

Florida Route and Station Agents Postmarks



380-A-1 Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D.

The only Florida Route Agent postmark from the close of the Remele listing in 1861.

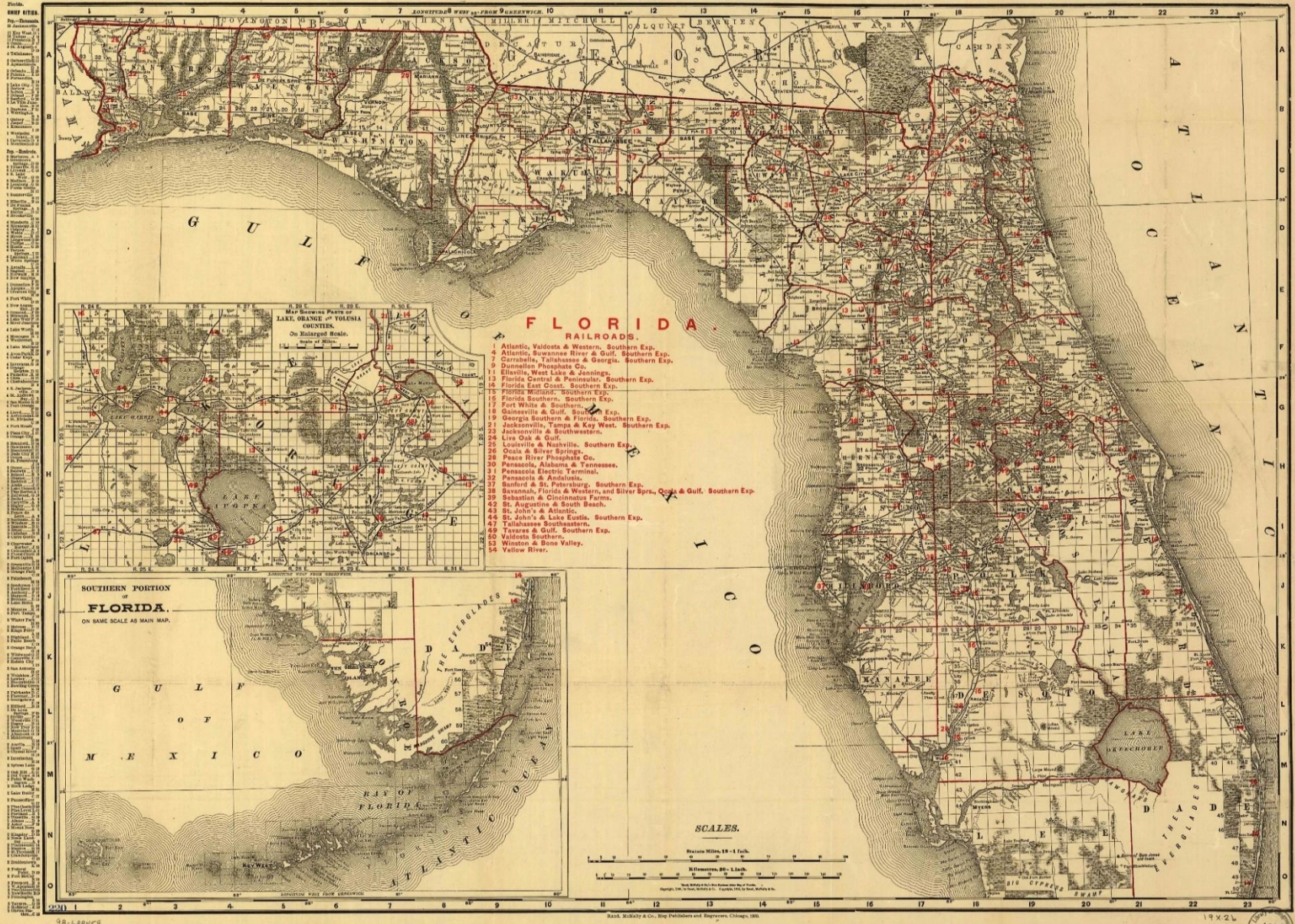
The route agent, an employee of the US Post Office Department (USPOD), rode trains with a contract to carry mail between the terminal stations to which he was assigned. Each agent used his handstamp, like a post office's circle date stamp, to mark the loose mail given to him enroute. The marking consisted of the railroad's name, terminal name, or some combination of both, either spelled out full or abbreviated. It was an official USPOD marking.

