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More Florida Alligator Advertising

By Todd A. Hirn

In his January 2009 article in the *Journal*, author Deane Briggs invited readers to share other Florida alligator illustrated corner card advertising covers from their collections. Here are a few additional examples that may be of interest.

Loudwick Warrock moved from Richmond, Virginia to Jacksonville in 1856 where he apprenticed in the candy making business. He later established Warrock & Company Manufacturing Confectioners and was using the alligator illustrated advertising trademark shown in *Figure 1* as early as 1878. Warrock's business was



FIGURE 1
Ornate 1894 "Warrock & Co., Manufacturing Confectioners" illustration of a winged nymph holding a candy cane while riding an alligator.



FIGURE 2
Circa 1894 "The Florida Curio Co." alligator illustrated corner card with unusual address line text advertising.

sold to the Crown Confectionery Company in 1914. The company continued making jelly and marmalade into the 1930s. The original building on Main Street, a historic Jacksonville site, still stands.

The Florida Curio Company (*Figure 2*) was also located in Jacksonville. Note the unusual "Quaint, Curious and Queer Curiosities from Everywhere" address line text. A Google search failed to reveal any further information on the business.

H.P. Fridenberg (*Figure 3*), seller of Florida Curios and Novelties, is found listed in the 1878-79 *Webb's Jacksonville Directory*
Continued on page 3

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Tropical Postcard Club Summer Show coming on August 10

The "Tropical Postcard Club" Summer Show will be held on August 10, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Pompano Beach Civic Center, 1801 NE Sixth Street, Pompano Beach, FL 33060.

Any dealer wishing to rent a table should contact Thomas Moore, Show Chairman, 6880 SW 75th Terrace, South Miami, FL 33143-4427. His telephone is (305) 666-0219.

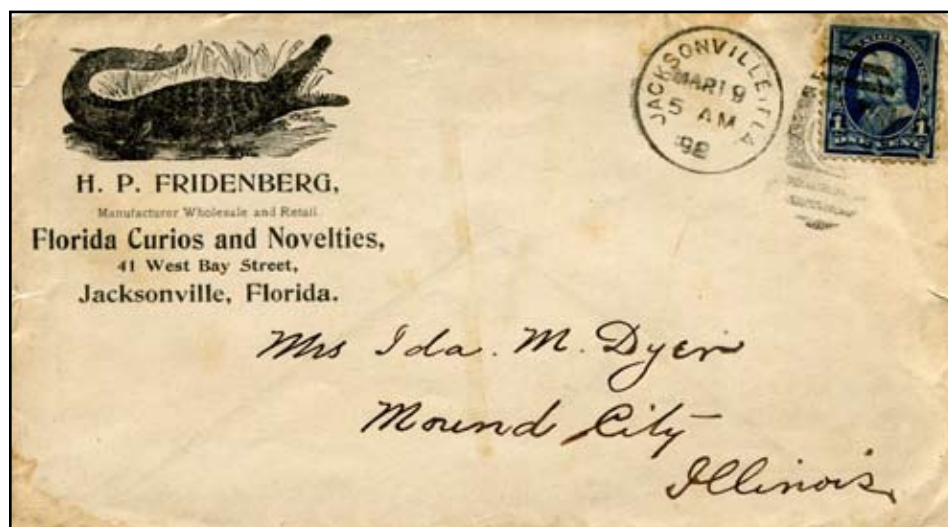


FIGURE 3

1898 H.P. Fridenberg "Florida Curios and Novelties" advertising cover with illustration of fierce looking alligator.

and was located on Bay Street. Fridenberg is noted as donating a chameleon to the Field Museum of Natural History in the museum's 1895 Director's Report.

Oskey's, also known as Oskey's Curio Shop or Oskey's Alligator Store, (Figures 4, 5, and 6) was founded in Jacksonville in 1884 and was one of the longest lasting curio dealers, surviving at least into the 1950s. Oskey's sold many tourist items made out of alligator skin including wallets, purses, and even lamps! The company promoted itself over many years using all sorts of advertising items such as illustrated covers, postcards, felt

pennants, and banners. The postcard in Figure 6 states that "a visit to Jacksonville is not complete without seeing Oskey's Curio Store."

Shown last is an advertising cover from The Tampa Alligator Farm (Figure 7) founded just before World War I in Sulphur Springs Park. Note the rather clever "Open the Year Round" text inside the open jaws of the alligator in the illustration. According to Rinaldi's official guide book of Tampa and South Florida, visitors could purchase a live baby alligator "crated for shipping," for only \$1! One could also see the "educated alligators exhibited at every performance." This item was mailed during the period when the Sulphur Springs post office was a rural station of Tampa, from April 1921 to October 1924. The postmark is not frequently seen.

The watermarked background image was taken from a full color L. Warrock advertisement from Webb's 1878-1879 Jacksonville Directory.

References

- Brantz, Dorothee. *Animals, Humans and the Study of History*. University of Virginia Press, 2010. See page 139.
- Briggs, Deane R. "Those alligator corner cards," *Florida Postal History Journal*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (January 2009).
- "Warrock & Company Jelly Factory-Jacksonville Architecture," <http://www.jaxhistory.com/Jax%20Arch%20Herit/D-85.htm>, accessed December 30, 2012.
- Webb's Jacksonville Directory, 1878-9*, p. 105, University of Florida Digital Collections, George A. Smathers Libraries, <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/NF00000065/00001/41?search=fridenberg>, Accessed December 30, 2012.
- "Thousands of Live Alligators on
- Continued on page 4*



FIGURE 4

Comical banjo playing alligator on 1899 J. Oskey "Florida Curiosities, Shell Novelties and Fancy Goods" illustrated corner card. The addressee, Frank H. Lattin, was also a curio dealer and publisher of *The Oologist*.

Free Exhibition - World Digital Library,” <http://www.wdl.org/en/item/3941/>. Accessed December 30, 2012.

Van Horn, Charles Vincent. *Rinaldi's official guide book of Tampa and South Florida*. Tampa, FL: Rinaldi Printing Co., 1920. <http://archive.org/details/rinaldisofficial-01vanh>. Internet Archive, Accessed December 30, 2012.

