

W^r James Bridges

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September 4th 1798

Sir

I am favoured with yours of the 1st ult and have written to the contractor from Preston to conform to his Schedule by delivering the Mail at Washington on Friday evening — I require no alteration of the day on which you are to arrive at Danville; and as you will in future receive the Mail at Washington every Saturday Morning at 8 o'clock it will be expected that you reach Danville on Monday at 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening agreeable to your Schedule for that route the delay in the arrival of the Kentucky Mails must happen through the want of connection with the rider for Moffat's I trust it will not be the case in future or the fines you incur will be rigidly exacted from your pay

I am &c J.H.

W^r James Lloyd Jr

September 4. 1798

Sir.

I this day received two leaden cases from the Post Master at New York without any direction; on opening the cases the inclosures were so wet as to make it necessary to open and dry them before they could be forwarded in the Mail. I find the first of several bills of Exchange under cover of the Letter directed to you which you will receive by this conveyance amounting to Thirty five Thousand seven hundred and fourteen dollars with all the papers that accompanied the Letter —

I am &c J.H.

The leaden rollers or cases were received yesterday at the Post office at New York by a Vessel from Cadiz —

W^r Thomas Stewart

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September 4. 1798

Sir

I this day received two leaden cases from the Post Master at New York without any direction; on opening the cases they were found to contain several Letters from Cadiz for Merchants in the United States among others a Letter for ^{you} with several inclosures which you will receive by this conveyance — The Letters and inclosures were so wet as to make it necessary to open them and dry them before they could be forwarded in the Mail —

I am &c J.H.

The leaden rollers or cases were received yesterday at the New York Post office by a vessel from Cadiz —

W^r Roderick Messenger

September 4th 1798

Sir

I have received your Bond and Oaths and now inclose you a Commission as Deputy Post Master of Jericho there are no Maps remaining on hand the Post Office Laws and my instructions to the Deputies with a supply of the necessary blanks. You will receive by this Conveyance

I am &c J.H.

W^r Noah Chittenden

September 4. 1798

Sir I am duly favoured with your Letter of the 1st ult. and thank you for placing the Office at Jericho in the hands of Mr Messenger to whom I have sent a Commission the Post Office Laws and the necessary blanks

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for conducting the business of his Office
Jam 8th 1798

Henry Kings. esq
Sir

September 5th 1798.

Capt. Ford. has paid me One Hundred Dollars which sum is passed to the credit of your account with this Office. Mr Burial lately drew on you in favour of Mr Hayes the Contractor from Newark for Fifty eight Dollars and seventy five Cents which draft when paid will nearly balance your account on the books of this Office. I therefore send you inclosed your Bond and a statement of your Account current to the 30th of June last exhibiting a balance of Thirty Dollars and sixty four Cents then due from you

Jam 8th 1798

M^r William Sturdevant
Sir

Septem^r 5th 1798.

I now send you a Commission as Deputy post Master of Lunenburg Court House in Virginia and a Lock shall be sent to Goldsors for that Mail. If in there is no time fixed for W^m Goldsors ^{arrival} at any of the intermediate offices on his route; he is however to wait two hours at each of the Post Offices. which I presume is allowing sufficient time to answer Letters and making up your Mails

Jam 8th 1798

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M^r William Wooddy
Sir

September 5th 1798

I am informed that you carry Letters ^{th. of Master post.} on your route without accounting with the Postage of them under pretence that you have the privilege of carrying them out of the Mail when they are unsealed

How this absurd idea originated I am at a loss to account for; a Letter is either written or printed from one person to another, whether sealed or unsealed; and as one of the agents of the Department, you are obliged to account for every Letter that comes to your hands. under a penalty of fifty dollars for each offence — By the 15th Section of the Post Office Laws passed the 8th of May 1794. you are obliged to receive all way Letters, if presented more than two Miles from a Post Office, and to deliver the same together with the Postage, if paid, at the first Office you come to after receiving them — You are also required to take charge of and deliver any Letters for persons residing between Post Offices. immediately on the route, and to collect the Postage of such Letters. and to account for the same with the Post Master from whom you receive them — For every way Letter you are entitled to receive one Cent, and for such as are delivered between Offices two Cents. I trust that you will not hereafter carry or suffer your riders to carry any Letters

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without accounting with the Post Masters for the Postage of them if you do the penalties you incur will be rigidly exacted

James S. H.

