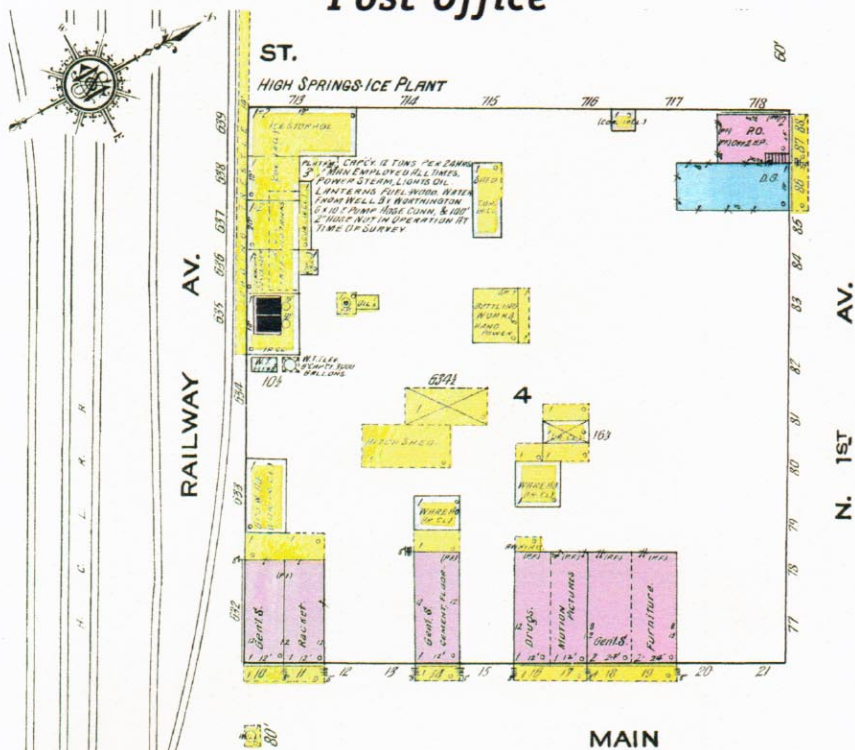


# FLORIDA HISTORICAL JOURNAL

Vol. 16, No. 2

May 2009

**Sentaffey - High Springs  
Post Office**



*Antiquarian map showing the Sentaftay - High Springs  
Post Office -- See Page 4*

### *Promoting Philately in the Sunshine State*

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# Sentaffey - High Springs Post Office

**By Vernon N. Kisling, Jr.**

A small town in northwestern Alachua County had its beginnings in the 1830s. This early settlement grew into two towns separated by a railroad track. On one side was Sentaffey (the local spelling of Santa Fe, which began in 1884) and on the other side was Fairmont (which began in 1885). In 1886 they merged into one community known as Orion, but in 1888 the name was changed to High Springs. It is claimed by several local historians that a Sentaffey post office operated during 1884-86, and then the Orion post office took over during 1886-88, followed by the High Springs post office in 1888.

However, according to Helbock and official post office records, only two names have been used for this post office -- Sentaffey (spelled with an "E"), 1884-1888, and High Springs, 1888-present. It is doubtful that Fairmont ever had a post office since it was too close to Sentaffey, and there is no indication that the post office was named Orion before switching to High Springs. While the city and post office names were changed in 1888, the city was not incorporated as High Springs until 1892.

There also have been two other Santa Fe post offices established in Florida. One was in Bradford County (1845-1884) and one in Alachua County (1900-present -- now a rural station of Alachua). Both of these post offices use the Santa Fe spelling. Only one Sentaffey postmark is known to exist (*see Figure 1*). Since this is a postmaster style canceller it was most likely purchased by the postmaster, who deliberately spelled the town name with an "E." This spelling of the town name is confirmed by the post office application / site location form. This application was filed October 24, 1884 by F. M. Colson, Trenton postmaster, on behalf of Levi (spelled Levy by historians) J. Knight, the proposed postmaster for Sentaffey. On this applica-





**Figure 1**

***Sentaffey double line circle postmark dated April 24, 1886 with the name C. G. McKinney (Postmaster 1885-87) and an iron cross design.  
Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M.D.***

tion form, the proposed post office is Sentaffey, on a site near the Santafee River (now spelled Santa Fe) and the High Spring (singular, without the "S"). Interestingly, the river name was spelled with an "A," so the spelling of the post office (and one would assume the town as well) was deliberately spelled with an "E." Also noted on the application is the post office's location near High Spring in Alachua County. No doubt, this was a location rather than a town name. The later name High Springs (with an "S" added to the name) was used to name the town after this spring, the closest to town, which is on a hill and is higher than the many other springs in the area.

Official post office records indicate that the first Sentaffey postmaster was appointed November 11, 1884. The post office name changed to High Springs (spelled with an "S") on May 24, 1888. This is the date William K. Lynn, already Postmaster for Sentaffey (April 22, 1887 - May 23, 1888) was reappointed postmaster for the High Springs Post Office. However, the application / site location document used to change the name was not filed until June 20, 1888. This application states that the post office name should be High Springs but that its local name was still Sentaffey. A footnote on the document explains that a local name is to be provided if the

***Continued on page 6***

location of the post office “is known by another name than that of the Post Office ... (so) ... that it may be identified on the map of the State.”

