

EARLY RAILWAY MAIL ROUTES OF GEORGIA

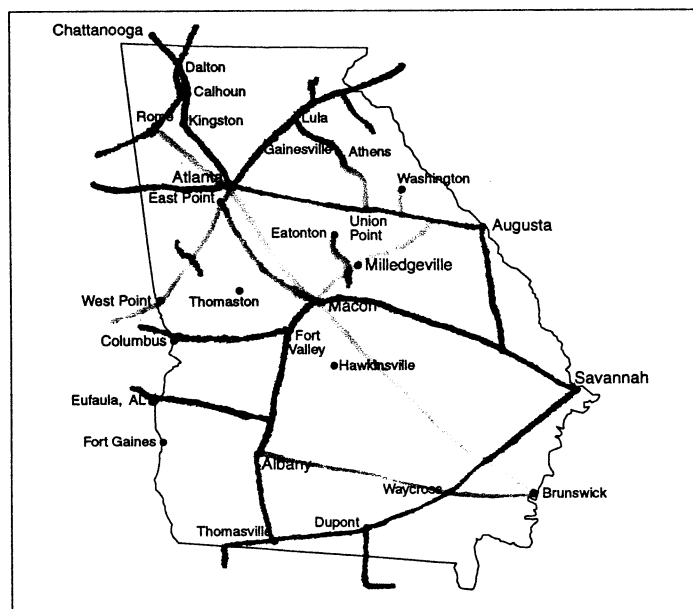
DOUGLAS N. and NANCY B. CLARK

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THE EXHIBITION PHOTOCOPY COMMITTEE
OF THE
U.S. PHILATELIC CLASSICS SOCIETY, INC.
29 MARCH 1994

EARLY RAILWAY MAIL ROUTES OF GEORGIA

The postal history of railroad mail lines within the state of Georgia, from the earliest recorded railway markings (1846) until 1889 - a year after complete conversion from route agents to R.P.O.s. Omitted are railroads with a terminal but no miles of track in the state.

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Georgia Railroad

Main line

Route agent contracts

Joint with Western & Atlantic Railroad

Augusta & Oothcaloga 1846-47

*Augusta & Dalton 1847-48

Joint with Macon & Western Railroad

*Augusta & Griffin 1848-53

Joint with Atlanta & Lagrange Railroad

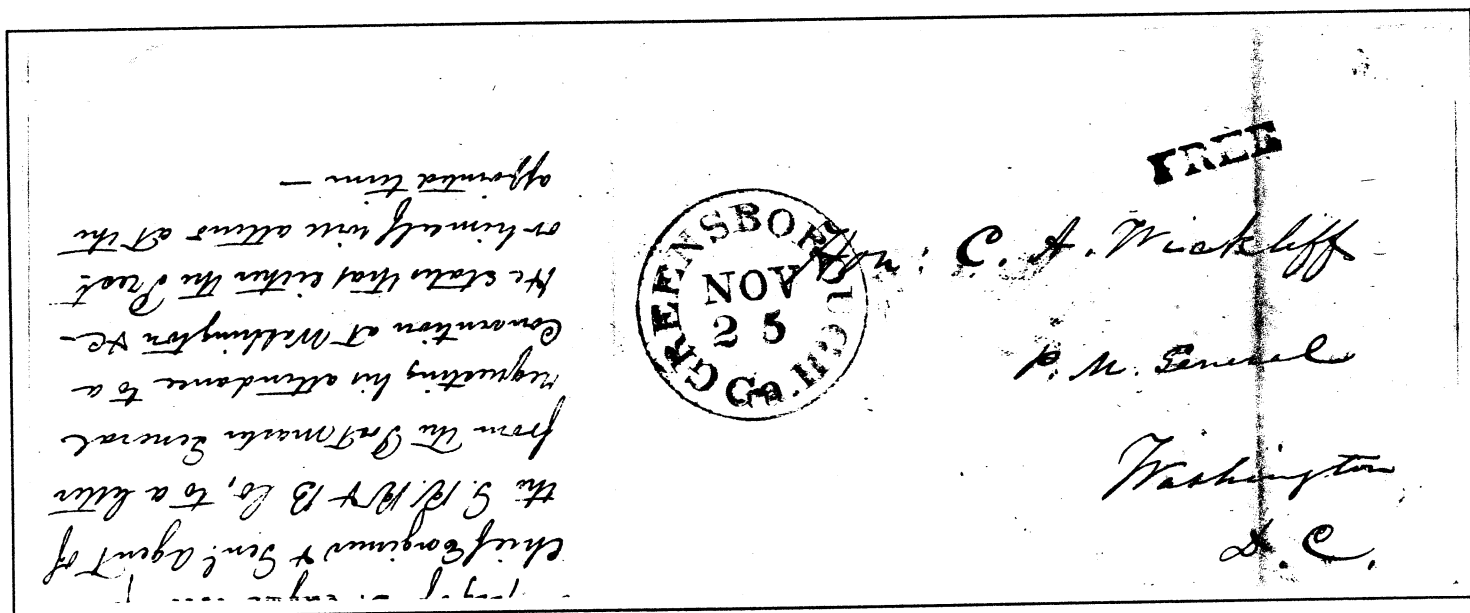
*Augusta & Newnan 1851-53

Augusta & Atlanta 1853-61

*Only known markings show one of the two individual railroad names.

Collateral letter

November 25, 1841



G.R.R. Chief Engineer's letter to the Postmaster General about a conference on route agent compensation.

Georgia Railroad

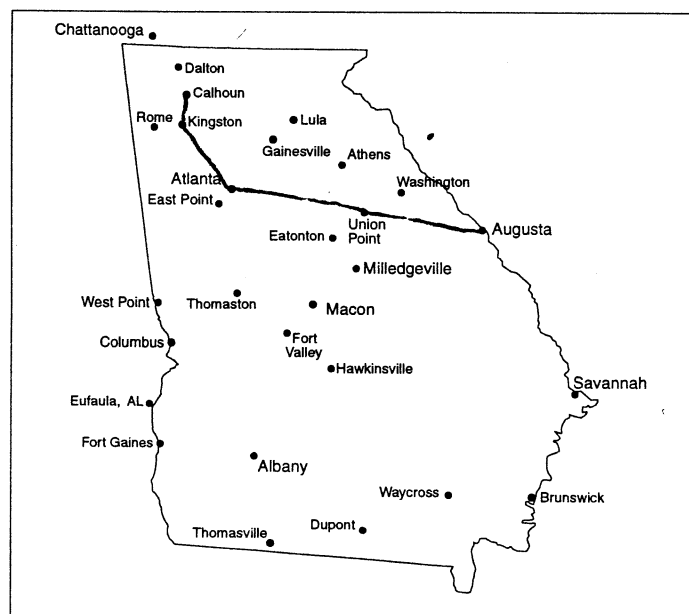
Main line - Augusta to Oothcaloga
Route agent, 1846-1847

November 12, 1846

Aug & Ooth. R.R. Ga. }
Nov-12 } A. Stephens me

John L. Stephens
La Grange
11-12-46

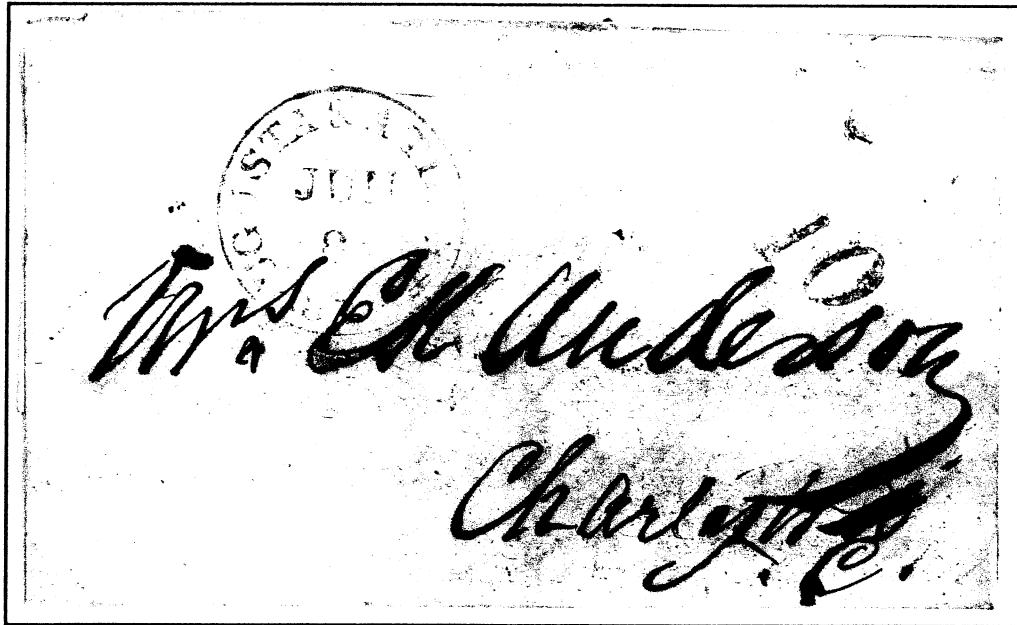
One of four recorded copies of Georgia R.R.-Western & Atlantic R.R. joint route agent contract from Augusta to Oothcaloga (now Calhoun). See frame 3 for another example.



Georgia Railroad

Main line - Augusta to Griffin
Route agent, 1848-1853

June 8, 1849



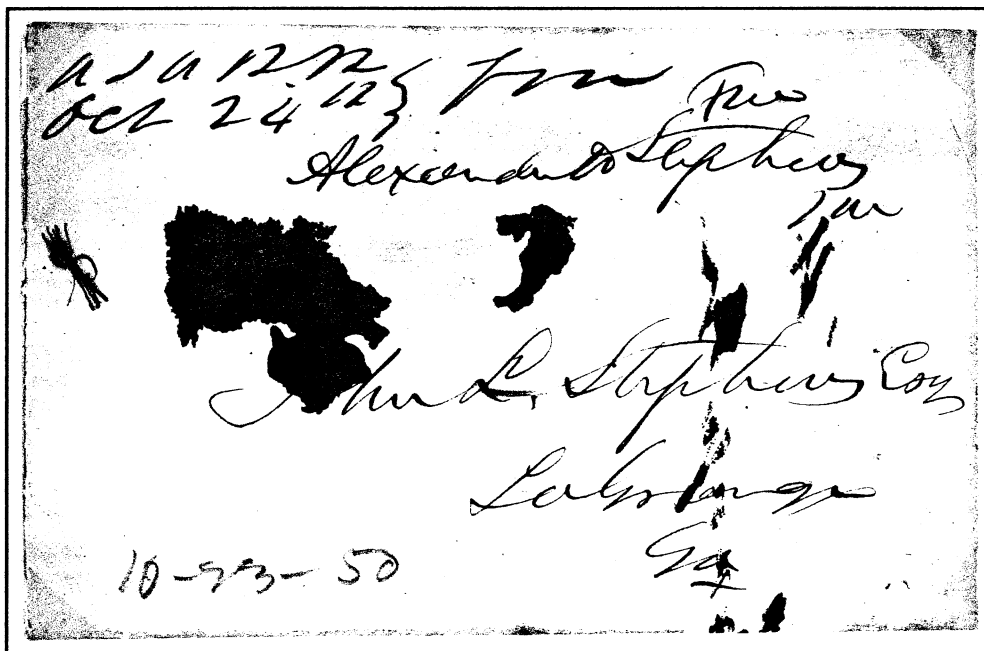
Handled by joint route agent with Macon & Western R.R.; G.R.R.-route CDS (type II). 10¢ rate of 1845, over 300 miles: by Georgia R.R., Atlanta-Augusta, 172 miles; by South Carolina R.R., Augusta-Charleston, 139 miles.



Georgia Railroad

Main line - Augusta to Griffin
Route agent, 1848-1853

October 23, 1850

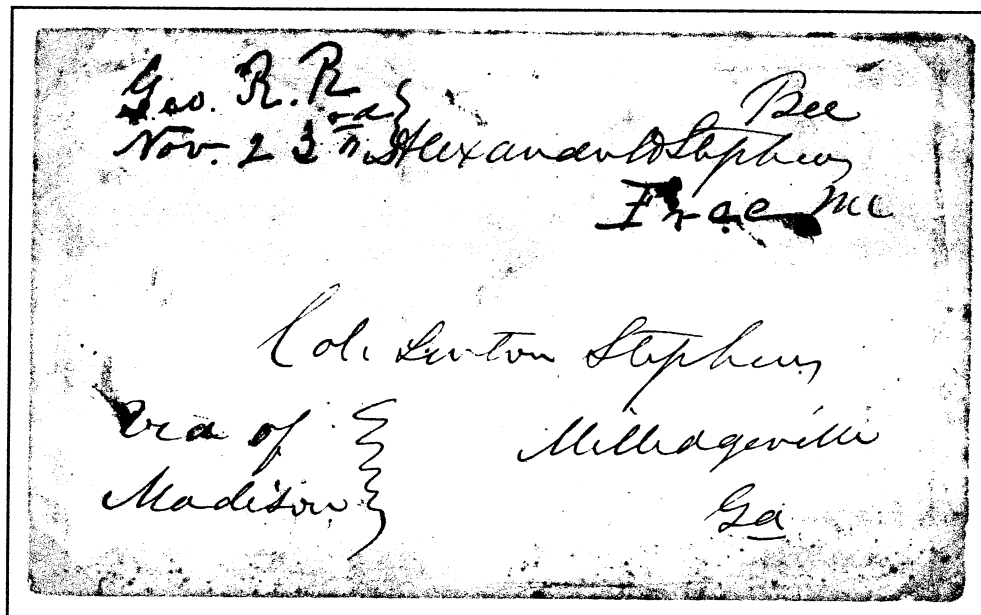


Only recorded "A & A R.R." marking, apparently referring to Augusta & Atlanta, although Augusta & Griffin was contract name. Atlanta origin.

Georgia Railroad

Main line - Augusta to Atlanta
Route agent, 1853-1861

November 23, 1853



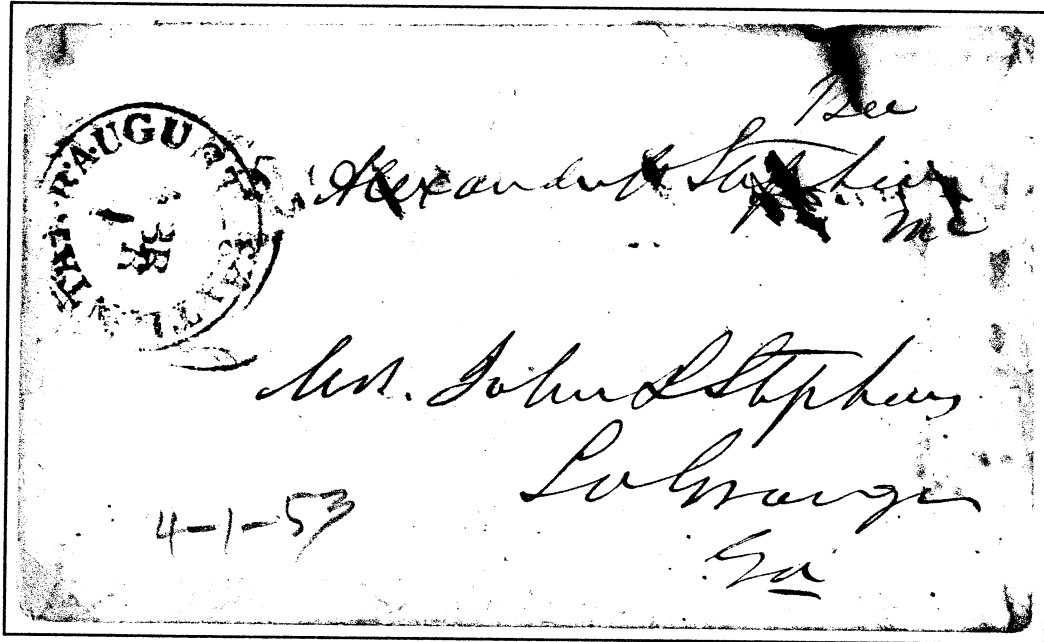
Only recorded "Geo R.R." marking. Westbound, Crawfordville origin,
Stephens Congressional frank. Was the handstamping device left home?

Georgia Railroad

Main line - Augusta to Atlanta
Route agent, 1853-1861

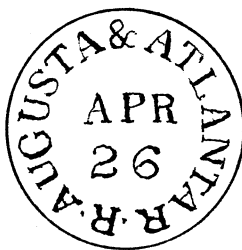
April 1, 1853

First Day Cover of Augusta & Atlanta Route Agent

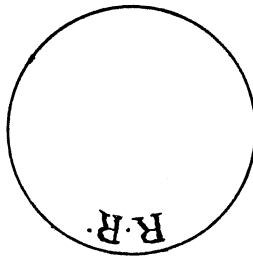


After discontinuance of Augusta & Newnan (1/26/53) and Augusta & Griffin (3/31/53), Augusta & Atlanta route agent was established. Type II handstamp.

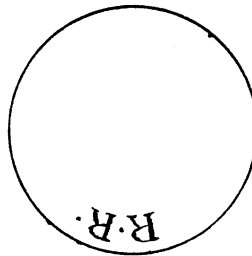
Types of the Large Augusta & Atlanta R.R. Datestamps



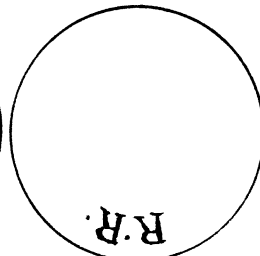
Type I



Type II



Type III



Type IV

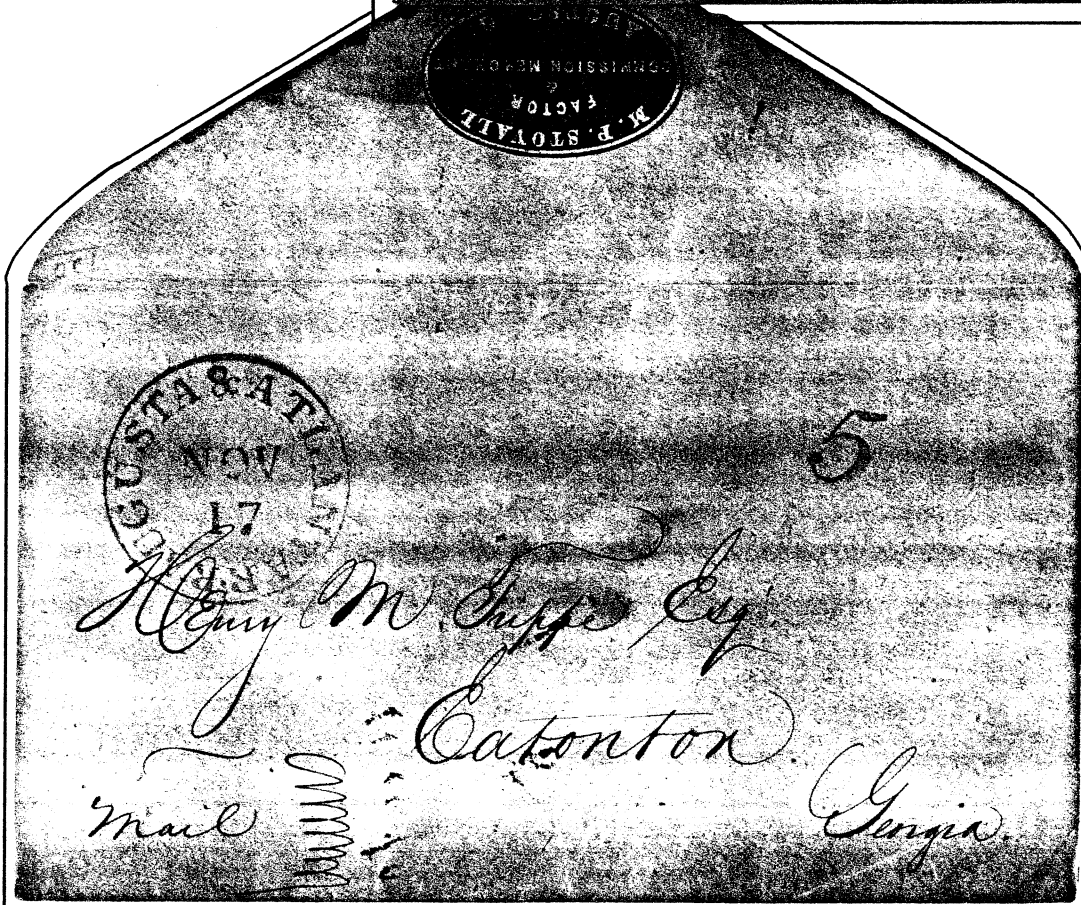
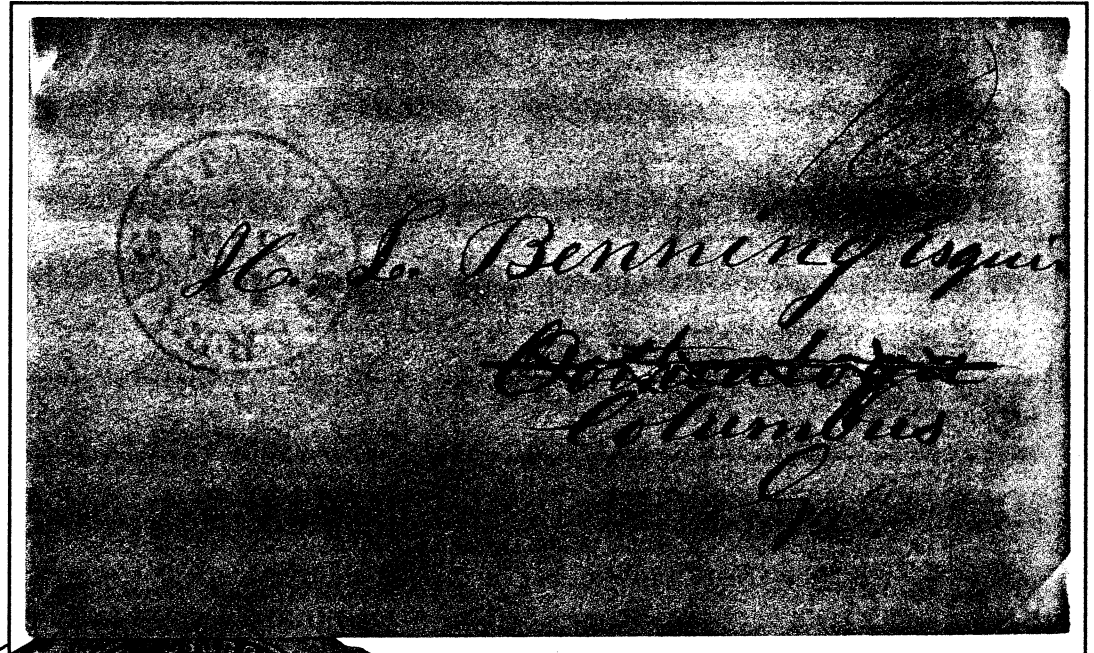
(Refer to placement of periods at bottom)

Georgia Railroad

Main line - Augusta to Griffin
Route Agent, 1848-1861

March 14, 1851
November 17, 18-

Before April 1853, large
Augusta & Atlanta hand
stamps were applied by
joint route agents of two
railroads; here, Augusta
& Griffin agent. Type III
CDS.

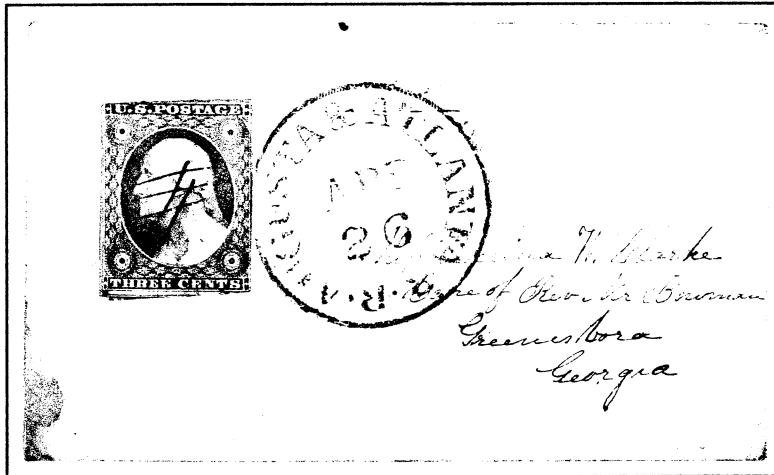


1845 rates; 10c for
over 300 miles (top)
and 5c for under. At
left, marking is Type
II.

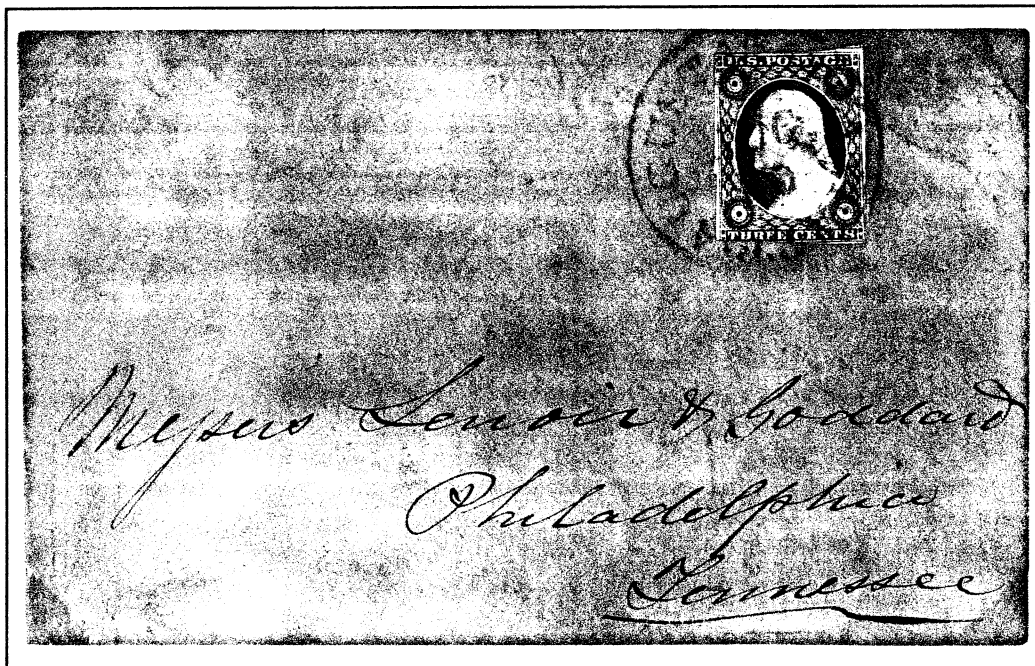
Georgia Railroad

Main line - Augusta to Atlanta
Route agent, 1853-1861

April 26, 1854
August 10, 18-



*Enclosure headed
"Monday, Apl. 24"
indicates year is
1854. Type I CDS.*

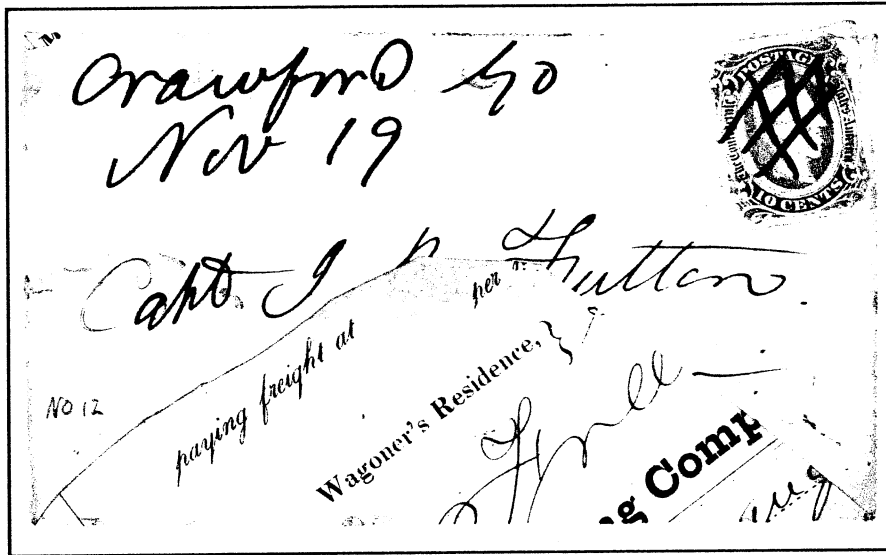


Green CDS, Type IV. Westbound, Augusta grocer's corner card on flap.

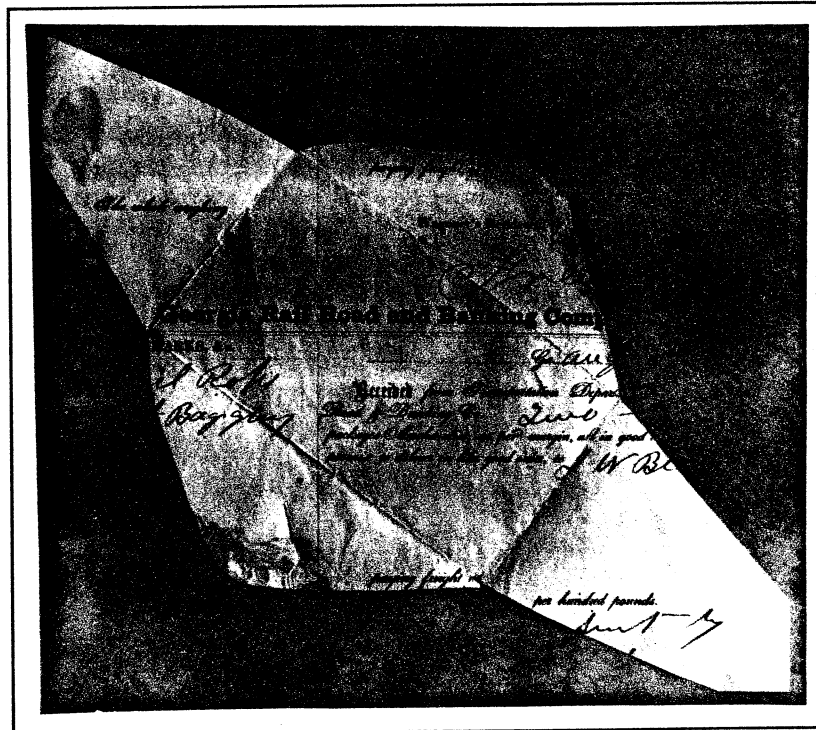
Georgia Railroad

Confederate adversity cover

November 19, 186-



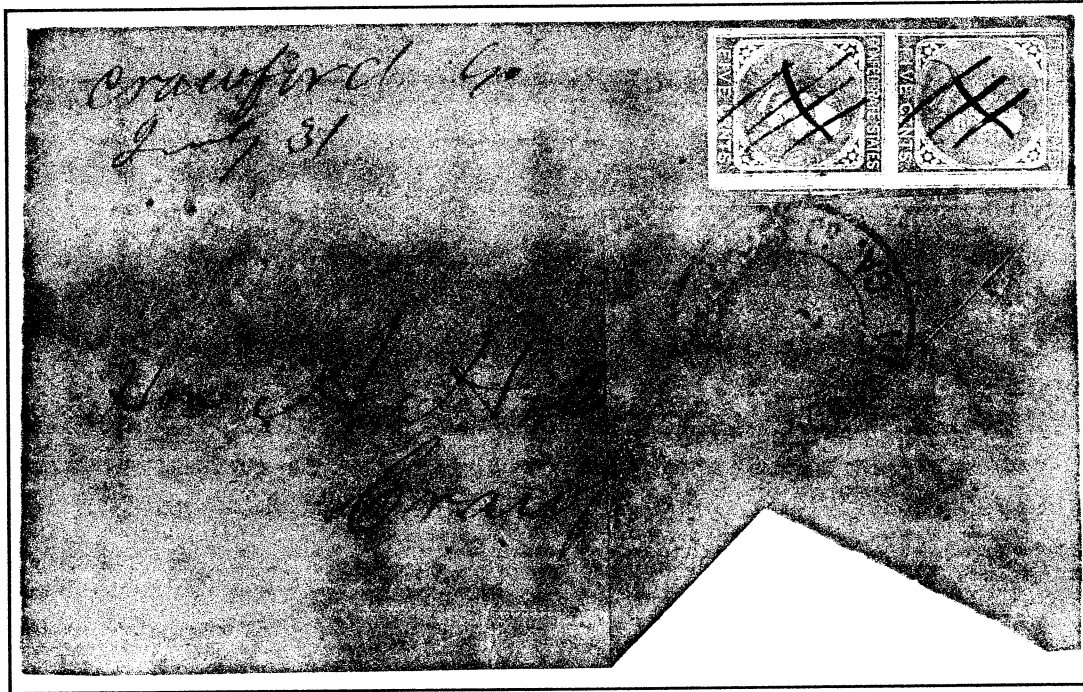
Cover fashioned from a Georgia R.R. and Banking Company form.
No Confederate route agent markings are recorded from Georgia.



Georgia Railroad

Main line - Augusta to Atlanta
Southern Express Company

July 22, 1863



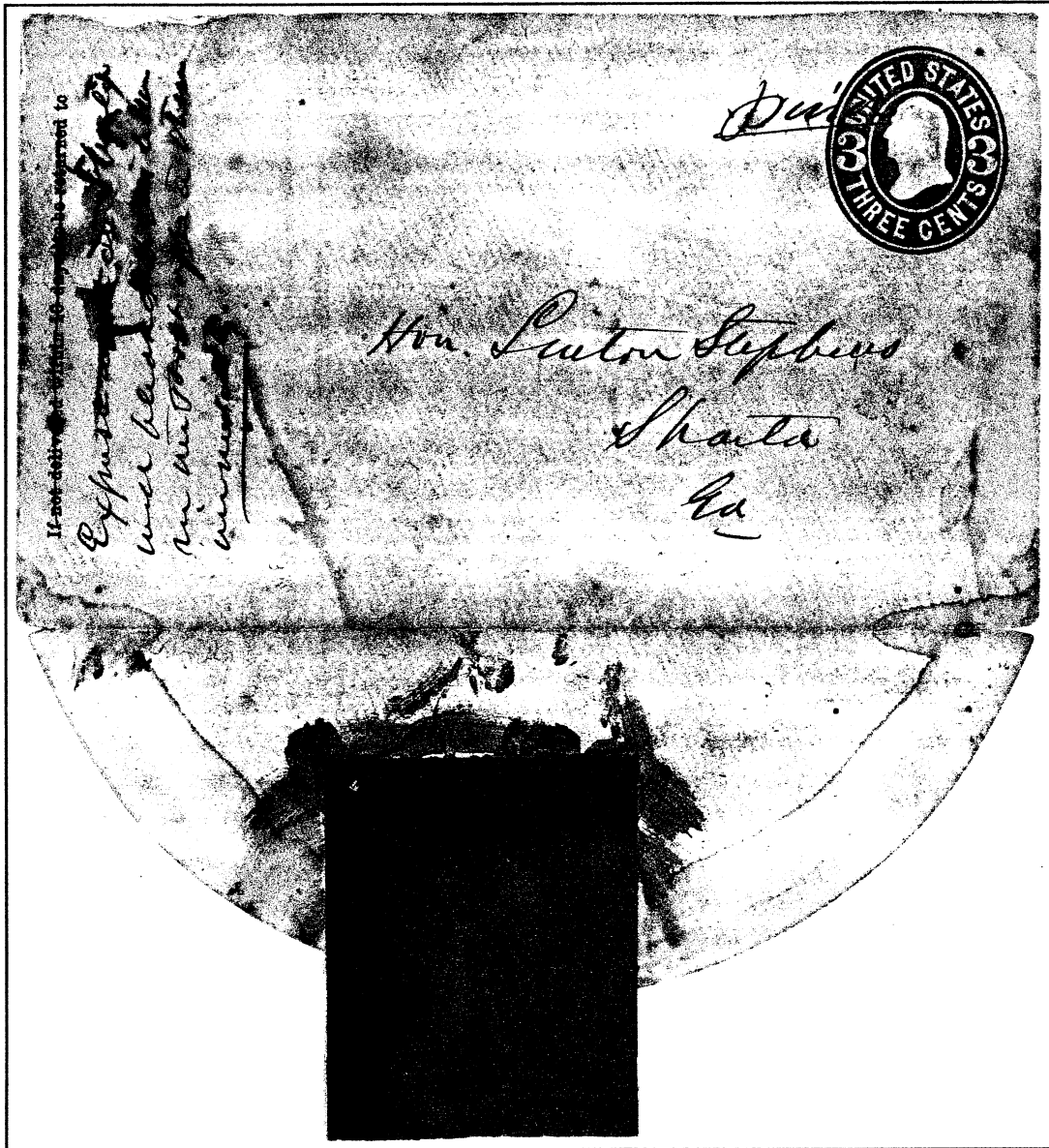
Confederate Southern Express Co. letters partly replaced railroad mail during War Between the States. No Georgia Confederate route agent markings are known.



Georgia Railroad

Main line - Augusta to Atlanta
Pr. Southern Express Co.

April 16, 1870

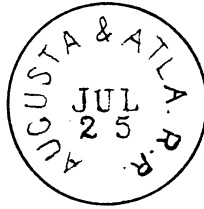


Although not railway mail service, carriage of express company messages, especially money letters, began during war and continued after, due to unreliable railway mail.

Georgia Railroad

Main line - Augusta to Atlanta
Route agent, 1865-1870

July 25, 1866

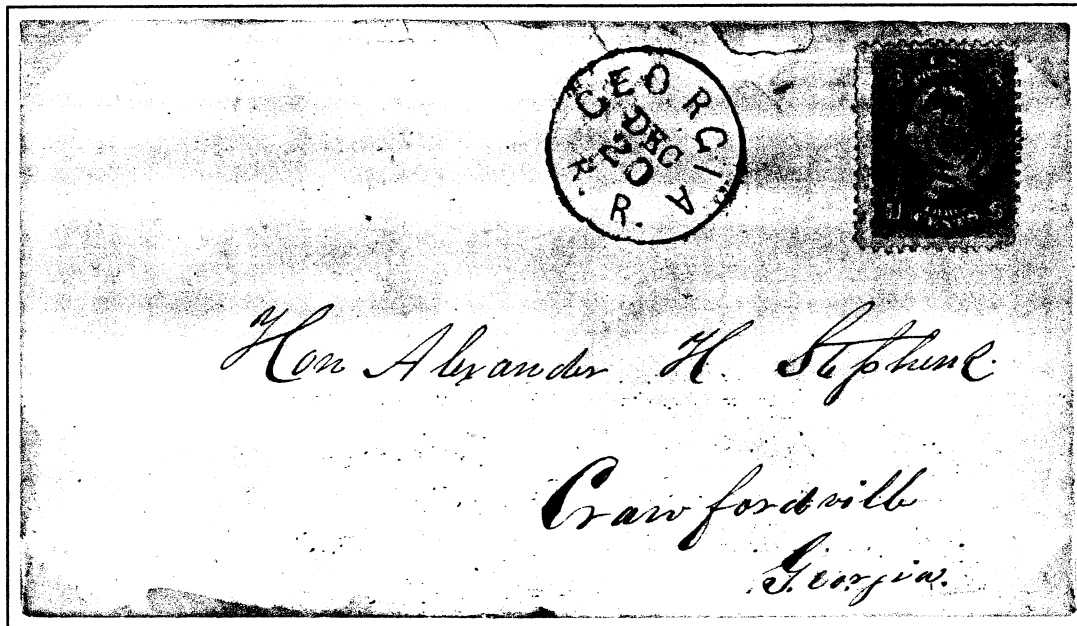
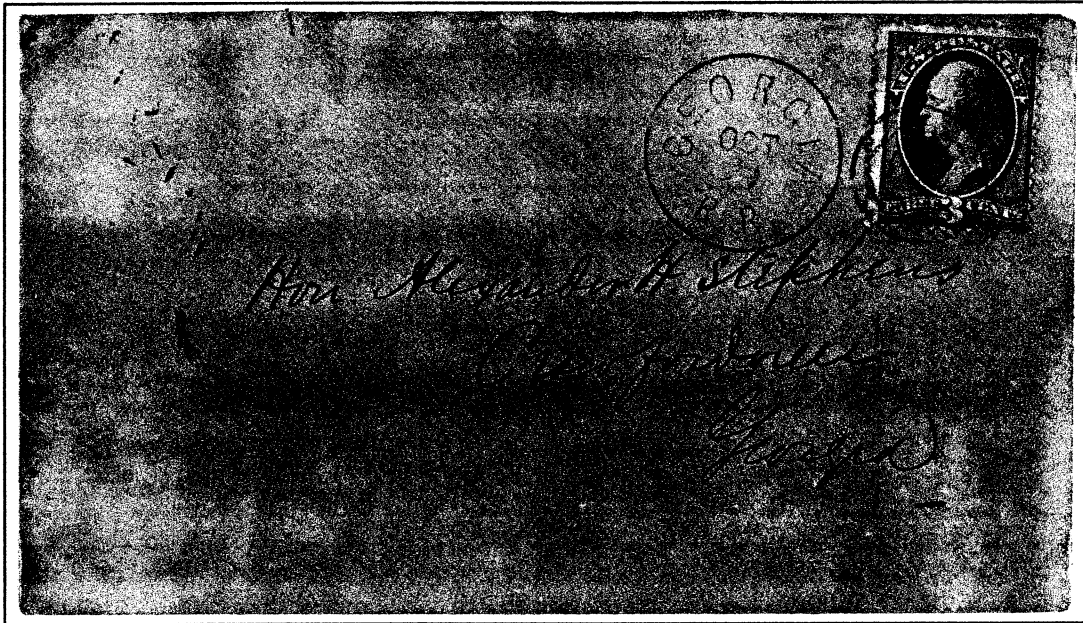


Route agent service resumed after the Civil War. Perhaps service continued during the war, but known markings and U.S. records indicate interruption.

Georgia Railroad

Main line - Augusta to Atlanta
Route agent, 1865-1870

October 8, 1870
December 20, 1870

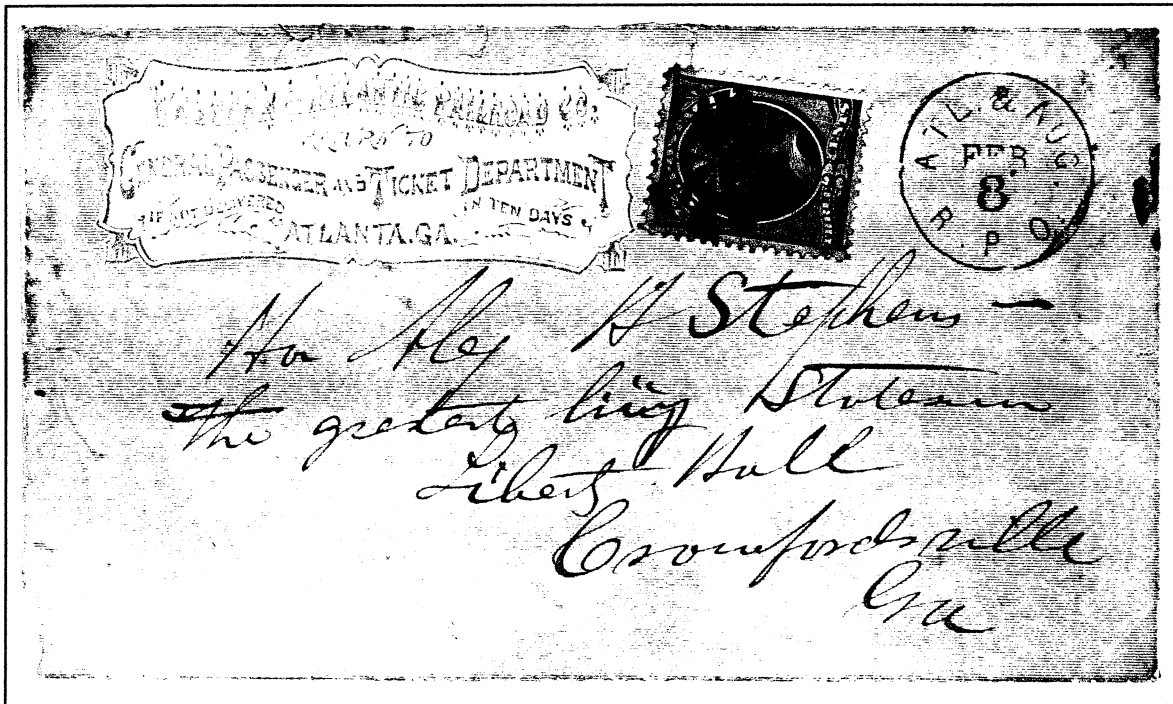
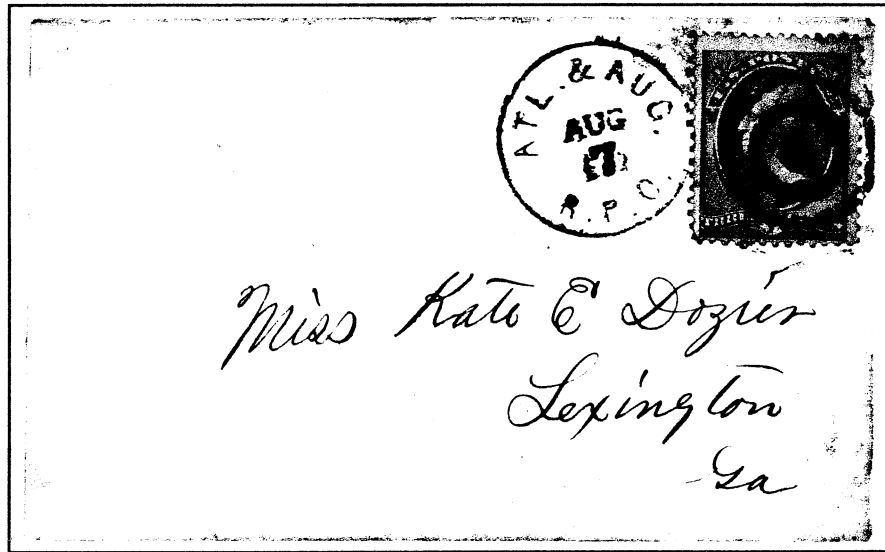


Recently discovered types - two varieties. Below is RPO use, after end of route agents.

Georgia Railroad

Main line - Augusta to Atlanta
R.P.O., 1870-1878

August 7, 187-
February 8, 1873

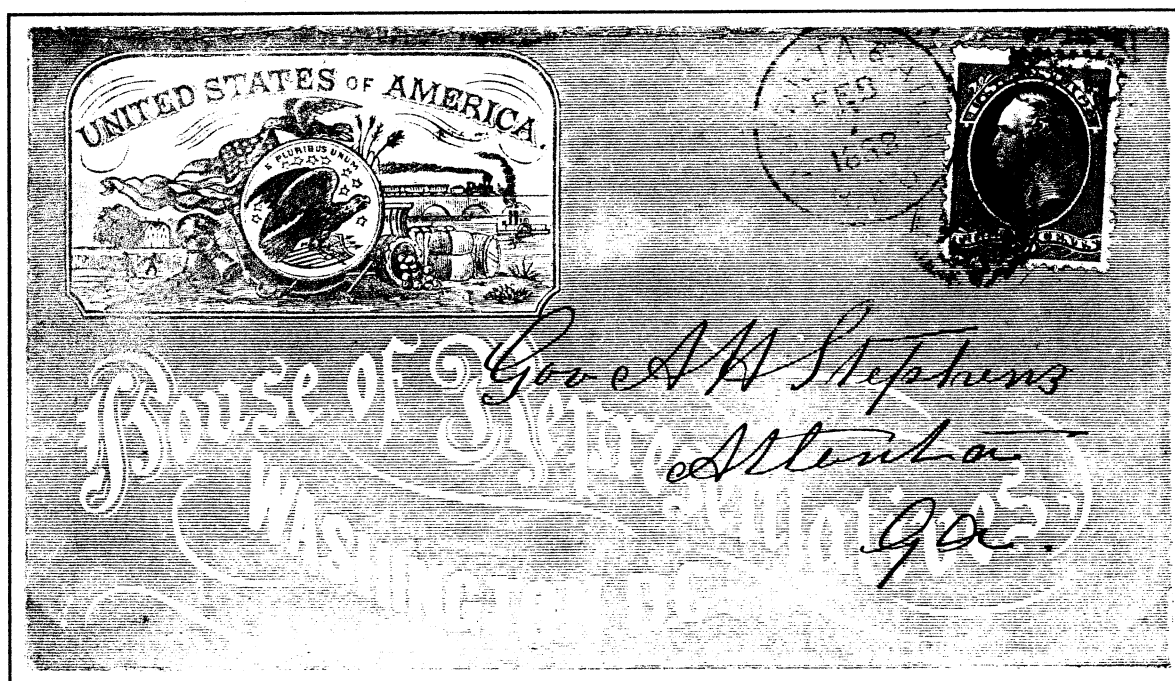
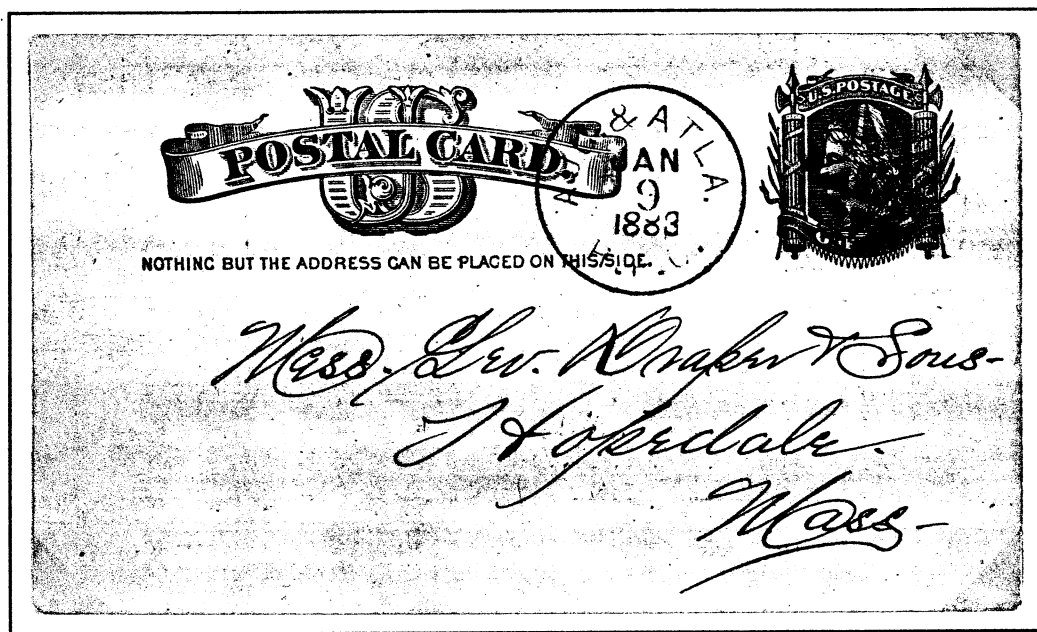


Changeover from route agent to R.P.O., November 1, 1870, on this line, with Atlanta terminal first, 1870-1878. Below is different die, Western & Atlantic R.R. corner card.