W. Robert Dagg

Septem^r. 5th 1798

Sir

I have written to the Contractor respecting his carrying Letters without accounting with the Post Masters for the Postage of them; a Letter is a written or printed message from one person to another and whether sealed or unsealed if they come into the hands of the Agents of the Department must be charged with Postage under a penalty of fifty dollars for each offence.

If the Contractor or his rider continues to carry Letters without accounting for the Postage you will be pleased to inform me of it

James S. H.

W. Jacob Hite

Sir

September 6th 1798

Find a letter on file from you relative to your privilege in receiving News Papers free of Postage, in answer to which I must observe that the Deputies are I believe very generally in the practice of receiving their papers free of charge, though I do not think their right to that privilege is clearly established. This rule may govern you until the principle is questioned; in no instance however, has the Postage been remitted when it has been accounted

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for by the Post Masters - this would be improper especially as the privilege is doubtful

James S. H.

W. John Ghoddons

Sir

September 6th 1798

By this Conveyance I send a Lock for the Mail which is intended for the Mail from Ghoddons to Mecklenburg; pray have it always properly secured

James S. H.

W. J. Reddick jun^r

Sir

September 6th 1798

Previous to the receipt of your letter of the 26th of August, your account had been examined and the dead Letters which accompanied it were as usual destroyed; the one for the late W^m Walker could not have contained any valuable Contents or it would have been preserved; the information might perhaps have been of consequence to her Representatives and on that account I wish your letter had been received sooner. I thank you for your attention to my request respecting our demand against Mr. Drivens estate, that business has been settled to my satisfaction

James S. H.

W. Thomas Cates

Sir

September 6th 1798

I have received your Letter of the 25th ult^{mo} a half sheet or sheet of Paper is a single letter but the smallest enclosure making a double Letter must be rated accordingly. James S. H.

George Marcus eq.

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Septem^r. 6th 1798

Sir

Whenever it becomes necessary I wish you to have the Portmanteaus on the routes in your neighbourhood repaired, and to furnish new ones when those in use are so much worn that they cannot be repaired.

The safety of the Mails is an object of too much importance, especially between large commercial Towns to admit of their being conveyed in Portmanteaus that are unfit for Service; and they should at all times properly secured with good chains and locks. If Locks and Keys for the Mail should be wanted at your Office you will be pleased to inform me and I will immediately send you a supply of them. In my last instructions annexed to the Tables of Offices I think the Deputies were authorised to procure Portmanteaus. though I cannot be certain of it not having one of them here to refer to.

Jan^g 8th 1798

C. H. Thomas Gibbons

Sir

September 6th 1798

Though respectfully called upon upon for your accounts and balances I find you have only rendered the same to July 1797 and no remittance has been received from you. There is now due on your account to the first of July 1797 One Hundred and four dollars and calculating the product of your office at the rate of Twenty seven Dollars a quarter you must have

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in your hands at the end of the last quarter at least Two Hundred and twelve Dollars of public Money. If your accounts are not rendered to the 3rd of June last without further delay and the balance or a large proportion of it is not as speedily remitted I will sue your Bond in Suit and place the Office in the hands of some other person

Jan^g 8th 1798

Col^d Peter Kemp

Sir

Septem^r. 6th 1798

I am sorry to find that the Men who committed the barbarous outrage on your Negro could not be tried at Richmond for want of a Court in May last. I hope nothing will prevent their Trial coming on in October. I will certainly defray any expences in securing those villains and bring them to Justice which you have incurred in consequence of my Letter if the laws of your State have not provided for the same. What has become of the Suit against Mr. Carter, he now owes nearly Two Hundred Dollars and I cannot suffer him to remain any longer in Office as I see no probability of receiving any thing from him. indeed there is much impropriety in using a Deputy in Office. Will you Sir be so good as to recommend a suitable Character for the Office at Lancaster Court House if I can not find a proper character for it. I will discontinue it rather than suffer Mr. Carter to remain any longer than three Quarters in office

