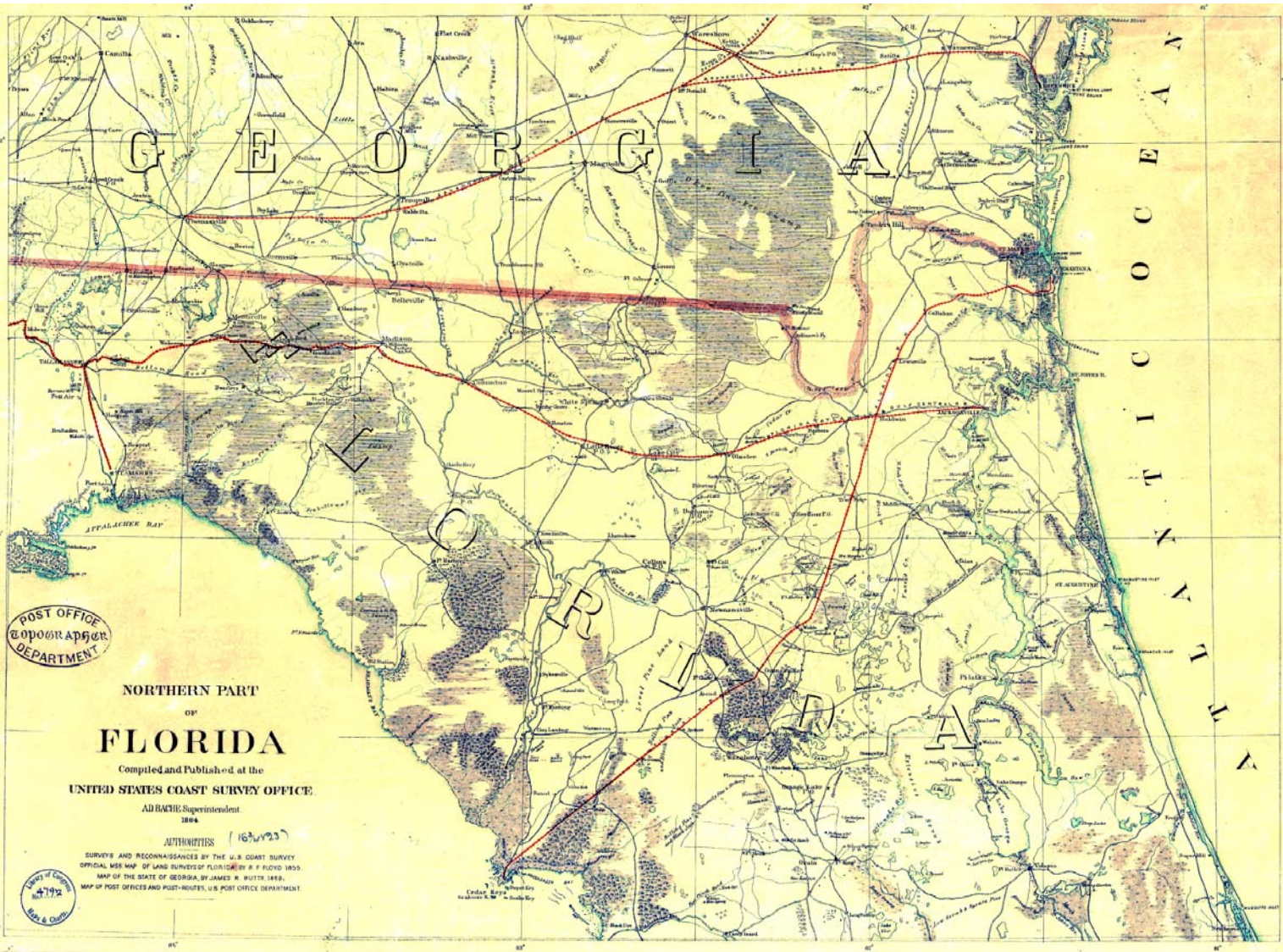


# Florida Confederate Railroad Mail

Tallahassee CSA  
Mid-year Meeting 2017

Thomas Lera

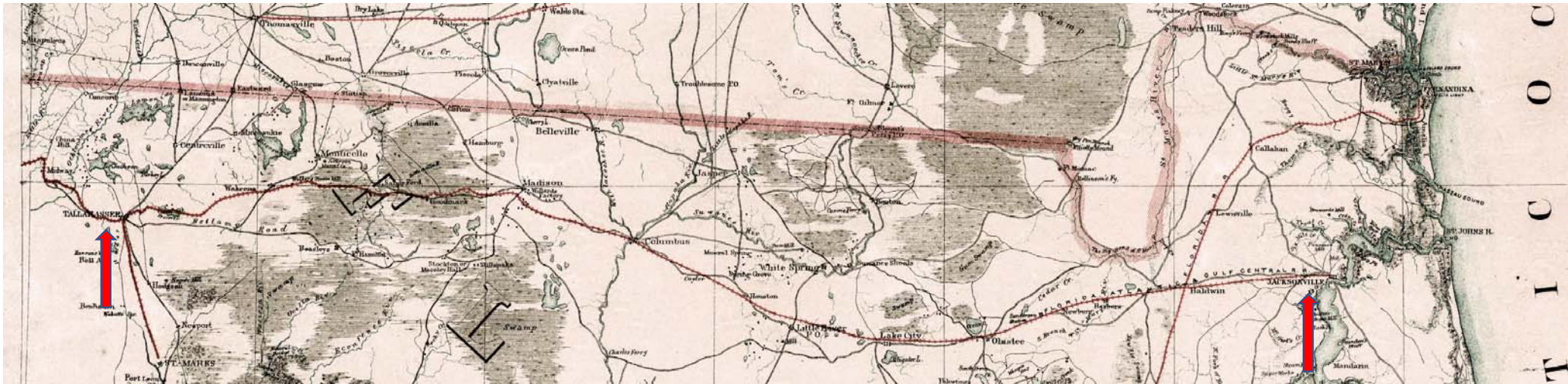


# Florida Confederate Railroads

- Four Railroads Operated
  - Florida Atlantic & Gulf Central – Jacksonville to Tallahassee (Route 6505)
  - Florida Railroad Company – Fernandina to Gainesville, later Cedar Key (Route 6502)
  - Tallahassee Railroad Company – St. Marks to Tallahassee, later to Quincy (Route 6556 and 6583)
  - Alabama & Florida Railroad, later the Mobile & Great Northern Railroad – Pensacola to Mobile Ala. (Route 6574)

Cover images are courtesy of Deane R. Briggs, M.D., except where noted

# Florida, Atlantic and Gulf Central Railroad

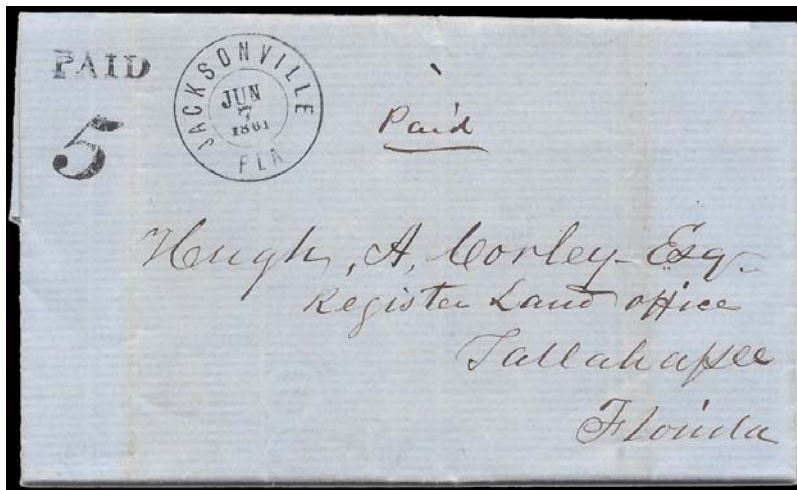
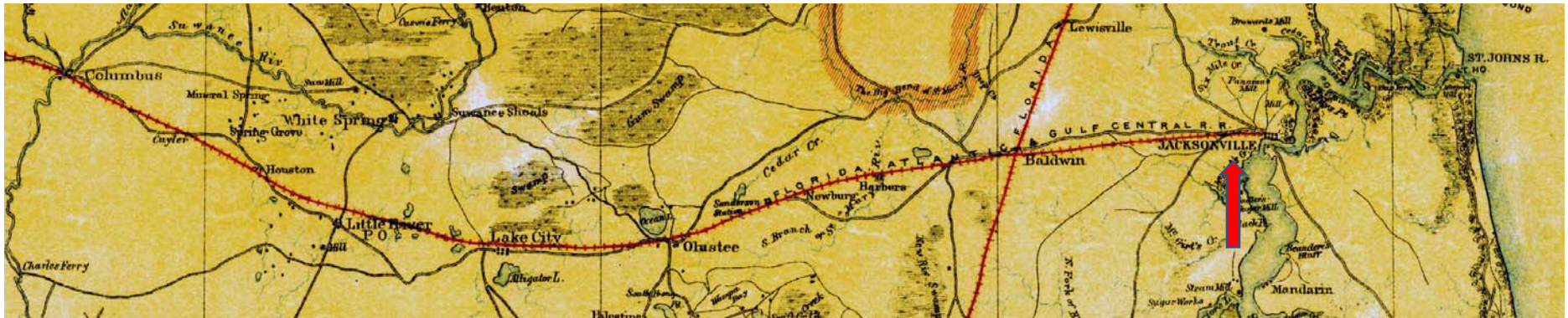


Route 6505: Jacksonville to Tallahassee -- 194 miles

With stops at Baldwin, Barbers, Newberg, Lake City, Little River, Spring Grove, Columbus, Suwanee Mills, Madison, Sandy Ford, Monticello, Walker's Mills, Bailey Mill, and Chaires then to Tallahassee

# Route 6505: Jacksonville

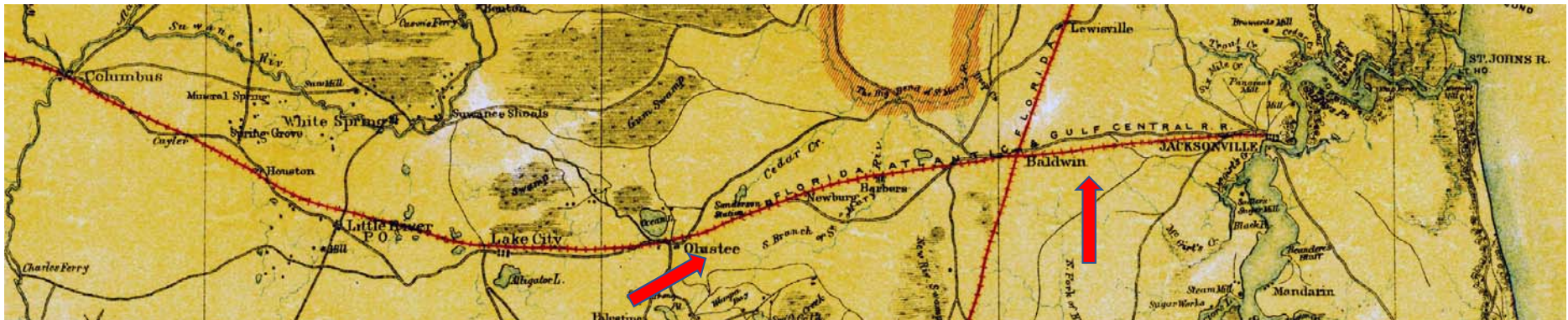
Eastern portion from Jacksonville to Columbus map.



The town was named after Florida's first provisional military governor, Andrew Jackson. Route 6505, Jacksonville to Tallahassee with daily except Sunday service was used until the Federal occupation of March 11, 1862 when the Confederate post office was discontinued. A total of three occupations occurred from 1862 - 1864 with subsequent evacuations until the final fourth Federal occupation on February 7, 1864, when a Union occupation post office became operational. There are several Confederate covers addressed to Jacksonville troops stationed in the field or in the town between occupations, but a Confederate post office was never re-opened.

Jacksonville June 7, 1861 postmark with Paid 5 type A rate  
courtesy, William H. Johnson, D.D.S.

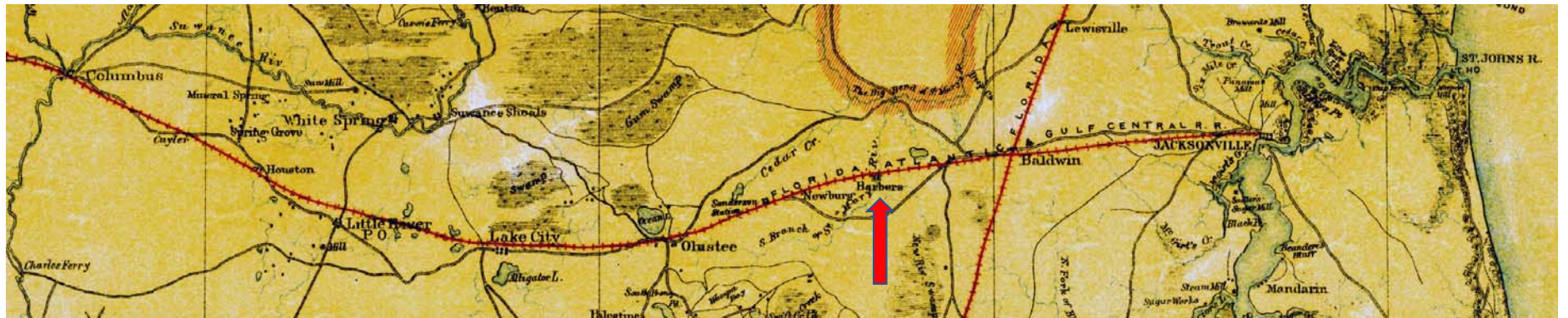
# Route 6505: Baldwin



Baldwin was named after Dr. A. S. Baldwin, a Confederate surgeon, who with David Yulee established the Florida Rail Road. Samuel Lowe, an earlier U.S. postmaster, became Confederate postmaster with appointment on July 25, 1861. The mail for Baldwin was handled by Confederate postal route 6502, Fernandina to Gainesville and by route **6505**, Jacksonville to Tallahassee, both with daily except Sunday service.

