

110.

Edward Gilpin Esq^r

April 1 1799

Sir

I have concluded to pursue the plan I have had in view of establishing a line of stages between this city and Baltimore for the conveyance of the mail ~~as there~~ is little prospect of the business being done to my satisfaction under the management of the present Contractors for that route. The experiment shall be made and I think it will answer or I am very much out in my calculations. I should have preferred however placing the business in the hands of the Contractors if I could have had the necessary dependence on their engagements. Will you inform me whether you think that our causes will be heavier than those now in use I suppose you are able to form some judgment on that point I am & I H

W. William Coleman

2 April 1799

Sir

I am favored with yours of the 30th inclosing your account for the purchase of eight horses and I have paid your son one hundred & Ninety five dollars and thirty three cents the balance due thence and also one hundred and thirty three dollars and thirty three cents for the last quarters pay

I thank you for the trouble you have taken^{411.} in purchasing the horses at present. I do not want any more if there should be occasions to get you to obtain any more I will write to you again

I am & I H

W. Dennis Rawland

April 3 1799

Sir

You need not forward an account since your appointment until the expiration of the current quarter, in which return you will be pleased to include the whole of your transactions

I am & I H

Mess^r William Montgomery & Others April 3 1799

Gentlemen

I have received your petitions to have a Post Road established from Northumberland to Berwick which I will not fail to lay before Congress at the ensuing session when it is very probable some new roads and among others perhaps the one in question will be established

I am & I H

William Norwell Esq^r

April 3 1799

Sir

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 16th ulto covering four letters two of which it appears must have been opened at some Office from prudential Motives

It is to be regretted that there are men in the department who are so utterly depraved as to commit acts of this kind, and as there is no criterion by which an honest man can be known

From one of a contrary stamp, with every precaution in fulfilling appointments they must frequently fall into unproper hands

You may for your own satisfactions call in any indifferent persons to see the condition of a Mail on which there appears to have been any improper practices committed on its way to your Office. it will however be quite unnecessary for my satisfactions to take this step James St. L.

Mr. W. Stoddard & Bacon

Sir

April 3rd 1799

I have received your letter of the 20th March stating the days on which you are willing to carry the mail you will please therefore to carry it as follows to wit

Leave South East every Friday after the arrival of

the wednesdays mail from New York &

Arrive at Bennington on Monday at 9 o'clock P.M.

Returning.

Leave Bennington on Tuesday at 8 A.M. &

Arrive at South East on Thursday by 7 P.M.

The mail from New York to South East I conclude is to be carried conformable to the contract

James St. L.

W. John & W. Cornick

Sir

In future the quarterly payments

will be transmitted to you at the periods stipulated in Mr Clunes contract; vizt in the months of January April July & October. — The pay for the last quarter will be remitted to you in the course of a few days

I find you have performed the trust reposed in you much to the satisfaction of the public at large and I am sorry that you have not received your payment at an earlier period after they became due; But delays of this kind will sometimes happen in the hurry of the business of this office notwithstanding every precaution is used to prevent them

James St. L.

W. Garwood & Cunningham.

April 3 1799

Sir

The inhabitants of Sheffield are desirous that you should extend your ride from Gannan to that place & I should wish to accomodate them if you can do it for a reasonable price. It ought to be carried in the following manner

Leave New Haven every Wednesday at 7 A.M.

Arrive at Litchfield on Thursday at 11 A.M.

Arrive at Sheffield on Friday at 10 A.M.

Returning

Leave Sheffield on Friday at 2 P.M. &

Arrive at New Haven the next Tuesday by 3 P.M.

If you comply with that arrangement for thirty six dollars a year. I wish you to commence it immediately. Be pleased to write me on the subject

James St. L.

W. Memorable Walker.

April 3 1799

Sir

The alteration you have suggested in your letter of the 31st Ultmo in the post road from Augusta to Washington so as to open a more direct communication by Post between Augusta and Petersburg is not within the power of the Post Master General; though in my opinion there can be no doubt of its expediency.

This alteration when made will require legislative interference of course nothing can be done in the business until the next session of Congress.