Jan^g 8th 1798

Edward Archer Esqr

September 4th 1798

Sir

I am favoured with your Letter of the 28th inclosing Mr. Lennox's draft on the Secretary of the Navy for Four Hundred and three dollars and two cents which is paid, and that sum is passed to the credit of your accounts with this Office. — Mr. Burial informs me that he had not drawn for the balance of your account to the 1st of July last. — Mr. Shelton told Mr. Davis that he would call on me in Richmond but I did not see him or receive any money from him while I was there; I fear, after the assertion he has made, that no dependance can be placed on his word — I wish you therefore to commence an action against him immediately unless he makes a satisfactory settlement and pays a considerable part of the ballance he owes the Public. I find Mr. Shelton's bond was sent to you in October last he was in Office from 1st January 1797 to the 1st of Nov following and as the lowest calculation, agreeable to the returns of his Successor he must owe the Public One Hundred and Fifty dollars unless he paid the carriage of the Mail between Ports mouth and Norfolk for the term he held the Office, then he must owe about the sum he mentioned to you was due from him. Pray Sir let me know what is to be expected from Mr. Kirby and also the steps you are taking against Mr. Shelton?

No Stamps can be furnished for your Office until we return to Philad^a. The Yellow fever has nearly suspended all business in that unfortunate city, and a partial suspension of business has already taken place in New York from the same cause.

I am &c JWL

Levi Lyman

September 4th 1798

Sir

By this conveyance I send you a supply of such blanks as are wanted at your Office. Your predecessor Mr. Breck must have the Maps which were sent to him for the use of the Office at Northampton; they are public property and I wish you to apply to him for them.

I am &c JWL

John Hubbard Esqr

September 7th 1798

Sir

Inclosed you will be pleased to receive your Commission as Deputy Post Master of Walpole, and by this Conveyance you will receive a supply of such blanks as are wanted at your Office —

I am &c P.H.

W. Drummond Willbur

September 7th 1798

Sir

Every paper you sent, the latter end of July must have been intercepted by the Villain who is in the practice of taking the balances as

I have not received your Bond and Oaths of Office
which you say were then forwarded to this Office.

I now send you another blank bond and oaths which
when duly executed you will be pleased to return
them and on receiving them I will send you a
Commission as Post Master of Your Town

Pray do not make any more remittances when
you transmit your quarterly accounts in future

Jam D: 9/1

Mr Benjamin Shadeford

September 4th 1798

Sir

There cannot be much correspondence on the new route from Baltimore to the Office westward of you. The detention of those Mails for five days at your office is not therefore an object of sufficient importance to require the Contractor to make the alteration in his Schedule which you have proposed

Jam D: 9/1

Mr Robert Twisford

September 8th 1798

Sir

Be pleased to forward your account
as none have been received from you since you have left
the Office at Accomac Coast House. I wish you to
retain the balance due from you until it is convenient
for the Assistant Post Master General to draw for it in favor
of the Contractors on your route

Jam D: 9/1

Mr Nathan Fellows

September 8th 1798

Sir

I received your Letter of the 16th August respecting the Office at Addison. As that Office was established after your contract was in operation I am willing to allow you Thirty dollars a year additional compensation for rendering the Mail there which is something more than it will produce to the Public. After being established it could not be discontinued without exciting some uneasiness which I wish to avoid as much as possible

Jam 8/ 9/1

Mr Charles Green

September 8th 1798

Sir

By last Post I received yours of the 26th enclosing your Bond and Contract for carrying the Ohio Mail, and as the time of its operation will shortly expire I do not send you the counterpart of the Contract

The interruption to the conveyance of the Ohio
Mail during last winter excited so much discontent and
uneasiness in the State of Kentucky as to induce me
to determine on making a trial of Zanes road, which is
represented to be in good travelling order by several per-
sons who have arrived here from Kentucky by that road.
I am not very sanguine in my expectations of its
being practicable to send the Mail on Zanes road
with much regularity through some parts of the
Winter and Spring, I think however with common

exertions the communications by Post with the State of Kentucky may be preserved with tolerable regularity through the winter which cannot be done under the water arrangement. There are however so many different representations with respect to the state of that road that no correct opinion can be formed of it at this distance — Experiment alone must determine the practicability of the measure. Marietta will be accommodated with the Mail either from Wheeling or the mouth of Licking Creek I think the latter mode of conveyance will be preferred as equally certain and much less expensive than the other

Jam^d 8^r 1798

Walter E. Story Esq:

Sir

September 8th 1798.

