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FPHS ANNUAL MEETING

Edward R. Joyce

The 15th Annual meeting of the Florida Postal History Society was held on Saturday, February 4, 2006, at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition. 15 members and a guest attended the general meeting and viewed a presentation of Florida postal covers showing unusual rates and usage by Deane R. Briggs, M.D. During the meeting it was decided to have a second meeting annually in conjunction with FLOREX in Orlando. This was where the original annual meetings were held until the show was temporarily discontinued. It has now been re-activated and is trying to regain "national meeting" status. Steven Patrick offered to co-ordinate the organization of this second meeting. It should offer members on the East coast a closer meeting venue. Information on this show and meeting time will be mailed to members later this year.

The second major announcement was of the Mid-Winter "Happening" of the Confederate Stamp Alliance which will be held in Jacksonville, Florida November 3-5, 2006. FPHS President Ed Joyce will be the host of this meeting, and with the success of the last meeting in Mobile, this should be worth attending. Deane Briggs will present a talk on Confederate Postal History related to Jacksonville and the 1864 Battle of Olustee. He will also talk about Stephens-Bryant correspondence as related to Jacksonville. All members are strongly encouraged to contact the Confederate Stamp Alliance or Ed Joyce directly for reduced hotel rates and information.

As a final note: The Florida Postal History Society now has a very nice Web Page: www.FPHSonline.com This page has generated two new members and several email messages. All members are encouraged to view it.

BAKERS MILL – A NEW FLORIDA DOANE

Michael Wiedeman



Fig. 1. BAKERS MILL, FLA. APR 8 1907 Doane type III(3) postmark on 2 cent entire cut piece.

I was recently going through the remnants of a large Florida postal history collection I had purchased several years ago and started to add a Bakers Mill Doane type III cancel to my stock. (Fig. 1) Bakers Mill had a long run as a post office (1883//1916) and Helbock's *A Checklist of Florida Post Offices 1821-1995* only gives it a Scarcity Rating of 3, which is not thought to be especially scarce. The Bakers Mill post office was established in Hamilton County on 6 April 1883, and discontinued on 31 May 1908. It was re-established on 14 June 1909 and discontinued for the last time on 16 March 1916, with mail handled by the Jasper post office.

When I checked my copy of *United States Doane, revised second edition* by Helbock and Anderson, I was surprised to see that it wasn't listed at all. A couple of quick emails to Deane Briggs, the Florida Doane postmark co-ordinator confirmed that this was a new discovery. His data did show that a possible Doane type III cancel without killer bar number exists in the PMCC collection. (Fig. 2)

Examination of the cancel I had found shows it to have a diameter of 31 mm and the block typeface and solid killer bars found with type III Doanes. Type III Doanes were distributed between 1 July 1905 and the fall of 1906. Since the Bakers Mill post office had been established long before the period of Doane use, this must have been a replacement for an existing postmarking device. Since the post office was discontinued in 1908, it appears that the maximum period of use for the postmark I had discovered was less than 3 years.



Fig. 2. BAKERS MILL, FLA OCT 30 1909 postmark with portion of killer bars showing.

The postmark shown in Fig. 2 does not appear to come from the same device as that which was used for the Doane postmark in Fig. 1. The top killer bar in Fig. 1 points to the second “L” in Mill, whereas the top bar in Fig. 2 points to the first “L”. The FLA. In both postmarks appears similar with the “L” centered toward the “F”.

While it is possible that the 1909 postmark was made by the same device after the re-establishment of the post office, it is more likely from a newly issued 4-bar type A device. Until another true Doane example from 1909 or later surfaces, this will remain the known Doane example from Bakers Mill and the most recent addition to the more than 500 recorded Florida Doane postmarks.

My conclusion as to the reason this Doane cancel has hidden out for so long is that it came from a post office in a very small town with a tiny and declining population. Postal revenues of less than \$300 implies a small amount of mail posted and the post office was closed for over a year when additional cancellations could have been produced.

GRAPE CATSUP

Stephen Patrick

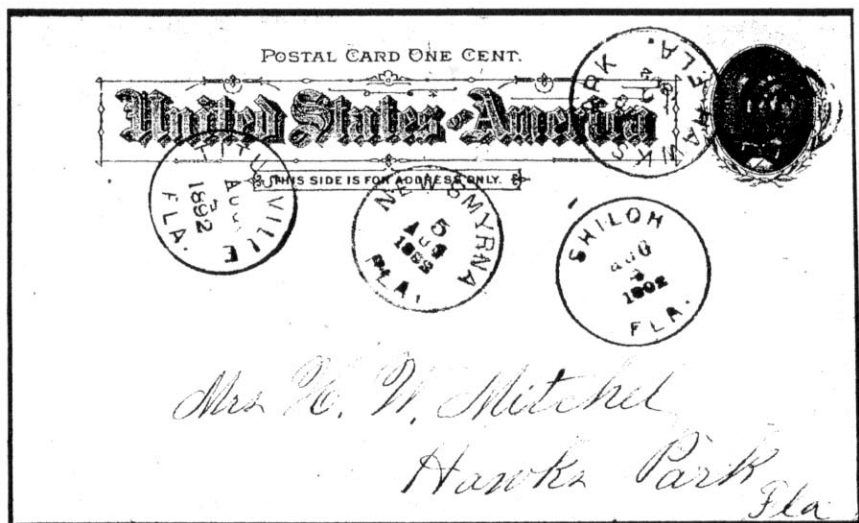


Fig. 1 One cent postal card with SHILOH / FLA. AUG 4 1892 postmark with Aug. 5th Titusville and New Smyrna forwarding marks and a HAWKS PARK / FLA. AUG 6 1892 receiving mark.

