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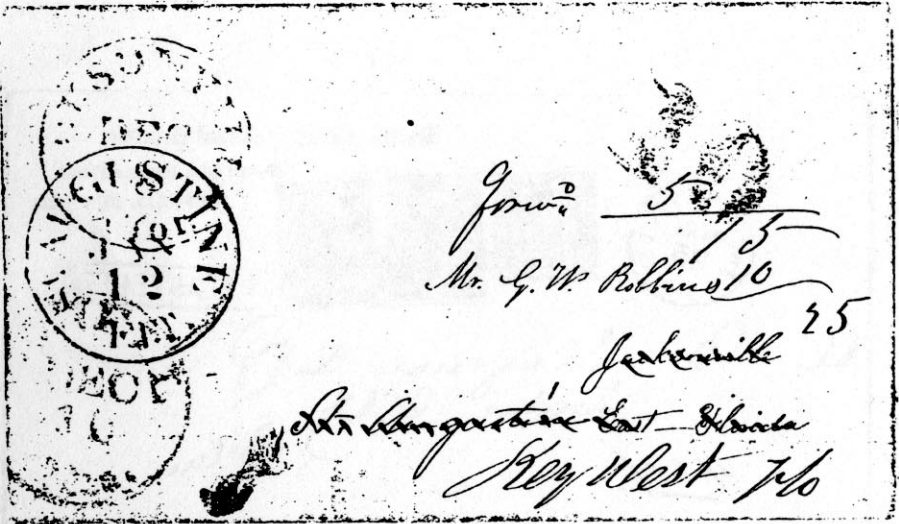
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FLORIDA DOUBLE FORWARDED USAGE

Edward R. Joyce

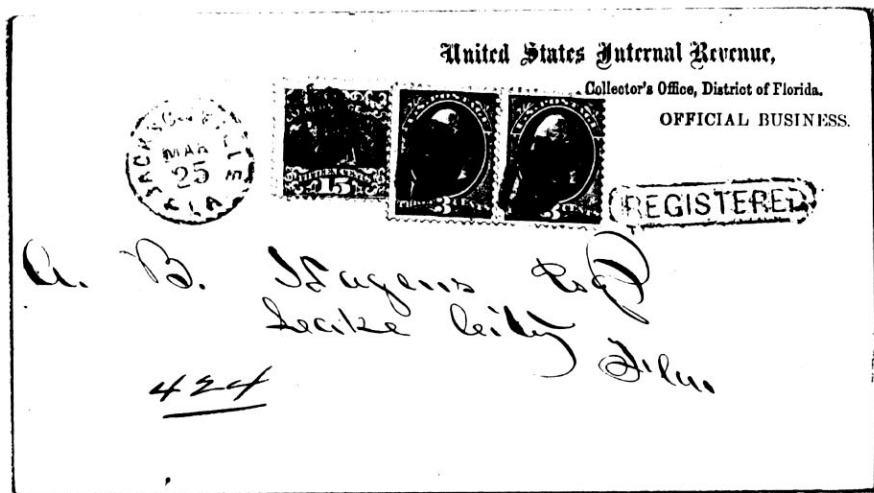


Although forwarded usages from Florida are not uncommon, doubly forwarded examples are scarce. This folded letter is dated December 13, 1846 and addressed to Mr. G.W. Robbins in Jacksonville, East Florida. It is postmarked with a red "LOWELL / MASS DEC 16" cds and rated with a red "10" for the over 300 mile rate. Evidently Mr. Robbins was not in Jacksonville as the letter was forwarded to St. Augustine and postmarked "JACKSONVILLE / Flor. DEC 28" with an additional manuscript "ford 5" postage added totalling "15". Mr. Robbins apparently had gone on to Key West as the cover was forwarded yet again with a "St. AUGUSTINE / Fl. T. JAN 12" territorial postmark and an additional manuscript "10" postage now totalling "25" (due). Note that the original address of East Florida was deleted and changed to "Flo" when forwarded on to Key West.

Editor's Note: This is an interesting multicolor postmarked forwarded example of Florida stampless postal history. Members are encouraged to submit other covers of interest for publication.

1869 PICTORIAL ISSUE - FLORIDA USAGE

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



#119 15 cent pictorial usage, JACKSONVILLE FLA. postmark

The usage of the 1869 adhesive stamps from Florida are uncommon and carry a premium valuation. The one and two cent adhesives (Scott #s 112 and 113) are very uncommon with only a few known examples from Florida. The three cent adhesive (Scott # 114) is known from a number of Florida towns, most notably Jacksonville and is seen with many fancy cancellations in both blue and black ink.

The above cover records the only known usage of #119 from Florida and is thus the earliest usage of a multicolor stamp from Florida. The cover is an "official business" legal envelope (reduced) with a pair of #147 and a poorly centered copy of #119 cancelled with a blue cork (untied) with JACKSONVILLE/ FLA. MAR 25 blue postmark and a boxed REGISTERED blue ancillary marking. Usage is to Lake City.

A Census of Florida Revenue-Stamped Documents, 1862-1872

Michael Mahler

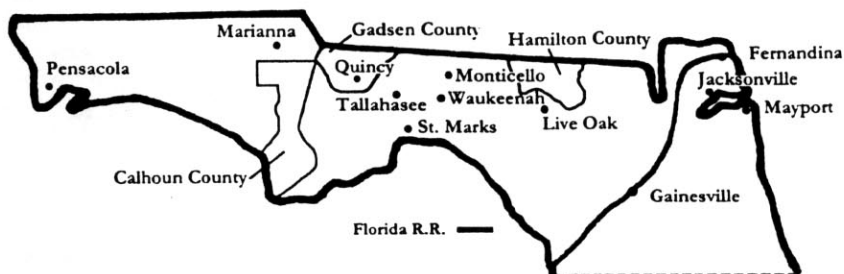


Fig. 1. Map showing origins of Florida recorded revenue-stamped documents; for Key West see Fig. 4.

In July 1862 the U.S. government, to help defray its expenses arising from the Civil War, enacted a broad spectrum of internal revenue taxes, to take effect the following October 1. These included a schedule of documentary stamp taxes so extensive as to affect nearly every piece of paper that changed hands. These document taxes did not end with the war; they remained in effect until October 1, 1872, when all were rescinded with the exception of a 2¢ levy on bank checks, which persisted until June 30, 1883. In the South, U.S. Internal Revenue collection districts, geographically identical to the congressional districts, were established in all the former Confederate States by mid-1865, and collection of the various taxes commenced. The state of Florida comprised a single collection district, established May 4, 1865; as of August 1866 the listed district assessor was one Lemuel Wilson of Newnansville, and the collector, Maicellus A. Williams of Fernandina. (Mahler, 1988, 1993).

In the South the documentary taxes were made retroactive to October 1, 1862, the date they had taken effect. The U.S. government had always considered the "rebellious" states still part of the Union, and held that its taxes applied there. All documents executed after October 1, 1862, in order to have legal standing, were required to be stamped retroactively. In practice this affected only those relatively few documents still in effect after the war, such as deeds, mortgages, promissory notes, and the like.