“Annual Report of the Director to the Board of Trustees for the Year 1894-95,” Field Columbian Museum Publication 6, Vol. 1, No. 1, Chicago, IL, October 1895. See p. 35. Google Books, Accessed December 31, 2012.



FIGURE 5

Interior view of “Osky’s Curio Store” on a 1910 postcard.

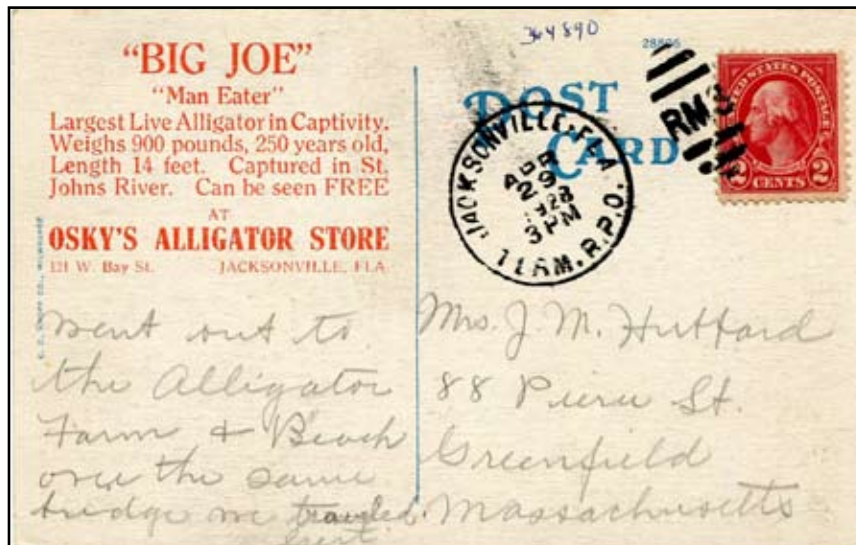


FIGURE 6

1928 postcard from “Osky’s Alligator Store” invites visitors to see “Big Joe,” the 14 foot “Man Eater.”

FIGURE 7
1924 “Tampa Alligator Farm” corner card illustration. “Curios, Novelties, Sea Shells, and Souvenirs” could be purchased.



St. Augustine Patriotic Label

By William H. Johnson, D.D.S.

Patriotic covers used during the Civil War are actually quite common, with an estimated 7,800+ designs known. The use of patriotic labels or “stickers” is much less common with only 101 face-different labels identified, according to Arthur H. Groten, M.D., whose recent article in the *Collector’s Club Philatelist* stirred my interest.¹

The cover in **Figure 1** is the only usage of a Union Patriotic label from Florida of which I am aware. I have personally contacted Dr. Groten and found that he is unaware of any as well and that this cover was not from his collection. The “SAINT AUGUSTINE / FLO” 26mm postmark has known usage from April 1862 to January 1864, according to Michael C. McClung’s recent article “Union Occupation Mail” in the *Chronicle* which is consistent



FIGURE 1
“SAINT AUGUSTINE / FLO FEB 9” postmark with killer cancelled pair of U.S. Scott #65 on cover to Boston with Union Patriotic label.

with the usage of a Union patriotic label.²

The label on the above cover was produced by the printer Snow & Hapgood, 40 Devonshire St., Boston, and was printed on a large sheet with 54 labels (**Figure 2**). This large sheet from the Groten collection contained

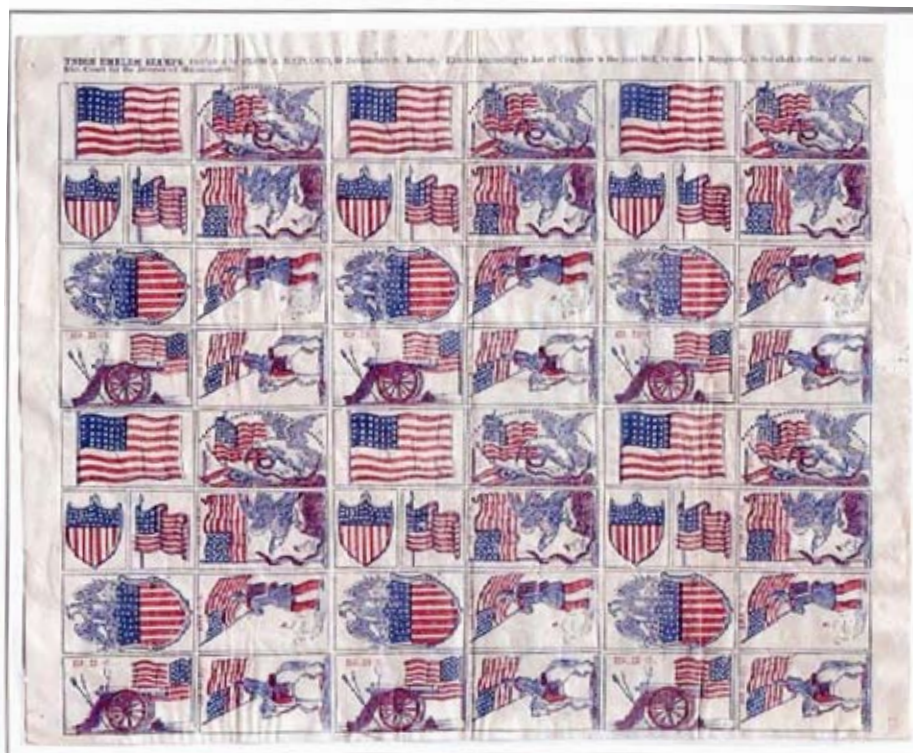


FIGURE 2
Sheet of 54 labels produced by Snow & Hapgood.

seven different large sized labels and two different small square flag designs from which the label on my cover originated. This sheet is considered by Dr. Groten to be unique. Other patriotic label producers include Fowler & Wells from New York, C.Y. Haynes & Co., of Philadelphia, Howland from Worcester, Massachusetts, and Harbach & Brothers. The Snow & Hapgood labels are known with biblical references as shown in the corner block taken from Figure 1 of Groten’s article.