Here is an interesting postal card that shows the power of a penny in 1892. The writer of this card, Lou, wanted to share a recipe with Mrs. Alice Mitchell in Hawks Park, Florida. Even though they lived only about 10 miles apart, the message took three days and traveled perhaps six times the distance. The card was written on August 3, 1892, from Oak Hill, Florida, which was located in extreme southeast Volusia County. It entered the mails at Shiloh, Florida, a few miles south of Oak Hill and was postmarked there the following day on August 4th. Shiloh is located on the Brevard County line and became a DPO in 1955, and absorbed by the Titusville post office as a rural station.

Since there was no direct mail route from Shiloh north to Hawks Park, the card went south to Titusville where it received an August 5 cds route marking. From Titusville the card traveled by rail to New Smyrna where it received an August 5th cds route marking. An 1890 map shows that Titusville was connected to New Smyrna by rail, but not by the direct north-south line, which was not completed until later by Flagler's Florida East Coast Rail Road. Instead the mail went by rail northwest to the St. John's River through Enterprise on the north shore of Lake Monroe to Enterprise Junction. From there, the rail connected to a north-south route to Orange City Junction where it connected to an eastern route via Lake Helen and on to New Smyrna on the shore of the Mosquito Lagoon (Fig. 2). All in all, a most circuitous route.

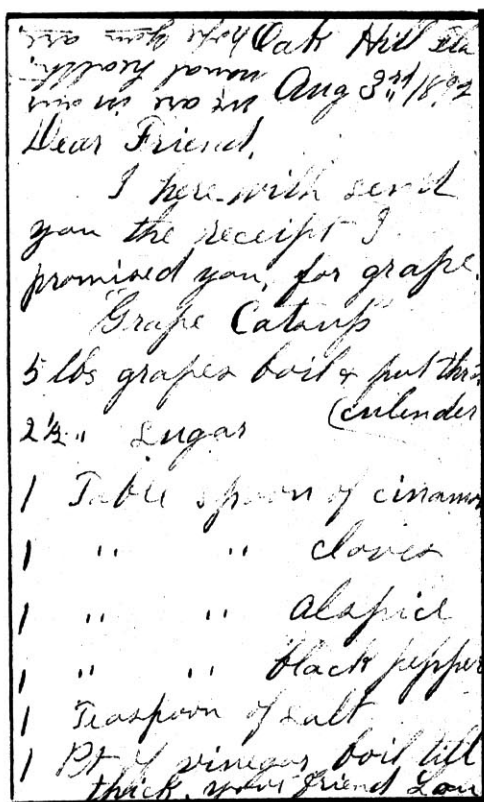
The card arrived in Hawks Park (two miles south of New Smyrna) the next day where it received the August 6, 1892 receiving mark.



Fig. 2 Circa 1890 map showing the railroad lines and towns.

The recipe itself does not name which grapes to use. It could be the wild muscadines or scuppernongs, common to Florida. But here is Lou's recipe for "Grape Catsup": "5 lbs grapes boil & put thru culinder (sic), 2 ½ lbs sugar, 1 Table spoon of cinamon (sic), 1 Table spoon cloves, 1 Table spoon allspice, 1 Table spoon black pepper, 1 Teaspoon of salt, 1 Pt. of vinegar, boil till thick." Your friend Lou.

There is a short message at the top: "We are in good health, hope you are." Could it be the grape catsup?



We are in good health, hope you are.
Aug 31/1892
Dear Friend,
I herewith send
you the receipt I
promised you, for grape
Grape Catsup
5 lbs grapes boil & put thru
2 ½ lbs sugar (culinder
1 Table spoon of cinamon
1 " " cloves
1 " " allspice
1 " " black pepper
1 Teaspoon of salt
1 Pt. of vinegar boil till
thick. Your friend Lou

Fig. 3 Reverse of postal card with recipe.

The author has collected Hawks Park postal history for 25 years. The town was named by Dr. John Milton Hawks, a Civil War doctor and land developer. The name was changed to Edgewater in 1925 because when pronounced, Hawks Park often sounds like "Hogs Park", and locals thought it bad for tourism.