It gives me pleasure to hear of the growing commercial importance of Petersburg and I am well disposed to promote its prosperity by every means in my power. I shall therefore readily recommend any alterations in the existing post roads that may be conducive to that end.

It appears to me that Petersburg may be accommodated without interfering with the present direct communications by post between Augusta and Washington which the alterations in question would materially affect. I would send the post directly from Augusta to Petersburg, and discontinue the route between Washington and Petersburg: as there is little or no correspondence

between those places the public can derive very little advantage from that part of the present post route.

If the people of Petersburg think that such an arrangement will be more for their interest than the existing one I will use my endeavours to have it provided for by law & if there are any objections to it I beg you will communicate them freely.

M^r Ellis of late has performed his engagements with the public in a very unsatisfactory manner and the fines he has incurred for failures will be rigidly exacted in hopes that he may be induced to provide better horses and riders than he has employed for some time past.

You may rest assured that the most decisive steps will be taken to prevent a repetition of such conduct in future.

I am &c. J. S.

Cob Tallmadge & M^r Baile April 4 1799
Gentlemen

Your letter of the 20th February has been received but an uncommon pressure of business at this Office for some weeks past has prevented an earlier reply to it.

The contractors for the Bennington and New York mail finding that they could not continue to run their stages agreeably to their original plans are allowed to carry it once a week on Horse back: in which they were to be indulged

if at any time during the continuance of their contract the traveling on that route proved insufficient to the support of their stages — since this new arrangement the extension of the ride from Litchfield to Sheffield by the ride from New Haven is less usefull than when the stages run three times a week notwithstanding I am disposed to facilitate the communication by post whenever it can be done at any easy expence to the public and in the present instance I have offered Mr Cunningham thirty six Dollars a year if he will carry the mail from New Haven to Sheffield agreeably to the following schedule

Leave New Haven every Wednesday at 7am
Arrive at Litchfield on Thursday at 11am
arrive at Sheffield on Friday at 10am

Returning

Leave Sheffield on Friday at 2 PM &
Arrive at New Haven the next Tuesday at 3pm

I am Sc J. H.

Mr John Davis

Sir

April 4th 1799

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant accompanied by your return for the last Quarter and seventeen dollars and twenty eight cents which are passed to the credit of your account with

You should have sent an account of letters received at and sent from your Office and the dead letters. By looking to the 18th Article of your instructions you will see more fully what papers are to be rendered Quarterly

If you are engaged with the mails between the hours of nine O'clock at night and five O'clock in the morning you will be allowed to charge 40 pence — I wish you to state particularly how often the mail arrives at your Office at the unseasonable hours you have mentioned that I may determine what compensation you are to be allowed

I am Sc J. H.

W Jacob Walters

April 3 1799

Sir

I send you by this conveyance post Bills and blanks for keeping an account of Letters received at and sent from your Office

Your return for the last quarter is received with nineteen dollars and forty five cents which are passed to the credit of your account with this Office

There are no Maps on hand or I would send you a set

I am Sc J. H.

Melanthon Wheeler esq^r.

April 4 1799

Sir There are no Maps of the post roads in this Office or I would send a set it will be some time before any more can be published as soon as they are

your Office will be furnished with them

Your account was credited with the amount of the draft in favor of the Contractor at the time of its being drawn

I am Sc J. H.

W James Chapman

April 4 1799

Sir

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 3rd instant with your account for the last Quarter and One Hundred and twenty dollars which are passed to the credit of your account with this Office

The writer of a letter may at any time demand it and a Post Master using the precautions pointed out in the 15th regulation is Obliged to deliver it I am glad to find for your sake that the letter in question was delivered to the writer of it and that there was no money in it

I am Sc J. H.

William Gay esq^r

April 4 1799.

Sir

By this post you will receive a supply of such Banks as you are in want of at your Office I do not wish you to have any blanks printed at Suffield as they can be furnished at much less expence from the General Post Office

You will be pleased to retain your balances in your hands until it is convenient for the Assistant Post Master General to draw for them in favor of the Contractors Such statements as you have

mentioned are frequently occurring and must be expected from the hurry in which the business of a Post Office is transacted

I am Sc J. H.