The Groten collection of 70 covers and several unused sheets was sold recently by Spink for \$23,000, pricing these patriotic label covers at the high end of all Union patriotic usages. There were also Confederate patriotic labels produced, listed as Stickers and Seals, of

Continued on page 6

which only seven different designs have been recorded. These are also quite scarce and priced when tied on cover in the \$2,000-\$7,000 range in the 2012 edition of the *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*.³

There is one Confederate sticker recorded with known Florida usage. It is ST-4, “Sailor Nailing Flag to the Mast. Eleven Stars and Bars with a blue ornamental frame.” There are currently four recorded examples of this sticker known with Warrington, Florida postmarks, one of which is postmark tied. The cover in Figure 1 is currently the only known Florida usage of a Union patriotic label.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Groten, Arthur H., “Union Patriotic Labels of the Civil War,” *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 90, No. 2, March-April 2011, 123-129.

² McClung, Michael. C., “Union Occupation Mail,” *Chronicle*, vol. 65, no. 1, whole 237, February 2013, pp. 48-70.

³ Kaufmann, Patricia, Francis Crown Jr., and Jerry S. Palazzolo. *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*. Confederate Stamp Alliance, Inc., 2012, 442.

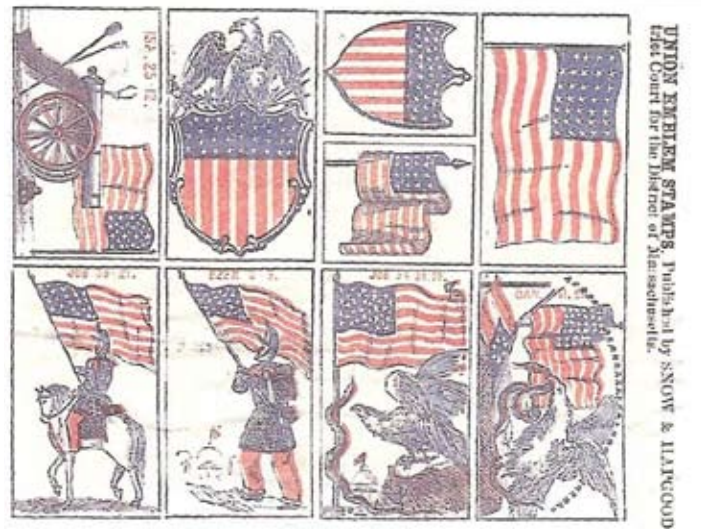


FIGURE 3

The margin imprint identifies the printer as Snow & Hapgood of Boston. Of particular interest is the inclusion of biblical references on five of the labels. The references are semiotically related to the image and would have been well known to the general public at that time.



FIGURE 4

“WARRINGTON / Fla.” undated postmark with “Sailor Nailing Flag to the Mast” Confederate patriotic sticker, ST-4.

Key West, Florida "Paid": A new listing

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

The cover in *Figure 1* is to the author's knowledge a new postmark example from Key West. In our society book, *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763 – 1861* there is a similar 32mm cds with an (unpaid) "5" listed as Type IV and a 32mm cds with a "FREE" listed as Type V. Those are recorded only with black ink. The postmark in *Figure 1* is 32mm with a "PAID" and will be listed in a future edition of our book as Type VI. To date, it is known only in red ink. *Figure 2* shows an enhanced scan of this postmark.

The cover is addressed to London, England and is "paid" on the reverse with a nice right margin block of four of the 12¢ U.S. Scott #36 (*Figure 3*) paying the double 24¢ rate to England. That block is nicely cancelled with the same "DEC 26" postmark in red ink. According Richard Frajola, this cover went by ship to New York where the red "6" credit for the double rate by an American Packet was applied. There is no New York exchange office marking noted. The cover was carried by the N.Y. & Havre Line steamer *Arago* which departed New York City on January 7, 1859, and arrived at Southampton on January 20, 1860. It received a red London paid marking the following day, on January 21, (1860).



FIGURE 1
"KEY WEST FLA/PAID DEC 26" (1859) red postmark
on cover to London, England.



FIGURE 2
Enhanced scan of postmark.
Blocks of four of the early U.S. postage stamps are uncommon and carry a significant premium valuation. Used blocks on cover are even more uncommon and not specifically listed as only pairs on cover carry a valuation.



FIGURE 3
Cover reverse with margin block of four of 12¢ U.S. #36 cancelled by red "KEY WEST FLA/PAID DEC 26" postmark.

The author appreciates the assistance of Florida Postal History Society members Richard Frajola and Yamil Kouri with this article. Readers with other early use of high value stamps on covers from Florida are encouraged to submit scans for publication and documentation.

History and Postal History of Tangerine, Florida

By Phil Eschbach

Tangerine lies in the northwestern corner of Orange County, northwest of Orlando and Apopka, and just south of the Lake County border and the town of Mt. Dora. Today, it is probably best known as the fictional setting for the book *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor. The town was founded by Dudley Adams, who moved from Waukon, Iowa in the early 1870s. He was born in Massachusetts and was a direct descendant of President John Adams. He built a log cabin on the eastern bank of Lake Beauclair in 1875.

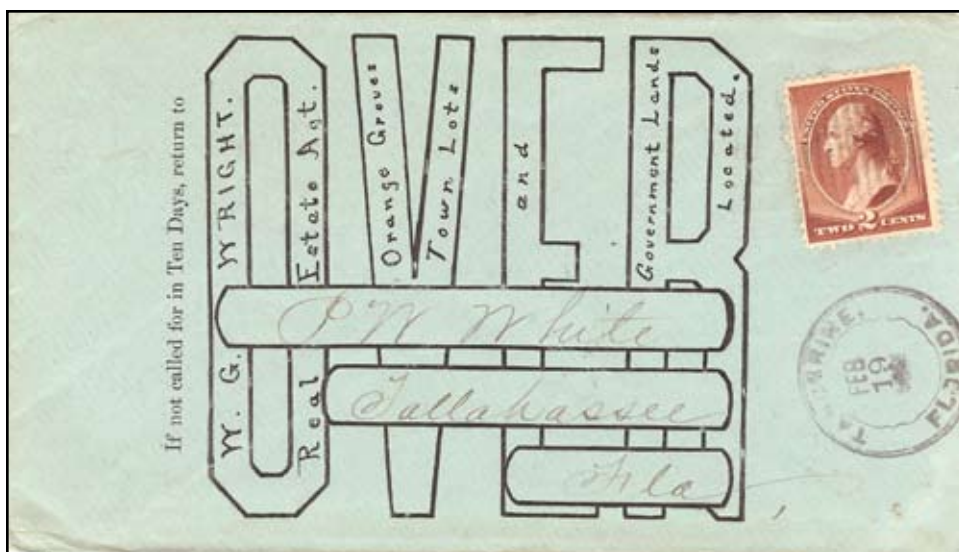


FIGURE 1

Late 1880s advertising cover from Tangerine, Florida.

