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SIR,

THE 23d. Section of the Law for establishing Post-Offices and Post-Roads within the United States, authorizes the Post-Master General to allow to the Deputy Post-Masters respectively, "such Commission on the Monies arising from the Postage of Letters and Packets as he shall think adequate to their respective Services: Provided that the said Commission shall not exceed *Forty per Cent* to any Deputy whose Compensation thereby shall not exceed Fifty Dollars, nor Thirty per Cent to any Deputy whose Compensation thereby shall not exceed One Hundred Dollars, nor Twenty per Cent to any other Deputy;" except the Post-Master where the European Packets arrive.

IN considering this Clause I have formed the following Conclusions—

1. THAT the Compensation to a Deputy Post-Master, above allowed, is undoubtedly his *annual Pay*.
2. THAT the Commission cannot in any Case exceed *Forty per Cent*; but Forty per Cent may be allowed where, at that Rate, the Commission will not exceed Fifty Dollars a Year; and in every such Case I agree to allow a Commission of *Forty per Cent*.
3. THAT where a Year's Postage exceeds 125 Dollars, and is under 166 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dollars, such a Commission should be charged, under Forty per Cent, as will make the annual Compensation Fifty Dollars.
4. THAT where the annual Postage amounts to 166 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dollars, and upwards, to 333 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dollars, a Commission of *Thirty per Cent* should be charged.
5. THAT where the annual Postage exceeds 333 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dollars, and is under 500 Dollars, such a Commission should be charged, under Thirty per Cent, as will make the annual Compensation One Hundred Dollars.
6. THAT where the annual Postage amounts to 500 Dollars, or upwards, a Commission of Twenty per Cent should be charged. In these Cases the Accounts, as heretofore, may be completely adjusted every Quarter.—But
7. As the Compensation to other Deputy Post-Masters, cannot be determined until the Close of a Year, when the Monies arising from the Postage of Letters and Packets, during the Year, shall be ascertained, it may be expedient to establish a general Rule for charging Commissions, in the mean Time, *on account*. I therefore propose, That at the Close of each Quarter, ending in March, June and October, a Commission of Twenty per Cent only should be charged; and that at the Close of the Quarter, ending the last Day of December, when the Amount of Postages arising within the Year will be ascertained, such a Sum should be charged as added to the Commissions charged in the three preceding Quarters, shall make the annual Compensation to every Deputy Post-Master correspond with the foregoing Rules.
8. THAT the Accounts of the current Quarter, which will end the last Day of the present Month, should be made up as usual, at the old Rate of *Twenty per Cent*; and the increased Compensation commence on the First Day of July next, when the Post-Offices on the new Roads will be opened.
9. THE Postage on which the Commissions aforementioned are to be charged, is that arising on Letters and Packets only: the Grant of Fifty per Cent on the Postage of News-papers being apparently a special Allowance for that particular Service.

I FIND that several of the former Post-Masters, who have been accustomed to enter in *Books*, the Account of Letters received and sent, expect to be furnished with Books in the *New Forms*. But this was not intended. When the Sheets of Accounts of Letters received and Letters sent were transmitted to those Post-Masters, a Note should have accompanied them—That no Books of those Forms were to be furnished, but that every Post-Master might sew together as many Sheets of each Form as would probably serve him for a Year, and in these make his Entries. Copies of these Entries, during each Quarter, made on other Sheets, are the "*Transcripts*" meant in the 16th Article of the standing Instructions. These Entries being only of very *temporary Use*, it is not thought necessary to make them in bound Books, which at the same Time are much less convenient to write in, than a few Sheets of Paper slightly sewed together.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Mr Lawrence Muse

Sir

General Post Office

Bristol October 27. 1793

Some time since I received a letter from you in which you expressed your intention to resign your Office, and request that a person might be appointed to succeed you. Immediately on receipt of your letter I sent it to the Postmaster General in Philadelphia, but as he, and almost all his family have been afflicted with the contagion, I am apprehensive that he has not been able to attend to your letter; should this have been the case, I beg you will continue to transact the business a little longer, & as soon as I return to the City which I expect will be in a few days I will see that the business is attended to. I have this day drawn on you in favor of Mr Benjamin Hackney for Ninety dollars. When you pay the draft please to take a duplicate receipt and send one of them to me.—

I am Sir, &c. C.B.