CHERRY LAKE, FLA - A NEW CONFEDERATE LISTING

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

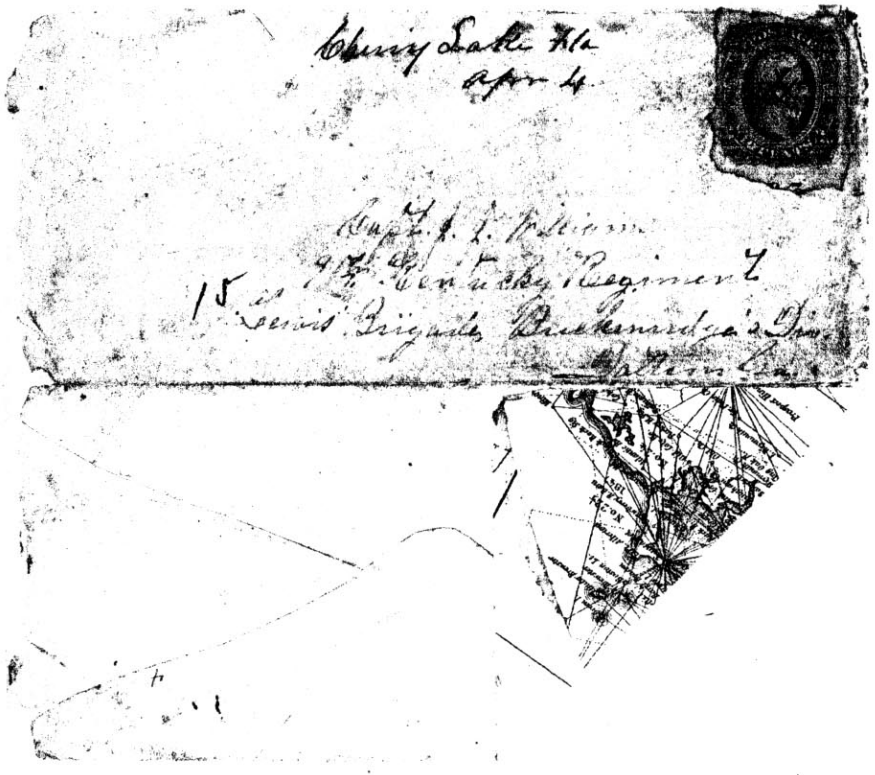


Fig. 1. Cherry Lake Fla / Apr 4 manuscript postmark with pen cancelled #12 on "Adversity turned cover" made from a map.

The above cover is a new Florida Confederate listing from Cherry Lake, Fla. Prior to this example, there has been no recorded Confederate usage from this Madison County town. However, pre-war stampless and postal entire usages are known.

The cover is an adversity use of a Cape Cod map and the stamp has a partial plate number imprint. The addressee is Captain Williams, 9th Kentucky Infantry Regiment, Lewis Brigade, Breckinridge's Division, Dalton, Georgia. This cover was carried on postal route 1660 from Cherry Lake to Quitman, Ga. and then on to Dalton, Ga.

GREEN POND, FL, "UNCLE ABE's TOWN"

David C. Lingard

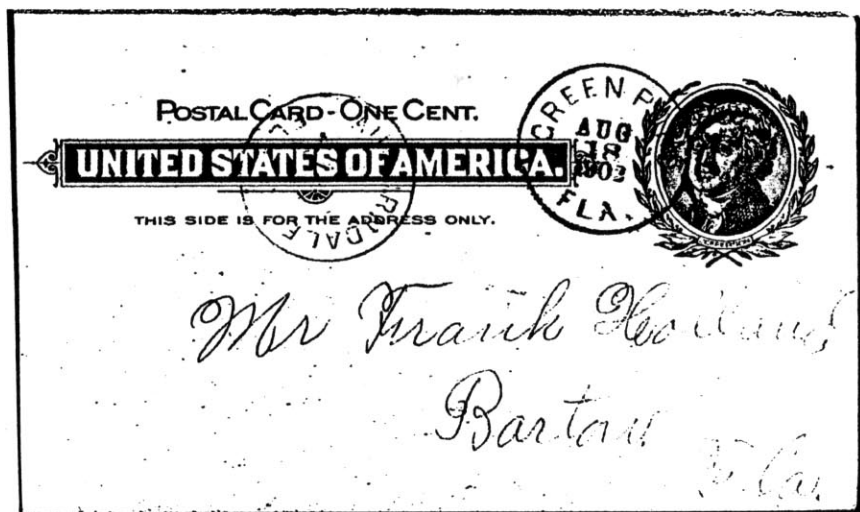


Fig. 1. GREEN POND / FLA. Aug 18 1903 cds postmark on 1 cent postal card, usage to Bartow, Fla.

Green Pond was located in northern Polk County at the south end of what is called the Green Swamp. (Fig. 2) The Green Swamp is a natural basin encompassing over 500 square miles in parts of Polk, Lake, Sumter, and Pasco Counties. It is the headwaters of five Florida Rivers. This area was settled as early as 1847, when Polk County was still part of Hillsboro County. An old Indian trail ran through the area and early settlers homesteaded along the trail. By 1879, there was a schoolhouse and a Methodist Church. The first burial in the cemetery occurred in 1879. Another church, Green Pond Baptist Church was established in 1894, and is still open for worship today.