W Josiah Paine

April 4 1799

Sir

I am just favored with yours of the 10th of March and am happy to find that the failures on your route have not been so extensive as I at first wished to believe

I am also satisfied that your performance in General has been as punctual as the nature of the service will admit Under these circumstances I shall not exact any fines for the failures that occurred through the mistake of the young man who was employed by you

you are not to wait at Portsmouth when the Boston mail does not arrive in time as the whole business must be deranged in consequence of such delay

I am Sc J. H.

April 4 1799 Appointed Everardus Bogardus Deputy Post Master of New-Hampshire rooms of Martin Butter resigned

Richard Douglass 2nd

April 5 1799

Sir you will receive by this conveyance a Supply of Blanks Checks on the Branch Bank of New York will answer to remit in payment of your Balances

I am Sc J. H.

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Wm Quas. Silsby

Sir

April 4. 1799

I am just favored with yours of the 23rd M^t relative to the alterations proposed in my Letter of the 2nd M^t in your route so as to accomodate the Supervisor and inhabitants at New Market with the mail and I have determined to allow you twenty dollars a year for that extra service — By this mail I send the papers for the establishment of an Office at New Market and you will be pleased to commence the alterations in your schedule immediately after the receipt of this letter. If in the opinion of the post master of Portsmouth it will be attended with no inconveniences to the public you may be allowed to arrive therat six O'clock instead of five O'clock in the evening and depart at Eight O'clock instead of nine O'clock in the morning.

I have charged you with seven dollars and eighteen Cents and debited W Smith of Petersburgh with that amount — This I find was hitherto omitted

I am in hopes that you will not continue to be over loaded with public papers though you have stipulated to carry all the mails and they certainly constitute a part of them. In a few instances I have made provisions for a led Horse where the mails had increased to such a size that they could not be carried on

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single Horse and I shall be disposed to do you a equal justice under similar circumstances

I am Sc J. H.

Oliver Whyte esq^r

Sir

April 5. 1799

Your favors of the 5th and 20th February are now before me

The respected failures of W Ellis's ride are of very serious consequence to the thriving commercial Town of Petersburg and other places on his route I have therefore determined to exact the penalties he has incurred by them as the excuses he has offered are by no means satisfactory to me — I hope this step will impell him to a better performance of his contract than has been the case for sometime past.

I have written fully to W Walker on the subject of the contemplated alteration in W Ellis's route so as to accomodate Petersburg with a more direct communication by post with Augusta and everything within my power will be done to accomplish that desirable Object — Having established an Office at Columbia Court House the present Post Route from Washington to Augusta cannot be altered — In my opinion a better arrangement can be made than the one suggested by W Walker by sending the mail directly from Augusta to Petersburg and discontinuing the route from Washington to Petersburg which I think the public derives little or no advantage from — If this

part of the route is of any importance it may be continued but it appears to be necessary to give Washington as well as Petersburgh a direct communication with Augusta.

I shall send by water a parcel of blanks for the Georgia Post Offices, as there is no getting them conveyed such a distance by land and I shall direct Mr Lange to forward them immediately to the respective Offices — You will be pleased to advise me whether those for your Office get safe to hand. I will give Mr Lange a hint relative to the improper directions given to his mails: this is not the first complaint I have received of a similar nature against him.

I have drawn on you in favor of Mr Ellisor thirty seven dollars and twenty nine Cents

I wish you to transmat your account as soon as you are supplied with blanks: they are nearly twelve Months in arrears. The blanks if I am not much mistaken were sent to Charleston on a former occasion for Georgia.

Jam 26 J. H.

April 5. 1799 Established an Office at New Market & W and appointed Mr John Shute Genl. P.M.

Mr Benjamin Mulcahy April 5. 1799

Sir

Some time ago I sent you a bond and Contract for the route from Pittsburg to Washington which you have not yet executed. As I cannot allow more time

and the compensation is fully equivalent to the service you will have to perform, you will be pleased to inform me whether you wish to have the Contract on the terms Offered — If you are desirous of relinquishing it I shall expect to have at least six weeks for the purpose of effecting a Contract in lieu of it: if you wish to hold it I shall expect that you return the Bond and Contract to me without further delay properly executed

I wish you to come to a determination immediately on this Business and give me notice thereof

Your Quarterly payments will be remitted to you or you may draw for them as may be most convenient to you

Jam 26 J. H.

