

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL

VOL. 8, NO. 2

SEPTEMBER 2001

Ocala Florida Inter-National And Semi-Tropical Exposition
Herbert P. McNeal 1

The Last Sub-Tropical Exposition
James Moses 4

A Florida Letter With A Charleston Cover
Niles Schuh 6

Lillie's Chicora
David C. Lingard 11

The Jacksonville Oval
Donald G. Thompson . . . 14

Florida State Prison Mail
James W. Harkleroad 16

Never Judge A Cover By Its Cover
David C. Lingard 18

1899 Key West Yellow Fever Fumigation
Han T. Siem, M.D. 20

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - DONALD G. THOMPSON

PAST PRESIDENT - NILES F. SCHUH

VICE PRESIDENT - THEODORE LIGHT

SEC. - TREASURER - DEANE R. BRIGGS, M.D.

JOURNAL EDITOR - DEANE R. BRIGGS, M.D.

REGIONAL EDITORS - NILES F. SCHUH

THEODORE LIGHT

HERBERT P. McNEAL

Membership applications may be obtained from Deane R. Briggs, M.D., 160 E. Lake Howard Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33881, phone: (863) 299-1251, fax: (863) 299-7666, e-mail: drb@gte.net

Articles may be submitted for publication to Deane R. Briggs, M.D., 160 E. Lake Howard Dr. Winter Haven, FL 33881

with the assumption that Jacksonville would not continue their Sub-Tropical exhibition. The Florida International and Semi-Tropical Exposition was held in Ocala from January 29, 1889 to May 1, 1889. Although no postal markings have been reported from this exposition, two separate advertising covers are known. Both are postmarked with a standard OCALA / FLA cds handstamp and both have advertising corner card return addresses and show the same illustration of the exposition building and grounds on the reverse. Minor differences in the surrounding title and dates are noted.



OCALA / FLA. JAN 19 1889 postmark on 2c green entire with E. W. Agnew & Co. corner card with exposition advertisement on reverse. Usage to Atlanta, Georgia..

The above cover uses upper case letters for the dates of the exposition and has fleurons to the side of the exposition building illustration. I am unaware of any additional examples.



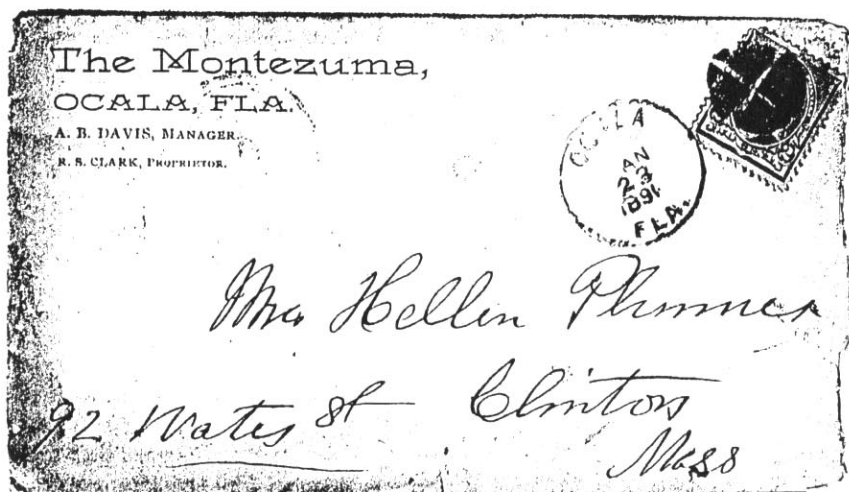
OCALA / FLA. MAR 9 1889 postmark and killer tied 2c. banknote stamp on "The Ocala Banner" corner card with exposition advertisement on reverse. Usage to Poughkeepsie, NY.

The above example has a corner card for the Ocala Banner, the local newspaper, and a slightly different typeset for the dates on the reverse. This is to my knowledge the known example.

Editor's Note: Please read the following article by James Moses regarding the 1891 Ocala Sub-Tropical Fair.

THE LAST SUB-TROPICAL EXPOSITION

James Moses



OCALA / FLA. JAN 23 1891 postmark with killer tied 2 c small banknote stamp on hotel corner card cover

The January 2001 article in the *Florida Postal History Journal* on the Florida Sub-Tropical Exposition expanded upon a recent purchase of mine. The above cover is postmarked Ocala, Fla, January 23, 1891 with a cork killer and a corner card from "The Montezuma, / Ocala, Fla." It was sent to Clinton, Massachusetts and received a January 26 receiving backstamp. The writer, identified only as Gramps, offers his granddaughter an account of what would be the last Sub-Tropical Exposition. The enclosure reads, in part (with punctuation added):

My dear little Sister, Gramps is some fifty miles north west of where grandmother is.

The Sub Tropical Fair is in session and gramps wanted to go to it and see the city of Ocala, as I was never here before. It is a very pretty city: large brick blocks, paved streets, horse cars, side walks, electric lights, water works & etc.