The town was originally called Olaville, after a nearby lake, but was renamed Tanger-

ine in 1879 at the suggestion of Adams' sister-in-law, who saw a tangerine tree growing in the yard. Lake Ola was named after a local Indian chief's daughter who frequently camped nearby. Adams, a poet, writer, and naturalist, quickly turned to growing citrus and planted many acres in the surrounding area. He later founded and became the president of the state horticulture society.



FIGURE 2

The 1879 store, currently the oldest remaining structure in Tangerine, likely the original Marot home and site of his shop and post office, currently apartments.

Raymond J. Wright, the next major settler, followed in 1878, coming from Michigan. He purchased 100 acres and also planted citrus on 10 acre plots. Lewis Marot arrived in 1879 from St. Louis in a covered wagon pulled by two mules. He became the town's first shopkeeper and acted as an unofficial postmas-



FIGURE 3

Reverse of Wright advertising cover with hand-drawn map of Tangerine.

ter from 1879 until the U.S. Post Office was established on June 13, 1881 (*Figure 2*).

He remained as the first postmaster of Tangerine until 1886, when his son Henry took over the position. Figure 1 shows a unique type of advertising cover from Henry G. Wright, circa late 1880s, with an equally unique map and all-over advertisement for his real estate business extolling the benefits of Tangerine and of speculation (*Figure 3*). Henry Marot would intermittently serve as postmaster until 1902. At this time the closest major post office was in Mellonville (Sanford), which was 25 miles away.

The mail was delivered by horseback from Mellonville once a week and sometimes Mr. Marot would go to Mellonville by wagon to get supplies for his shop and the mail (*See Figures 4 and 5*).

At the beginning of the 20th century, mail was delivered once a day from Zellwood by horse and later by car. In 1938, twice daily mail delivery was begun and in 1940, a Star Route from Orlando to Leesburg carried the mail to and from Tangerine. On July 1, 1946, Tangerine became busy enough to advance from a fourth class post office to a third class office, and in 1949, a new Highway Post Office (HPO) service was begun and mail was

delivered twice a day by bus.

In 1881, Mr. George Wood and his wife visited Tangerine and stayed with the Adams, who were friends of Mrs. Wood's sister from Massachusetts. In 1882, the Woods bought property from Mr. Wright and built their house, later known as Woodlawn Villa. This building has been preserved to this day and is one of the oldest remaining homes in Tangerine (*Figure 7*).

Later a railroad was being constructed to connect small towns in the area, but the residents of Tangerine denied its access through the town, so it was routed through



FIGURE 4

Original post office, circa 1910.

Mt. Dora instead. The railroad access led to the development of the Mt. Dora area, while Tangerine remained a small rural town. Tangerine was quite isolated and the preferred tourist route to Tangerine from the north was by steamer to Fernandina, then to Jacksonville by rail, from Jacksonville via steamboat on the St. Johns River to Astor, then by narrow gauge rail to Fort Mason on Lake Eustis, from Fort Mason across the lake to Eustis by boat. From Eustis one went by wagon to Tangerine.

The first hotel, the Acme Hotel, was built by Mr. Reddick and began operation in 1883. Mr. Earle bought it

Continued on page 10



FIGURE 5
*Post office with horse drawn cart, not unlike that
used by Lewis Marot.*

in 1884, and re-named it the Wachusett House, changed later in the 20th century to the Lake Ola Lodge (*See Figures 8 and 9*). Figure 10 shows an early use of the Tangerine Doane Type II(3) postmark on an advertising corner card cover for the Wachusett House with W. H. Earle still the proprietor in 1905.

The first church was a Congregational Church and was built in 1886; it is still standing (*Figure 11*). The first organist was Mrs. Lottie Wright Twichell, the youngest daughter of R. J. Wright. The first minister was Perrin

Fisk. The first school was in a log cabin and its first teacher was Miss Minnie Wright, another daughter of the pioneer, R. J. Wright.

The great freeze of 1895 wiped out the citrus industry in Florida, but unlike many other citrus growing towns in Florida, Tangerine's residents replanted citrus, this time adding to the variety of agricultural products with pineapples, tomatoes and other vegetables. Tangerine never really developed into a major citrus town, but did have two small packing houses, Sadler Groves and Tangerine Fruit Co., currently long out of business.

Clarence Estey arrived in 1919 from Canada, and married Winifred Wood, daughter of founder George Wood and lived in Woodlawn Villa until recent times. He became postmaster, a position he kept until 1933, and was also a local shopkeeper. His son, Ward Estey, became postmaster later in 1937. Another early settler of note, Henry Brown from Vermont, came in 1920, and was a cousin of Calvin Coolidge.

Tangerine remains a "sleepy" little town today, with no mayor and only a simple sign noting that the town was established in 1909, well after the post office was established (*Figure 12*). Even the current U.S. Post Office building is small by post office standards, just large enough to service the population of 826 (2000 census), living in 350 homes with a minimum lot size of one acre (*Figure 13*).

The color photos used in this article are by the author, eschbachphoto.com. The author appreciates the reproduction of postal covers from the Deane R. Briggs collection. The photos in *Figure 4* and *Figure 5* were copied from photos on the wall of the Tangerine Post Office. The photos in *Figure 8* and *Figure 9* are from the State of Florida Archives.