This listing will comprise principally Florida Route Agents postmarks used in the period from the close of the Remele listing in 1861 to the end of 1886. Also shown are Florida Station Agents postmarks between 1888 – 1899 and Florida Transfer Clerks between 1889 – 1893.

The type of markings with the letters "RR" in the wording were used in general to about 1875 when they were replaced by the "AGENT" markings. On August 1, 1882, an order was issued by the Postmaster General making all routes Railway Post Offices, but many "AGENT" markings continued in use until 1886 or later. By the end of 1886 the "AGENT" markings had mostly been replaced by "R.P.O." handstamps, although a few later usages of "AGENT" marks may be listed.

Items in red indicate a new (20) or updated listing (10).

If you have a listed or unlisted Florida Route or Station Agent cover or a Transfer Clerk cover and would like to participate in this listing and census, please send 300dpi scan to RR-FL-Marks@FPHSONline.com. You will be credited in the next updated version.



Rand, McNally & Co. Florida Railroads 1900, Library of Congress – Maps & Charts No. 4334

Florida Route Agents Postmarks

Atlantic & Gulf, R(oute)41, RRA (Rail Road Agent), Savannah-Live Oak, GA, FL, 180 miles

350-D-1; ATLANTIC & GULF R.R., 25.5, blue, 1872, 1875, IV



350-D-1



350-D-1

Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D.

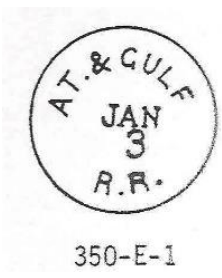
350-D-1a; ATLANTIC & GULF R.R., 25.5, blue, 1873, IV. (Period after "C" and space between "G and U") The Route Agent contract was awarded to Savannah & Live Oak 1872-1879.



350-D-1a Courtesy of Douglas N. Clark



350-D-1a Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D.

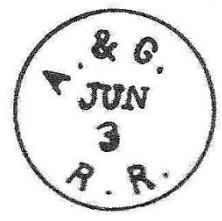


350-E-1

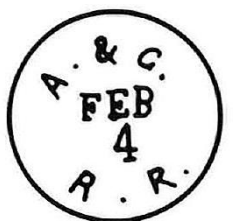
350-E-1; AT. & GULF R.R., 26.5, blue, 1875, IV

350-K-1; A. & G. R.R., 25, blue, Banknote, V

350-K-2; A. & G. R.R., 25.5 mm. blue, 1871. (Wide spacing of R.R.) A new variety and color employed on route over Atlantic & Gulf R.R. from Savannah, Ga. to Live Oak, FL. The 180-mile line south through Georgia was completed in 1867-1868.



350-K-1



350-K-2



350-K-2 Courtesy of Douglas N. Clark

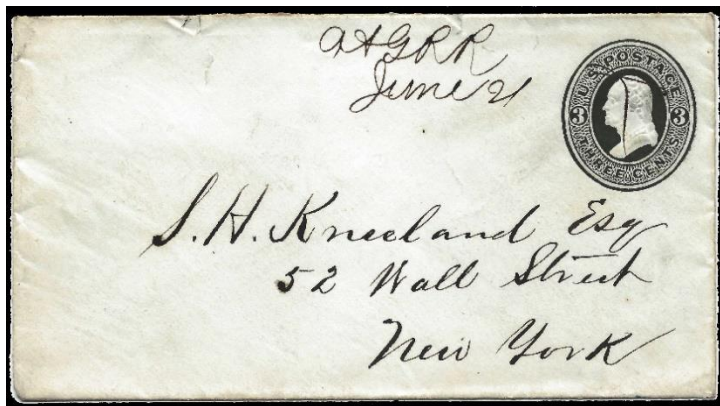
350-M-1; A & G R R Way Mail ~~Due~~ Dec 2, manuscript, ink, 1867, VII ('Way' indicated picked up by contract messenger bringing mail to route agent) The Route Agent Contract was awarded to Savannah & Jacksonville, Jan 16, 1868-72. The Atlantic & Gulf R.R. was an extension of the Savannah & Thomasville which was established in 1866 on newly laid track.

Way a + GRR Due 2



350-M-1 Courtesy of Douglas N. Clark

350-M-1a; A+GRR, manuscript, ink, VII (or A&GRR) No Way marking.

