

Orlando Postal History

Earliest Known Use

by A. Stephen Patrick

The town of Orlando was born near the old army Fort Gatlin where the first white settlers found a home after 1843. The Jernigan settlement received a U.S. Post Office designation on May 30, 1850 with Wright Patrick as the first postmaster. He was followed by Aaron Jernigan on February 9, 1852. Mail was carried by horseback once a week on Route No. 3527. It left Sunday from Tampa to Ichebuchessa and Jernigan to Mellonville on Wednesday; a distance of 108 miles. The return trip was Wednesday to Saturday. One known cover exists from Jernigan, Fla.



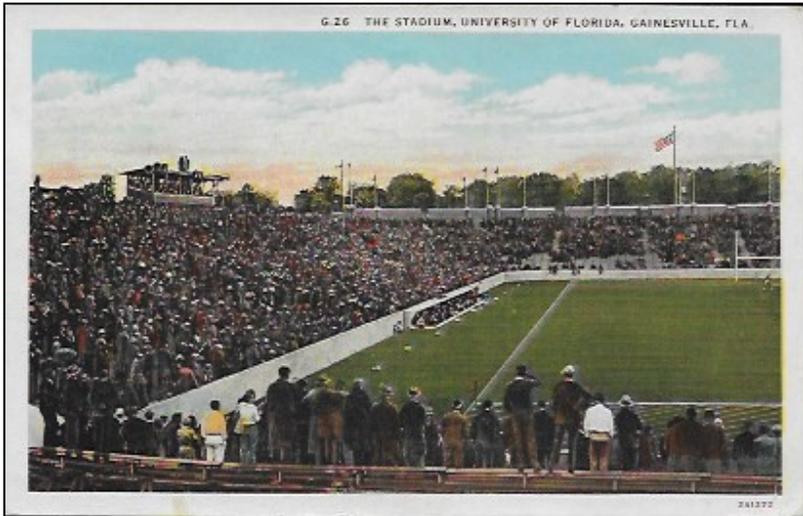
In 1855 Orange County was severed from Volusia County and an election was to be held for a new county seat. Judge James G. Speer maneuvered 31 votes from “Section 26, Township 22, Range 29 south and east.” The Apopka area received 27 votes with 13 for Mellonville. The new village located five miles north of Jernigan was dubbed Orlando by Speer. On September 19, 1857, the post office of Orlando was transferred from Jernigan with John Worthington as the first postmaster.

Mar. 1st manuscript pen cancellation of Orlando, Fla a strip of three U.S. #36 dull read Washington three cent stamps. Cover addressed to The Clerk of the Circuit Court of St. Johns County, St. Augustine, Fla. An additional received notation by Postmaster S. Andrew “due course of mail,” 1859. Presumably the required three stamps was due to triple weight of enclosed court documents.

Earliest known use (EKU); ex-McNeil & ex-Briggs

[Editor’s note, this truly spectacular piece of Orlando history is most assuredly unique. The history of Orlando can be read in great detail by finding the two volume set by Eve Bacon [1905-1978] titled: *Orlando, A Centennial History*. Published in the middle 1970s it covers the good – the bad – the strange – and the ugly facts of Orlando. I own these volumes and have used them many times when referencing Orlando history.]

University of Florida, a Piece of History by A. Stephen Patrick



Pictured is a 1934 view of Florida Field at Gainesville before it was known as “The Swamp.”

The cancellation is June 25, 1934, 10:00 a.m. from the Gainesville University Station.

Mrs. Mollie Evers who worked at the University is making inquiry of a Mrs. Dickerson about the number of blooms on one stalk of an Easter lily. An article in the “Believe It or Not” section of Jacksonville’s Florida Times Union had the claim. The University wanted to buy a plant such as that.



[Editor’s note, I have worked for UF most of my career, starting in March of 1980. October of 2022 will be the end of my working life. I have spent many countless nights in Gainesville. Oddly enough, I have never been in “The Swamp” and do not expect that will change any time soon.]

Orlando History – the Angebilt Hotel by James Archbold

The Angebilt Hotel is located in Orlando Florida at 37 North Orange Avenue. This 11 story building was built from 1921-23, a \$1 million dollar hotel with a great view of Lake Eola. It opened on March 14, 1923 and was operated by Joseph Tenner Ange since opening. He announced bankruptcy in May 1923 and left. It was sold at public auction and reopened. In 1983, it suffered a fire on the two top floors. Today it is now offices with bars and retail on the ground floor.

Across the street had been the San Juan Hotel. They had built an 8 story addition to be the best and tallest in Orlando; when the Angebilt opened it had 11 floors with 250 rooms. So began a 52 year rivalry between the two hotels. Some Americans who stayed at the Angebilt were Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, Thomas Edison, and later in the 60s Joan Crawford.

In the 1990s, no longer a hotel, it was converted into a temporary courthouse while the new Orange County Courthouse was under construction. The Angebilt is still standing with the decorative letter “A” from year’s past. The lobby has been restored to its original style and is often decorated with fresh flowers.

The building is officially one of the “haunted places” in Orlando. The paranormal activity is confined primarily to an underground tunnel. The witnesses claim to feel demonic spirits there and ghost have been seen and heard via EVPs. Seventy-five percent of opinion givers believe it is a haunted place.