TANGERINE POSTMASTERS

Lewis Marot: June 13, 1881-1886

Henry Marot: June 29, 1886 // 1902

Charles C. Aston: August 5, 1902 - 1902

John F. Mason: December 8, 1902 - 1903

John Stewart: May 20, 1903 - 1914

Mary E. Dayton: March 16, 1914 - 1919

Ella A. Tallant: August 25, 1919 - 1923

Clarence Estey: July 11, 1923 - 1930

John W. Jepson: August 23, 1930 - 1937

Ward S. Estey: August 17, 1961

(In 1946, Estey built a new post office next to the store which previously had been the post office.)

Leonard R. Dyer: July 16, 1962 - 1987

Seventeen additional postmasters or officers in charge have served from 1987 to date.

More illustrations on page 11-13.

History and Postal History of Tangerine, Florida



FIGURE 6

“TANGERINE, FLA. MAR 18, 1895” magenta postmark on cover to London, England. The cover was then forwarded to Jerusalem using the Thomas Cook & Sons agent in Jerusalem.



FIGURE 7

1882 Woodlawn Villa, now a private home.

History and Postal History of Tangerine, Florida



FIGURE 8
Wachusett House in 1884.

The two photographs on this page are from the State Archives of Florida and are used with permission.



FIGURE 9
Renamed the Lake Ola Lodge. Shown circa 1905.

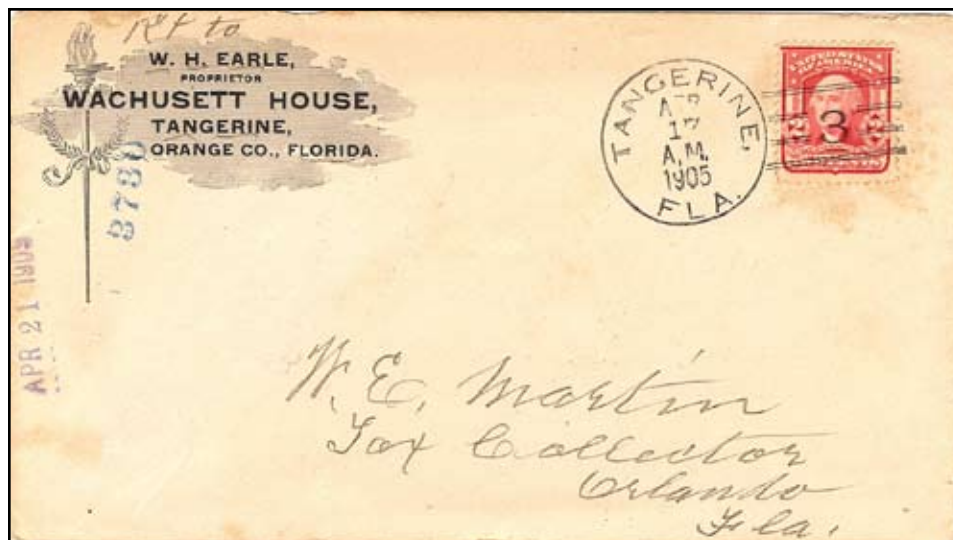


FIGURE 10
Advertising corner card for Wachusett House with Doane Type II (3) postmark.

History and Postal History of Tangerine, Florida



FIGURE 11

The oldest church in Tangerine, built in 1886.

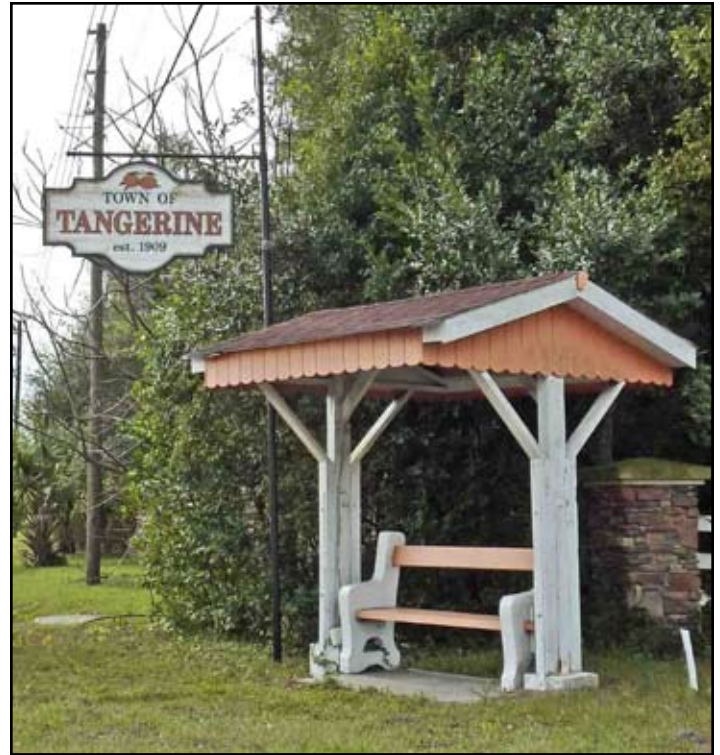


FIGURE 12

Sign currently noting entrance to Tangerine, Florida.



FIGURE 13

Current U.S. Post Office at Tangerine, Florida.

Mail from a Tree Beside the St. Johns River?

By Christine C. Sanders and Deane R. Briggs

This article concerns two covers with the unusual postmark “St. Johns River, Fla.” The first cover (**Figure 1**) is a U.S. embossed stamped envelope (Scott #U159) addressed to William L. Garrison Jr. for Mrs. M. C. Wright, 32 Linwood St. Roxbury-Boston, Mass. It has a manuscript postmark dated “Dec 25, St. Johns River Fla.” The year is unknown, but is probably somewhere between 1874, the first year of issue of #U159, and 1883 when the domestic first class rate changed to two cents.

Social/cultural historians would be interested in the addressees of this cover. Wm. L. Garrison Jr. was the son of renowned

abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, Sr., who founded the anti-slavery newspaper *The Liberator* in 1831. He was also well known for his leadership in peace movements of the 19th century. His son, Wm. L. Garrison, Jr., was a prosperous merchant and wool broker who also managed his father's financial affairs. He, too, was involved in prominent causes of his day including Henry George's single tax movement, free trade and women's suffrage. His wife was Ellen Wright, whose mother was Mrs. Martha Coffin Wright, the second addressee on the cover. Mrs. Wright, along with sister Lucretia Coffin Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jane Hunt,

and Mary Ann McClintock, planned the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls, New York. In 1874, within the time frame of this cover, she was president of the National Woman Suffrage Association.

