

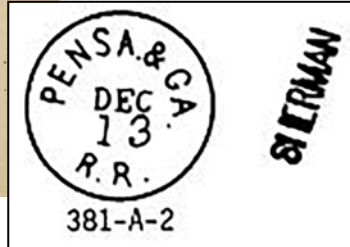
Pensacola & Georgia Rail Road

Thomas Lera

I recently received the auction item below which probably was the tracing used in the Towle Catalog. In March of this year, I posted on the Florida Postal History Society website a research study on *Florida Route and Station Agents Postmarks*. The study was based on the 1986 Charles L. Towle book entitled *U. S. Route and Station Agent Postmarks and Historical Supplement*, published by Mobile Post Office Society, Tucson AZ., 422 p.



This was a history of Rail Road & Waterway mail indexed by state, railroad & body of water with most postmarks illustrated.



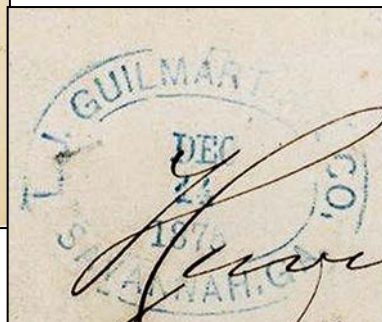
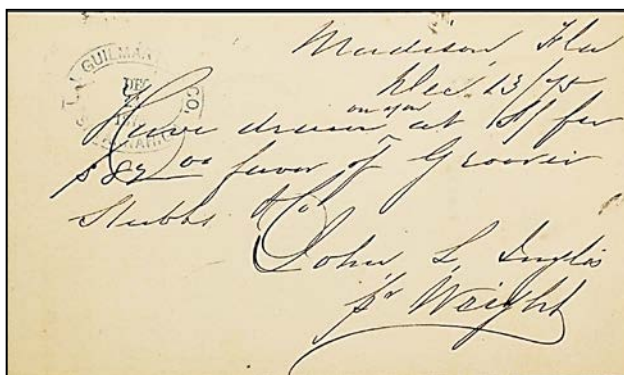
The **Pensacola & Georgia** ran 209 miles between Jacksonville and Chattahoochee, Florida. The Route Agent marking is cataloged as 381-A-2; PENZA. & GA. R.R., 25mm black also be found with a 'Sherman' killer.

circle used from 1870 – 1875, and can

John H. Sherman, a post office employee was a Mail-Route Agent, 1879-1881, between Live Oak and Chattahoochee and, in 1881, a Route Agent between Jacksonville and Chattahoochee. (*Official Register of the United States* contains a list of Officers and Employees in the Civil, Military, and Naval Service published every two years by the Post Office, Washington D.C. Government Printing Service.)

The **Pensacola & Georgia** built a railroad east from Pensacola through Tallahassee, which in Dec. 1860 met with the **Florida, Atlantic & Gulf Central Railroad** at Alligator Town (now Lake City), Florida. In 1863, the railroad continued to build northwest from Tallahassee to Quincy, and, using rail removed from the Florida Railroad, connected in March 1865 with the **Atlantic & Gulf Railroad** in Lawton (now Dupont), Georgia so Florida troops and cattle could be moved northward to feed the Confederate army. It also constructed the Lloyd Railroad Depot and the Tallahassee Station in 1858, and both are still standing. In 1869, it merged with the **Florida, Atlantic & Gulf Central Railroad** to form the **Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad**. Thankfully the above information is readily available from many railroad and postal historian publications. (<http://www.csa-railroads.com/index.htm>)

The card above was mailed (see reverse side below) at the Madison Florida railroad depot on December 13, 1875, where on train Route agent John Sherman entered it into the postal system, and it was delivered the next day. The note on the back of the card has L.T. Guilmartin & Co. date stamp of December 14, 1875. L. J. Guilmartin and Company was owned by Laurence J. Guilmartin (1826-1902), a merchant in Savannah, Georgia who sold produce and hides. The card reads "Have drawn on your account \$89 favor of Groover Slubbs. John L. Ingles per Wright"



This postal card demonstrates how much information can be discovered in one item of postal history.

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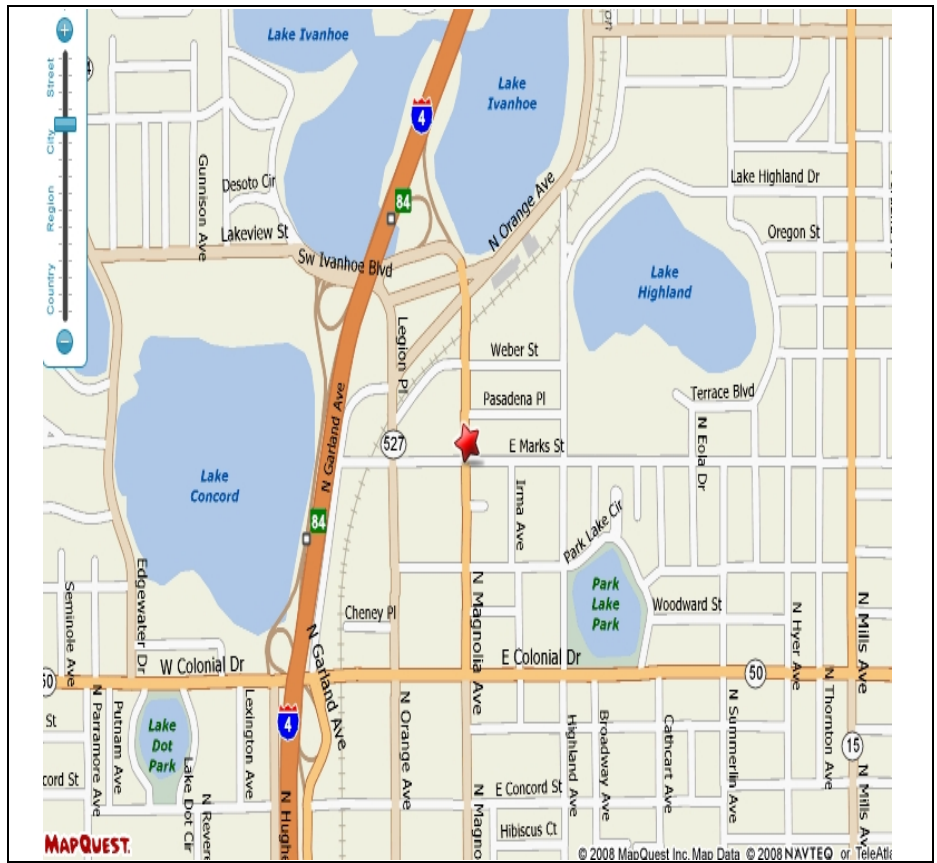
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