Revenue-stamped documents from Florida during the period of broad Civil War taxes, 1865-72, are practically nonexistent. None are known with imprinted stamps: the four Florida pieces reported by Castenholz (1989) are all from the late 1870s or early 1880s. In some 25 years of assiduous searching I have recorded only 31 Florida documents with adhesive revenues affixed during 1865-72, and estimate that perhaps 50-100 exist. All recorded pieces are tabulated below. The recorded usages show a satisfying variety, with 16 different origins (Figure 1). Readers unfamiliar with the history of Florida will no doubt find it remarkable that with the exception of Key West, all of these places are in the northern 20% of the state, none further south than Gainesville. This is entirely in keeping, though, with the pattern of settlement of Florida; before 1900 the southern portion of the state was virtually empty. Most of these origins are represented by only one or two examples, and even the "commonest," Tallahassee and Quincy, by just six and five, respectively; obviously, no hoards or archives have been found, or at least recorded. Taken as a whole, these pieces reveal a fascinating "slice of life" in Florida during Reconstruction; to illustrate, selected items are described in more detail below.

Selected Examples

Gadsen County. 1. Manuscript deed, executed Gadsen County August 7, 1867, amount \$640 for 80 acres. The Conveyance tax of 50¢ per \$500 applied, and the \$1 tax was paid by 24 stamps: 15¢ Inland Exchange, 5¢ Certificate (x13), and 2¢ Bank Check orange (x10), each painstakingly canceled with initials and date.

The stating of a place of execution no more specific than a given county is seen with some regularity on Southern documents, and is consistent with the fact that most of the population lived "in the country." In 1860, cities and towns accounted for only 8% of the population of the South (Cohn, 1956).

Revenue stamps were often in short supply in the South, resulting in "wallpaper stampings" like this one. At the local level, stamps were supplied primarily by an array of private agents - banks, newspaper offices, stationers, general merchants, and the like - who earned a small commission, usually only 1% or 2%, never more than 5% (Mahler, 1993). Money was in such short supply, especially the outlying regions, and the potential profit in stamp sales so small, that agents would have been reluctant to invest much of their capital in stamps.

2. Manuscript agreement reading: "State of Fla., Gadsen County, January 15th 1866

Agreement between T.C. McCall on the one hand as employer and Milly on the other hand as employee.

I. I Milly agree to turn over to T.C. McCall whatever corn, Fodder, Potatoes and other provision may be due me for last year's services, that he may use them for the benefit of myself and children for the year 1866.

II. I further agree to labor myself and to make my sons Ben and Amos also labor for said T.C. McCall for this year for the support of myself and family. I am willing that T.C. McCall shall use my own provisions as his own. I disclaim any further right to any thing on the place.

III. Should I fail to discharge my duties faithfully, or refuse to obey any order from T.C. McCall or any one acting in his stead, or be found guilty of any fault or misdemeanor, I recognize T.C. McCall as having right and authority to discharge and to drive me from his place.

Milly (X) her mark

I T.C. McCall agree to feed, clothe, and furnish medical attention to Milly and her children Ben, Amos, Hester, and Alice, for her own and their services for the year 1866. Reserving the right to turn them off of the place when their conduct is such as to justify it. I do not promise to pay them any thing at the end of the year.

Signed ... T.C. McCall" A 5¢ Certificate pays the 5¢ Agreement tax.

Only a dozen or so stamped labor contracts with ex-slaves have been recorded from the entire South. This one, dated January 15, 1866, is the earliest, and the date is significant. In the months following Appomatox, a belief spread among the newly-freed slaves that all freedmen would receive from the government the now-proverbial "forty acres and a mule," this to occur January 1, 1866, the third anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Accordingly, very few blacks were willing to commit to labor contracts in 1865. This exacerbated a situation in which relatively little work of the sort usually performed by blacks had been accomplished in the South in 1865. First the war itself had caused no little disruption, including large-scale defections of slaves to the Union lines. Immediately after the war, in the exhilaration of freedom large numbers of blacks had left the quarters of their former masters, many to visit or search for loved ones, others simply to experience the formerly forbidden pleasure of travel; there was a large influx to cities and towns. After some months harsh realities began to assert themselves, and large numbers of people drifted back to their former quarters, and in many cases to their former tasks, performed now on a more casual, day-to-day basis. Finally January 1, 1866, came and went, accompanied by assurances from trusted officers of the Freedmen's Bureau that no large-scale redistribution of lands was in the offing. Of necessity the freed slaves now began entering into contracts to support themselves as best they could, mostly at the work they had previously done as slaves, but now for wages, or as sharecroppers, or in the case at hand, for nothing more than the basic necessities of life - food, shelter, clothing, and medical attention.

Fernandina. 1868 manuscript sight draft for expenses on shipments by steamer "Dictator," Trip 106, drawn on its agents in Savannah, L.J. Guilmartin & Co., stamped with 2¢ Bank Check orange (Figure 2). The draft was made to John Hedges, Assistant Treasurer, Florida Rail Road Co., by Jeffrys Bro. & Son, Agents, who are identified by an extraordinary blue dated handstamp cancel reading "OFFICE GENERAL FREIGHT & TICKET AGENT. FLORIDA RAIL. ROAD. CO." The draft also bears a blue datestamp of Guilmartin & Co. The Florida R.R., running from Fernandina to Cedar Key on the Gulf (see map) was the state's first railroad, indeed the only one completed before the Reconstruction era. The "Dictator" was a well known St. Johns River steamer.

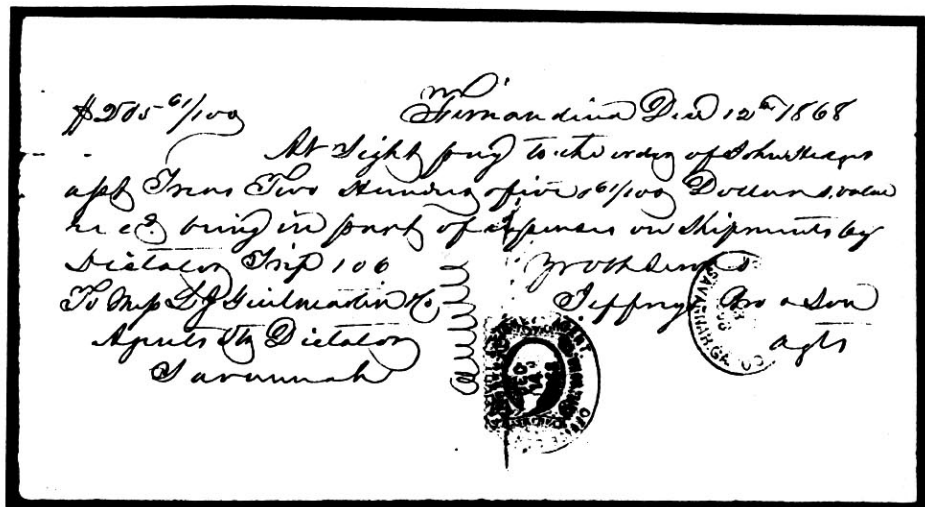


Fig. 2. 1868 sight draft, Florida Rail Road Co., Fernandina

Gainesville. 1873 sight draft of Foster & Colclough, Gainesville, drawn on Nourse & Brooks, N. Y., stamped with 2¢ Second Issue (Figure 3). The only recorded use of a Second Issue stamp in Florida. Even though dated after the nominal census cutoff date of October 1, 1872, this piece has been included because of its significance. See below for a draft executed at St. Marks also drawn on Nourse & Brooks.