The interesting aspect of this cover to philatelists is its postmark. In the *Florida Postal History Journal* of September, 1996 a second cover (**Figure 2**) postmarked “St. Johns River, Fla” was presented as a mystery cover. This

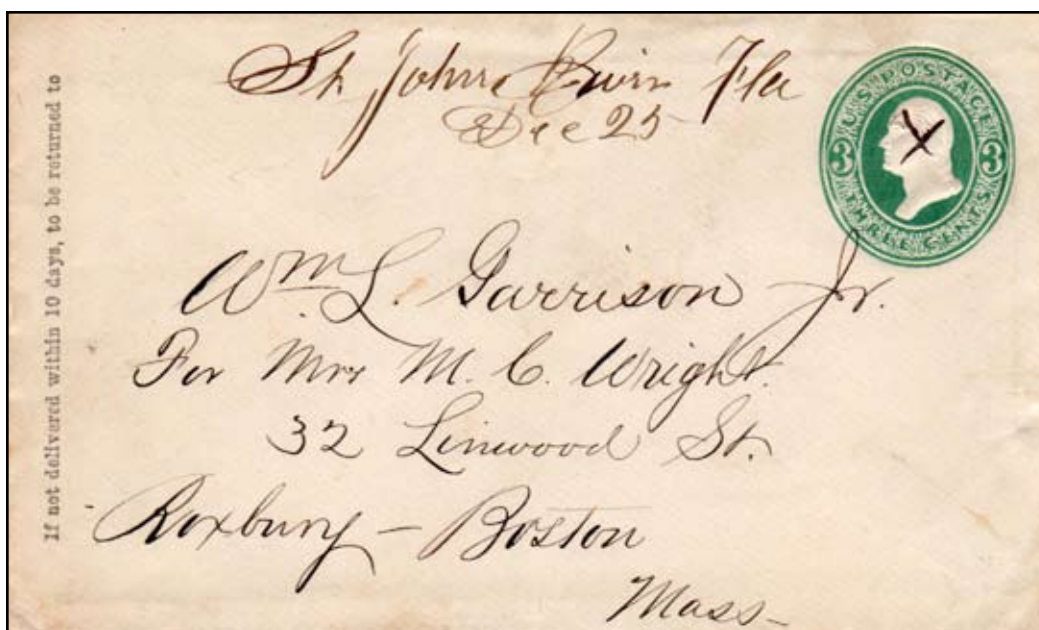


FIGURE 1
U.S. embossed stamped envelope with manuscript postmark,
“St. Johns River, Fla.” Circa 1874-1883.

Scott #U82 embossed stamped envelope (issued 1870-71) postmarked with a cds preceded the establishment of the only documented post office by this name in Florida by approximately 76 years. However, since the U.S. Post Office

Department approved a handstamp postmarking device for this “post office,” it must have existed somewhere.

Despite a personal check of the microfilm records from the National Archives, we have been unable to locate any post office or any town named St. Johns River in Florida during this time period. So, if it was not a town, what could it be? This time period was the golden age of steamboats in Florida, so perhaps it is a steamboat postmark. There was a steamboat named *St. Johns* that provided service from Charleston via Savannah to Florida in the 1850s, but it burned on July 21, 1856 while

moored in Jacksonville. It was rebuilt and returned to service in February 1857. However, during the Civil War it was used as a blockade runner by the Confederacy and was captured by Union forces in 1863. It was sold by the government and renamed the *Helen Getty* by its new owners in December 1863 and finished the war on the Union side. It returned to the St. Johns River after the war, but under a different name.

A second steamboat named the *St. Johns*, (**Figures 3, 4**) an iron hulled two masted sidewheeler, was launched on August 27, 1878, and made twice weekly trips between Charleston and Palatka faster than any other steamer, but only for the 1878-1879 and 1881-1882 tourist season before servicing the New York and New Jersey area. She was also a long 260 x 64 foot vessel and carried up to 1,150 passengers. Thus, this *St. Johns*, while operating in Florida for only two winter tourist seasons during the time of the manuscript postmarked cover, was unlikely to be used

by the U.S. Post Office Department for mail service. Further, the name of the steamboat never included the word "river." The absence of any reference to "ship" or a ship's name on the cover also suggests that this is not a steamboat cancel (*i.e.*, it was not used to service mail received from passengers onboard the steamboat).

Other possibilities for this postmark must include some other association with the St. Johns River itself. From 1859 to 1929, there was the St. Johns River Lighthouse near the mouth of the river on the south side, one mile inland at what is now the Mayport U.S. Naval Station. This lighthouse was operational during the entire time except for a period between 1864 and 1867 after a Confederate sympathizer shot out the lamp. However, there is no evidence that the lighthouse ever served as a mail center or post office. Another possibility is that the cover was postmarked on the St. Johns and Lake Eustis Railway. However, this narrow gauge railroad which ran from Astor on the St. Johns River to Eustis was not completed until 1880 and did not use "River" in its name.

Continued on page 16



FIGURE 2

U.S. embossed stamped envelope postmarked by circular date stamp, "St. Johns River, Fla." Circa 1870-1874.



FIGURE 3

Charleston, Savannah and Florida Steam Packet Co. with St. Johns steamboat.