Baldwin Fla April 16<sup>th</sup> 1864 Due 10 cover from soldier who fought in the Battle of Oluatee

# Route 6505: Barbers

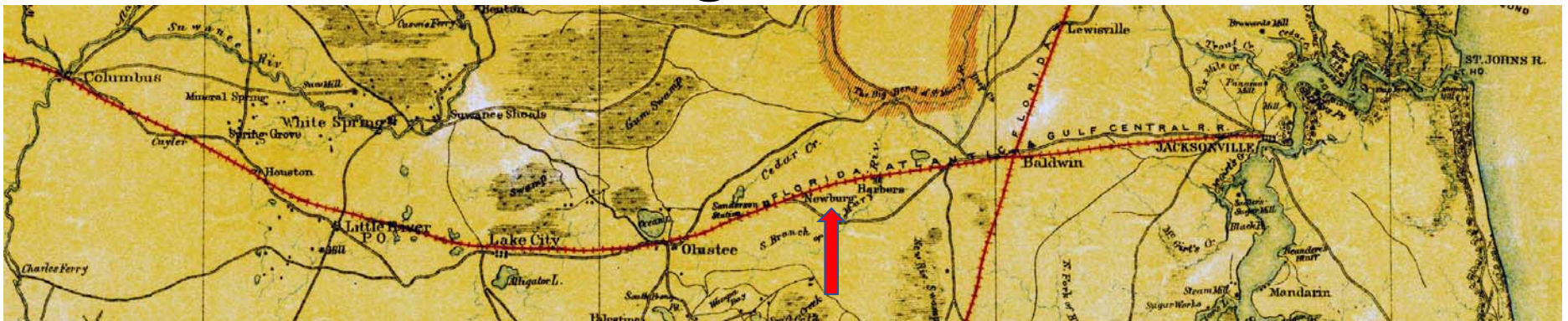


Barber's post office was established on December 10, 1848, along the post road connecting Jacksonville with Lake City on the western side of the South Branch of the St. Mary's River.

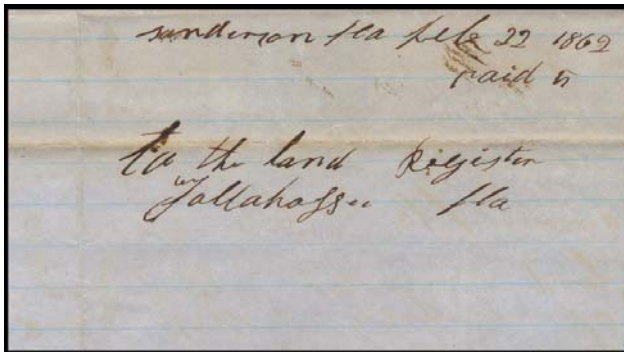
The post office was discontinued on February 5, 1861. Barbers was listed as a depot stop on Route 6505, Jacksonville to Tallahassee with the Florida Atlantic and Gulf Central Railroad as contractor. No Confederate post office was established or postmaster appointment granted.

No Independent State or Confederate covers are recorded.

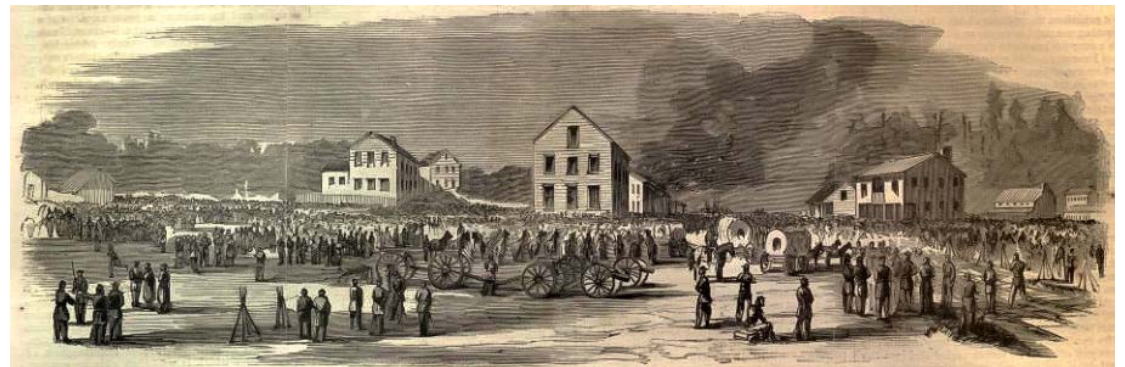
# Route 6505: Newberg later Sanderson Station



Newburgh was established June 28, 1856, on the postal route between Jacksonville and Lake City. The post office was discontinued on September 17, 1859, as name change to Sanderson Station.

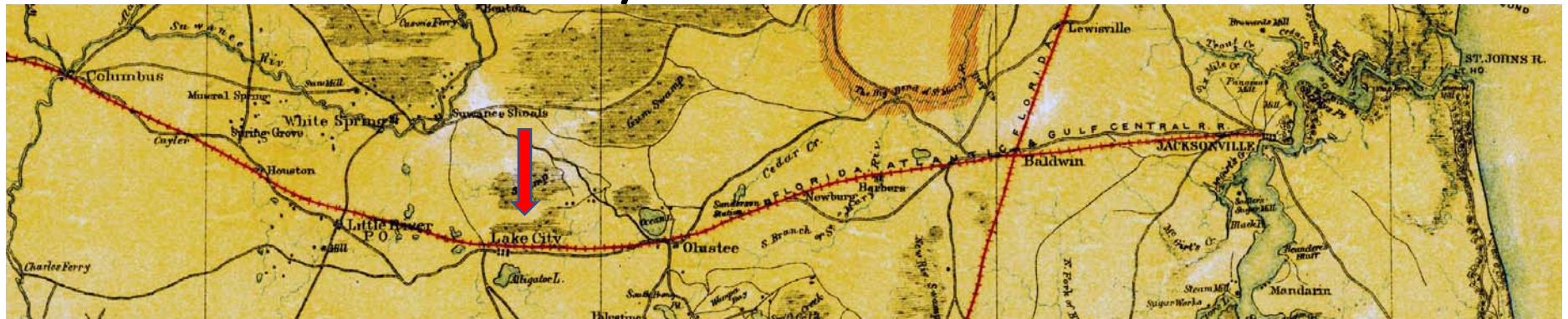


Sanderson Fla, Feb 22, 1862, paid 5, manuscript postmark and rate  
(courtesy of Florida State Archives)

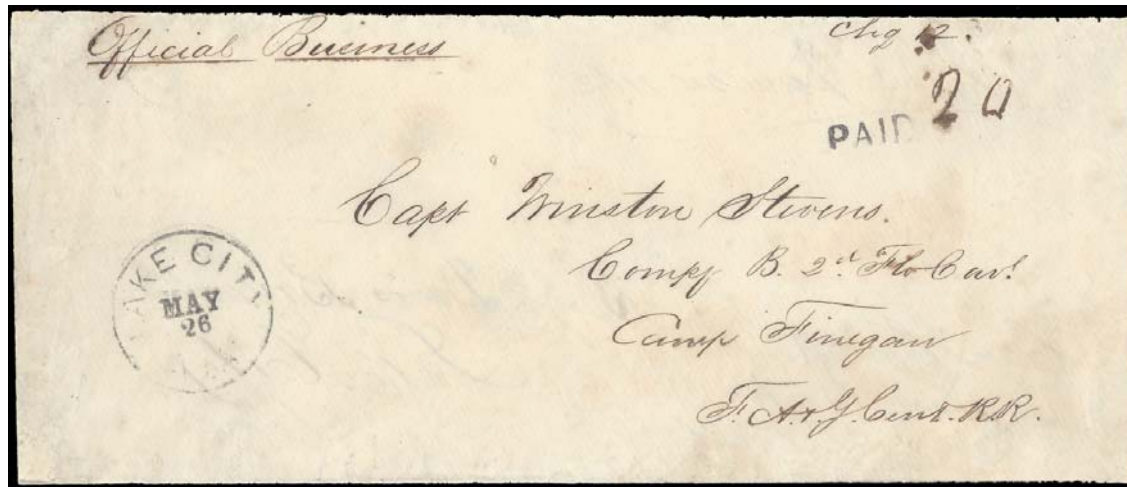


Sanderson Depot from *Harpers Weekly*, March 12, 1864

# Route 6505: Lake City



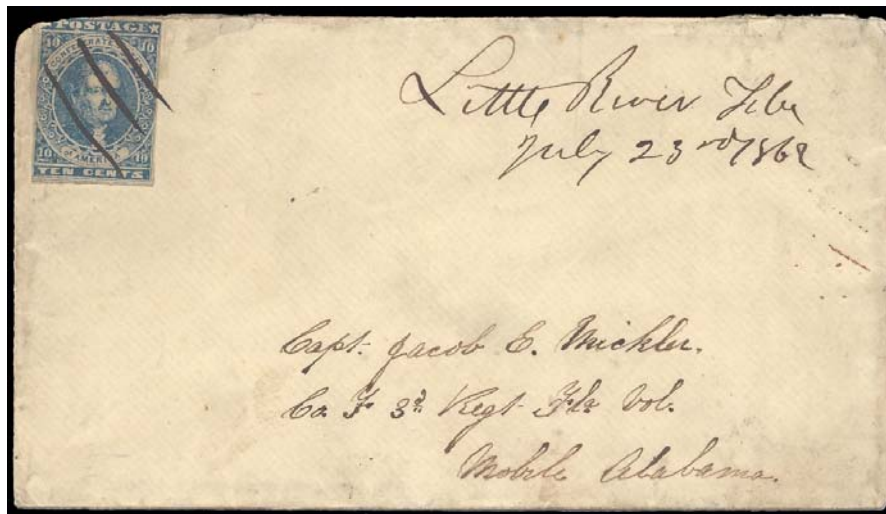
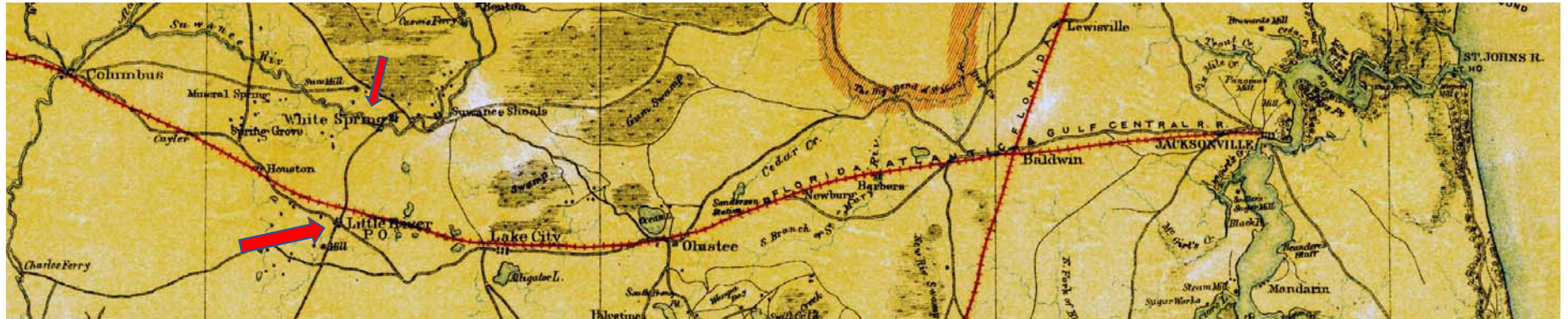
Lake City was established as a name change from Alligator March 11, 1859. Situated at a crossing of many post roads, it was a major station on the Florida Atlantic & Gulf Central Rail Road, serving as a commissary supply center. Lake City postal routes **6505**, 6543, 6544, 6545, 6546, and 6547, serviced most of the state.



Lake City, May 26 postmark with Paid 20 rate.



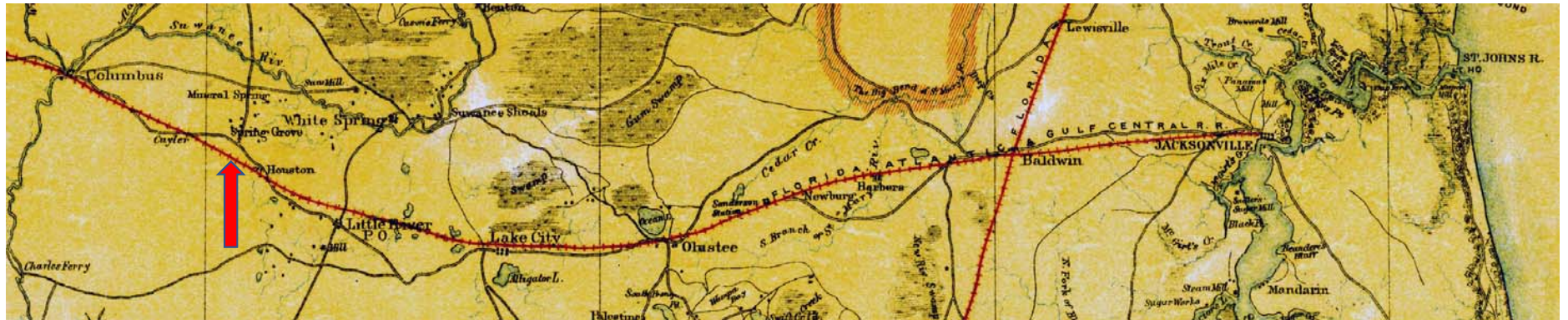
# Route 6505: Little River



Little River was established on January 15, 1841, on the post road connecting Tallahassee and Lake City. It was also on a small road from White Springs a few miles to the north and a station on the Florida Atlantic and Gulf Central Rail Road. Mail was handled by postal route 6505, Jacksonville to Tallahassee with daily except Sunday service.

Little River Fla July 23, 1862 manuscript postmark with pen tied #2.

# Route 6505: Spring Grove



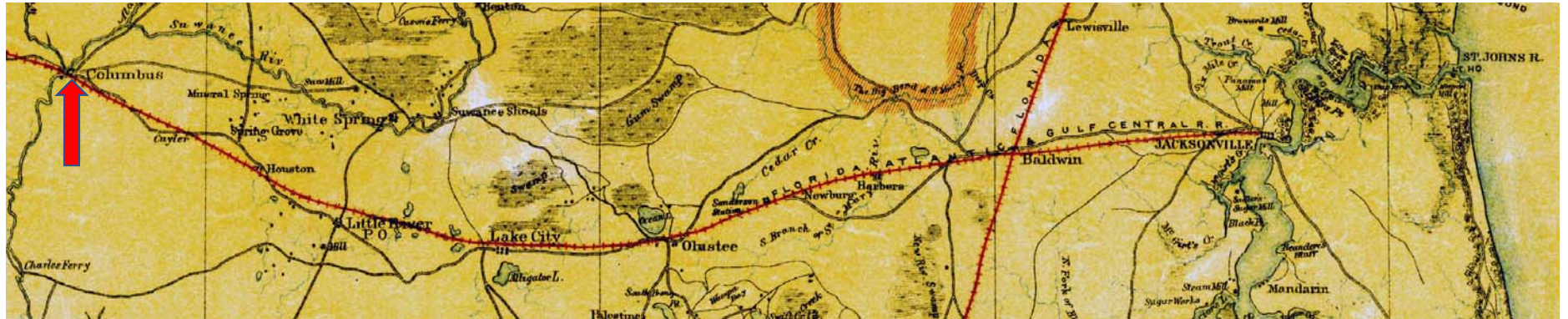
Spring Grove was established on June 23, 1856, and was on route 6505, between Columbus and Little River on the Florida Atlantic & Gulf R.R.