I am duly favored with your letter of the 7th ult^r and thank you for the trouble you have taken respecting Mr. Brant he has also written to me and promises very fairly as to his future conduct, though he still with holds his accounts. — it is very irksome to me to be obliged to write so open on this subject and unless I receive his accounts very shortly I shall be under the disagreeable necessity of placing the Office in other hands. Mr. Bridges certainly demands too much for calling at Shepherd's ville and I cannot think of allowing even the sum

you are of opinion that service may be performed for, I wish him therefore to commence carrying the weekly Mail from Danville to Lewisville as soon as he receives this information. You may in my name annex the Schedule for the weekly Mail on that route to his Contract and the annual compensation of Five Hundred Dollars for the service in a note at the bottom of the contract

Jam^d 8^r 1798

Mr. Robert Turner
Sir

September 8th 1798

You were released from carrying the Mail twice a week from Richmond to Tappahannock on the express condition that the establishment of the stage on that route could not be supported. From a letter I have just received from the Post Master of Hanover Town I conclude you are still running a stage twice a week on part of that Route; as he observes that the Post Rider goes twice a week to Richmond and it can be attended with no inconvenience to him to carry the Mail as often agreeable to his first Contract. I shall expect that you will continue to carry the Mail twice a week as far as your stage runs between Richmond and Tappahannock notwithstanding my letter to you of the 7th of July

Jam^d 8^r

Benjamin Oliver Junr. Esq.

September 8th 1798

Sir

Your favour of the 28th of August is duly received and I will immediately write to the Contractor to carry the Mail twice a week from Hanover Town to Richmond if he runs his Stage as often between those places which appears to be the case from your letter. There was nothing produced between Richmond and Tappahannock to make it an object to send the Mail twice a week on that route. My advertisement for sending the Mail as often was founded on information that a Stage would be established to run twice a week, in which case two Mails could be sent as reasonably to the public as one on Horseback. Mr. Turner engaged for something less than was paid for a weekly Mail and when he informed me that the establishment of the Stage could not be supported I considered, ^{it just} and equitable to release him from his contract in part on his carrying the Mail once a week - As far as he continues to run his Stage from Richmond twice a week he is bound to carry the Mail as often and I shall require him to do it - The days fixed Wednesday going to Tappahannock and Friday in returning to Richmond. The revenue collected at your office would not justify my sending a Mail in the manner you have mentioned to go one day and return the next. Jam 8th 98

Mr James Bridges

September 8th 1798

Sir

I have informed Mr. Story that you may carry a weekly mail from Danville to Louisville without including Shepherdsville in the route for the additional compensation of Two Hundred and fifty dollars a year - I wish you to commence the carriage of the weekly Mail with as little delay as possible

Jam 8th 98

William Highwater Esq

September 10th 1798

Sir

I have received your Bond duly executed and now enclose you a Commission, of a corresponding date with the Bond, as Deputy Post Master of Augusta. I will shortly answer your last letter relative to your claims on Mr. Swinney in the mean time I would advise you to procure from him something under his hand which will authorise me in making our payments through you to him: at present I am not authorised by him to make you any other payment than the instalments of the debt due from Mr. Chambers. I will request Mr. Burial to send Mr. Swinneys present quarters pay through your hands; you can then settle the business with him