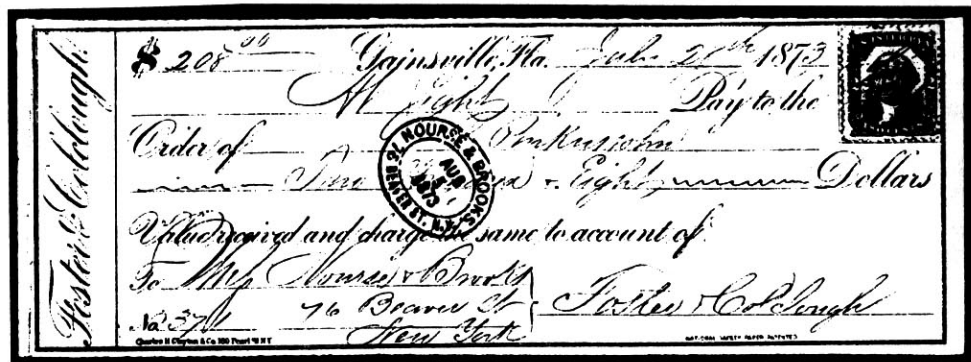


Fig. 3. 1873 sight draft, Gainesville



Fig. 4.

Key West. Entry of goods forms No. 1, No. 2, and No. 4, Port of Key West, all for goods imported from Havana, on American schooners "Lautaro," "Belle of the Cape," and "King of the Forest," respectively (Figures 4, 5), executed August 7, 14, and 25, 1867, but all stamped August 31; evidently no stamps were available until then. Value of goods \$174, \$98, and \$1210, respectively, stamped with 50¢ Conveyance, 25¢ Warehouse Receipt, and \$1 Lease, nicely illustrating the three existing rates: 25c for amounts to \$100, 50¢ for over \$100 to \$500, and \$1 for over \$500. Each stamp is canceled by dated handstamp of the Port Collector, "CHARLES HOWE. KEY WEST."

The entry for the "Belle of the Cape" shows that U.S. import taxes of this era could exceed the value of the goods. The "Belle" carried "4 Cervons Leaf Tobacco," weight 270 lb., value \$78.54, the import duty 35¢ per lb., or \$94.50!, also "A Lot of Plantains," value \$20, duty 25%, or \$5.

The "Lautaro" paid an average of 44.5% on its varied cargo.

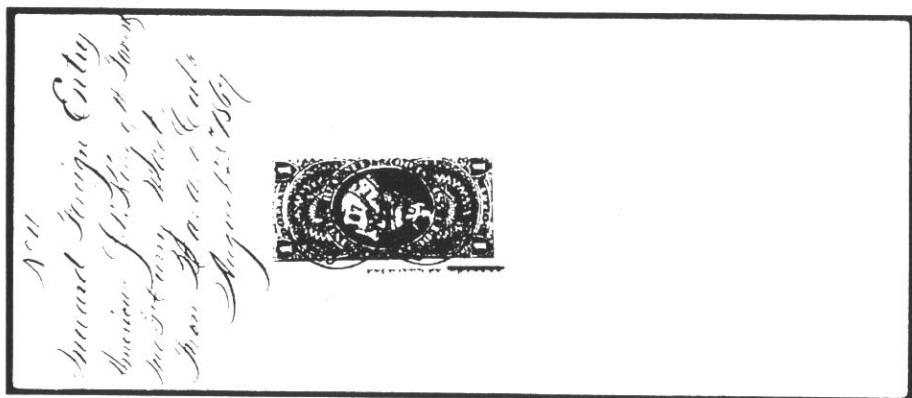


Fig. 5. 1867 entry form, Key West, with Port Collector h.s. cancel

Marianna. Promissory note made February 1, 1864, during the Civil War, for \$350 due the following January 1, stamped with 5¢ Inland Exchange strip of four, canceled "WBW & SSA," the initials of the makers of the note, but in a different hand (Figure 6). The stamps were affixed retroactively, evidently in 1868. As explained above, all documents executed after October 1, 1862, in order to have legal standing, were required to be stamped retroactively. Notations on the reverse of this note indicate it was presented for collection November 16, 1866, and filed in court July 18, 1868. The stamps were almost certainly affixed then.

There is another twist to this story. In my experience, Southern documents stamped retroactively were invariably taxed at the rate in effect at the time the stamp(s) were affixed. This does not always match the tax in effect at the time the document was executed, which by the letter of the law would seem to have been the correct one. In this case, by a happy and unlikely coincidence this problem does not arise. In 1868 the Inland Exchange tax was 5¢ per \$100 or fraction, and had been since August 1, 1864. This called for 20¢ on a note for \$350, and was almost certainly the formula applied here. From March 3, 1863, through July 31, 1864, however, when this note was executed, the Inland Exchange schedule had been a complicated one involving the time till payment as well as the amount. This schedule was probably never known to the parties who stamped this note, but it also called for 20¢ tax, for notes payable in more than six months were taxed at 10¢ per \$200 or fraction. By any interpretation, this note was properly stamped!

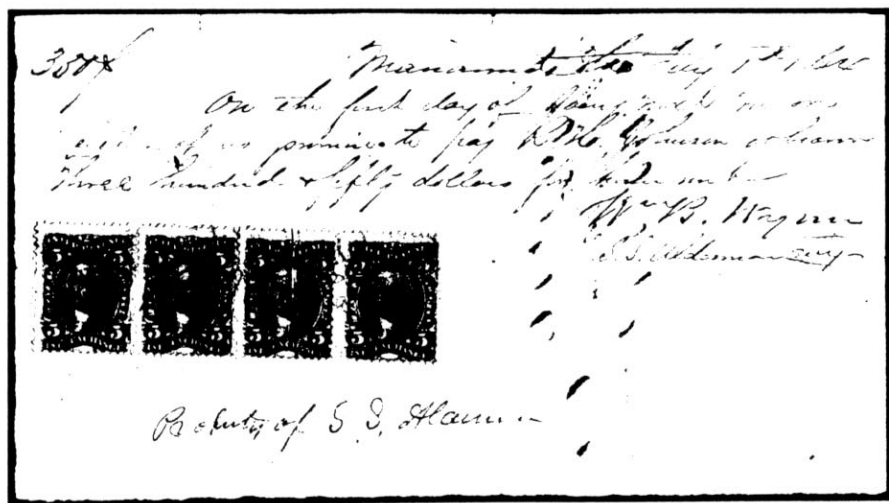


Fig. 6. 1864 promissory note, Marianna, retroactively stamped in 1868

Mayport. 1869 manuscript receipt from St. Johns Barr (sic) Pilots to owners of Schooner "Sylvan" for "Pilotage in 7 fut [sic]" on Sept. 19, charge \$17.50, then "Pilotage out 11 fut" in October (date unspecified), charge \$27.50, stamped with 2¢ Bank Check orange (Figure 7). Mayport was a village on the southern shore of the mouth of the St. Johns River, some 20 miles downstream from Jacksonville, occupied primarily by pilots and fishermen. It has long since been absorbed by Jacksonville. Evidently ocean-going

vessels required the services of a pilot to navigate the bars and channels of the mouth of the St. Johns. If my deciphering and interpretation of this piece is correct, the charge for pilotage depended on the draft of the vessel, being \$2.50 per foot, the "Sylvan" drawing only seven feet on the trip in to Jacksonville, but 11 feet coming out, presumably now carrying a fuller cargo.