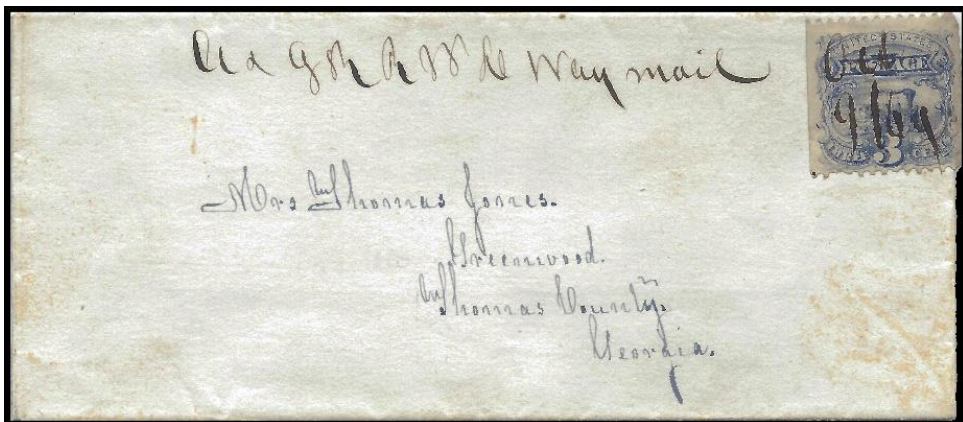


350-M-1a Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D.

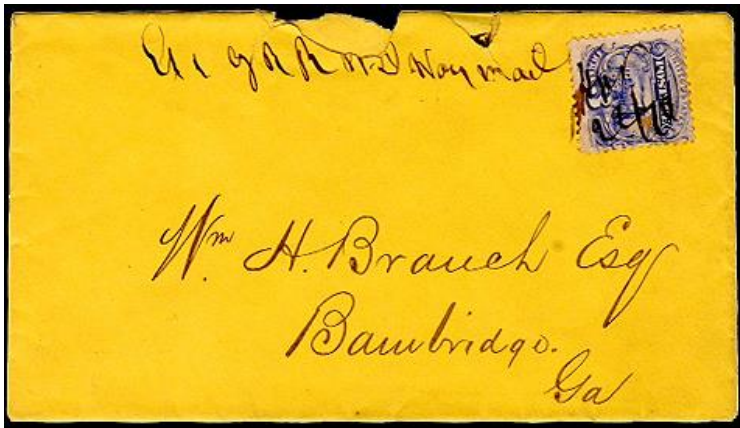
351-M-1; A & G R R WD Way Mail with date, manuscript, ink, 1869, VII (WD – Western Division)
The Route Agent Contract was awarded to Lawton & Bainbridge, January 1868-71. The Atlantic & Gulf R.R. WD was the western part of the Savannah & Thomasville.

A & G R R WD Way mail Apr 22/69

351-M-1



351-M-1 Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D.



351-M-1 Courtesy of Douglas N. Clark

Florida Transit, R303, RRA, Fernandina-Cedar Keys, FL. 155 miles (3/3/69 – 8/1/82)

380-C-1; FERN. & C. KEYS AGT., 25.5, black, 1881, 1884, III

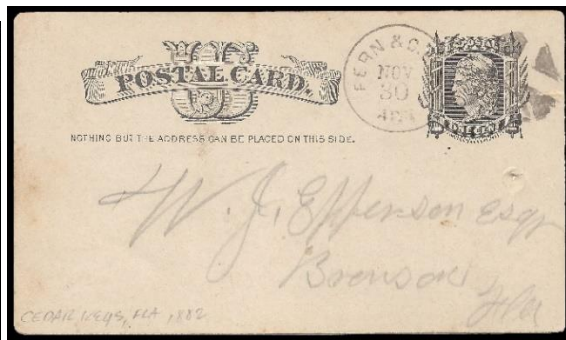


380-C-1

380-C-1a; FERN & C. KEYS AGT., 25.5, black, 1882, II (No period after FERN)



North Designation 380-C-1a



380-C-1a

Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D.



380-C-1a



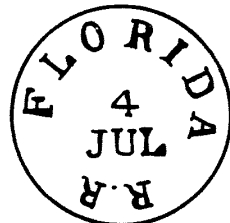
380-D-1

380-D-1; FERNAN. & C. KEYS AGT., 26.5, black, Banknote, NDL, III (NDL – No Date Line)