**FIGURE 4**

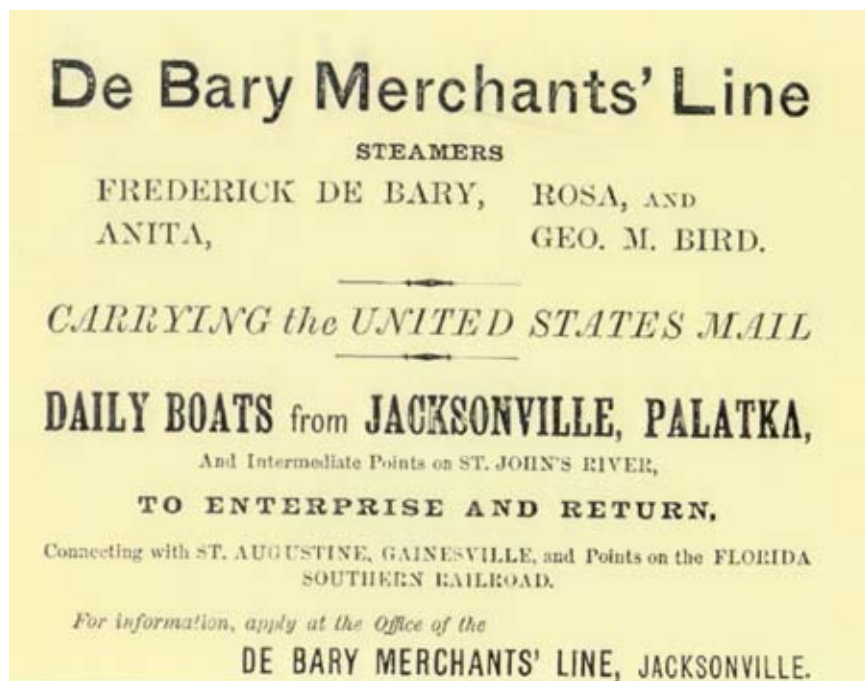
Actual photograph of the St. Johns side-wheeler.

There are no postmarks from this railway listed in the *U.S. Railway Post Office Postmark Catalog 1864-1977*, suggesting that it was not involved with carrying the mails.

A final possibility resides with the river itself. In a fascinating book written by George M. Barbour in 1881 titled *Florida for Tourists, Invalids and Settlers*, the author describes his steamboat excursion “up” the St. Johns River. Since the river flows north, one is traveling south when traveling up this river. In this book, all of the distances he travels are given as “miles by mail-steamboat route.” The entire St. Johns River was a mail route during this time. The De Bary line was an official mail carrier on the river and stopped at all “mail-stations” along the route (*Figure 5*). This steamboat line had side-wheeler steamers that traveled the lower and middle river basins (Jacksonville to Sanford) and also smaller, two deck stern-wheelers for traveling the small, narrow, crooked river in the upper basin that terminated in the extreme southern headwaters of the St. Johns River in Lake Washington. An illustration titled “A River Post Office” showed one of these small steamers leaving a landing that

had a hollowed out tree with a plank leading to its opening (*Figure 6*).

On the river side of the tree was attached a small box with the initials “U.S.M.” In many areas of the St. Johns River during the 19th century, there were no towns or any real settlements. Cattle roamed large areas and residents had few if any neighbors other than the omnipresent alligators. Perhaps a primitive post office such as this serviced the cover. Since it was not located in any established town or settlement, it merely marked its only identifiable location as “St. Johns River, Fla.” An alternative, but related hypothesis would be that the steamboat collected mail from such primitive post offices (possibly unattended) along the route and serviced them on the boat after collection. Since the mail had not originated on the boat, but at the river post box, it was marked “St. Johns River, Fla.” -- the location of the box and not an actual post office. The use of government stamped envelopes such as both of these, would obviate the need for stamps prior to mailing at the river post box.

**FIGURE 5**

Advertisement for the De Bary Merchants' Line.

Clearly, these hypotheses as to the source of the postmark are not necessarily the only possibilities. Any member that would like to propose other possibilities is urged to contribute information on these very fascinating covers. All hypotheses are welcomed.

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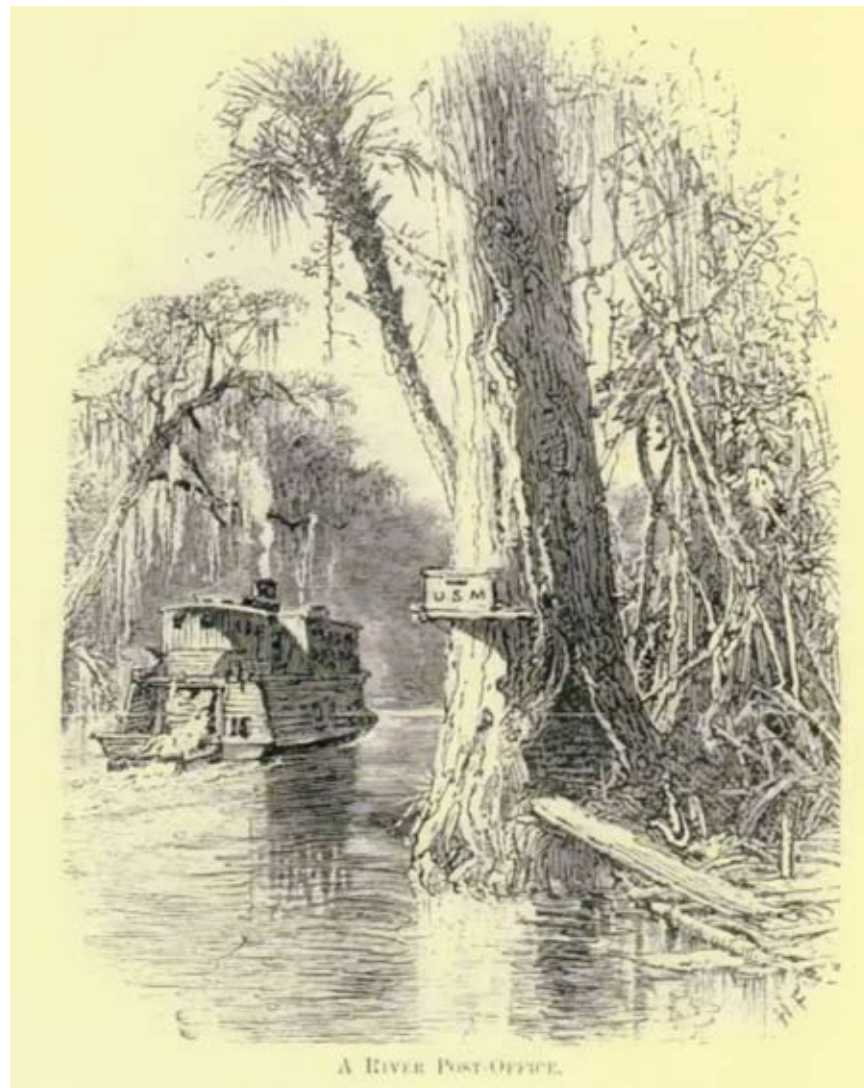


FIGURE 6
Illustration from
Florida for Tourists, Invalids and Settlers.