Mayport Fla October /69
 Scho Sylvan & Curriers
 To St Johns Bar Pilots Co

Date	Pilotage in / out	Amount
Sept 19	in 7 feet	\$ 17 50
Octr	out 11 "	27 50
		<hr/>
		\$ 45 00

Recd Payment
 Charles Brown

Fig. 7. 1869 receipt, Mayport, for pilotage of schooner

Monticello. Printed billhead of J.M. & W.P. Marvin, Dealers in Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, Monticello, October 25, 1865, the 2¢ Receipt tax paid with 2¢ U.S.I.R., the earliest recorded use of a revenue stamp in Florida (Figure 8). The items purchased included ten yards calico at 85¢, eight yards brillante at 75¢, two yards ribbon at 37¢, scissors at \$1.25, a belt at \$2.25, and a toilet kit at \$3.

St. Marks. Sight draft of J.W. Skipper & Co. on Nourse & Brooks, N.Y., November 12, 1866, the 2¢ tax overpaid by an 1863 5¢ Jefferson postage stamp (Figure 9). Payment of documentary taxes with postage stamps was nominally illegal but often tolerated (Mahler, 1987). Note that the Gainesville sight draft described above was drawn on the same firm. Probably both pieces survived the decades in the archives of Nourse & Brooks in New York, then eventually reached philatelic hands. Where there are two, there are probably more.

Waukeenah. Promissory note made April 28, 1862, bearing interest from January 1, unpaid and filed in court in September 1869, stamped retroactively with 5¢ Certificate tied by manuscript "X" (Figure 10) This note need not have been stamped, as the taxes had not taken effect until October 1, 1862. Evidently the parties involved knew the year the taxes had commenced, but not the day, and affixed the stamp to be safe.

Waukeenah, usually assumed to be an Indian name, is in fact the "Indianization" of the Spanish "Joaquina." It was a tiny hamlet, so small its post office was discontinued between June 1869 and June 1870; even by 1900 it still had a population of only about 100.

J. M. & W. P. Marvin.
 Keep constantly on hand,
 A LARGE STOCK OF
 STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS,
 Ready Made Clothing,
 BOOTS & SHOES,
 HATS, CAPS AND BONNETS,
 BOOKS & STATIONERY,
 CROCKERY, &c.

Monticello, Fla. _____ 1865

Wm Miller Bellamy
 Bought of J. M. & W. P. Marvin,

Dealers in Staple and Fancy Dry Goods.

1865	Sept 23	2 Cans	Ally 25	2 1/2	Ally 37 1/2	100
		100	Scissors			125
	Octo 2	18 1/2	Yard	Calico	85	850
			1/2	of	Coto	25
		10	8	1/2	Bulliant	600
		14	1	1/2	225 (20)	680
					1/2	4.55
		23	1/2	pa	fine	300
					1/2	3.00
					1/2	340
						2720

of J. M. & W. P. Marvin
 Recd payment, Monticello,
 October 25 1865

J. M. & W. P. Marvin



Fig. 8. October 1865 receipt, Monticello, the earliest recorded usage of a revenue stamp in Florida

St. Marks Fla Nov 12th 1866

Pay to the
 Order of Mrs. Kessie T. Nettles

Collars?

Value received, and charge the same to accounts of

To Mrs. Kessie Nettles
 122 West Street N.Y.

J. M. & W. P. Marvin

Fig. 9. 1866 sight draft, St. Marks, 2c tax overpaid by 1863 5c U.S. postage stamp

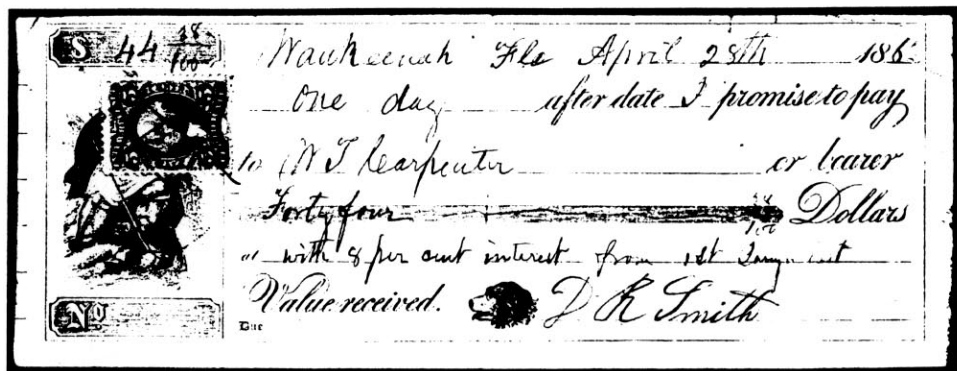


Fig. 10. April 1862 promissory note, Waukeenan, stamped retroactively in 1869 although no stamp was necessary

References

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- Mahler, Michael. Postage Stamps were Invalid for Payment of Documentary Taxes of the Civil War and Spanish-American War Periods. *The American Revenuer* 1987c February; 41:24-6.
- Mahler, Michael. *United States Civil War Revenue Stamp Taxes.* Pacific Palisades, CA: Castenholz and Sons, 1988
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Census of Florida Stamped Documents, 1865 - 1872

<u>Location</u>	<u>Document Type</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Stamp(s)</u>
(Apalachicola)	Deed	5-1-1865	R83c (x2)
Calhoun County	Power of attorney	12-30-1868	R3c (x2), R44c
Fernandina	Sight draft	12-12-1868	R6c
Gadsen County	Agreement	1-15-1866	R24c
	Agreement	2-9-1867	R24c
	Agreement	2-16-1867	R27c
	Deed	8-77-1867	R40c, R24c (x13) R6c (x10)
Gainesville	Sight draft	7-28-1873	R104
Hamilton County	Deed	5-21-1868	R6c (x5)
Jacksonville	Sight draft	6-4-1869	R15c
Key West	Entry of goods	8-31-1867	R54c
	Entry of goods	8-31-1867	R50c
	Entry of goods	8-31-1867	R70c
Live Oak	Mortgage	12-6-1871	R67c, R55c (x2)

Cancel / Comments

ms.; first page only, Lewis Curtis & Nathaniel Thurston, Trustees of Apalachicola land Co. to Isaac Wright, executed N.Y., cites stipulations of original Forbes & Co.'s Purchase to Apalachicola Land Co.

All ms., embossed Calhoun County Circuit Court seals; proper tax 50c.

All ms., to Asst. Treasurer, Florida R.R. Co., for expenses on shipments by Steamer "Dictator", drawn by Jeffrys Bro. & Sons, Agts., on L.J. Guilmartin & Co., Agents, St. "Dictator", Savannah; blue oval h.s. "OFFICE GEN'L FREIGHT & TICKET AGENT. FLORIDA RAIL. ROAD. CO."

ms., contract for services of ex-slave Milly for food, clothing, medical attention, but no pay.

ms., sharecropping contract.

ms., contract for field work at \$15 per month.

ms., amount \$640, properly taxed at \$1.

printed draft of Foster & Colclough, Gainesville, N.Y. imprint, drawn on Nourse & Brooks, N.Y.

Ms.; amount \$100, 50c tax underpaid; recorded 1891.

Generic, vignетted; drawn by Capt. G.W. Tracy on J.D. Robinson & Son, Bath, Maine, to account of Schooner "Mary Fletcher".

Entry #1, American Schooner "Lautaro" from Havana 8-7-1867, value \$174.12.

Entry #2, Am. Schr. "Belle of the Cape" from Havana 8-14-1867, value \$78.54.

Entry #4, Am. Schr. "King of the Forest" from Havana 8-28-1867, Value \$1210. All stamped retroactively 8-31-1867, with cds "CHARLES HOWE Collector KEY WEST".