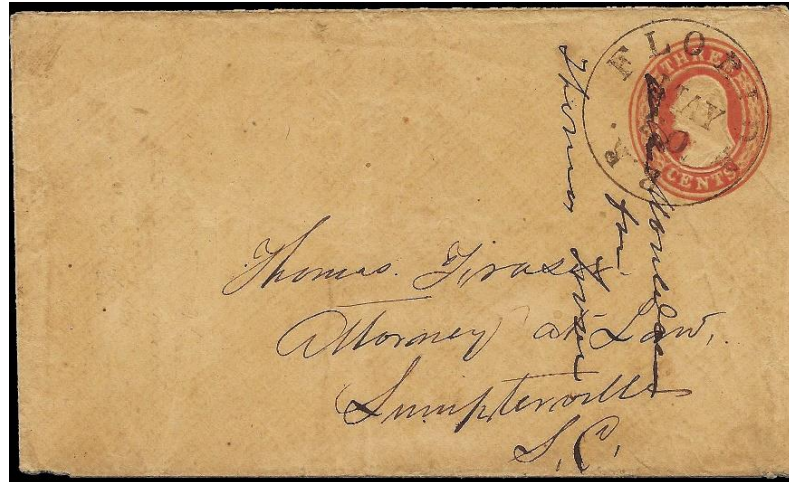
Florida R.R., R202, RRA, Fernandina-Starke, FL, 74 miles

380-A-1; FLORIDA R.R., 33, black, 1857-61, (Remele F2), IX (Reversed date line)

380-A-1a; FLORIDA R.R., 33, black, 1857-61, IX (Normal date line)



380-A-1



380-A-1a Courtesy of William H. Johnson, D.D.S.

Florida R.R., R303, RRA, Fernandina-Gainesville, FL, 98 miles

380-B-2; FLORIDA R.R., 26, black, Banknote, 1873, V

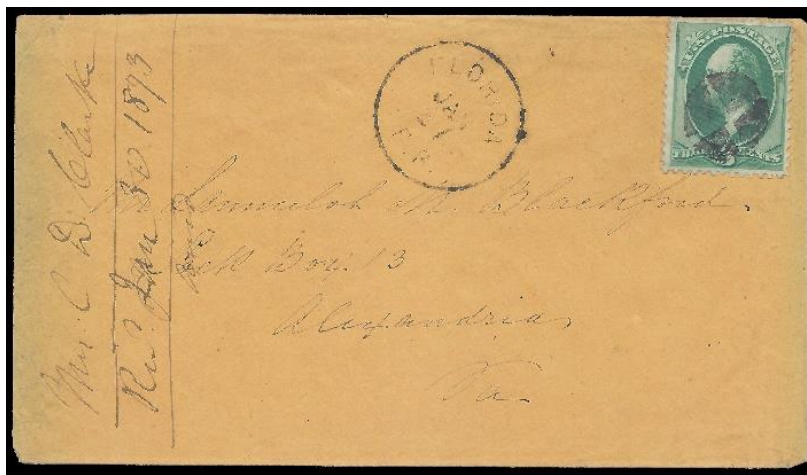


380-B-2



380-B-2 Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs M.D

380-B-2a; FL O RIDA R.R.; 26, black, III. (Space between "L & O and O & R")



380-B-2

Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D



380-B-2a

380-B-2b; FLORIDA R.R., 26, black, on reverse of envelope to Cedar Keys, V; (Inverted date)



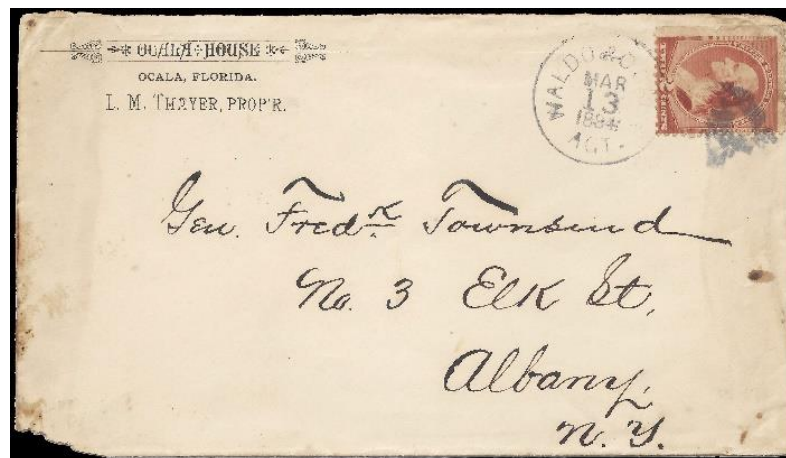
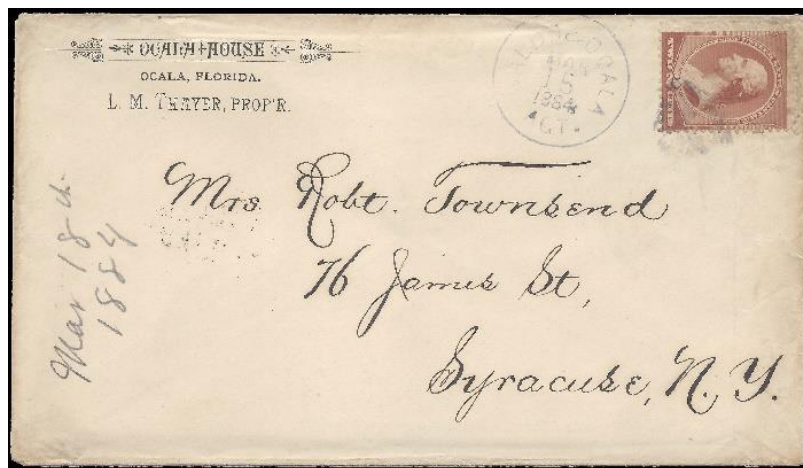
380-B-2b

Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D.

Florida Transit, R383, RRA, Waldo & Ocala, FL. 47 miles (1/17/1882 – 8/1/1882)

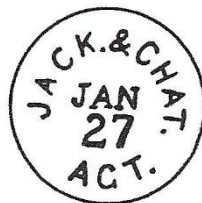


381-N-1; WALDO & OCALA AGT., 25.5, black, 1884, III



381-N-1 Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D.

Jacksonville, Pensacola & Mobile, R369, RRA, Jacksonville-Chattahoochee FL, 216 miles (1874 - 80; 5/14/81 – 8/1/82)



381-C-1; JACK. & CHAT. AGT., 25.5, black, Banknote, III

381-C-1

381-C-1a; JACK. & CHAT AGT., 25.5, black, Banknote, III (No period after CHAT)



381-C-1 Courtesy of Todd Hause



381-C-1a Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D.

Jacksonville, Pensacola & Mobile



381-D-1; JACK. & CHATTA. AGT., 27, black, 1882, 1888, II

381-D-1

381-D-1a; JACK. & CHATTA., 27, black, 1883, IV (AGT missing before period)

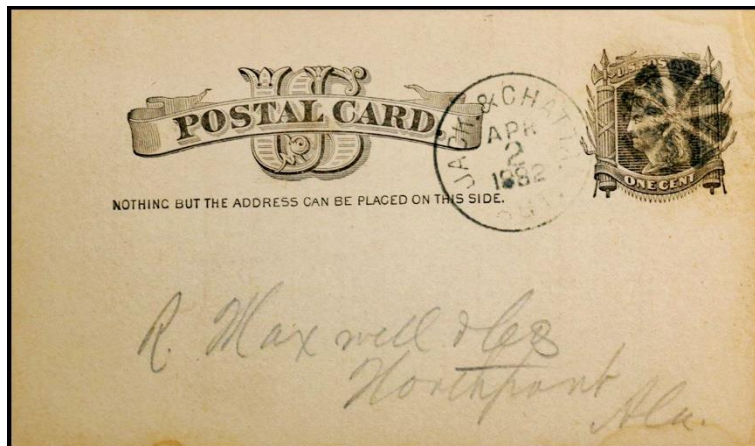


381-D-1

Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D



381-D-1a



381-D-1

Courtesy of Thomas Lera



381-F-1

81-F-1; JACK. & CHATT. AGT., 26, black, 1877, III (No year date)

St. Johns River Steamboat, W(ater Route) 21, WRA (Waterway Route Agent), Jacksonville-Enterprise, FL, 207 miles (12/18/1874 – 8/1/1882)

I-9-a; JACK. & ENTERP. AGT., 25, blue-Banknote, magenta-Eighties, III



I-9-a



I-9-a Steamboat on St. Johns then steamship to England (red - paid Liverpool 30 Sep 1877)
Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D.