I wish you could have been here to go into this fair with me =

Such beautiful sights of all the large oranges, grape fruit, shaddocks, paw paws, sugar cane, sago root, cassava, guavas, Persimmons, cocoa nuts. 47 on one bunch just think of it. Pine Apples, Rice and hundreds of other kinds besides all kinds preserved in all forms. Also woods, fertilizers, grains & etc. No end to them in a beautiful large building out of the city a mile with mule cars running to the door.

I got up at 4 A.M. at Mt Dora Wed morn and took Dr. Gilberts Steamer across the lake in order to get the early train at Tavares - arriving here at 9 A.M. - I shall leave here to day at 4 P.M. take the steamer home and shall arrive from 8 to 11 PM according to how the train is delayed.

They call the train here the G.O.P. - "get off and push" -

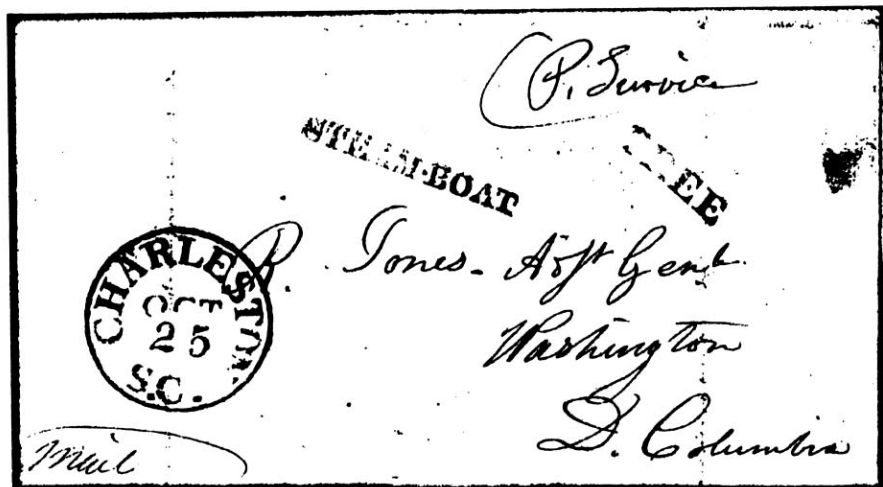
They had quite a joke on the conductor. He came around after the fares (and) a lady gave him her ticket and she had a little girl, which she give no ticket. So he says Maddam your girl is over age and will have to pay half fare, and she says she was not when they started but the train had been so long on the road she guessed she had passed the limit and she would pay if he insisted.

I have buzzed a lot of people here to day at the fair in order to get boosted all over. I see the section all represented. There are some very fine groves on the road between Tavares and Ocala. One station and grove named Sadie after a mans little girl living there.

Editor's note: It appears that the Ocala International and Semi-Tropical Exposition of 1889 continued for at least two more years as a Sub-Tropical Fair. It is interesting that both Jacksonville and Ocala had these expositions (or fairs) during the same times (January - May). Today these would be called State Fairs. In 1889-1891 they must have been quite something to see, especially for a man to get up at 4am, cross a lake by steamer, board a primitive train, just to go to the fair!

A FLORIDA LETTER WITH A CHARLESTON COVER

Niles Schuh



Cover carried by steamboat from Garey's Ferry, Florida Territory, to Charleston, S.C., where it entered the mails to Washington, D.C., with FREE franking rate

It is a pleasure for a Florida postal historian to find an early territorial Florida letter inside a South Carolina cover. The letter is datelined "Garey's Ferry" and was written by a Lieutenant Gates upon his arrival in Florida.

Second Lieutenant Collinson Reed Gates arrived at Fort Heileman in Duval County, Florida, in mid-October 1836, when the Second Seminole War was less than a year old. He had been ordered to report to the 4th Infantry Regiment, under Colonel Foster, at Old Town on the Suwannee River. He found that there was a problem crossing from the east coast to the west coast of the Territory of Florida in 1836 with a war going on and so he wrote to the Adjutant General in Washington about his problem.

Garey's Ferry Oct 19th 1836

Sir

Having been ordered by Colnl Foster (4th regt Infantry) to report myself at Suwannee Old Town, as soon as possible after the expiration of my furlough - I took this route by advice of my Father, as being the one by which I would soonest reach my company. I arrived here after unavoidable delays on the road, on Monday last, I find that there is no communication between this place & Suwannee, at present, but have been advised by Major Pierce, to whom I have reported myself for duty, to wait till an escort goes from here to Newmansville & thence to Old Town. I shall do duty here till such an opportunity occurs.

With much respect, Sir

I am your obt servt

C. R. Gates

Bvt 2 Lt. 4thInf

Gates had entered West Point in 1832 from New York State. He was promoted to permanent rank of 2nd Lieutenant in September of 1836, but apparently had not received word of it when he wrote the letter and signed it as a brevet 2nd Lieutenant.