On Parshly Saw Mill and associated property, Live Oak, Suwannee County.

Marianna	Promissory note	7-1-1864	R27c strip of 4
Mayport	Receipt	10-1869	R6c
Monticello	Promissary note	7-30-1867	R24c pair
	Receipt	10-25-1865	R15c
	Sight draft	12-23-1869	R15c
Pensacola	Receipt	10-11-1870	R15c
Quincy	Agreement	5-12-1866	R24c
	Agreement	1-2-1867	R6c
	Promissory note	1-1-1861	R40c
	Promissory note	1-1-1868	R24c (x2)
St. Marks	Sight draft	11-12-1866	U.S. #76
Tallahassee	Check	?-?-1872	R135
	Insurance	1-1-1866	R44c
	Promissory note	1-1-1870	R24c
	Sight draft	4-8-1871	R15c
	Summons	3-16-1866	R59c
	Summons	10-10-1866	R54c
Waukeelah	Promissory note	4-28-1862	R24c

ms., amount \$350; on reverse "Presented to Col but ??? this Nov 16/66" and "Filed July 18th 1868". Undated ms. cancel.

ms., from St. Johns Barr Pilots to owners of Schooner "Sylvan" for pilotage in and out.

Generic; amount \$112.32.

Printed form of J.M. & W.P. Marvin, Dealers in Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, Monticello.

Generic; vignette; drawn locally.

ms.; oval h.s. cancel "DERSON, HYER & CO. PENSACOLA, FLA.".

Printed apprenticeship contract, Gadsen County Probate Court for "poor colored child Maria," age 7.

ms.; contract for house servant for year 1867, pay \$40.

Vignette 8 % interest bearing note of Gunn & Gunn, Quincy, blue paper, N.Y. imprint; amount \$269.22; stamp uncanceled; no stamp necessary, U.S. taxes not in effect until 10-1-1862.

Printed note of Jno. H. Gee, Quincy, blue paper; \$181.75, interest 8%.

Generic, vignette; drawn by J.W. Skipper & Co. on Nourse, Brooks & Co., N.Y.

Two vignettes.

Policy of Gulf State Insurance Co.

Generic, two vignettes; amount \$72.33.

Draft of Office of Philip Walter, Tallahassee, vignette of cotton boll, Phila. imprint; drawn on Van Camp Bush, Phila.

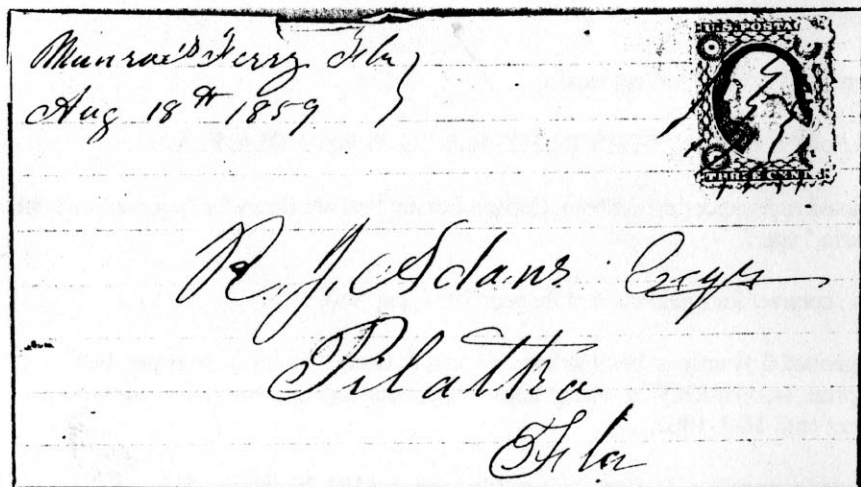
Circuit Court form, to Sheriff of Leon County; imprint of Tallahassee "Sentinel" Office.

As above, summons to Pensacola & Georgia R.R. Co.

generic; vignette; amount \$44.38 with 8 % interest from 1-1-1862. stamp tied by ms. "x"; on reverse "Filed Sept. 6 69"; no stamp necessary, U.S. taxes not in effect until 10-1-1862.

MUNROE'S FERRY, FLORIDA

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



Munroe's Ferry Fla / Aug 18th 1859 manuscript postmark

There were many small settlements in ante-bellum Florida that had established post offices for a very short period of time. Many of these small post offices were named for the proprietor of the store or ferry located at these sites. Many had only a scant population and most are not located on period maps and difficult to locate in county historical society archives. As postal receipts from these small towns was small, postmaster compensation was insignificant and many postmaster used the postmaster "FREE" franking privilege for means of avoiding up to 25 cent postal rates, even for their personal letters.

The above cover is a folded letter datelined Munroe's Ferry Fla, Aug. 18th 1859 from its postmaster, Neill Munroe, to Mr. R. J. Adams at Pilatka. The letter is interesting in that it mentions difficulty in getting provisions at the "Springs" with a "barrel of my flour was sent off to

Sumter Co. and I had to take an inferior article in the place of it. My bacon was sent to the wrong man and I had to go 13 miles from the Springs to get it. This is the way they manage business at the Springs and no doubt the cause I did not get my provisions the first time." From this letter it appears that Neill Munroe was not only the postmaster but the ferry operator and store owner at the site as well. The exact location of Munroe's Ferry is unclear, but from the enclosure it must have been near the Springs (probably present day Weeki Wachee).

The post office at Munroe's Ferry was established in Hernando County on 30 January 1858 and discontinued less than two years later on 17 January 1860. Neill Munroe was the only postmaster and did record postal receipts on \$5.39 for the year ending June 30, 1859 with postmaster's compensation for that period being \$3.83. With such meager postal receipts and with only a two year period of operation, it is little wonder that this is the only known example of postal history recorded from Munroe's Ferry.

Editor's Note: This cover is from the collection of the late Larry Resnick who researched many of the small post offices of Florida. Our journal could use other articles like this on small towns in Florida, so please look at your collections and forward me either an article or just the photocopy of the cover, and I will write up the article for you. Our journal and our society will only flourish with membership help!!

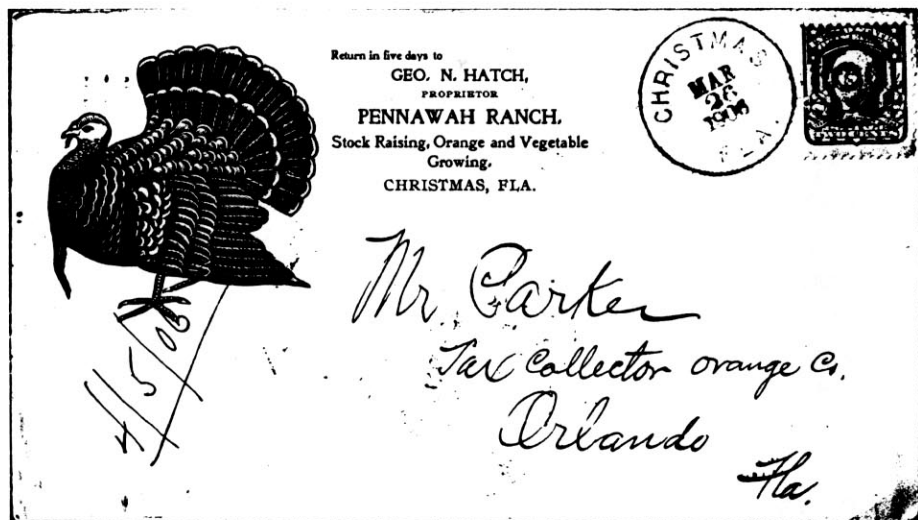
FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING - 1998

The annual meeting of the Florida Postal History Society will be held at FLOREX, on Saturday October 31, 1998, with an election of officers. A preliminary draft of our society project, FLORIDA STAMPLESS POSTAL HISTORY will be available for comment.

