

John Hubbard Esq.
Sir

Sept 2 1799

I am just favored with your letter of the 23rd Ultmo
and you will be pleased to receive a Statement of your account
current with the General Post Office exhibiting a balance of
three dollars and Sixty nine Cents against you — to close
your account. I have drawn an order in favor of Mr Thomas
for the balance due from you and I wish you to transmit
his receipt for the amount of the order as soon as it is paid

James 8th

Abd'l Balson Esq.

September 2 1799

Sir

Sometime ago I received your letter of the 2^d Ap^r
and I have this day furnished the proper Officer with a cer-
tificate respecting the loss you sustained in transmitting the
Supervisor of the Revenue a sum of money on the 10th Sep-
tember last which I am in hopes will enable you to obtain
a credit in the Books of this Treasury equivalent to your loss

That money I have no doubt was stolen by the villain
who committed so many thefts on the Mail in your neigh-
bourhood. — These thefts have not been repeated for some
time past and I trust there is now an end of them on your
route

James 8th

Abyat Tufts Esq.

Septem 2 1799

Sir

Yours of the 25th Ultmo covering thirty three
dollars and twenty five cents is duly received and that sum
paid to the credit of your account in the Books of this Office

James 8th

John Ford Esq.
Sir

Septem 2 1799

I find I acknowledge the receipt of your
last quarterly balance fourteen dollars and forty six Cents
but my letter has probably been mispent to Cumberland
Maryland as you had not received it on the 25th Ultmo.

The amount of dead letters returned to the Office the last quar-
ter is three dollars and fifty two cents and of those remaining on
hand Two dollars and Seventy seven Cents.

James 8th

Mr John Brownson

Sir

Septem 3 1799

I duly received yours of the 12th Instant accompa-
nied by a Guinea which by weight is four dollars and Sixty seven
Cents and your account is accordingly credited with that sum.

You have entirely mistaken my meaning in supposing
that I have expected more from your Office than it has pro-
duced and that I am dissatisfied with your conduct as one of
my Agents. I know the Office you hold is inconsiderable and
that the proceeds must be small and you have discharged
the duties of the Office in a very satisfactory manner

As Mr Tug cannot conveniently accept the ap-
pointment I hope you will for the accommodation of your
neighbours continue to act as their Post Master.

James 8th

Mr Benjamin Thompsons

Sir

Septem 3 1799

I have received your letter of the 1st July
last in which you wish to be allowed a commission of 50 pence
on the postage of letters &c. The law does not authorise me to
allow more than thirty pence to any postmaster excepting
to such as regularly receive the mail between 9 o'clock at night
and five O'clock the next morning that not being the case at
your Office I cannot increase your commission beyond 30 pence

238. Dr. Nathan Hayward.

Sir

Septem. 3 1799

I have received a letter from the Postmaster at Plymouth in which he states that you run a third stage between Plymouth and Boston by the way of Plinton, Halifax, Bridgewater, and Abingdon. The inhabitants of Bridgewater have been some time desirous of having a Post Office established there and as you run your stage already you could accommodate them with the mail without any expence to yourself. If you are disposed to gratify them in that respect I will establish a Post Office there and pay over to you quarterly the Proceeds of the Office for your trouble and if it should be deemed useful to establish Offices elsewhere at Plinton, Halifax or Abingdon it shall be done for your emolument.

As it is not an established post road I am not authorized to pay more than shall be collected upon. An early answer
hence is requested.

Land 2nd.

William Goodwin Esq^r

Sir

Septem. 3 1799

I have received your letter of the 27th July in which you state that Dr. Hayward runs a third stage between* Plymouth and Boston by way of Bridgewater and that you send a mail that way. I have no objections to that measure provided he carries the mail without any additional expence to this Office. Plymouth is already sufficiently accomodated by two mails a week at least as much so as its produce will warrant.

I have written to Dr. Hayward on this subject and it appears that the carriage of the mail that way will be an accomodation to a number of people who are now without a mail. I have offered to establish a Post Office at Bridgewater and at any other place on the route he supposes will be useful and to pay

him the proceeds of the Office for his trouble

Land 2nd.

Cob Sylvanus Lazelle

Sir

Septem. 3 1799

Your letter of the 5th ulto is before me relative to the establishment of a post Office at Bridgewater. In consequence of your letter I have written to Dr. Hayward on the subject and have offered to establish a Post Office at Bridgewater and any other place on that route that he may desire and allow him the proceeds of the Office for his trouble. If he accedes to my proposal I shall do myself the pleasure of accomodating you in that respect.

It is not in my power to make him a greater allowance than that

Land 2nd.

Thomas Dickman Esq^r

Sir

Septem. 3 1799

I have received your letter of the 15th July covering bond and certificate of oaths, a commission was duly forwarded.

Mr Parker must be mistaken in supposing that any alteration has been made relative to the form of rendering accounts. Transcripts of the accounts of letters &c received and of those sent still constitute a part of the accounts to be rendered quarterly as you will see by the 18th Instruction annexed to the Post Office laws.

Land 2nd.