The exact location of the post office cannot be determined from the site location maps because they are not detailed enough. An exact street address was not used on any of the several post office site location forms until 1942 when it is listed as 14 and 16 Main Street. However, the plat coordinates on all these forms from 1888-1942 remain the same. It later moved to 25 South Main Street (Main Street is now divided into North and South and the numbering is in increments of five, so 14 and 16 no longer exist; however, 14, 16, and 25 are very close to the railroad tracks that still run through the city. Only when the post office moved to its present location did it move away from this area). In 1998 the post office moved to its current location at 25 NW Fourth Avenue.

**POSTMASTERS: Sentaftay - High Springs**

<b>Levi J. Knight</b> , 1884-85	<b>Roscoe J. O’Steen</b> , 1935-36
<b>Charles G. McKinney</b> , 1885-87	<b>Burton H. Rawls</b> , 1936-61
<b>William K. Lynn</b> , 1887-88 (Sentaftay)	<b>Mrs. B.H. Rawls</b> , 1961-62
1888-90 (High Springs)	<b>David W. Newell</b> , 1962-72
<b>William F. Hughey</b> , 1890-91	<b>Joseph H. McNeill</b> , 1972-91
<b>Charles K. Ray</b> , 1891-97	<b>Jack E. Bragg</b> , 1991-94
<b>George Glass</b> , 1897-1909	<b>Mark Kelsey</b> , 1994-99
<b>John C. LeCount</b> , 1909-14	<b>Alice L. Carr</b> , 1999-2003
<b>Luther E. McCall</b> , 1914-20	<b>Blanche M. Johns</b> , 2004-05
<b>J. J. McGriff</b> , 1920-21	<b>Ralph O. Brooks</b> , 2006-07
<b>William Downing</b> , 1921-30	<b>Carla C. Riehl</b> , 2007-present
<b>Robert E. Murphy</b> , 1930-35	

For the gaps between appointments, there have been Acting Postmasters or an Officer-In-Charge responsible for the post office.

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*Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-1971*. U.S. Post Office Department / U.S. National Archives and Records Administration: Washington D.C. 1973. (The section on Florida is in the Special Collections, University of Florida Libraries.)

### ENDNOTE

*The image on the cover is from the 1913 "Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps of Florida" showing High Springs. It locates the post office in the upper right hand corner of the block. The post office moved from this location to Main Street where it was situated for many years.*

# 1848 Hazard (Duval County) Stampless Letter

By Todd A. Hirn

**H**azard, Florida was located in Duval County about 10 miles north-east of Jacksonville on a bluff above the south bank of the St. John's River approximately half way between Jacksonville and the mouth of the river. The site had been inhabited since the Spanish period and a St. John's Bluff post office had been established on January 30, 1828, one of the earliest post offices in Territorial Florida. For a while in the 1830s, the mail was handled at Pablo, five miles to the east, and then back again to St. John's Bluff. For the year 1841, there was no post office. The Hazard Post Office was established on December 8, 1842, with Alexis M.

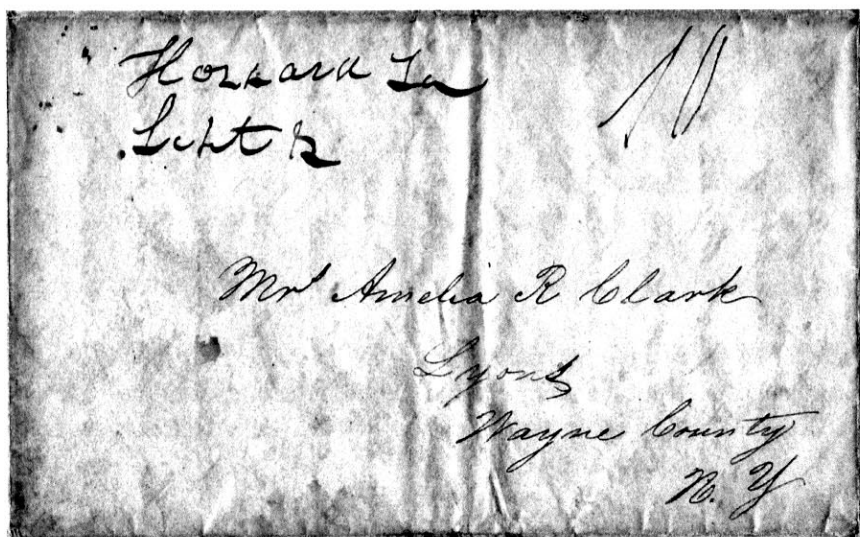


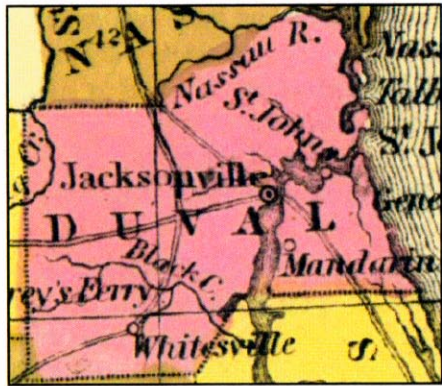
FIGURE 1

*Hazard Fa Sept 8 (1848) manuscript postmark with (unpaid) 10 rate  
on folded letter to Lyons, New York.*



**FIGURE 2**

*Location of St. John ('s Bluff) on the south bank of the St. John's River. This S. Augustus Mitchell map is from 1846 and is in the collection of Samford University Library, Birmingham, Alabama.*



Andrew as postmaster. After 18 months, the post office was discontinued with a name change back to St. John's Bluff, only to be restarted again on January 22, 1846, when the St. John's Bluff office closed for good. Three years later on December 7, 1848, the Hazard Post Office was discontinued with no subsequent post offices at the site. The location of St. John's Bluff from an 1846 S. Augustus Mitchell map is shown in Figure 2.