Georgia Railroad

Main line - Augusta to Atlanta
R.P.O., 1878-1967

January 9, 1883
February 7, 1888

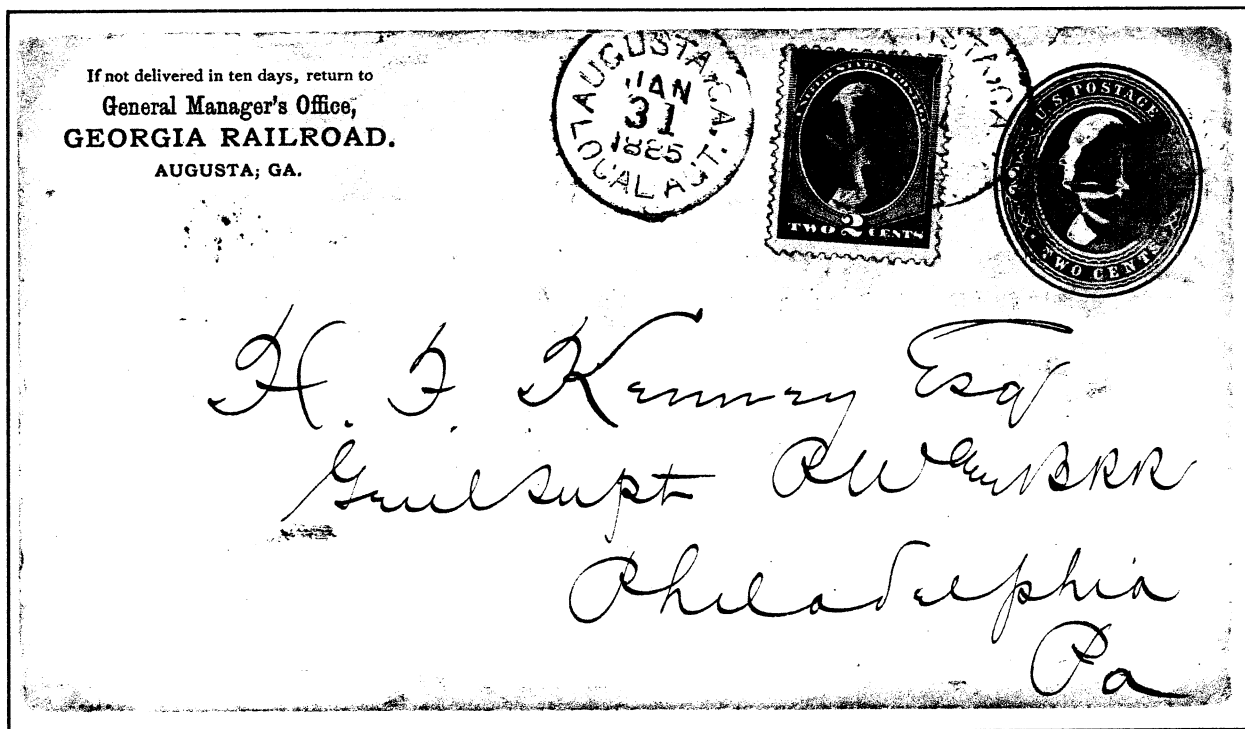


R.P.O. markings with eastern terminal first, required by regulation of 1878. Above, negative star killer, Atlanta origin; below, westbound, U.S. House of Representatives design.

Georgia Railroad

Augusta, Ga.
Local agent, 1883-

January 31, 1885

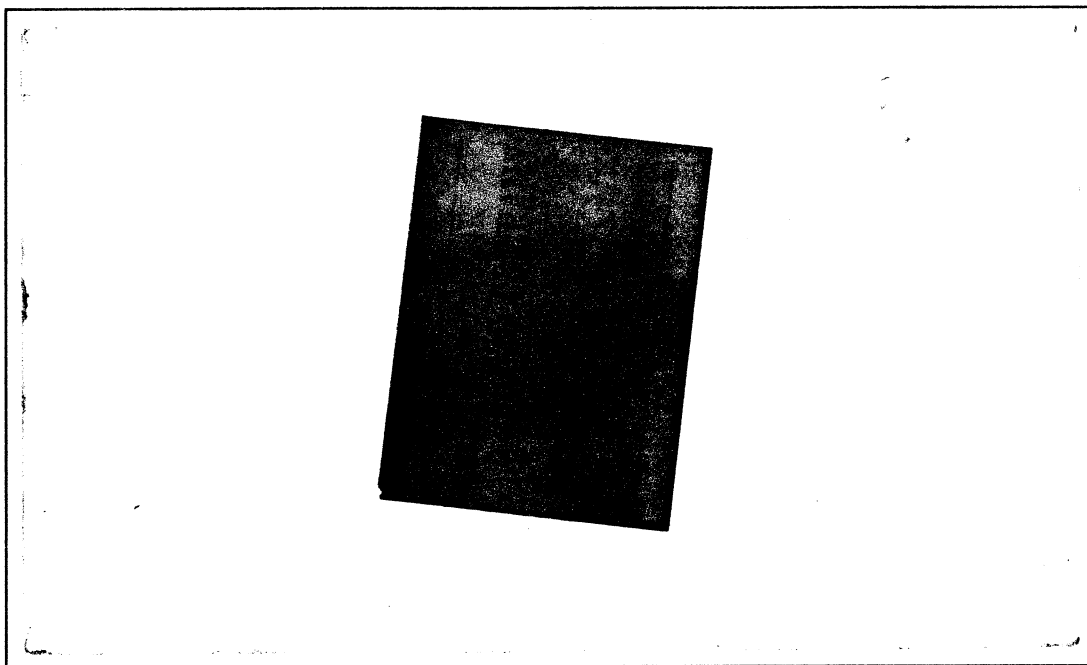


The local agent transferred mail to a railroad from another railroad or, as in this case, from a station box. Augusta local agent established 1883, discontinuation date not found as yet.

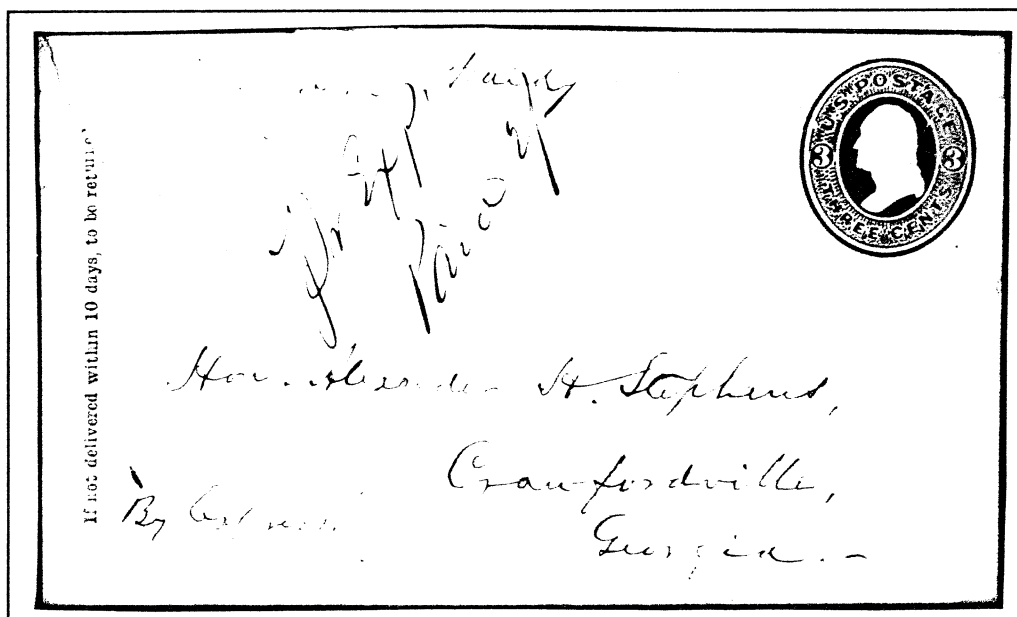
Georgia Railroad

Branch - Camak to Macon
Pr. Southern Express Co.

April 17, 1872



Early Camak-Macon route agent period. Carried out of mails by express co., a practice begun during war. Macon & Augusta R.R. operated by Georgia R.R.



Georgia Railroad

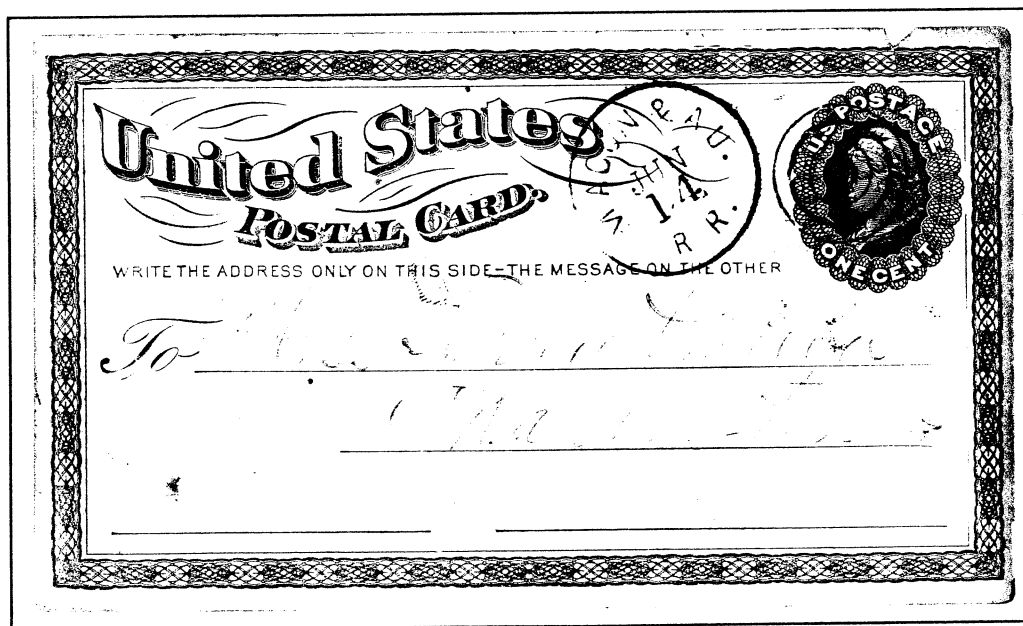
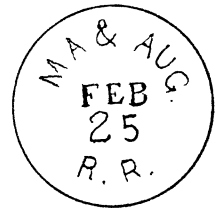
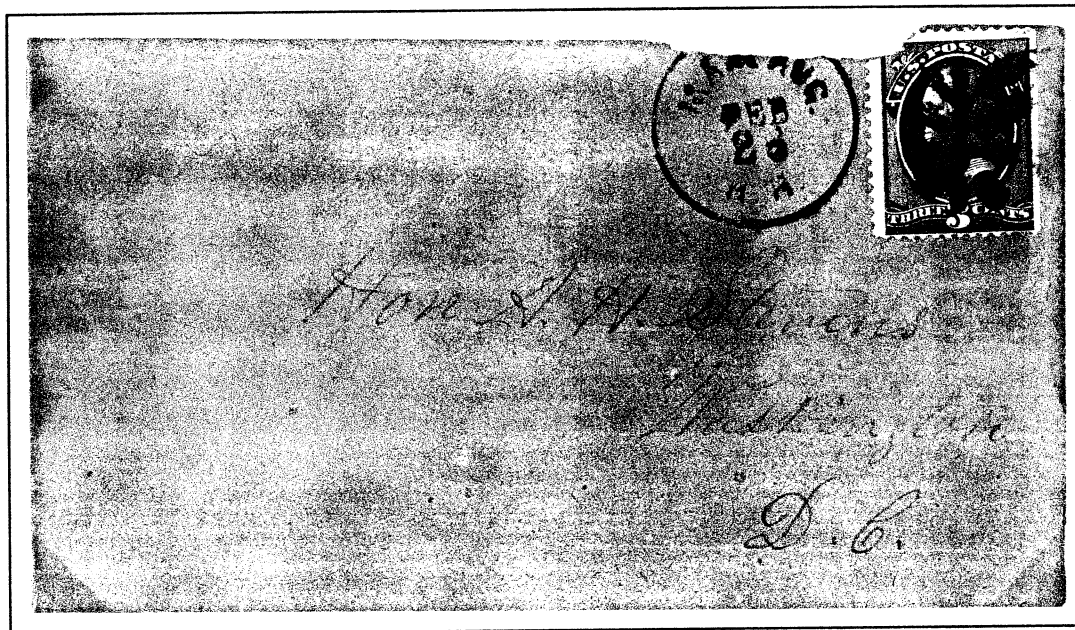
Macon Branch

Route agent contracts

Camak-Warrenton	1839-1871
Camak-Milledgeville	1871-1871
Camak-Macon	1872-1882

Branch - Camak to Macon
Route agent, 1872-1882

February 25, 1874
June 14, 1875

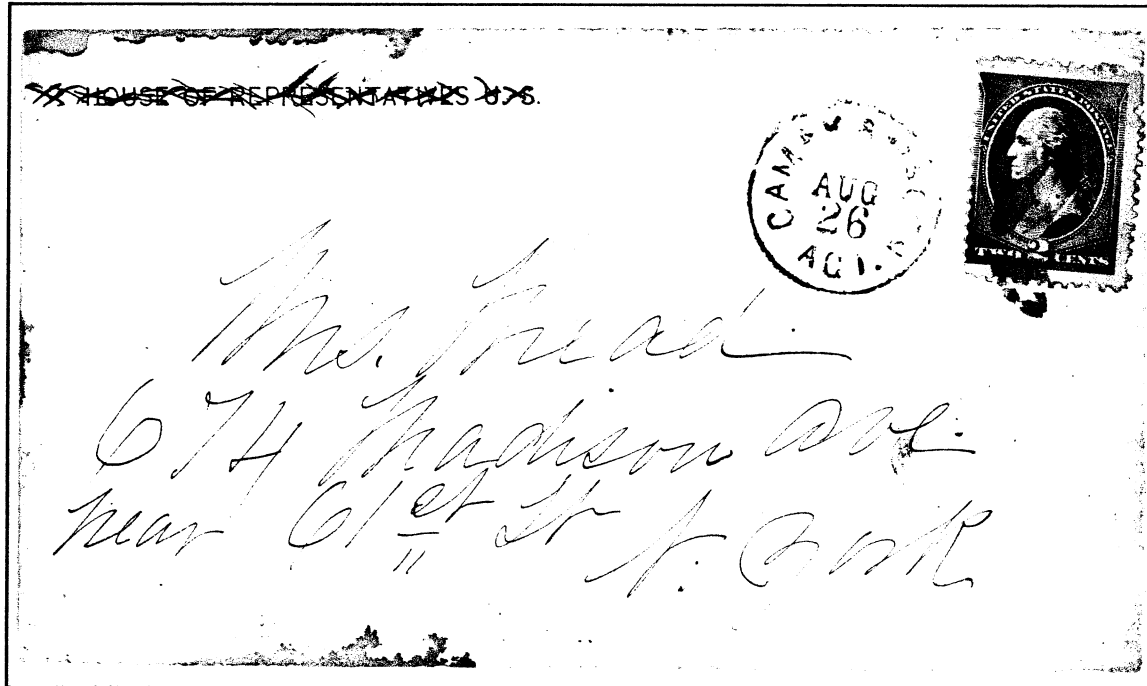


Macon & Augusta markings reclassified from Ga. Central R.R. for this study.

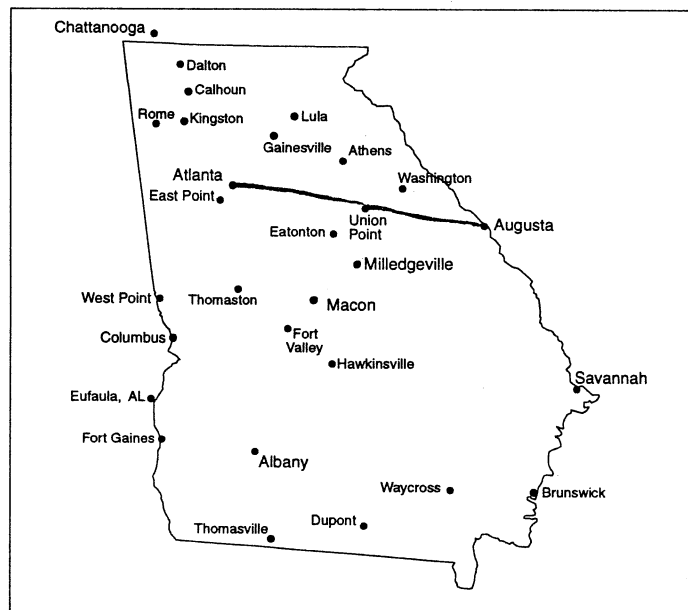
Georgia Railroad

Branch - Camak to Macon
Route agent, 1872-1882

August 26, 1884



Late use of agent postmark, during R.P.O. period, 1882-1952.



Georgia Railroad

Branch - Rome to Kingston
Route agent contract

April 14, 1851

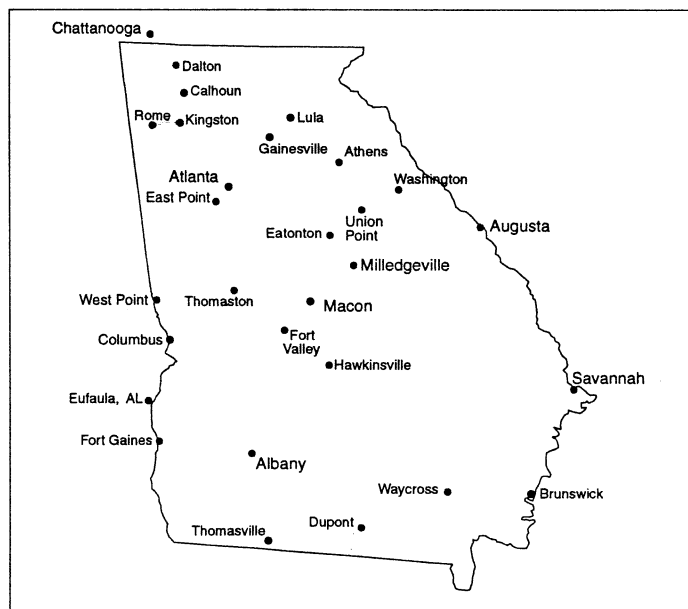
No. 3374 — \$930. per annum

This Article of Contract, made the *fourteenth* day of *April* in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty *one*, between the United States and *Georgia Railroad Company.*

Here enter the names of the Sureties.

Witnesseth, That whereas the said *Georgia Railroad Company* have been accepted according to law as Contractors for transporting the Mail on Route No. *Stington, Ga. by Macon to Rome and except Sunday in Rail Road Cars*

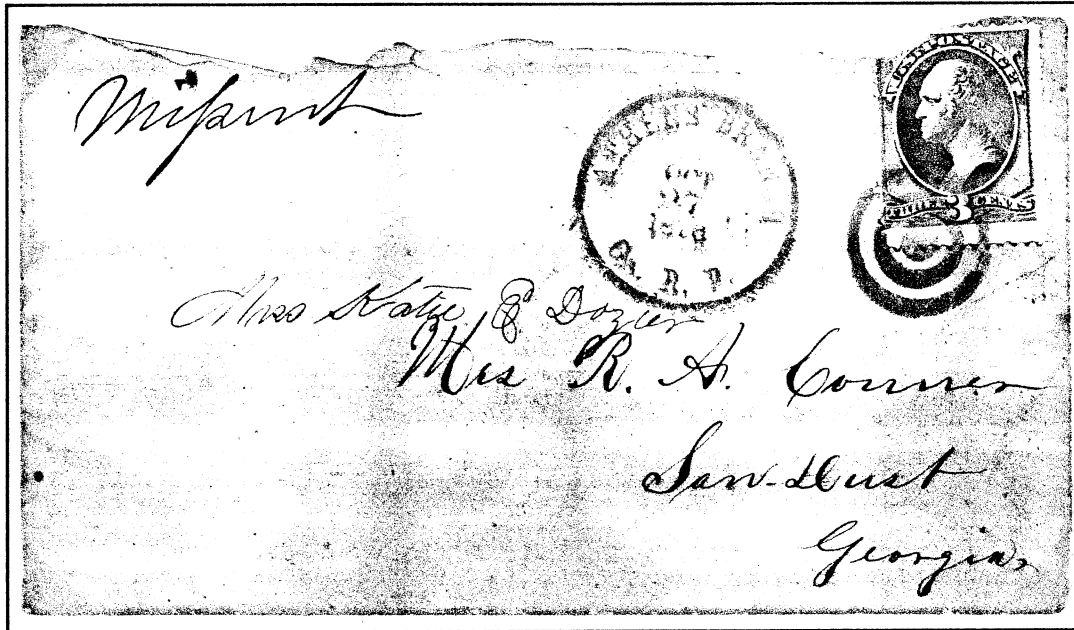
Actual route agent contract for Rome Railroad, a short northwest Georgia route, granted to the controlling Georgia R.R. No record of post marks on this route.



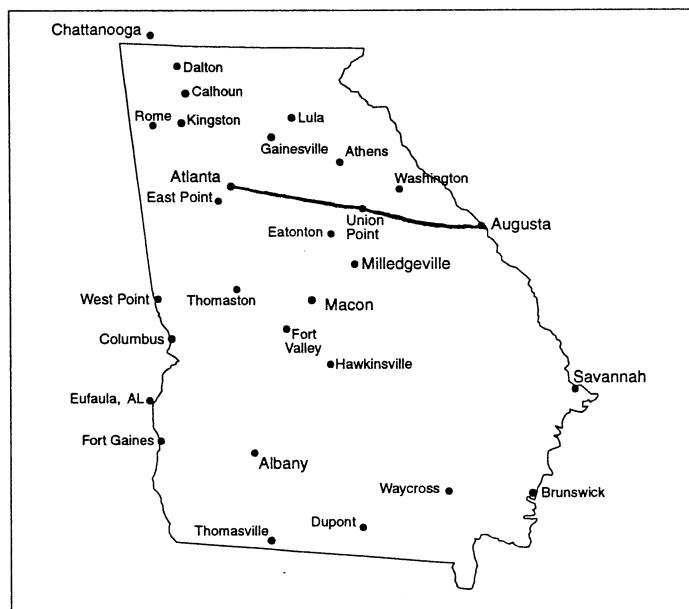
Georgia Railroad

Branch - Athens to Union Point
Route agent, 1870-1882

October 27, 1876



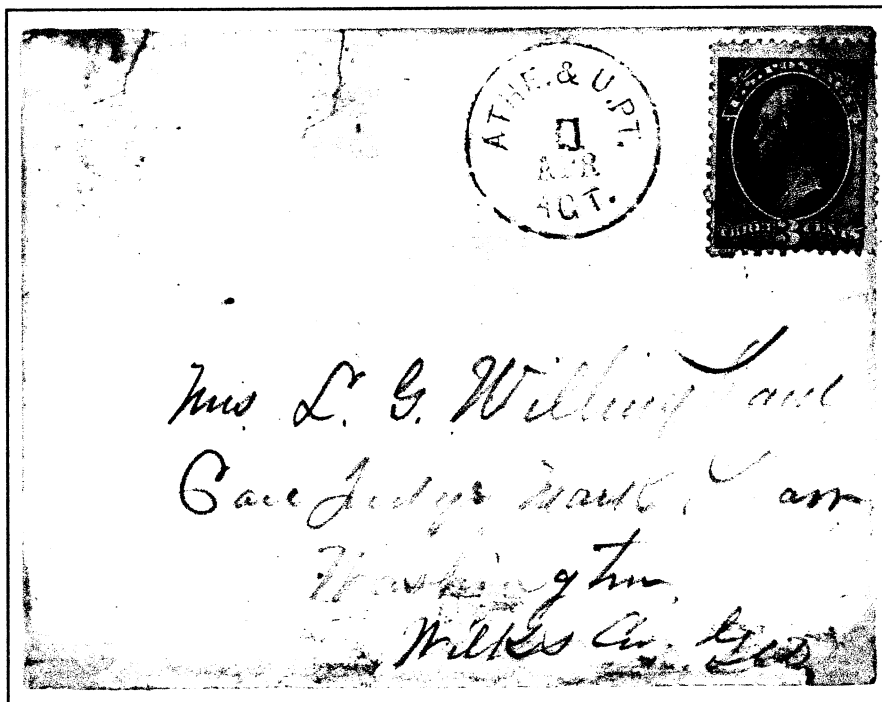
Only recorded example of this CDS on full cover. Records show route agents operated on this branch, completed in 1841, even earlier than recorded 1870-1882.



Georgia Railroad

Branch - Athens to Union Point
Route agent, 1870-1882

April 1, 1878

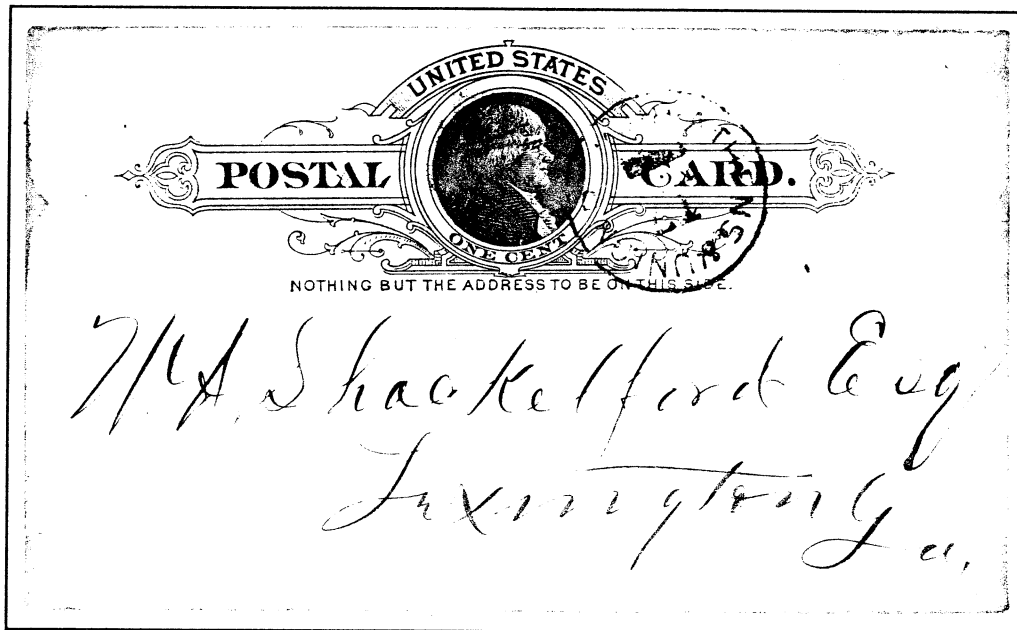


More typical type of route agent marking, in use on the route until conversion to R.P.O.s, 1882. A branch of 41 miles.

Georgia Railroad

Branch - Athens to Union Point
R.P.O., 1882-1937

December 17, 1888

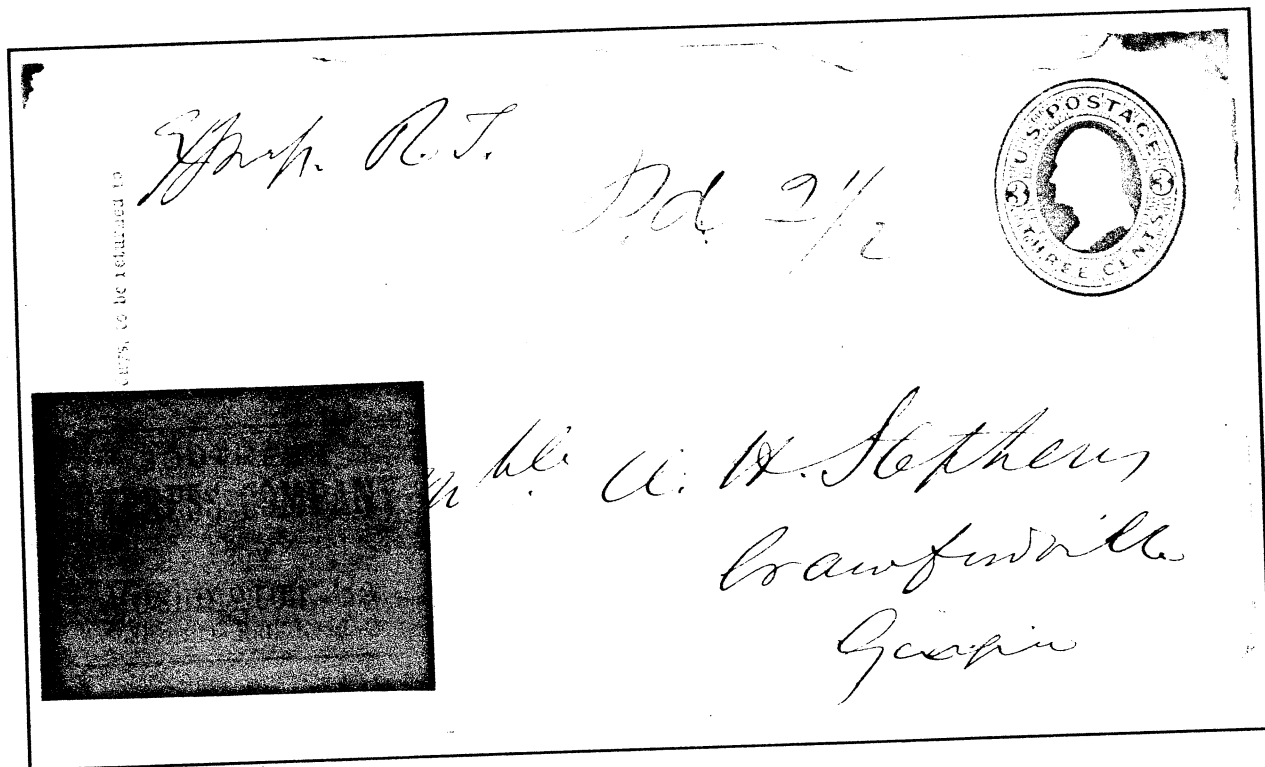


Placed on northbound R.P.O. car at Stephens, GA., put off 7 miles north at Crawford, the Junction point for Lexington.

Georgia Railroad

December 30, 1871

Branch - Barnett's to Washington
Pr. Southern Express Co.



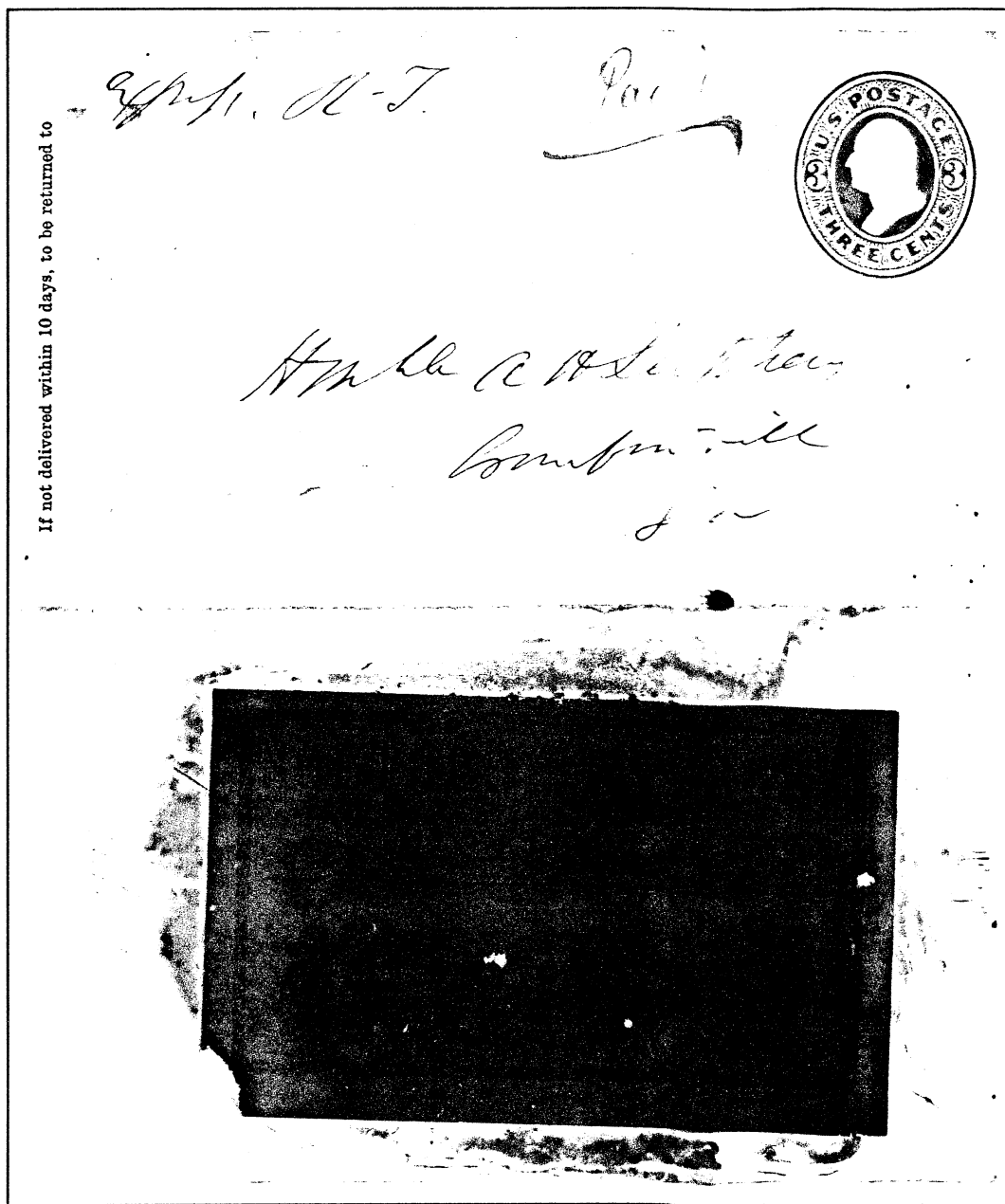
Georgia Railroad's branch from Washington to Barnett's never had route agent or R.P.O. service, but label shows that Southern Express Company operated over the railroad route.



Georgia Railroad

Branch - Barnett's to Washington
Pr. Southern Express Co.

August 21, 1871

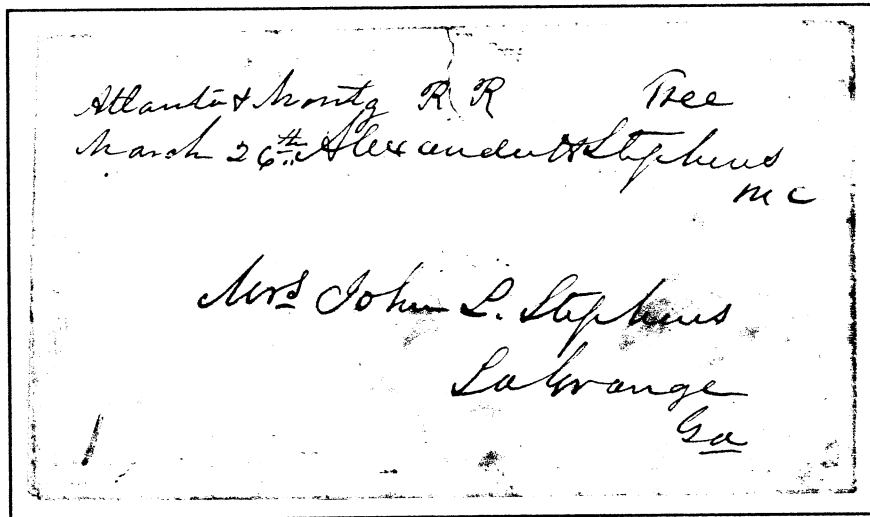


*Different style of Southern Express Company label on Washington Branch cover.
Georgia Railroad carriage indicated on label.*

Georgia Railroad

Branch - Atlanta to Montgomery
Route agent, 1853-1855

March 26, 185-



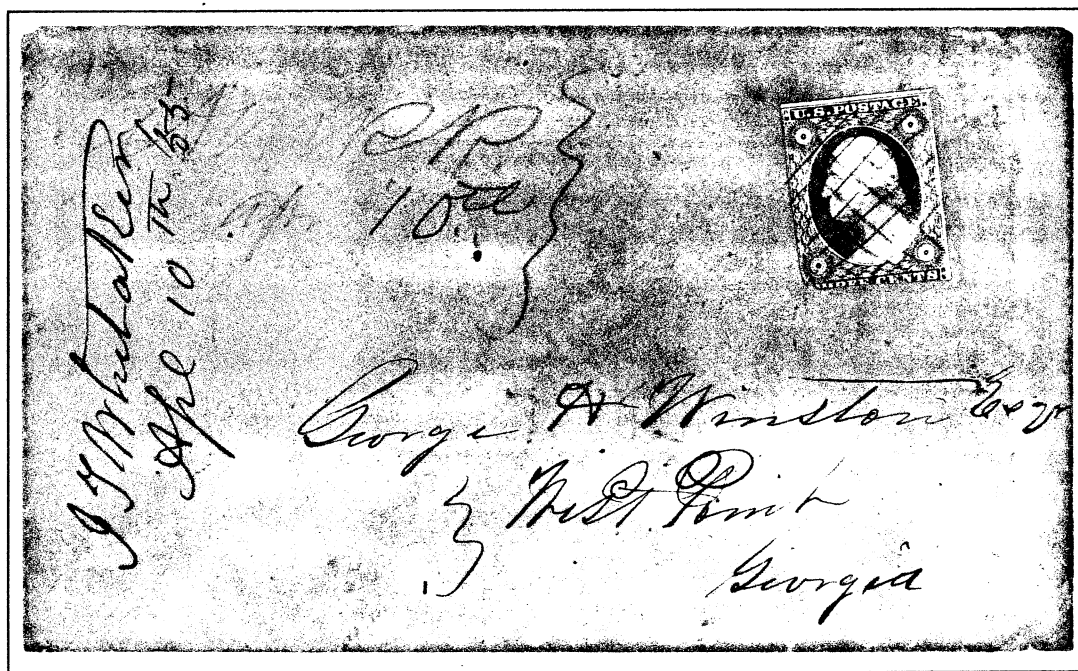
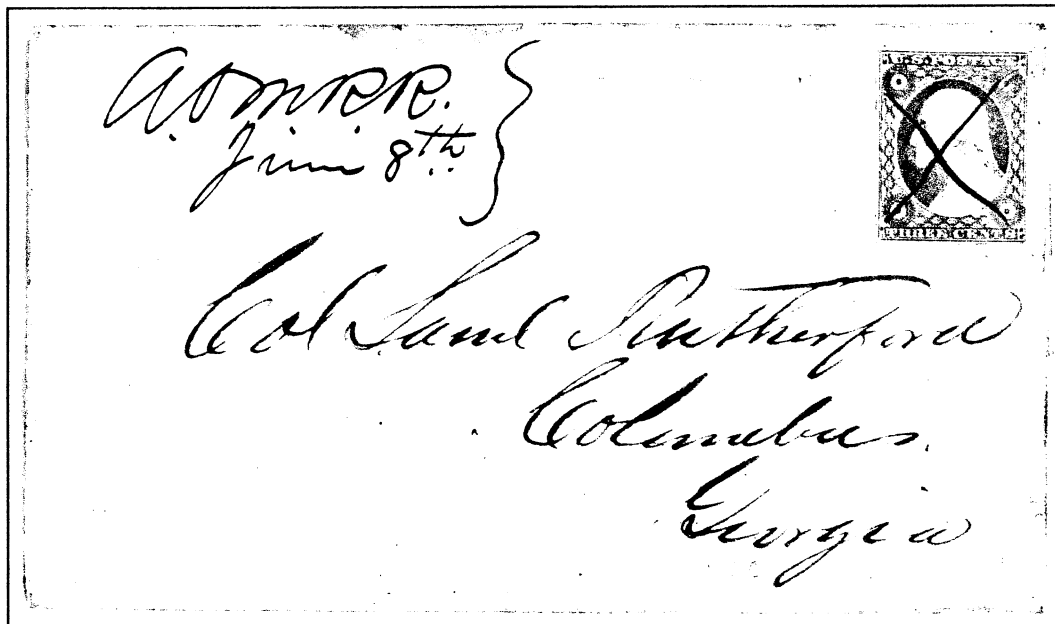
Only recorded manuscript "Atlanta & Montg RR" marking.



Georgia Railroad

Branch - Atlanta to Montgomery
Route agent, 1853-1855

June 8, 1854
April 10, 1855

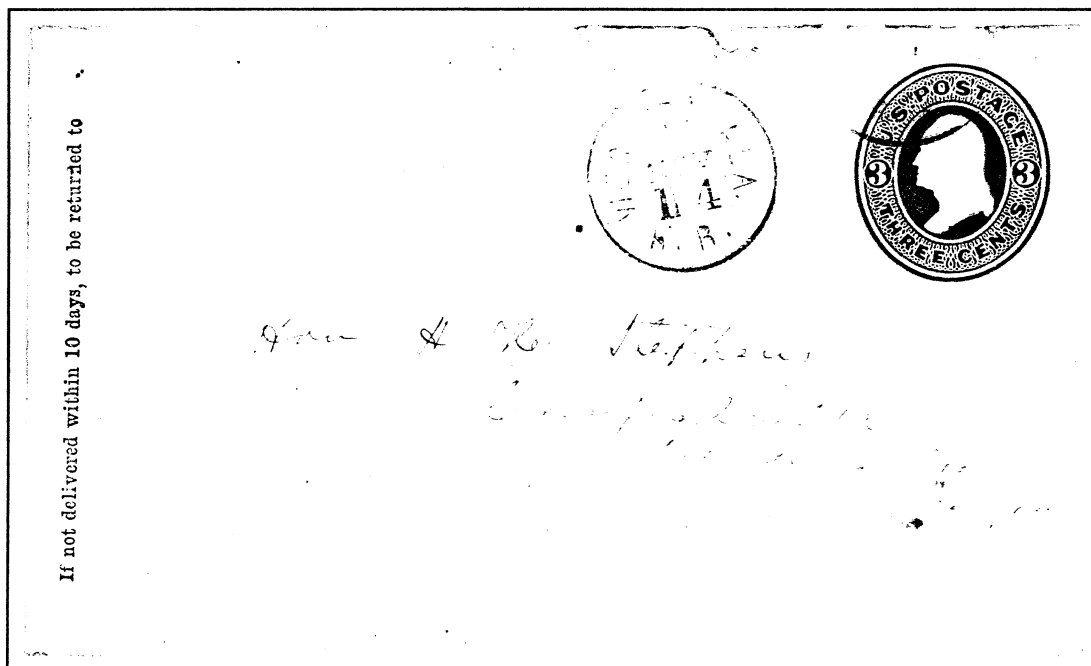
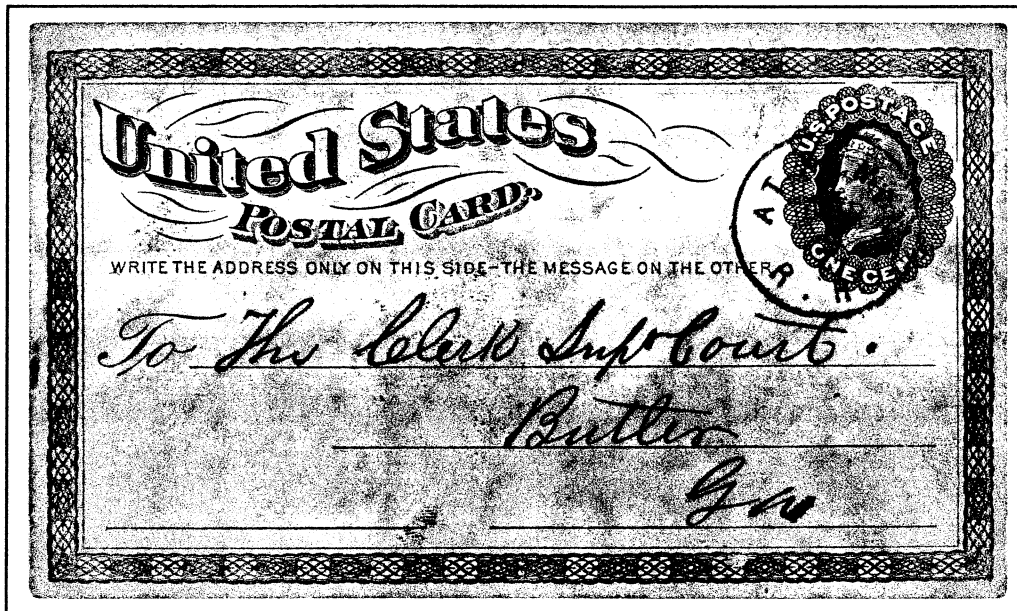


Atlanta & Lagrange, Montgomery & West Point Railroads operated by Georgia RR.

Georgia Railroad

Branch - Atlanta to Montgomery
Route agent, 1866-1880

April 9, 1875
November 14, 1873

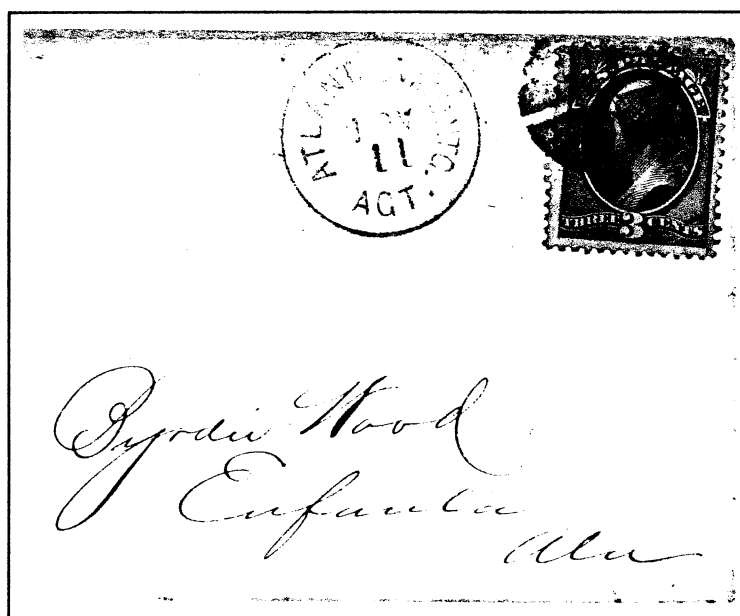
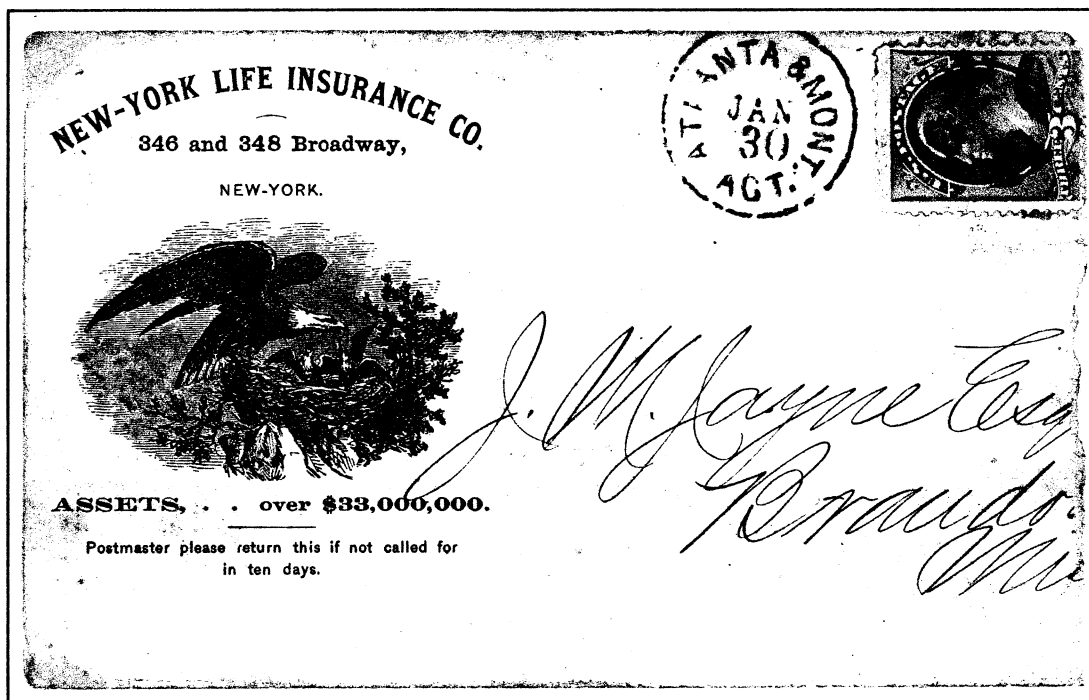


*Atlanta & West Point and West Point & Montgomery Agents combined, 1866,
under Georgia Railroad. Western R.R. of Alabama marking still in use, below.*

Georgia Railroad

Branch - Atlanta to Montgomery
Route agent, 1866-1880

January 30, 18-
November 11, 18-

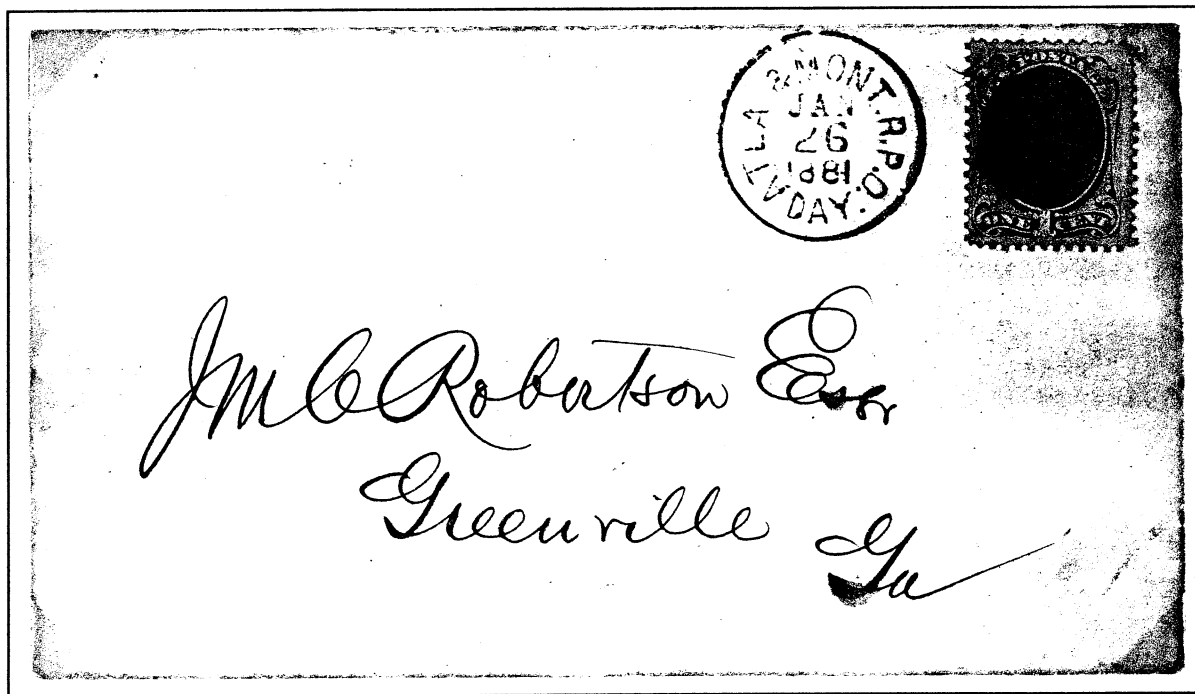


Route agent markings, undated, but before R.P.O. service began, July 1, 1880.