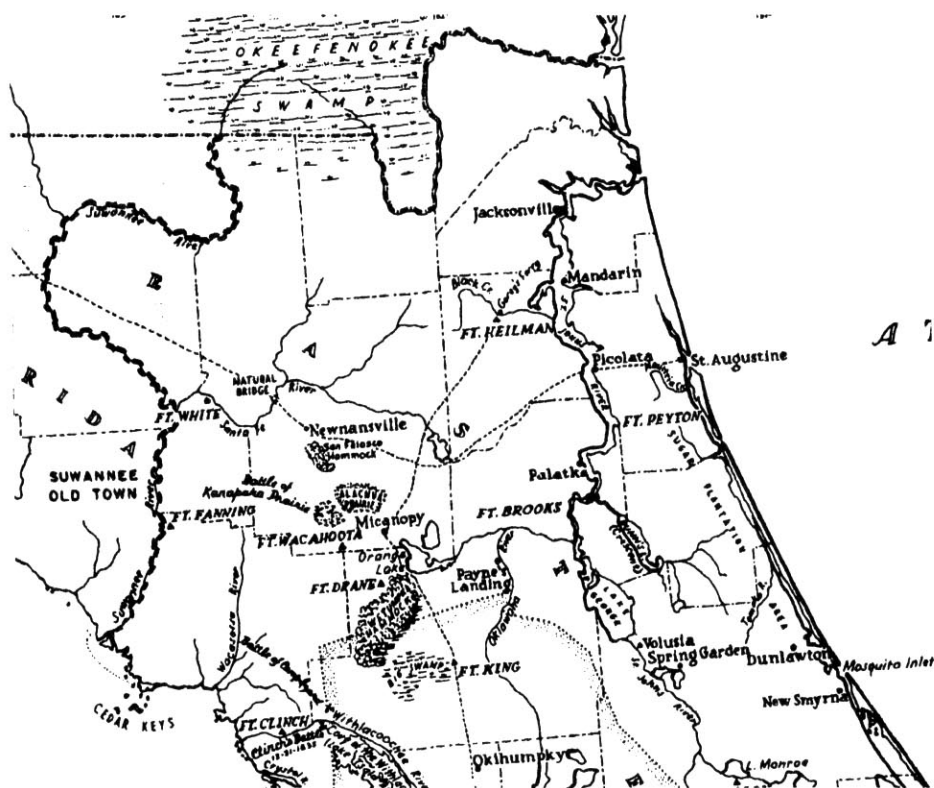
The dateline of the letter is interesting. The first regular settlement on Black Creek, which flowed into the St. Johns River upstream from Jacksonville, was Whitesville. This was also the first town in what is now Clay County. Even after Fort Heileman was established there the location was usually called Garey's Ferry after the operator of the ferry across Black Creek. The town of Middleburg now occupies the location, which is about 20 miles southwest of Jacksonville, where Highways 21 and 218 meet.

Garey's Ferry was an important location in those days of steamboat navigation and extreme difficulties of traveling overland in Florida. It was on both north-south and east-west post roads and the Army

established a supply depot there during the Second Seminole War.

Suwannee Old Town, Gates' destination, was located on the Suwannee River some 20 miles upstream from the Gulf of Mexico. The present town of Old Town is on the north side of the river where Route 19 crosses it. Fanning Springs, also on Route 19, is on the south side of the river.

Gates' "Newmansville" was Newnansville, which was located in Alachua County just north of the present town of Alachua. Newnansville was the location of the Land Office, and thus very important at that period of the Territory's development, but the town disappeared after Yulee's Fernandina to Cedar Keys Florida Railroad was routed through Gainesville instead of Newnansville in the 1850's.



Second Seminole War map showing locations of Garey's Ferry, Fort Heilman, Newnansville, and Suwannee Old Town

There was still a lot of Indian activity in the northern portion of the Florida Territory in 1836, during the early part of the seven year Second Seminole War. Action would move south as the war and the process of Indian "removal" progressed. Indian attacks in the area were one reason an escort would be required; the other being Gates' unfamiliarity with the area.

The letter mentions that Gates took his father's advice about traveling to Florida. There were several routes he could have taken from his furlough location, presumably in New York. The evidence is that he took the water route from New York to Garey's Ferry, which was available to water transportation. The hard part of that route would be the overland travel on to the Suwannee. He could have gone via a land route to New Orleans and then by water to the Suwannee. He could also have traveled by water to St. Marks, an Army Depot on the Gulf. That route, however, would require the long passage around the peninsula of Florida.