The name of Green Pond, comes not from the Green Swamp as one might guess, but from Green Pond, S.C. Abraham T.

Williams, an early settler known by most folks as 'Uncle Abe,' was from Green Pond, S.C., and named the town after his



Fig. 2. Polk County, 1888 showing Green Pond in the center of the Green Swamp

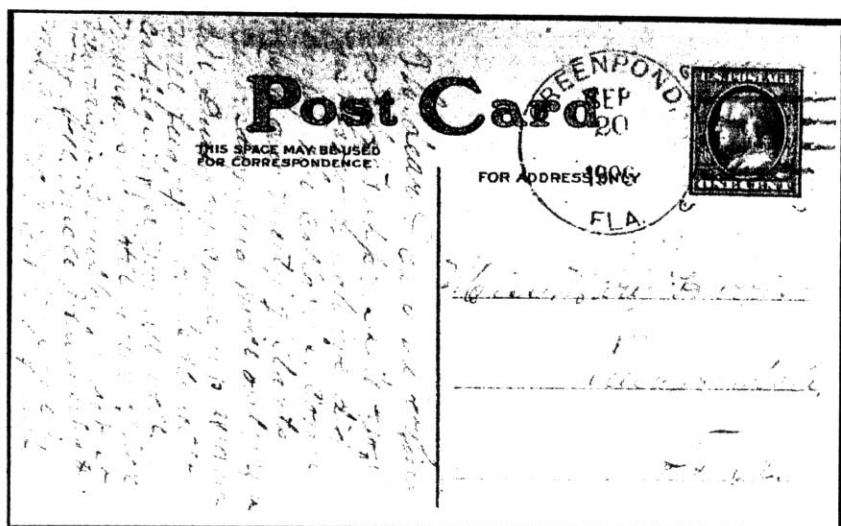
birthplace. Uncle Abe was a surveyor for Polk County and would become the fourth Green Pond postmaster. He would also have several daughters who would later become postmistresses at Green Pond and the nearby community of Eva. Uncle Abe is buried at the Green Pond cemetery along with many of the early pioneers.

The area around Green Pond is very fertile and the first settlers found wild game very abundant, raised livestock, particularly cattle, and grew vegetables. A postcard (Fig. 3) postmarked, Sep. 20, 1906 tells about some of the wonderful southern vegetable delicacies. It was addressed to Miss Mary Harris, in nearby Auburndale, Fla. It reads: "Dear I can never find the words to express to you first how much we did enjoy the **collards**. Come ... to our meeting (which) starts Thursday and will only run till Sunday. Come up and we will feed you our **palmetto cabbage**."

(Better known as 'swamp' cabbage) Hope you are well. Mama is a little better of her neuralgia. Grandpa is not so very well...Come up if you can. Lovingly Fannie." Trips to or from Green Pond were fairly difficult because the trails and roads were very poor and subject to constant flooding during the wet season. It was not unheard of for trips to buy supplies in Lakeland or Auburndale to take two days! Today the ride on S.R. 33 takes less than 30 minutes.

The railroad also played a small part of Green Pond during the early 20th century. During the late 1800's, the nearest railroad was almost 20 miles away. In 1899, the railroad arrived, sort of. The Lake Hancock and Clermont Railroad was built going from Clermont (to the north) and traveling south where it joined the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (ACL), which traveled east to west at Carters Corner. There was a lumber mill there, near present day U.S. Hwy. 92, located between Lakeland and Auburndale. This railroad didn't really help Green Pond grow because it was only used for transporting logs to the mill at Carters Corner and never transported passengers or mail. (Carters Corner also had a Post Office, named Carters, 1885-1918) After most of the timber was harvested from the area, the railroad was abandoned in 1911. Sometime before or during WWI, all the rails were picked up and sold for scrap. A great portion of S.R. 33 is the old railroad bed from the Lake Hancock and Clermont Railroad.

The Green Pond Post Office was officially opened on 5-18-1887, and closed five years later on 8-31-1892. Green Pond was re-opened the same year on 11-10-1892, and remained open until closing for good on 12-15-1912, with mail handled by the Auburndale post office. There were eight Green Pond postmasters, and four of them were women. According to Post Office records, the first Green Pond Post Office was located near present day S.R.33, about 1½ miles to the south of Green Pond Road. It serviced only 15-20 families. By 1892, the Post Office moved 2 miles northwest, to the present day intersection of Poyner and Green Pond Roads (The current parking lot for the Van-Fleet trail at Green Pond). The Post office served about 100 people there.