Georgia Railroad

Branch - Atlanta to Montgomery
R.P.O., 1880-1890

February 20, 1875
January 26, 1881

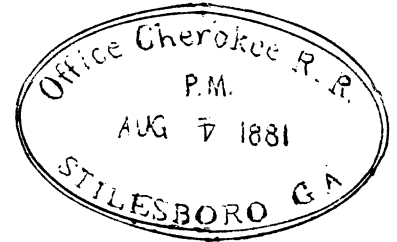
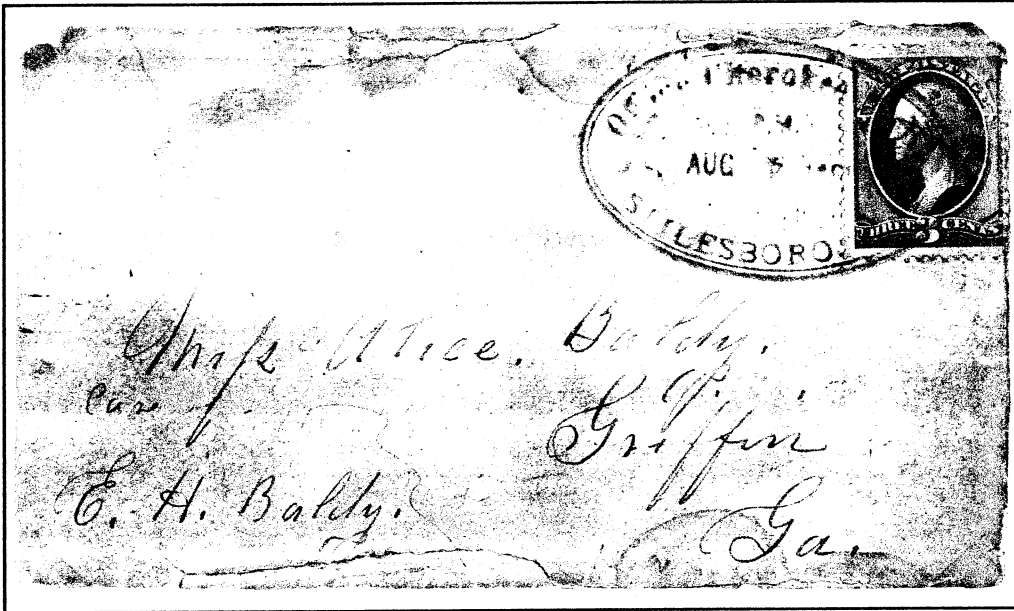


Above, route agent use of early-issued R.P.O. postmark, with partial "S" killer. Below, R.P.O. period use. 1¢ circular rate mail should not have been handled by R.P.O. clerks.

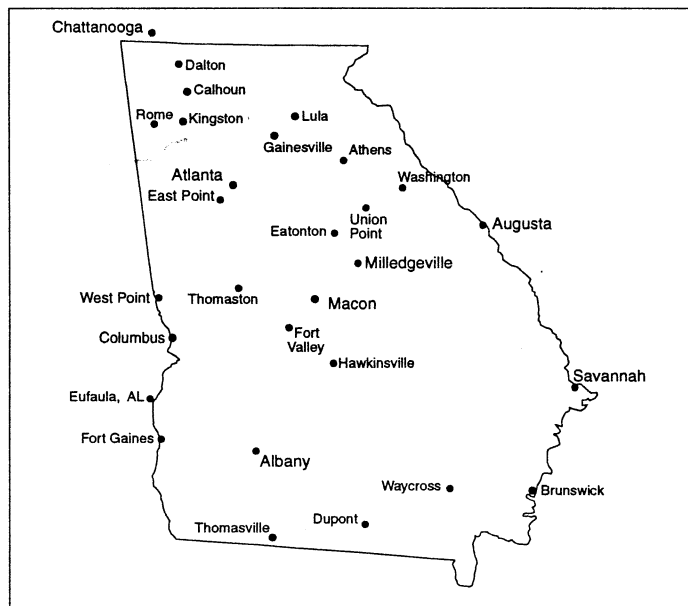
Cherokee Railroad

Main line
Station agent, Stilesboro, GA

August 4, 1881



Cherokee Railroad joined Western & Atlantic and Selma, Rome & Dalton Railroads. Only reported cover of this strike; nature of the "agent" unknown.



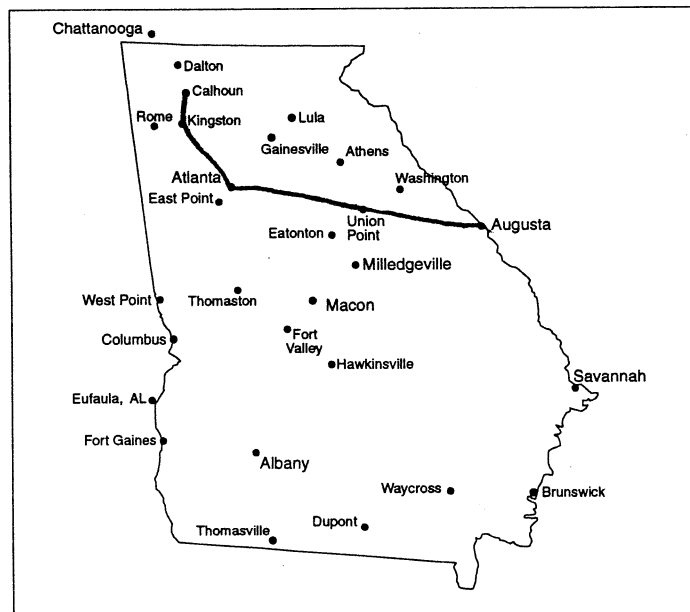
Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Augusta to Oothcaloga
Route agent, 1846-1847

August 11, 1847

Mr. H. P. 3
Aug 11 1847
Geo. S. R. Foster
Cum gratia
Forsyth Co. Ga.

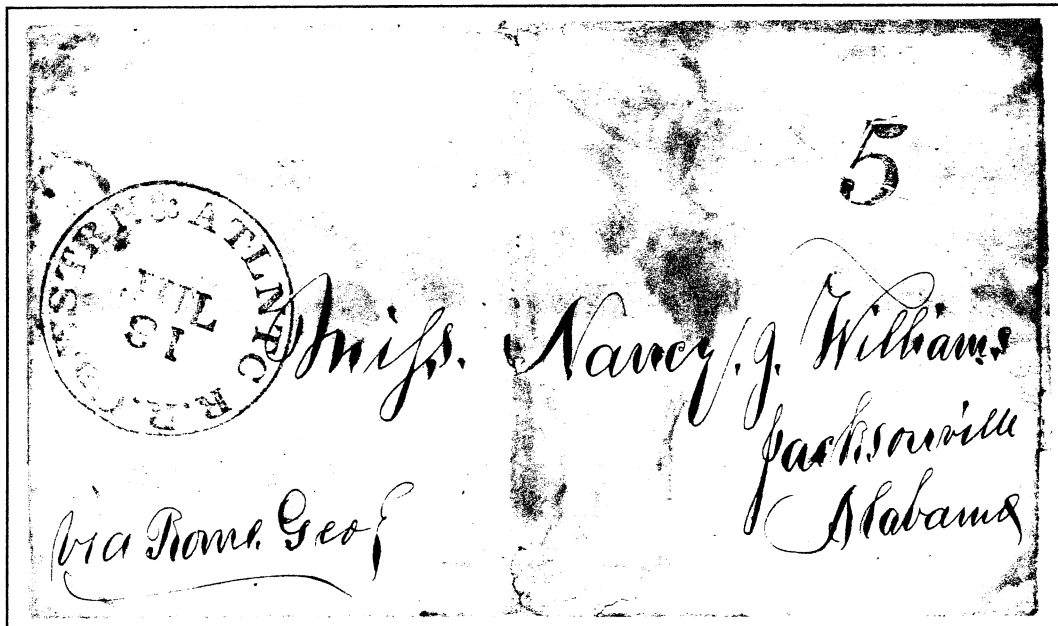
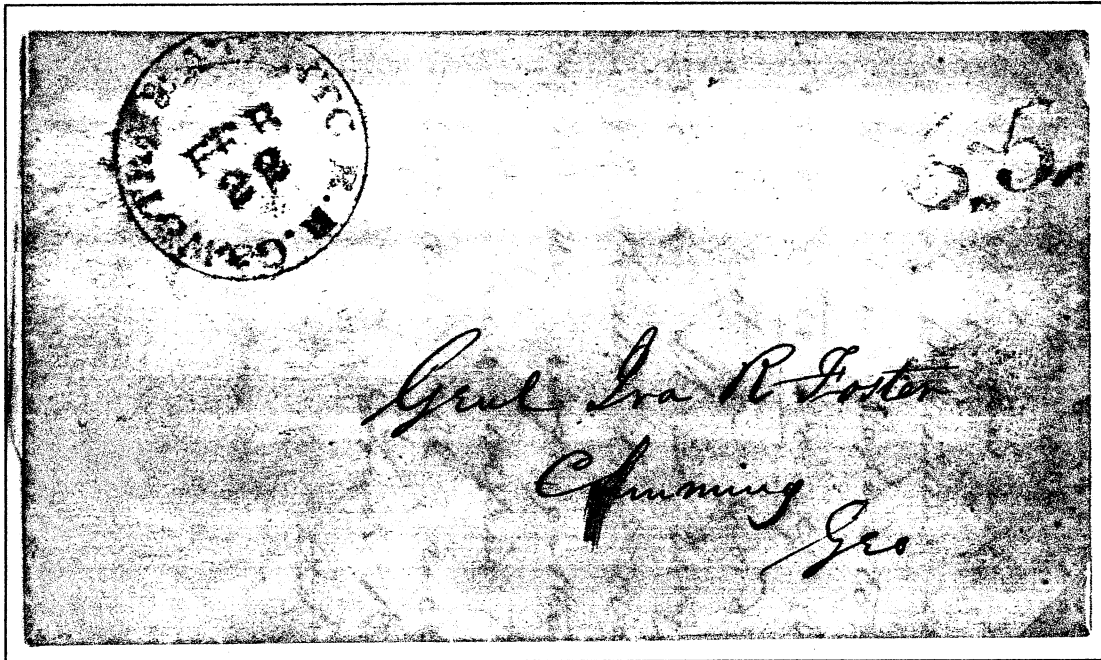
*Joint route agent contract with Georgia R.R. An Augusta & Oothcaloga R.R.
cover is in frame 1. Augusta origin. 5¢ rate of 1845: single, under 300 miles.*



Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Atlanta to Dalton
Route agent, 1848-1850

February 22, 1849
July 31, 18-

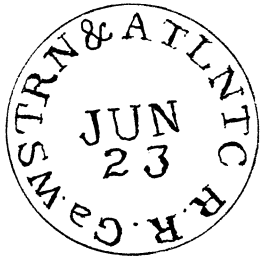


5¢ rate of 1845 for under 300 miles, unpaid. Below, "Via Rome, Geo" refers to a twenty mile stretch, operated by Georgia Railroad, between Kingston and Rome.

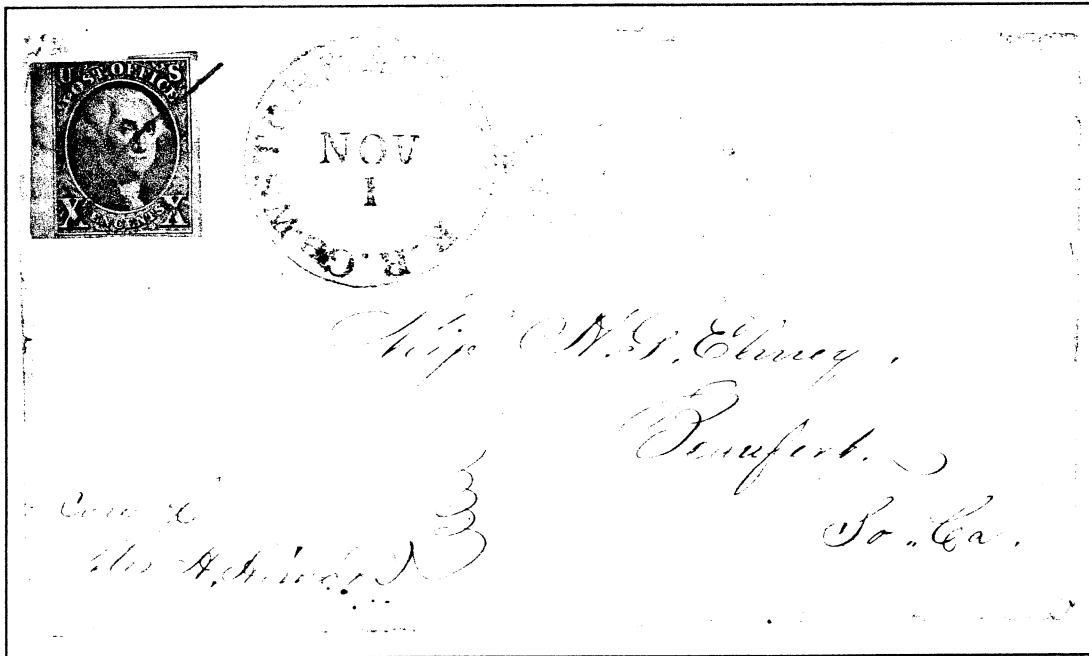
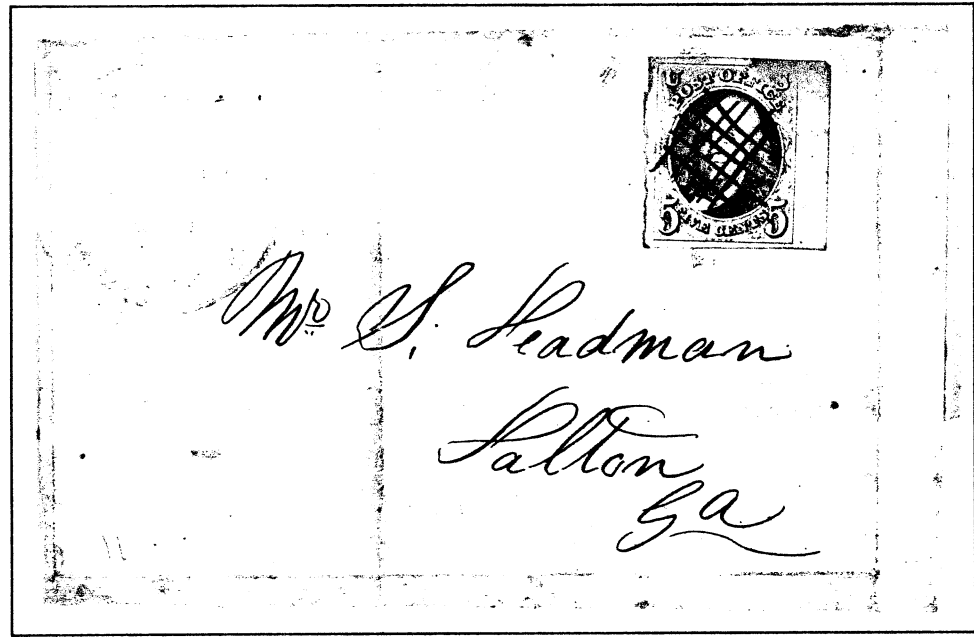
Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Atlanta to Dalton
Route agent, 1848-1850

June 23, 1849
November 1, 18-



PFC 60488

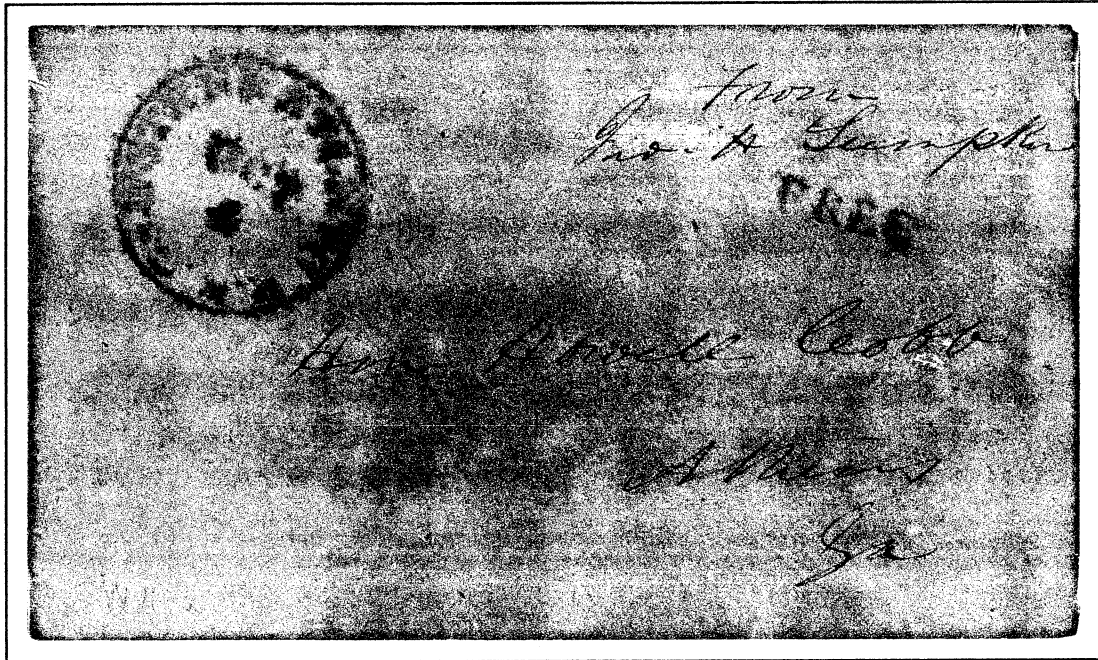


Atlanta-Dalton route agents were supplied 400 5¢ and 50 10¢ of the 1847-issue adhesives. P.L. & R. did not permit Route agents to accept letters prepaid in cash.

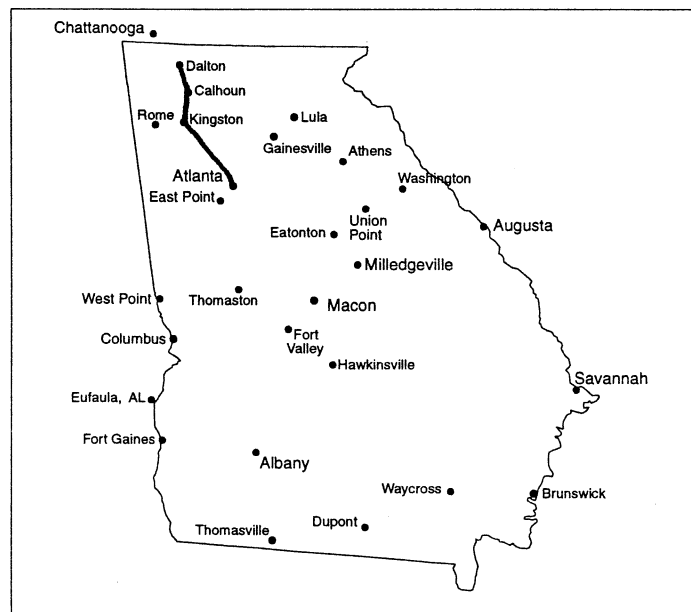
Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Atlanta to Dalton
Route agent, 1848-1850

October 4, 1848



Dalton-Atlanta period. Free franked by J. A. Lumpkin, Congressman, 1842-49.



Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line

Route agent contracts

Joint with Georgia Railroad

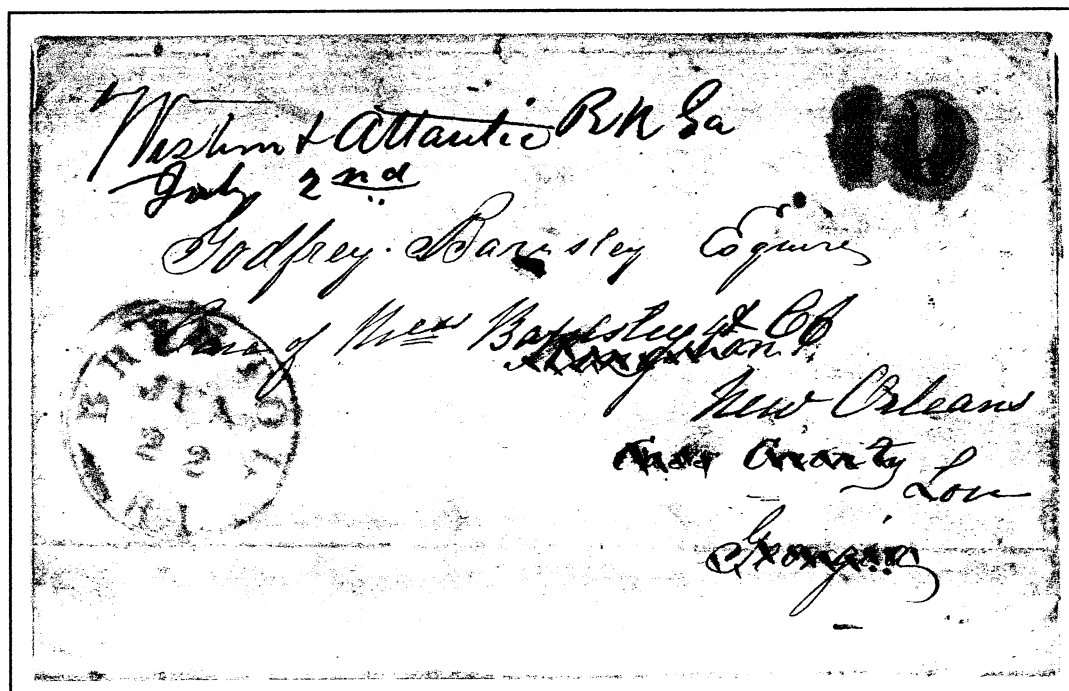
Augusta & Oothcaloga	1846-1847
Augusta & Dalton	1847-1848

Western & Atlantic Railroad

Dalton & Atlanta	1848-1850
Chattanooga & Atlanta	1850-1861

Main line - Atlanta to Dalton
Route agent, 1848-1850

July 2, 1849

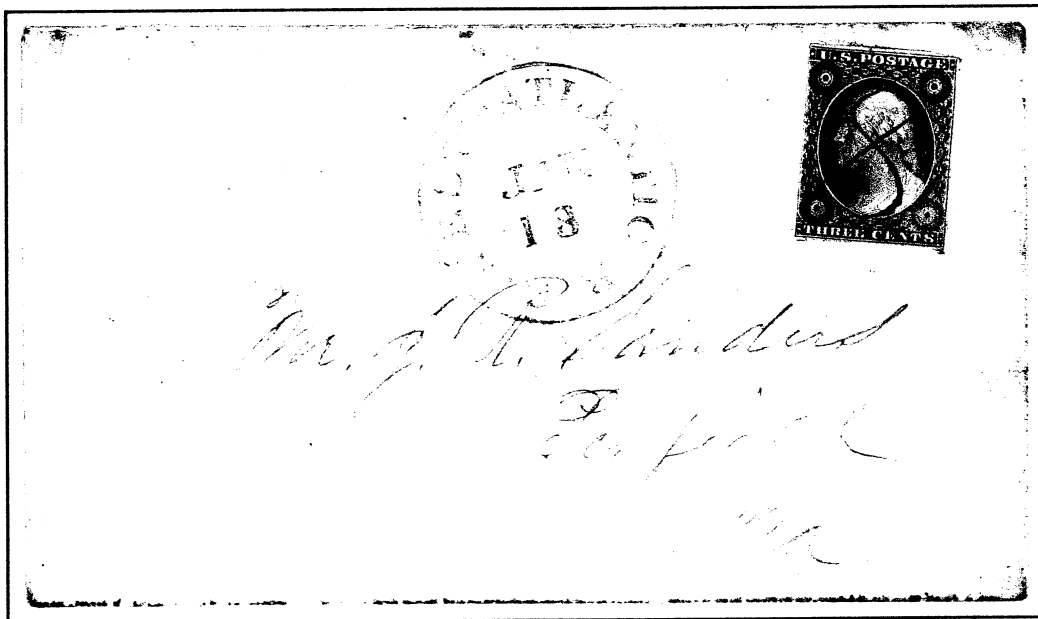
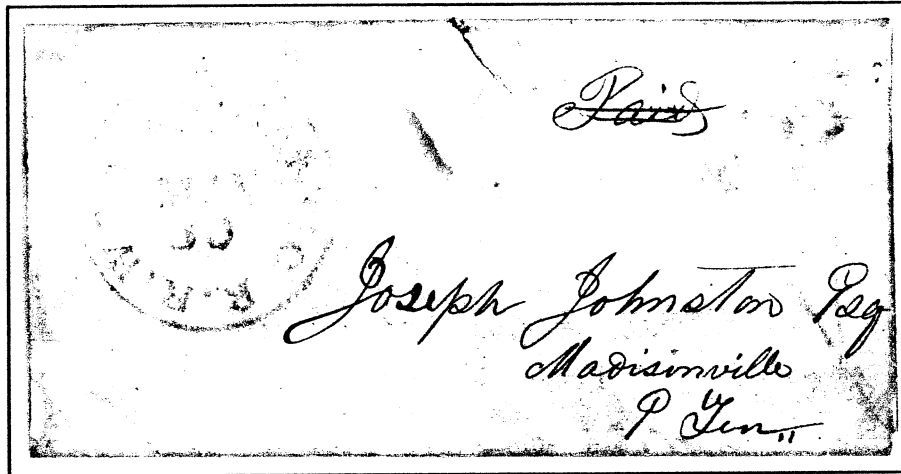


Only recorded example of "Western & Atlantic R.R. Ga." manuscript marking.
Letter originating Bristol, R.I., forwarded to New Orleans from Kingston, Georgia.

Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Atlanta to Chattanooga
Route agent, 1850-1861

May 30, 1851
January 18, 18-

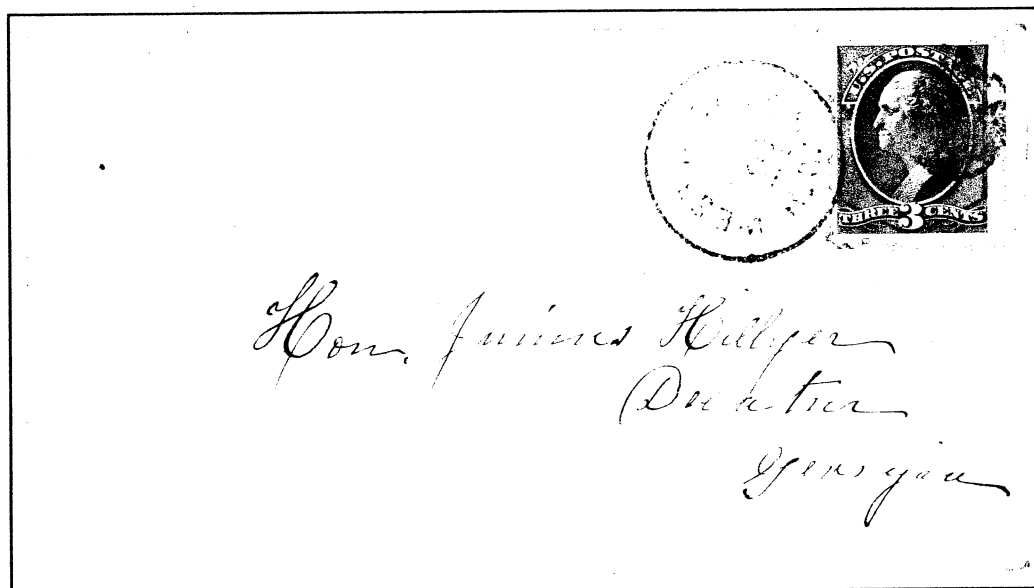
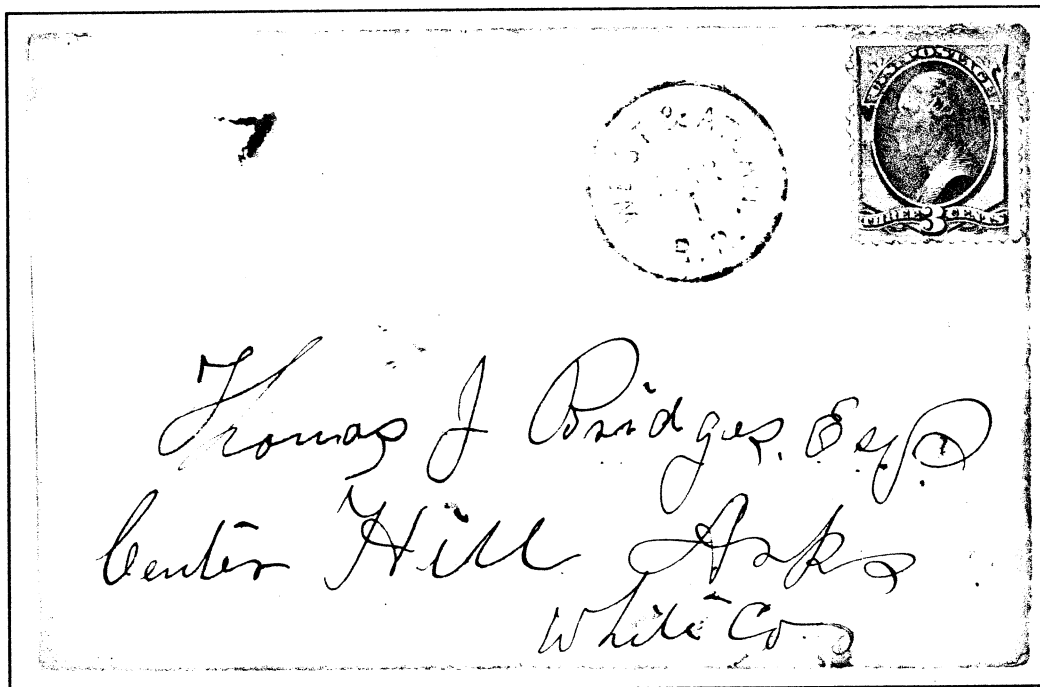


Different handstamp type, usage after completion of line to Chattanooga.

Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Atlanta to Chattanooga
Route agent, 1865-1867

March 4, 18-
July 21, 1876

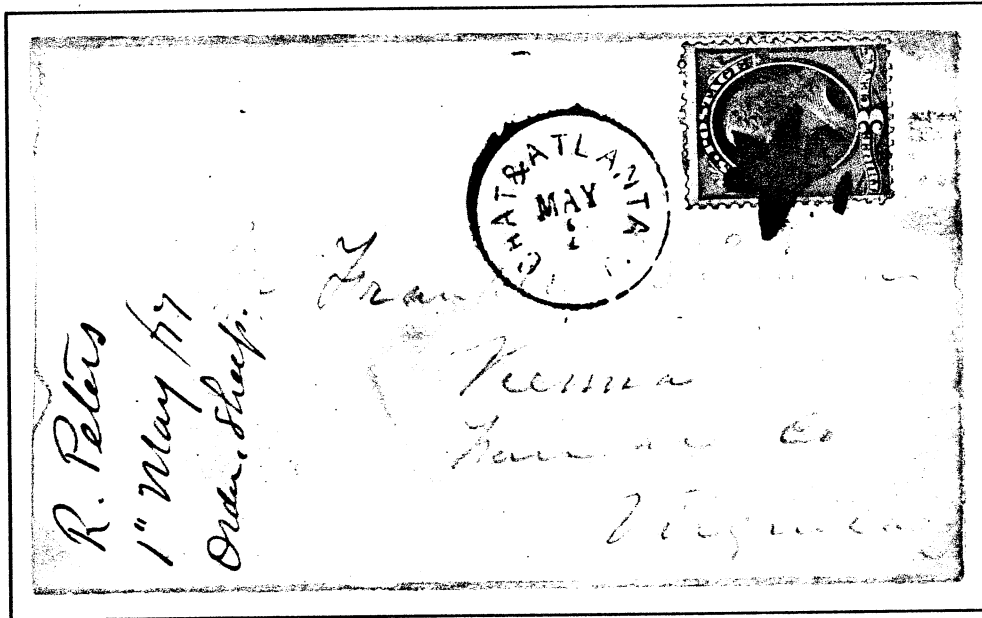


Route agent service resumed after war, operating 1865-1867. Two types of CDS, prepared for route agents, and still in use on later (1867-1891) R.P.O.

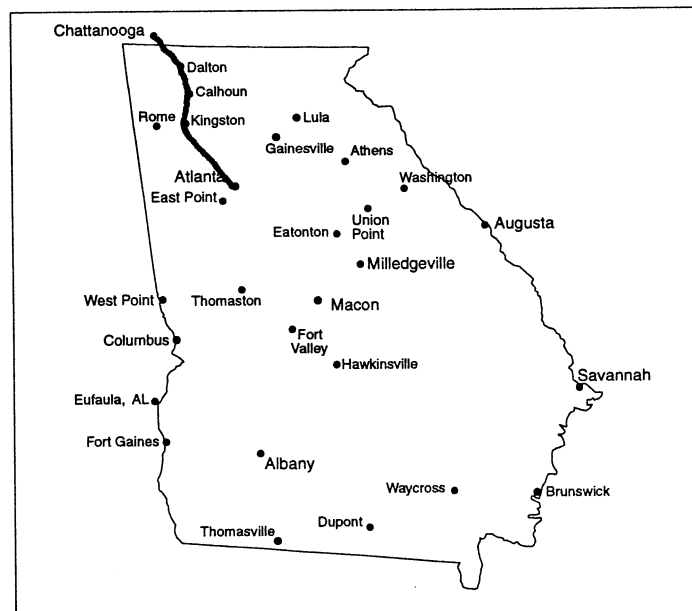
Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Atlanta to Chattanooga
Route agent, 1865-1867

May 1, 1877



Another route agent handstamp, apparently issued for the 1865-1867 period, but in use during the second (1874-1891) of the R.P.O. periods.



Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main Line - Atlanta to Chattanooga

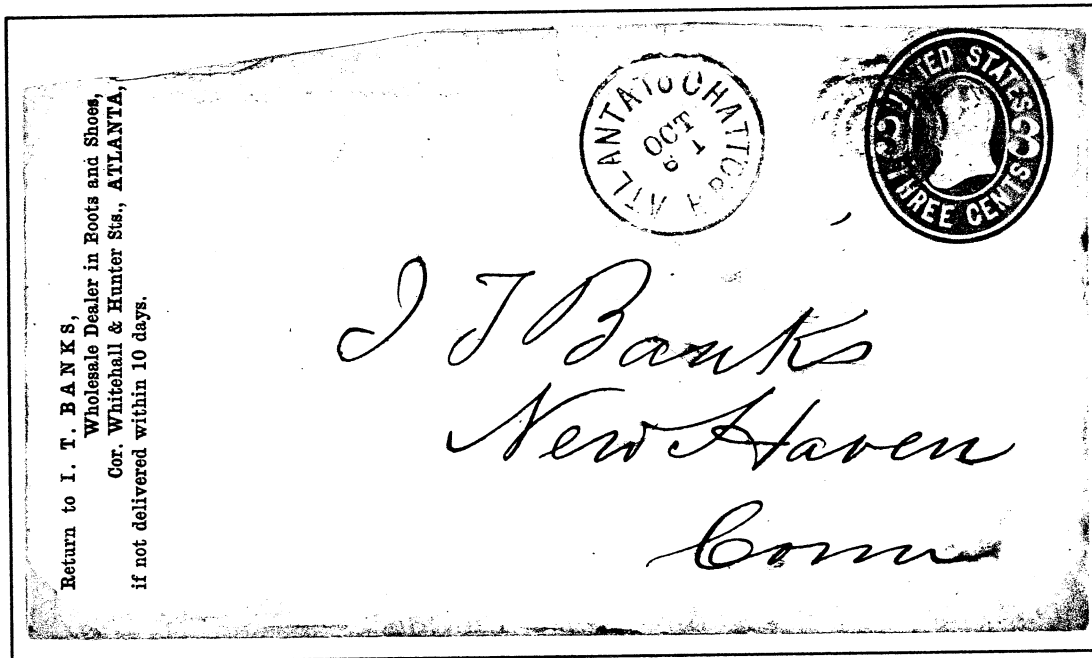
R.P.O. service

Atlanta & Chattanooga
Chattanooga & Atlanta

1867-1874
1874-1891

Main line - Atlanta to Chattanooga
R.P.O., 1867-1874

October 31, 1868

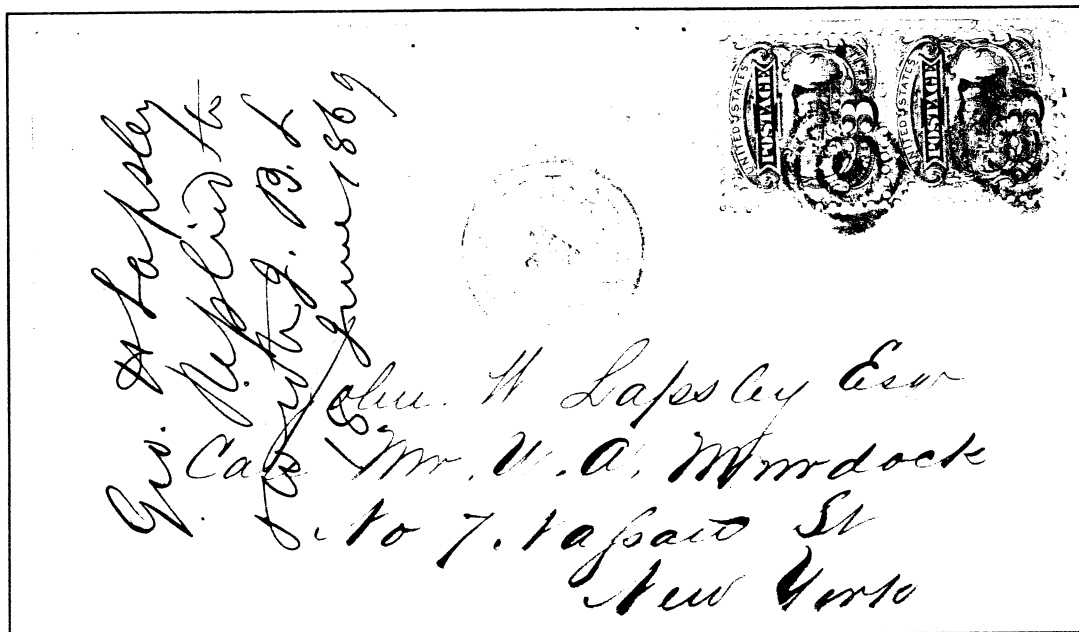
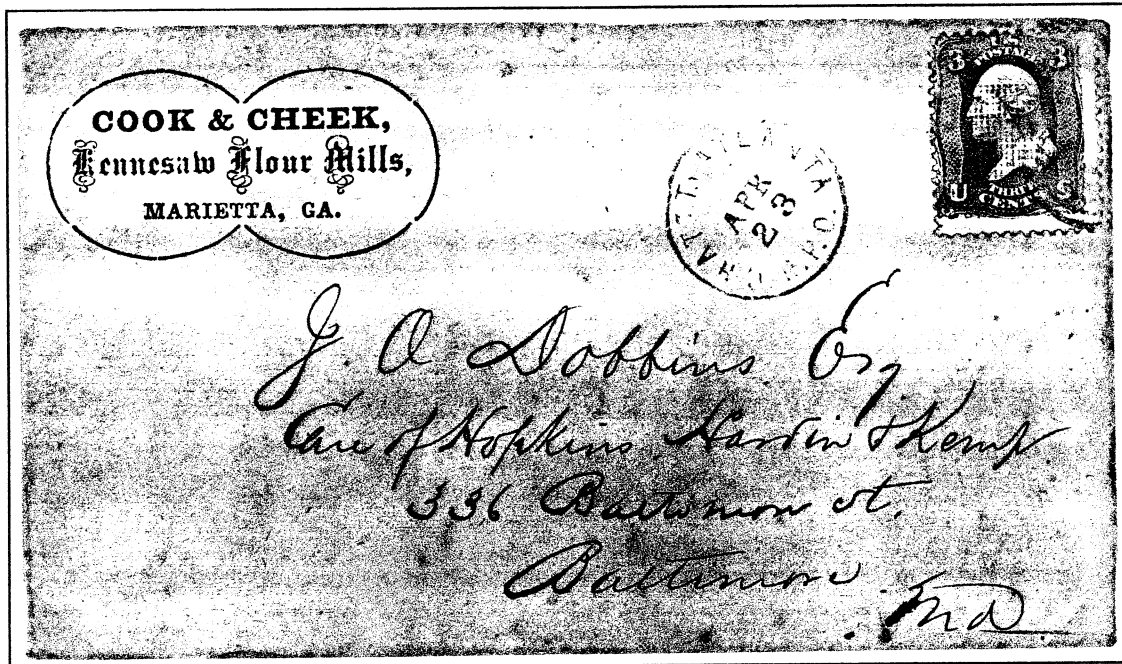


One of the early R.P.O.s in the U.S., established just after the war time interruption in route agent service.

Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Atlanta to Chattanooga
R.P.O., 1867-1874

April 23, 18-
June 8, 1869



R.P.O.s were inconsistent about order of terminals in CDSs until 1874, whence north terminal appeared first. North terminal first does not imply southbound letter.

Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Atlanta to Chattanooga
R.P.O., 1867-1874

- 31, 18-

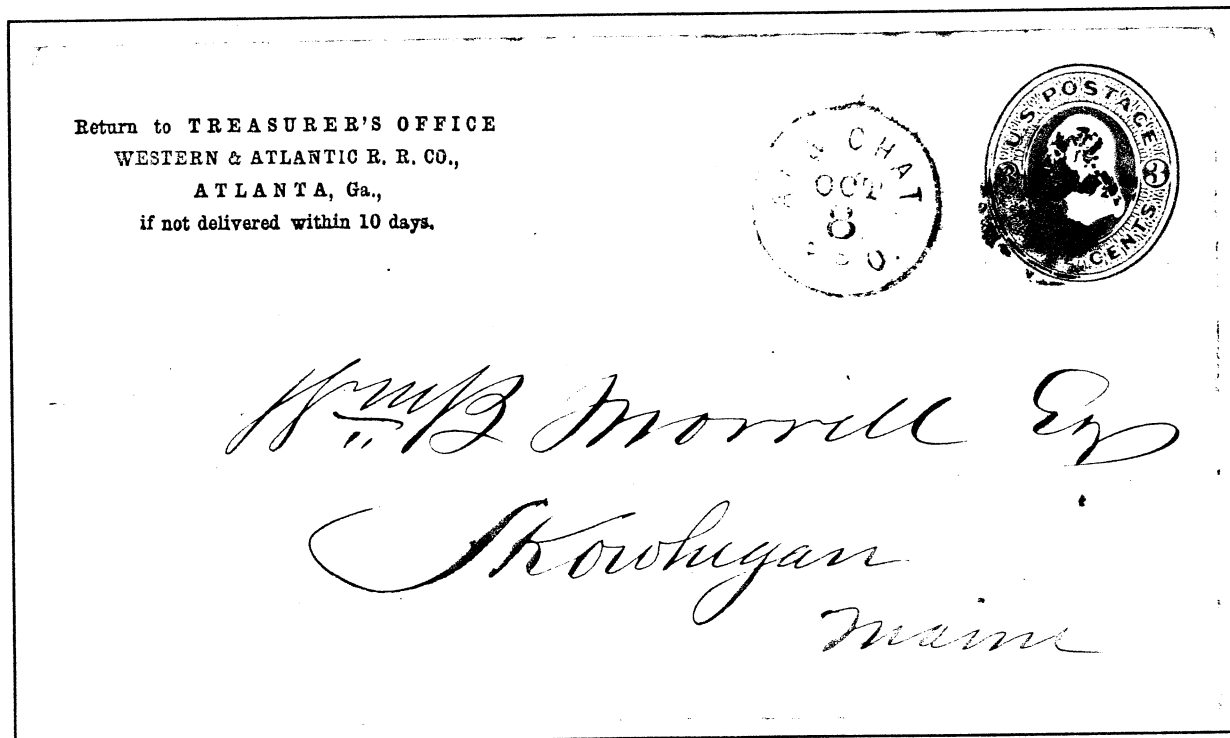
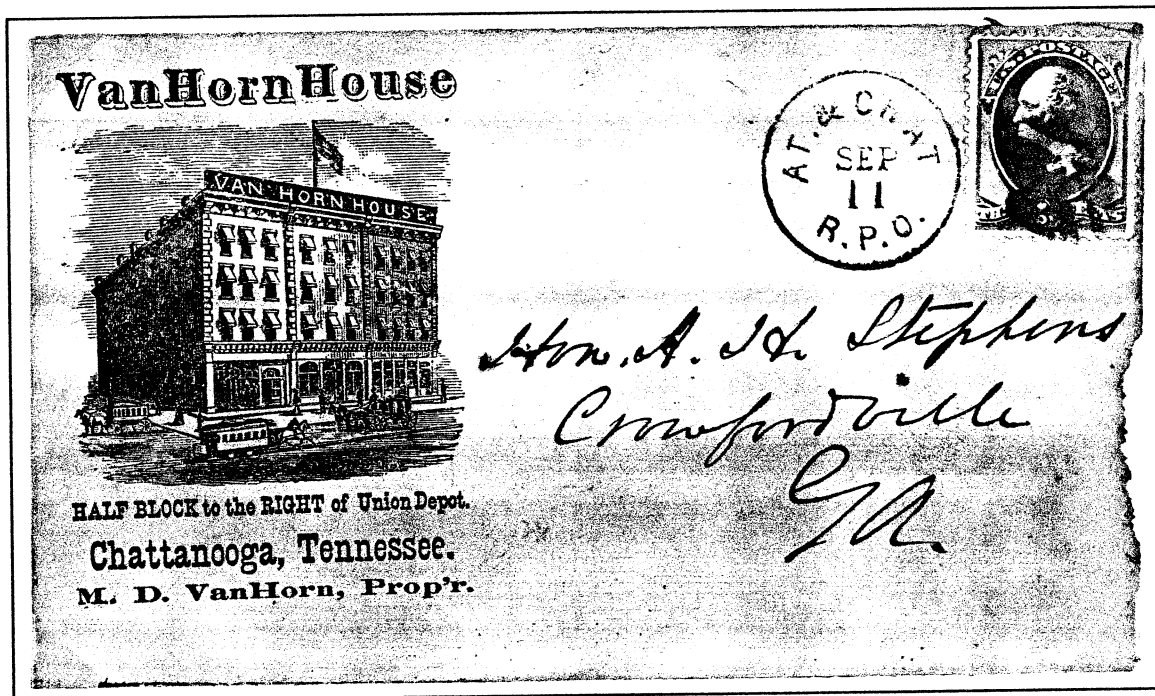


Black Jack railroad cover. Despite a missing piece, franking is correct for third class rate of 1863 for packets containing photographs. 2¢ 1867 adhesive, F grill.

Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Atlanta to Chattanooga
R.P.O., 1867-1874

September 11, 1876
October 8, 18-

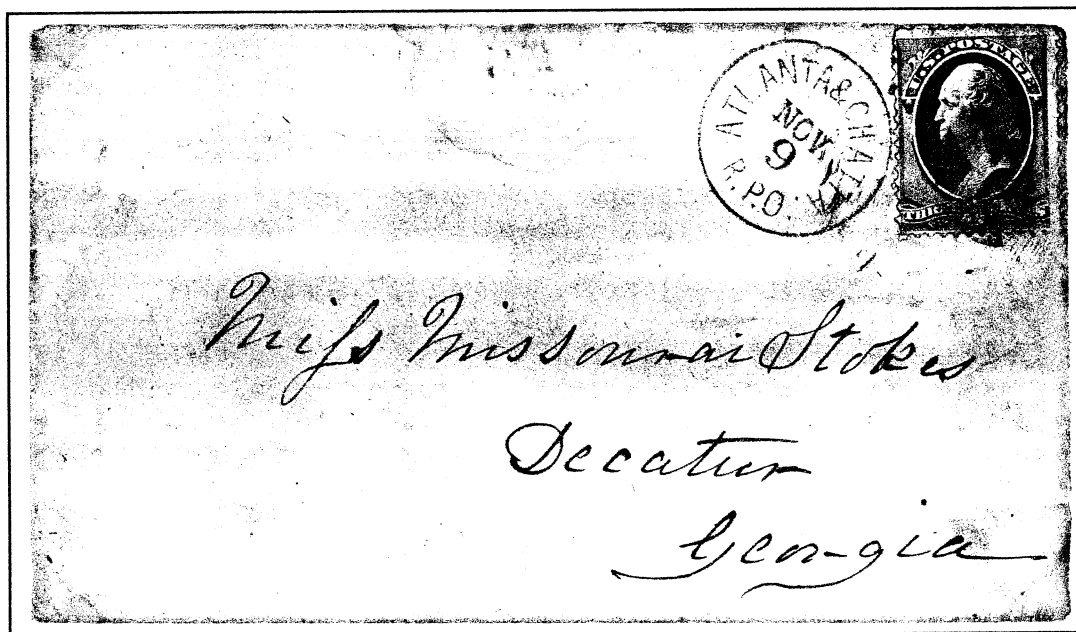
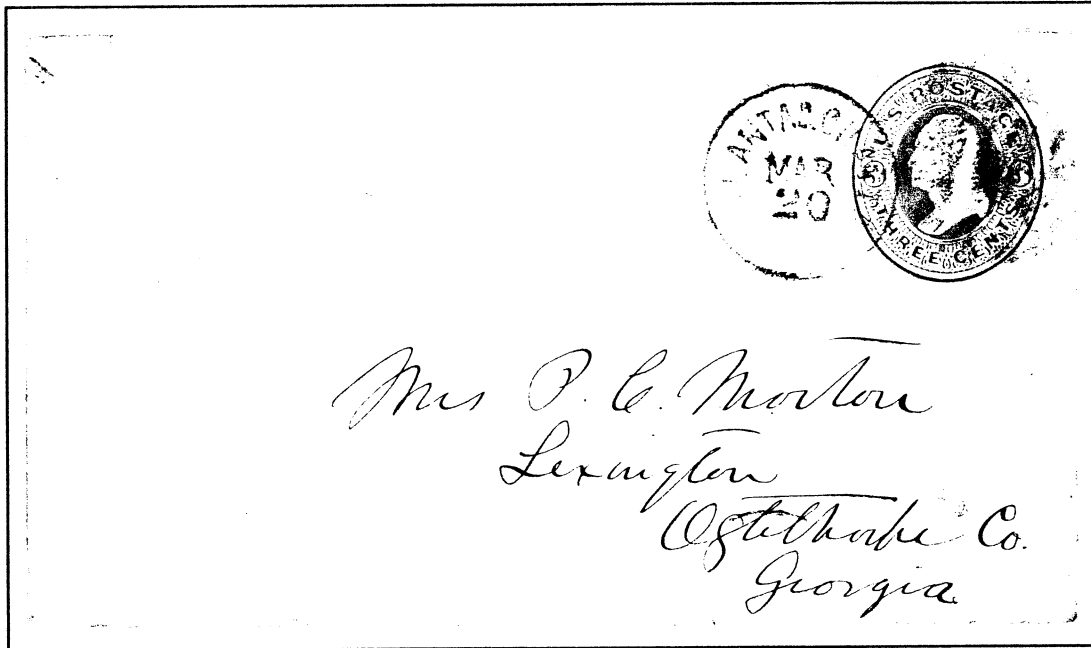


Early period (1867-74) markings with "Atlanta" first, used during the late (1874-91) period.

Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Atlanta to Chattanooga
R.P.O., 1867-1874

March 20, 1872
November 9, 18-

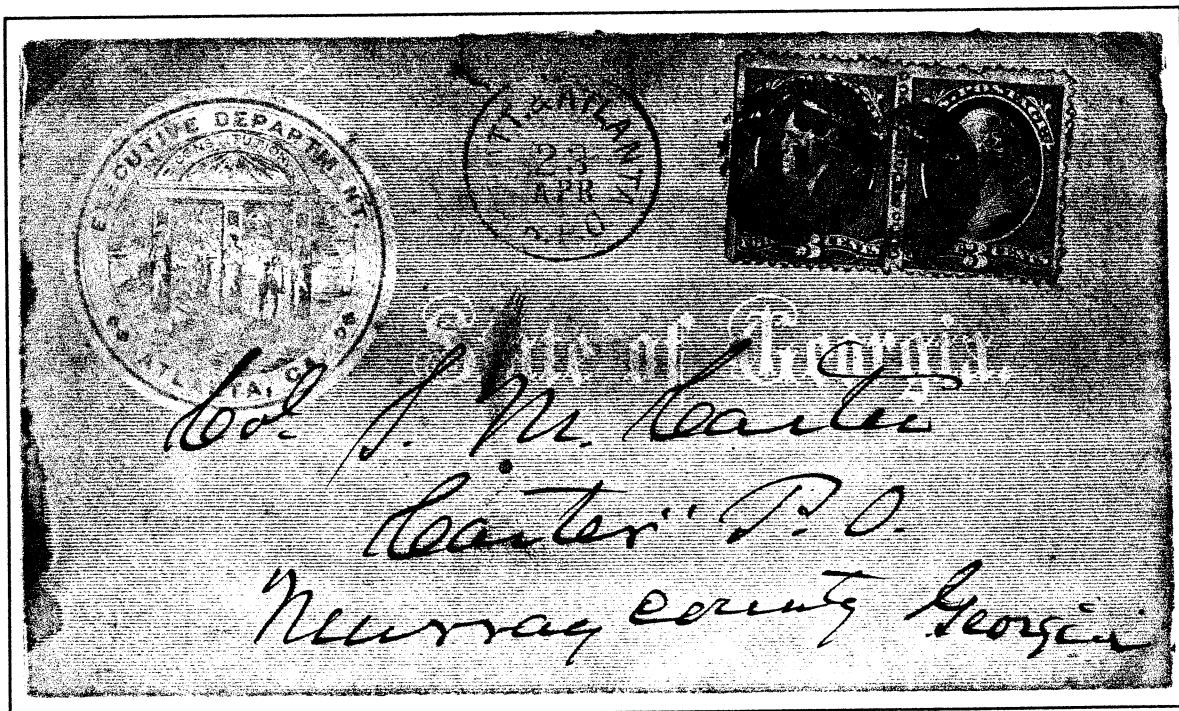
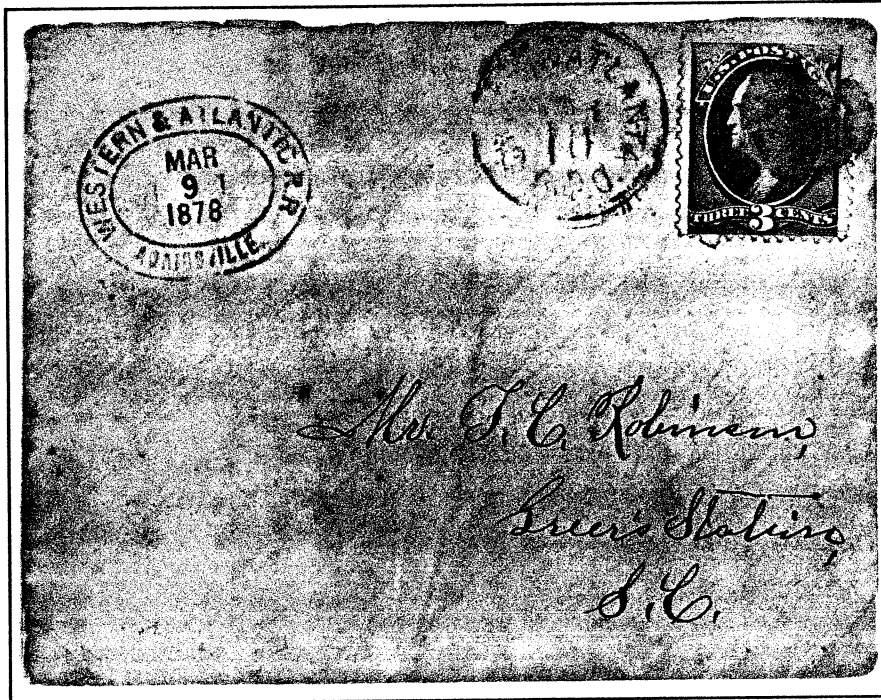


R.P.O. postmarks with the official 1867-1874 name of the line (Atlanta terminal appearing first) in black and blue. Year date "72" appears in killer on upper cover.

Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Atlanta to Chattanooga
R.P.O., 1867-1891

March 10, 1878
April 23, 18-

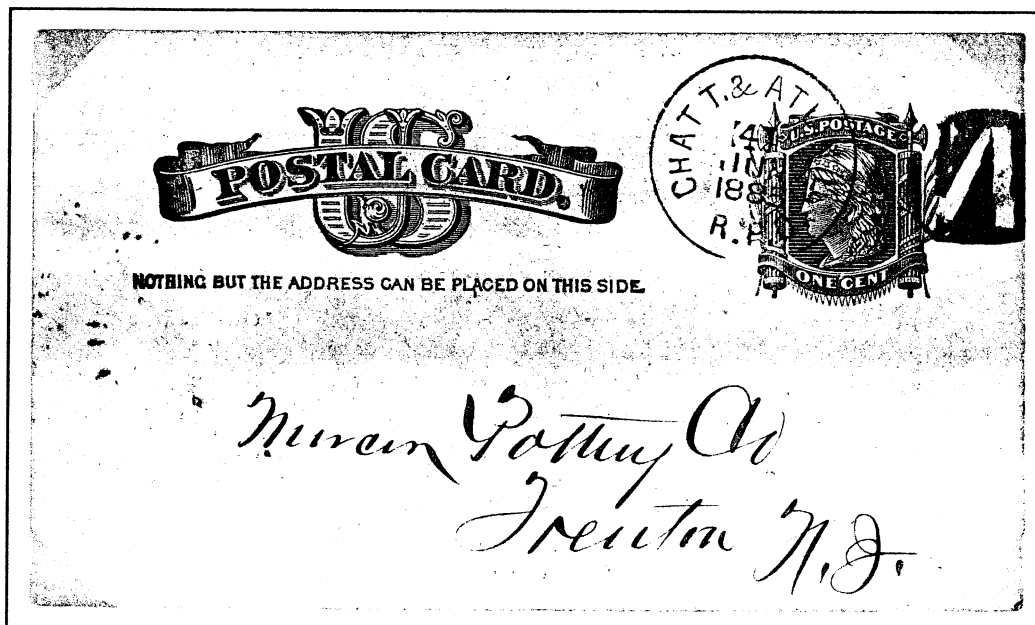
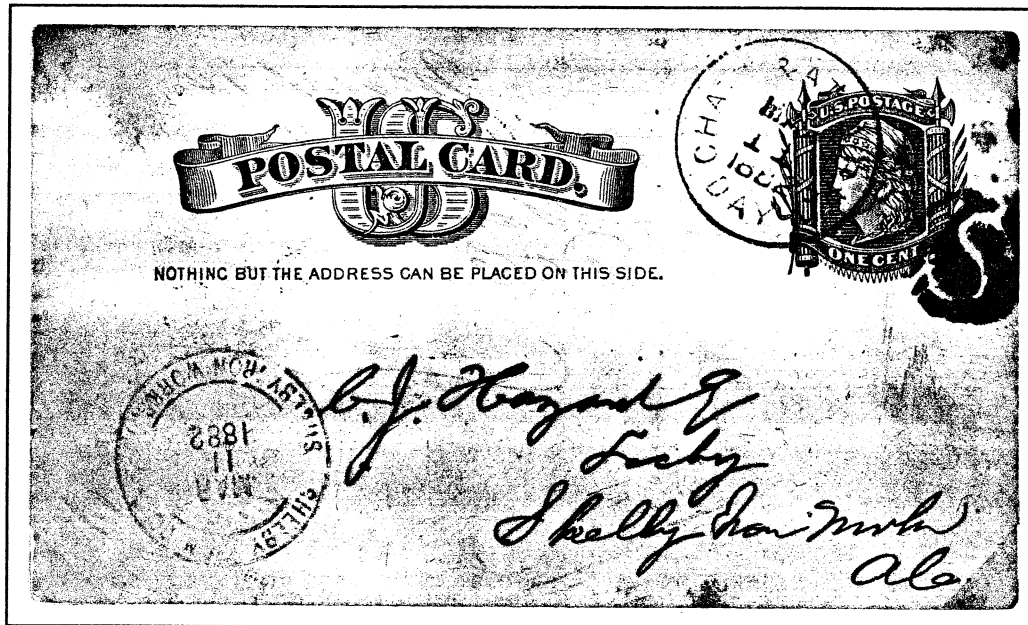


Adairsville, GA origin; clerk's ticket dater used as corner card, above. Atlanta origin. below.

Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Atlanta to Chattanooga
R.P.O., 1874-1891

March 11, 1882
June 4, 1885

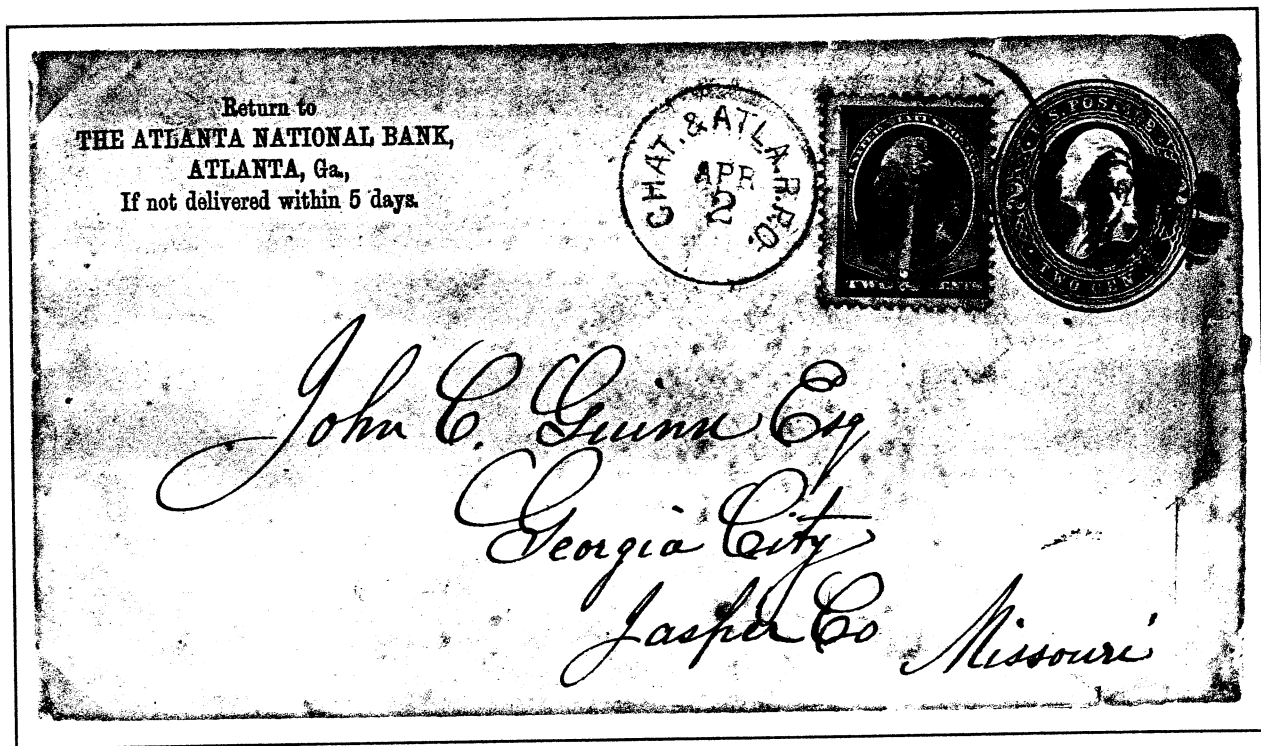
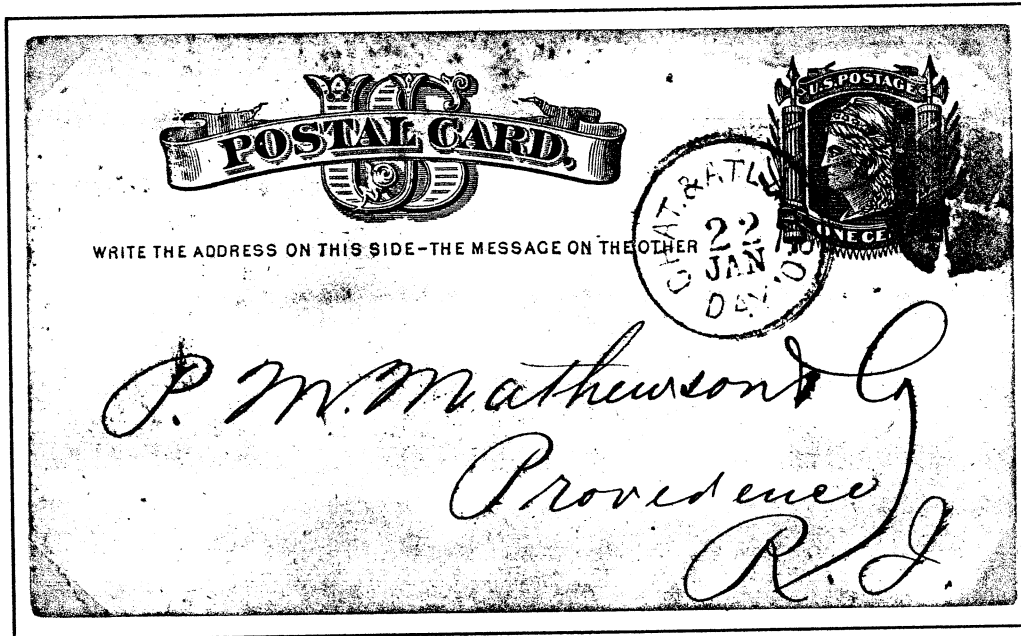


Official markings of the 1874-1891 R.P.O. (northern terminal first). South-bound and northbound trains indicated in killer, day and night line, in dial.

Western & Atlantic Railroad

Main line - Atlanta to Chattanooga
R.P.O., 1874-1891

January 22, 1879
April 2, 188-



Close examination indicates CDS below is not the above type with "DAY" removed at bottom.
Double rate cover, below, dated after 1883, when first class rate reduced to 2¢ per half ounce.

East Tennessee & Georgia Railroad

Main line

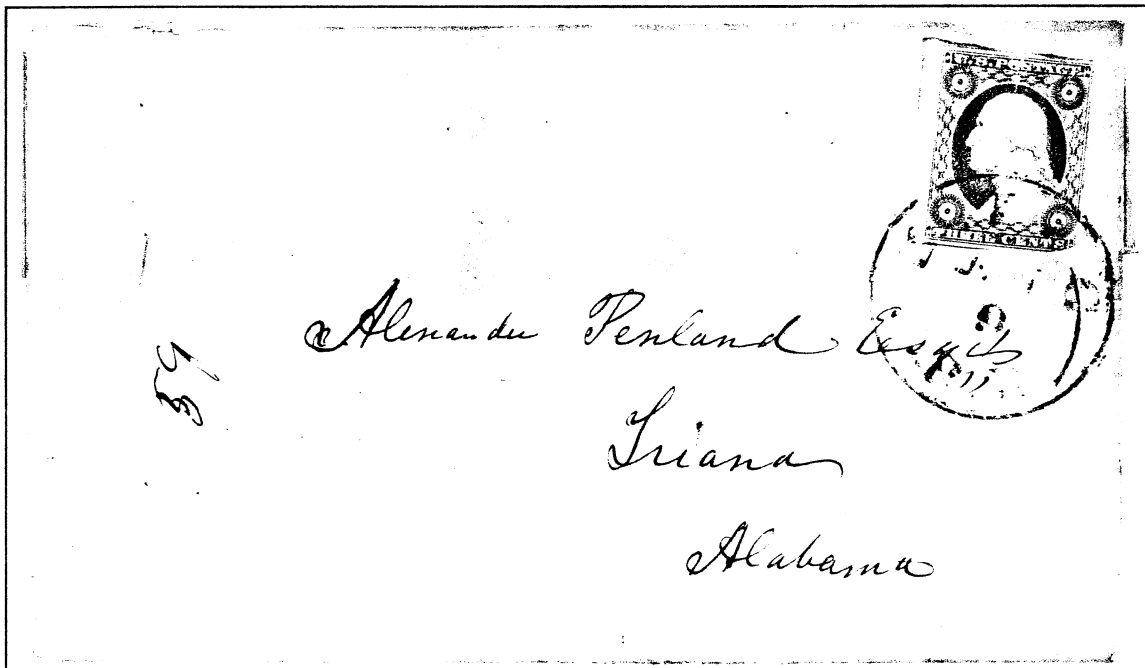
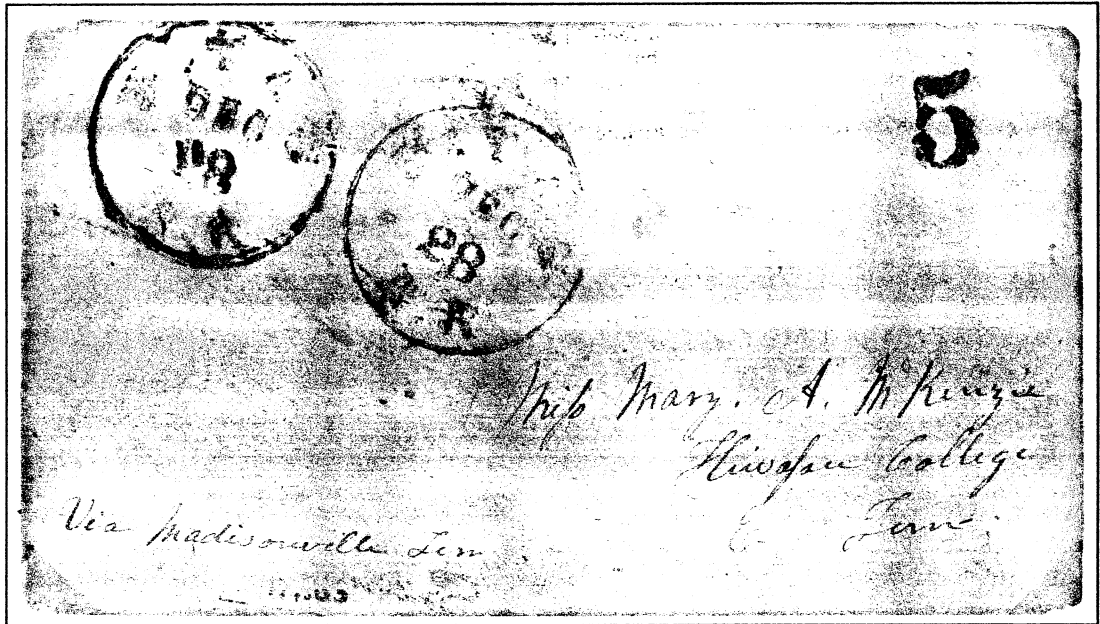
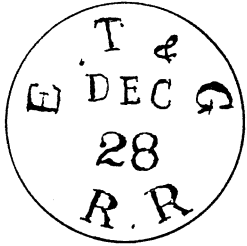
Route agent contracts

Dalton & Loudon
Dalton & Knoxville

1852-1855
1855-1861

Main line - Dalton to Loudon
Route agent, 1852-1855

December 28, 185-
January 9, 1855

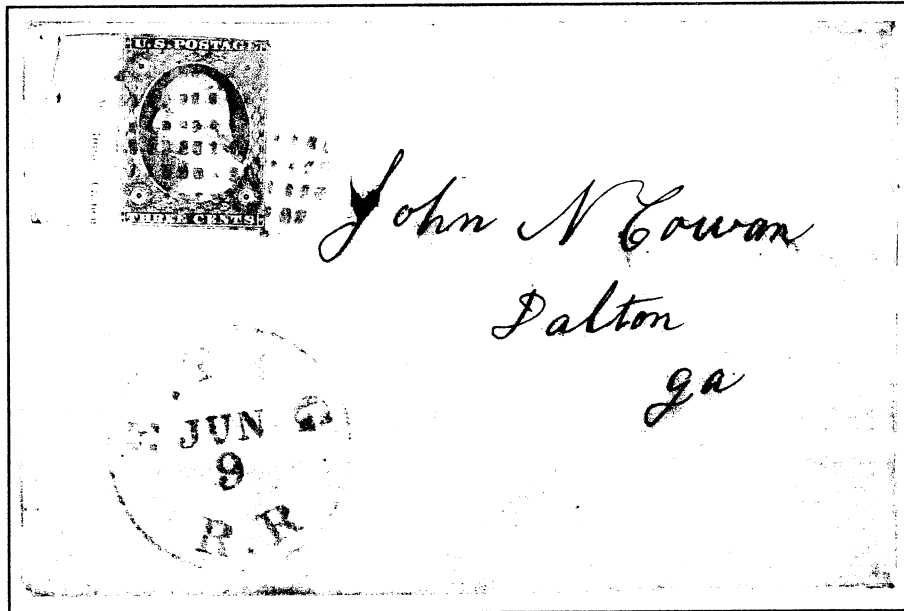


Above is only recorded stampless cover of the E.T. & G. R.R. 5¢ unpaid rate of 1845-55.

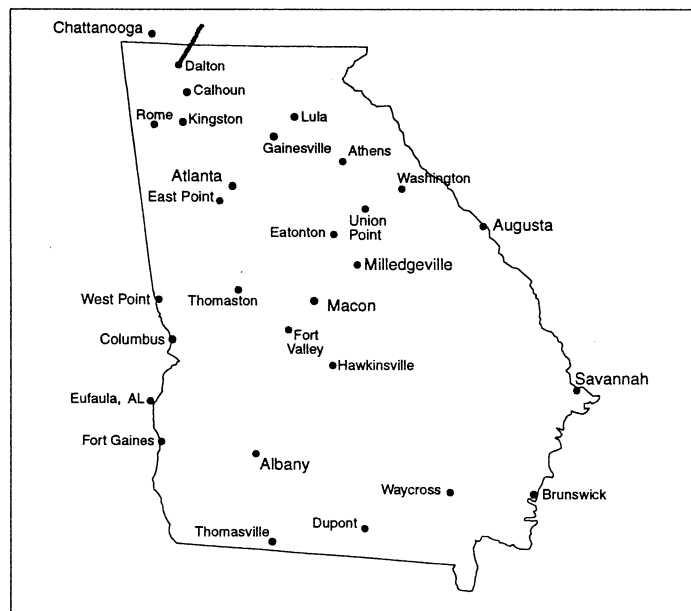
East Tennessee & Georgia Railroad

Main line - Dalton to Knoxville
Route agent, 1852-1861

June 9, 18-



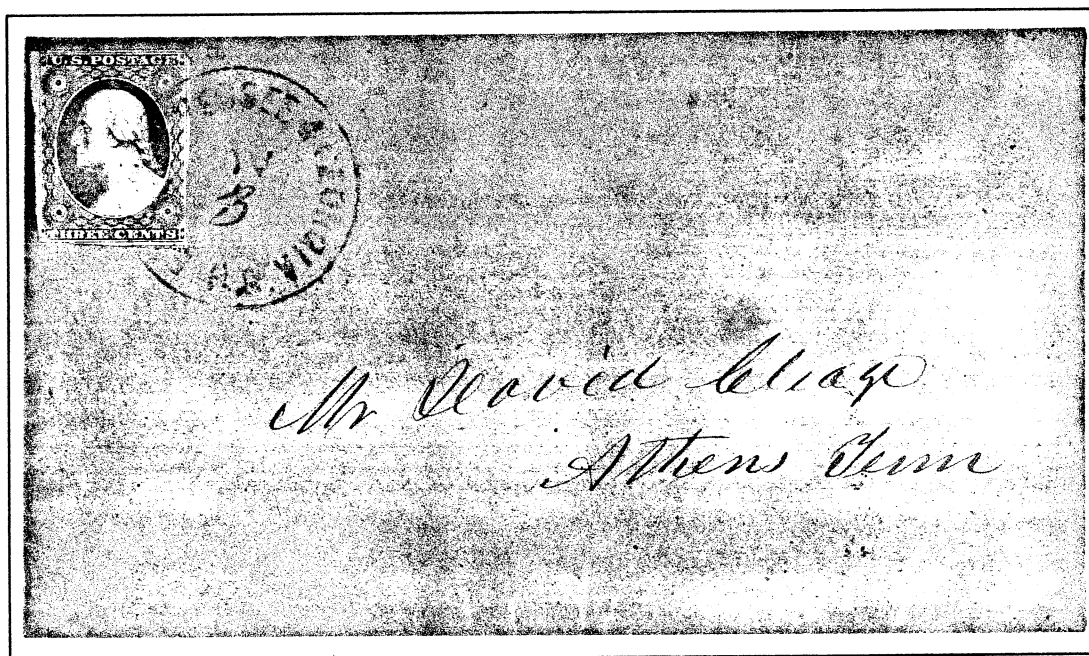
Only recorded E.T.& G. R.R. marking in red. Without year date; possibly construction period usage. Datelined Cleveland, Tennessee.



East Tennessee & Georgia Railroad

Main line - Dalton to Knoxville
Route agent, 1855-1861

November 3, 18-



CDS with railroad name spelled out. Two examples are recorded.

East Tennessee & Georgia Railroad

Selma Rome & Dalton R.R.

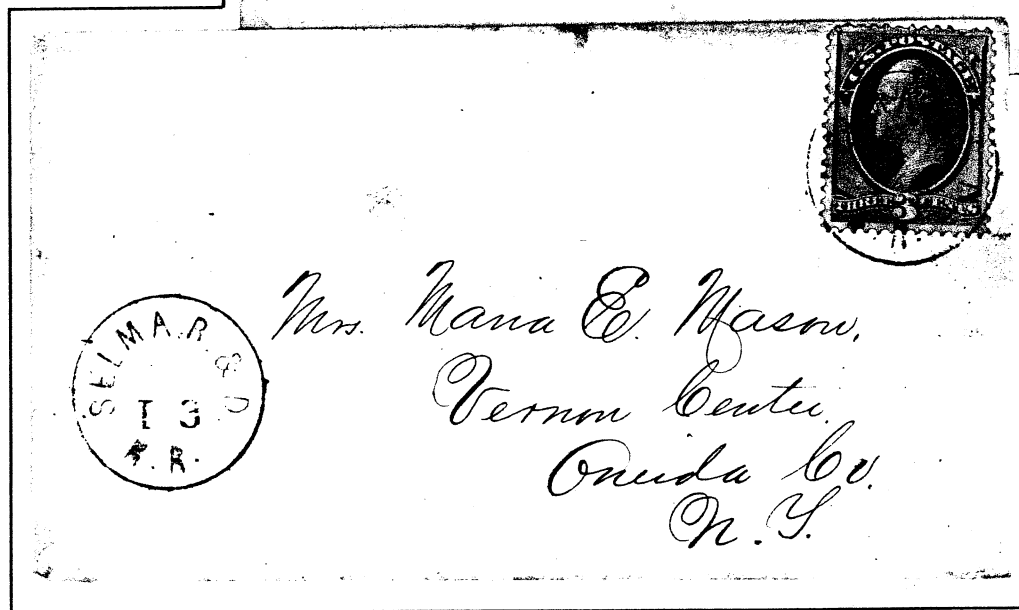
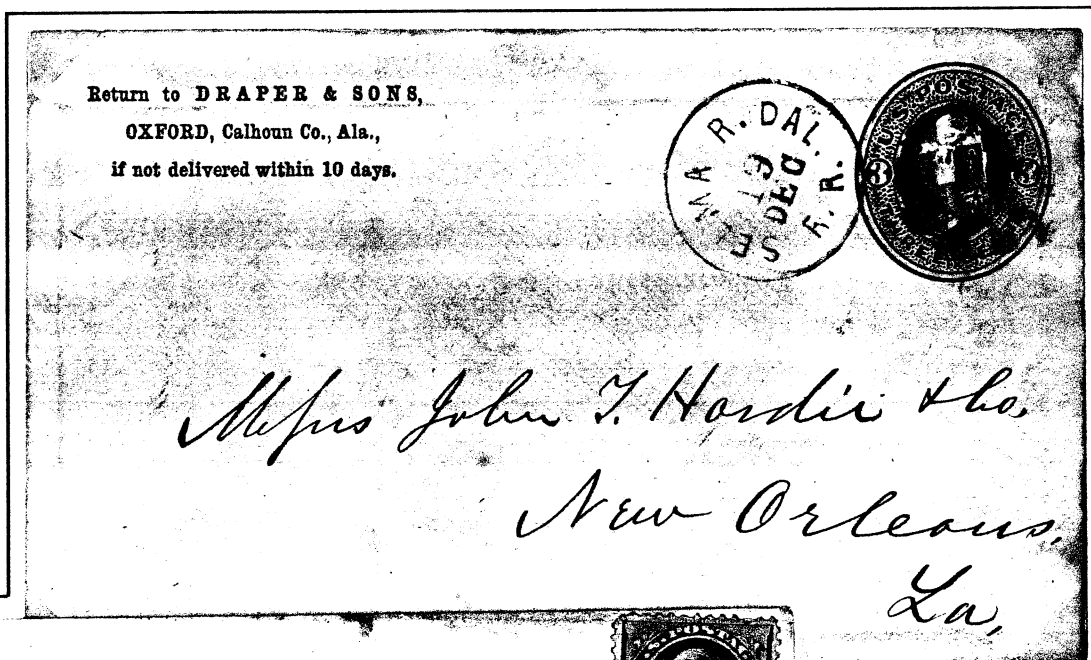
Route agent contracts

Blue Mountain & Selma
Kingston & Selma
Dalton & Selma

1866-1868
1868-1870
1870-1880

Main line - Dalton to Selma
Route agent, 1870-1880

December 19, 18-
February 11, 1871

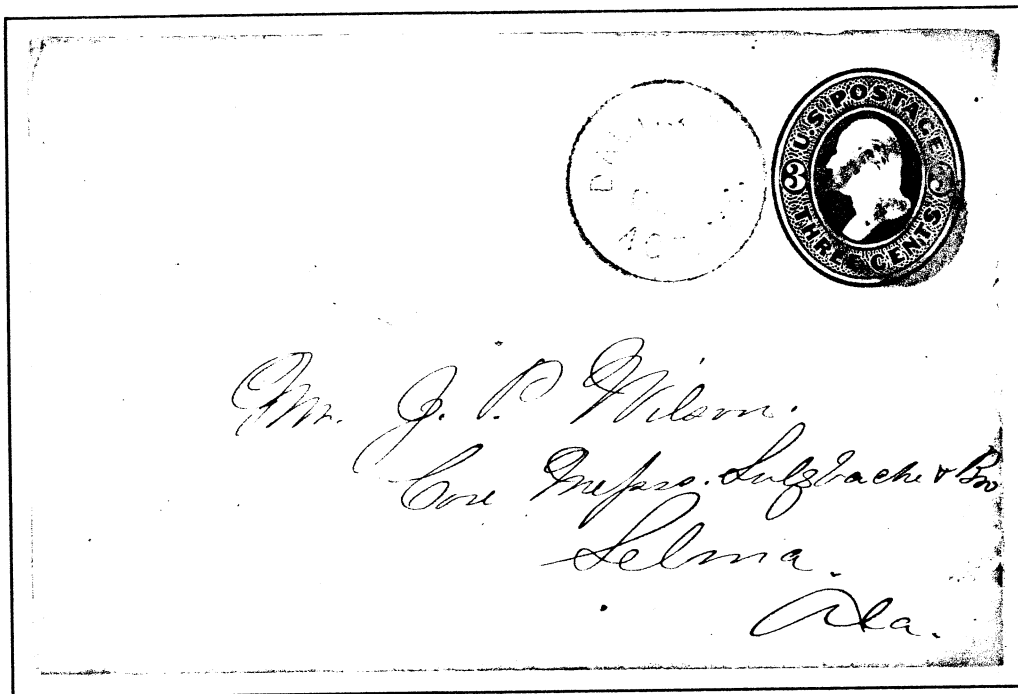


Construction begun in Alabama in 1850s, interrupted during war and completed after. Taken over by E.T. & G. R.R. in 1869. No covers known from Blue Mountain & Selma or Kingston & Selma agents.

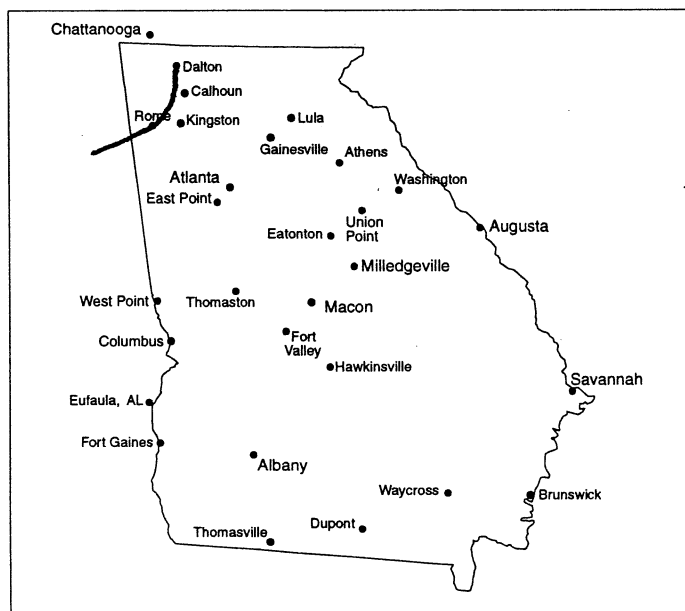
East Tennessee & Georgia Railroad

Main line - Dalton to Selma
Route agent, 1870-1880

October -, 18-



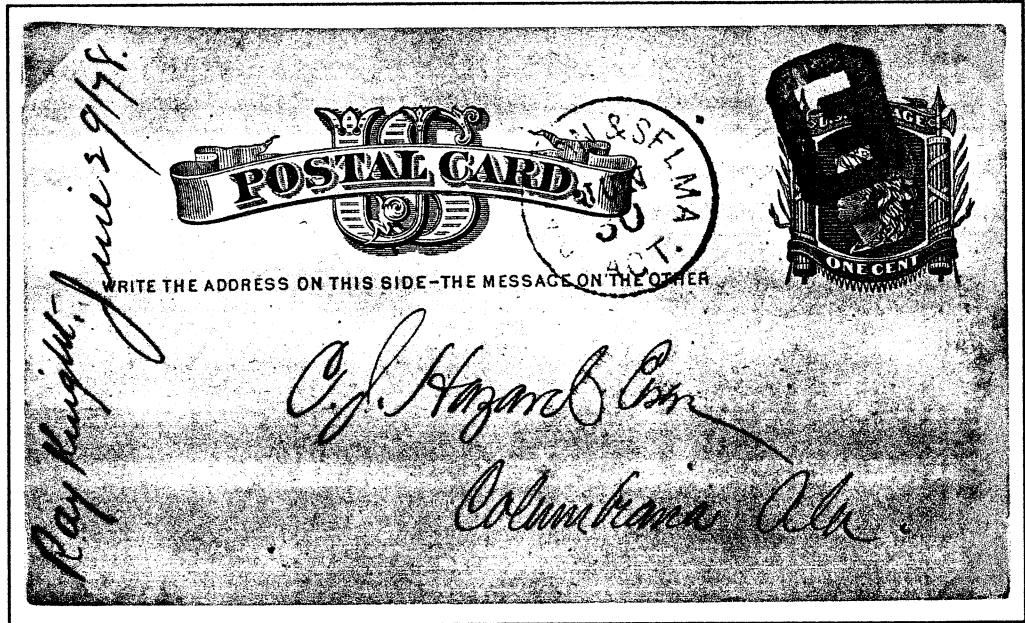
First type of route agent marking listing 1870-80 agent, with north terminal first, as opposed to railroad name, as postmarks during construction period.



East Tennessee & Georgia Railroad

Main line - Dalton to Selma
Route agent, 1870-1880

June 30, 1878
August 12, 1880

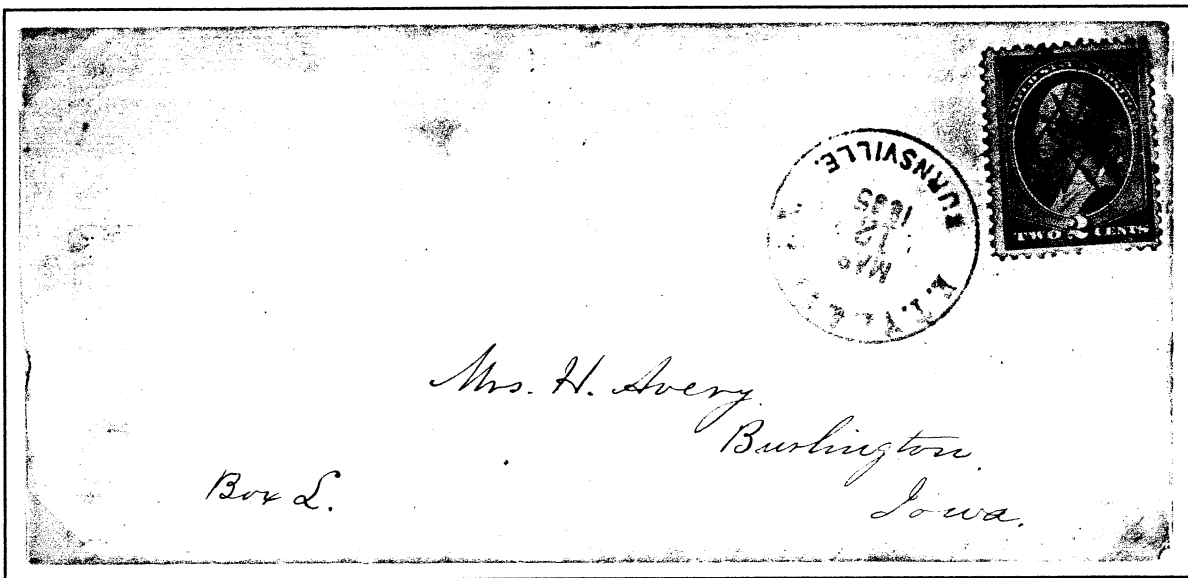


Style of Dalton & Selma agent postmark with Dalton spelled out. Above, eastbound cover, indicated in killer. Below, double weight ($\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 ounce) cover with Rome hotel corner card.

East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railroad

Main line - Cleveland, TN to Selma, AL
Station agent, Burnsville, AL

March 12, 1885



East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railroad formed in 1881 from East Tennessee & Virginia and East Tennessee & Georgia, including bankrupt Selma Rome & Dalton R.R.

East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railroad

Main line - Cleveland, TN to Selma, AL

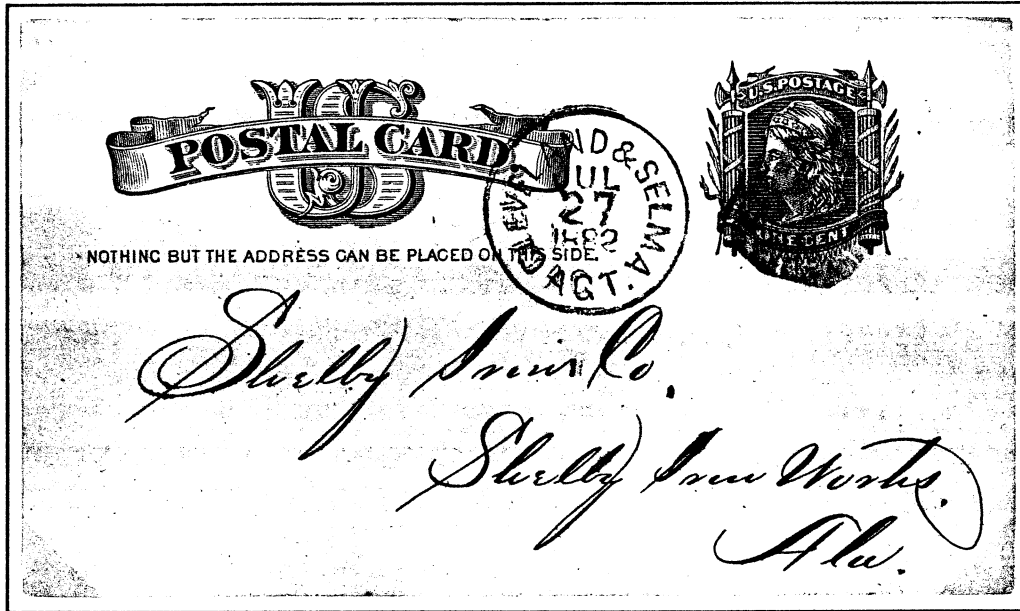
Route agent contracts

Cleveland & Dalton
Cleveland & Selma

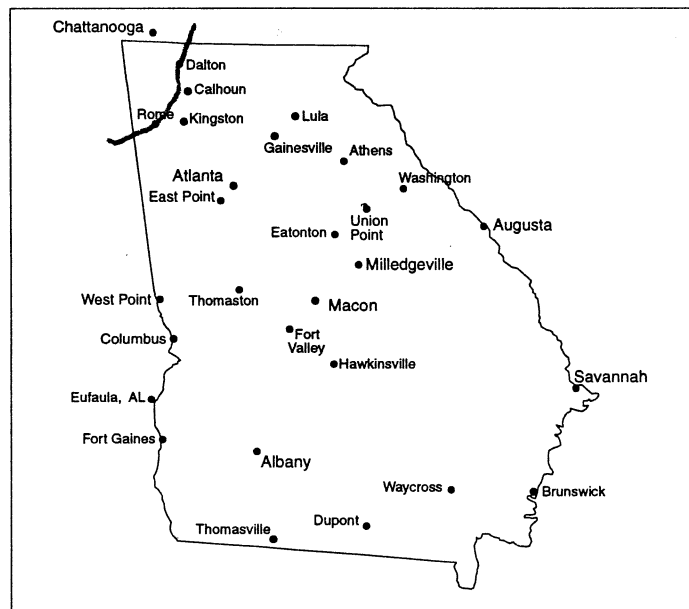
1865-1881
1881-1882

Main line - Cleveland to Selma
Route agent, 1881-1882

July 27, 1882



Late usage, as R.P.O. service established August 1, 1882. No covers have been reported on this route for the 1865-1881 Cleveland-Dalton route agent period.



East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railroad

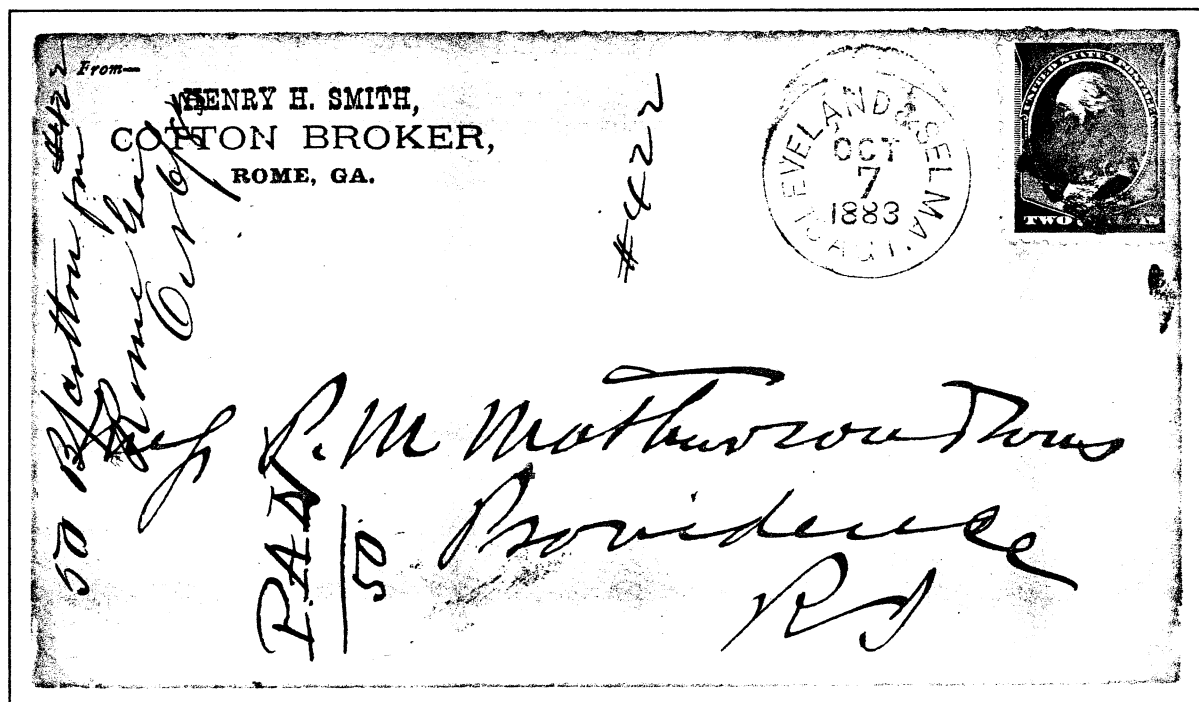
Main line - Cleveland, TN to Selma, AL

R.P.O. service

Cleveland & Selma	1882-1885
Rome & Selma	1885-1886
Cleveland & Selma	1886-1887
Rome & Selma	1887-1887
Cleveland & Selma	1887-1896

Main line - Cleveland to Selma
R.P.O., 1882-1885

October 7, 1883

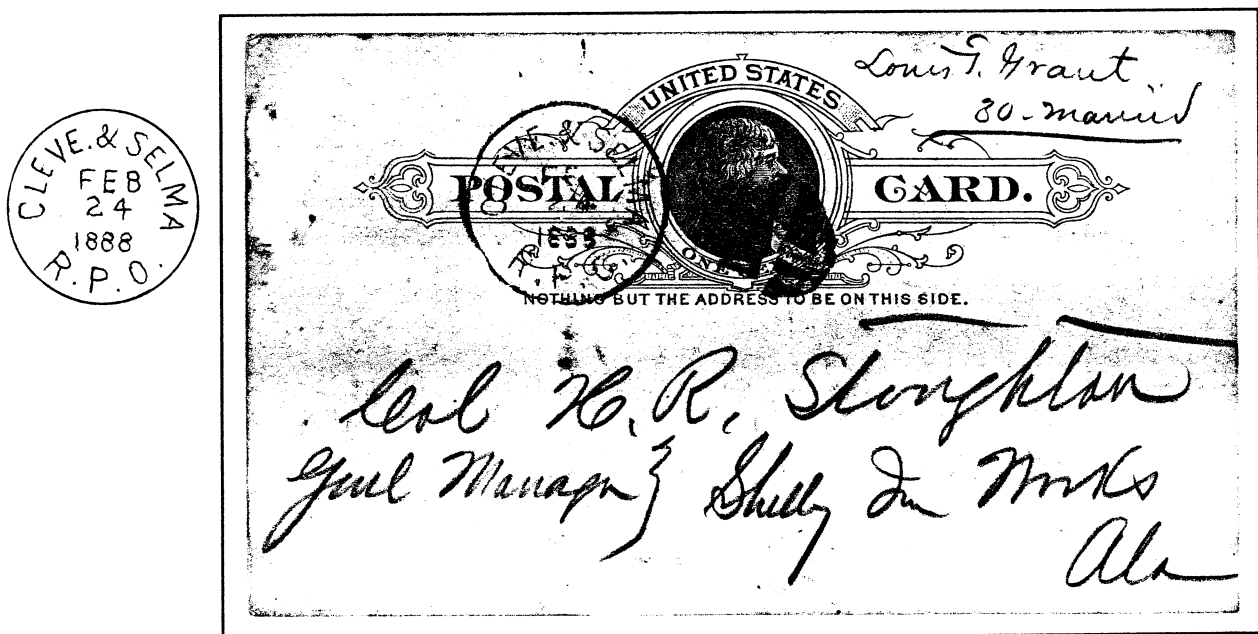
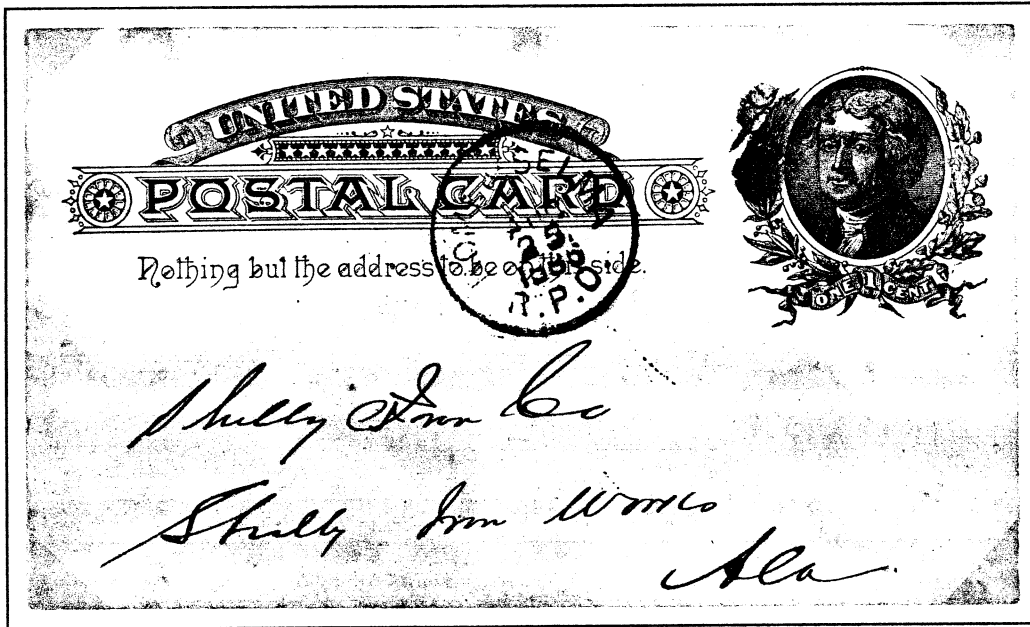


Agent handstamp still in use during first R.P.O. period. Recording copy of this marking.

