

Georgia; this stage connected at Alligator Town (Lake City) with one from the West.

The location of the first postoffice was in a store. It was then moved to the basement of the courthouse when that building had reached a state that it afforded some protection against the weather, and remained there for some time. Then it was moved again to a store. As a matter of fact during these early days the postoffice location changed with a change of postmasters, for the income derived from it was not sufficient in itself to make the position desired, though store-keepers were willing to distribute the weekly mails in order to draw the patronage that usually results from the postoffice when it is located in a town or country store. For years William Grothe was postmaster, merchant, jeweler and watch-repairer in a little building about 20 feet square located at the northeast corner of Forsyth and Newnan Streets.

Following the War Between the States the business of the postoffice increased with the growth of the town and the development of the transportation service, when it became of sufficient importance to justify a salary for the postmaster that made the position worth while. On January 1, 1884, during the term of Wm. M. Ledwith as postmaster, a carrier service was inaugurated with four men. This was the real beginning of the modern mail service in Jacksonville. When the Mohawk building was built at the southwest corner of Bay and Market Streets in the winter of 1884-85, the postoffice was moved there from the corner of Bay and Newnan, and here for the first time it became a separate business of its own. The postoffice was burned out in the fire that destroyed the Mohawk building in May, 1891. The Mohawk building was immediately rebuilt, the finest business building in the city at that time, and the postoffice was returned to its former location, having occupied temporary quarters in the meantime. This was its location until the U. S. Government building at Forsyth and Hogan Streets was built.

The inauguration of the carrier service in 1884 was the subject of many advertisements of the town's growth and furnished the Board of Trade, organized soon afterward, an opportunity to start the agitation for the erection of a Government building here, which was eventually successful. In 1887 the Federal Government notified property owners to