The folded letter in Figure 1 bears a manuscript "Hazard Fa (Florida) / Sept 8" 1848 postmark sent at the unpaid 10 cent rate (over 300 miles) to Lyons, New York. The recipient of the letter paid the postage.

The writer of the folded letter, datelined above, (*Figure 3*) had been hired as a private teacher to a family in Hazard. He came down from New York after traveling from Jacksonville to Palatka by steamboat and stagecoach to St. Augustine, which he described as having "a very ancient appearance. Its old stone houses, narrow streets, without sidewalks & the whole appearance of the place is wholly unlike anything I have seen in the U.S. & reminds one of the days long gone by.

"The inhabitants are mostly Spaniards & Minorcans. Originally from the Spanish island of Minorca in the Mediterranean Sea, many of the residents of St. Augustine were descendants of the indentured servants of Dr. Andrew Turnbull's indigo plantation in New Smyrna. The colonists were treated so harshly there that after nine years the remaining survivors left New Smyrna and relocated to St. Augustine.

"The ladies are considered very pretty. They have fine black eyes & hair & appear to good advantage, as they promenade upon the sea wall (which is

built of stone about three feet wide to protect the town from the rise of water during the high tides) without any hat or shawl. It is a great place for music & almost any dilapidated stone building boasts of its piano or its guitar. Almost all the homes have porticoes & they are the favorite resort of the ladies when they play the guitar. The inhabitants are Catholic & the chiming of bells are heard continually."

Hazard, on the other hand, he said, is, "a regular sand bank but the climate is beautiful. Not so hot as in NY. The sea breeze constantly blowing prevents one from feeling that oppressive heat which you who are at the North often feel. About the only enjoyment I have is walking on the beach. There is a light house about 2 miles from here on the beach & there I walk almost every evening. During the heat of the day I do not go out much.

"This is a great country for hunting & fishing. One cannot starve, if he has a gun & fishing rods. Yesterday I feasted upon some fresh venison. Oysters are to be had here in abundance. I anticipate being high next month upon them. This is the month for mosquitoes here & after the sun goes down it is active business for one to brush them from him. At night a smoke is made in the yard [and] by this means many are driven away. In about a month they will be gone & I shall be released from their annoyance.

"There is a steamboat which runs from Savannah to this place & Jacksonville twice a week. The mail is put ashore here in a small boat & if we cannot talk with people we sometimes see them."

A handwritten cursive inscription in dark ink, reading "Hazard Duvall Co Fa 4 Sep 48". The script is fluid and characteristic of the mid-19th century.

**FIGURE 3**

***Dateline of letter: Hazard Duvall Co Fa 4 Sep (18)48***

This cover is a newly discovered stampless listing example and is believed to be the only recorded postal history item to or from the Hazard, Florida Post Office. Following is a transcription of the entire letter.

----

*Co Fa (Florida) 4 Sep (18)48*

*My dear Sister*

*In my last letter written to you from N.Y I said I would write again as soon as I had located myself here. I am at present engaged as a teacher in a private family in this town.*

*I arrived in Jacksonville a week ago Saturday remained there until Sunday evening & then took steamboat for Palatka & stage from there to St. Augustine. From A (St. Augustine) I thought of going to Indian River where Uncle John resides to spend the winter, but there being no communication between the two places for at least a month or six weeks to come and I had to return to this place & engage in something which would pay my expenses this winter.*

*St. Augustine is a singular looking place. It has a very ancient appearance. Its old stone houses, narrow streets, without sidewalks & the whole appearance of the place is wholly unlike anything I have seen in the U.S. & reminds one of the days long gone by.*

*The inhabitants are mostly Spaniards & Minorcans. The ladies are considered very pretty. They have fine black eyes & hair & appear to good advantage, as they promenade upon the sea wall (which is built of stone about three feet wide to protect the town from the rise of water during the high tides) without any hat or shawl. It is a great place for music & almost any dilapidated stone building boasts of its piano or its guitar. Almost all the homes have porticoes & they are the favorite resort of the ladies when they play the guitar. The inhabitants are Catholic & the chiming of bells are heard continually.*

*St. A is a place of but little business & now that since the worms have destroyed the orange trees is dependent mostly upon the invalids who visit it on a/c (account) of its delightful climate for support. Jacksonville is an Anglo Saxon town & is very unlike its neighbor St. A. It being some miles in the interior is said to be a climate better suited to those who are consumptive than St. A. Hazard where I now am is at the mouth of the St. Johns River & is a regular sand bank but the climate is beautiful. Not so hot as in NY. The sea breeze constantly blowing prevents one from feeling that oppressive heat which you who are at the North often feel. This is a great country for hunting & fishing. One cannot starve, if he has a gun & fishing rods. Yesterday I feasted upon some fresh venison. Twas good.*