There is no record of a Confederate postmaster appointment. The CSPOD discontinued the post office in 1861.

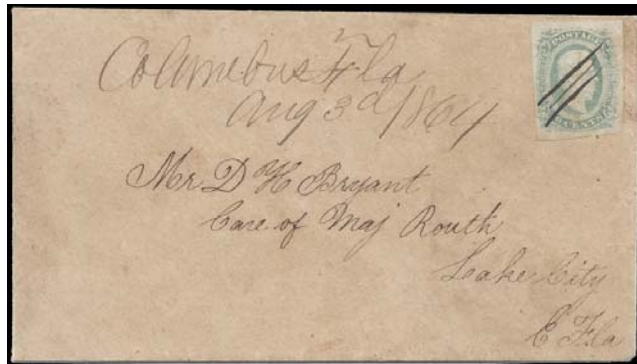
The USPOD did not re-establish a post office after the war.

No Confederate covers are recorded despite the large postal volume during the Independent State and Confederate period.

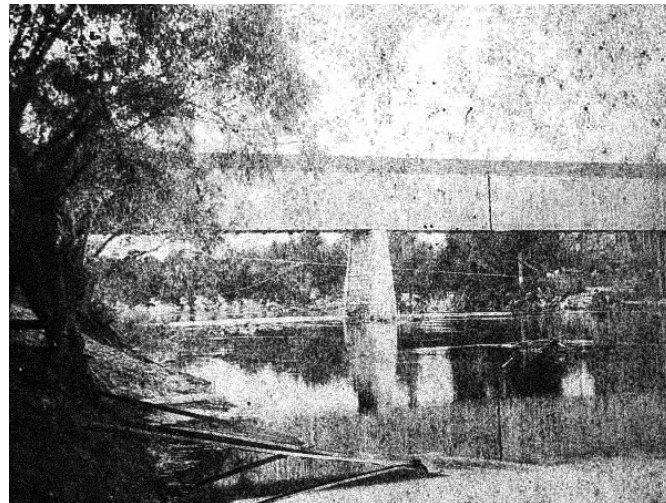
# Route 6505: Columbus



There is a record of a name change from Suwannee Mills, with that post office having been established by the CPOD as a station stop between Columbus and Madison.



Columbus Fla Aug 3d 1864 manuscript postmark with pen cancelled #11.



Covered railroad bridge over Suwannee River at Columbus / Ellaville. Courtesy of State Archives of Florida

# Route 6505: Suwannee Mills

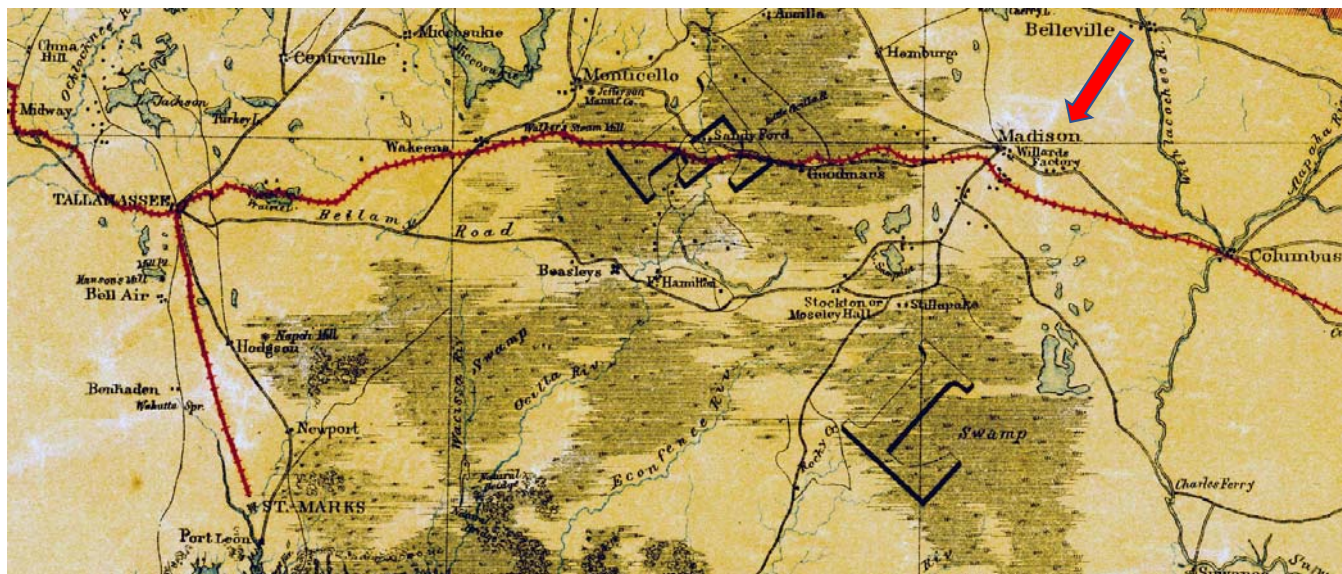


Western portion of Florida Atlantic and Gulf Central Rail Road from Columbus to Tallahassee Map

No town named Suwannee Mills ever had a Florida post office. It may have been a depot stop between Columbus and Madison on the Florida Atlantic and Gulf Central Rail Road. There is a Confederate record of both the establishment of a Suwannee Mills post office and its discontinuation with a name change to Columbus before January 1, 1864. Whether the CPOD actually established a Confederate post office at Suwannee Mills is unclear, but if so, it would only have functioned between June 1 and July 25, 1861.

No Confederate covers are recorded.

# Route 6505: Madison

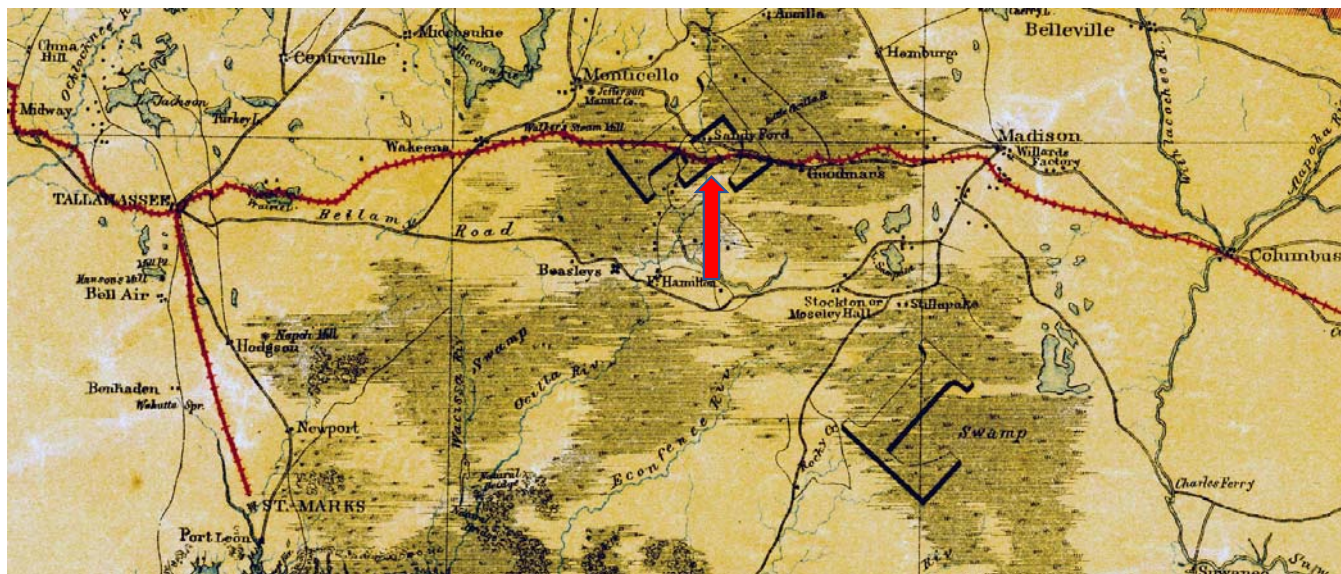


Madison, named for President James Madison, was established on April 6, 1839, as the county seat of Madison County. Its location made it a major center for postal routes 6094, **6505**, 6545, 6551, and 6553. Confederate postmaster Samuel J. Perry is recorded to have had the “Madison provisionals” printed.

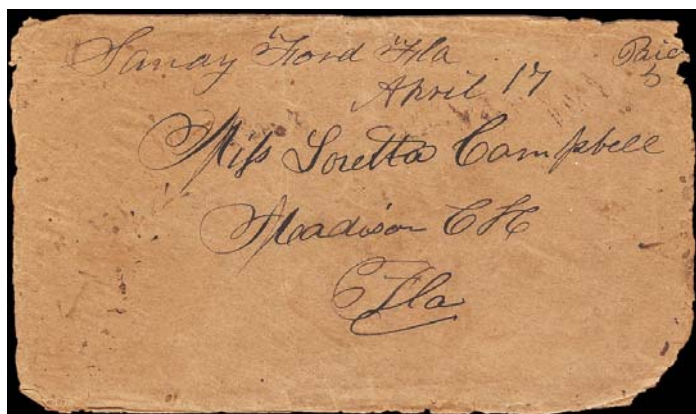


Madison Fla Feb 5 manuscript postmark with pen cancelled strip of 10 CSA #7 on cover, is the largest multiple from Florida.

# Route 6505: Sandy Ford

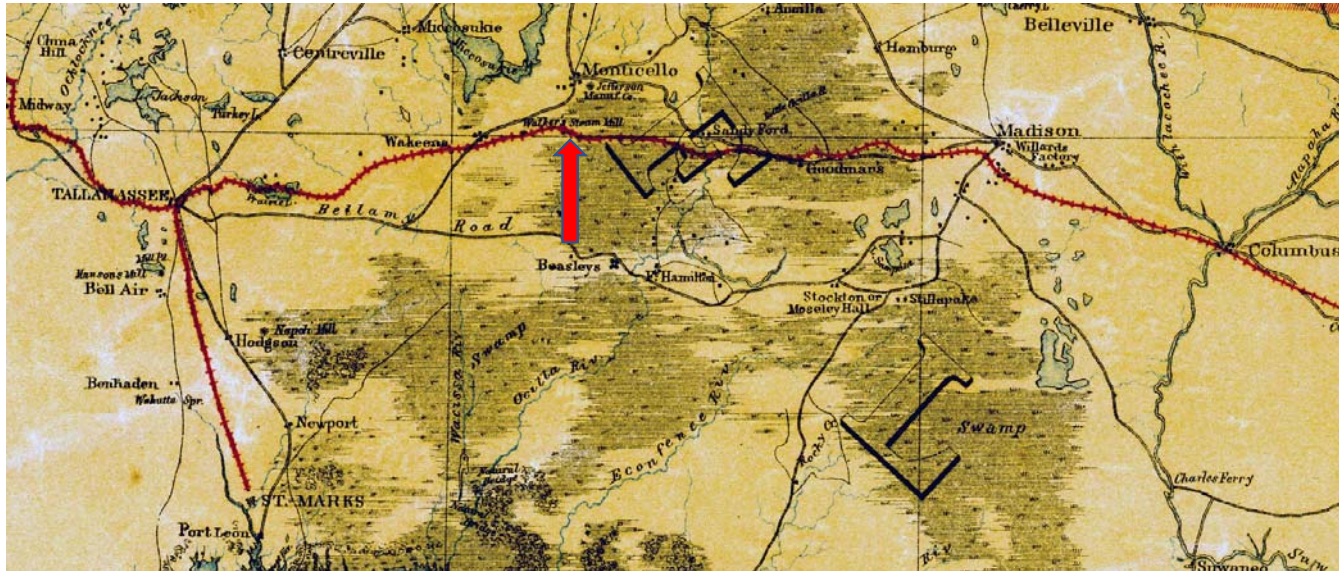


Sandy Ford was established December 20, 1851, on the Aucilla River along the main post road between Monticello and Madison.



Sandy Ford Fla April 17 [1862] Paid 5, the known stampless example, courtesy of Edward Joyce.

# Route 6505: Monticello



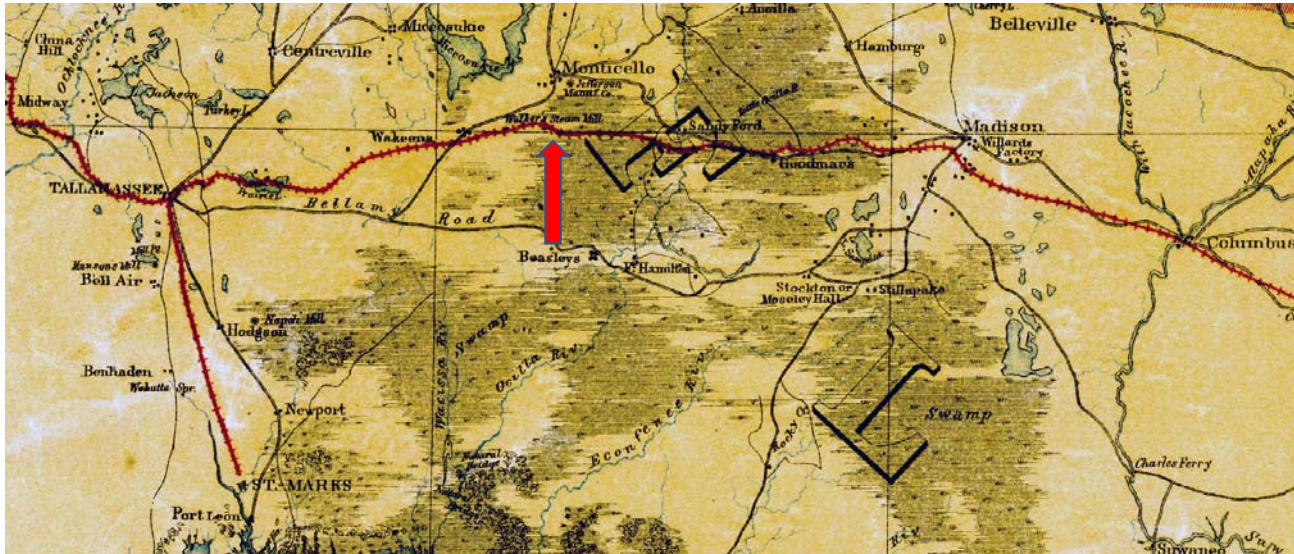
Monticello was formerly an Indian town and was originally surveyed for the County Seat of Jefferson County.