Mr John Brand

Sir

General Post Office

Bristol October 27. 1793

I have this day drawn on you in favor of Mr. Benjamin Hackney for Sixty dollars, and have no doubt but the draft will be duly honored. When you pay it please to take a duplicate receipt and transmit one of them to me.

I am Sir, &c. C.B.

Mr Joseph Storer

Sir

General Post Office

November 2nd 1793 12-26-93

I now acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd Ult. with your accounts and Eight dollars & fifty Cents. One of the dollars I think is a counterfeit. I shall have it examined at the Bank and if it is found to be of base metal shall return it to you. Some time since I enclosed to you a number of blank forms of Accounts for the use of your Office, which I conclude have been received. The Postmaster General on his contract with Mr. Bernard, has authorized him to carry Newspapers on his own account, for those who chuse to employ him, in preference to having the papers conveyed on the Mail. I am Sir, &c. C.B.

2
Mr Thomas Lewis

Sir.

General Post Office
November 2nd 1793

I now acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th Ult. with your accounts and Twenty four dollars & sixty five Cents, which sum is to your credit in the books of the General Postoffice. The Cash forwarded by you last quarter, being Twenty one dollars & 11 Cents, came duly to hand you to your credit also - A few days since I forwarded to you a supply of Postmasters Bills, which I conclude have been received.

I am &c. C.B.

Mr Nicholas Tillinghast

Sir.

General Post Office
November 2nd 1793

I now acknowledge your letter of the 1st Ult. with your accounts and Thirteen dollars & three Cents, which sum is entered to your credit in the books of this Office. Your accounts for the quarter ending July 1st have been received, with seventeen dollars & sixty two Cents, which sum is also to your credit.

I am Sir &c. C.B.

Benjamin Talmadge Esquire

Sir,

General Post Office: Bristol 2nd November 1793

your letter of the 10th Ult. with your accounts has been received. I shall draw on you at the close of the current quarter in favor of Isaac Trowbridge for the balance of your accounts.

I am Sir &c. C.B.

Mr John Harrison

Sir,

General Post Office, Bristol 4 Nov 1793

I have this day received your letter of the 2nd Inst. with your accounts and Seventy three Dollars in Bank Notes, which sum is to your credit in the books of this Office. -

Your letter to the Postmaster General of the 11th Ult. I duly received, and forwarded it to him in Philadelphia; but I conclude his attention has been so much engrossed by his family, the greater part of which, have been attacked with the contagion, that he has not been able to attend to it.

3
I herewith enclose a packet of postmasters Bills for the use of your office
I am Sir &c. C.B.

Mr Reuben Atwater

Sir.

General Post Office
Bristol November 4. 1793

I have received your letter of the 29 Ult. in answer to which I inform you that the Postmaster General has no discretionary power to make any greater compensation to his deputies than what is prescribed by law - the rate of Commission to which you are intitled is 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cent and even this cannot be allowed where the compensation shall thereby exceed 50 dollars Ann. I am sensible the pecuniary advantages arising from your Office cannot be much inducement to you to hold it, yet I flatter myself you will continue to transact the business for the benefit of the Town and its Neighbourhood. You will please to retain your quarterly balances and when they amount to a sum worth drawing for, I will give a draft on you in favor of the Contractor for carrying the Mail.

I am Sir &c. C.B.

General Post Office November 2nd 1793

Henry Lyle	acknowledging rec ^t of his accounts and	date 6 th	8 - 12
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Nathaniel Phillips	ditto	6 - 13

Bulkeley Emerson Esq.

Sir,

General Post Office, November 2nd 1793

I have received your letter of the 4th Ult. with your accounts for the last quarter. As there is more Money collected on the main Road east of Boston, than will be wanted to pay the Contractors, you will please to remit the balance now in your hands to the General Post Office - provided you can purchase a good Bill on Philad^a. if not please to retain it until you receive directions how to dispose of it. I am &c. C.B.