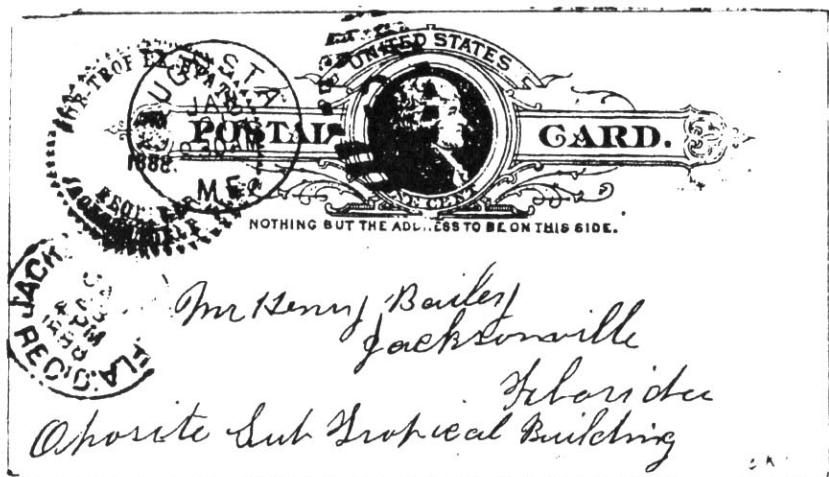
The postal markings on the letter indicate the use of water routes to get to and from the as yet undeveloped Territory of Florida. The letter was postmarked at Charleston, South Carolina, on October 25th, where it was also hand stamped "STEAMBOAT" and "FREE". The Steamboat marking indicates the letter was put aboard a boat, probably a coastal steamer calling at Garey's Ferry, which did not have a mail carrying contract. So it traveled "out of the mails" until it reached Charleston. The FREE marking was applied because the letter had been endorsed "P. Service" for Public Service by Lt. Gates and was addressed to the Adjutant General, which allowed free franking of mail at that time.

"Colnl Foster" was Lieutenant Colonel William Sewell Foster. He was a veteran of the War of 1812 from New Hampshire. He was promoted to Colonel in 1837 for distinguished service in Florida and particularly in the battle of Kissimmee. He died in 1839.

Lt. Gates was promoted to First Lieutenant in 1838. He went on in the Army to participate in the Mexican War, being promoted to Captain in 1846 for "gallantry and meritorious conduct" at the battles

OCALA FLORIDA INTER-NATIONAL AND SEMI-TROPICAL EXPOSITION

Herbert P. McNeal



SUB-TROP EX. STATION / RECEIVED / JACKSONVILLE FLA Jan 29, 1888 handstamp on postal card

The excellent article on the Florida Sub-Tropical Exposition by Deane R. Briggs, M.D., in the last issue of The Florida Postal History Journal, Vol. 8, No. 1, January 2001, has led me to submit for publication the above example. It is a postal card, addressed to Jacksonville "Opposite Sub Tropical Building" with one of the less than five known examples of the Sub-Tropical Station receiving handstamp. Both this and the double circle postmark recorded in the last journal issue are extremely hard to find.

Although Dr. Briggs in his article references the continuation of the Florida Sub-Tropical Exposition in Jacksonville for the years 1889-1891, the yellow fever epidemic of 1888 severely limited attendance those subsequent years. No postmarks following the 1888 exhibition are known. Officials in Ocala, Florida, felt that Ocala could stage a

of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma and then to Major in 1847 for similar performance at the battle of Molino del Rey in Texas. He died at age 33, in a cholera epidemic in June 1849.

In October of 1849 a fort built near Waco, Texas, was named Fort Gates in honor of Major Gates for his actions in the Mexican War. It was a frontier fort built to protect the population against Indians. Later the present town of Gatesville was located about five miles west of the old fort.

If Gates had not died, he might well have become as prominent as many of his classmates at West Point. Fourteen of his Class of 1836 eventually became generals, including Montgomery Meigs, who became Quartermaster General of the Union Army. The class just before his (1835) included George Meade, the Commanding Union General at Gettysburg. The class just after his (1837) included 16 later generals, including Braxton Bragg, Jubal Early, John Sedgewick, John Pemberton, and Joseph Hooker.

Bibliography:

"History of the Second Seminole War" by John K. Mahon, University of Florida Press, Gainesville, Florida, 1967.

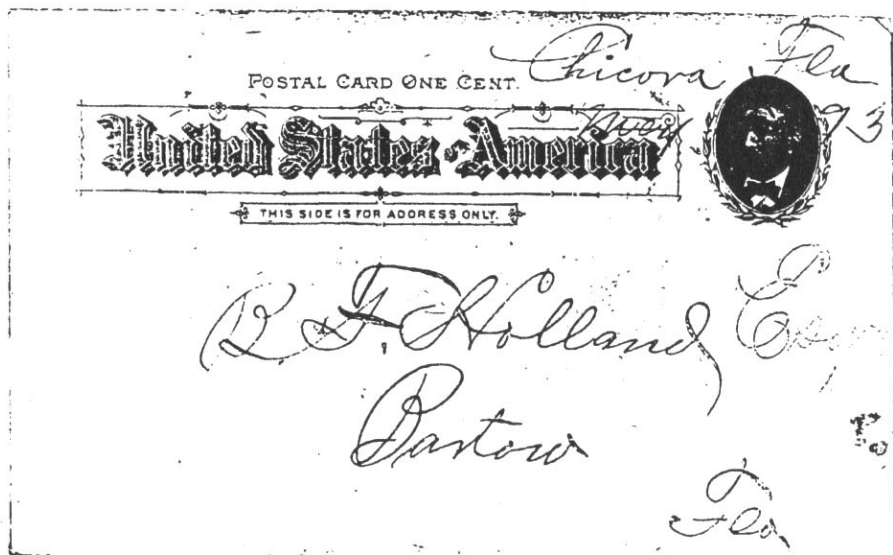
"Parade of Memories, A History of Clay County, Florida" by Arch Fredric Blakey, Clay County Bicentennial Steering Committee, 1976.

"Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army", Francis B. Heitman, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1903.

"Register of Graduates of the United States Military Academy", West Point Alumni Foundation, 1964.

LILLIE'S CHICORA

David C. Lingard



Chicora, Fla May 16, 1893 postmark on postal card

Chicora is a small, almost forgotten part of Polk County Florida's rich past. The small community was located on the south prong of the Alafia River in the Southwestern part of the county. I can find no definitive reason for the name Chicora. Allen Morris, in his book, Florida Place Names, speculates that it was borrowed from the name once given to the Atlantic Coast of South Carolina.

The first European settler was A. Hendry who came in 1858. It remained an isolated, sparsely populated area until the late 1870's. By 1881, the population was 125 people according to the application for a post office submitted by George Shuman. The request for a post office was granted and on September 27, 1881, George Shuman became the first postmaster at Chicora. He did not remain postmaster for long and on May 18, 1882, Hopkins E. Padgett became the postmaster for the next 8 years. According to two sources, The Florida Gazetteer and

Historical, Industrial, and Biographical Florida (1885) by Warton Webb, there were no mercantile or business pursuits of any kind during this period. The post office likely was located in the postmaster's house.

The area around Chicora was very fertile and full of wild game. Most of the first families hunted, fished in the Alafia river, and planted crops. They realized they could grow oranges and quickly groves sprang up everywhere. A small town began to form. A Polk County paper dated October 3, 1890, stated that "Our little village (Chicora) consists of 2 churches, a school house, one store, a post-office, one saw mill, and two blacksmith shops. There are some pretty girls here, and some as ugly bachelors as ever lived!"

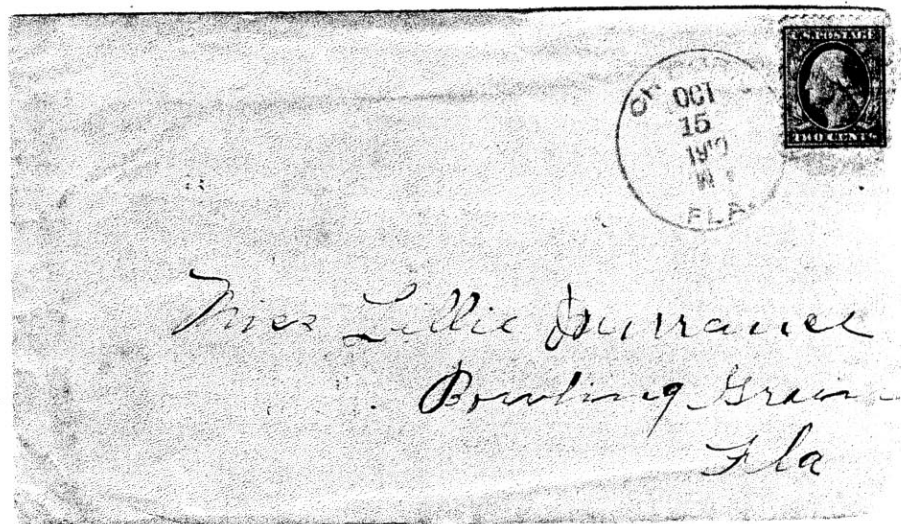
With continued success of oranges and the discovery of phosphate nearby, the town of Chicora thrived. A long time resident, Mr. Franklin Cravey reminisced about growing up in Chicora. He said that, "Mr. Crews ran a grocery and the post office". Mr. George L. Crews was actually the 9th postmaster of Chicora (1-20-1909 until 5-15-1912).

Two interesting bits of trivia from Chicora. Dr. Vincent Atanasoff (the inventor of the modern computer) spent much of his childhood in Chicora and attended the Chicora school. The National Champion Mockernut Hickory tree was located in Chicora and was over 13 feet in circumference before succumbing to boring beetles.

The Chicora post office officially September 27, 1881 and was closed on July 15, 1920 with mail handled from then on at the nearby phosphate mining town of Brewster. Although Richard Helbock's A Checklist of Florida Post Offices rates Chicora postmarks a "3", they are not that uncommon. Numerous examples of the Chicora type II (1) doane postmark are known, with some examples in magenta color. Almost every Chicora postmark I have seen has come from the Lillie Durrance correspondence addressed to Bowling Green, Florida. One has an enclosure from Miss Lillie Durrance's cousin, Marjine. The author would appreciate examples of other Chicora postmarks.