The present court house in the town square is patterned after Jefferson's home, "Monticello".



Monticello Flor. Oct 10 [1861] PAID 5 type A.

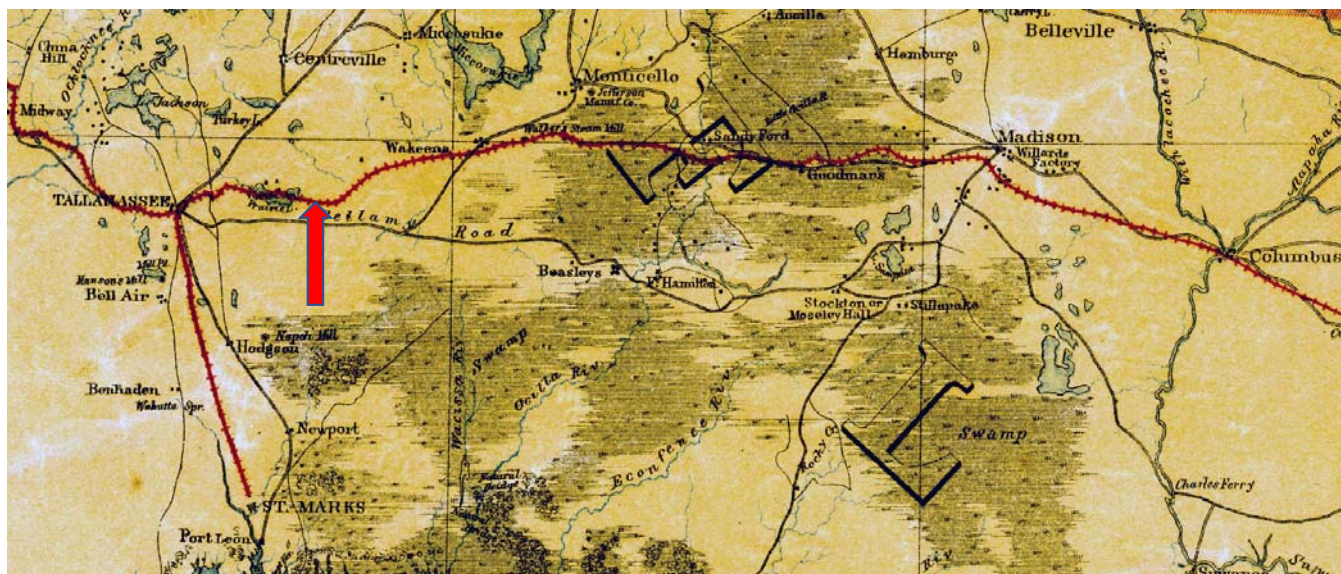
# Route 6505: Walker's Steam Mill



No Confederate covers are recorded.



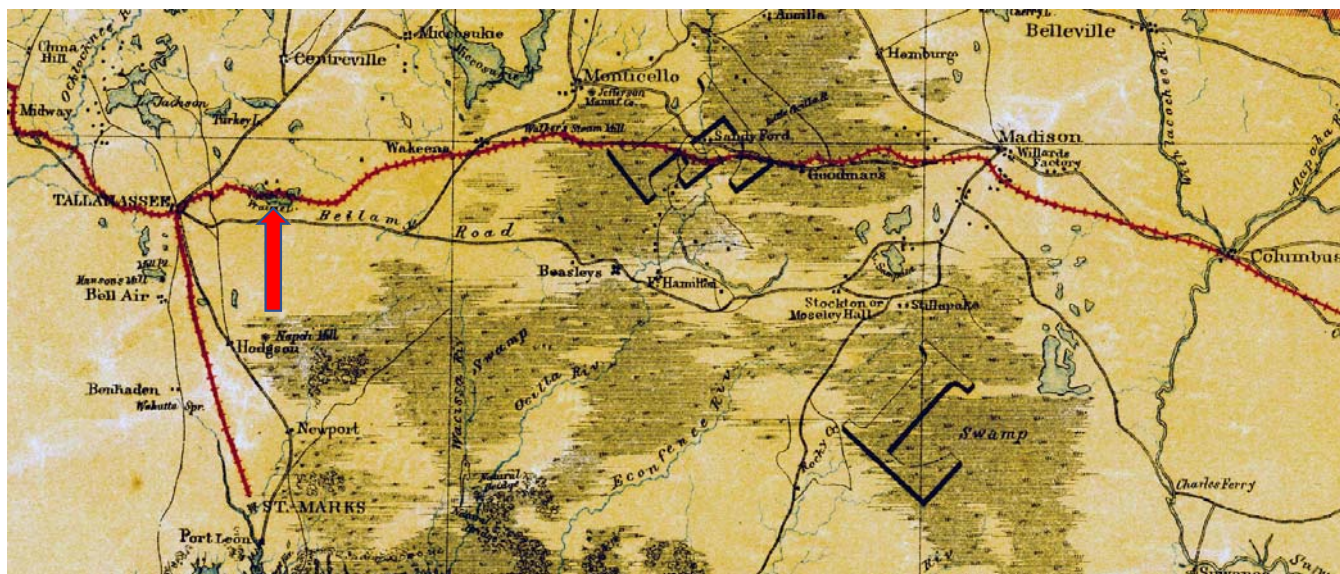
# Route 6505: Bailey's Mill



Bailey's Mill was located east of Tallahassee. Independent State usage and two Confederate adhesive usages are recorded.

Baileys Mill, Flo Jan 14, [1861] Independent State Usage with grid cancelled #26

# Route 6505: Chaires



Several miles east of Tallahassee, Chaire's post office was established in Leon County on the road to Waukeena. It was named for the first postmaster, Green A. Chaires, likely a general store owner.

The U.S. post office was discontinued on March 24, 1860.

There is a record of Chaires being on postal route **6505**, Jacksonville to Tallahassee, being discontinued before January 1864.

No Confederate covers are recorded No Confederate postmaster was appointed and no mail was recorded.

# Route 6505: Tallahassee

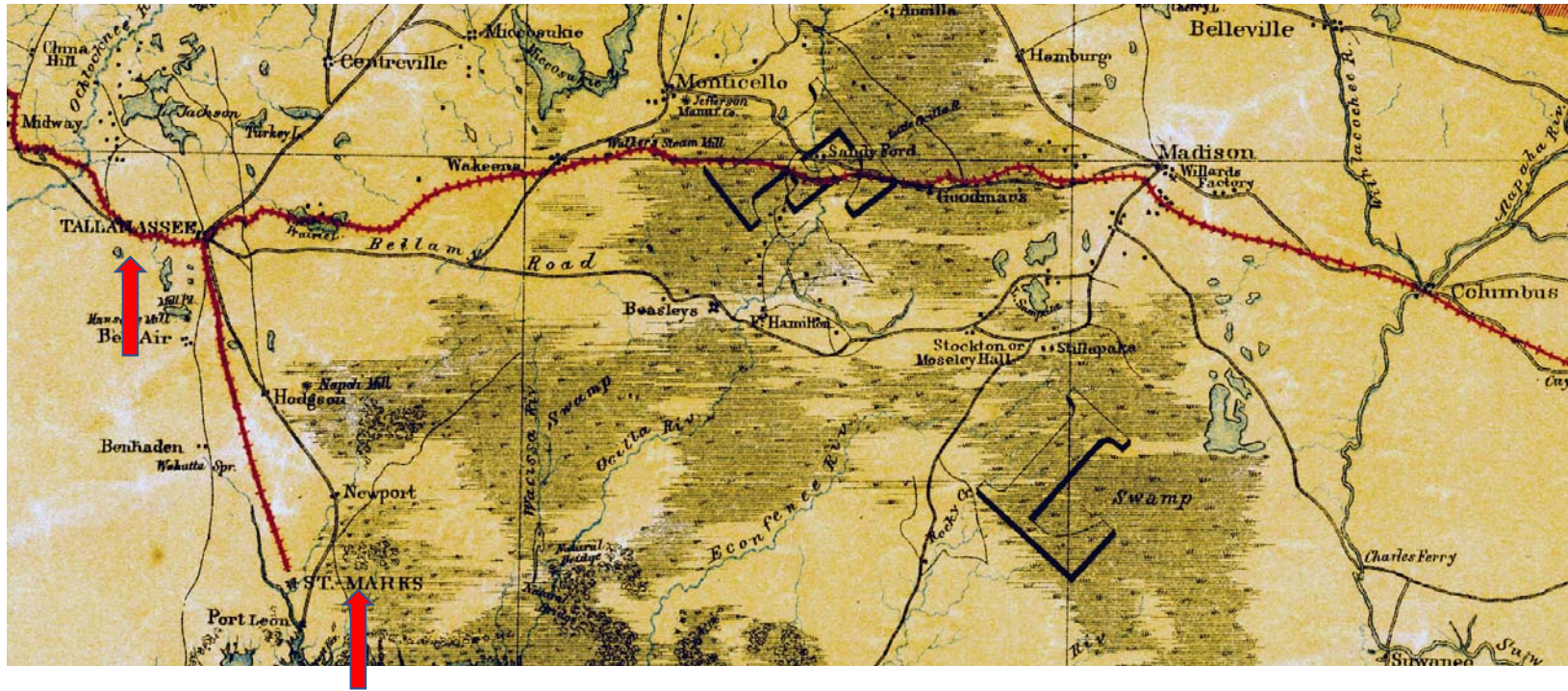


Tallahassee, meaning "old town" is named from the Creek words "talwa" (town) and "ahassee" (old). It was established on May 1, 1825, and was a major intersection of east-west and north-south post roads. It was the only Confederate State Capital east of the Mississippi River that was not occupied at some point during the war by Federal forces. Mail was handled by routes **6083**, 6086, **6505**, **6556**, 6558, 6559, and 6560.



Tallahassee Fla Aug 27 PAID 10 type B on cover to Jacksonville after the Union occupation

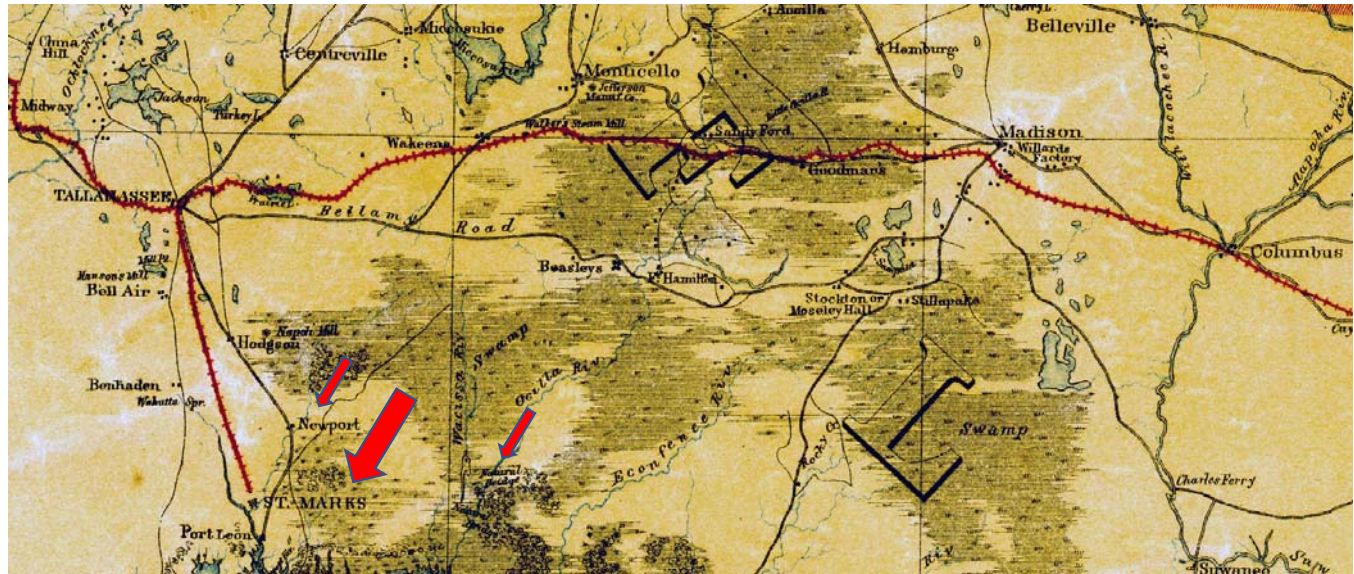
# Tallahassee Railroad Company



21.75 miles from St. Marks to Tallahassee

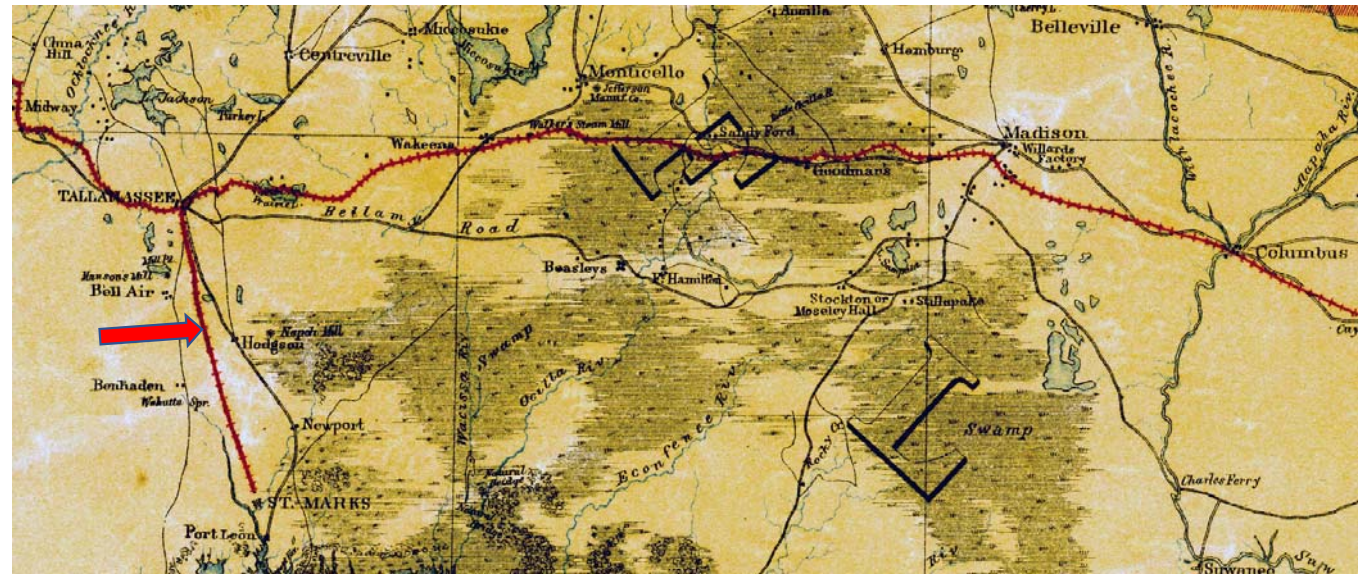
# Route 6556: St. Marks

St Marks Fla Feb 20 postmark  
with PAID 10 type C rate on cover.