4
Samuel Freeman Esq.

General Post Office 2 November 1793

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 22nd ulto. in which you mention that you enclosed Mr. Graffams Receipt for 50 dollars; but the Receipt did not come to hand; I conclude that you must have omitted to enclose it in the letter. - The business of the General Post Office has been very much interrupted by the Contagion; as soon as I bring up the books, I will furnish you with a statement of your Accounts. You will please to retain the balance now in your hands until you hear further from me upon the subject.

I am &c. C.B.

Mr Thomas Sumpter Junr.

General Post Office 5 November 1793

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 25 of September advising of your drafts of the same date for three hundred & fifty dollars - They will be duly honored when presented.

I have some time since received a letter from Col Ashe enclosing your draft in his favor for three hundred dollars which he requested me to pay to Messrs Anthony & Sons of Philadelphia. Immediately on receipt of the Draft, I enclosed it to them and informed them that the money was subject to their order but they have not yet called for it. Have you received payment of my draft of the 1st of May last on Mr. Bacot for 360.- dollar?

I am Sir &c. C.B.

Mr Ichabod Grumman

General Post Office 5th November 1793

Sir,

The Mail from New York arrives at this place very irregular. Yesterday it did not get here until 12 O'clock, & to day not till eleven O'clock - I am informed that the delay yesterday was occasioned by an accident happening to one of the riders, but I believe the delay this day has been caused through the neglect of the Rider between Princeton & Trenton. The Mail arrived at Princeton at 10 O'clock this morning & did not reach Trenton, until 9 O'clock - Mr. Gordon at Trenton informs me that the rider between those two places, frequently wastes his time at little Taverns on the road. I hope you will enquire into the matter & correct the evil complained of.

I am &c. C.B.

John Hawkins Esq.^r

Sir,

General Post Office November 8th 1793

5

Therewith enclose two drafts in your favor amounting to Fifty six dollars and Thirty two Cents on account of your pay for the last quarter - Be pleased to draw on the General Post Office for the balance it being 76¹⁸/₁₀₀ dollars and your draft will be duly honored - In case you shall have drawn for the full amount of your last quarters pay, before you receive these drafts, please to collect them and credit them on account of your pay for the current quarter.

I am Sir &c. C.B.

Mr John Watts

Sir,

General Post Office November 8. 1793

Therewith enclose a draft in your favor on the Executor or Administrator of the Estate of Charles Gilmore deceased, late Postmaster at Halifax for Sixty two dollars and 50 cents. I do not know who is the Executor or Administrator of the Estate of Mr Gilmore but as there is considerably more due from it to the General Post Office than the sum for which I have drawn, I hope you will meet with no difficulty in obtaining payment of my draft.

I am &c. C.B.

Mr Francis X. Martin
Postmaster Newbern.

General Post Office,
Philadelphia Nov^r. 22. 1793

Sir,

Your Letter of the twentieth ult^r relative to the Post office at Newbern was received, when Mr. Burrall was absent from this City with the books of the Office on Account of the late destructive fire, & having myself been absent from April to the middle of September I knew not, what in that Interval had been done about it. I suspended an answer, till I should enquire. Mr. Burrall lately returned and handed me your Letter of the 19th to him on the same Subject. It is painful to supersede an Officer and unpleasant to align to himself the reasons, which induce his Dismission.

his feelings of course will be hurt, and he will be apt to think the reasons slight or groundless, when others may deem them very cogent. But you ask an explanation and I will candidly give it. When I first came into this Department and was about to renew Appointments to Deputies, I was officially informed, that the Post Office under Your Direction could not be well conducted, that your Accounts were extremely incorrect and that a Change would be proper; but not being able then to find a Substitute Your Commission was renewed. At length I was informed "that You were so negligent and careless in the Office, that every person at Newbern was very much disatisfied with Your conduct," & find a gentleman of Respectability well acquainted the, &c. &c. so directly and strongly recommended another person as so much to be desired to hold that Office, as clearly manifested his Opinion, that it was not then well filled. This latter Idea concerning You was otherwise confirmed. Hence I conceived it to be my Duty, to appoint another person in Your stead, as soon as one well qualified could be found, and in order to find one I made some confidential Enquiries. But my Preparations and Departure for the proposed Indian Treaty prevented a conclusion of the matter at that time and I find it remains as I left it. I will now hold it in suspense in expectation of Your Reply. The same candour, which has prompted this explicit Information to You obliges me to add, and I do it with much pleasure, that not a word, has been hisped to me in Derogation of Your Integrity.