CHRISTMAS, FLORIDA

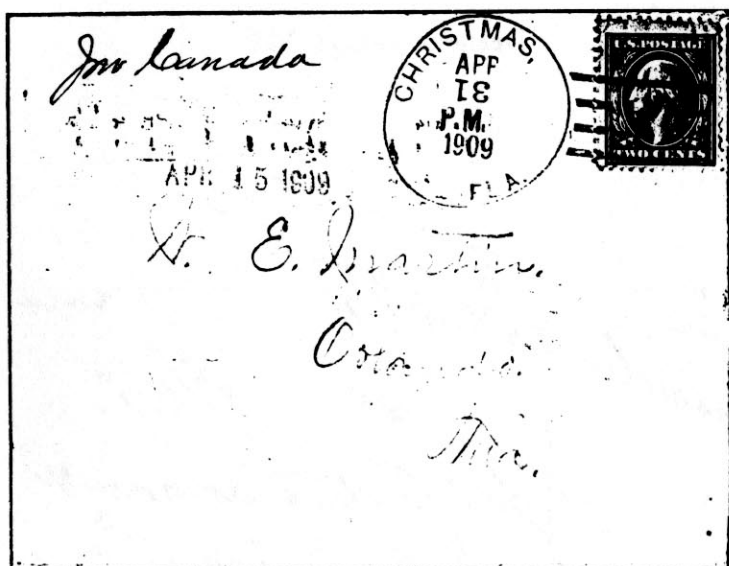
Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



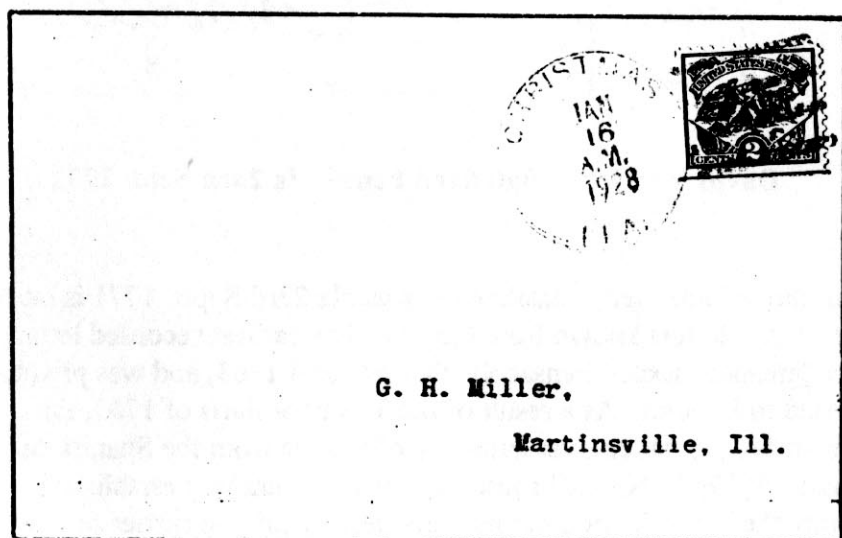
CHRISTMAS / FLA. MAR 26 1906 postmark on a colorful advertising cover

As Christmas time approaches it is always important for children to get their "want" letters off to Santa. Having the letter postmarked at a town like Christmas, Santa Claus, North Pole, etc. is often important. Although I am unaware of any "philatelic" uses of the Christmas, Florida postmark, I feel it appropriate to at least remind our membership that a town of Christmas did and still does exist in Florida.

The post office at the town of Christmas was established on 27 June 1892 in Orange County with Samuel B. Hurlbut as postmaster. The town and postoffice exists today in far eastern Orange County at the intersection of highway 50 and state road 420. If you want that special Christmas, FL. postmark this year, be sure to get there early as I'm sure the line will extend for miles!!



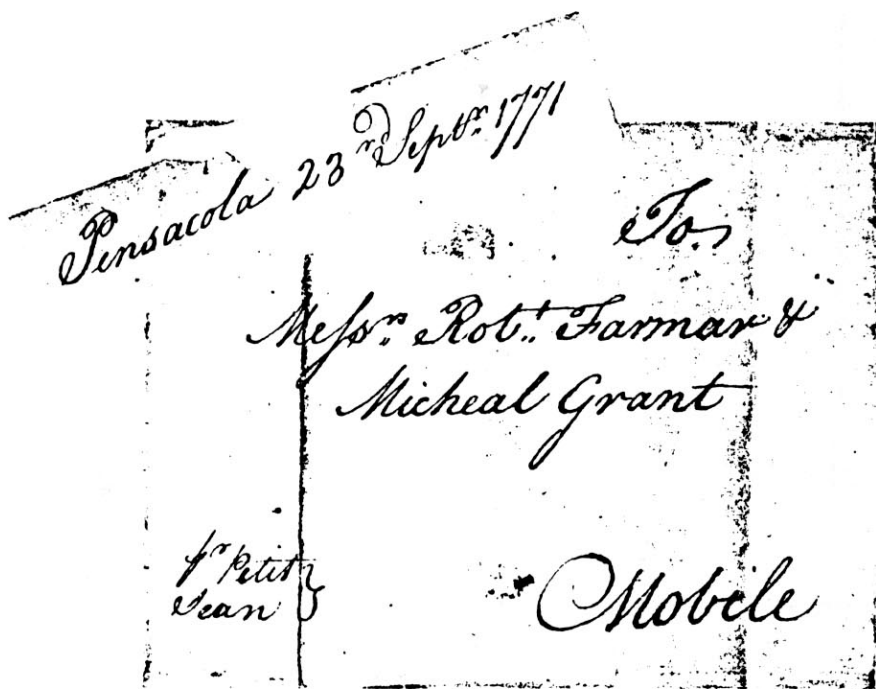
CHRISTMAS, FLA. APR 13 1909 doane type 3 (1) postmark



CHRISTMAS / FLA. JAN 16 1928 4-bar type B postmark

PENSACOLA 1771 LETTER

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



David Ross letter datelined Pensacola 23rd Sept. 1771

The above folded letter datelined Pensacola 23rd Sept. 1771 is one of the earliest letters known from Florida. The earliest recorded letter is one datelined "Exiled Pensacola September 5 1763, and was privately carried to London. As a result of the Treaty of Paris of 1763, the British had just taken over authority of Florida from the Spanish on August 6, 1763. No mail routes or postal system was established during the British period but mail did pass by private carrier or by courtesy of a ship captain. Most of the recorded mail was to or from England. At least three examples of the famous PENSACOLA straight

line back stamp marking are known with recorded usage from July 1, 1772 to 1774. No other postal markings are known until the "pre-territorial" period when U.S. postal rates and service was initiated. The earliest of these being August 6, 1821.