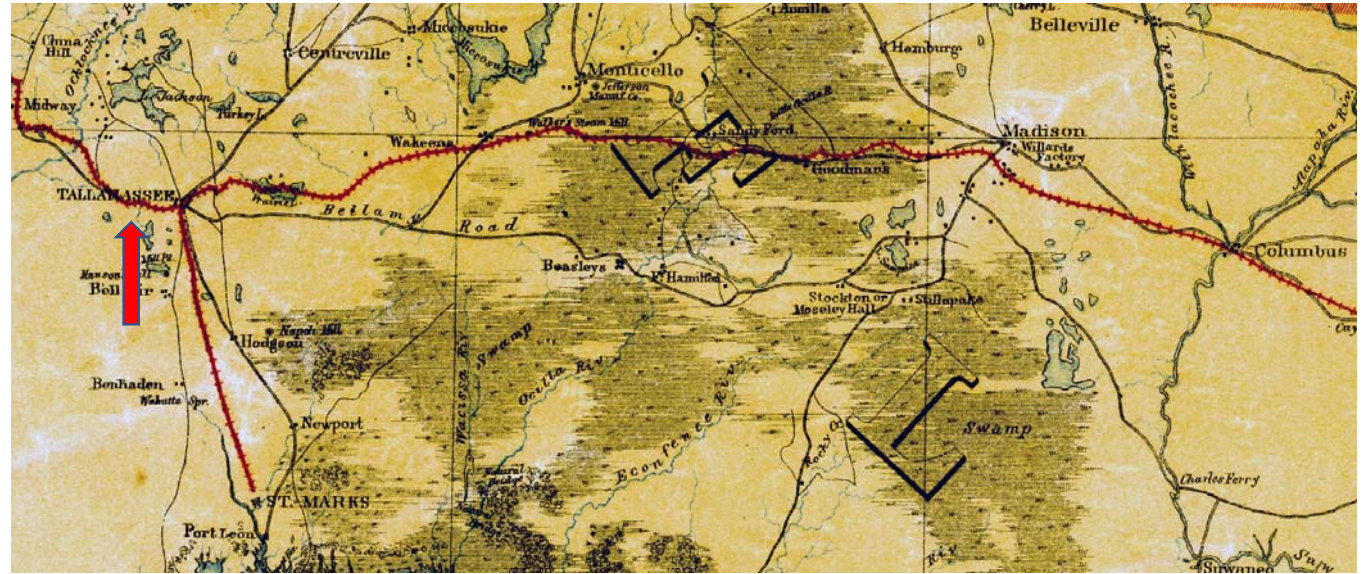
St. Marks was a major Gulf port active in blockade running, salt production, and was also the location of Confederate Fort Ward. A small Confederate steamer, the CSS Spray, assisted in the defense of the town, fort, and nearby Newport. The Federal forces attempting to capture St. Marks and Fort Ward in March 1865, were defeated at the Battle of Natural Bridge.

# Route 6556: Hodgson's Distillery



No Confederate covers are recorded.

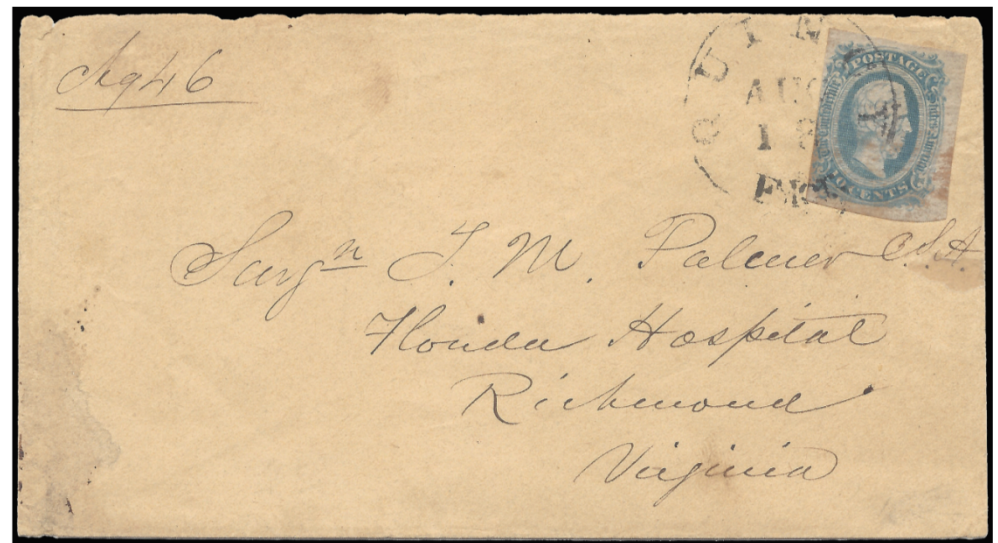
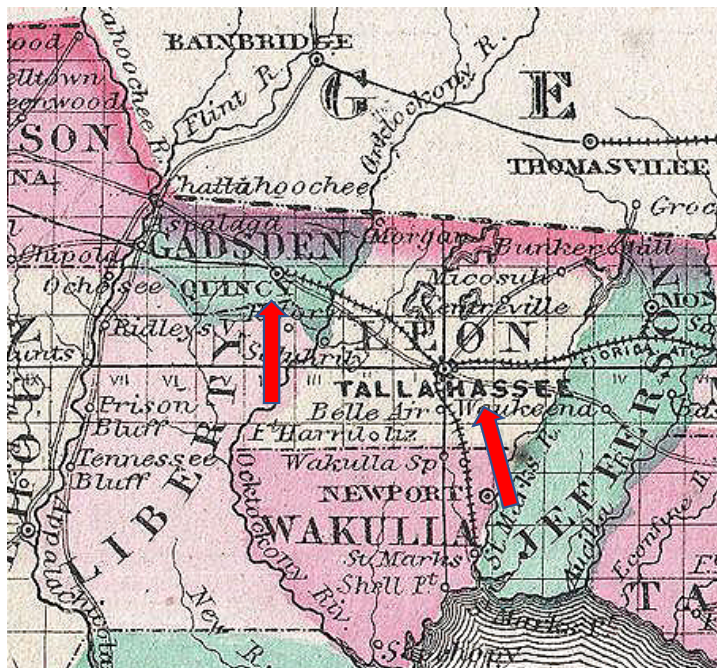
# Route 6556: Tallahassee



St. Marks Fla postmark ties #12 to cover. The letter was placed on Route **6083** Tallahassee to Albany Georgia where it was again transferred to another Georgia route for delivery to Athens.

# Route 6083: Albany, Ga. To Tallahassee

Albany, Ga. to Bainbridge, Ga., to Quincy finally to Tallahassee (105.5 miles each way). The Quincy to Tallahassee service was on the Tallahassee Railroad.



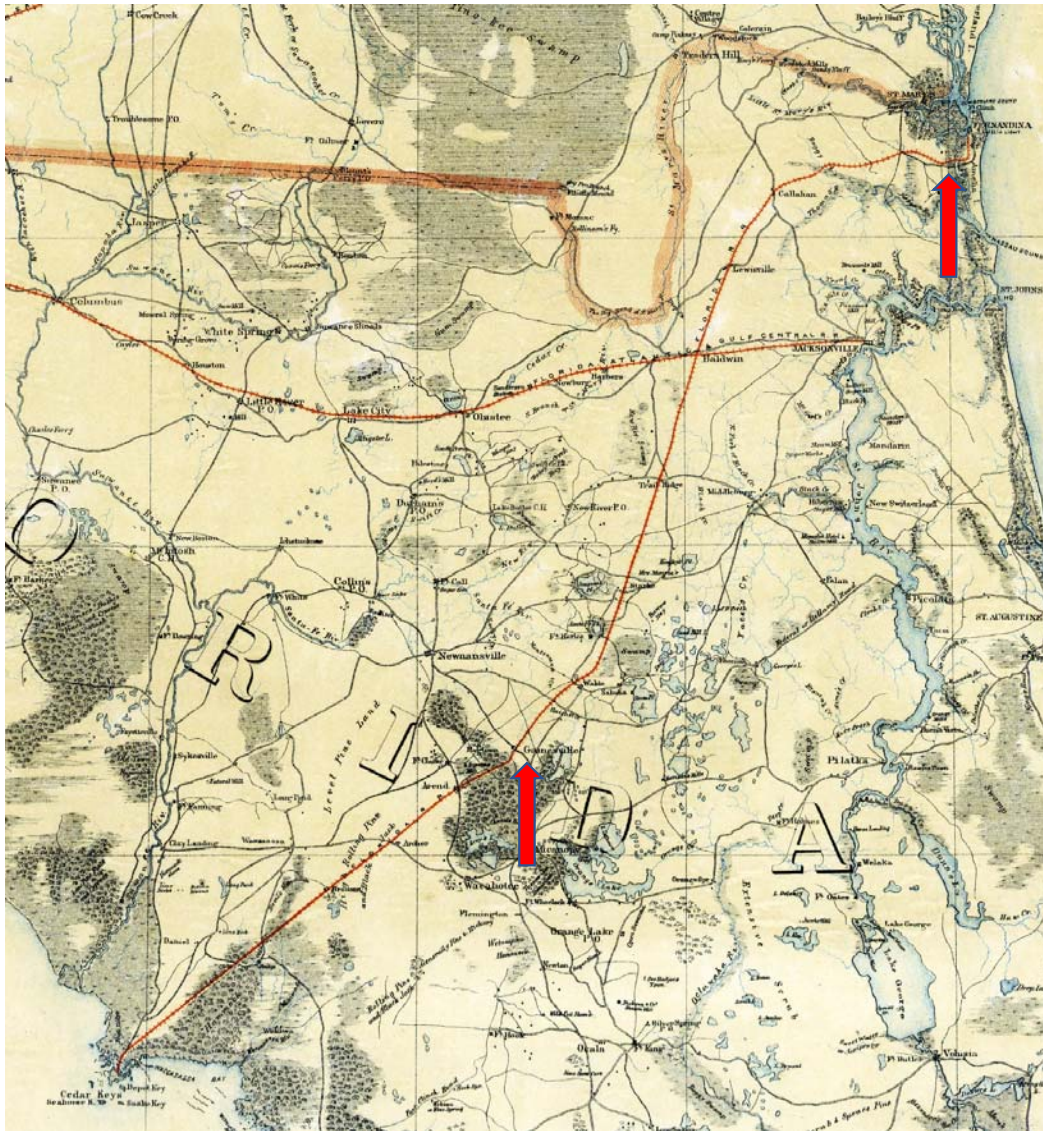
QUINCY Flor. AUG 18 postmark ties CSA #11 on cover to Surgeon Thomas M. Palmer at the Florida Hospital in Richmond. All Confederate states were required to fund hospitals for their wounded troops.



# Florida Railroad Company

Route 6502:  
Fernandina to Gainesville

With stops at  
Fernandina, Hart's Road, Callahan,  
Baldwin, Trail Ridge, Geigersville,  
Starke, Waldo, and Gainesville

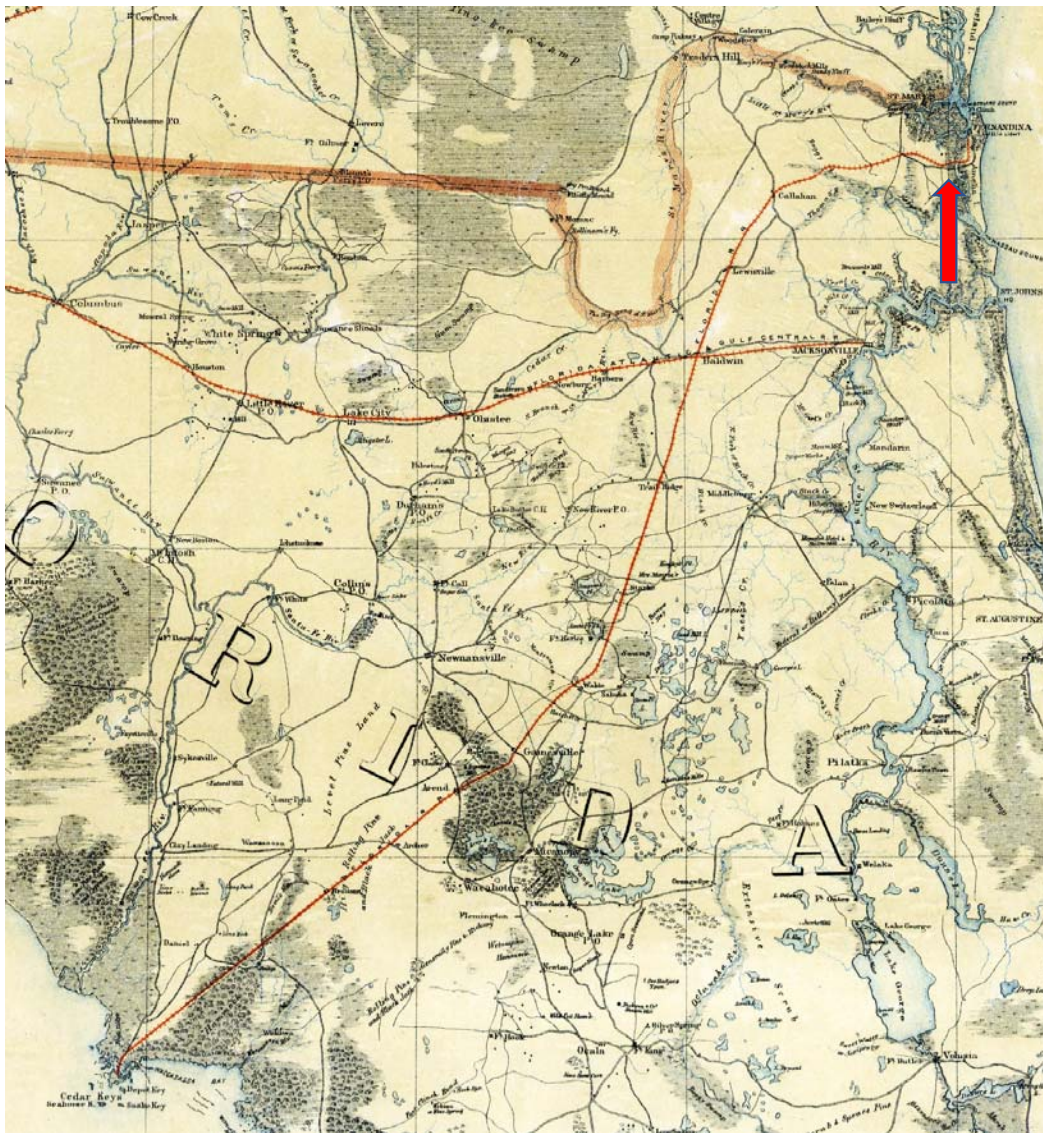


## Route 6502: Fernandina

Because of the Federal blockade, Route **6502**, Fernandina to Gainesville on the Florida Rail Road, functioned until Fernandina was occupied by Federal forces on March 4, 1862.