*I have written to Thomas & told him that if you thought best for him to come out here I would try & procure him a school where he can do as well or better than where he can as up north.*



*Will Caroline go south another winter. I wish she would write me & let me know what she proposes doing. Amelia if you have made me any shirts I wish you would forward them to me, I would rather you would make me a blouse coat of some worsted material than that you should me a morning gown as you proposed. Jacksonville is the nearest town to this (25 miles) & there we have to go for everything we need & hard getting such things there.*

*Oysters are to be had here in abundance. I anticipate being high next month upon them.*

*Is there any [flirtation?] going on between (Knowles?) and Cal if so let me know.*

*You may think it strange that I have wandered off here, but I so thinking twas for my own good. I could not find such a situation in NY as suited me. If I had been well enough to keep books I would have gone to St. Louis where I had a situation offered me with \$800 per year, but I know I could not in my present state accept of it & therefore I concluded to come to Fla. (Florida) & if I regained my health & half turned (to) be better in the end for me.*

*My love to mother tell her I am as pleasantly situated as one could expect. If I can find a place for Tho(mas?) and you think best for him to come you might perhaps through Mrs. Holly get so(me?) letters to persons in Jacksonville which might be of service to him. There is a steamboat which runs from Savannah to this place & Jacksonville twice a week. The mail is put ashore here in a small boat & if we cannot talk with people we sometimes see them. This is the month for mosquitoes here & after the sun goes down it is active business for one to brush them from him. At night a smoke is made in the yard (and) by this means many are driven away. In about a month they will be gone & I shall be released from their annoyance.*

*I think a fine school of girls (there is none) could be formed at Jacksonville. I have spoken to several there & that is their opinion. Mr. Wood keeper of the Hotel where Mr. Holly died said he would board the teacher for the tuition of his one daughter; mention this to Cal & you can get Mrs. Holly to write & get all the particulars.*

*Sep 8. Tis really cool today the sea breeze blows very fresh & it is almost impossible to keep your hat on. You might wish to know how I enjoy myself. About the only enjoyment I have is walking on the beach. (Society?) I have little or none. There is a light house about 2 miles from here on the beach & there I walk almost every evening. During the heat of the day I do not go out much. I miss my milk & soda bread here. The (butter?) delicious that I could get at the north I am mostly deprived of here. How do you make soda bread or biscuits. Let me know, for the benefit of my Southern neighbors.*

*Has the Clark family had any addition to (numbers?)*

*Remember me to Uncle John & family & love to Mother, Cal & Mrs. Clark & write me soon.*

*William*

## ENDNOTES

The addressee of the letter is: Mrs. Amelia R. Clark, Lyons, Wayne County, New York.

Hazard was located on the south bank of the St. John's River in Duval County about half way between the river's mouth on the Atlantic Ocean and Jacksonville. The post office was established in December 1842 and discontinued in December 1848. From June 1844 to January 1846 the office was called St. John's Bluff. (Reference: Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861, David G. Phillips Publishing Co., Inc., North Miami, FL, 1999. pp. 145 & 252.)

"Duvall" is correctly spelled "Duval" County. The county was formed in 1822 and named after Territorial Governor William Pope DuVal, who served from 1822 to 1834. Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Pope\\_DuVal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Pope_DuVal)

Ferry service between Palatka and St. Augustine began in 1822. Source: <http://www.co.putnam.fl.us/palatka/Historic%20Palatka.htm>.

"Minorcans, Menorcans, and St. John's County," <http://www.staugustine.com/history/archive/minorcan.shtml>.



### 64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION DECEMBER 4-6, 2009

The Confederate Stamp Alliance will hold its Annual Meeting in conjunction with FLOREX on Saturday, December 5, 2009.

The Southern Supper will be held on Friday, December 4, 2009 at 6:30 PM

For membership information, contact Col. Larry Baum, 316 West Calhoun Street, Sumter, SC 29150 or [www.csalliance.org](http://www.csalliance.org)

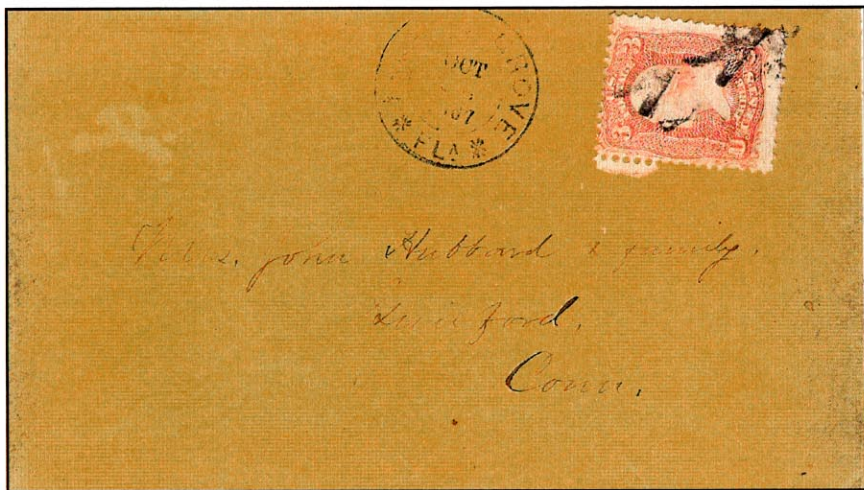


# Florida Fancy “Letter” Postmarks

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

The cover in Figure 1 is an example of a fancy postmark from Florida with a double circle with “fleurons” at either side of “FLA.” The additional use of a fancy “K” to cancel the stamp is an added bonus. The town of Laural Grove had an extremely short lived post office which lasted less than three years. It was established in Clay County on May 15, 1866 and was discontinued on February 2, 1869 with mail continued at Enterprise. John C. Kinney was the postmaster.