The above 1771 letter is noteworthy in that it was a correspondence between merchants regarding the sale of cattle and was sent by the ship "Petit Jean" to Mobile. No postage was obviously collected, but the docketing on the reverse clearly shows a delivery time of only two days which confirms delivery by ship as overland roads did not exist. The content of the letter is noteworthy:

Pensacola 23rd Sepr. 1771

Gentlemen

Your esteemed letter of the 6th Inst. by Mr Origston, I recieved and could wish you would be as expeditious as possible in forwarding the cattle fit for slaughter here as in fifteen days the Indians will be down to the Congress. I spoke to Mr Blackwell to see if he would purchase any of them or not, but he has not as yet given me any positive answer. I would have wrote you before now but has been much indisposed for this week past - I remain

Gentlemen

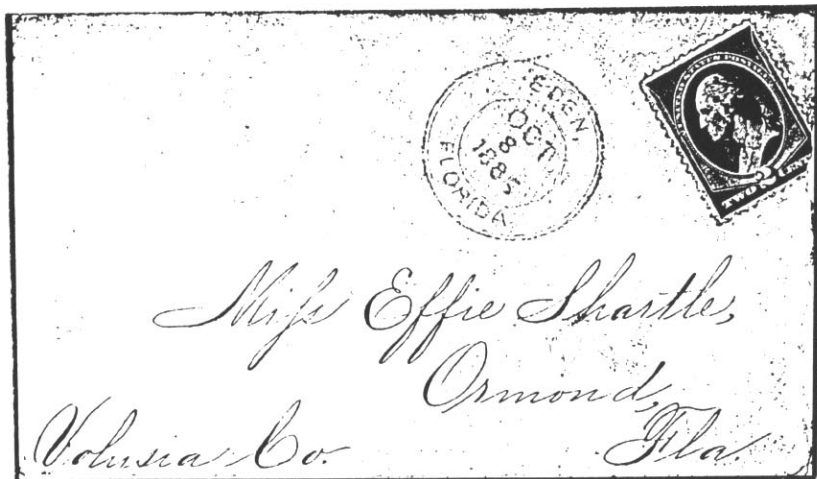
Your most obedient servant

David Ross

It is interesting to note that the British allowed the Indians to participate in a Congress at Pensacola. The need for cattle to be shipped from Mobile would imply a fairly large "pow wow" and would question why no cattle were raised in Pensacola at that time.

A Trip from Eden, Florida

James Moses



Deane Briggs' article of the Dawson postmark sent me to my collection of St. Lucie County covers. There I found a blue **EDEN FLORIDA OCT 8 1885** double line circle cancel to Ormond in Volusia County.

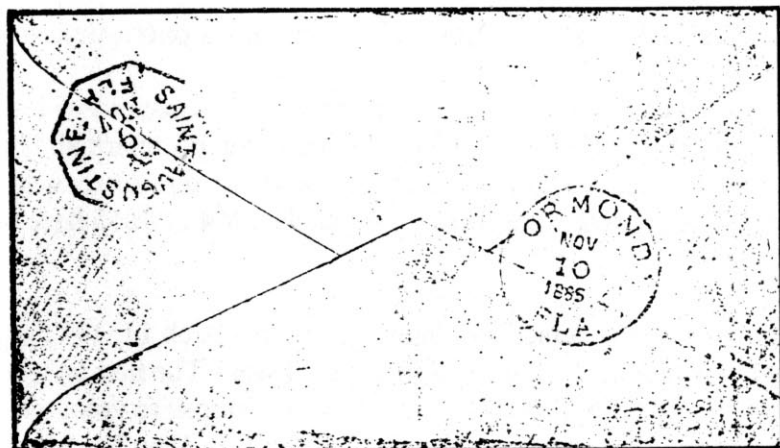
The Eden post office was established in 1882 as Eden Grove, with Thomas E. Richards as its first postmaster. Richards was the earliest and largest of several growers in the pineapple industry centered in the Eden area, then a part of Brevard County. The post office was situated on a dock on the Indian River. (It's last incarnation is now a private residence on the mainland shore). The river, although relatively shallow, served as the main artery of communication and shipping since before the Seminole Wars. Ormond sits at the northern end of this river, which is actually a 220 mile long lagoon.

In this case, however, the cover tells a different story. From Eden it traveled to St. Augustine in St. Johns County about 35 miles north of its final destination as shown by the black octagonal backstamp **SAINT AUGUSTINE 9 NOV**. From there it returned south to Ormond as

recorded by a black circular receiving stamp ORMOND FLA NOV 10 1885.

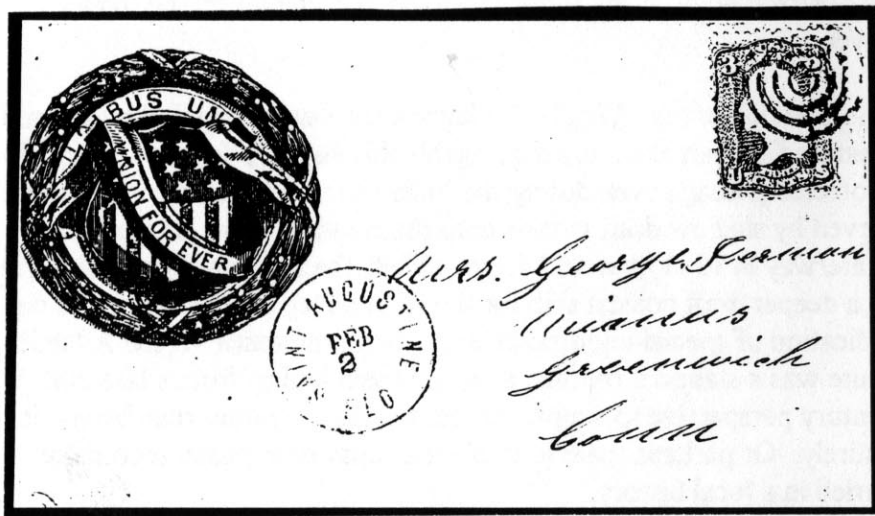
It would appear that this letter may have gone, via the old Ft. Pierce inlet to just to the north or the St. Lucie River inlet just to the south of Eden, up the Atlantic coast to the Matanzas inlet at St. Augustine, then by overland and / or the Mosquito River to Ormond on the Indian River.

The question arises: Why? The lagoon had been navigated by sail and steamer for years (but was it navigable this far up?) It was a safe and protected passage even during the Indian wars. Since the river was best served by shallow draft vessels until the creation of the Intracoastal Waterway in 1941, it would seem unlikely the mail would be transferred to a deeper draft coastal ship for the Atlantic leg. The cover gives no indication of special importance or routing preference. If the Atlantic route was a standard routing, it would seem logical from a late 20th century perspective to simply reenter the lagoon rather than bypass it entirely. Or perhaps there is an obvious answer in postal records or buried in a local history.



UNION OCCUPATION OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Edward R. Joyce



SAINT AUGUSTINE / FLO FEB 2 on Union patriotic cover

The above red and blue Union Patriotic cover is postmarked with the "SAINT AUGUSTINE / FLO FEB 2" occupation postmark and has a #65 tied by grid cancellation. The cover is addressed to Greenwich, Conn. making the year date of the cover likely 1864 or 1865 based on the following troop data.