I-9-a1; JACK. & ENTERP. AGT., 25, black, Banknote, III
I-9-a2; JACK. & ENTERP. AGT., 25, blue, III with Route Agent's Name DALE in circle

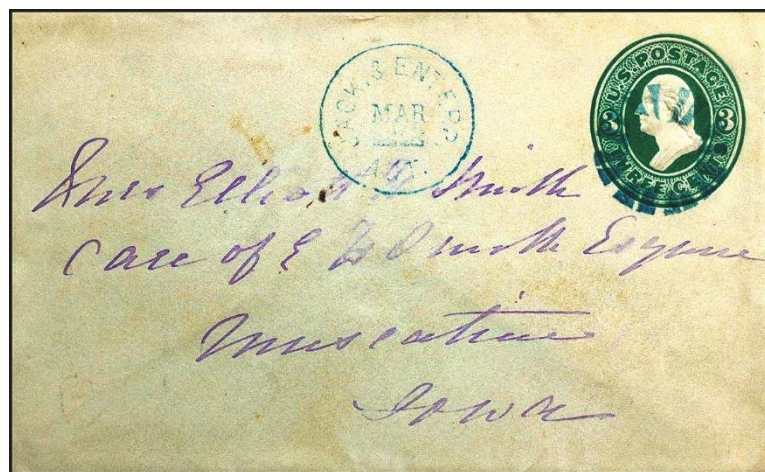


I-9-a1

Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D



I-9-a2

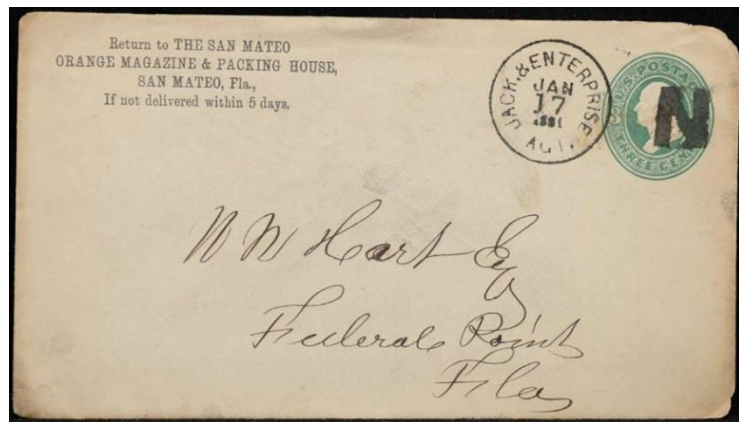


I-9-a3

Courtesy of Thomas Lera

I-9-a3; JACK. & ENTERP. AGT., 25, blue, III with fancy cancel

I-9-b; JACK. & ENTERPRISE AGT., 27, black, 1881, 83, 'N' killer, III



I-9-c; JACK. & ENT. FAST M., 27, black, 1880, 85, IV (Fast Mail)



I-9-c Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D.

St. Johns River Steamboat, W22, WRA, Jacksonville-Sanford, FL, 146 miles

I-9-d; JACK. & SANF. AGT., 25.5, blue, black, 1877, 78, 79, IV



I-9-d Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D

Jacksonville, Pensacola & Mobile, R369, RRA, Jacksonville-Quincy, FL, 192 miles (1/1/66 - 3/1/66; 1/1/67 - 1/21/67; 1/1/67 - 1/21/67)

381-B-1; J. P. & M. R. R., 26, blue-1874, black. Banknote and Eighties, IV

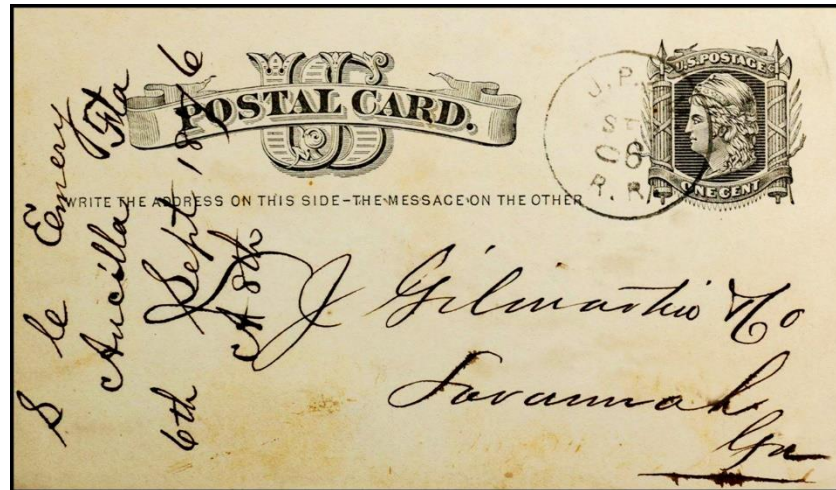


381-B-1 Courtesy of Hugh Feldman and Richard Frajola



381-B-1 Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D

381-B-1a; J. P. & M. R. R., 26, black, 1876, IV (Inverted date slug)