“Fernandina Mar 5-62” and “Paid 5” manuscript postmark and rate on post-evacuation cover, which likely entered the mail at Hart’s Road Station.



## Route 6502: Hart's Road

Hart's Road was located about twenty miles north of Jacksonville, between Fernandina and Callahan. There was never a Confederate post office at Hart's Road, but several covers are recorded addressed to soldiers at Hart's Road Station which functioned as a military supply depot.



1862 cover addressed to Hart's Road Station,  
Fla R. Rd, E. Fla.

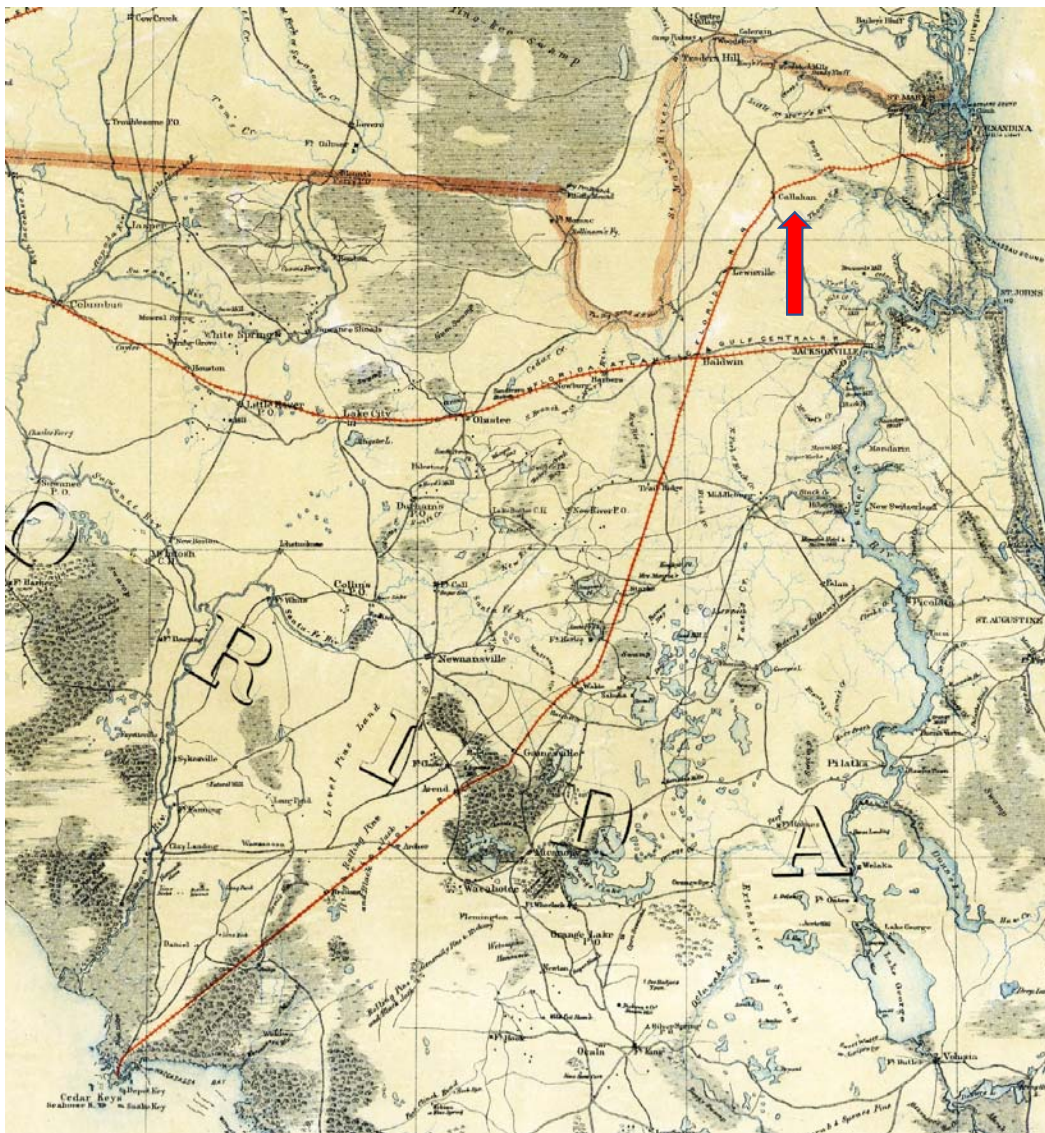
## Route 6502: Callahan

Callahan, named for a contractor of the Florida Rail Road, was established on January 19, 1858, as a station where the Florida Rail Road intersected the post road from Woodstock to Jacksonville.

Callahan was also on three different Confederate postal routes:

- 6503 Callahan to Trader's Hill, Ga.,
- 6504 (1501) Lewisville to Callahan,
- 6505 Jacksonville to Tallahassee.

No Confederate covers are recorded

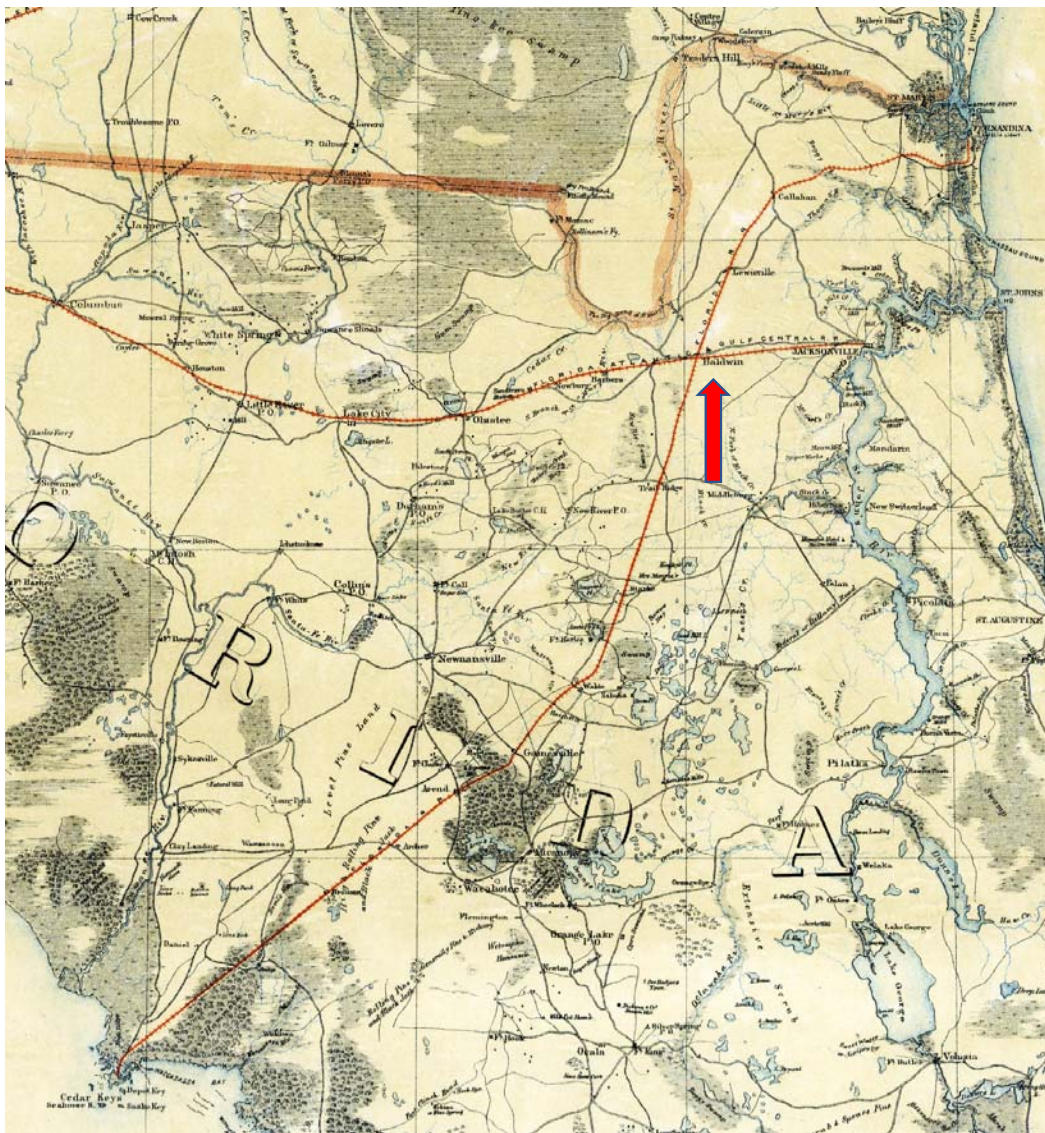


## Route 6502: Baldwin

Baldwin was named after Dr. A. S. Baldwin, an antebellum legislator and Confederate surgeon, who with David Yulee established the Florida Rail Road. The town was established on August 19, 1857, at the intersection of the Florida Atlantic & Gulf Central Rail Road, the Florida Rail Road, and post road connecting Jacksonville with Lake City. It was a major military rail center during the civil war.



Bawldwin [sic] Fla April 25<sup>th</sup> manuscript



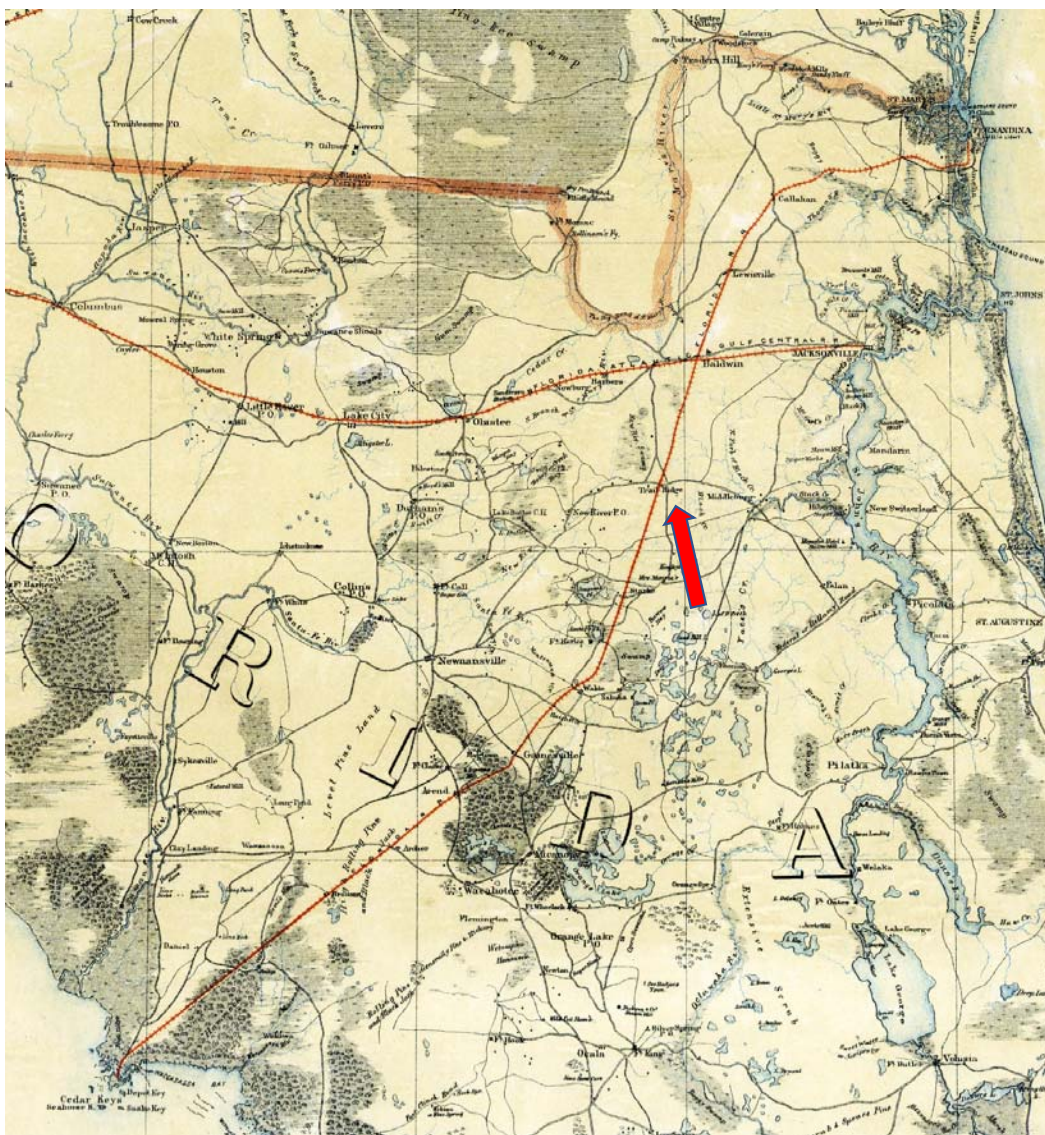
## Route 6502: Trail Ridge

Trail Ridge, established November 17, 1857, as a name change from Prescott's Store. It was also a station stop on the Florida Rail Road between Baldwin and Starke.

John Hicks was appointed Confederate postmaster on August 30, 1861, and after his resignation, B.H. Kaul on January 24, 1862, but according to official records, discontinued the Trail Ridge post office at some time prior to January 1, 1864.