**Fig. 3. GREEN POND / FLA. SEP 20 1906 doane type III (1)
postmark on postcard to Auburndale, Fla.**

The next railroad to penetrate the area was the famous Seaboard Airline (SAL). Started in 1922, this was to become part of the NY to Miami route and had the well-known name, 'Orange Blossom Special.' This track remained in use until the 1980's. Today the Van-Fleet hiking and biking trail is directly on top of the old Seaboard Air Line Railroad bed. (An interesting note: The Lake Hancock and Clermont Railroad was built in the most cost efficient way, following the natural ridges and high spots winding through the Green Swamp, while the Seaboard Air Line Railroad was built for maximum speed and is almost a perfectly straight line for over 30 miles.) This railroad did not have a big impact on the area, although it did further south at Polk City and Auburndale. Also worth mentioning are the other Post Offices of the Polk County Green Swamp; Eva, Nettie, and Withla. All four Post Offices were very close to each other and yet were very isolated from the rest of Polk County. Nettie was located 3 miles northeast of Green Pond within ½ mile of Lake County. It was opened on 7-

16-1900. A local newspaper article on 10-10-1900, said, "A New Post Office has been established in our precinct which makes it much more convenient to part of the settlement. We will have mail three times a week."

The Nettie Post Office would only remain open until 8-15-1906, but during those 6 years it had four postmasters. After closing, mail would be sent to Green Pond.

The Withla Post Office was located on almost the same location as the earlier second Green Pond Post Office, which is the parking lot of Van-Fleet trail. Withla was opened on 12-20-1927, and closed on 11-15-1933. Mail was sent to Eva. According to Post Office records, the Withla Post Office was located 60 yards to the east of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. (An interesting note, on the Post Office application, the name of the train depot listed is Berry, which does show up on a few maps) Only two Postmasters, both women, would serve during the six years of operation. The name Withla is probably taken from the nearby Withlacoochee River.

The Eva Post Office was opened on 7-9-1913. It was originally located several miles to the north of Green Pond, just inside Lake County. The Eva Post Office was moved into Polk County on 10-13-1924. It was located on the east side of S.R. 33 at Green Pond Road. Located there was a filling station run by, 'old man Mark Wiggins.' One of the Postmistresses of Eva, Fannie Wiggins, was a daughter of Abraham Williams (Uncle Abe). The Eva Post Office would move once more, in 1934, to near the location of the earlier second Green Pond site, near the Van-Fleet Trail. It would remain there till closing for good on 1-31-1935. Eva would have four Postmasters, three of them women. Mail would be sent to Groveland, Lake County. A Post Office would never again open in this northern, wilderness area of Polk County.

Postmarks from both Eva (Fig. 4) and Green Pond are quite scarce. The doane postmark is the known listing example and the cds postmark was reproduced from the example in the Polk County Historical Museum in Bartow. Neither the author nor journal



RESS



Fig. 4. EVA / FLA. AUGUST 29 1915 4-BAR b and JAN 31 1935 double circle last day postmarks

editor knows of any postmarks from Nettie or Withla. All four communities were very small, isolated, and hard to reach until the first paved road was finished in 1918. (Fig. 5) They had virtually no tourist activity of any kind. The author would very much appreciate any reportings of postmarks from these Post Offices.

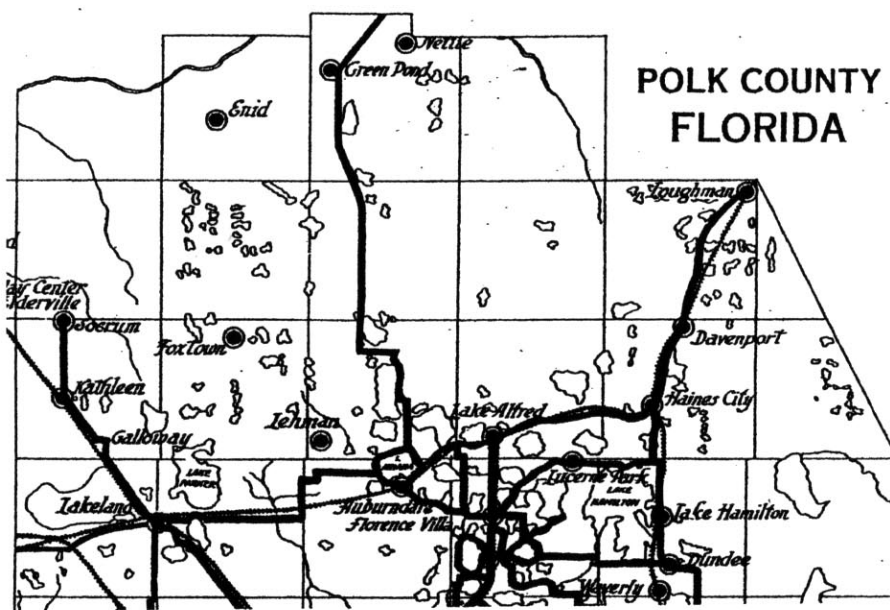


Fig. 5. 1918 Polk County map showing paved roads

Postmasters and Postmistresses of the Green Swamp, Polk County

Withla

Mrs. Millie G. Barry	12-20-1927	to	10-30-1931
Mrs. Dora L. Williams	10-30-1931	to	8-1-1933