Jam 8th 98

Isaac Shelby
Sir

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September 10th 1798

your letter, without a date, is just received enclosing your accounts current for the last quarter and I now send you a statement of your account with the General Post Office to the 30th of July last from which there appears to be a balance of thirty five dollars and seven Cents due from you to this Office. - Mr. Burial sometime ago requested you to explain the nature of your claim against the General Post Office; if you had complied with his request a satisfactory answer could be given to your demand; at present I am quite in the dark as to your claim and must remain so until you will explain it

Iam 8^r 9^H

Mr. Peachey Franklin
Sir

September 10th 1798

I am duly favored with your letter of the 26th ulto assuring your reasons for paying only a part of Mr. Burials draft on the late Mr. Gideon Crews

Indeed you will receive a statement of Mr. Crews account with this Office exhibiting a balance of one dollar and Ninety four Cents after crediting his account with the payment of Seventeen dollars and Eighty four Cents which you made on Mr. Burials draft in favor of Mr. Wills. I presume that Mr. Mcgarland who succeeded

Mr. Crews in the office at Gabelsburg is to account for the Postage collected 1st of Octo 1798. The difference of one dollar and forty nine cents between our statements arises from errors discovered in Mr. Crews's Accounts

Iam 8^r 9^H

W^m Hudson Mcgarland

Sir

September 10th 1798.

Since your appointment in Octo 1797 you have rendered no accounts pray forward them without further delay; the law requires a quarterly transmission of them which cannot be dispensed with in future

Iam 8^r 9^H

W^m Martin Butler

Sir

September 11th 1798

I have the pleasure of inclosing you Commission as Deputy Post Master of Rhinebeck. If you want any blanks or information respecting the business of your Office on application to this Office you will be furnished with both

Iam 8^r 9^H

W^m Clement Lanier
Sir

September 11th 1798

W^m Pickett who was appointed Deputy Post Master of Shadsbrough informs me that as he could not conveniently undertake the business he had delivered the Papers of the Office and Bond which I sent to him to be executed into your hands and recommends you to hold the appointment corrected to next Page

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Robert Patton Esq^r

Trenton N. J.
September 10. 1798

Sir I am extremely sorry to find that the fever is spreading to such an alarming degree though I am still in hopes you will be able to stand your ground in your present position, as a removal of the office must be attended with very great inconvenience to the remaining ^{unfortunat} Citizens of Philadelphia. If however it should become indispesably necessary then the removal ought not to be further than half a mile from Broad Street in any direction towards the upper lower or Middle Ferry. The idea of removing to Germantown or Frankford is totally inadmissible as it would be productive of the utmost confusion to have the office at either of those places — Under what arrangement could the mails be delivered there with any regularity?

The removal of your office from its present situation is of very serious importance to the government and Public at large, nothing therefore but the most urgent necessity can in any measure justify it and I sincerely hope there will be no occasion for it.

I am &c J. H.

(Handwritten from the other side.)
You will be pleased Sir to have the Bond and Oaths duly executed and forwarded to this Office if you accept the appointment. And on receiving them I will send you a Commission accordingly

Jam^g: Jth

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Richard Harrison Esq

September 11th 1798

Sir

Cyrus D' Hart late Post Master at Rhinebeck is indebted to this Office in the sum of Ninety seven dollars & forty eight Cents & also for the balance of Postage collected by him from July 1st to August 1st 1798 for which he has not yet rendered any accounts He has refused to pay my draft for a part of that balance, saying that he does not owe this Office anything like that sum & persists in it although a statement of his accounts has been sent to him I am therefore under the necessity of putting his bond in suit for the recovery of the debt from him & for that purpose I now enclose it to you.

The bond is given to Timothy Pickering or his successors in office it was considered at the time of establishing that form that the bond might be prosecuted by a successor in his own name as Postmaster General As it is not probable that he will contest the demand I wish it may be brought in that manner

Inclosed you have a statement of his accounts

I am &c J. H.

Ezekiel Williams Jun^r

September 11th 1798

Sir

I will immediately write to McDane and require him to receive and deliver a Letter Bag at Windsor in passing between Hartford and Suffield.

The Mail is carried with great expedition from New York to Boston and should meet with as few interruptions as possible in its passage ^{but} as Windsor is the residence of the Chief Justice of the United States his accommodation must be considered