Mr William M'Kinley April 5 1799
Sir

I received your letter of the 7th of February and thank you for the information it contains should it become necessary I shall freely accept of your services which you have so kindly tendered

M' Brumal I find acknowledge the receipt of ten dollars you remitted with your last account which misplaced to your credit on the Books of this Office

Jam 26 J. H.

Mr Solomon Ellis

April 5 1799

Sir

You are charged with the loss of 3 trips between Edgefield court house and Washington

I lost between 4th & 18. Decemr 1798 penalty 28. 07

1 — ditto 23 Jan'y & 4 February 1799 — ditto 28. 07

1 — ditto 6th & 19th d^r — ditto 28. 07

Amounting to 84. 21

I have received your letter of the 15th ulto inclosing certificate & the deposition of your rider to the following purport.

- 1 That the waters of Seneca river were impaſible on the 27th of Jan'y
- 2 That those of little river were ditto - - - - - 9 Feb'y
- 3 That Those of long cane - - - - - ditto - - - - - 21 Feb'y
- 4 That those of little river were impaſible on the 2nd of March
- 5 Jefſe Price's deposition that he was impaſed by high waters
in January. February & March

I am by no means disposed to be severe in exacting penalties when there appears to be a disposition to perform properly but your riders have failed so repeatedly during the two last quarters on all the routes you have undertaken and particularly on ^{the} one mentioned above that my duty impels me to charge you with the above and with several others which I shall inform of as soon as I receive the full returns for the last quarter. I am informed there is a ferry only one or two miles from Seneca river ford where those who carried the mail previous to your undertaking it used to pass when it could not be done at the ford so that your first excuse cannot be admitted. It is also said that you have only one horse in use on that route and that a very poor one A better provision than that ought clearly to be made for the route and such repeated failures destroy all confidence in the mail.

You was overpaid the quarter ending Decemb'r 31
1798 - - - - - D 312.50
Penalties now charged you - - - - - 84.21
Draft on O'White esq; at Petersburg - - - - - 37.29
D^r on Eugene Brumah at Edgefield ch for - - - - - 50.0.
D^r - on Dennis Kelly at Washington for 70 - - - - -
D 554.00

Your draft for five hundred dollars in favor of

⁴²⁵
Mr: Jack V C° has been presented & I have not paid it. Offer
to pay 157 $\frac{29}{100}$ D. the sum due to you but the holder did not chuse
to accept it.

Jam 26 I. H.

April 8th Established an Office at Marlboro' Ms. and appoin-
ted Joseph Brigham Junr. D. Post

George Moore esq:

April 8 1799

Sir

I am to acknowledge the receipt of the 5th instant and thank you for the hint respecting W Hamilton which I will improve

By this post I send you a supply of letters
Received and sent

Jam 26 I. H.

Jonathan Hastings esq:

April 8 1799

Sir

I have received yours of the 22nd
Htto relative to the establishment of a Post Office at Mar-
lboro for the accomodation of that place and its vicinity
to which I have consented under the arrangements you
have suggested of providing bags for their mails - these bags
must not be put into the postmanteau or there will be
detention which I wish to avoid as much as possible -
The drivers will therefore receive and deliver the bags
in passing between Boston and Worcester

Jam 26 I. H.

W^m William Hamilton

Sir

April 8 1799

Some time ago I received through the hands of Mr. Moore thirty dollars on account of your debt to this Office since which I have received no further payment from you. I hope Sir that you will not make it necessary for me at last to place the papers I received from W. Wilcox and your bond in the hands of an attorney; as it will be productive only of expence and trouble to you. I really wish to avoid it if possible

I am &c J. H.

W. Memorable Walker

April 8. 1799

Sir

I have received your letter of the 3^d ulto in which you state that you have still in your hands unpaid my draft on John Simkins for 4⁴ 60 you ought to have returned that draft immediately after its being presented. I suppose however that Mr. Simkins is still able to pay that sum and therefore enclose a draft on the postmaster at Petersburgh for the amount. The draft on Mr. Simkins you will return

I am &c J. H.