I am &c. T. P.

Mr. James Stevenson.

General Post Office
November 30. 1793

Sir

I herewith inclose three Post Notes in Your favor as follows: - viz.

No. 5327 - for - 50 dollars
No. 5328 - for - 50. D.
No. 5491 for - 66 $\frac{67}{100}$

The above Notes amounting to One hundred and sixty six Dollars & 67 cents is for Your quarters pay ending the 1st October 1793. Please to sign the inclosed Receipt and return it to me immediately I am Sir

Yours &c.

Chas. Burwell

to

Wensley Hobby
&
Tho. Hilldrup

Genl. Post Office Jan. 22. 1794

I have judged it proper to establish a Post Office at Weathersfield. The inclosed Extract of my letter of the to Colonel Chester will show, how the business is to be conducted, and the Agency You are to have in carrying the plan into effect.

I am &c. Your &c. T. P.

Oliver Standley Esq; & others
Wallingford, Connecticut

Gentlemen

Genl. Post Office Jan. 23. 1794

On the 15th instant I received your letter of the 14 of December relative to the establishment of a post office at Wallingford. The enquiries I have since made induce me to think it would be expedient: but the route of the mail stage is thro' Durham; and until it can be changed, I presume the erecting a post office at Wallingford would be useless. The Contractors were not restricted in their contract to any particular route, between New Haven and Middletown; and it may be attended with some difficulty to

effect a change while the present Contract continues -
It will expire the 1st of June next; after which your wishes
may probably be gratified. I will endeavour to bear the
matter in mind when a new Contract shall be formed.

I am &

Your &
T.P.

Col John Neilson

General Post office Jan^r. 26. 1794

Sir

I have been favoured with your letter
of the 20th and am greatly obliged by your attention to my
request. But there are serious objections to the appointment
of newspaper printers to post offices. It is true a number
of printers are postmasters: but much inconvenience has re-
sulted. Frequent complaints have been made against some
of them, that they intercept the newspapers destined
to other printers in order to give their own papers a preference.
It subjects them to jealous suspicions, at any rate, which
produce ill effects. Further, while news-papers are subjects
of hostage, they are without a check in the Conveyance of such
of their papers as not directed to other offices. There will
probably soon be an additional objection. I think the privi-
lege of franking will be restored to postmasters. With that a
printer will have it in his power, and of course be under
temptation to make a very free use of it, even in the Convey-
ance of his newspapers. For these reasons I must decline a new
appointment of a newspaper printer: especially as I contemplate
a sub-situation of other persons to the printers in general who are
now postmasters, as far as I can make it convenient. Printers
are as respectable as other Citizens: it is the nature of their busi-
ness which renders it inexpedient to employ them in the
department of the post office.

Perhaps we had better postpone any further proceedings in
respect to New-Brunswick till the next Land shall pass. If the right
of franking be granted, that may be an inducement to some of those
who at present decline the post office at that place. I am &
Yours
T.P.

Mr Tho. W. Babot

9.
General Post Office Feb^r. 21. 1794.

Sir

I have received Your letter of the thirteenth of
Jan^r, representing the necessity of making You a further
Allowance for doing the business of the Post Office. I am fully
 sensible of the Justice of Your claim. Others other Postma-
sters are alike situated. I would wish for a discretionary
Power to allow, to such, more adequate Compensations: but there
is a jealousy and I cannot but say Danger in vesting such
discretionary Power. Hardly a Postm^r in the U.S. may think
himself duly rewarded; and if a general discretionary power
were given (and it is not easy to say where a line of
Distinction should be drawn) the PostMaster of L. would be
embarrassed with very numerous & continued claims.
However, without resorting to such a Power I have pro-
posed a Remedy. That is, to allow to every PostMaster
at a Sea-port one cent on each ship-letter delivered at
his Office under the 12th section of the Law. This during
the last Year would have yielded You above two hundred
Dollars and so have exceeded Your Claims. Whether Congress
will take a Retrospect or even provide the Allowance in
future, I know not: the matter is before them - I shall
urge the grant.