East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railroad

Main line - Cleveland, TN to Selma, AL
R.P.O., 1885-1886
R.P.O., 1887-1896

August 25, 1886
February 24, 1888



Above, last day cover of the first (1885-1886) Rome & Selma R.P.O. Below, handstamp introduced during one of the reestablished (1886-1887 or 1887-1896) Cleveland & Selma R.P.O.s.

East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railroad

Macon & Brunswick R.R.

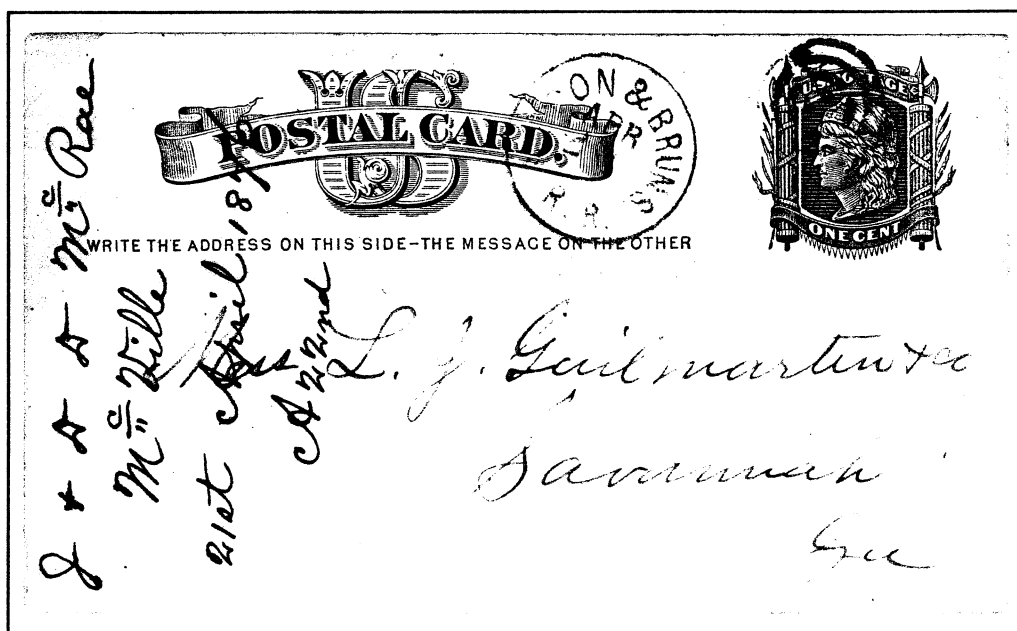
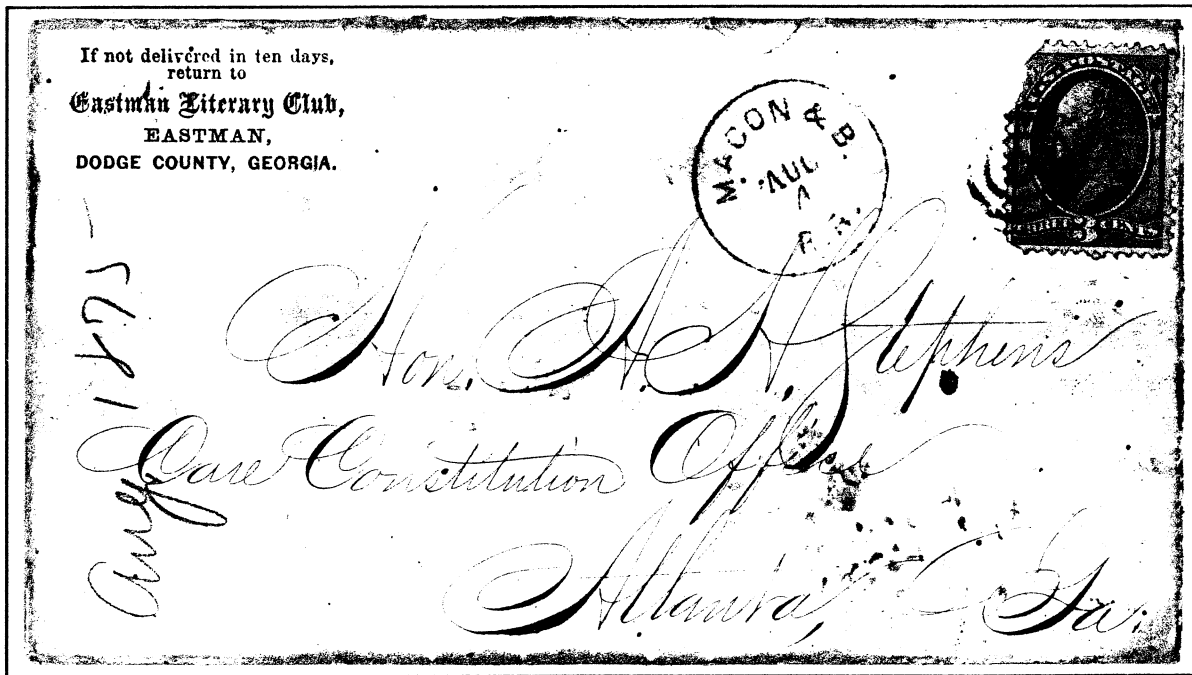
Route agent contracts

Macon & Brunswick

1870-1882

Macon & Brunswick R.R. - Macon to Brunswick
Route agent, 1870-1882

August 4, 1875
April 22, 1876

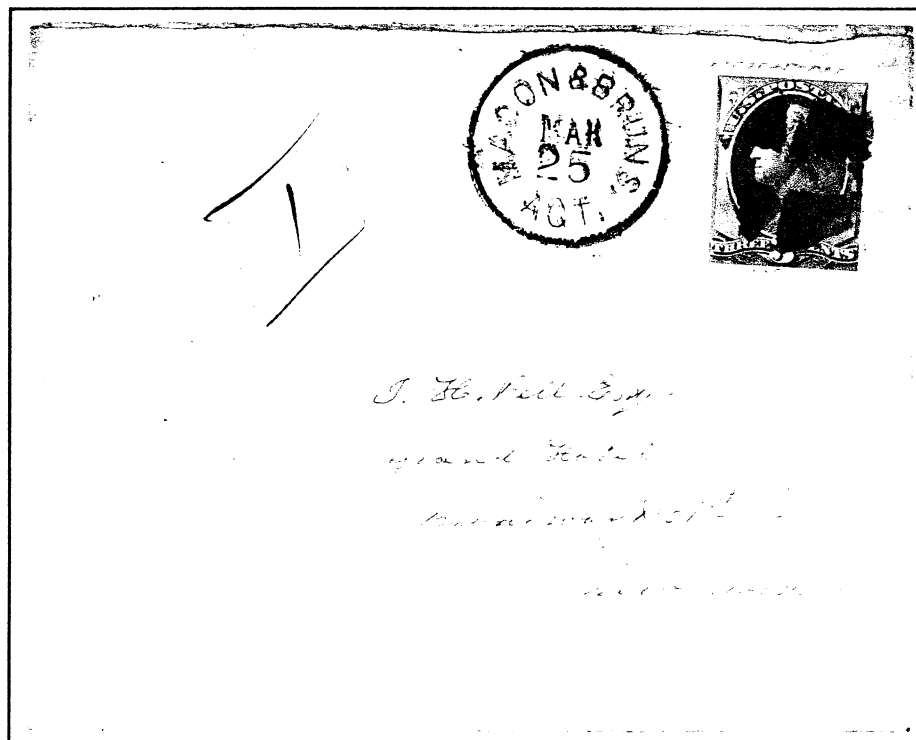
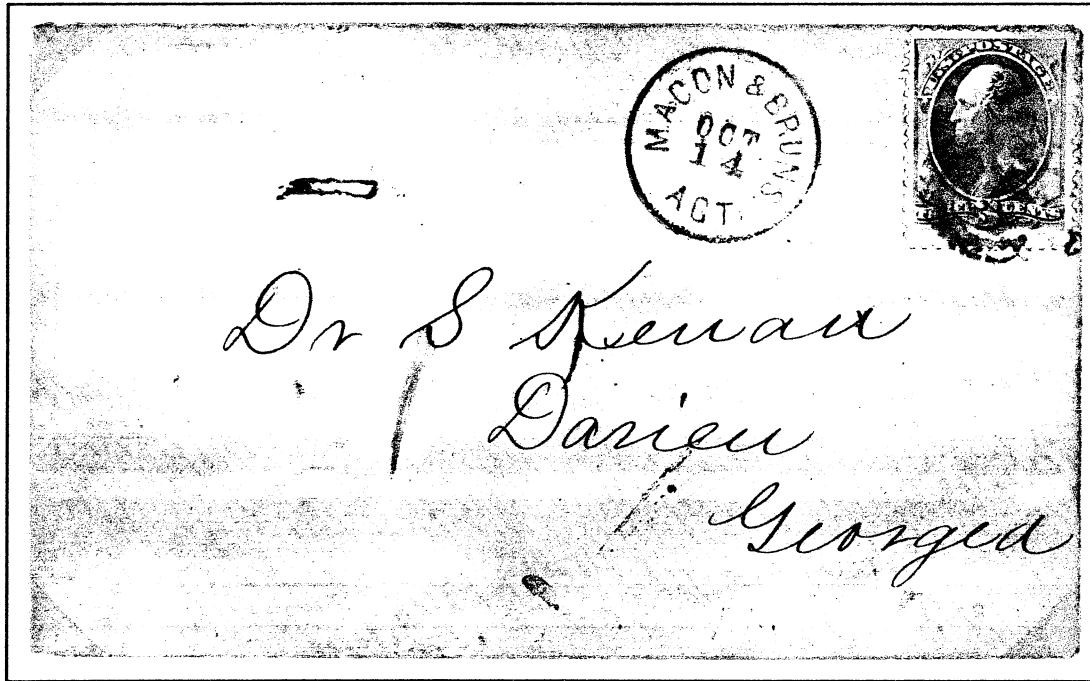


Macon & Brunswick R.R. chartered 1860, completed, 191 miles, 1870.

East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railroad

Macon & Brunswick Rwy. - Macon to Brunswick
Route agent, 1870-1882

October 14, 18-
March 25, 1880

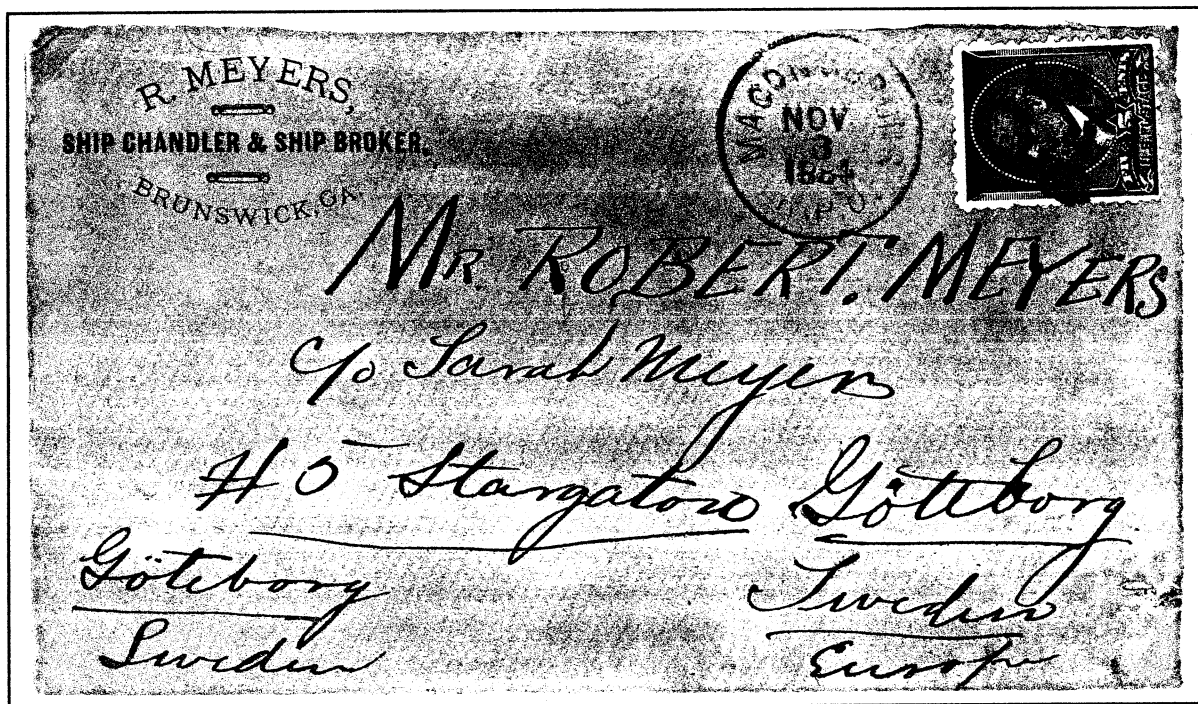


Two varieties of Macon & Brunswick Agent CDS. Bankrupt Macon & Brunswick R.R. sold to state as Macon & Brunswick Rwy., 1880.

East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railroad

Macon & Brunswick Rwy. - Macon to Brunswick
R.P.O., 1882-1887

November 3, 1884



Macon & Brunswick Railway leased by the state to newly formed E. T. V. & G. R.R. in 1882. Only recorded copy of this CDS. Cover from ship chandler, 5¢ U.P.U. rate to Sweden.

East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railroad

Macon & Brunswick Rwy.

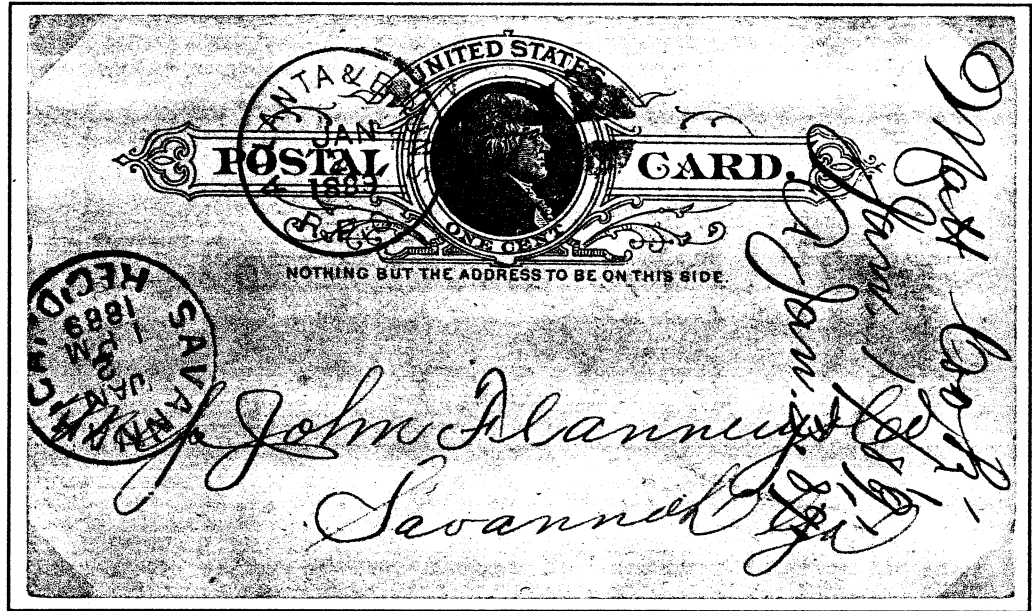
R.P.O. service

Macon & Brunswick
Atlanta & Brunswick

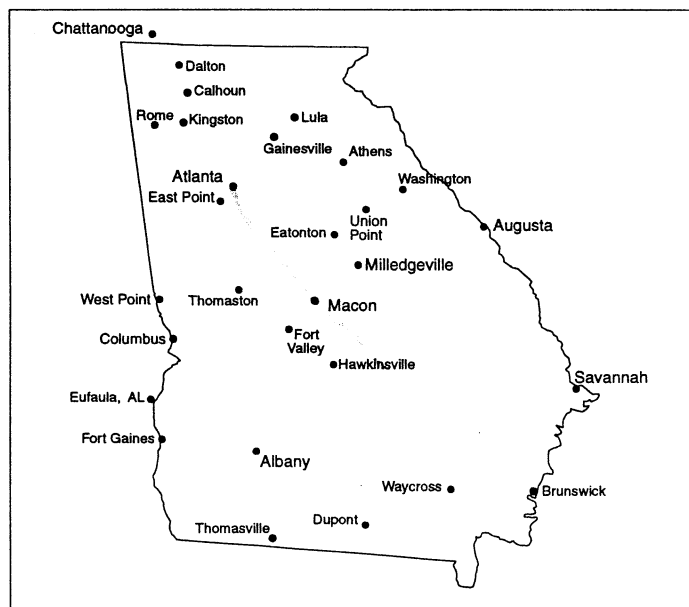
1882-1887
1887-1902

Branch - Atlanta to Brunswick
R.P.O., 1887-1902

January 2, 1889



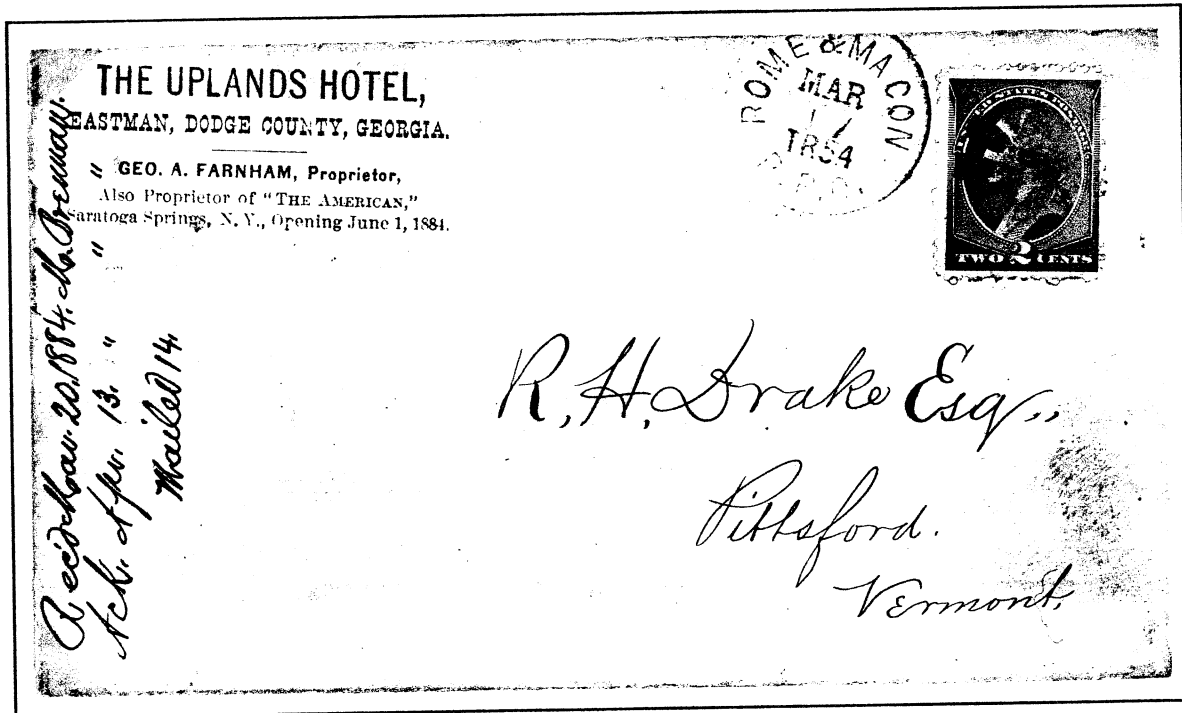
With its acquisitions, E. T. V. & G. could cover the entire corridor from Chattanooga, Tennessee to Brunswick, Georgia. Served by two different RPOs.



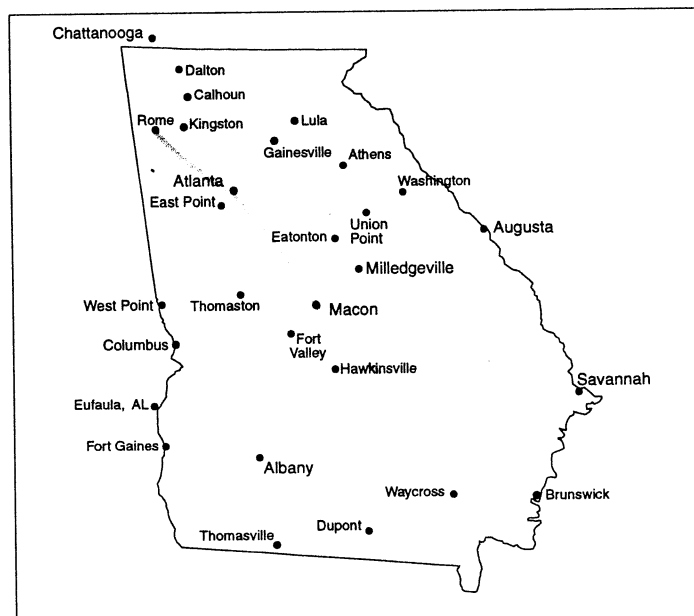
East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railroad

Branch - Rome to Macon
R.P.O., 1883-1885

March 17, 1884



E.T.V. & G. established Atlanta, Jackson & Macon R.P.O. (no covers known) when it took over Macon & Brunswick RR, 1882. RPO service extended to Chattanooga 1885.



East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railroad

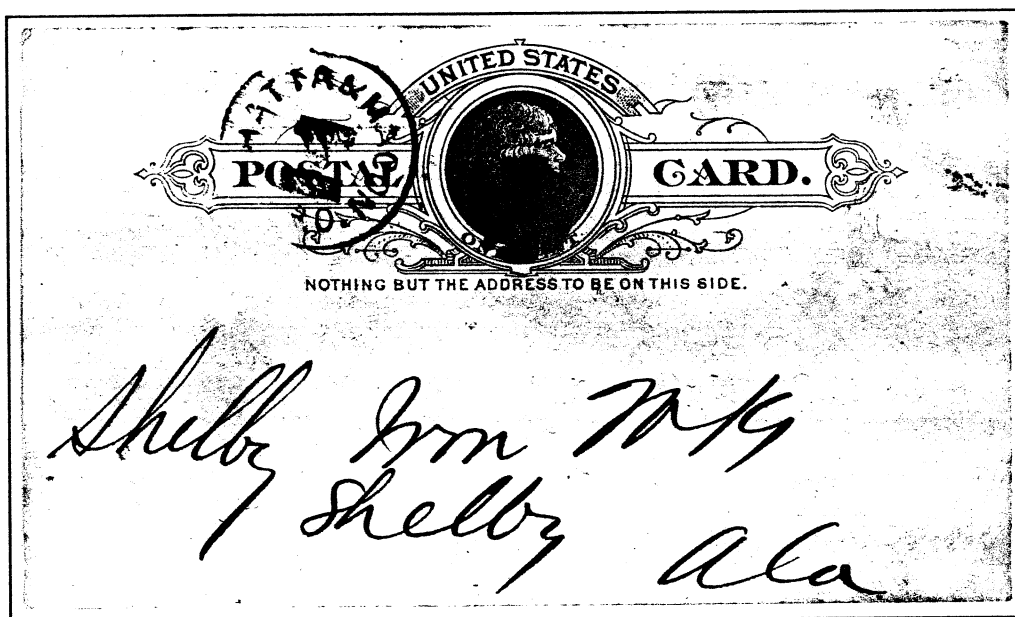
Branch - Chattanooga to Macon

R.P.O. service

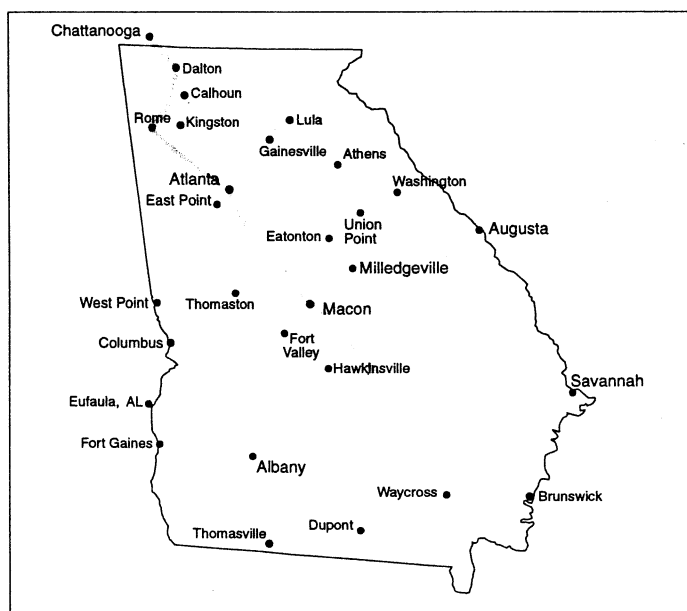
Atlanta, Jackson & Macon	1882-1883
Rome & Macon	1883-1885
Chattanooga & Macon	1885-1887
Chattanooga, Rome & Atlanta	1887-1934

R.P.O., 1885-1887

September 8, 1888



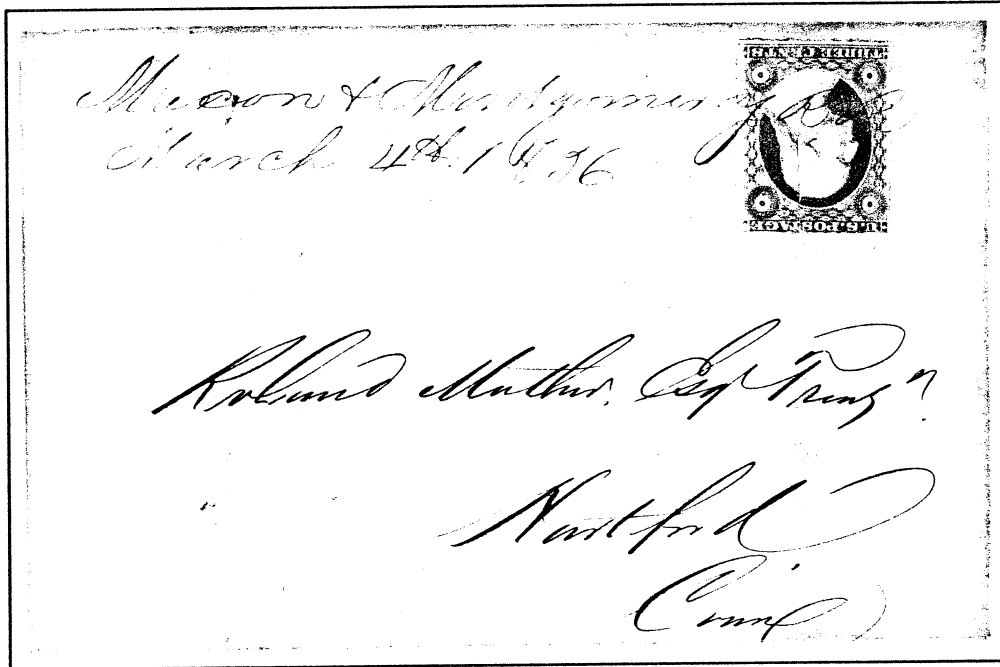
Discovery marking on this branch. Late use, during 1887-1934 R.P.O. period.



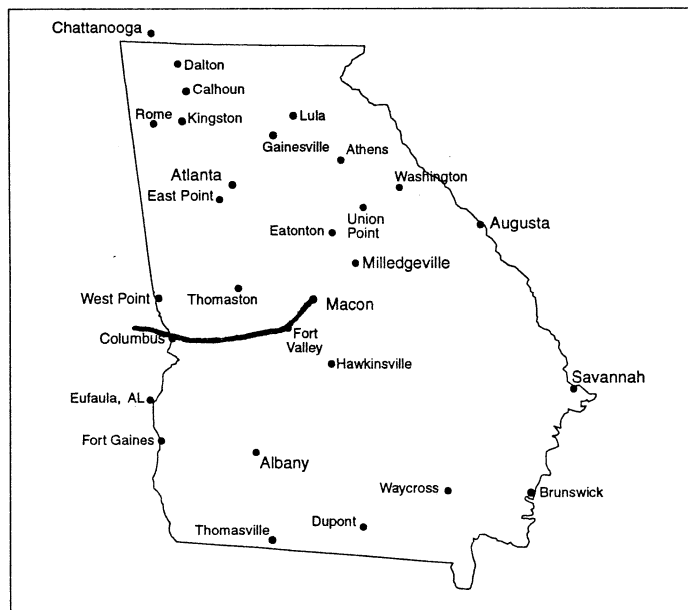
Central Railroad of Georgia

Southwestern R.R., Montgomery & West Point R.R.
Route agent, 1855-1859

March 4, 1856



Combined route agent of: Southwestern R.R. Macon-Butler
Muscogee R.R. Butler-Columbus
Montgomery & West Point R.R. Columbus-Montgomery



Central Railroad of Georgia

Southwestern R.R., Montgomery & West Point R.R.

Prewar route agent contracts

Macon & Montgomery

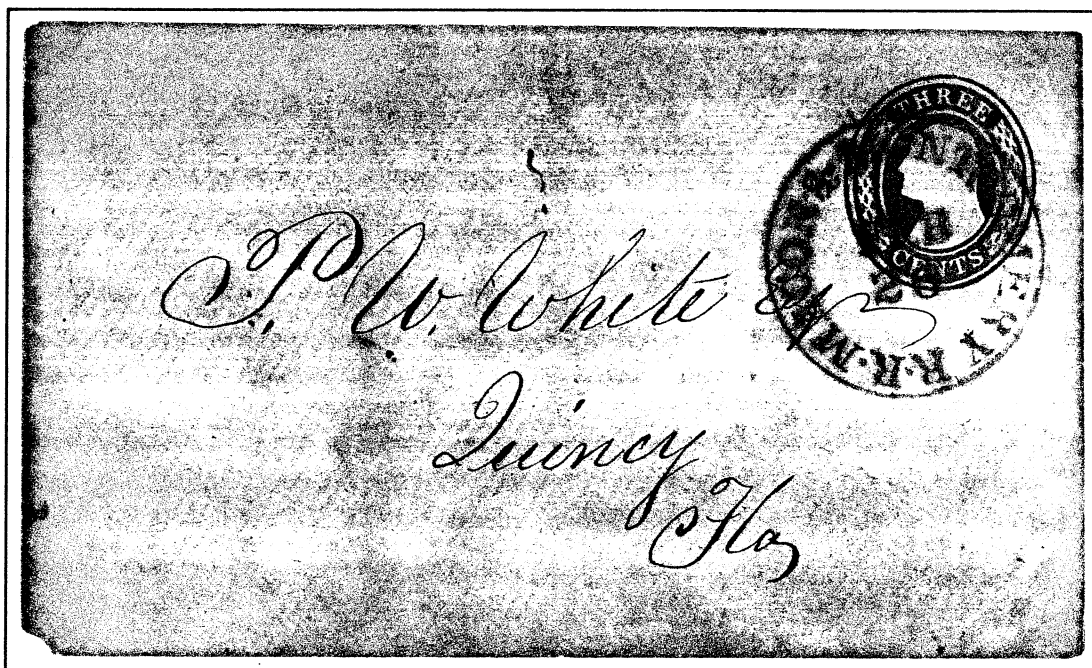
1855-1859

Macon & Opelika

1859-1861

Macon to Montgomery
Route agent, 1855-1859

February 26, 185-



Only recorded example of this handstamp. Macon-Montgomery route complete, 1851-1854. Macon-Opelika route became a part of Central of Georgia R.R., 1868.

Central Railroad of Georgia

Macon to Montgomery (northern route)

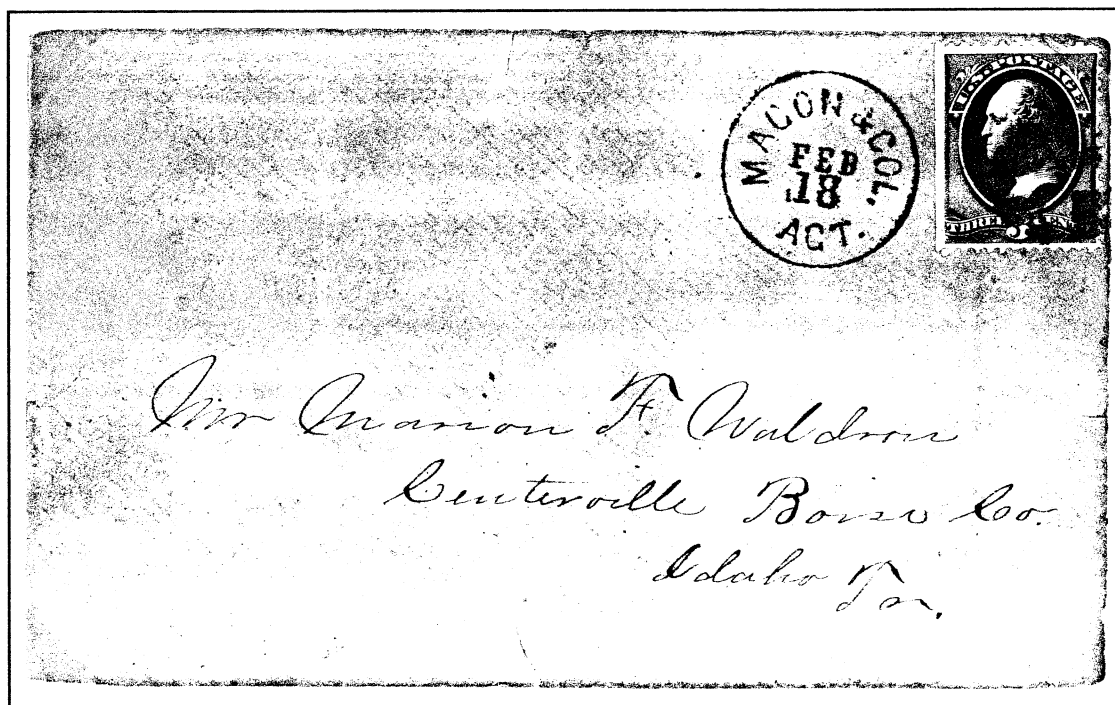
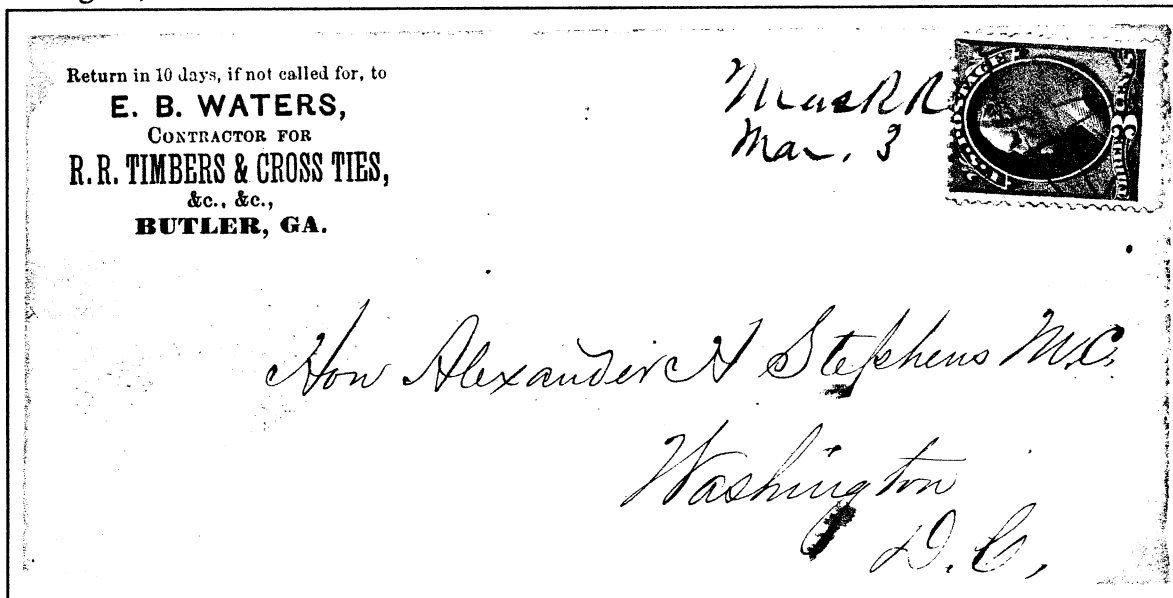
Route agent contracts

Macon-Opelika
Macon-Columbus
Macon-Goodwater

1866-1867
1867-1881
1881-1882

Mac(on) RR (Macon & Columbus Agent)
Route agent, 1867-1881

March 3, 1874
February 18, 18-

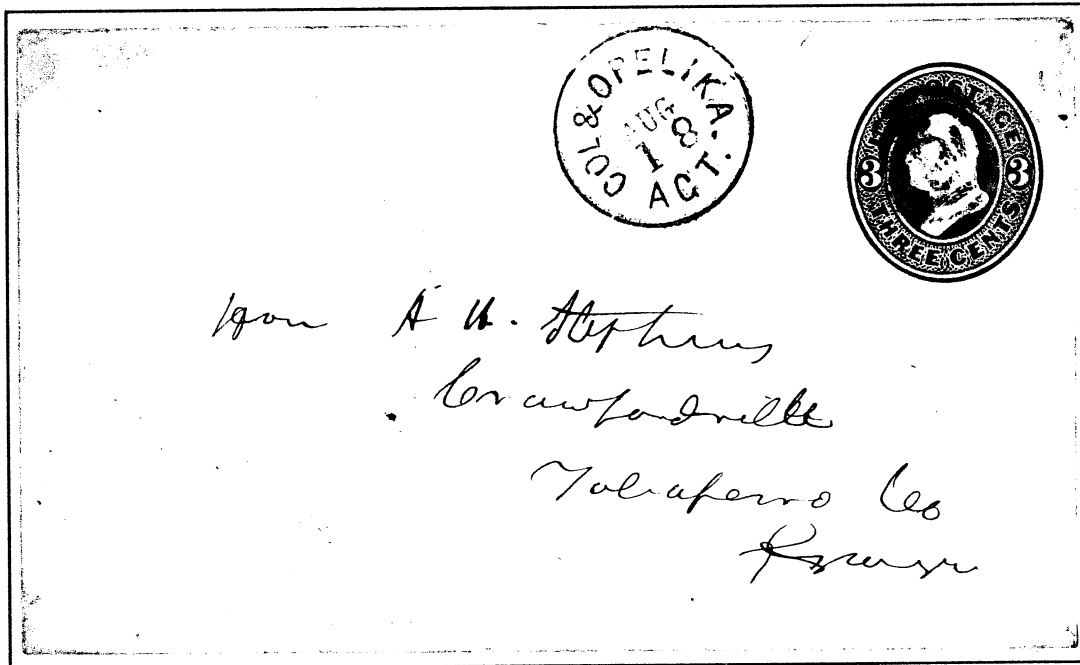


Only recorded manuscript "Mac RR" cover. Postwar-northern route-agent covers.

Central Railroad of Georgia

Macon to Montgomery (northern route)
Route agent (Columbus & Opelika), 1868-1881

August 18, 1876



Route agent contract with Western of Alabama Railroad. Combined 1881 with Southwestern RR's Macon & Columbus Agt., forming Macon & Goodwater Agt.

Central Railroad of Georgia

Macon to Montgomery (northern route)

R.P.O. service

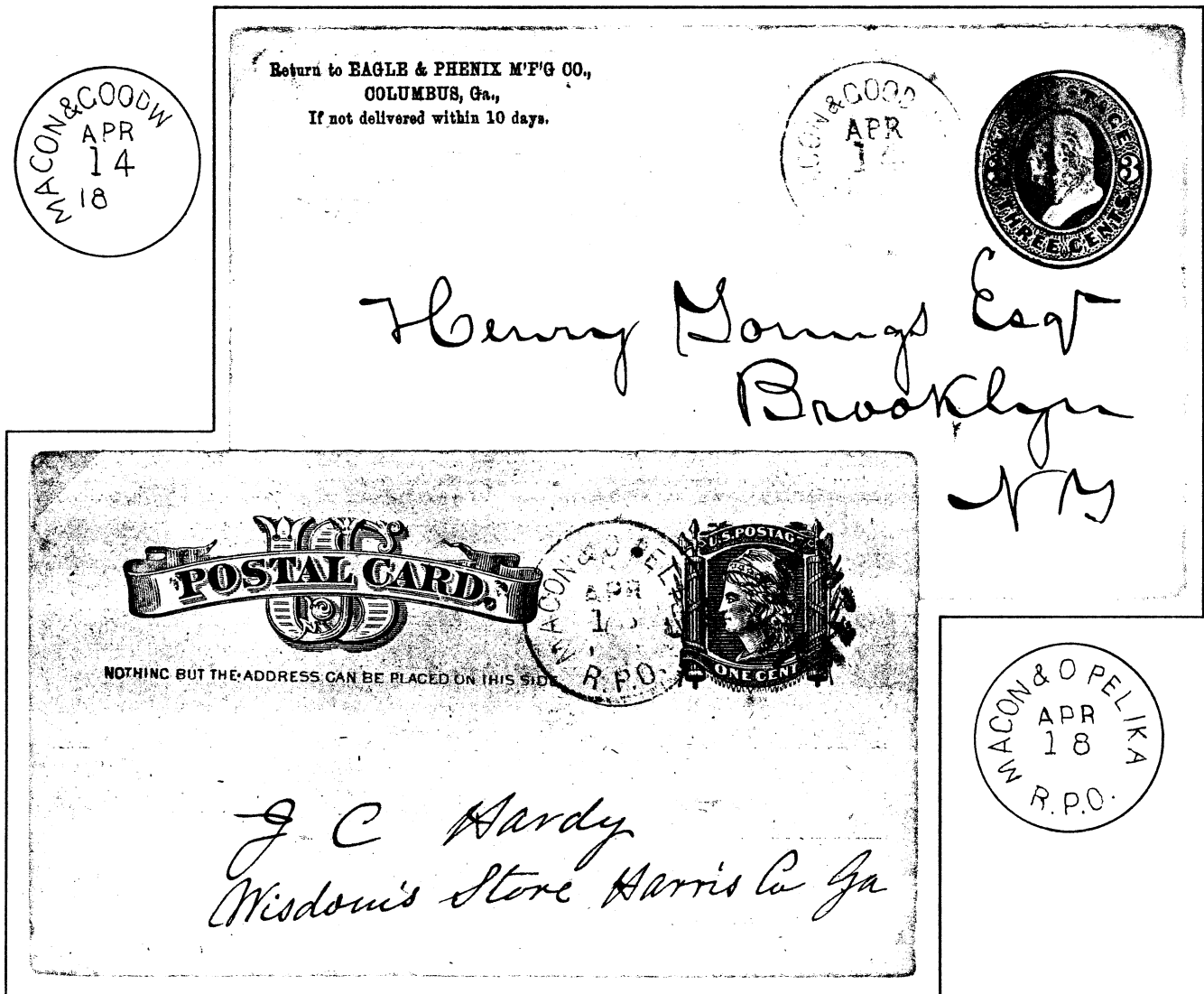
Macon & Goodwater	1882-1882
Macon & Opelika	1882-1887
Ft. Valley & Troy	1887-1887
Macon & Troy	1887-1888
Macon & Union Springs	1888-1899

R.P.O. (Macon & Goodwater), 1882-1882

April 14, 1883

R.P.O. (Macon & Opelika), 1882-1887

April 18, 1884



Above is only recorded strike of Macon & Goodwater R.P.O., late use, after name change.

Central Railroad of Georgia

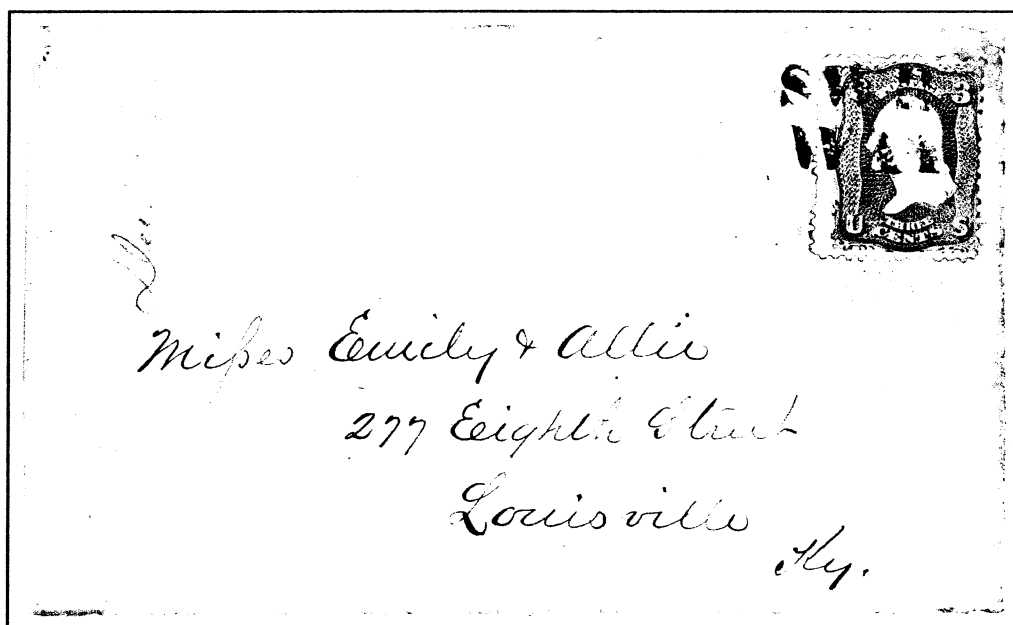
Macon to Montgomery (southern route)

Route agent contracts

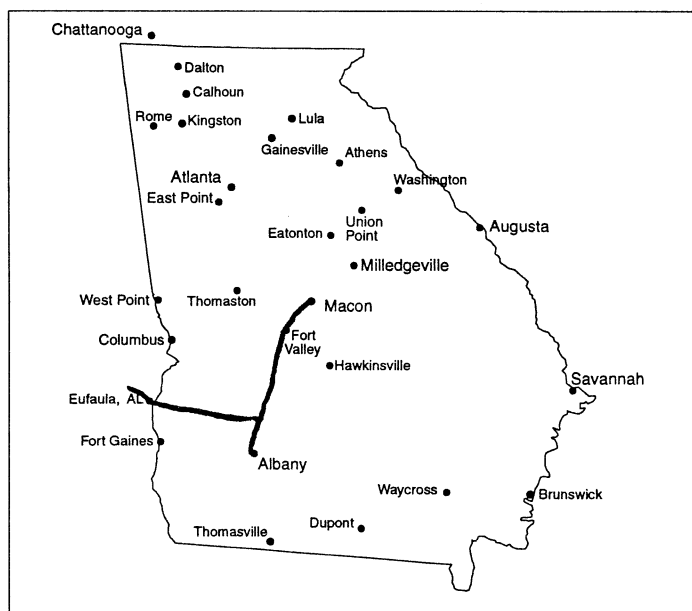
Ft. Valley & Albany	1857-1859
Macon & Albany	1859-1866
Macon & Eufala	1866-1872
Macon & Clayton	1872-1879
Macon & Montgomery	1879-1882

Route Agent (Macon to Albany), 1859-1866

December 3, 1866



Early reconstruction period cover. "Way" letter, indicating mail handed to a contract mail carrier, who then turned it over to railway route agent. S.W.R.R. leased to Central of Georgia, in 1869.



Central Railroad of Georgia

Macon to Montgomery (southern route)
Route agent (Macon & Eufala), 1866-1872

May 26, 1870

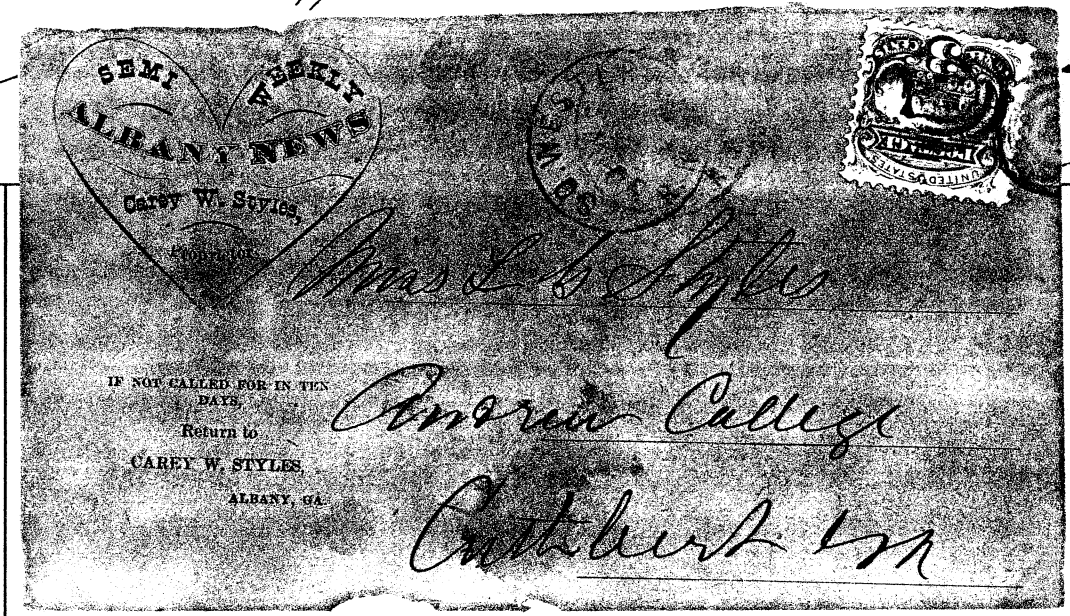
TERMS.
One Year, \$4.00
Six Months, 2.50
Three Months, 1.25

OFFICE OF
ALBANY SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS
CAREY W. STYLES, Editor and Proprietor.
And General Job Printing Establishment.
Job Work Neatly Done.
Office on Washington St.