The cover in Figure 2 shows another example of the fancy “K” cancellation, this time used in Kissimmee. This use of the “K” in Kissimmee is self explanatory and one would think it to be a fairly common cancellation. In

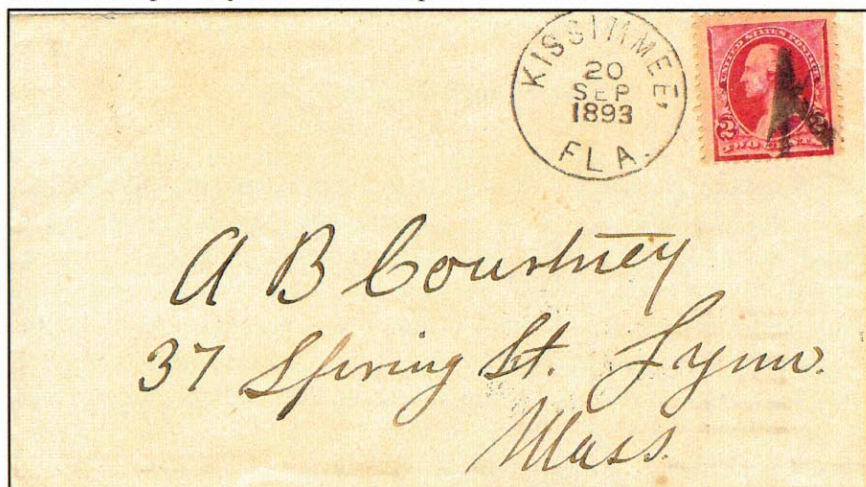


*Figure 1*

***LAURAL GROVE \* FLA \* OCT 24 1867 fancy double circle with  
fleurons postmark with an additional fancy “K” postmark on Scott #65.***



fact, it is very uncommon with few of the known examples clearly struck. The cover in Figure 3 has a boldly struck fancy “Negative P in circle” cancellation of Scott 210 with usage from Pensacola. Again, the use of the “P” from Pensacola is self explanatory. This cancellation is also very uncommon, especially with bold complete strikes.



**Figure 2**  
**KISSIMMEE, / FLA. 20 SEP 1893 postmark with fancy “K”**  
**cancellation on #220.**

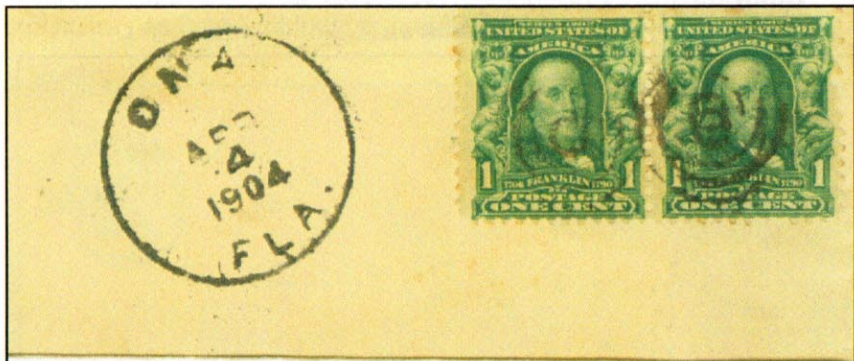


**Figure 3**  
**PENSACOLA / FLA. APR 29 1887 postmark with fancy**  
**“negative P in circle” cancellation on Scott #210.**

# Ona, Florida: A Very Incomplete History

By Francis Ferguson

Counting just short of 40 years of living in Florida has qualified me for honorary native status -- at least in my mind. I have long been fascinated with "old world" Florida, where time seems to have stopped. My vocation -- which pays the bills -- has also allowed me to claim membership in the Florida 67 Club. I have visited every one of the 67 counties in the state, more than once. I have traveled many a mile of backwoods roads surrounded by nothing more than endless pine trees, or ventured across flat cattle country where nothing but a lone tree breaks the scenery. This travel has exposed me to the little out-of-the-way corners of Florida that slowly are disappearing from the ravages of time and neglect.



*Circular datestamp for Ona, Florida, dated April 4, 1904.*

My interest in Ona, Florida started in the late 1980s when I first took note of this little hamlet perched in the middle of no place and gained traction in 2005 and 2006 when repeated trips had to be made to Ona from my office in Tavares. This is a one way trip of 132 miles. I learned to take food after my first adventure to the office in Ona; it seems that the nearest available food is 15 miles -- one way. One could say I had a love/hate relationship



with Ona from the beginning. While at an office in Wachula, the county seat of Hardee County (Ona is about 10 miles from Wachula), a serendipitous conversation with one of the office staff members yielded information that caused my vocation to intersect with my avocation. This person lived in Ona and knew the postmaster. A hand canceled cover was in the works and pictured with this article. But this was not the end of my Ona interest.