It is unclear if this discontinuation was only a record keeping entry when the county name changed from Bradford to Clay County.

No Confederate covers are recorded.

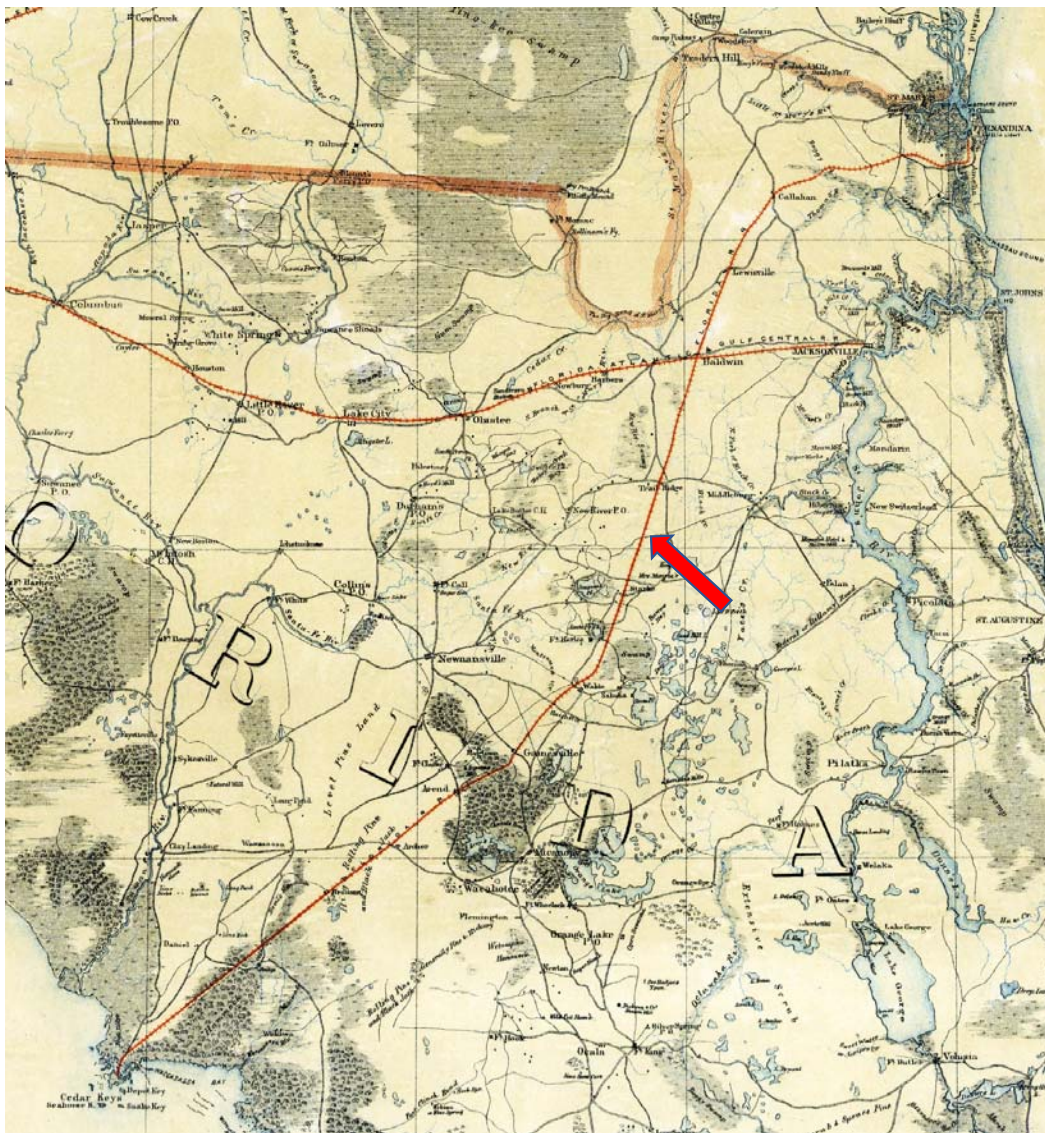


# Route 6502: Geigersville

Geigersville was established as a new Confederate Florida post office, with John Stockman receiving a Confederate postmaster appointment on September 25, 1861.

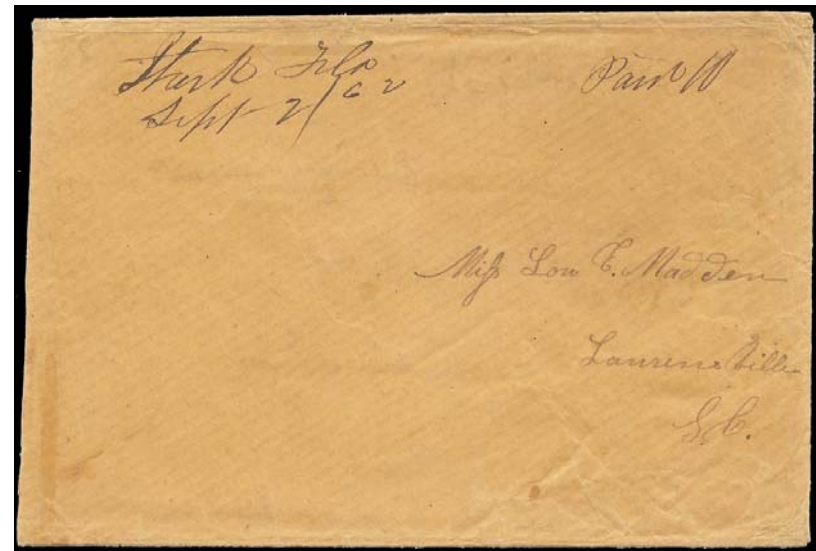
Mail was handled on postal route **6502**, Fernandina to Gainesville on the Florida Rail Road. It is likely this was a depot on the Florida Rail Road, located between Trail Ridge and Starke.

No Confederate covers are recorded.

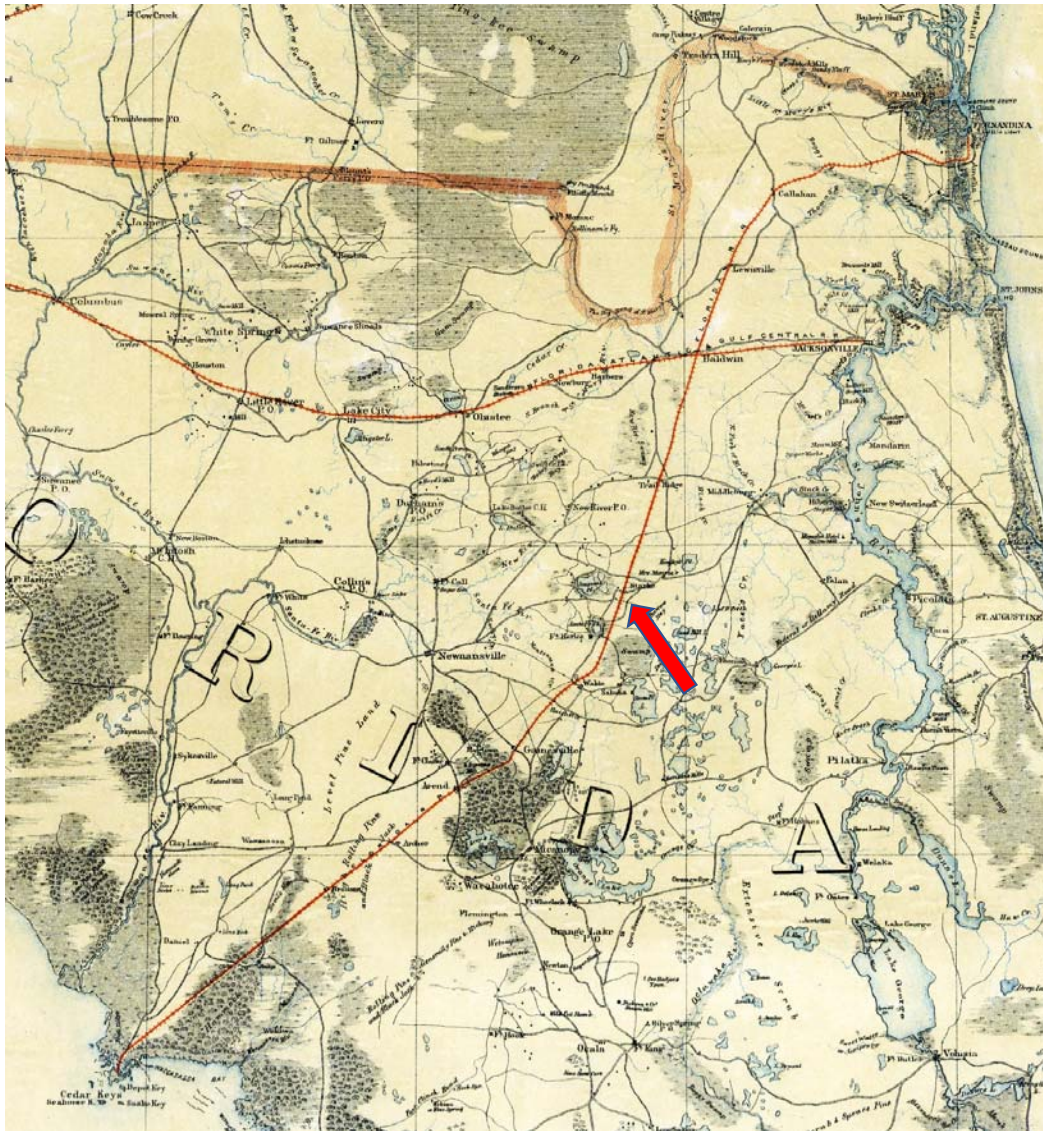


# Route 6502: Starke

Starke, allegedly named in honor of Governor Madison Starke Perry, was established November 17, 1857 as a station along the Florida Rail Road.



Starke Fla Sept 2 / [18]62 Paid 10 rate in manuscript



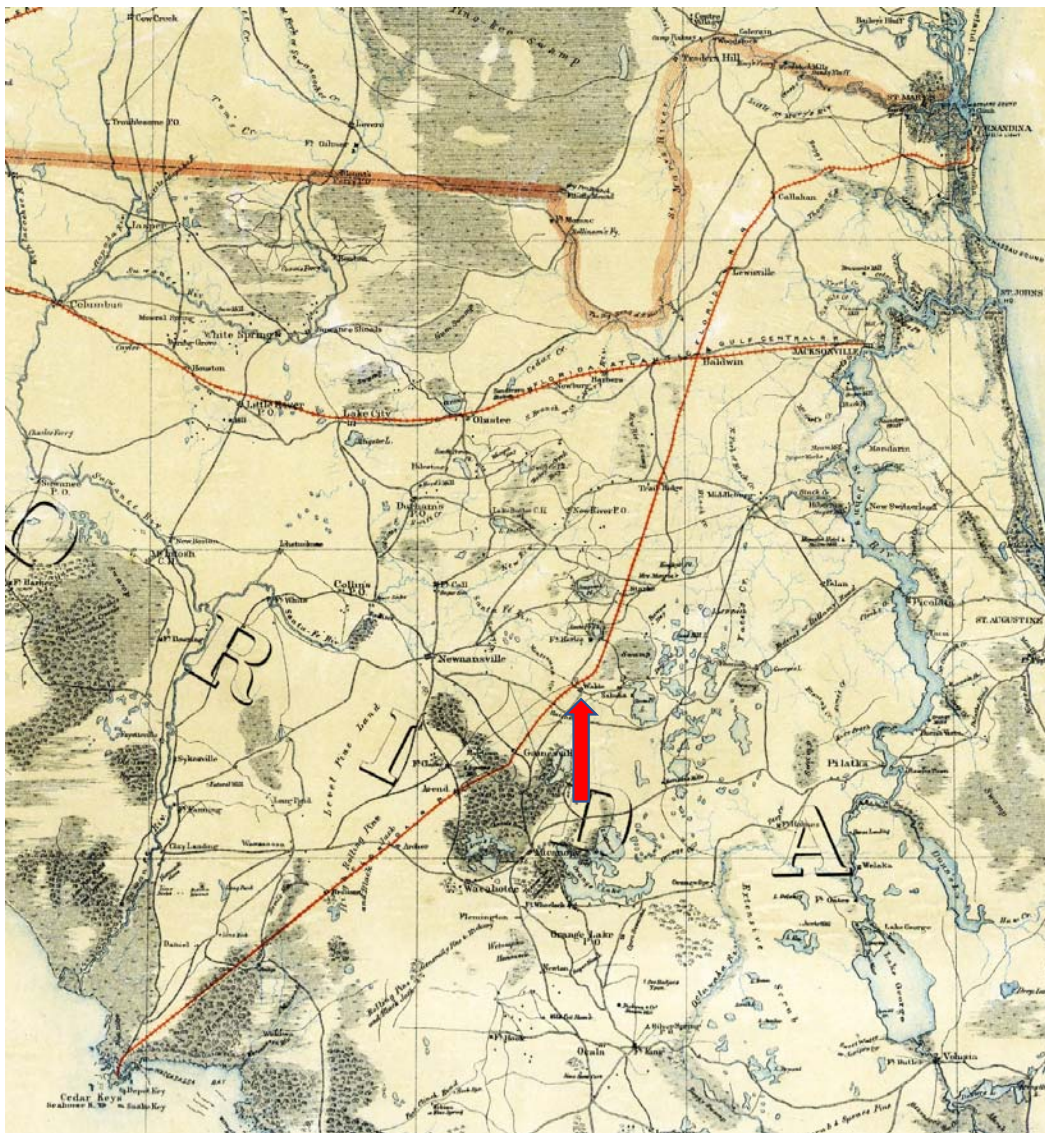


# Route 6502: Waldo

Waldo (named after Dr. Benjamin Waldo, a physician and state legislator) was established August 5, 1858, about 10 miles northeast of Gainesville, as a station on the Florida Rail Road, between Gainesville and Starke.



Waldo Fla May 25, 1863 CDS postmark ties pair #7,  
courtesy of William H. Johnson, D.D.S.