M^r Adcock at Jacksonboro^r has shut up his
Office & resigned his Commission. He has forwarded his accounts
and the Balance due from him. He says also in his Letter, that
he incloses the Portmanteau-Key: but it was not inclosed
or found in his Accounts I am & T.P. See page 10 fol:

Mr Philip Hearn.

General Post Office Feb^r. 21. 1794.

Sir

Inclosed is a letter for Mr William Thompson
the Contractor for carrying the mail between Savannah
and D^renburg. Its Object is to procure him to continue
to carry that mail after the 1st of next June (when

his contract would expire) in case a new contract should, not before that day be formed. And I am apprehensive that there will not be time to advertise & form new Contracts by that Day, for the new Law to authorize it is yet pending in Congress. His pay will continue at the Rate fixed by his Contract; and he may expect two or three months Notice, when it shall actually cease, in case it is prolonged as now proposed. I will thank You to cause my Letter to be conveyed as speedily as You can, to Mr. Thompson and to forward his answer without Delay.

Some time since I received a Complaint against You for manifesting, on all Occasions (and indeed seeking Occasions) a violent Hostility towards the French Nation. Altho' the Right of thinking & speaking is not to be controverted in this Land of freedom, yet Prudence would require a decent Regard to the prevalent sentiments of our country, which should not be outraged even when bordering on Enthusiasm. A public Officer, especially, should doubtless act with such a degree of moderation and Impartiality as to insure him the confidence of all parties. It gave me Pleasure to find Your official Conduct so well approved, that it was the wish of such well-known Republicans as Genl. Jackson and Mr. Baldwin to have You remain in the Postoffice undisturbed. I am &c.

J. P.

F. P. to the Letter to Mr. Basot pag 9. The new Law now under Consideration in Congress, I see, will not be passed in time to enable me to advertise and form new Contracts. I presume the various Contractors will readily agree to continue the carriage of the Mails on the terms of their Contracts, until new ones can be formed. Pray, mention it to Mr. Sills & Mr. Clift as early as You can and favour me with their answers. They may expect two or 3 months notice of the time, when the Contracts shall actually cease, in case of their Continuance beyond the first of next June.

J. P.

Mr. William Thompson

General Post-Office Feb. 21.
1794.

Sir

Your Contract for carrying the mail between Savannah and Sunbury will expire on the 1st of June next. But it may happen, that the new Law for regulating the Post Office may not be completed in time to advertise and form new Contracts before that Day. I have therefore requested You to continue to carry the mail, if it should be found necessary, after that Day, on the terms of Your present Contract. In case of such Continuance You may expect two or three months Notice of the time, when the existing Contracts shall actually cease. I request Your early answer & am &c.

J. P.

Major Isaac Craig

Pittsburg

Genl. Post-Office May 24 1794

Sir

By the last Mail I requested You to provide three suitable boats, each to be managed by five hands including the Boat master to carry the mail on the Ohio between Wheeling and Limestone. I have been asked, whether such batteaux, as are used on the Mohawk River (the bottoms quite flat) would not be most suitable for the Ohio. I pretend not to determine, boats, that will be pushed with the most ease and swiftness and which at the same time will draw very little water, must doubtless be the most suitable. I leave this to Your Discretion.

As some doubts are entertained of the practicability of carrying the Mail by the Ohio with due Regularity and Dispatch, it will be proper to have the first arrangements temporary. For which reason I request You to engage the boatmen on the Condition, that they may be discharged upon one or two months Notice, in case this mode of carrying a mail to Kentucky & the Army should not answer the public Expectation concerning it and whence I should be induced to abandon it.

J.