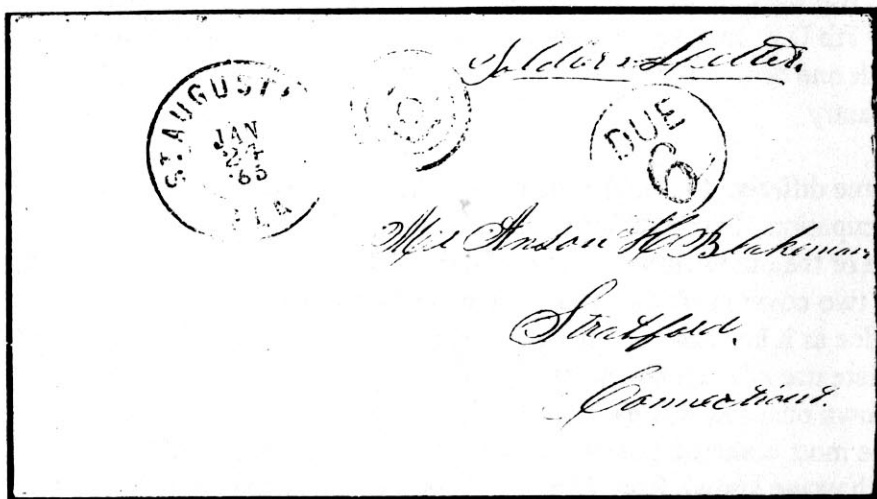
St. Augustine was occupied by Union forces on March 11, 1862 and remained in Union hands throughout the civil war. The first units were 7 companies (about 600 men) of the 7th New Hampshire volunteers. In August 1863 there were 8 companies of the 48th New York volunteers which were replaced in October 1863 by 10 companies of the 24th Massachusetts volunteers. In November 1863 they were joined by 10 companies of the 10th Connecticut volunteers for a total of 1452 men stationed in St. Augustine. In June 1864 there were 12

companies of the 17th Connecticut volunteers and 5 companies of the 75th Ohio mounted volunteer infantry in St. Augustine. At the end of the war the Connecticut volunteers were replaced by 5 companies of the 7th U.S. Infantry and at various times they were supplemented with one or two companies of the 34th and 82nd U.S. Colored Infantry.

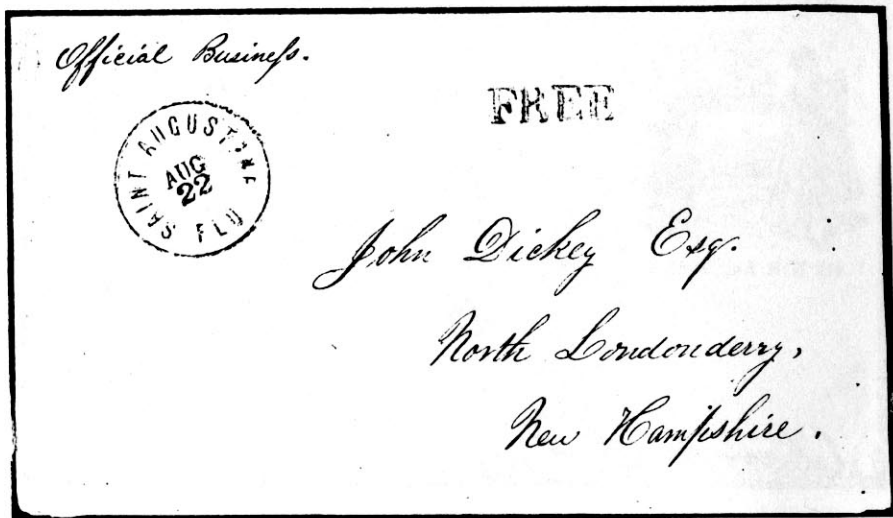
Three different St. Augustine postmarks are known during the Union occupation. Shortly after the occupation by Union troops, the pirated use of the old territorial "St. AUGUSTINE / FL.T." device is reported on two covers (1862). This device must have been left in the post office as it had not been used during the statehood period since 1854!! A late use of a double circle "ST AUGUSTINE / FLA" postmark is known on a few covers from 1865, although earlier uses are possible. The most common postmark remains "SAINT AUGUSTINE / FLO" with usage known from 1862-1865, but its use is still limited to less than 50 examples.



St. AUGUSTINE FL.T. / JUN 1 (1862) on Union patriotic cover



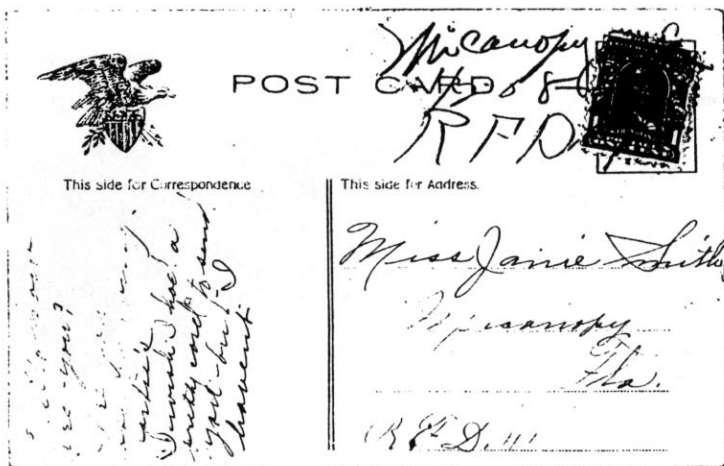
ST AUGUSTINE / FLA JAN 24 '65 on soldiers (due) letter



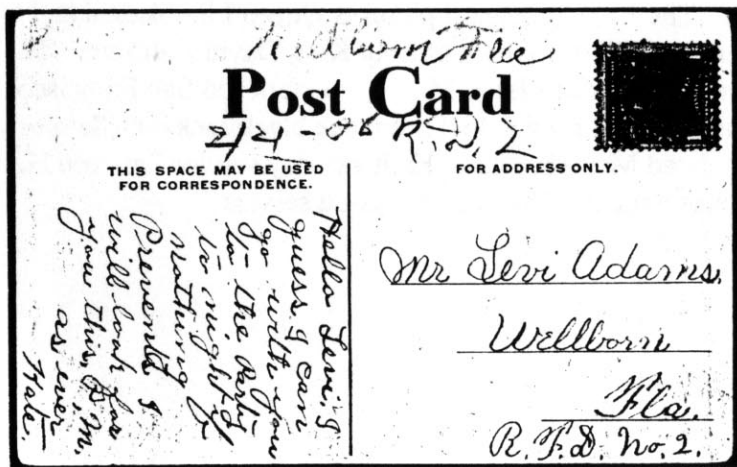
SAINT AUGUSTINE / FLO AUG 22 cover with FREE usage

New Florida RFD Covers

David C. Lingard



Florida RFD covers are most uncommon and number less than 10 by most accounts. Although manuscript RFD covers are the most common type recorded from Florida, the finding of two new ones is noteworthy. The **Micanopy Fla / 1-2-08 / RFD #1** was discovered by me in a Flea Market box of common post cards. The **Wellborn Fla / 2/21-08 R.D. 2** was submitted by Herbert P. McNeal as a new listing.



HAWAII TO JACKSONVILLE

Edward R. Joyce



1884 Hawaii to Jacksonville postcard

This postcard (Hawaii UX 1) was sent from Honolulu to Jacksonville in 1884. The 1 cent postcard pictures Queen Liliuokalani and also has a 10 cent vermilion stamp picturing King David Kalakaua. The red Honolulu postmark is dated May 1, the dark red San Francisco postmark is dated May 8, and the weak black Jacksonville receiving mark is dated May 18, 1884. Eighteen day service between Honolulu and Jacksonville in 1884 is pretty good service.

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