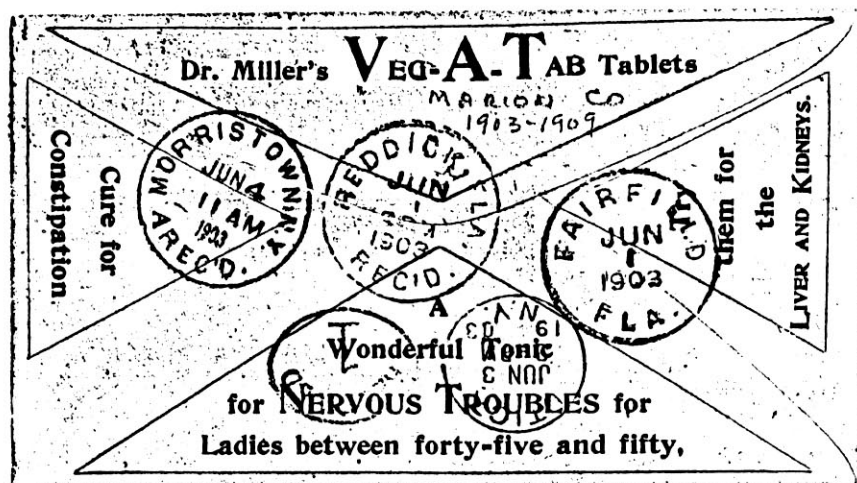


Fig. 2

Three days from Smoak to Morristown is not bad time, and might not be matched by our modern postal service.

Editors note: Bill Helbock is publishing a pocket listing of all Florida post offices with dates of use and a scarcity value. This should be available soon and of value to all Florida collectors, especially ones that collect postmark from small towns such as Smoak. Contact him at his LaPosta address for details.

# FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Florida Postal History Society  
Donald G. Thompson, Sec-Tres.  
7405 Cypress Bend Manor  
Vero Beach, FL 32966 - 5172

I hereby apply for membership in the Florida Postal History Society and enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for annual dues including subscription to The Florida Postal History Journal. I agree to abide by the policies and by-laws of the Society, and understand that said membership may be terminated by the Society in accordance with the by-laws.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print or type:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Collecting Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Membership in other philatelic societies (indicate membership #)

Local Stamp Club \_\_\_\_\_

APS \_\_\_\_\_ Others \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES: \$10.00** Regular member **\$20.00** Contributing member