Nettie

Robert L. Bunch	7-16-1900	to	3-15-1904
Miley L. Bland	3-16-1904	to	2-8-1905
John D. Rogells	2-9-1905	to	11-21-1905
Frederick W. Barber	11-22-1905	to	8-15-1906

Eva

Fannie E. Brown	7-9-1913	to	12-3-1915
Nelia Bridges	12-4-1915	to	5-22-1919
Fannie Wiggins	5-23-1919	to	3-28-1929
Martin Van Wiggins	3-29-1929	to	1-31-1935

Green Pond

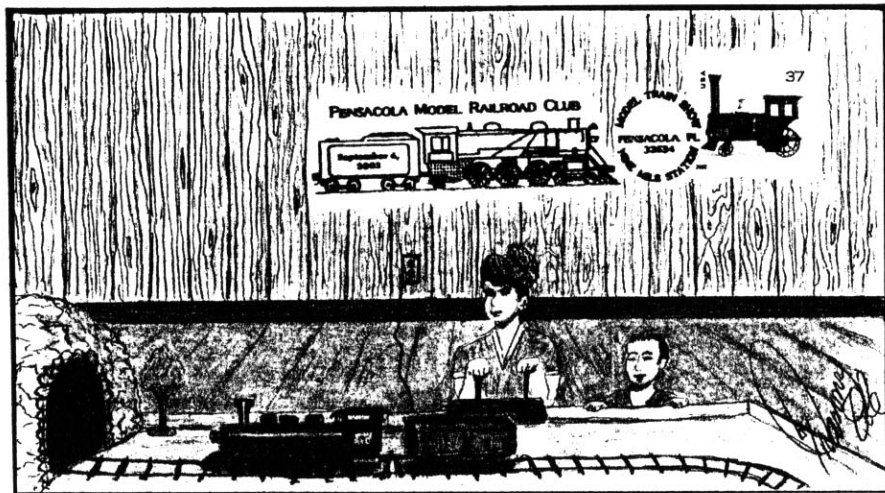
Mary J.F. Norton	5-18-1887	to	7-31-1888
George Gaffney	8-1-1888	to	12-7-1890
James T. Hancock	12-8-1890	to	7-21-1891
Abraham T. Williams	7-22-1891	to	9-24-1891
Henry Lanier	9-25-1891	to	8-31-1892

Closed and re-opened

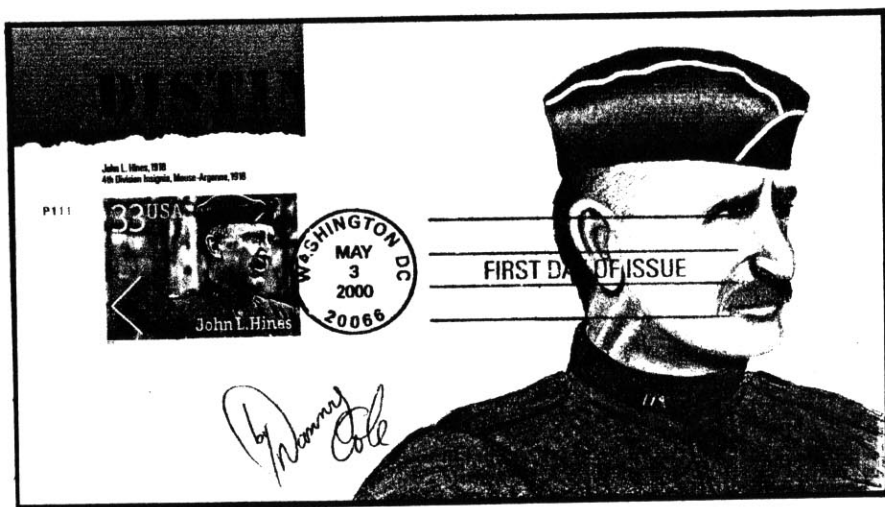
Pauline C. Williams	11-11-1892	to	2-7-1899
George Gaffney	2-8-1899	to	9-28-1904
Olla Gaffney	9-29-1904	to	7-26-1912
Mary E. Williams	7-27-1912	to	12-15-1912

FLORIDA FDC AND PICTORIAL CANCEL CACHETS

David Smith



**PENSACOLA MODEL RAILROAD CLUB pictorial postmark
on Danny Cole overall cachet cover**



First Day Cover with unique Danny Cole cachet

The following letter was received by the editor of the Florida Postal History Journal with a request to notice members of a service offered by David Smith:

Editor's Note: I received these sample covers with beautiful artwork and design. These are reproduced only in black and white but don't reflect the quality of the color artistry.

SMITH CACHETS



CUSTOM HAND DRAWN FIRST DAY ISSUES ♦
P.O. Box 6554 ♦ STATESVILLE, N.C. 28687-6554
Phone 704 873 3089 E-mail Together@statesville.net

Dear Dr. D.R. Briggs ,

Got your name as the head of Fla. Postal History Society . I produce 100% handdrawn First Day of Issue covers and Pictorial Cancels , I have a number of unaddressed Pictorial cancels from your state (Fla.) that I can add art work to many different topics . Please list my notice in your club newsletter .