381-B-1a

Courtesy of Thomas Lera

Jacksonville, Pensacola & Mobile, R369, RRA, Live Oak-Chattahoochee, FL, 127 miles (1879 – 5/14/1881)

381-E-1; LIVE OAK & CHAT. AGT., 27.5, black, 1880, III

381-E-1a; LIVE OAK & CHAT. AGT., 27.5, black, 1880, III (with year line)



381-E-1



381-E-1

Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D



381-E-1a

Pensacola & Georgia, R369, RRA, Jacksonville-Chattahoochee, FL, 209 miles

381-A-1; PENZA & GA. R R., 25, blue, Banknote and Eighties, IV (U.S. 210, 212, etc., from 1883 on; with equivalent periods found on Postal Cards, Postal Stationery, and Banknote stamps)



381-A-1

Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D

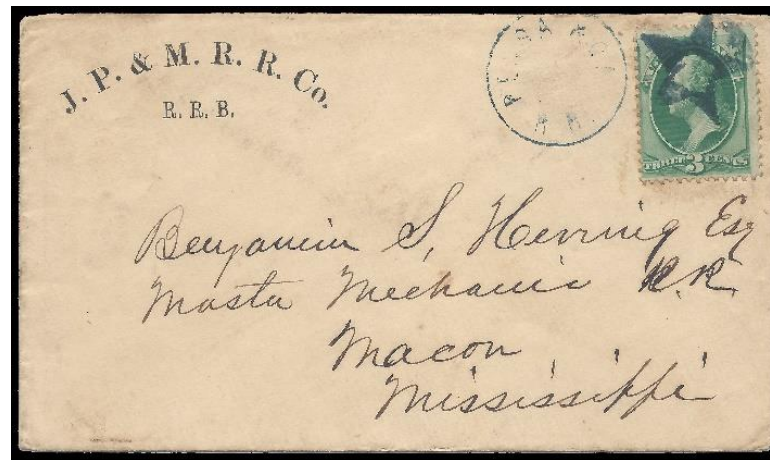


381-A-1

381-A-1a; PENZA & GA. R R., 25, blue, Banknote, IV (Wide "R R" and No date line)



381-A-1



381-A-1a Jacksonville Pensacola & Mobile Rail Road corner card. Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D.



SHERMAN

381-A-2; PENSA. & GA. R.R., 25 black-1870, blue-1874,75, 'Sherman' killer, IV (Route agent's name)
(John H. Sherman was a Mail-Route Agent, 1879-1881, between Live Oak to Chattahoochee, Fla.
In 1881 he was listed as a Route Agent employed between Jacksonville to Chattahoochee, Fla.)



Pensacola & Louisville, R488, RRA, Whiting Junction-Pensacola, AL, FL, 45 miles

408-A-1; P. & L. R.R., 26.5, black, 1876, V

Atlantic & Gulf, R41, RRA, Savannah-Live Oak, GA, FL, 181 miles (1872 - 1879)

350-N-1; SAV. & LIVE OA(K AGT.), 25.5, black, 1877, partial, V Cover 9/17/1878 (from enclosure)

350-N-2; SAV. & LIVE OAK AGT., 25.5, black, Banknote, V



350-N-2 Courtesy of Douglas N. Clark

Pensacola & Louisville, R488, RRA, Whiting Junction-Pensacola, AL, FL, 45 miles (7/16/70 - 11/18/70; 10/24/73-8/1/82)

408-B-1; W. J. & PENSA. AGT., 25.5, black, Banknote, III



408-B-1a; W. J. & PENSA. AGT., 25.5, black, Banknote, III, (Inverted Date)
408-B-1b; W. J. & PENSA. AGT., 25.5, magenta, Banknote, III



408-B-1a

Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D



408-B-1b



408-C-1

408-C-1; W. JUN C. & PENSACOLA AGT., 25.5, black, 1880, III

Du Pont, Ga.-Live Oak, Fla., 49 miles; Savannah, Florida & Western R.R (Charles L. Towle, *Chronicle* 138 / May 1988 / Vol. 40, No.2 page 134)



350-U-1

350-U- 1; DU PONT& LIVE OAK AGT., 26.5, black, 1881, III

Florida Station Agents Postmarks

A station agent was employed by the railroad, not the US Post Office Department (USPOD). Occasionally, when a station agent received loose letters, he would place his ticket cancelling device handstamp to mark the letter as if it was a route agent's handstamp. These letters were treated as if they had officially entered the mails. There is evidence station agents were formally sworn in as USPOD representatives when there was no route agent present to take control of the mail.