Albany, Ga., May the 26 1870

My Darling Daughter

I intended to have visited
you this week, but we have had
so much

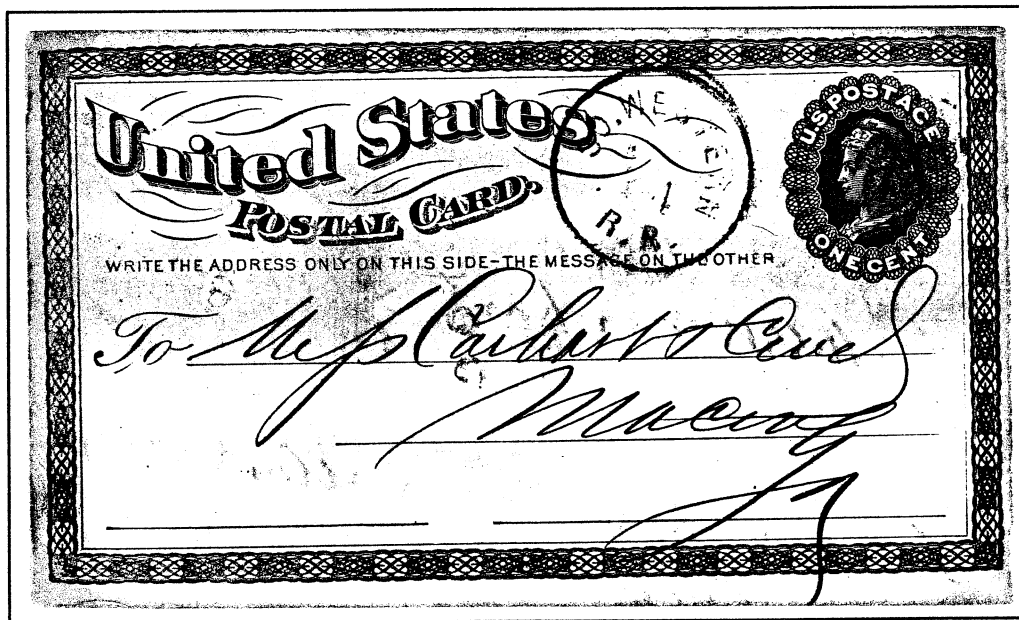
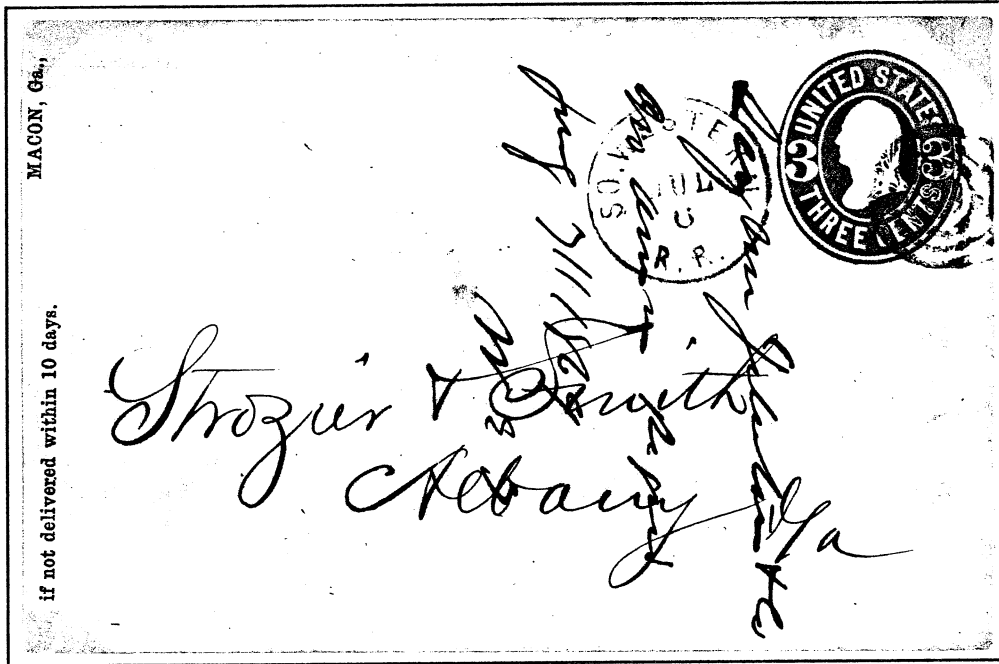


So. Western R.R. CDS, 1870 date, indicate Macon & Eufala route agent contract.

Central Railroad of Georgia

Macon to Montgomery (southern route)
Route agent (Macon & Eufala), 1866-1872
Route agent (Macon & Clayton), 1872-1879

July 6, 1869
March 24, 1875

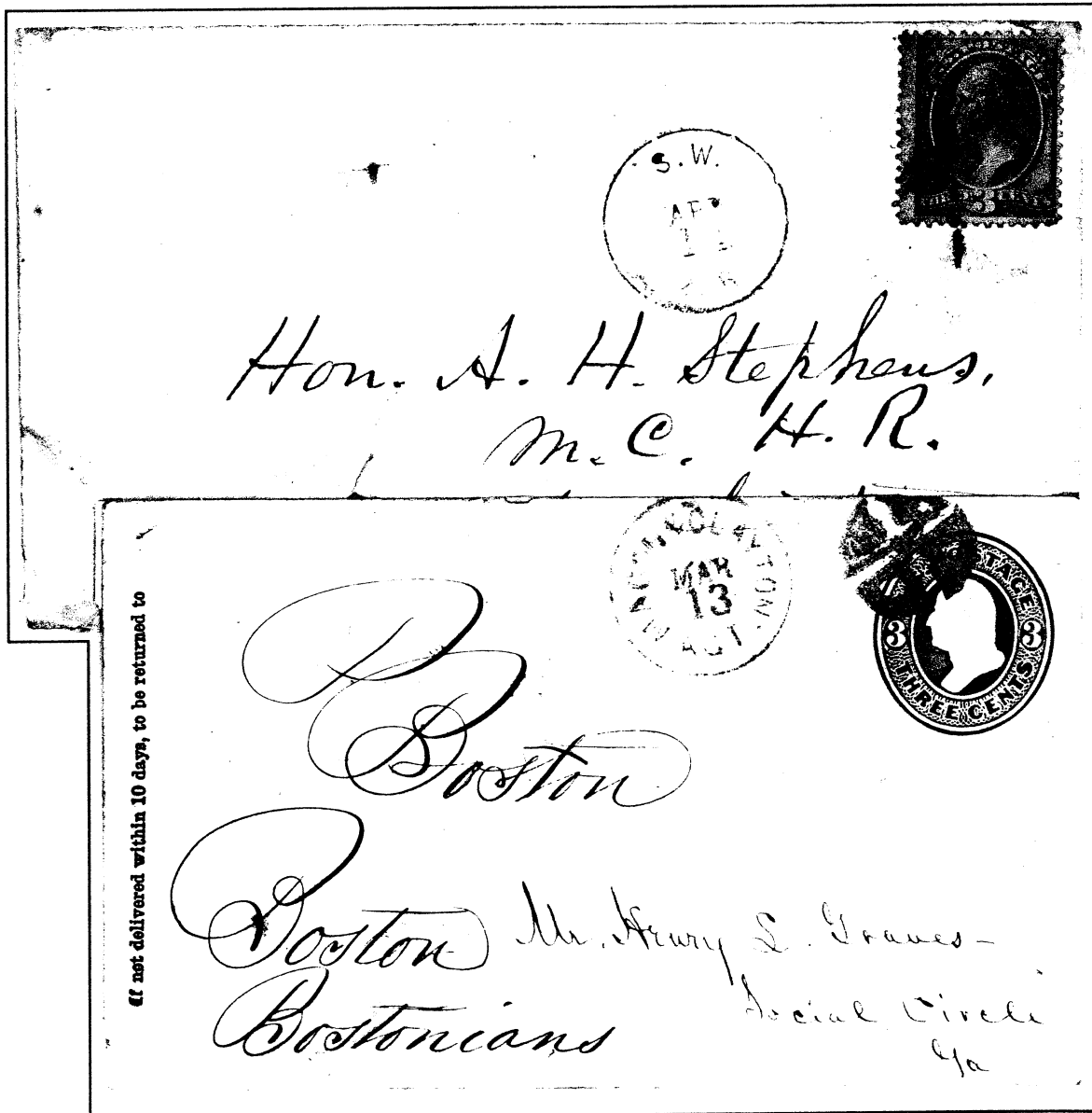
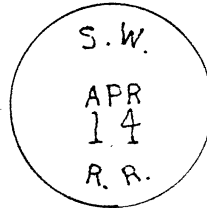


*Handstamps show only minor differences - 3 of 5 known types are shown.
Applicable route agent contract is determined by dates of usage, if available.*

Central Railroad of Georgia

Macon to Montgomery (southern route)
Route agent (Macon & Clayton), 1872-1879

April 14, 1879
March 13, 187-

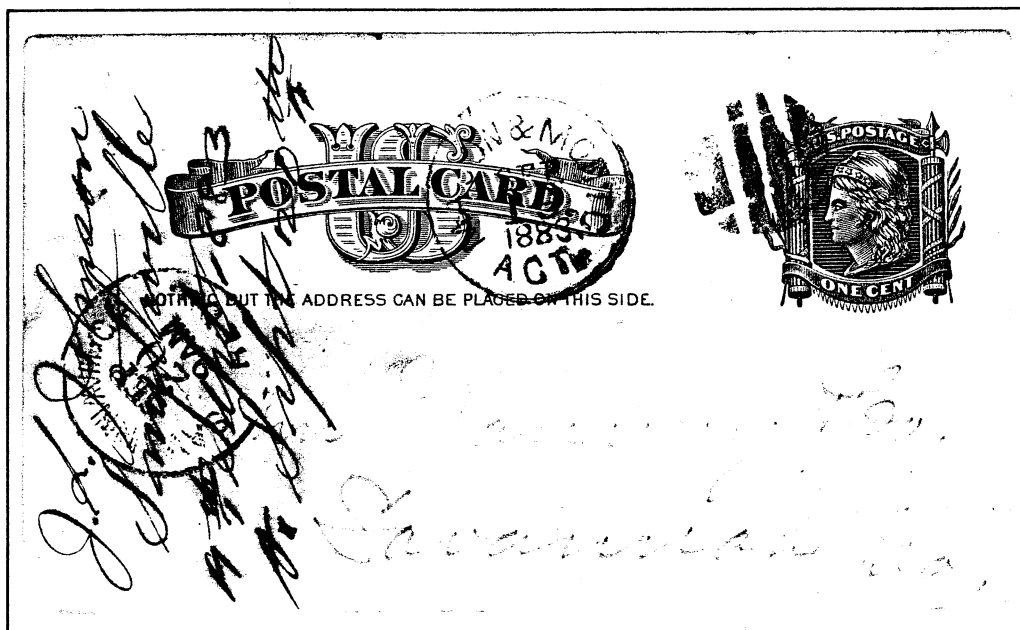
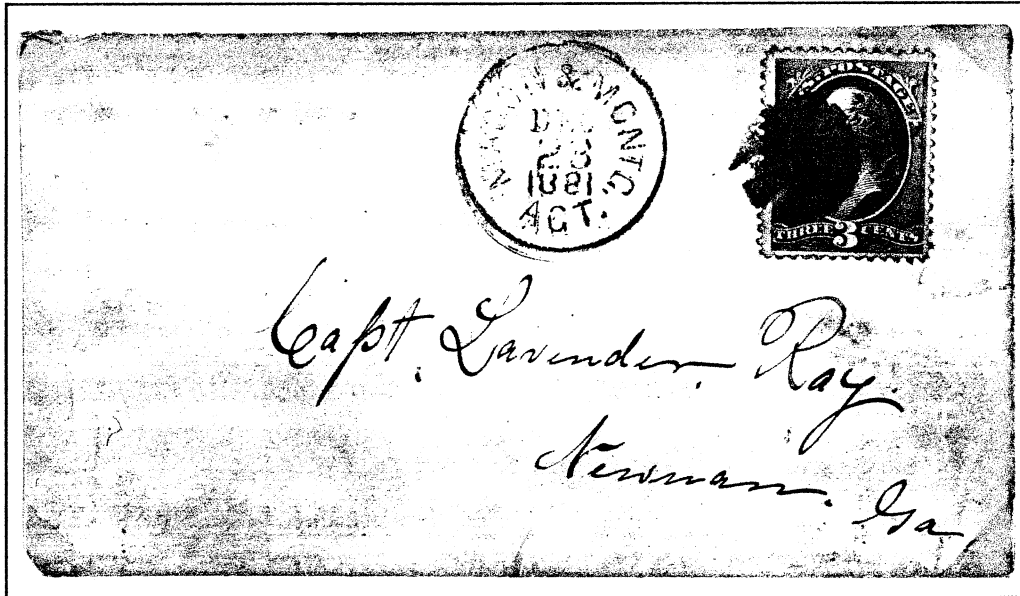


After one more "Southwestern R.R." postmark type, a handstamp with terminal names was adopted.

Central Railroad of Georgia

Macon to Montgomery (southern route)
Route agent (Macon & Montgomery), 1879-1882

December 23, 1881
September 18, 1883



Operating on a different route from the 1855-1859 route agent using "Macon & Montgomery R.R." markings. Below, is a late (R.P.O.) use of agent CDS.

Central Railroad of Georgia

Macon to Montgomery (southern route)

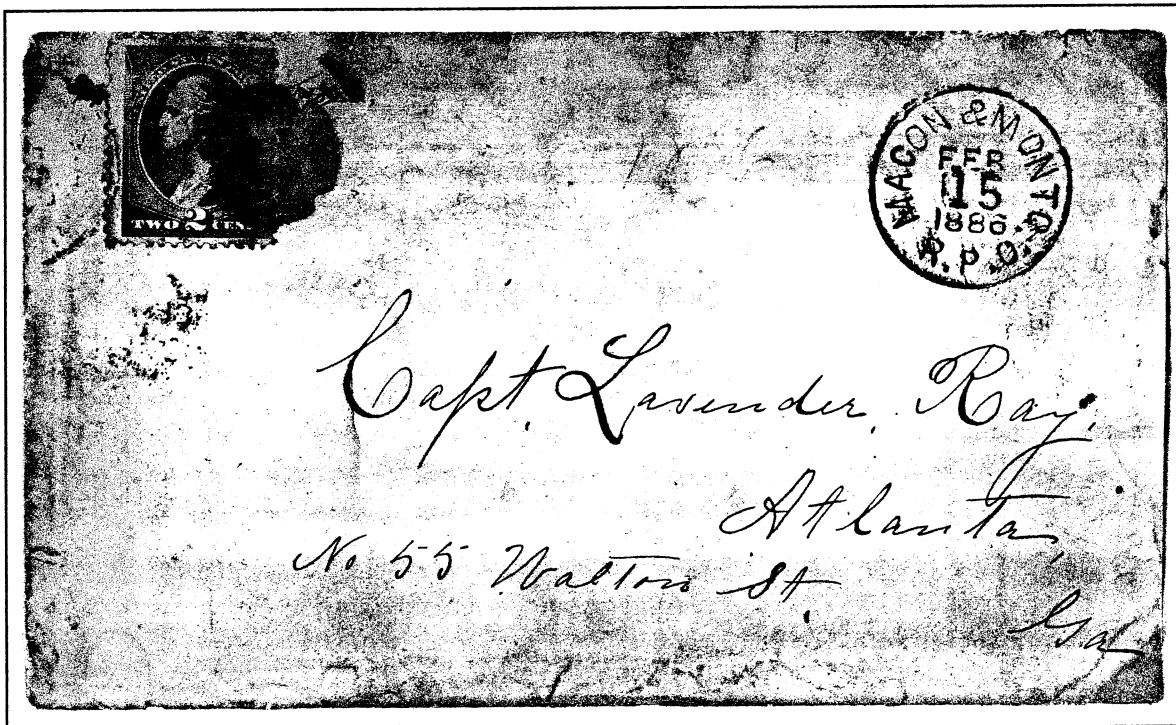
R.P.O. service

Macon & Montgomery
Smithville & Montgomery

1882-1888
1888-1890

Macon to Montgomery (southern route)
R.P.O., 1882-1888

February 14, 1886

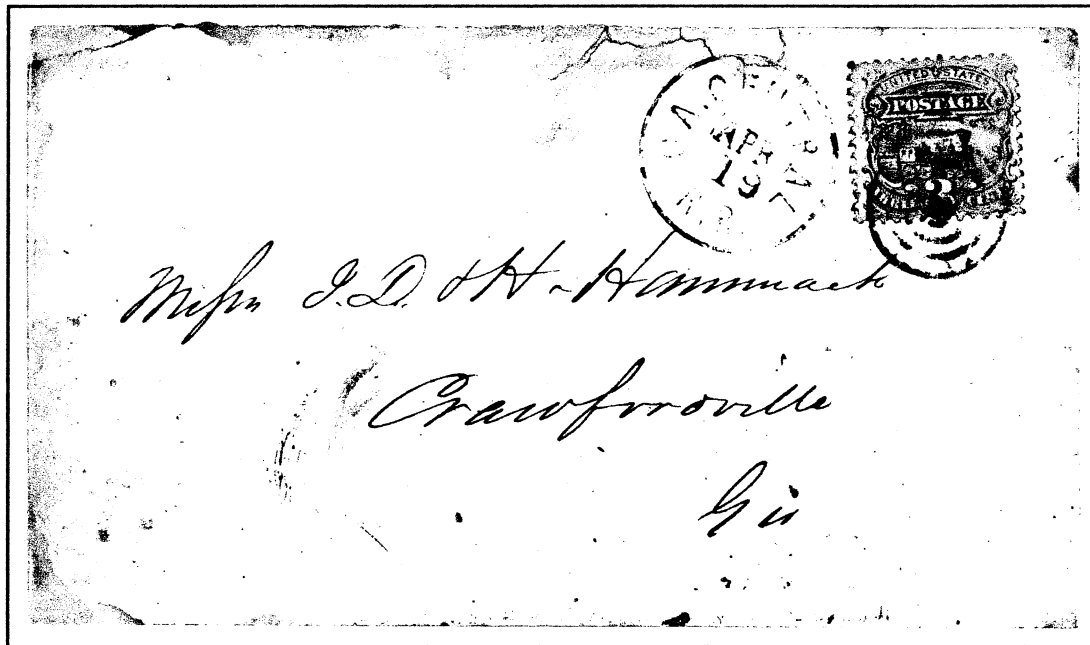


No marking of the Smithville & Montgomery R.P.O. is known during the 1888-90 period.

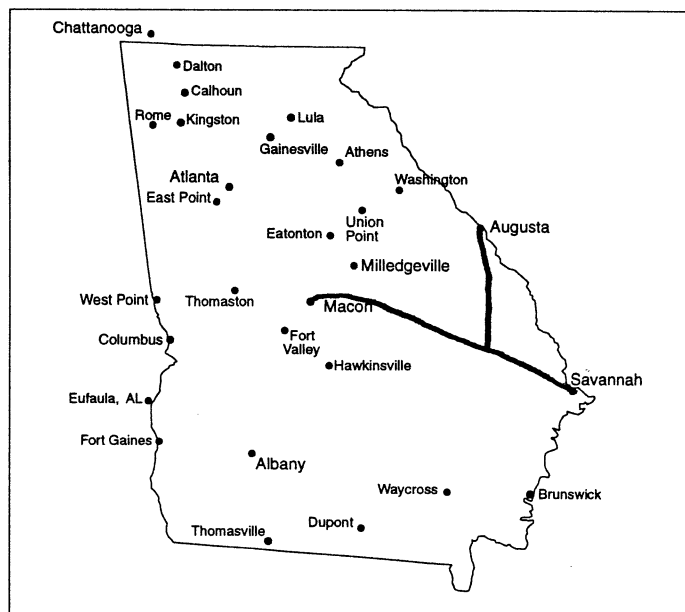
Central Railroad of Georgia

Main line - Augusta-Macon, Savannah-Milledgeville
Route agent, 1867-1882

April 19, 18-



Railroad completed between Savannah and Macon, 1843; between Augusta and Milledgeville, 1862. Generic railroad handstamp, not indicating precise routing of cover.



Central Railroad of Georgia

Main line

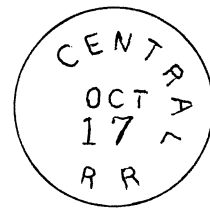
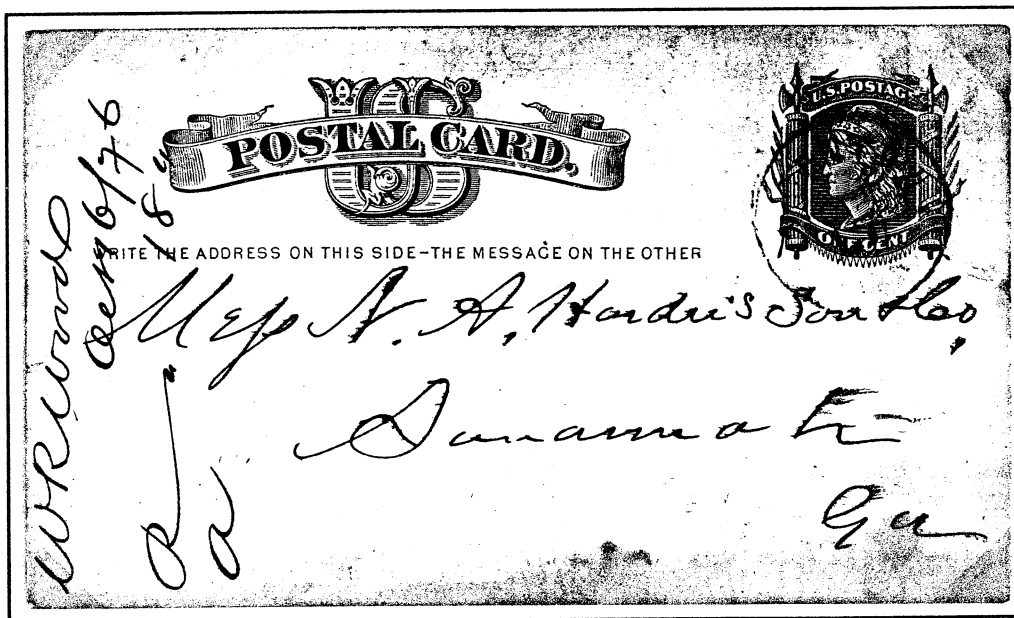
Route agent contracts

Augusta & Macon
Savannah & Millen

1855-1882
1867-1882

Main line - Savannah to Millen
Route agent, 1867-1882

October 17, 1876

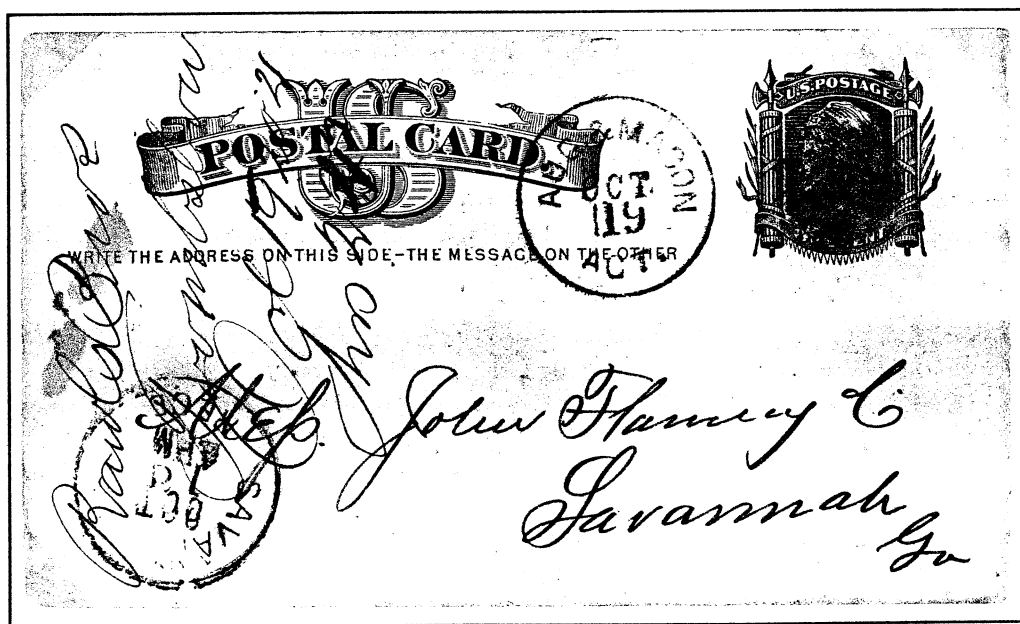
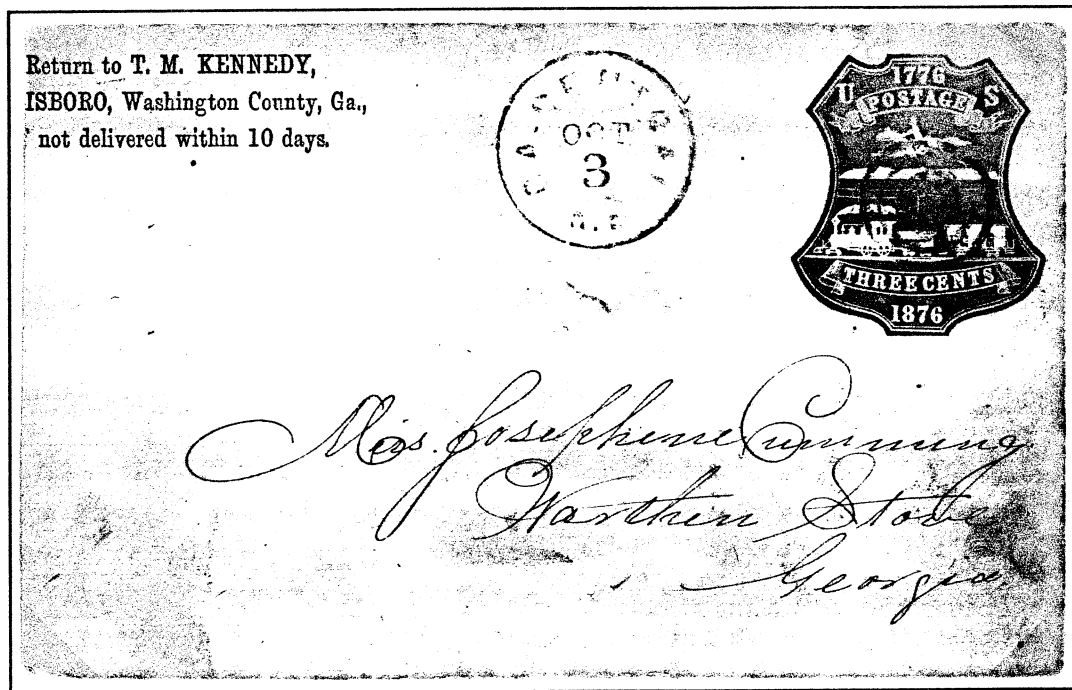


Originating Scarboro, just east of Millen.

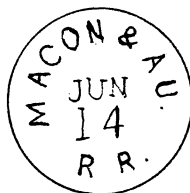
Central Railroad of Georgia

Main line - Augusta to Macon
Route agent, 1855-1882

October 3, 187-
October 19, 1881



Origins Davisboro (above), Toomsboro indicate origin on Augusta-Macon line.

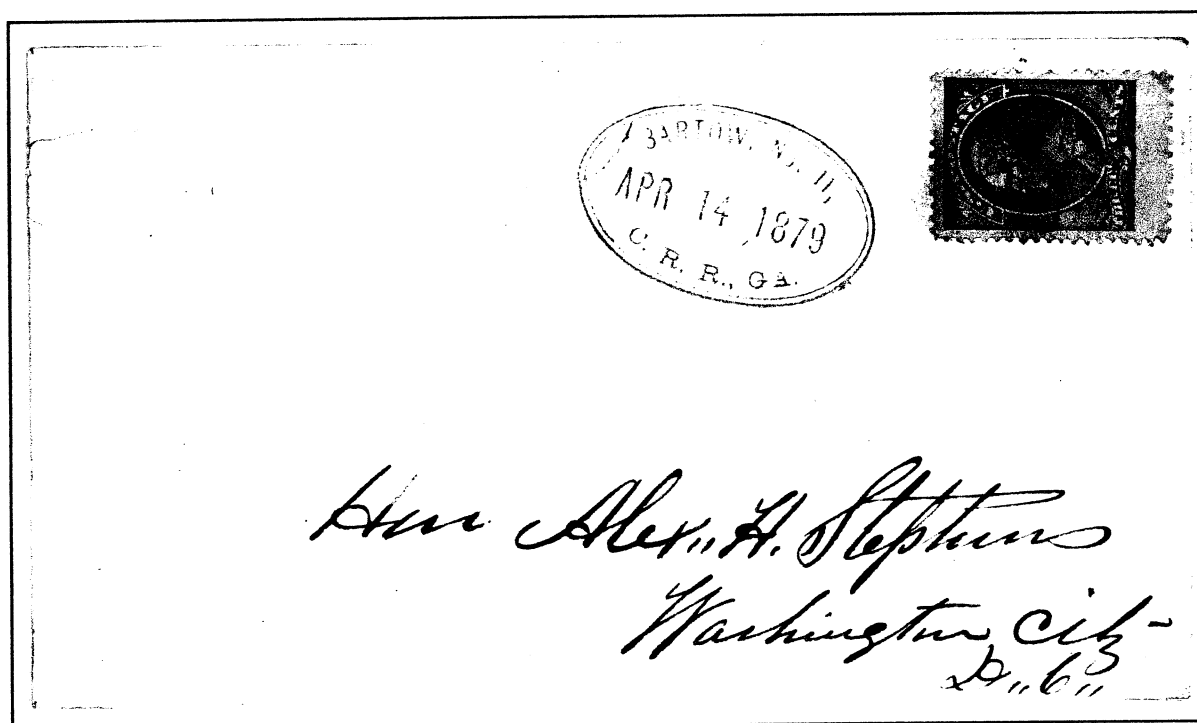


This marking, previously classified with this railroad, has been reclassified with Macon branch Georgia R.R.

Central Railroad of Georgia

Main line - Augusta to Macon
Station Marking (Bartow, GA)

April 14, 1879



The nature of "Station Agent" markings is not well understood. Possibly they just held the dual jobs of postmaster and ticket agent and postmarked mail with their ticket daters.

Central Railroad of Georgia

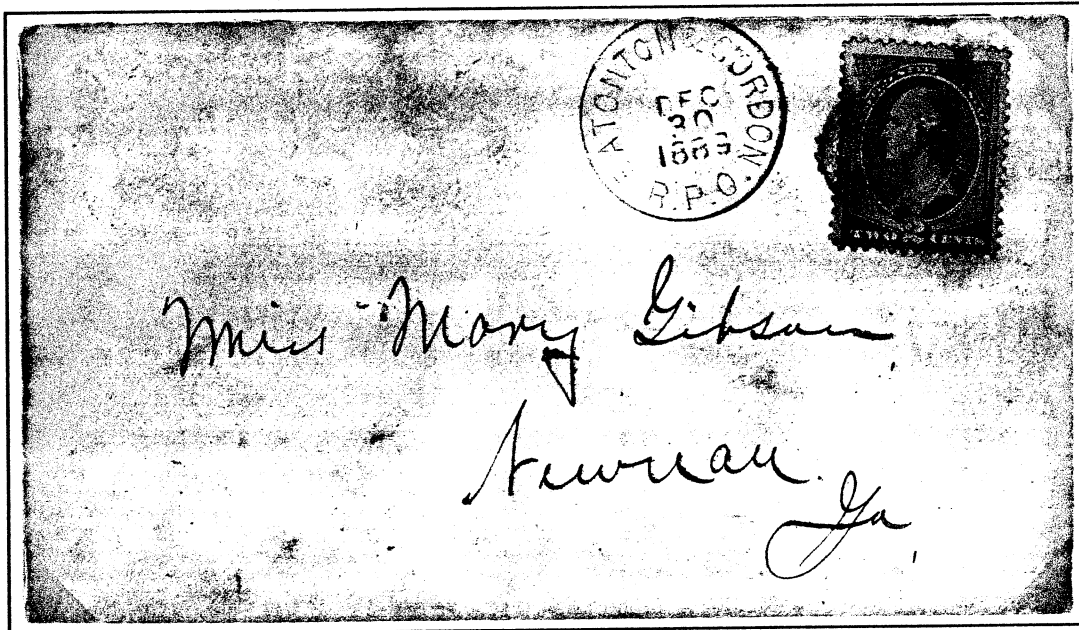
Branch - Eatonton to Gordon

R.P.O. service

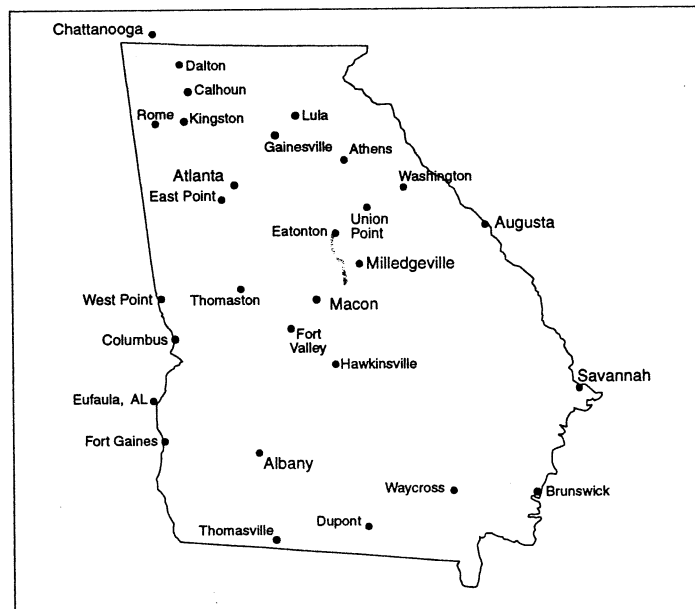
Eatonton & Gordon	1882-1885
Eatonton & Macon	1885-1887
Eatonton & Gordon	1887-1893

R.P.O., 1887-1893

December 30, 1889



Road from Milledgeville to Eatonton, 22 miles, opened and leased by Central R.R. of Georgia in 1853, joining Milledgeville & Gordon R.R., 17 miles, opened in 1852.



Central Railroad of Georgia

Macon & Western R.R.

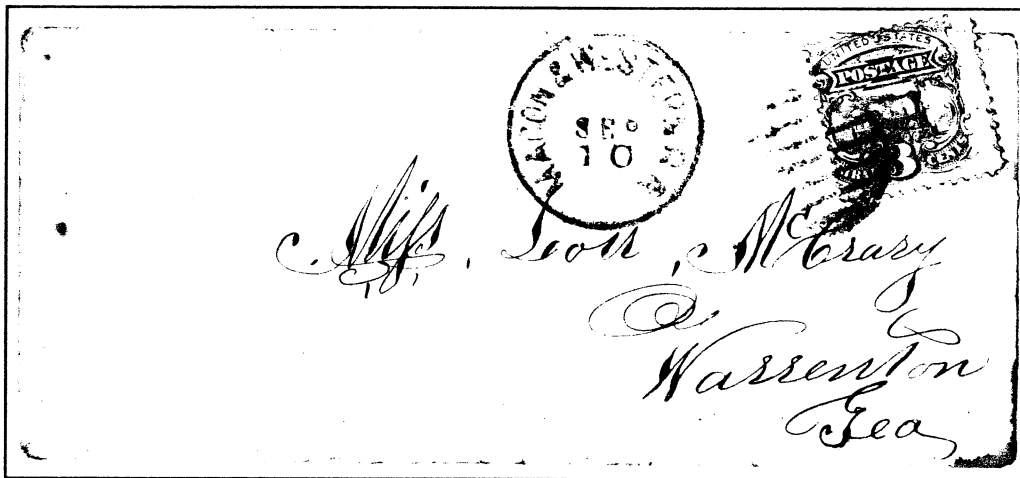
Route agent contracts

*Augusta-Griffin	1848-1853
Atlanta-Griffin	1853-1861
Atlanta-Macon	1858-1859, 1866-1882

*Joint with Georgia Railroad

Macon & Western R.R. - Atlanta to Macon
Route agent, 1866-1882

September 10, 18-
September 25, 1875

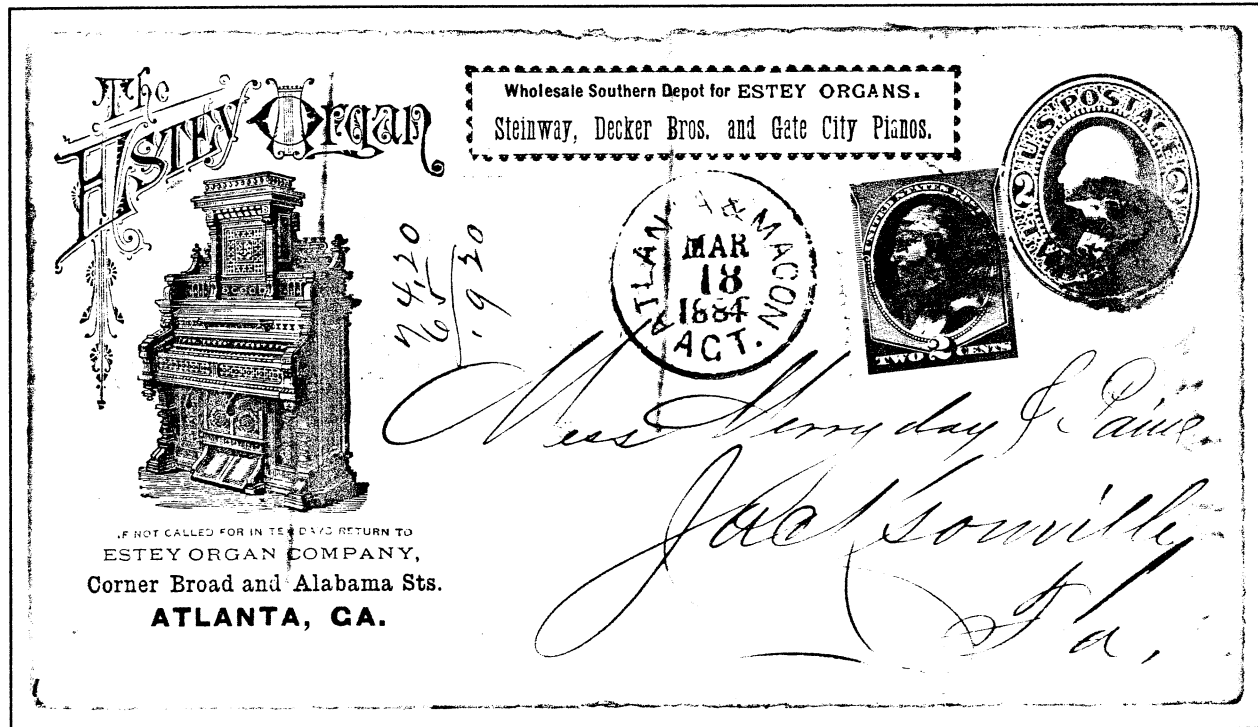
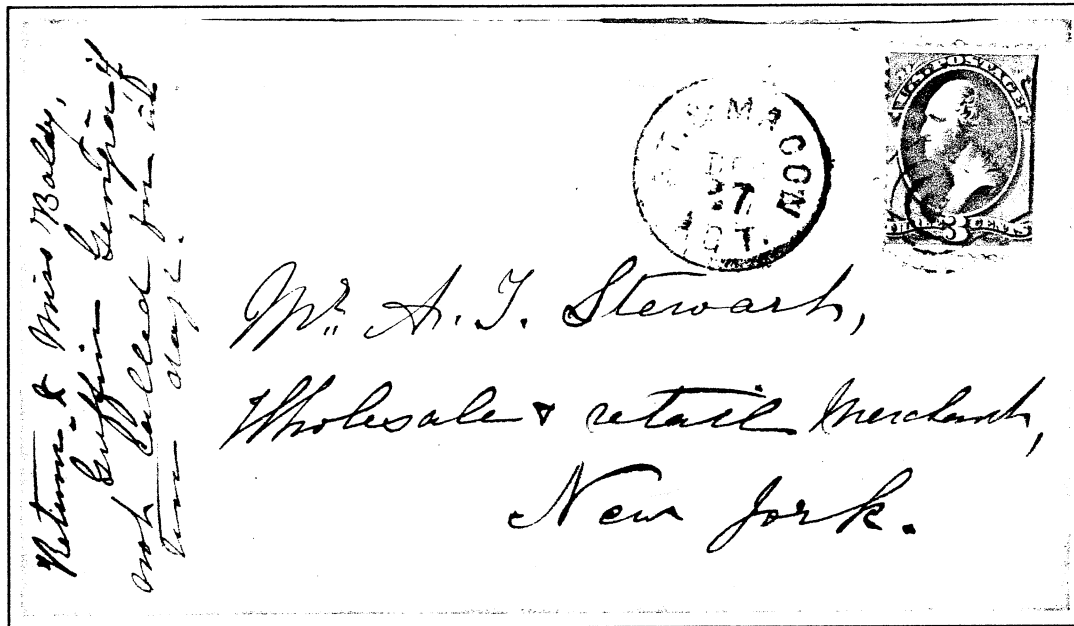


Postwar covers of the Atlanta-Macon route. Only known prewar covers show "Augusta & Atlanta R.R.," as markings of joint route agents with Georgia R.R.

Central Railroad of Georgia

Macon & Western R.R. - Atlanta to Macon
Route agent, 1866-1882

December 27, 1875
March 18, 1884



Macon & Western Railroad leased by Central of Georgia in 1872, enabling Central to run Atlanta & Savannah through route, Atlanta & Macon R.P.O. Northbound/southbound covers.

Central Railroad of Georgia

Main line

R.P.O. service

Atlanta & Macon	1882-1888
Savannah & Millen	1882-1883
Augusta & Millen	1882-1883
Savannah & Macon	1883-1883
Atlanta & Savannah	1883-1888
Atlanta & Albany	1888-1889
Macon & Savannah	1888-1895

Macon & Western R.R. - Atlanta to Macon
R.P.O., 1882-1888

February 14, 1887

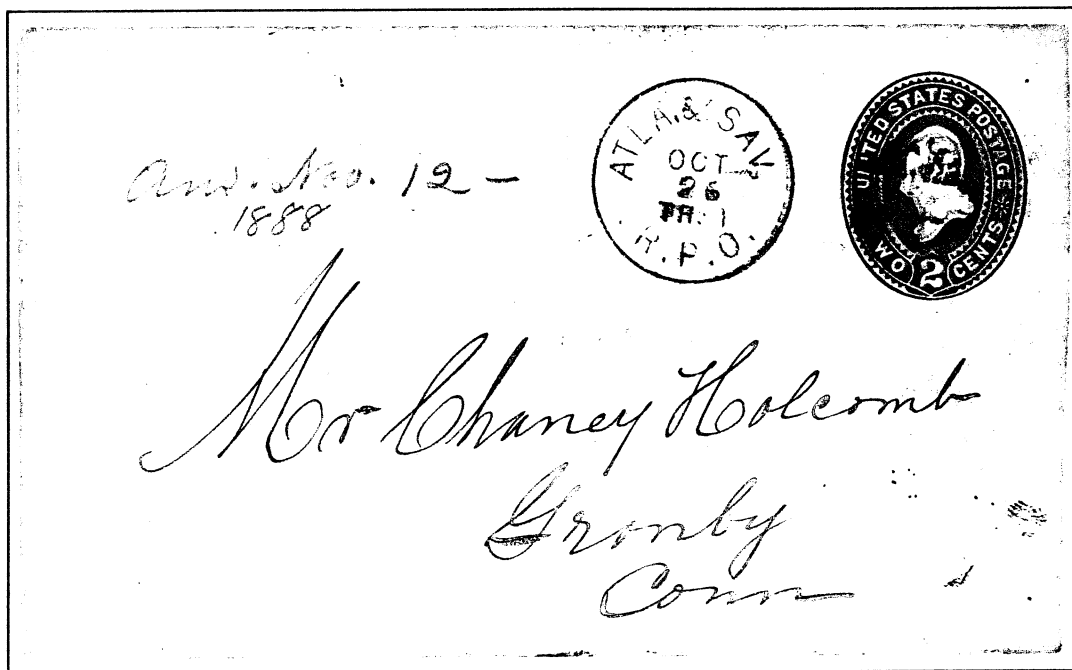


Operating 1882-1888, Atlanta & Macon R.P.O. ran on the railroad leased by Central.

Central Railroad of Georgia

Main line - Atlanta to Savannah
R.P.O., 1883-1888

March 3, 1886
October 26, 1888



R.P.O. markings over the old Central of Georgia main line, combined with the newly leased Macon & Western R.R., making a through run, Savannah to Atlanta.

Savannah, Griffin & Northern Alabama Railroad

Main line - Griffin to Carrollton

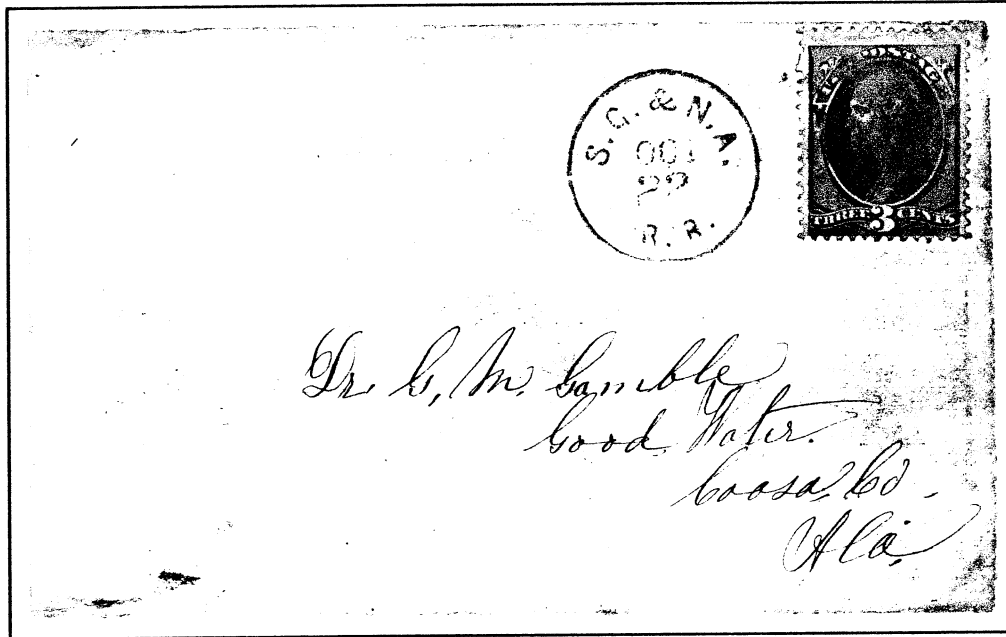
Route agent contracts

Griffin & Newnan
Griffin & Carrollton

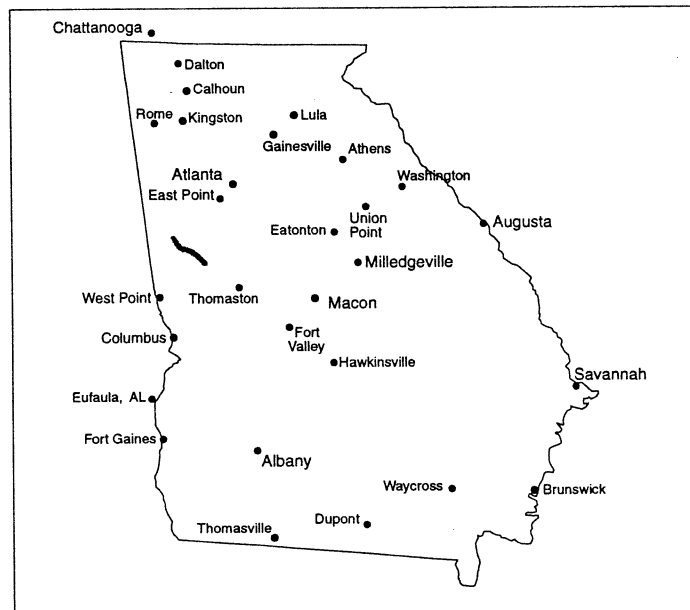
1872-1873
1873-1882

Route agent, 1872-1882

October 22, 18-



Chartered 1854, opened, Griffin-Newnan, 1870, extended to Carrollton, 1872. Operated with Central R.R. of Georgia, acquired by C.R.R., 1890.



Atlantic & Gulf Railroad

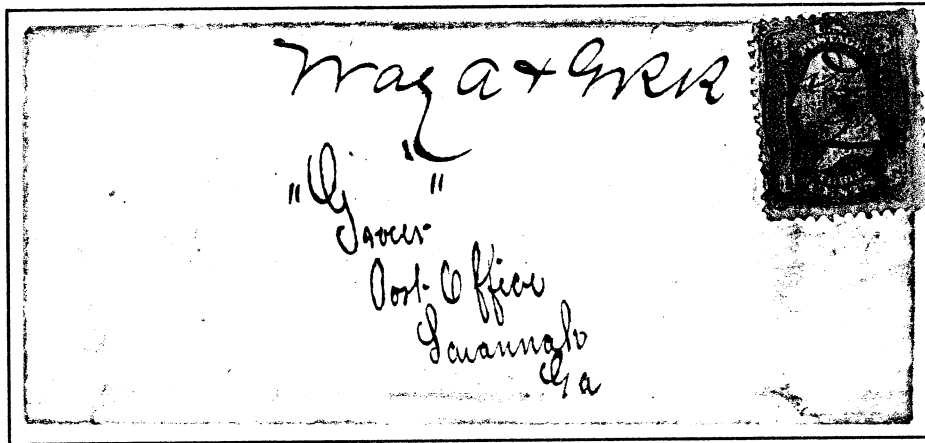
Main line (later Eastern Division) - Savannah to Thomasville

Route agent contracts

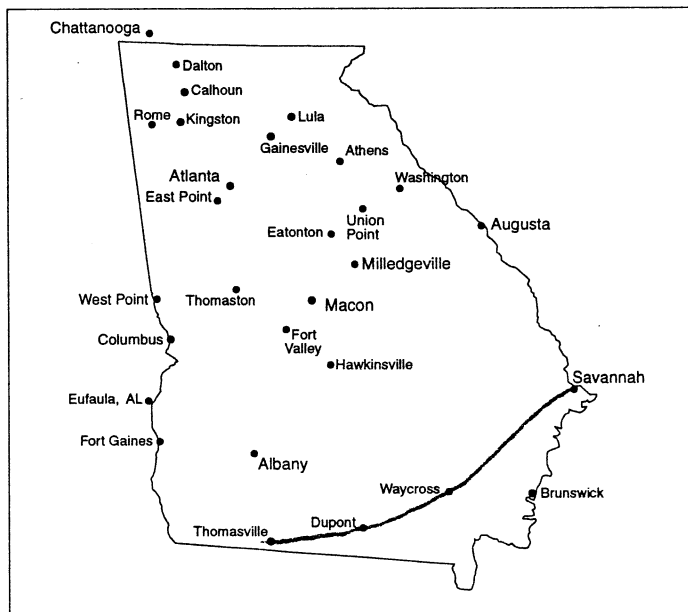
Savannah & Thomasville	1866-1868
Savannah & Jacksonville	1868-1872
Savannah & Live Oak	1872-1879
Savannah & Jacksonville	1879-1880

Main line
Route agent, 1866-1868

December 2, 186-



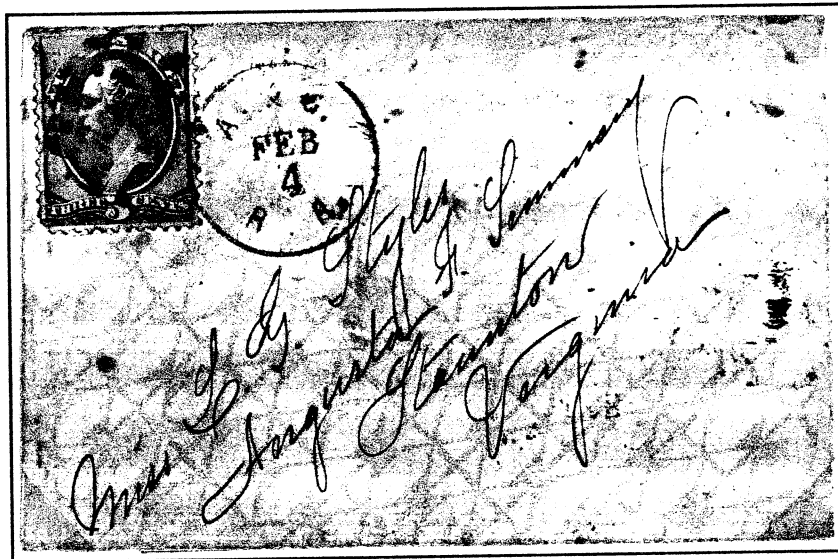
Only recorded "Way A & G RR" marking, "Way" meaning picked up from a contract mail carrier by the route agent. 1866 grilled adhesive.