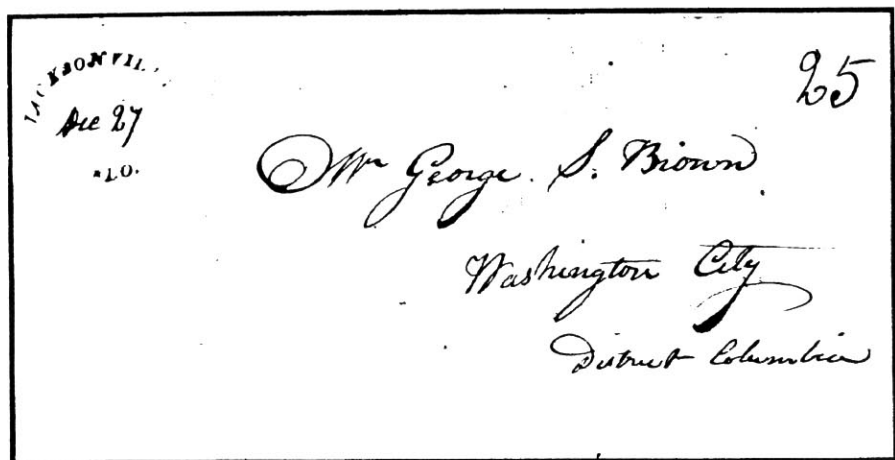
CHICORA, FLA. FEB 9 1906 doane II (1) postmark on cover to Miss Lillie Durrance, Bowling Green, Florida



CHICORA, FLA. OCT 15 1910 type A 4-bar postmark on cover to Miss Lillie Durrance, Bowling Green, Fla.

THE JACKSONVILLE OVAL

Donald G. Thompson



JACKSONVILLE / FLO. Dec 27 rimless oval postmark on 1827 cover with manuscript (unpaid) 25 rate to Washington

The rimless oval (27 mm x 22 mm) Jacksonville, Florida postmark on the above stampless folded letter has only recently been discovered. It was first recorded as an addendum in the 1987 American Stampless Cover Catalog, volume II. This cover is from the George Brown correspondence and as usual comes from Brown's business partner, D. Seabury, who moves around among various East Florida and Georgia communities. The dateline reads: "St. Johns E. F. 27 Dec. 1827". There is a manuscript Dec 27 date in the postmark and a manuscript unpaid rate of 25, the rate for over 400 miles (to Washington, D.C.).

No other examples have been reported to date, which is unusual since postmaster and town founder Isaiah D. Hart went to some trouble to provide the handstamp device. It appears to be made from printer's type which has been formed into the oval shape, hence no outer rim. The impression on this example is very heavy, producing an embossed effect. It appears to be the postmaster's first attempt at a handstamp

postmark, after using manuscript postmarks previously. The prior postmaster's compensation was \$43.27 for the year ended March 31, 1827, and compensation two years later was \$97.67, clearly enough to have generated more use of these rimless oval postmarks before the emergence of the fairly common rough circle postmark, with first reported use of July 6, 1828. (see "Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861" pages 156-157).

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2002 12:00 p.m.

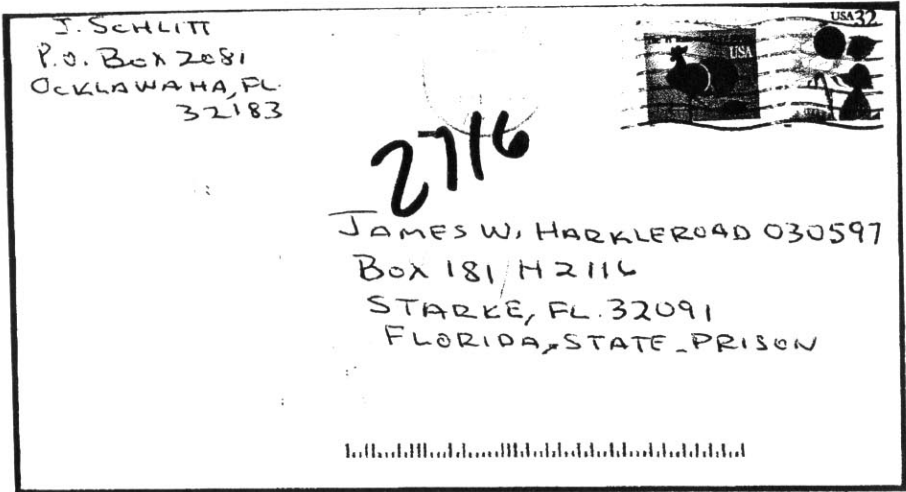
EXPOSITION CENTER, U.S. 41 SARASOTA, FL.

SARASOTA NATIONAL STAMP EXPOSITION

In addition to the annual business meeting, a thorough slide presentation on "Florida Postal History" will be presented by Deane R. Briggs, M.D. Members of The Florida Postal History Society will also be exhibiting both competitively and non-competitively. If anyone is interested in exhibiting, please contact the editor. All exhibit fees will be paid by the society, so try to put together even a one frame (16 page exhibit). Please try to attend this meeting as our society is the highlighted society of this year's Sarasota National Stamp Exposition.

FLORIDA STATE PRISON MAIL

James W. Harkleroad 030597



Cover addressed to inmate Harkleroad at the Florida State Prison, Starke, FL with cancelled stamps punched to prevent re-use

This article is written by the editor for inmate Harkleroad to point out the regulations inmates at the Florida State Prison must follow regarding mail writing. It also shows how the simple ability to collect stamps by an inmate are limited by the punching of the stamps which renders them worthless. A subsequent article on errors made in cancelling letters or placing machine stamps on letters from the correctional institution will be published in the next journal issue.