Col Sebastian Baumann

April 8 1799

Sir

M. Siake is desirous of taking the mails from your Office at ten O'clock in the morning as there does not appear to be any objection to it on account of other mails you will deliver it to him at that time

I am &c J. H.

Capt. William Platt
Master of the mail packet etc.General Post Office 427
Philadelphia April 6 1799

Herewith you will receive an inventory of the tackle and apparel of the Schooner ^{the} burthen thirty seven tons built at Norfolk in 1796 purchased on the 9th of August 1798 by the post Master General of the United States for the purpose of transporting the Public mails between Philadelphia and Charleston

You are in the first place to go on board and examine whether the several articles mentioned in the inventory are in their places and in proper order. You will then examine the Schooner and have her in proper order to sail for charleston on Friday the fifth instant. — Provide for yourself and his four hands proper ships provisions for three months: the provisions should be equivalent to five rations a day the ration to be composed in the manner prescribed by an act of Congress passed the 27th day of March 1794

You will employ for the vessel a first hand or mate at a sum not exceeding thirty dollars a month, one good seaman one ordinary man or boy and one good cook on the best terms that you can

You are to pay all the expences of the schooner for which you will be furnished with money from this Office taking receipts for all payments: an account thereof with the receipts for all payments is to be made out & delivered at this Office on the last day of every quarter of a year: say the ^{last} day of March June September & December.

You are not to make any expensive repair or alteration to the Schooner without consulting the Post Master General or unless it should be necessary at some other port in which case you are to consult the post master there on the subject. On the fifth instant you will apply at the

428 post Office in Philadelphia for the mail for Charleston S.C.
Carolina which you are to take on board the Schooner and put
it in a secure place you will then immediately make sail
for Charleston S.C. and when you arrive there deliver the
mail at the post Office there as soon as possible.— In
forty eight hours after your arrival at the Post Office in Charleston
you are to apply there for the Philadelphia mail and make
sail without delay to Philadelphia. You are to take the mail
from Philadelphia on one Friday in every month and other
as possible & to make all due expedition when you have
got the mail on Board

If passengers or freight are offered you you are to take
them on board at the customary prices for which you
will duly account. But are not at any time to wait a
moment for passengers or freight after the time fixed for your
departure.

Joseph Habersham PMG

Joseph Habersham Postmaster General
of the United States of America

To all who shall see these presents. Greeting
Know ye that confiding in the Integrity skill and due
ability of W^m William Platt I do appoint him Master of
the Schooner now employed in the carriage of the mails of
the United States between Philadelphia and Charleston
S.C. and authorise him to execute the duties of the Office
according to the laws of the United States and such regu-
lations conformable thereto as he shall receive from me

429 To hold the said Office with the powers privileges and emoluments
thereunto belonging during the pleasure of the Post Master
General of the United States for the time being

Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and caused the seal of my Office to be affixed at
Philadelphia the first day of April in the year
of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and
ninety nine and of the Independence of the
United States the twenty third

Joseph Habersham

April 1 1799 Appointed William Platt master of the Schooner
Ann to fly between Philadelphia and Charleston to receive
two rations a day & thirty dollars a trip from Philadelphia
to Charleston and back again half passage money and 5^d per
on the freight

April 1 1799 Appointed Thomas Longhead Master
of the schooner Yeatman to fly between Phil^s & Charleston
at 45 dollars a month two rations a day half the passage
money and 5^d per cent on the amount of freight.

Thomas W^m Bacot

April 6 1799

Sir

I have duly received your several favors from
the 11th of February to the 6th March to which I should have re-
plied earlier but an uncommon preoccupation of business at this
Office for some weeks past has prevented it

Yourrs of the 11th of February inclosed several certi-
ficates of the ~~testament~~ of the City. The directors of the Bank
and other respectable citizens in favor of W^m Lechard your
assistant in the Office this testimony in favor of W^m Lechard
with your intimate knowledge of his character for six years