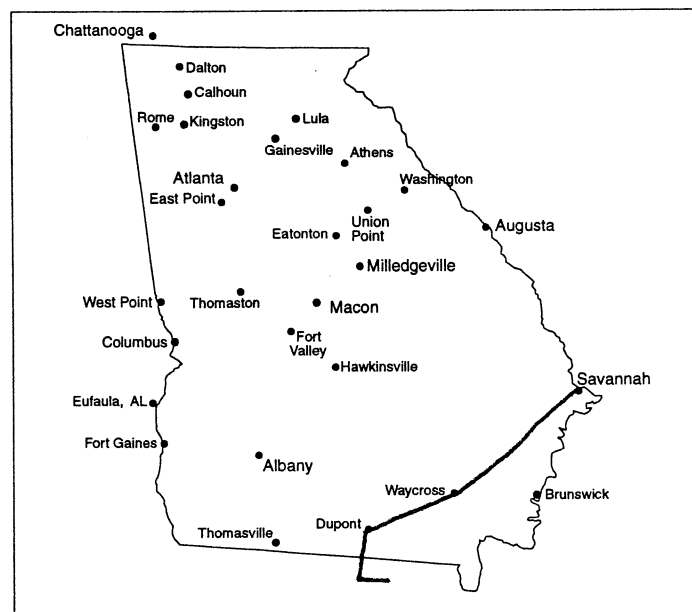
Atlantic & Gulf Railroad (Eastern Division)

Main line - Savannah to Jacksonville
Route agent, 1868-1872

February 4, 1871



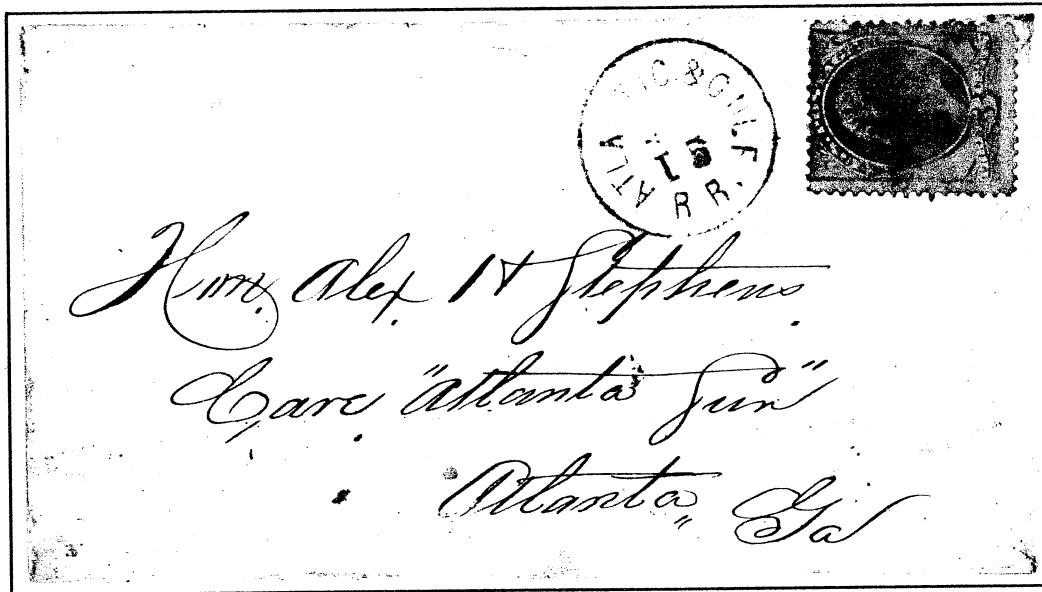
*On 1868 completion of line from Dupont, GA to Live Oak, FL,
A & G RR agency was split into eastern and western divisions.*



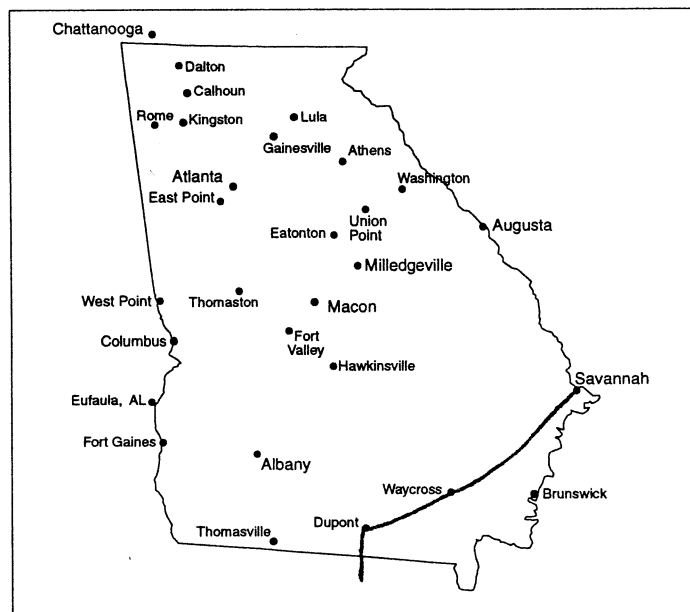
Atlantic & Gulf Railroad (Eastern Division)

Main line - Savannah to Live Oak
Route agent, 1872-1879

January 15, 1873



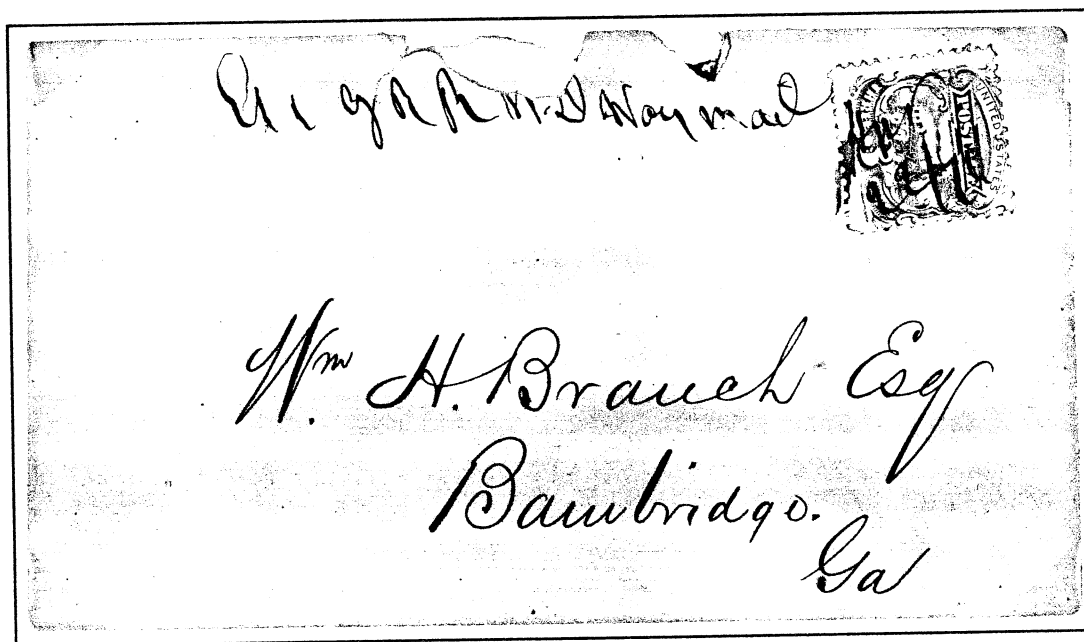
Route agent contract shortened, 1872-1879, to extend only as far as Live Oak, Florida, the junction point where the railroad turned east, to go to Jacksonville.



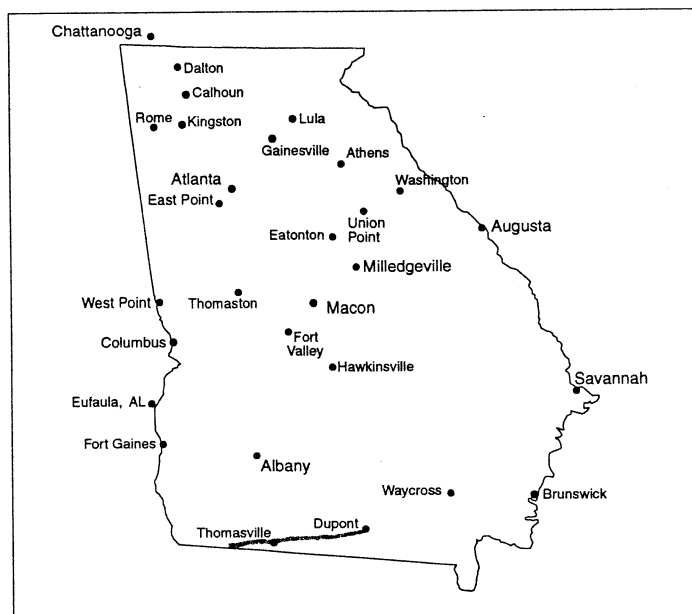
Atlantic & Gulf Railroad (Western Division)

Main line - Lawton to Bainbridge
Route agent, 1868-1871

April 22, 1870



Manuscript "A&G RR WD Way mail," One of two recorded covers. Way mail refers to delivery to the route agent by a Post Office Department contract carrier.



Atlantic & Gulf Railroad (Western Division)

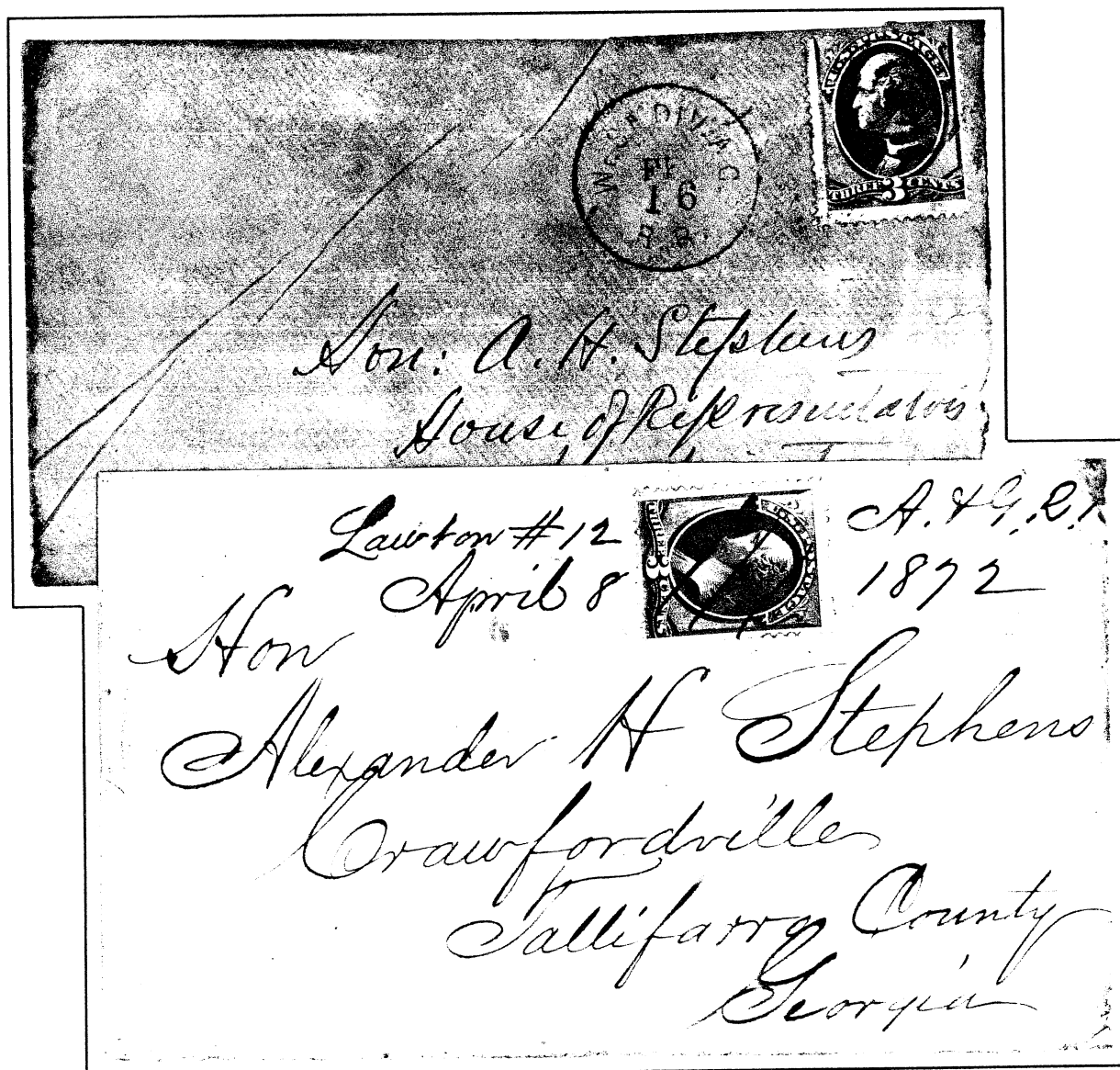
Main Line (Western Division)

Route agent contracts

Lawton & Bainbridge	1868-1871
Lawton & Albany	1871-1875
Dupont & Albany	1875-1881
Waycross & Albany	1881-1882

Main line - Lawton to Albany
Route agent, 1871-1875

February 16, 1875
April 8, 1872

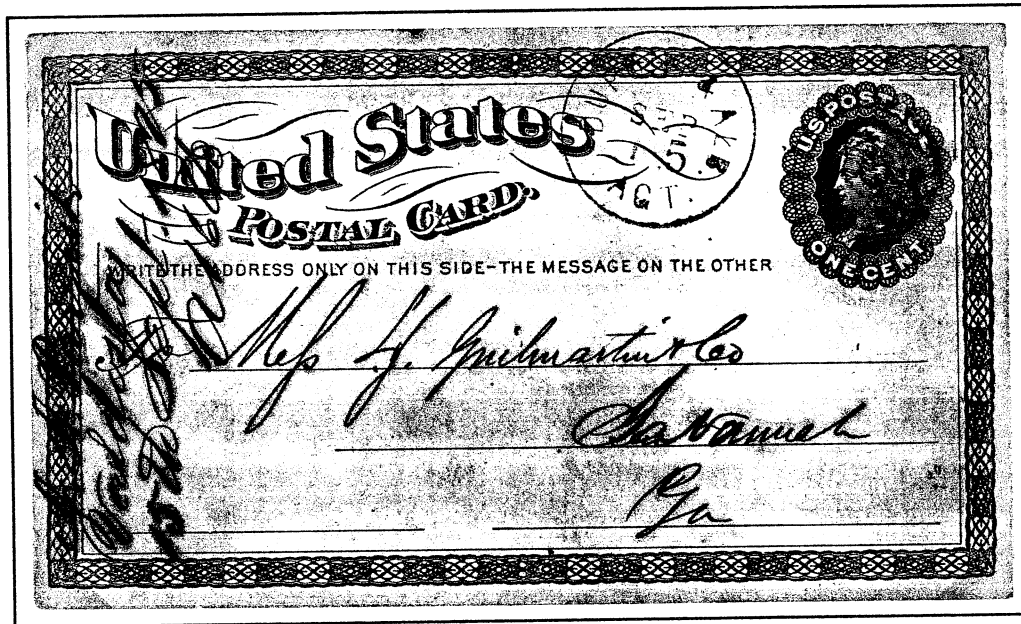


Lawton & Albany route agent period handstamp. Below, "Lawton [station] #12 A&G RR" station agent marking. The postal nature of these "Station agents" is not well understood.

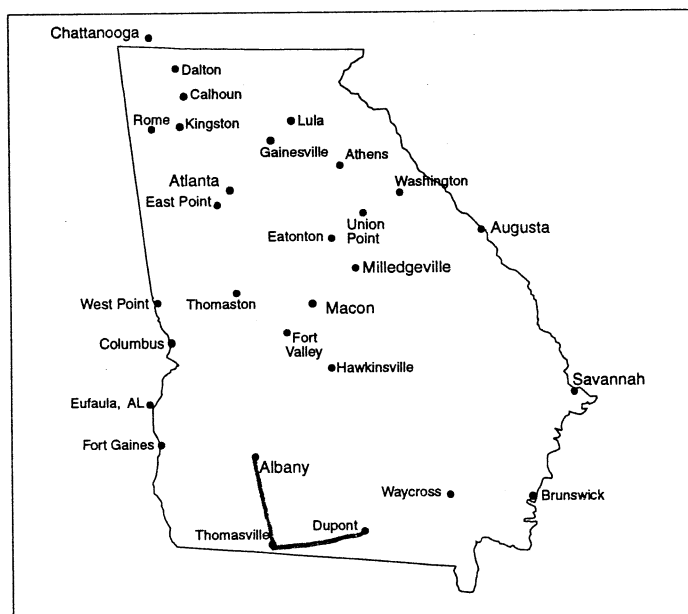
Atlantic & Gulf Railroad (Western Division)

Main line - Dupont to Albany
Route agent, 1875-1881

September 15, 1875



Dupont & Albany route agent did not represent a route change, as Dupont was a renaming of Lawton. First Western Division CDS naming terminals.



Atlantic & Gulf Railroad (Western Division)

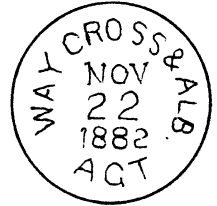
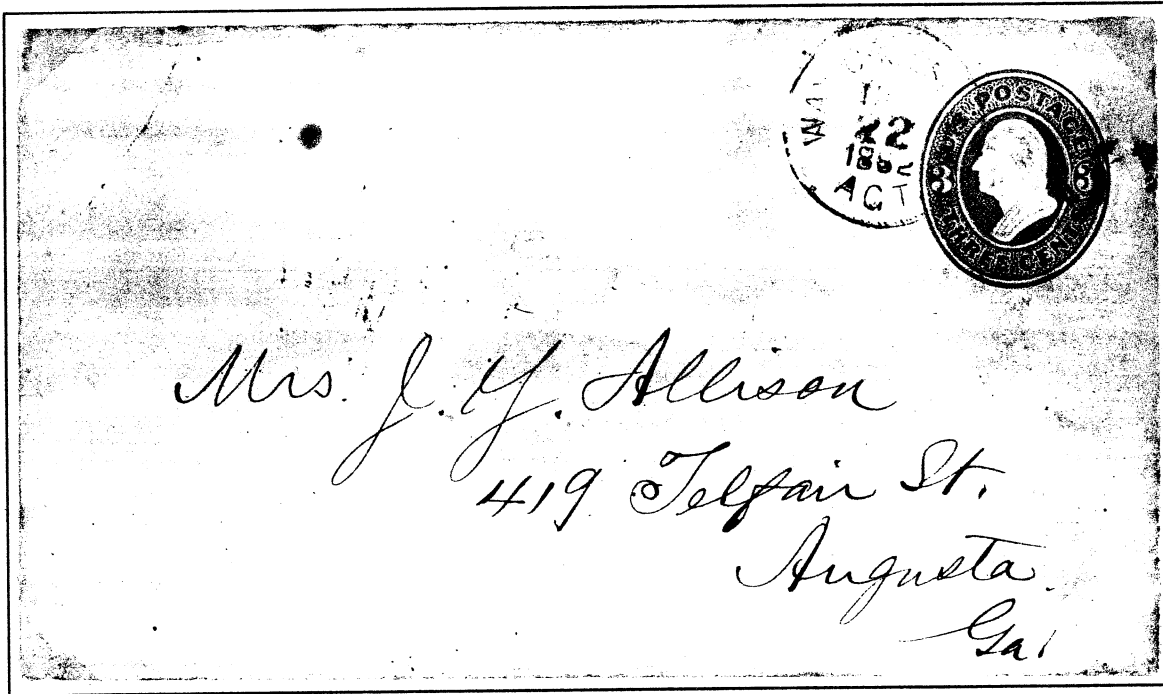
Main line

R.P.O. service

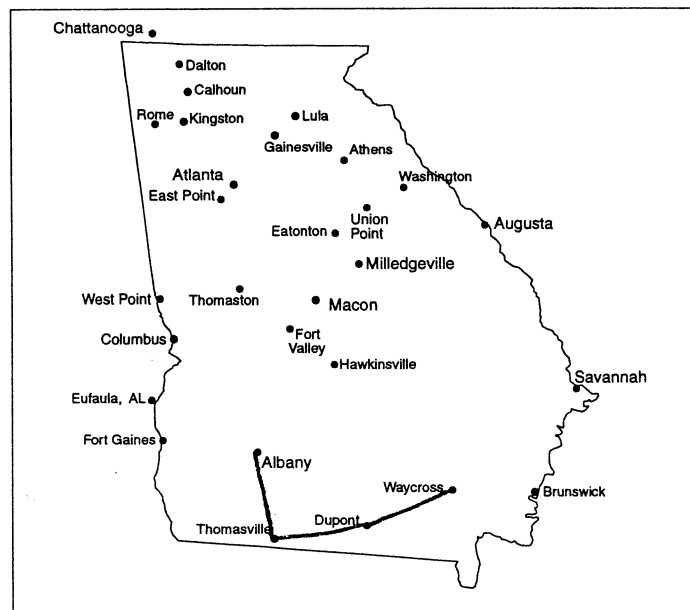
Waycross & Albany	1882-1883
Waycross & Chattahoochee	1883-1891

Main line - Waycross to Albany
R.P.O. 1882-1883

November 22, 1882



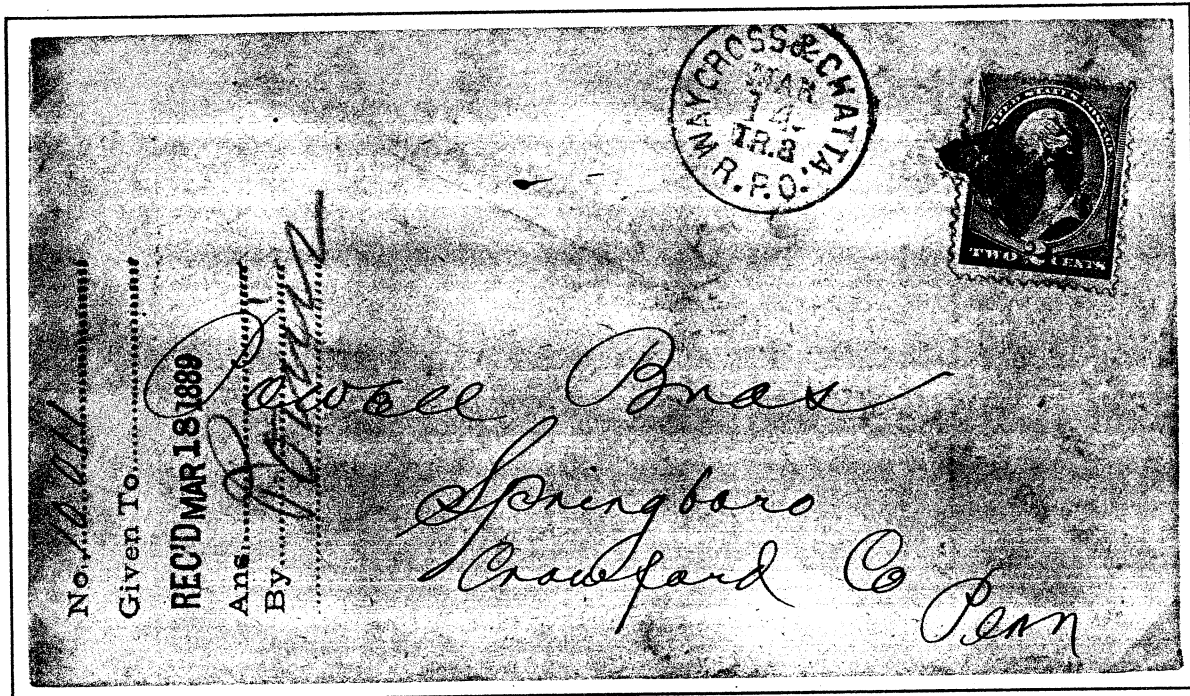
R.P.O. use of Agent H.S., after extension to Waycross, changed to R.P.O., August 1, 1882.



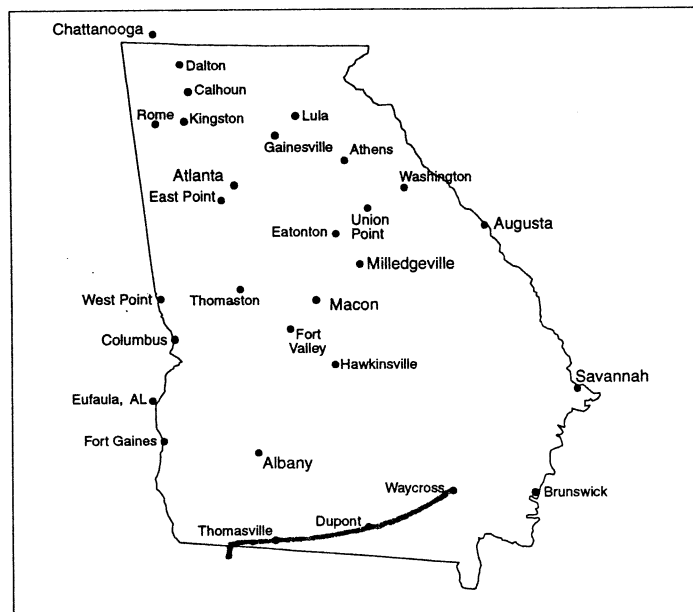
Atlantic & Gulf Railroad (Western Division)

Main line - Waycross to Chattahoochee
R.P.O., 1883-1891

March 14, 1889



Western terminus Chattahoochee, FL replaces Albany. First R.P.O. marking on this route.



Brunswick & Western Railroad

Main line - Brunswick to Albany

Route agent contracts

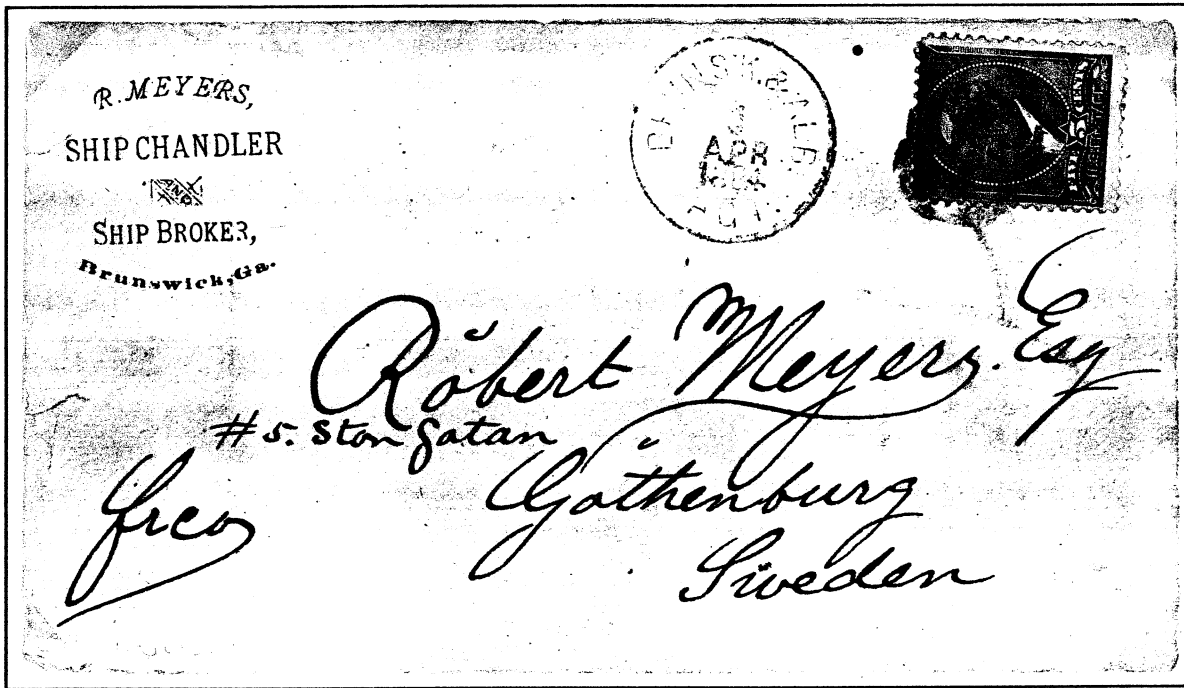
Brunswick & Albany

1872-1882

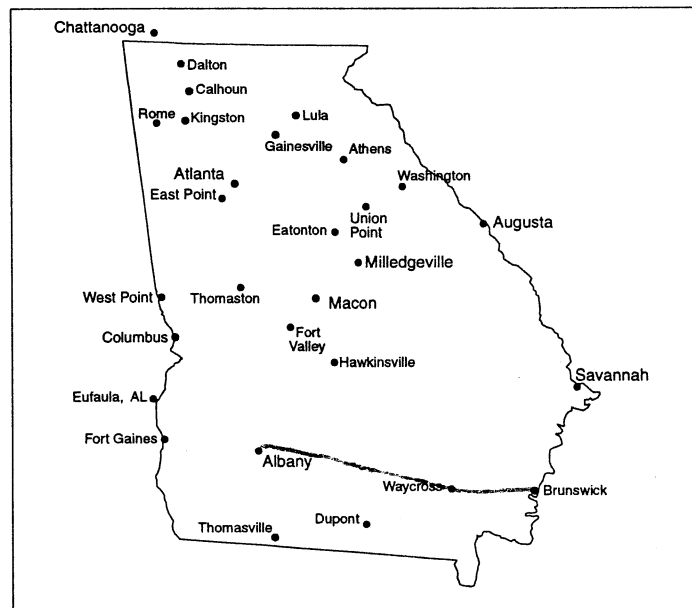
Main line - Brunswick to Albany

April 1, 1884

Route agent, 1872-1882



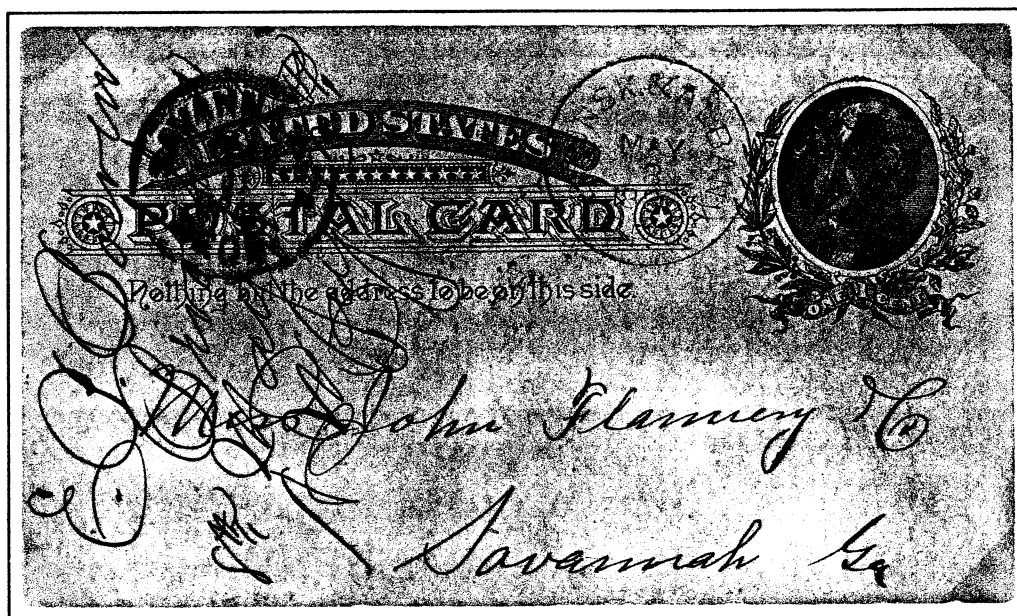
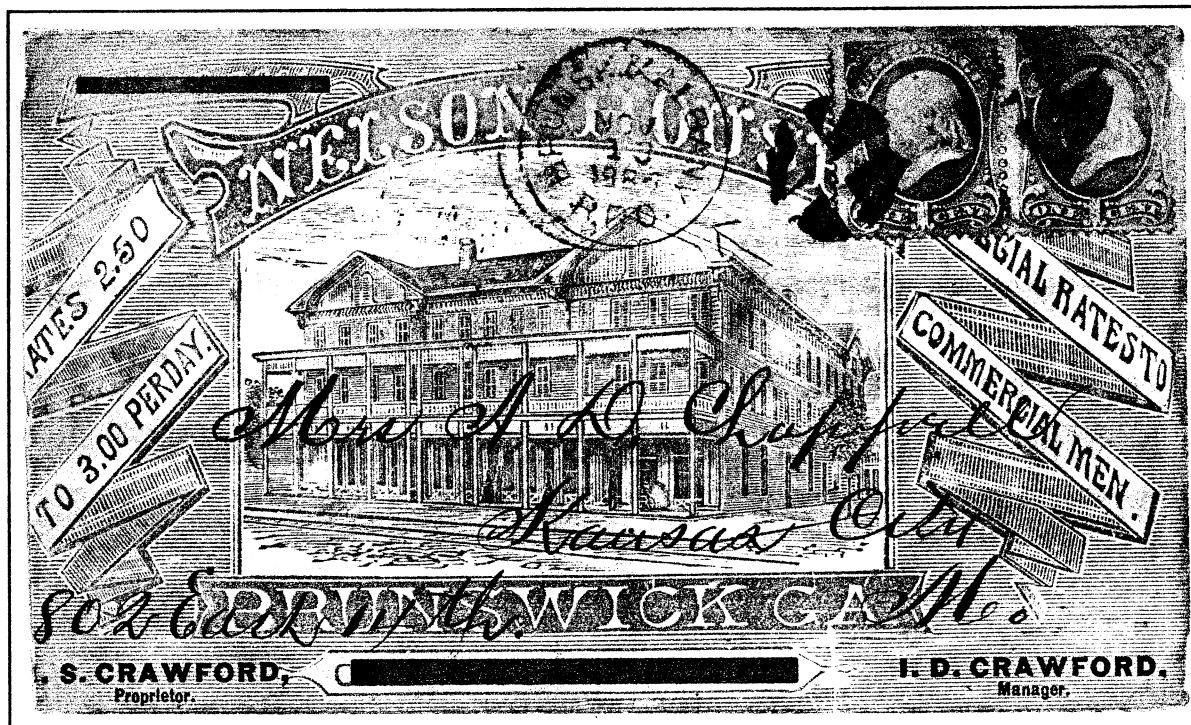
Incorporated 1856 as Brunswick & Florida R.R. Reorganized 1869 as Brunswick & Albany and 1882 as Brunswick & Western R.R. R.P.O. use of agent's handstamp (only recorded).



Brunswick & Western Railroad

Main line - Brunswick to Albany
R.P.O., 1882-1889

November 13, 1886
May 8, 1886



Handstamps of first R.P.O. type seen on lines of Brunswick & Western R.R.
In 1889, changed to Brunswick & Waycross and Atlanta & Waycross R.P.O.s.

Brunswick & Western Railroad

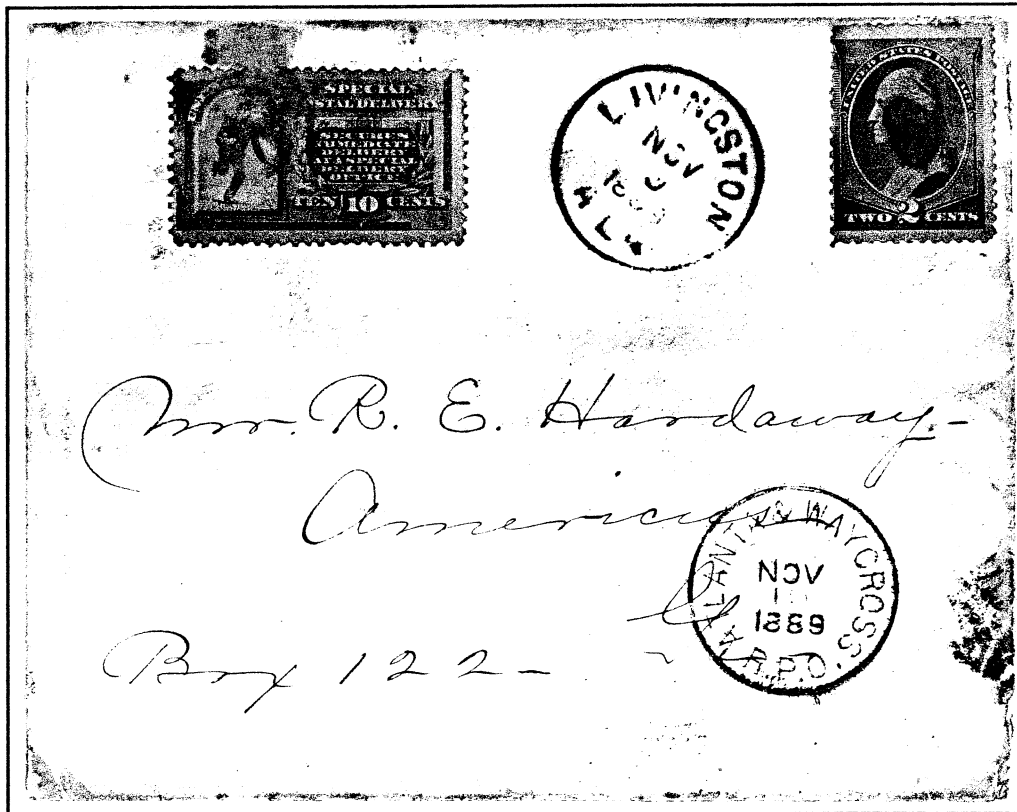
Main line

R.P.O. service

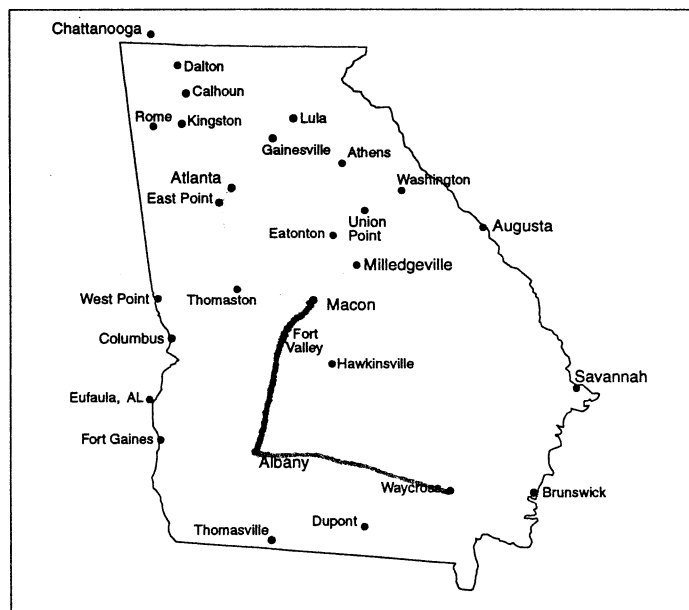
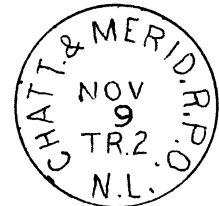
Brunswick & Albany	1882-1889
Brunswick & Waycross	1889-1890
Atlanta & Waycross	1889-1890

Main line - Atlanta to Waycross
R.P.O., 1889-1890

November 9, 1889



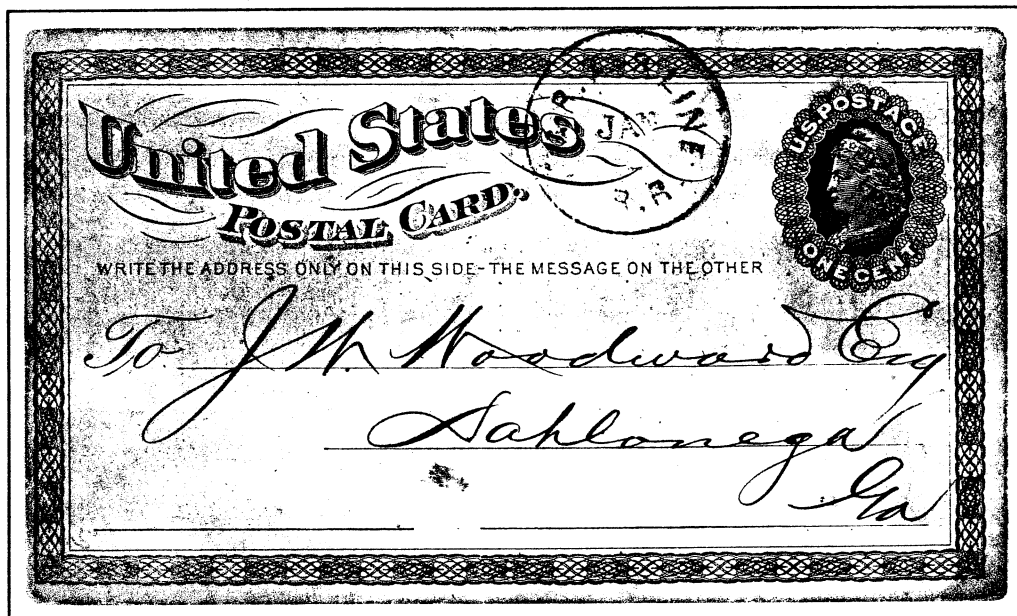
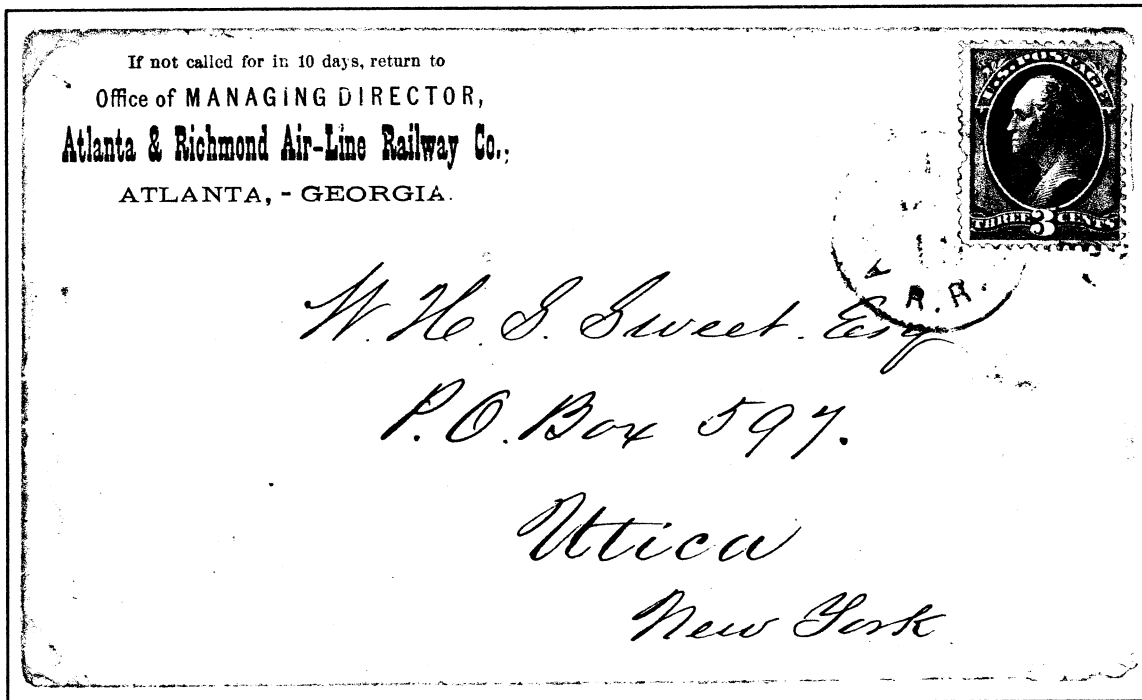
Formed of Brunswick & Albany R. P.O. and Central of Georgia's Atlanta & Albany R.P.O. First issue special delivery adhesive; backstamp of Chatt. & Merid. R.P.O.



Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

Atlanta & Richmond Airline Ry. - Atlanta to Charlotte
Route agent, 1873-1882

May 13, 18-
January 1, 1875

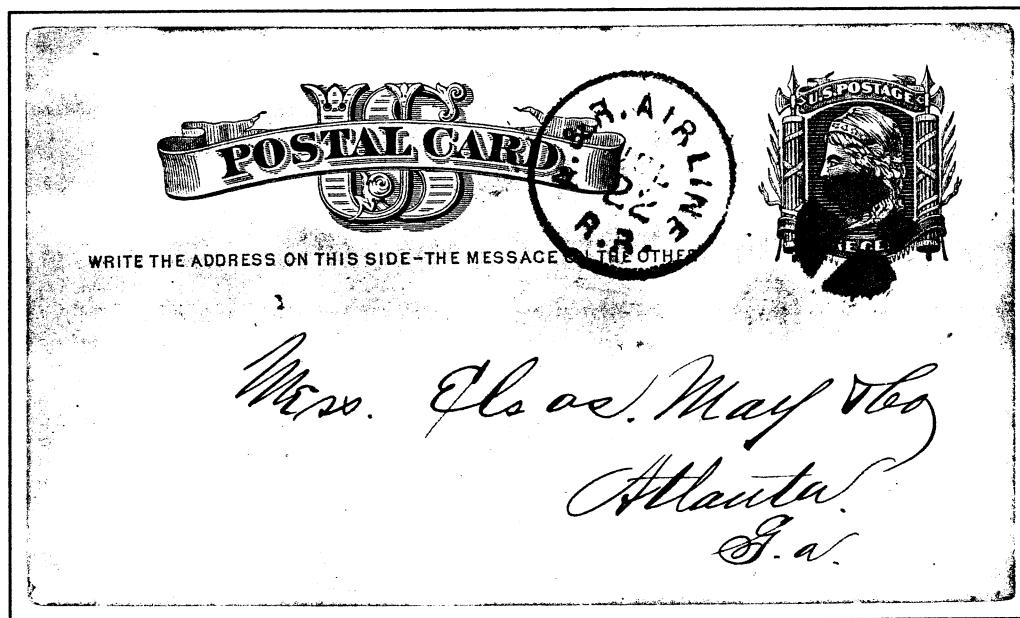
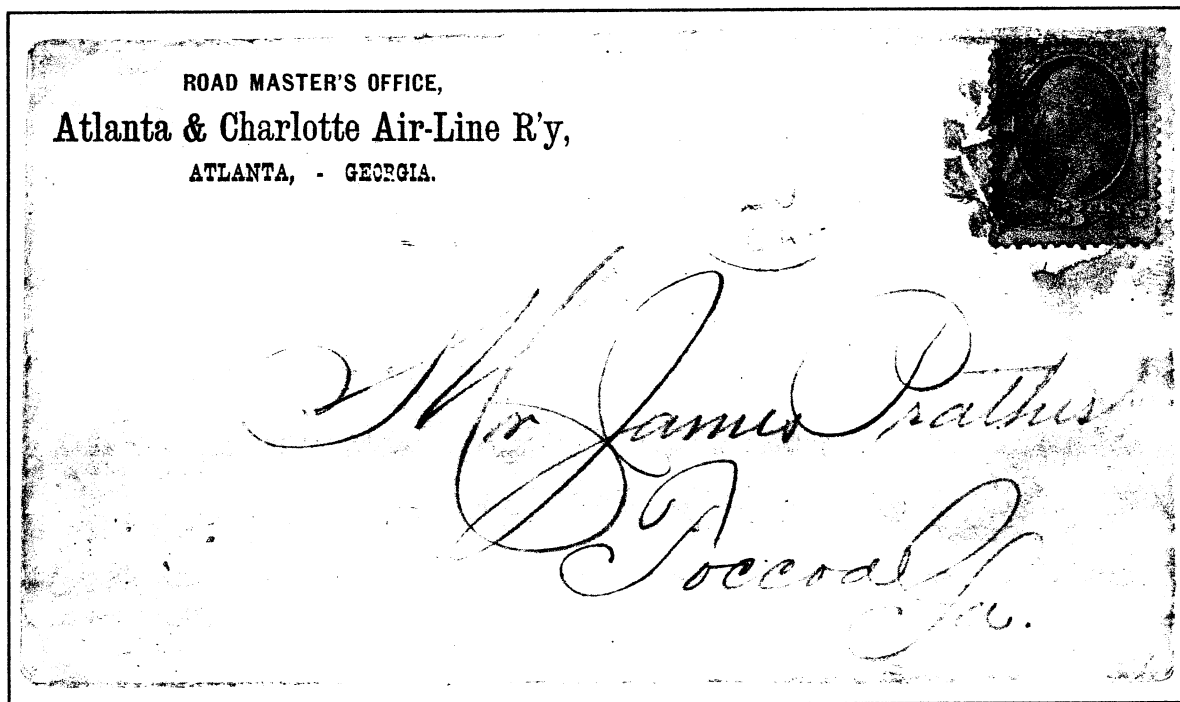


Formed in 1870 as Atlanta & Richmond Airline Railway, consolidating three
railroads. Completed, Atlanta to Charlotte, N.C., 1873. First type of marking.

Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

Main line - Atlanta to Charlotte
Route agent, 1873-1882

- 20, 18-
July 22, 1877



A. & R. Airline Ry. taken over by Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Ry. in 1877.
(Cover above, with illegible CDS, to show corner card only). Type I marking.

Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

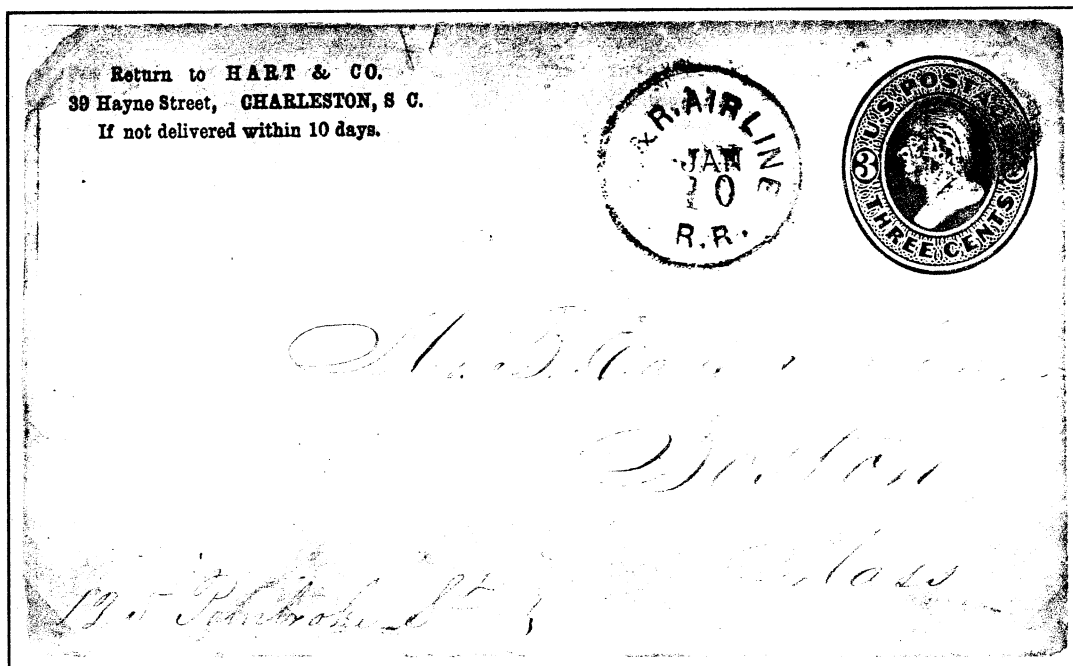
Main line

Route agent contracts

Gainesville & Atlanta	1872-1873
Mount Airy & Atlanta	1873-1873
Charlotte & Atlanta	1873-1882

Main line - Atlanta to Charlotte
Route agent, 1873-1882

January 10, 18-

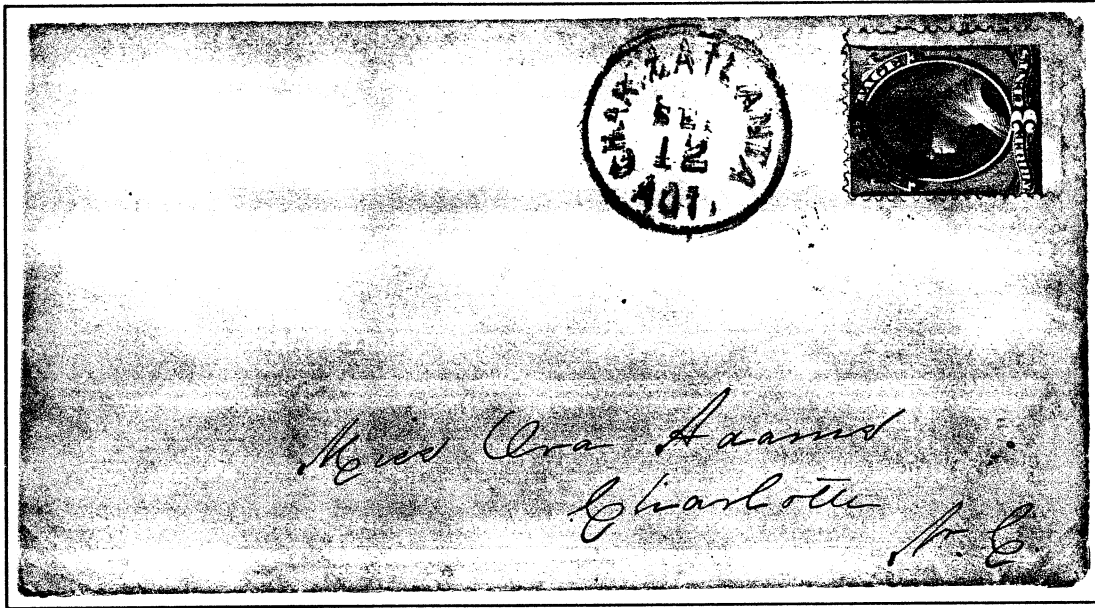


Second type of A. & R. Airline handstamp. Probably during 1873-1882 period.

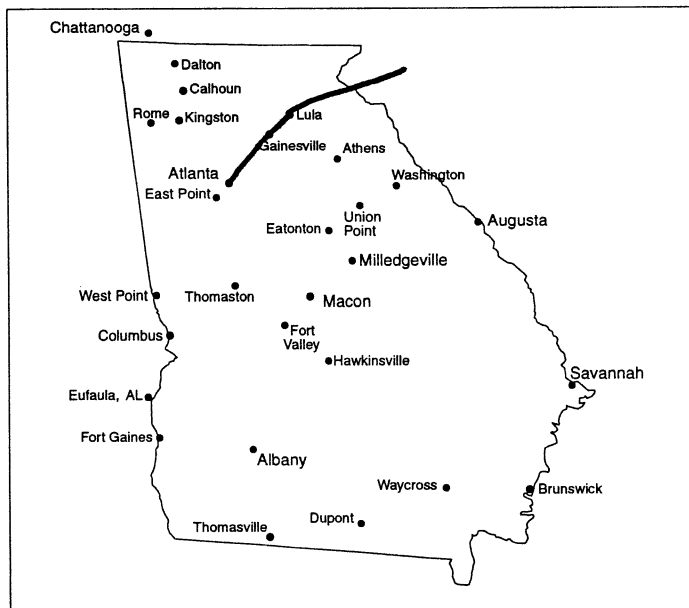
Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

Main line - Atlanta to Charlotte
Route agent, 1873-1882

September 12, 18-



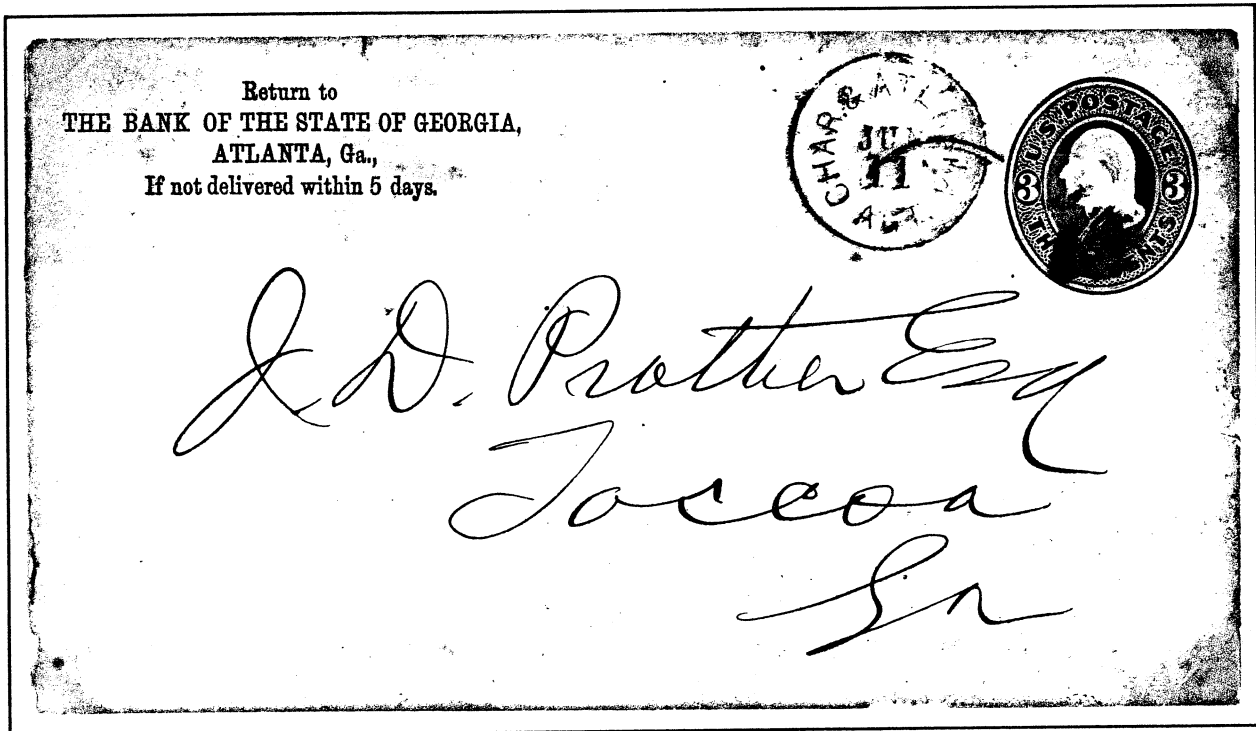
Route agent marking listing terminals, first handstamp type.



Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

Main line - Atlanta to Charlotte
Route agent, 1873-1882

July 11, 1879



Agent handstamp showing terminals - second die (with different letter spacing).

Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

Main line - Atlanta to Charlotte

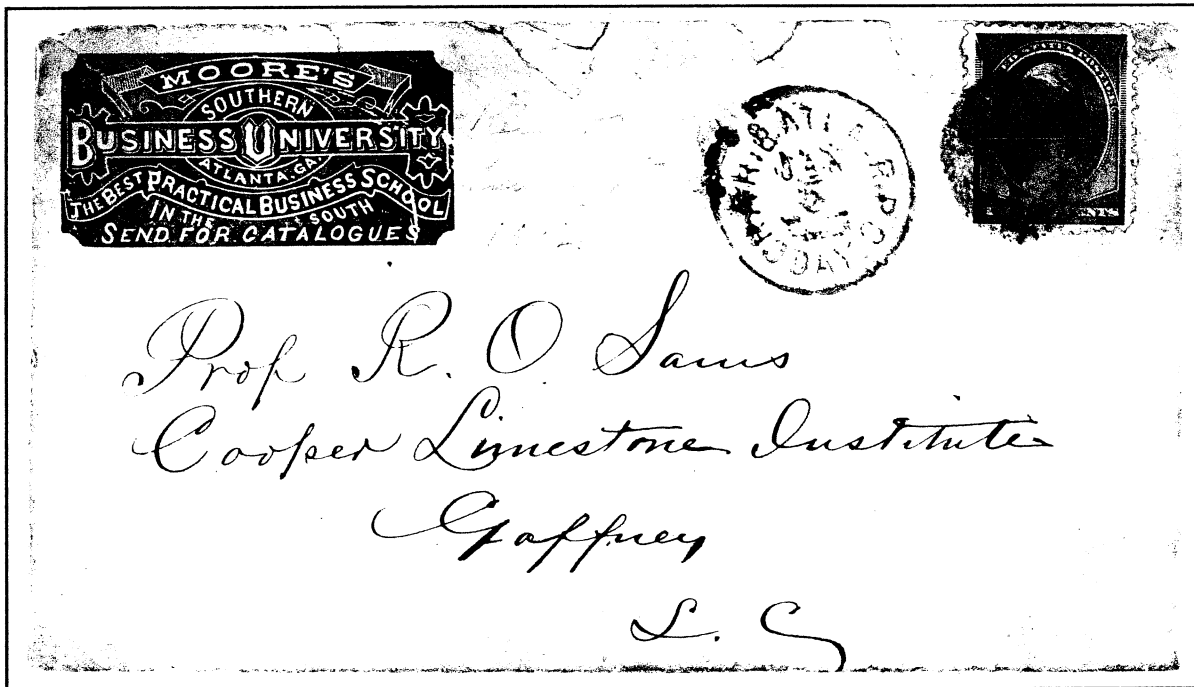
R.P.O. service

Charlotte & Atlanta

1882-1903

Main line - Atlanta to Charlotte
R.P.O., 1882-1903

January 5, 1884

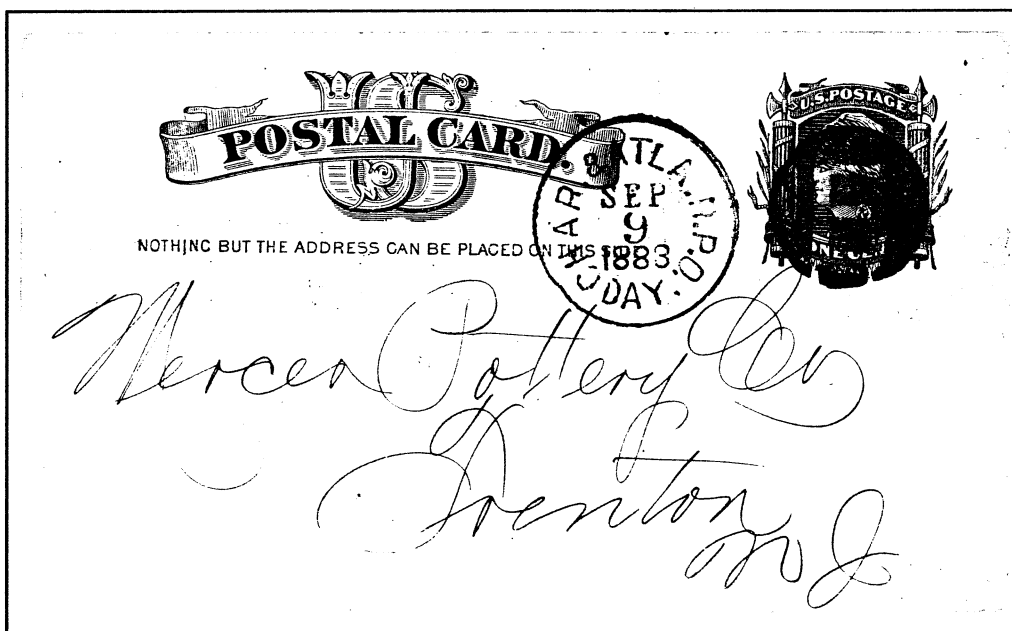
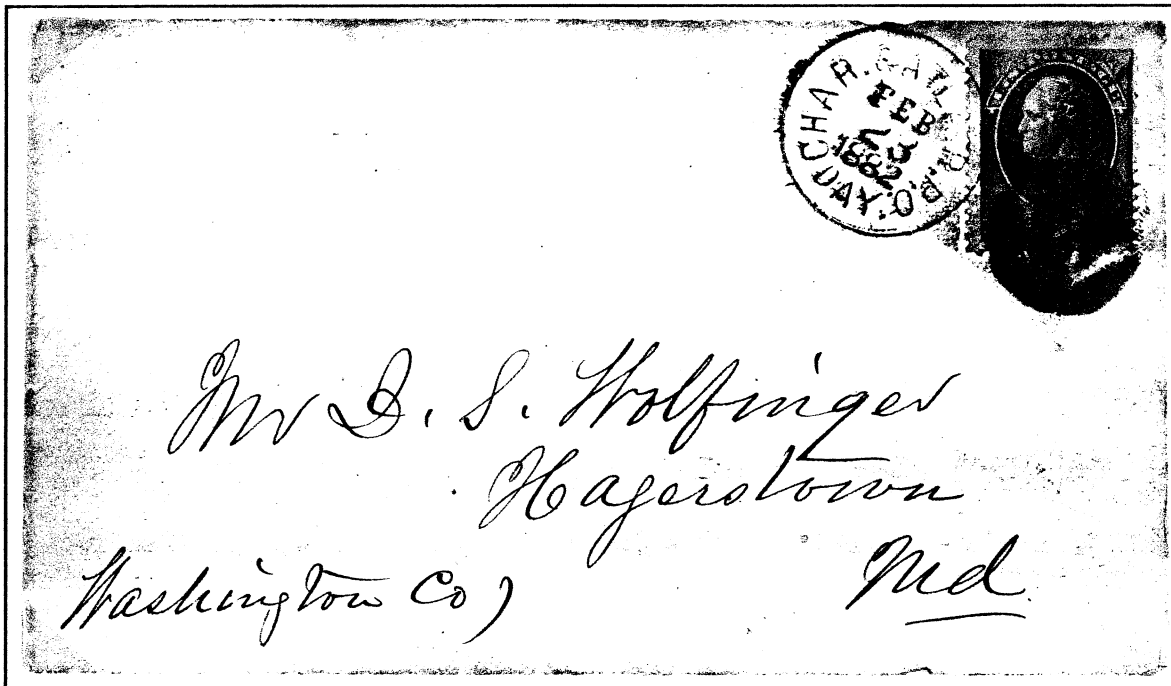


R.P.O. marking with "DAY" line, train number in dial, plain cork killer, apparently northbound. A year and one half after establishment of railway post offices on this line.

Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

Main line - Atlanta to Charlotte
R.P.O., 1882-1903

February 23, 1882
September 9, 1883

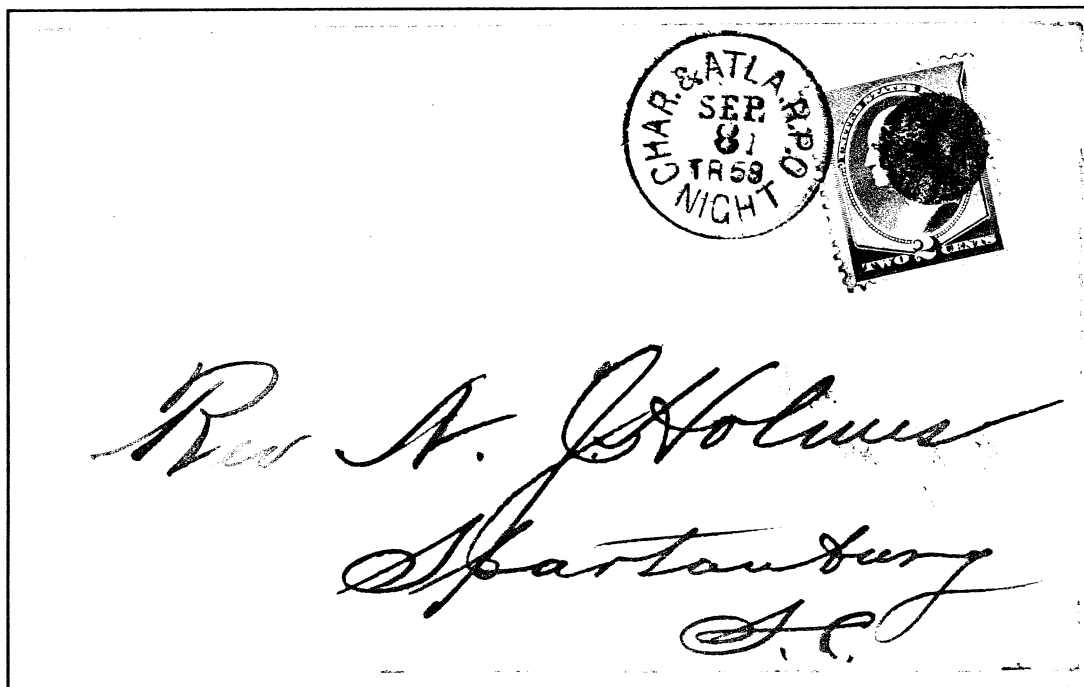
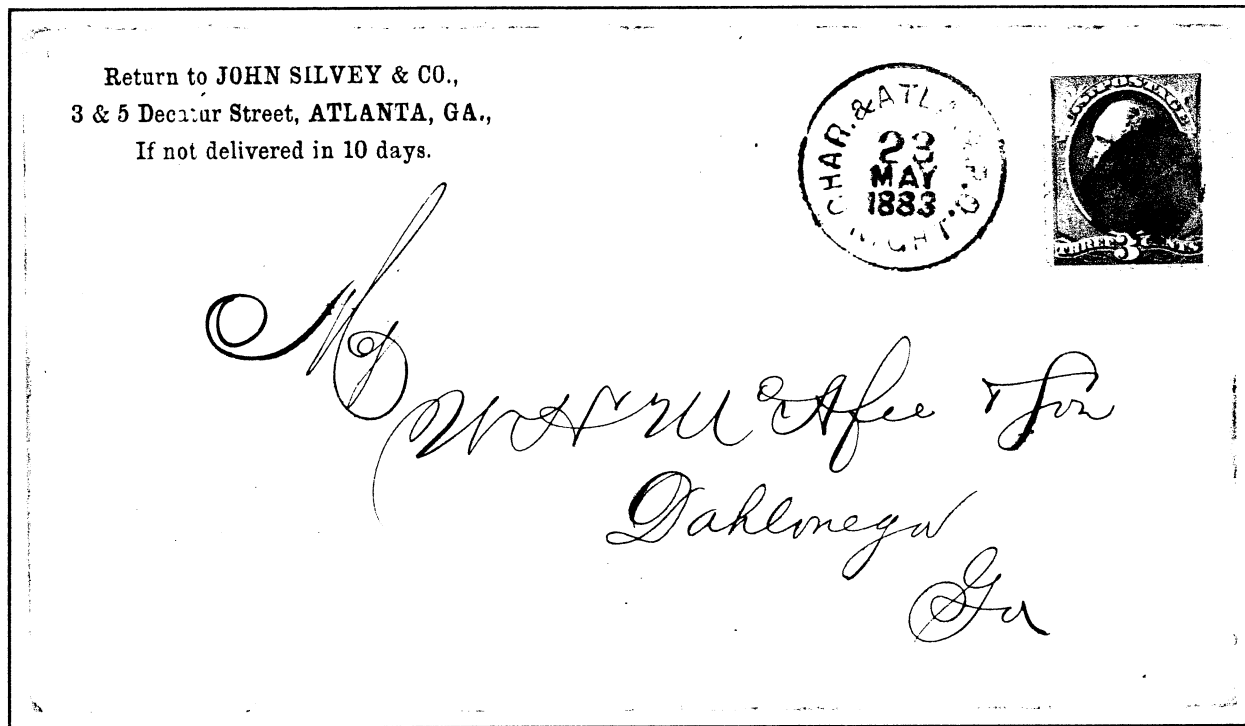


R.P.O. markings with "Day" line and direction indicated in killer.

Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

Main line - Atlanta to Charlotte
R.P.O., 1882-1903

May 23, 1883
September 8, 1888

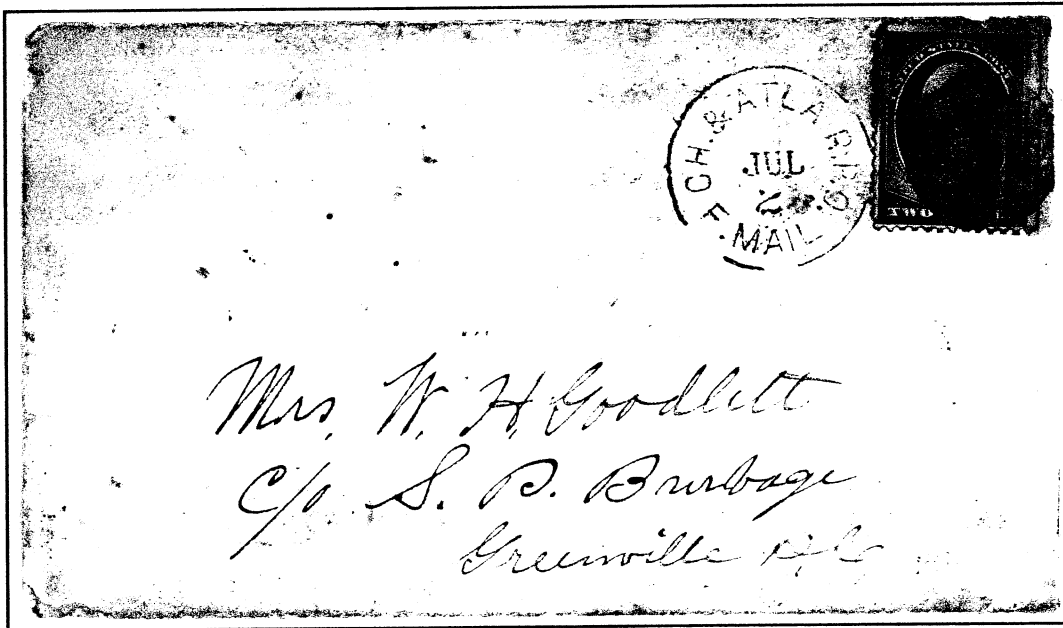


"Night" line markings, showing year (above) and train number in dial.

Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

Main line - Atlanta to Charlotte
R.P.O., 1882-1903

July 2, 1884



This railroad had an early experimental "fast mail" installed. Making few station stops, express trains received most of their mail by catching pouches "on the fly."

Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

Branch - Northeastern Railroad of Georgia

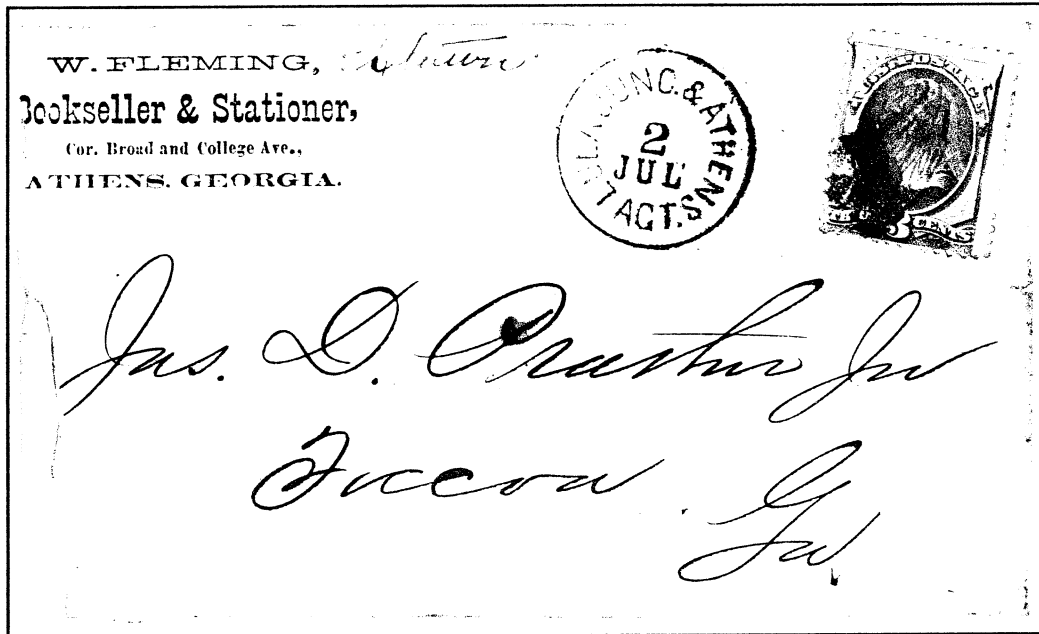
Route agent contracts

Belton & Athens
Lula Junction & Athens

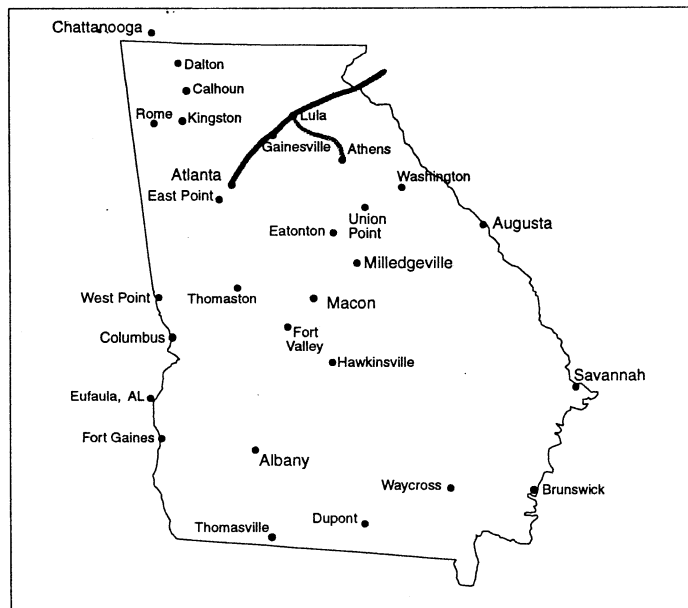
1877-1881
1881-1882

Route agent, 1877-1881

July 2, 1879



Built 1876. Route agent handstamp "anticipating" Lula Junction & Athens route (shown on map) suggests records of 1881-1882 route agent may be incomplete.



Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

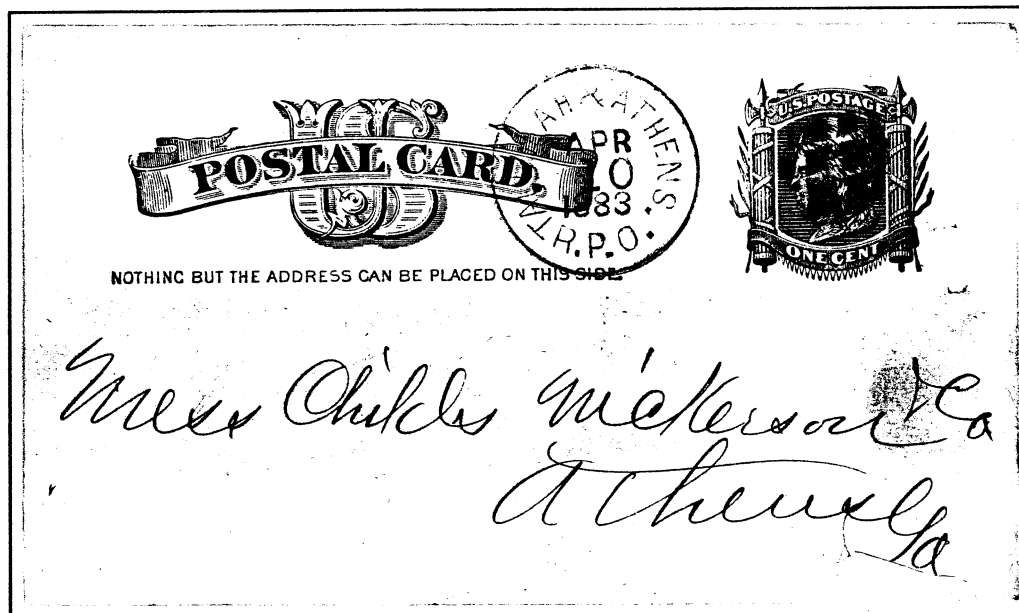
Branch - Northeastern Railroad of Georgia

R.P.O. service

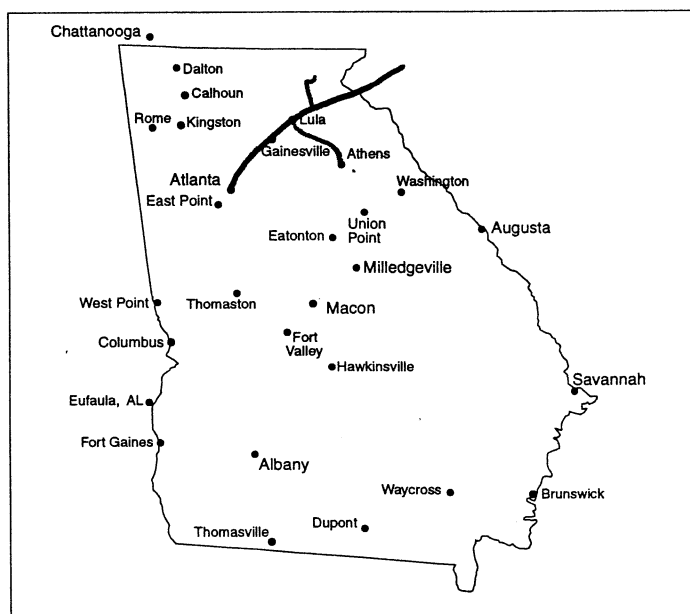
Lula & Athens	1882-1882
Tallulah & Athens	1882-1888
Lula & Athens	1888-1917

R.P.O., 1882-1888

April 10, 1883



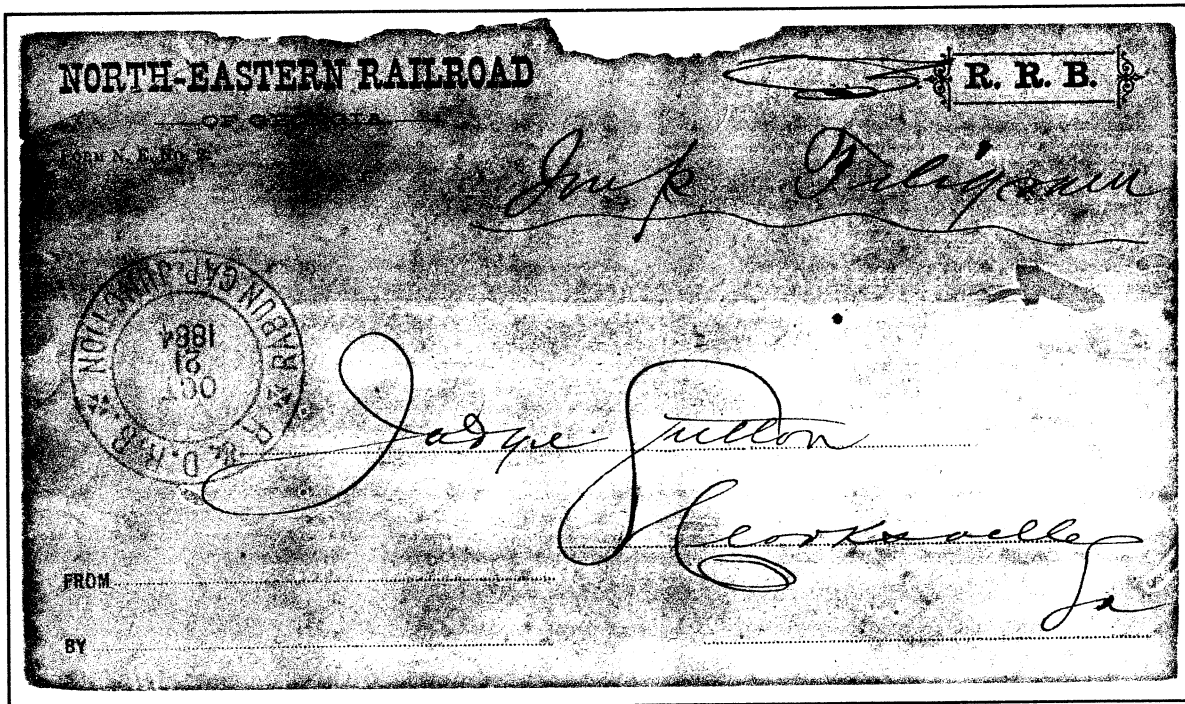
In 1882, Northeastern Railroad of Georgia extended to Tallulah Falls. Resulting R.P.O. ran 1882-1888, until shortened again to run from Lula only.



Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

Branch - Northeastern Railroad of Georgia
Railroad business message - Rabun Gap Junction origin

October 21, 1884



Cover legally carried out of mails by train as Rail Road Business (R.R.B.). Evidently contained "Imp[ortant] Telegram." Datestamp apparently not applied by postal employee.

Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

Branch - Elberton Airline Railroad

Route agent contracts

Toccoa & Elberton

1878-1882

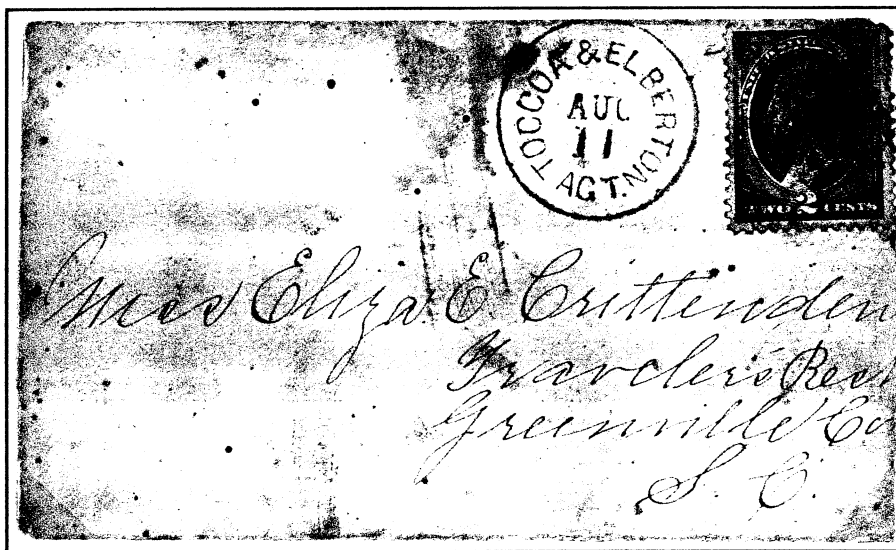
R.P.O. service

Toccoa & Elberton

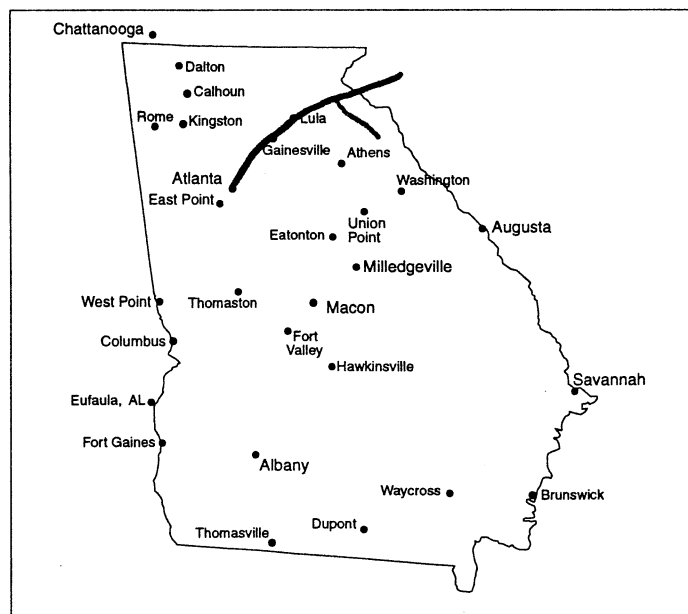
1882-1940

R.P.O., 1882-1940

August 11, 18-



3-foot gauge branch line, 50 miles long, completed 1878. Late use of agent handstamp during R.P.O. period (on cover with 1883 adhesive).



Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

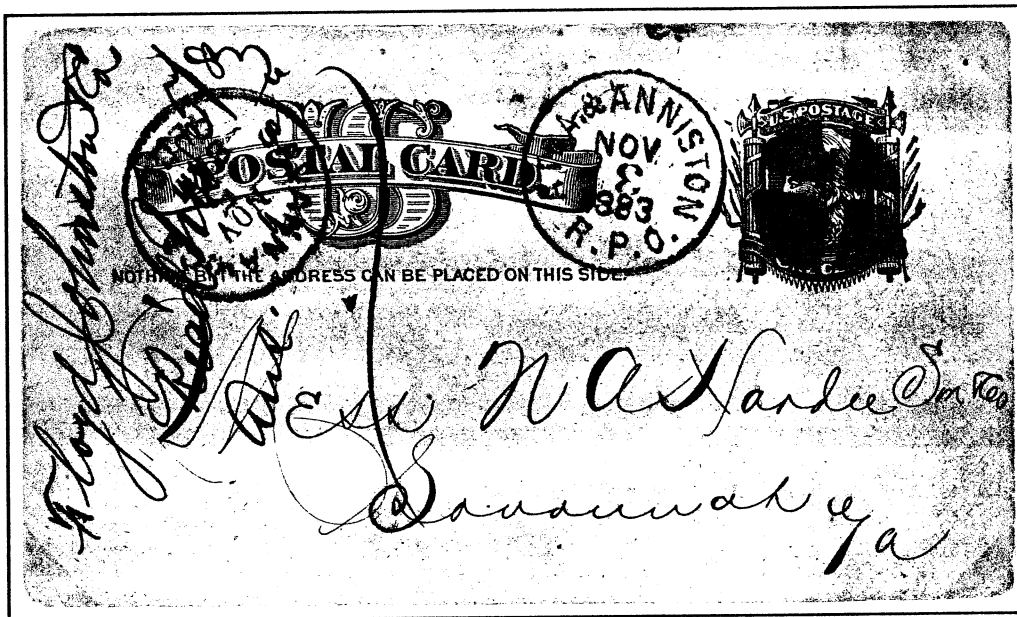
Extension west

R.P.O. service

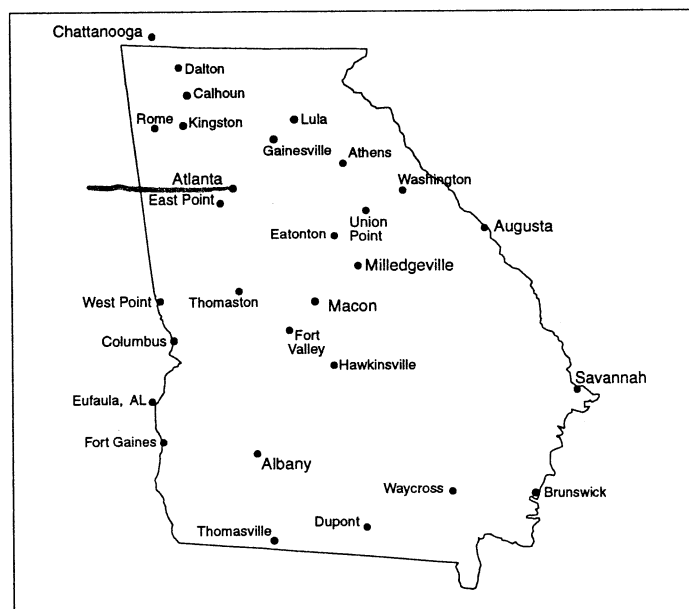
Atlanta & Repose	1882-1883
Atlanta & Anniston	1883-1884
Atlanta & Birmingham	1884-1887
Atlanta & Anniston	1887-1889

R.P.O., 1883-1884

November 3, 1883



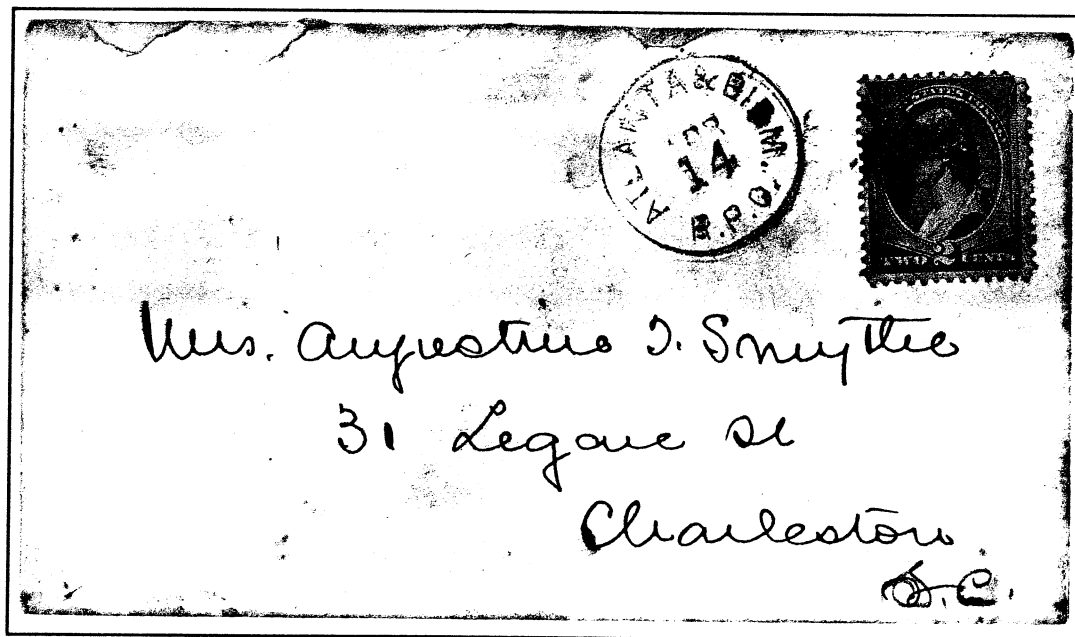
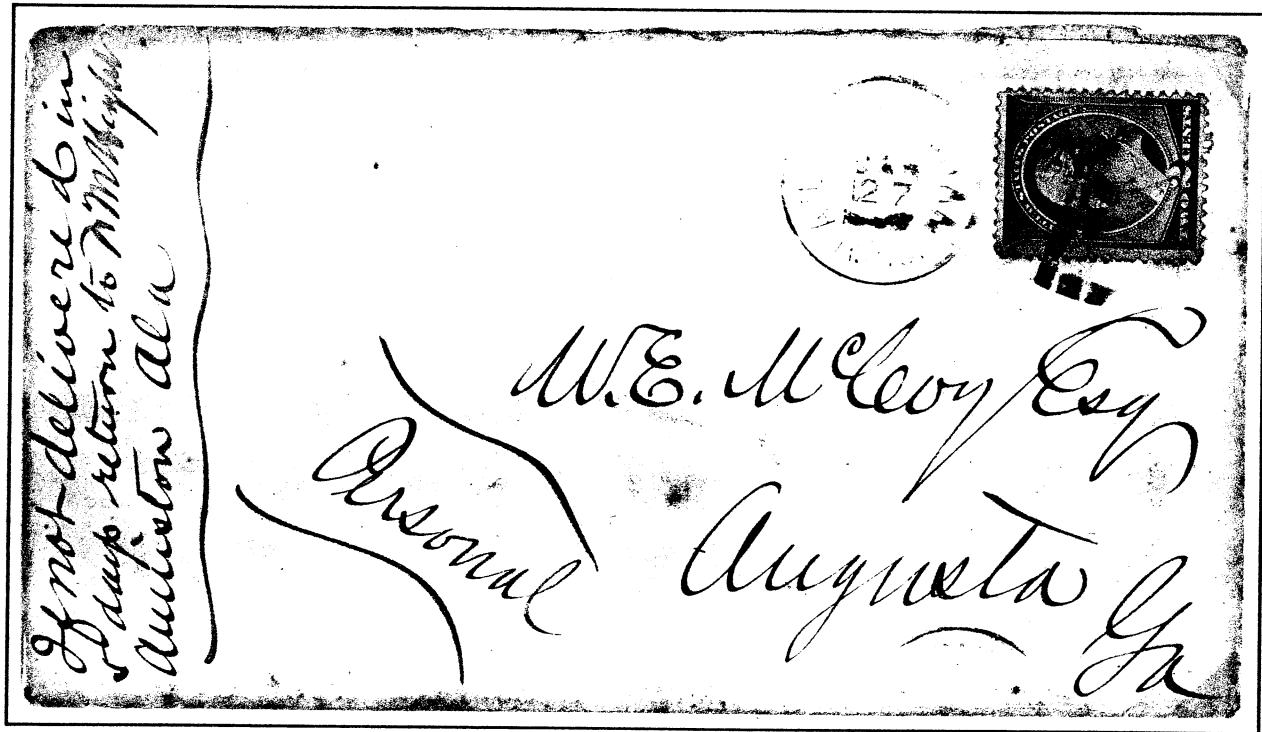
Only recorded cover of this R.P.O., earliest recorded cover on extension west.



Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

Extension west - Atlanta to Birmingham
R.P.O., 1884-1887

January 27, 1886
April 14, 1887

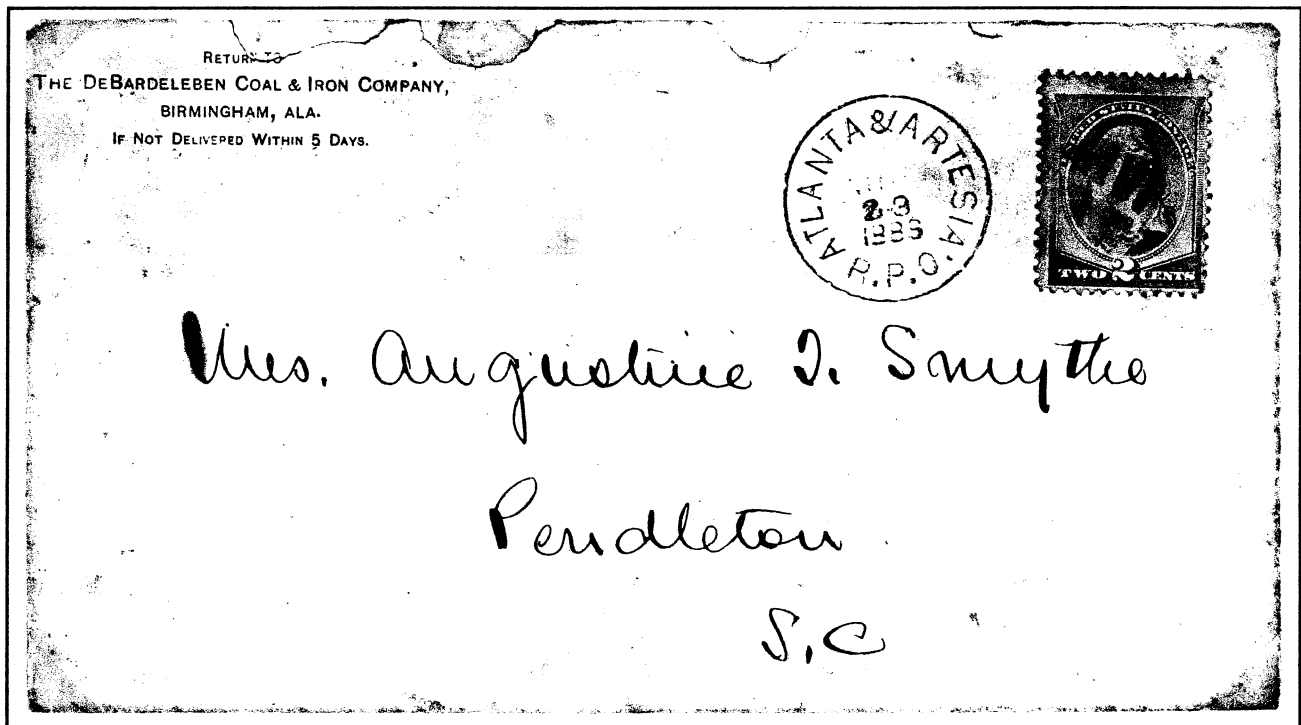


The marking above is newly reported type; used with odd E(ast) killer.

Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railway

Extension west - Atlanta to Artesia
R.P.O., 1887-1889

July 23, 1888



The through line from Atlanta to Artesia, Mississippi existed only briefly; line was divided again at Birmingham in 1889.