FREE

100 % handdrawn cover , send me a #10 SASE
and your choice pictorial cancel or FDC , mail to:

FREE cover
138 Arey Rd.
Statesville , N.C. 28677

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Smith".

STEAMSHIP CALOOSA - A NEW LISTING

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

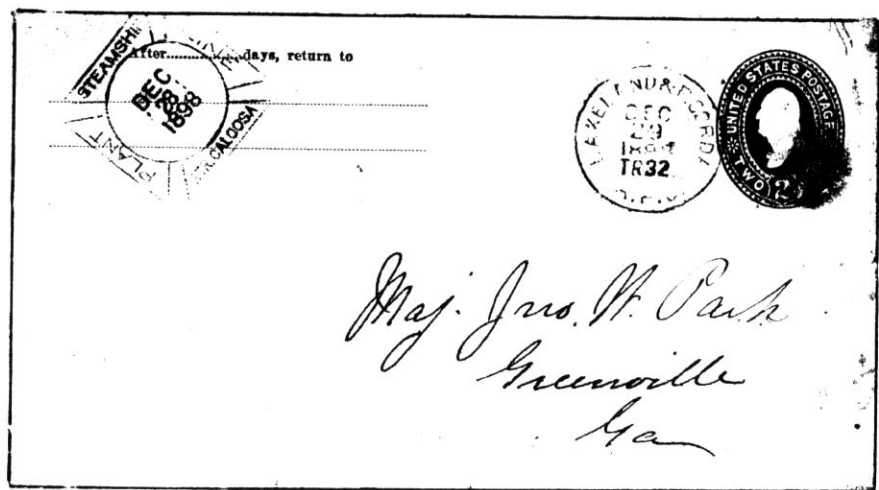


Fig. 1 PLANT STEAMSHIP LINE STR. CALOOSA DEC 28 1898 blue steamboat marking with LAKELAND & P.GORDA DEC 29 1898 R.P.O. postmark on 2c entire.

The cover in Fig. 1 is a new listing of a Florida steamboat handstamp and is only the fourth one recorded with usage in Florida. This cover was in a family correspondence from Charles Lee Park to his father, John W. Park, an attorney in Griffin, Georgia. John Park was born in 1831, began a law practice in 1848, was a Major in the Civil War, and was President of the Georgia Bar in 1896. The entire 40 letter correspondence covers the period from 1885 to 1902, and traces the development of a young settler in Yallaha, Florida through his time as a mate on the Plant S.S. Line Steamers Tarpon and New Margaret in 1896, until he became Captain of the Steamer Caloosa.

The correspondence had several interesting Florida postmarks in addition to the above ones. These included two Park Land manuscript Sumter County postmarks, four different types of cds Yallaha postmarks and cds examples from Bloomfield, Astabula, Parkland, Courtney, as well as two 1888 fumigated covers. Although the condition of the covers was poor at best, the enclosures

The enclosure reads in part:

"I have been kept very busy lately handling so much express & freight. I have to do my own Purser work, Steward & Captain work so you may judge I am kept very busy. ...fog has been heavy for which cause us to be very cautious in our running. Have to run entirely by compass & time. The Caloosahatchee being very crooked & full of oyster bars makes it all the more difficult to navigate in foggy weather. So far I have been very fortunate however & have been aground only once & then only 15 mins.

The St. Lucy goes on the run on the 1st. We then have the two boats on & the work will be a great deal lighter for me. My boat is 114 tons gross & 82 net tons. She is a side wheel Steamer & makes about 8 ½ miles per hour. My position pays me \$85.00 & Board. I also get a commission on express & speculate some in a small scale which runs my earnings to about \$100.00 per mo."

The reverse of the letter has another blue steamboat handstamp marking. (Fig. 3)



Fig. 3 Str. Caloosa blue handstamp marking on reverse of enclosure.

One of the earlier correspondence from October 20, 1896, when Charles Park was a mate on the Steamer Tarpon has a different Plant Steamship Line corner card on the cover and different letterhead. It is reproduced in Fig.4.

Persons interested in Florida Steamboat markings are encouraged to read the article by Herbert P. McNeal "Florida Steamboat Markings"

gave an interesting insight into early Central Florida life. The above cover and enclosure was the best of the lot.

The enclosure is datelined: Punta Gorda, Fla, Dec 28th 1898, and has a well struck magenta boxed handstamp (Fig. 2) placed aboard the Steamer Caloosa with Captain C.L. Park's name. The letterhead is from the Plant System and lists railways, hotels and steamship lines within the Plant system at the time.

RAILWAYS.

SAVANNAH, FLORIDA & WINTER.
CHARLOTTE & SAVANNAH.
ALABAMA MIDLAND.
BIRMINGHAM & WINTER.
FLORIDA RAILWAY.
SARASOTA & ST. PETERSBURG.
SLATER SPRINGS, Ocala & GOLF.
ST. JOHNS & LAKE RIVERS.
ASHLAND RIVER.
GREEN POND, WALTERS & BRANCHVILLE.
ANNVILLE RAILWAY.
TAMPA & THORNTON.
WINTER & JOHN VALLEY.