Fast forward to the summer of 2008. I had been invited to a dinner with a small group of fellow philatelists. Of course, the dinner conversation revolved around stamp-related topics, but things got serious when the host revealed that he had boxes of Florida correspondence from the late 1890s and early 1900s that I could look through. To my utter amazement, a selection of covers postmarked "Ona" showed up. My interest meter was on full tilt!

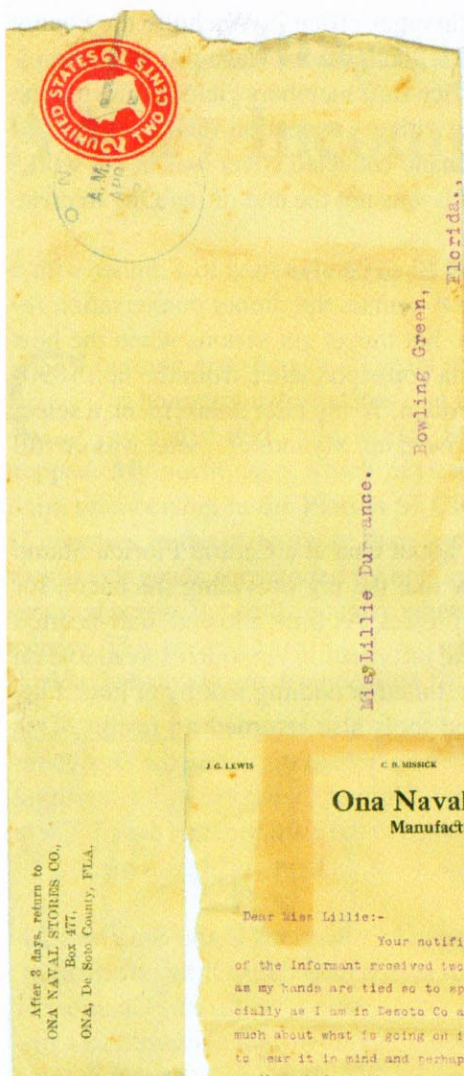
In January of 2009 I agreed to talk about Ona at a Central Florida Stamp Club meeting in April -- oops, now like the pig providing the bacon for breakfast, I was committed to this project. As time allowed, half-hearted attempts to find Ona related historical information via sources available on the Internet proved frustrating and resulted in nothing worthy of note. Further attempts via more sophisticated tools also returned no results. This was not going well. A call to the lady who helped me obtain the Ona cover in 2005 also proved to be a dead end. No one seemed to know anything concrete about Ona. Odd. What happened to the history of this town? There had to be something somewhere! The question kept nagging at me.

A trip to Gainesville to visit the Special Collections at the Smathers Library was on the agenda. A three hour search turned up a little information, but it was more than I had. In an act of desperation, I called the Chamber of Commerce for Hardee County. Nothing there, but I was referred to a privately run historical museum located in Zolfo Springs. That call yielded some solid information that represents about one-third of all the information I have been able to obtain about Ona.

The story of Ona, as I have been able to determine so far, follows. This is an ongoing project and I would love to hear from anyone who can add to this history. The present day town of Ona was originally located at "Coward's Corner" at the present day intersection of SR64A and CR661. More on that later. The town name is derived from the name of the daughter of the founder.

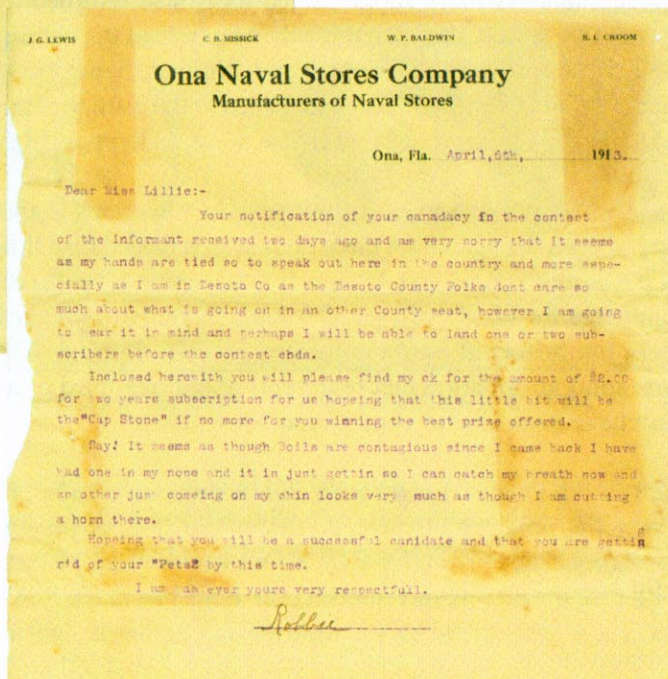
*Text continued on page 19*





**Figure 1 (left) is a legal size cover with corner card of the "Ona Naval Stores Co./ Box 477/ Ona, De Soto County, FLA." The cover is addressed to "Miss Lillie Durrance, Bowling Green, Florida."**

**Figure 2 (below) is an enclosure on "Ona Naval Stores Company" stationery signed by "Robbie."**



Ona Platt was born in 1877 to Nathan Cicero Platt and Florida Hagan Platt. No historical information has been found about Ona Platt other than her marriage to Milton Whidden on April 15, 1897. The post office was opened on October 11, 1897 and was located in the country store.