Gomez, Florida Doane -- a New Listing

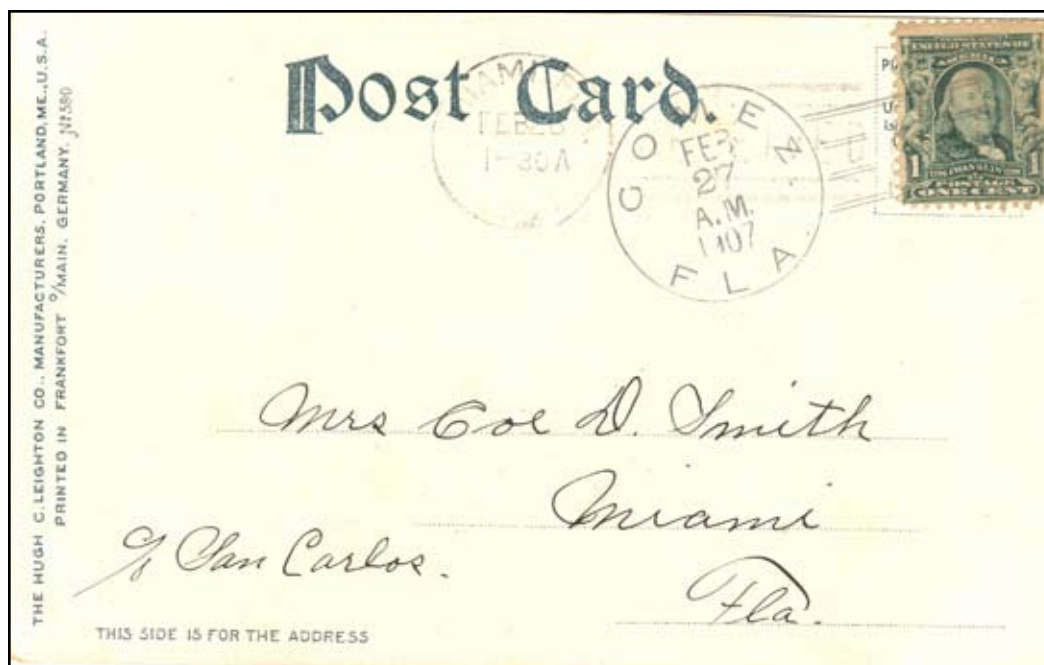


FIGURE 1
“GOMEZ, FLA FEB 27 1907” Doane Type II (1?) postmark.

By Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

The census of Florida Doane postmarks has been near completion for several years. It is unusual for a new Florida Doane listing to be recognized and this past year there have been only two, this Gomez Type II (1?) and the Safety Harbor Doanes discussed in the last issue of the *Journal*. When the late Richard W. Helbock published his United States Doanes book in 1993, there were a total of 389 listings from Florida out of an estimated total of 540, or 72 percent completion. Over the past 20 years, the total number in the census has grown to 524, or 97 percent completion. This means that there are only a few more Florida towns to be discovered which might have used Doane postmarks. A total of 24 of the Doanes examples in the total census of 524 are actually different types or variations from the same town. This means that at the current time there were 500 different post offices in Florida which are documented as having used Doane postmarks. The total number of post offices operating in Florida during the 1904-1906 period ranged from 1,195 in 1905 to 1,168 in 1906, with 1,181 in 1904 (the exact average for these three years). This means that over 42 percent of all Florida post offices used a Doane postmarking device during this time period. This percentage will obviously increase slightly as more new listings become documented, but it is still a fairly high number of towns in Florida that used these devices. The Gomez, Fla. Doane shown above is a classic Type II Doane with a 28mm dial and four parallel pairs of thin bars in the killer. The number in the killer bars is not clear but is likely a (1). Any reader with Florida Doane postmarks in their collections are encouraged to submit a list of them to the author to update the ongoing Florida Doane census.

Annual meeting held at Sarasota stamp show

The annual meeting of the Florida Postal History Society began at noon on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition. A total of 24 members and guests were present for the meeting and program.

New officers for a two year term (2013-2014) were announced: Todd A. Hirn, President; Daniel B. Curtis, Vice President; and Deane R. Briggs, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer.

The treasurer's report showed current balance of \$4,588.39, down slightly from prior years as a result of a slight decrease in membership. Current membership totals 116. The problem of decreasing revenue was addressed and due to the cost of journal publication and mailing exceeding dues, it was decided that beginning in 2014, the \$15 dues level would cover a digital copy of the journal in a pdf



A segment of the 24 members and guests attending the annual meeting of the Florida Postal History Society in Sarasota on February 2, 2013.

file, and members wishing to continue to receive the published journal would require the current "contributing membership" level of \$25.

Those members renewing at the \$15 level will receive the mailed journal for this year. A discussion regarding the updating of our society book, *Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861*, led to Ron Cipolla offering to become a new member and pay to have the entire book (now out of print with no new copies available) digitally reproduced in a pdf to add to our website as a link for members or for a nominal charge for non-members.

Revising the entire book with updates and color is still in progress and any member wishing to head up this project should contact Dr. Briggs. Membership applications and copies of the January journal were passed out to prospective members. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. and was followed by Dr. Briggs' powerpoint presentation "Florida Stampless Postal History 1763-1861" to the joint societies: The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society and the Florida Postal History Society.



FPHS webmaster Francis Ferguson helping Dr. Deane Briggs get the projector working prior to the start of the annual meeting.

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Below is a listing of FPHS members who are also stamp dealers. Please support our dealer members when visiting stamp shows, or by mail!

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

Hector Arvelo

Donald Ball

Carol Barrus

Lawrence F. C. Baum

John J. Beirne

Richard F. Bergmann

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

Paul Broome

Conrad L. Bush

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