- Station Agent was also Postmaster of the town. For reasons of economy or for convenience, ticket stamp was used to postmark mail originating at the combined station-post office. This is probably the most common reason, but to establish a solid basis we need to obtain the names of station agents at these small-town stations-a task on which no progress has been made due to lack of source material and detailed local research that is required. This type will be designated as **Postmaster Station Markings**.
- Station Agent, for the convenience of his patrons and fellow townspeople, would receive letters to be mailed and, to save time and trouble, would apply his ticket stamp and hand letters to route agent or R.P.O. clerk on the train. He may have even pouched mail for the train on occasion. Naturally it would be assumed in such cases that the post office was located at some distance from the railroad station. This practice was not officially banned by the Post Office Dept. until Apr. 15, 1882 and the ban seemingly was ineffective. We will label this type of marking as **Convenience Station Markings**.

Florida Central & Peninsular R.R.

KANAPAHA – 21 miles west of Waldo

380-S-1; F.C. & P.R.R./ KANAPAHA, D. Circle, 32-20.5, blue, 1895, V



380-S-1



385-S-1

PLYMOUTH – 16 miles west of Orlando

385-S-1; F.C. & R.R./Plymouth, D. Circle, 31-20, blue. 1893, V.



380-S-1

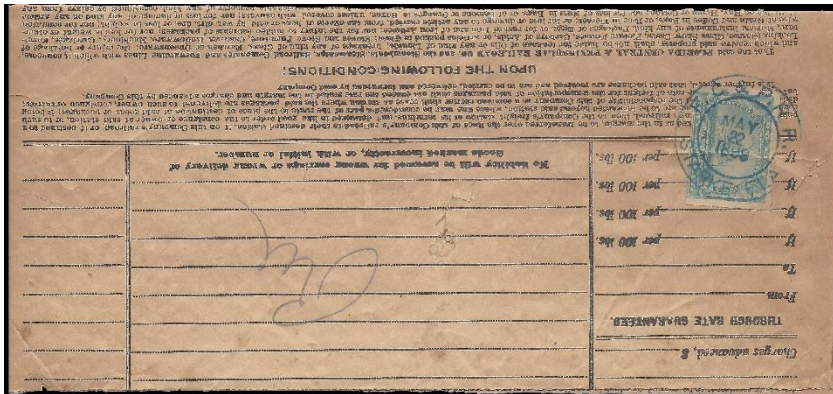


385-S-1 Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M.D.

STARKE, FLA – 12 miles north of Waldo
395.7-S-1; F.C. & P. R.R./STARKE, D. Circle, 31-20, blue, 1899, V

Tavares Orlando & Atlantic R.R.

385-S-1; ORLANDO FLA., D. Circle, 32-20.5, blue, 1888, V



395.7-S-1

Courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M. D.



385-S-1

Acknowledgements

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References

1. Clark, Douglas N. 2000. "Savannah & Live Oak Agt." *Florida Postal History Journal*. Vol. 7(1): 4-5
2. Kay John L. 2000, *Directory of Route Agent Lines – Revised Edition -2000*. Mobile Post Office Society, Holmdel, N.J.
3. Remele, C. W. 1958. *United States Railroad Postmarks, 1837-1861*. 169 p. Illus. + maps.
4. Towle, Charles L. 1975. *The United States Transit Markings Catalog, 1837 to 1974*. v.1.1837-1886, v.2-3.1887-1974, v.4 1996 edition, by Fred MacDonald including work originally begun by Charles L. Towle. Mobile Post Office Society. Later published as Towle, Charles L, & MacDonald, Fred. *The United States Railway Post Office Postmark Catalog 1864-1977*. Published 1990. LL. 1001 p. Shows & classifies markings/killer types. Lists marking, RR name, routes, mileage, rarity factor. Volumes 1 to 3 catalog R.P.O. markings and Volume 4 catalogs Transfer Clerk and Transfer Office markings.
5. Towle, Charles L. 1986. *U. S. Route and Station Agent Postmarks + Historical Supplement*. Mobile Post Office Society, Tucson AZ. HB. 422 p. History of RR & Waterway mail with most postmarks illustrated and rarity value. Index by state, RR & body of water. Two volumes. Supp. 124 p. RR name, date established, construction start/end, mileage, later systems + thirty-one 1883 state maps to locate RR lines.
6. Towle, Charles L. & Kay, John L. 1987. *Waterway Railway Post Offices of The United States*. 32 p. Shows markings. Route designation, terminal, distance, operator, cancels used, value guide.