The construction of the C.H. & N. Railroad (Charlotte Harbor & Northern Railroad) through the western part of the Desoto County in 1911 forced the town to move to the present day location of CR663 and SR64W, which is about four miles west of the old location. The train depot was completed sometime after; today there is no evidence of its original location. The rail bed still is functioning, and aerial photos available via Google.Earth, show no likely spots.

The C.H. & N. Railroad injected life and dollars into the sleepy little hamlet. Ona quickly became a major supply, posting, shipping and receiving point with farmers bringing produce for shipment to market. While the C.H. & N. was the life-blood of the town, its financial health was short lived as the founder passed away and the successive management reduced the railroad to the moniker of "Cold, Hungry, & Naked." That is another story waiting to be told.

Longtime Ona resident Reason L. Holt was born in 1911 and was the grandson of Reason Cowart. Prior to his death in 2005, Holt reminisced: "Ona was quite a little town for its size. It had a bank, a grocery store and cloth-

*Continued on page 20*



*Two modern cancels of Ona, Florida. The one above, dated February 4, 2006, is a double ring struck in red, and the one below, a single ring dated March 14, 2009.*





ing store. It also had its own doctor's office, a lawyer, a school, a train depot and four orange packing houses." The 1926-27 Ona directory lists about 60 families with occupations of farmer, garage (repair), grocery, hotel, fruit packers, constable, carpenter, laborers and fruit pickers. Interestingly enough, there is no mention of a cemetery within Ona. My guess is that private family cemeteries exist.

During the Great Depression, Ona and two other small nearby communities, Limestone and Gardner, began to decline -- just as many other small towns throughout the country did during this difficult time. The rise of the horseless carriage was another nail in the coffin of Ona. The building of the Dixie Highway (US17, about eight miles east of Ona) through the center of the county caused Ona to quickly fade as a commercial center.

From the batch of covers, the reading of enclosures has added an amusing side to this forgotten town. The cover in Figure 1 has a rather poor strike of the Ona cancel, but we can fill in the information from the backstamp, which is dated April 7, 1913. The letter, dated April 6, 1913, and signed "Robbie," is on Ona Naval Stores Company letterhead (Figure 2). Addressed simply to "Miss Lillie Durrance, Bowling Green Florida," the letter reads in part: "Say! It seems that Boils are contagious since I came back I have had one in my nose and it is just gettin so I can catch my breath now and another just coming on my chin looks very much as though I am cutting a horn there." I have preserved the original spelling and punctuation.

Now that is a tale of Old World Florida --before air conditioning made the state fit for human habitation. Today the "town" of Ona supports a small country store, a stand-alone post office and not much else. There is little to no evidence of the substantial town of the early part of the 20th century.

What do I hope to accomplish in the future with these covers? I would like to tie the senders and the receivers of the covers together with the fabric of history to produce a composite "picture" of the town. The search for information continues.

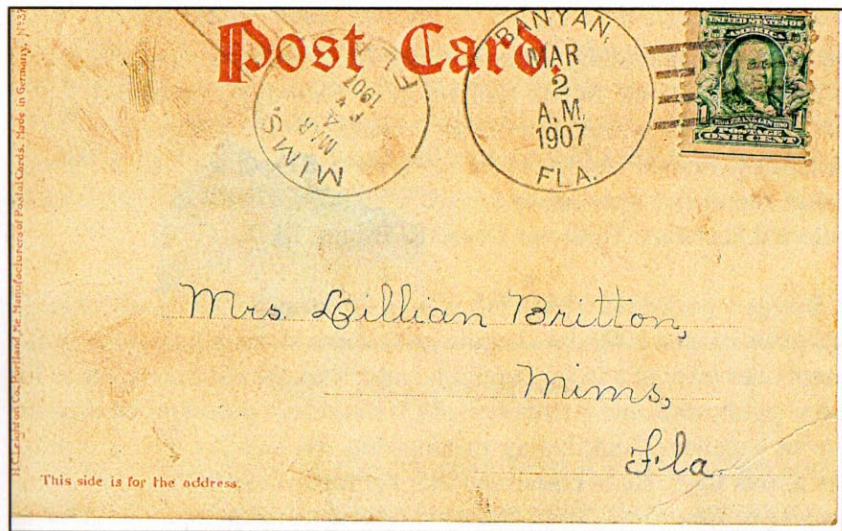
### ENDNOTE

Thank you to Mary Mitchell of the Hardee County Extension Office, Sandy Scott of the Hardee County Historical Museum in Zolfo Springs, and A. Stephen Patrick of the Central Florida Stamp Club, and the Florida Postal History Society.



