

## EXHIBIT SYNOPSIS

# Florida Postal History 1821-1861:

## Stampless Cover Stories

### **Purpose:**

To illustrate the postal history of Florida using stampless covers, beginning when the United States officially acquired Spanish-controlled East Florida and West Florida on 7/10/21 through the beginning of the Civil War. Particular emphasis is placed on the contents, senders and recipients of these covers, allowing each cover to tell a story.

### **Challenge Factor:**

The major challenge in this exhibit was finding Florida stampless covers that (a) contained content and/or (b) could tell a story. While each cover is unique, some of the postmarks are quite rare. Uncovering the stories involved considerable research on the individuals involved in each cover, that is, the senders, the recipients and their families.

### **What is Presented:**

Fifteen different stampless covers with Florida postmarks are shown, with relevant research uncovered (e.g., contents, map, and other historical research).

### **Organization:**

Covers are displayed in chronological order, organized by period [Pre-Territorial Period (7/10/21 to 3/29/22); Territorial Period (3/30/22 to 3/2/45); and Statehood Period (effective 3/3/45)]. Cover details include postmark, dates seen, scarcity, contents and details.

### **Material Highlights:**

- 1 – Complete unfolded cover on the title page to display process.
- 2 – First known map of Florida under U.S. control.
- 3 – Cover sent to Mary Ann Bradford, whose relatives included US Senators and USN Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry (of Battle of Lake Erie fame).
- 4 – Cover sent from Lt. Harvey Brown, Asst. Quartermaster at the time, who oversaw the construction of bridges and roads in northern Florida, and was eventually promoted to Brevet Major General.
- 5 – Cover sent to Col. John Gamble of the famous local Gamble family and plantation.
- 6 – Scarce covers: earliest known Pre-Territorial usage (and first known cover with Florida under U.S. control); letter from wife to husband including a lock of her hair; one of 3-5 covers postmarked from Monticello; one of 3-5 covers postmarked from Ocala (“Ocala”); one of 4 known covers from Manatee.

### **References:**

- Briggs, D.R. (2018). *Florida Postal History During the Civil War*. Lincoln, DE: Confederate Stamp Alliance.
- Briggs, D.R., Ferguson, F. & Lera, T.M. (2019). *Florida Postal History 1763-1861*. Madrid IA: Wilcox.