Florida State Prison Operating Procedure No. 020

Inmate Correspondence

20.01 Authority

A. Department of Corrections Rules, Chapter 33-3.004,
33-3.005

B. Department of Corrections Policy and Procedures Directive
4.07.05

20.05 Eligibility

A. Indigent inmates will be furnished postage and writing materials for one free letter per month. They will submit a request to the institutional supply officer prior to the second Tuesday of each month. This request will be picked up and processed out the following night (Wednesday).

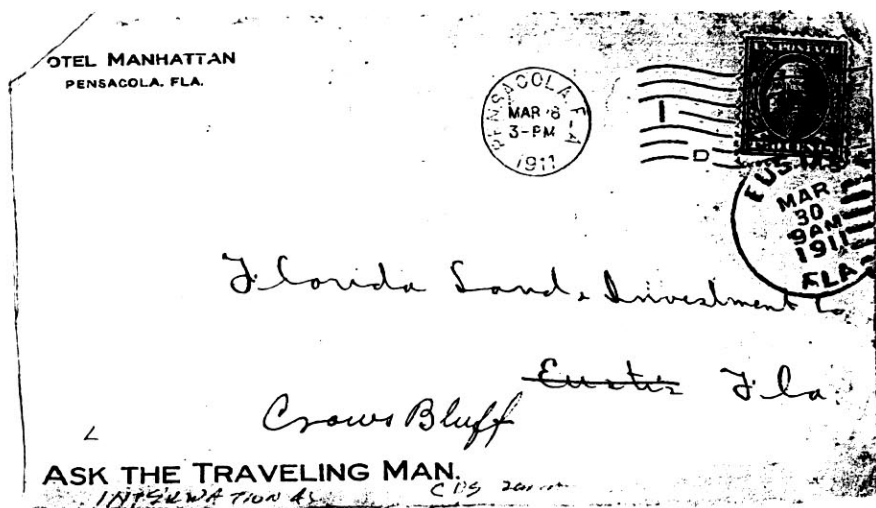
No postage or writing materials shall be provided to inmates for routine mail except that postage and writing materials shall be provided to any inmate with insufficient funds for mailing one first class letter weighing one ounce or less each month.

DC3-008

17

NEVER JUDGE A COVER BY ITS COVER

David C. Lingard

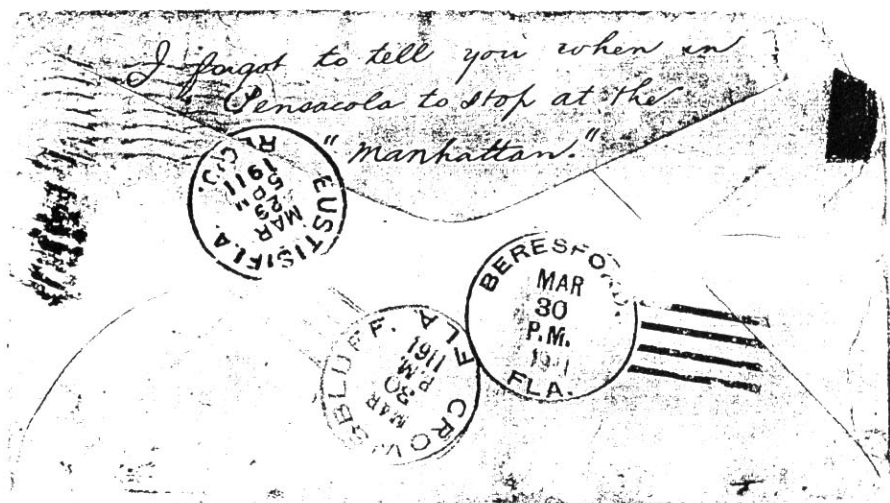


Ratty appearing "Hotel Manhattan" advertising cover with Pensacola machine cancel and Eustis forwarding duplex postmark

I found this cover in a box full of junk paper items at an antique show last fall. At first glance, I passed right over it without giving it a second thought. By appearances it was a well-worn, tired, old cover. It had been roughly opened at the left and some of the cover and corner card was missing. It had a very common machine cancel from Pensacola tying a common Washington-Franklin 2c. stamp. Also on the front was a common Eustis duplex postmark. Not a very interesting cover, certainly not one I would want....or so I thought. I looked through the whole box and found nothing else, so I went back one more time and looked closer at this cover.