# *Banyan, Fla. - the newest Florida Doane*

By Michael Wiedemann



**BANYAN, / FLA. MAR 2 1907 Type III (1) Doane postmark on postcard with MIMS type I (2) Doane receiving mark.**

**A**s a dealer specializing in Florida material, I recently obtained the above post card from a Brevard County estate. In checking my Doane reference, I did not see a listing for the town of Banyan, Florida. I contacted the Florida Doane postmark coordinator, Deane R. Briggs, who confirmed that this is a new listing example. Although the number in the killer bars is weak, it is believed to be a "1." The Banyan Post Office was established on November 1, 1892 on Merritt Island in central Brevard County. Clara B. McMillan was the first postmaster. Very few postal history examples are known, and this is the only postmark I have seen from Banyan. The Margie Pfund Memorial Postmark Museum and Research Center, Willett Thompson Collection (part of the Postmark Collectors Club archives), has only an October 9, 1908 example with dial only. This may represent either a second (LKU) Doane example or a newly issued 4-bar A postmark. Anyone with additional Banyan postmarks is encouraged to submit them. The post office was discontinued on November 15, 1924, with mail handled by the office in Lotus, Florida.

# President's Comments

## Steven Patrick

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Florida Postal History Society was held at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition on Saturday, February 6, 2009, with 18 members in attendance. Past President William Johnson, D.D.S., passed the Office of President to the newly elected President, Steven Patrick. Also in attendance were newly elected Vice President Alexander Hall and re-elected Secretary-Treasurer Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

Dr. Briggs reported that the FPHS is in good financial health with \$4,328 in the treasury and 2009 dues beginning to come in. He reported that at the current dues level of \$10 for regular membership, the current expenses for journal publication and distribution (\$13) should not pose a problem as we have an excellent Contributing membership. He sees no reason to raise dues at this time. He is concerned that the total membership numbers is dropping to around 100. In an effort to increase membership, a motion was passed to pay for a direct mailing to APS and *LaPosta* members residing in Florida inviting their membership. As of May 1, a total of 15 new membership applications have been received.

A motion was also made and passed to start work on an update of the 1999 FPHS book *Stampless Florida Postal History 1763-1861*. This will be a several year effort and will be an expanded reference text, published in color. Cost will be determined. Mention was made of the recent Schuyler Rumsey sale of stampless material from recently deceased members, William Fox and Donald Thompson. The prices realized from this sale certainly point to the need for a "catalog" type update with prices instead of relative values based on the number of examples known.

The program for the meeting was a presentation of Florida stampless British and Second Spanish Period covers and examples of Pre-Territorial Pensacola and St. Augustine usage.

The next meeting of the Florida Postal History Society will be held on

Saturday, December 5, 2009 in Orlando at FLOREX at 1 p.m. Dr. Briggs also announced that the 2009 annual meeting of the Confederate Stamp Alliance will be held at FLOREX. He is the host chairman and has requested that all FPHS members with interest in Confederate postal history try to attend. There will be 50 frames of Confederate exhibits, a number with Florida examples, and a "Southern Supper" on Friday evening. Those wishing information should contact Dr. Briggs ([drb@gte.net](mailto:drb@gte.net)) or phone (863) 299-1251. Anyone not a member of the CSA with an interest in joining should check the Confederate Stamp Alliance web site, or write the CSA Secretary and FPHS member, Richard F. Murphy, 1489 Oakhurst Dr., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466. This should be a great FLOREX so let's have an equally great FPHS member turnout.

### **DEALER ADVERTISING**

Dealer members of the Florida Postal History Society are encouraged to place a color advertisement in the  
*Florida Postal History Journal*.

Contact Editor Deane R. Briggs at [drb@gte.net](mailto:drb@gte.net)  
or call (863) 299-1251.

### **Stamp Club and Stamp Show News**

The *Journal* now includes local chapter meeting times and locations as well as local stamp shows and bourses free of charge. Members should contact their stamp club and encourage club membership. Special show cancellations will also be announced for postmark collectors. Please send information to be listed to the editor with a three month lead time if possible.



## FLORIDA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS - 2009

The following members of the Florida Postal History Society have been denoted as “**Contributing Members**” for their additional contribution to the Society. The support of these members keeps our Society fiscally sound and enables us to respond to member and non-member inquiries regarding Florida postal history and send sample copies of our *Journal*.

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Hector Arvelo  
Donald Ball  
Lawrence F. C. Baum  
Wade H. Beery  
John J. Beirne  
Richard F. Bergmann  
Deane R. Briggs, M.D.  
Conrad L. Bush  
Walter S. Clarke  
Joseph Confoy  
Daniel B. Curtis  
James L. Diamond  
James P. Doolin  
Harry G. Dow  
Gus Dueben  
Richard Frajola  
Alex Hall  
William J. Hancock  
Robert J. Hausin  
Richard W. Helbock  
Gary G. Hendren  
William L. Hendry  
Henry Higgins  
Todd A. Hirn  
Stan Jameson  
Stefan T. Jaronski  
William Johnson, D.D.S.  
Michael S. Jones  
Edward R. Joyce, Jr.  
Patricia A. Kaufmann  
John L. Kimbrough, M.D.  
Howard King  
Dr. Vernon Kisling

Ron Klimley  
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Joel Rind  
Steven M. Roth  
Schuyler Rumsey  
Niles Schuh  
S. George Trager  
Phillip V. Warman  
John Watts  
Robert B. Whitney  
C. Michael Wiedemann  
Dave Wrisley  
Central Florida Stamp Club  
Postal History Foundation