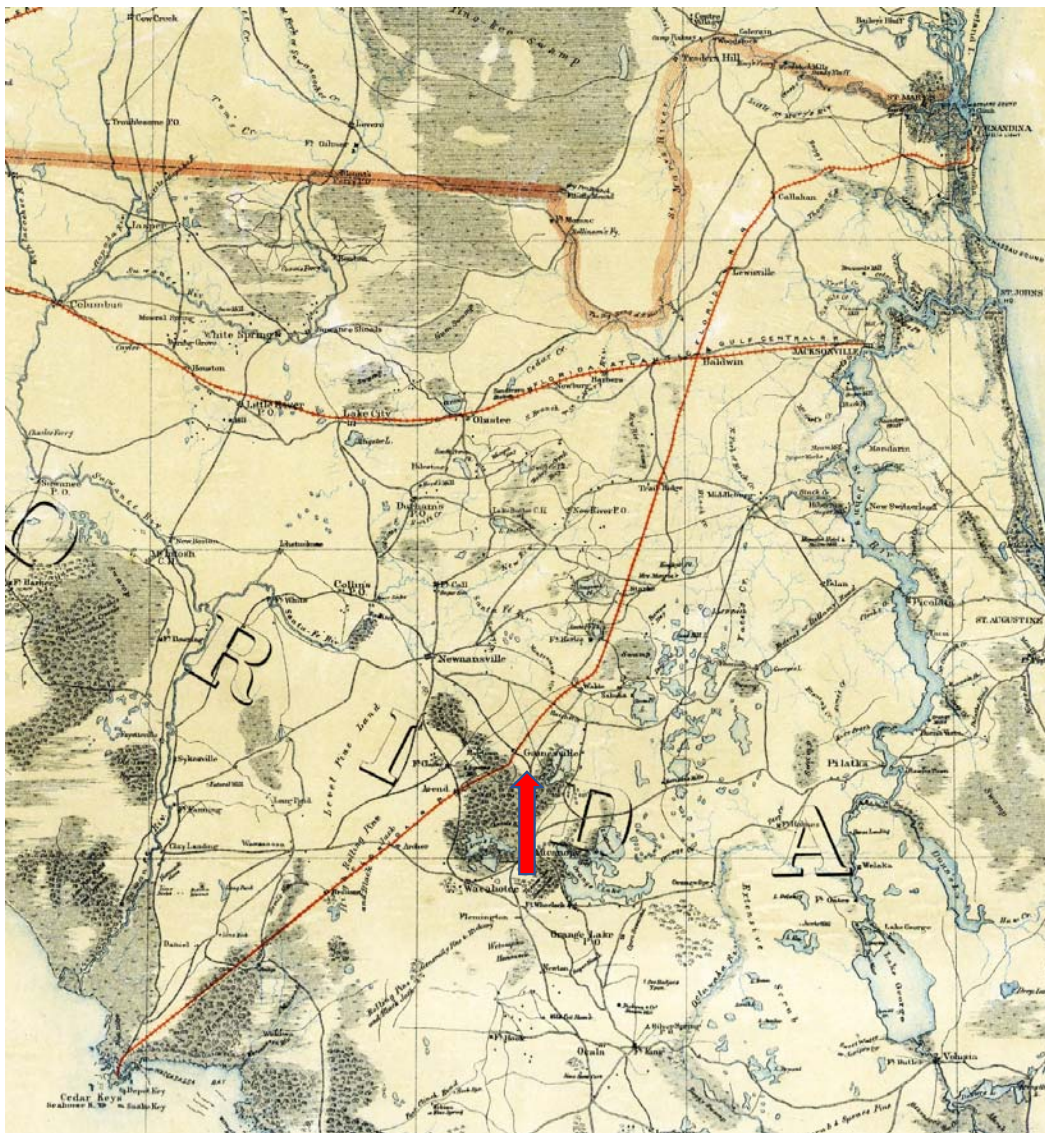


# Route 6502: Gainesville

Gainesville, originally called "Hog Town" was established on July 5, 1856, as a depot on the Florida Rail Road between Waldo and Archer.



Gainesville Jan 6 postmark with type A paid 10 rate on wallpaper cover "missent" to Madison and posted 12 days later to SC.



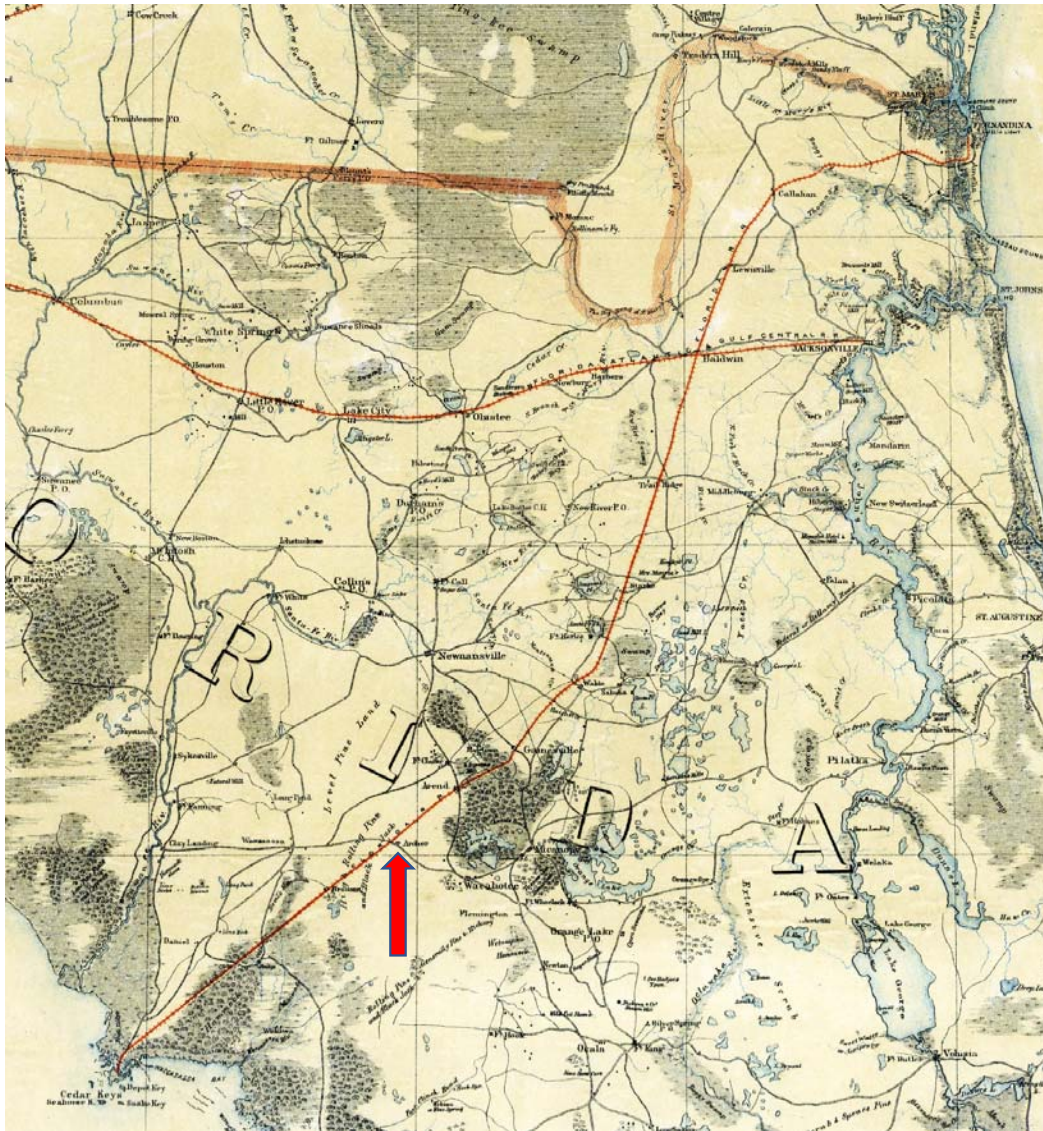
# Route 6502: Archer

Archer was established September 26, 1859, as a station on the Florida Rail Road, between Gainesville and Bronson.

David Yulee, president of the Florida Rail Road, had a “Cotton Wood Plantation” near Archer, where he stayed after his “Margarita Plantation” at Homosassa was destroyed in 1864.



Archer manuscript postmark without month with pen tied pair #7.



# Route 6502: Cedar Key

Cedar Key was near the mouth of the Suwannee River on the Gulf of Mexico, as the terminus of the Florida Rail Road from Fernandina on the Atlantic.

The U.S. post office was changed to Atsena Otie in 1852, and remained that until 1862, when it was discontinued, by the CPOD, as its name changed to Cedar Key.

The Battle of Cedar Key took place at Depot Key on January 15, 1862 when the *U.S.S. Hatteras* attacked the port and rail terminus.

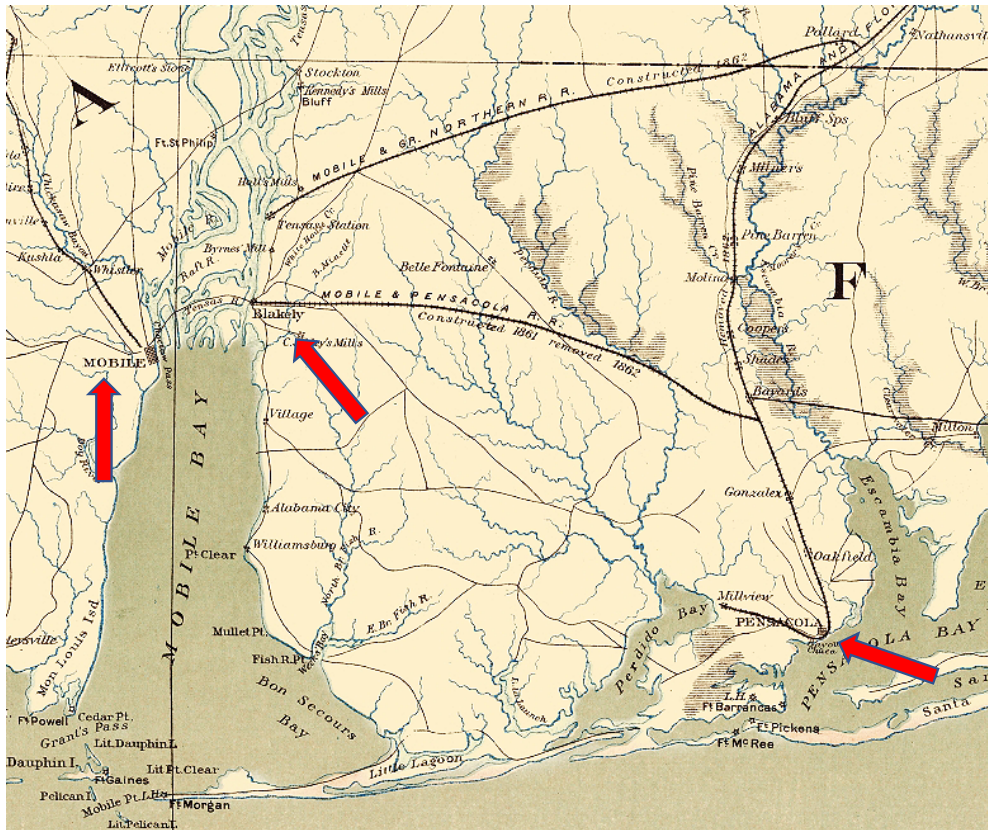


Atsena Otie, Fla Sept 15, 1861 postmark with Paid 5 type A rate on cover to Mississippi.

# Route 6574 – Pensacola to Mobile Alabama

On October 23, 1861, the route was transferred to the Alabama & Florida Railroad (Mobile to Farnsworth), later on November 15, 1861 the Mobile & Great Northern Railroad – Pensacola to Mobile Ala. via Blakely.

The route was discontinued on May 10, 1862 when Pensacola became Union occupied .



Pensacola Fla Feb 17 [1862] postmark ties #1 on left facing canon-flag patriotic.

# After the War: Railroad Post Offices – Agent Postmarks



First Recorded Florida Railroad Postmarks  
Fernandina – Starke, 74 miles. 1857-1861.

Note: reversed date line on left cover.

Types 380-A-1, 380-A-1a

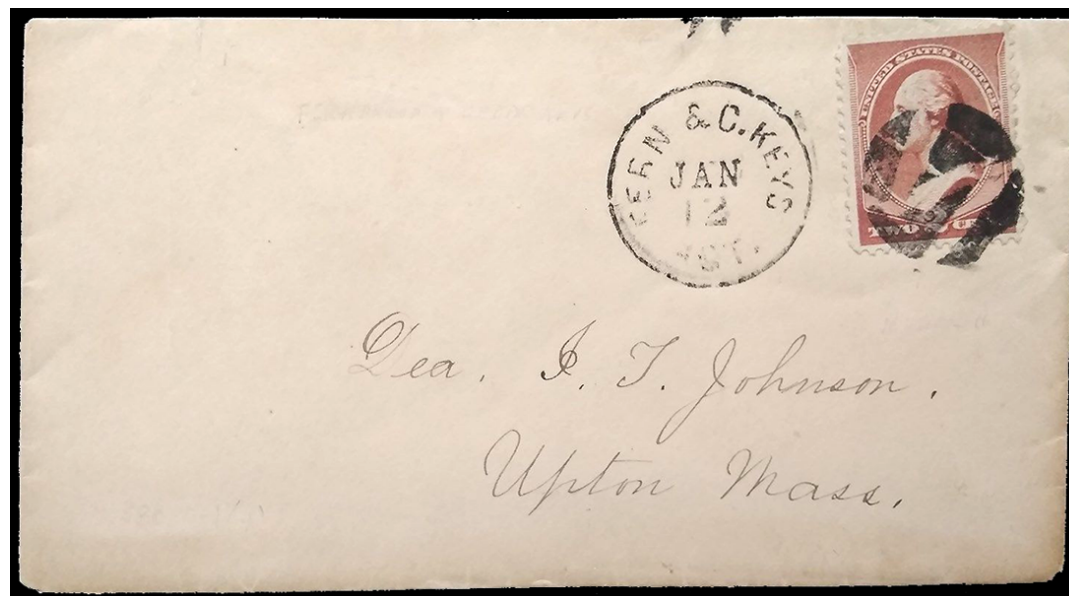
Remele, C. W. 1958. *United States Railroad Postmarks, 1837-1861*. 169 p. Illus. + maps.

Kay John L. 2000, *Directory of Route Agent Lines – Revised Edition -2000*. Mobile Post Office Society, Holmdel, N.J.

Towle, Charles L. 1986. *U. S. Route and Station Agent Postmarks + Historical Supplement*. Mobile Post Office Society, Tucson AZ. HB. 422 p.

# Railroad Post Offices – Agent Postmarks

Florida Railroad Company, later Florida Transit, Fernandina to Cedar Keys.  
155 miles, 1869-1882



Type 380-C-1a  
No period after "Fern"

Thank you

Thoughts, Discussion, and Questions