When I turned this cover over, I was in for a treat. What seemed like an ordinary hotel corner card cover turned into an extraordinary story. The story started on March 28, 1911 when this cover was mailed in Pensacola. Not only was it an ordinary hotel corner card cover, it had an additional hotel advertisement printed on the back flap. "I forgot to

tell you when in Pensacola to stop at the "Manhattan." was printed to look like it was written by the sender. This went along with the block letter printed "Ask the traveling man" on the cover front. The cover received a 3pm Pensacola postmark and a 5pm Eustis rec'd handstamp the following day. Apparently the Florida Land & Investment Co. was no longer located in Eustis and the post office scratched out Eustis for forwarding to Crows Bluff. The next morning (March 30) the cover received a forwarding postmark from Eustis at 9am. That same afternoon it arrived at Crows Bluff where a doane type II (1) postmark was used as a receiving handstamp. Prior to arriving at Crows Bluff it received a transit backstamp that same afternoon at Beresford (a nice 4-bar type A postmark).

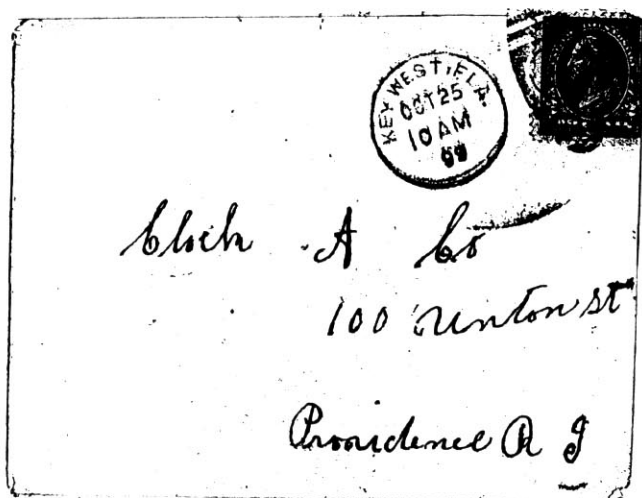


Reverse of cover with Crows Bluff and Beresford DPO postmarks

This seemingly ordinary cover had become a fascinating glimpse into Florida postal history. It had traveled over 400 miles in less than 48 hours. Postal officials in four different cities had handled this cover five times using 5 different types of postal markings: a machine cancel, duplex cancel, 4-bar, doane, and a rec'd type handstamp. Crows Bluff and Beresford are both Florida DPOs and worthy of any collection. This ratty worn cover may never warrant an exhibition award, but it will have a cherished place in my collection.

1899 KEY WEST YELLOW FEVER FUMIGATION

Han T. Siem, M.D.



KEY WEST, FLA. OCT 25 99 duplex postmark ties 2 c small banknote stamp to Fumigated cover to Rhode Island

A major outbreak of yellow fever began in the Caribbean basin in 1899 and quickly spread to the southern United States. Most cases originated with soldiers returning from Cuba, who had contracted the disease while participating in the Spanish-American War. The first case was recorded at New Orleans on August 27, 1899, followed a few days later with cases at Key West. The last case reported was in Miami on December 19, 1899. In all, 1,742 cases of yellow fever were reported in the United States, resulting in 116 deaths. Key West had the majority of cases with 1,320 recorded resulting in 69 deaths. The above cover is one of six known examples from Key West with puncture holes from fumigation of the mail. The period of use was October 18, 1899 to November 14, 1899. These covers were discovered only recently in a business correspondence in Rhode Island. There may very well be others addressed to other destinations. Please inform the author or the editor of any additional examples of fumigation covers known from the 1899 epidemic.

MEMBER DEALERS

CONRAD L. BUSH

205 Hughes St. N.E.
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
(850) 243-1638

WILLIAM E. CALLAHAN

Route 1, Box 342F
Troy, AL 36079
(334) 566-6970

ELWYN J. DOUBLEDAY, JR.

Box 32
Alton Bay, NH 03810
(603) 875-6310

WILLIAM A. FOX

4 Reef Club
Hilton Head, SC 29926
(843) 681-9455

GARY GROSS

P.O. Box 246
Commack, NY 11725-0246
(631) 499-5074

ROBERT J. HAUSIN

4897 Tamiami Trail East
Naples, FL 33962
(813) 732-8000

RICHARD W. HELBOCK LA POSTA

33470 Chinook Plaza
Suite 216
Scappoose, OR 97056
(503) 657-5685

STAN JAMESON

Empire Company
P.O. Box 264
St. Petersburg, FL 33731
(813) 526-5203

SUPPORT THEM

JOHN L. KIMBROUGH

10140 Wandering Way
Benbrook, TX 76126
(817) 244-2447

GORDON D. McHENRY

Box 1117
Osprey, FL 34229
(813) 966-5563

HERBERT P. McNEAL

520 Lakemont Ave. South
Winter Park, FL 32792
(407) 644-4012

DAVID G. PHILLIPS

P.O. Box 611388
North Miami, FL 33161
(305) 895-0470

JOEL RIND

14 W. 8th Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402
(423) 266-0523

S. GEORGE TRAGER

333 - 41 Street #104
Miami Beach, FL 33140
(305) 531-6727

PHIL V. WARMAN

Suncoast Stamp Co., Inc.
3231 Gulf Gate Dr. #102
Sarasota, FL 34231
(941) 921-9761

C. MICHAEL WIEDEMANN

Box 6130A
Titusville, FL 32782
(407) 269-3377