Plant System

HOTELS.

TAMPA BAY.
PORT TAMPA INN.
BIRMINGHAM, WINTER PARK.
OCALA HOUSE, Ocala, Fla.
BELLVIEW HOTEL, BELLVIEW, Fla.
KINGMAN, KINGMAN, Fla.

STEAMSHIP LINES.

PORT TAMPA, KEY WEST & HAVANA.
PORT TAMPA & MOBILE.
PORT TAMPA & ISLAND OF JAMAICA.
PORT TAMPA & MANATEE RIVER.
BOSTON & HALLFALL.
BOSTON, CAPE HARTON & PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.
CHATEAUCOCHER RIVER.
PUNTA GORDA & PORT MYERS.
PORT TAMPA & ST. PETERSBURG.

Via STR. CALOOSA
PUNTA GORDA, FLA.
O.C. DEC 28 1898
P. C. L. PARK (K)
PUNTA GORDA & FT. MYERS
STEAMBOAT LINE.

Punta Gorda Fla
Dec 28th 1898
May Jno. W. Park
Greenville
Ga

Dear Papa

Your welcome letter to hand. It has been over 12 years since I was in Greenville. I left in Oct 1886 & came home in May leaving again in Sept 1884. I married in 1889 was 21 yrs & 6 mos old & now am 30 & 6 mos. "Tempest fugit" Howard is 9 years old & Mae is just two or will be the 15 of Jan - I have been kept very busy lately handling so much express & freight. I have to do my own Currier work to you Steward & Captain work to you my judge I am kept very busy - We have been having some very

Fig. 2 Letterhead enclosure with magenta boxed Captain's handstamp for C.L. Park "Via STR. CALOOSA".

Plant Steamship Line

Post Tampa Fla 189
Oct 20th 1896

Maj Geo. W. Park
Greenville S.C.

Dear Papa -

Since I wrote
you I have been employed by the
Plant S.S. Line I am now Mate on
the Steamer Taylor & have been since
Aug 25th - The "New Margaret" came
arriving at Tampa 10 days ago
& we are now on our way to
do so. I am now on the
Mate on the
and

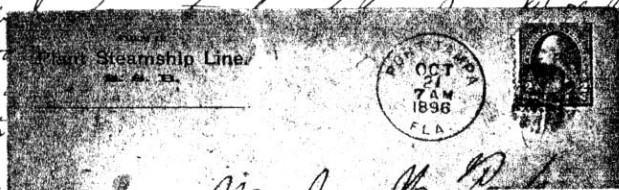
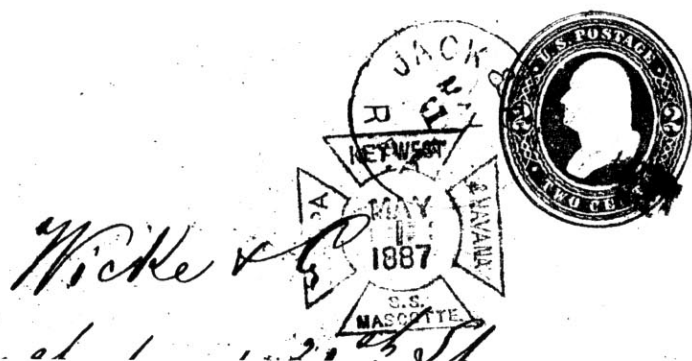


Fig. 4. Plant Steamship Line. / S.S.B corner card on Oct 21, 1896 cover with Plant Steamship Line letterhead.

in the *Florida Postal History Journal* vol. 10, No.2, June 2003 which reproduces the "Steamer Indian River" and "S.S. Mascotte" markings. The ship marking "Western Texas" was reported by myself in the June 2004 issue of our journal. A copy of the S.S. Mascotte marking is reproduced below as it is similar to the Caloosa.



S.S. MASCOTTE May 1, 1887 blue handstamp

FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS - 2006

The following members of the Florida Postal History Society have been denoted as **"Contributing Members"** for their additional contribution to the Society. Your additional dues contribution is acknowledged and appreciated and helps underwrite the cost of a third journal issue this year. The continued support of these members keeps our Society financially sound. This enables us to respond to member and non-member inquiries regarding Florida Postal History and furnish copies of our Journal .

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Hector Arvelo
John Beirne
Richard F. Bergmann
Deane R. Briggs, M.D.
Conrad L. Bush
Daniel B. Curtis
James L. Diamond
James P. Doolin
Harry G. Dow
Gus Dueben
William A. Fox
Richard Frajola
Alex Hall
William J. Hancock
Todd D. Hause
Richard W. Helbock
Gary G. Hendren
Henry Higgins
Todd A. Hirn
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Edward R. Joyce, Jr.
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Howard King**

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