George Mitchell Esq^r

Sir

Septem. 3 1799

I have been favored with your letter of the 12th July and have referred to Cob Dickings of the 16th of Aug^t 1794, in which I find he says that it will probably be in his power to make you a special compensation in consequence of the establishment of the Office at Washington whereby your

"Commissions were considerably reduced"

Although fully sensible of the inadequacy of your compensation and much disposed to do you Justice on the occasions yet I am not authorised to allow you any more than the legal commissions on letters and newspaper Postages collected at your Office — Col Pecking aware of the difficulty attending it was I observe very guarded in his Letter to you on that subject. I shall not put you to any expence by commencing a suit against you for the recovery of the balance due from you. I wish you however to transmit it that your account under my predecessor may be closed

I am sorry to find that you are determined not to hold the Office without a fixed Salary as it is not in my powers to allow it

The Office inconsiderable as it is must afford some accommodation to your neighbourhood I am therefore in hopes that for your own convenience and that of your neighbours you may be induced to continue in office or if you ~~desire it~~ that you can nominate a suitable character for your successor to whom I will send an appointment — if you should resign and no person will act at Maysville the Office must be discontinued and the Post riders exchange their mails themselves

By a late arrangement the Post Rider is to leave Washington for Maysville every Friday morning at 11 O'clock and remains at Maysville until 2 O'clock P.M. on the same day — the Post Rider for Muskingum leaves your Office every Friday by 2 P.M. and returns with the mail the next Friday morning at 10 A.M.

Ten Cents are allowed for each register of the arrival and departure of the mail — of course you will be allowed Sixty Cents a quarter for keeping and transmitting two registers at your Office

The Assistant Post Master General I find has acknowledged the receipt of the Money you sent with your returns

Souah Williams Esq^r

Sir

Find the Assistant Post Master General acknowledged the receipt of Mr. M'Kee's and your own balances which accompanied your last return, but I believe has hitherto omitted to acknowledge the receipt of the balances you remitted with the preceding return Sixty one dollars and ninety five cents with which sum your account is credited in the Books of this Office

The register of the arrival and departure of the mail should be kept and regularly transmitted at the end of every month

Jam'd G. H.

Balance of the quarter ending	
the 31 st March last	61 ^{..} 95
Balance of d ^r ending the 30 th Jun last	53 ^{..} 61
Mr. M'Kee's balance	<u>61^{..}93</u>

Wm'sley Hobley Esq^r

Sir

Septem^r 4 1799

I find a letter of yours of the 22nd of June unanswered.

The Postmaster of New London is right in charging Letters for your Office with ten Cents as the distance exceeds forty Miles by including Colchester in the route

The rates of Postage should be calculated according to the distance by which the Mail actually passes; that is, the Post Road — where the Route forms a Circuit by leaving a Post Office in one Route and returning to it by another the Postage ought to be rated according to the shortest distance on the Post Road between the two places

This department has for its object the general accommodations of the Inhabitants by as general a distribution of information as Circumstances will admit — on this Principle Colchester has been accomodated with the mail without take

Jam'd G. H.

255 Taking into consideration the trifling increase of Postages at
the two extremities of the Route by providing for that place

Janu. 2nd

W Samuel Dugley
Sir

Septem. 4 1799

I have received your letter of the 21st August inclos-
ing fifty dollars which will be placed to your credit when the residue
of the costs are paid.

The amount of your debts is
Bill of Costs 49. 27
23. 20
72. 47

So that there is now twenty two dollars and forty seven cents due
on account of costs already accrued it will not be proper for me to
stay out until that sum is paid

Inclosed you have a bill of the costs transmitted to me
by the district attorney W Rawle

Janu. 2nd

Robert Patterson
Sir

Septem. 6 1799

Mr Debuts a Gentleman residing at Sharpsburg
Mr informs that Newspapers were received at the office of Sharps-
burg only once in the month of July last. It is probable that the
deficiency has arisen from the neglect of the printers. I therefore
wish you to examine your account and inform me what
papers were sent to that Office in that month with the num-
ber on each day.

Janu. 2nd

W John M Lewis
Sir

Septem. 6 1799

As soon as I was informed that the money Mr.
Hoy had had been openly counted and the letter that contained
it deposited in presence of the Post Rider and perhaps among
the baggage standards. I certainly gave it my opinion that

it was taken at or near Dareville without implicating any
particular person. This opinion was founded on my knowl-
edge of several losses sustained under similar circumstances
— in some instances such letters have been taken by the Post
Riders; and on other occasions they have no doubt fallen
into the hands of the Post Riders who could not resist the
temptation of profiting themselves of their contents. —
Where letters under such circumstances have been taken
from Post Offices the integrity of the Deputies or their Assis-
tants has never been questioned — this would be equally ille-
gal and unjust — it is however to be regretted that they will
receive letters containing money in the public manner I have
mentioned — had Mr Hoy put his letter in the usual
manner into the Office I am satisfied it would have reached
his Correspondent with its contents

Janu. 2nd

The Honble
Same Ross Esq^r
Sir

September 7 1799

I was duly honored with your letter of the
2nd Ult^r relative to the extension of the Post Road from West
Liberty to Charleston.

The Inhabitants of Charleston have
been misinformed on that subject; the Bill for establish-
ing that among other new Routes was postponed in the house
of Representatives till the ensuing Session

As Charleston
is a place of growing importance there is no doubt of its being
accommodated with a cross Post from West Liberty at the next
Session and as soon provision is made for the extension of
the Post in that quarter a Contract will be obtained
and a Post Office established at Charleston with the least
possible delay

Janu. 2nd

Mr^{rs} Benjamin Wells and others
Gentlemen

Septem^r 7. 99

You have been misinformed relative to the establishment of a Post Road from West Liberty to Charleston. The Bill in which this route was provided for was postponed until the next Session of Congress.

As Charlestown is represented to be a place of growing importance and only nine miles from West Liberty there is no doubt but it will very shortly be accomodated with the mail — as soon as this is the case I will take immediate steps to enter a contract and to establish a Post Office at Charlestown, by sending the necessary papers to the Gentleman you have recommended for your Deputy Post Master.

The route will be advertised in the Pittsburg or Washington Gazette when Mr Griffiths may send in his proposals for the conveyance of the mail.

Jam^d J^r.

Edward Gilpin Esq^r

Septem^r 10. 1799

Sir

Inclosed I send you Two hundred and eighty five dollars in Bank Notes to pay for the carriage lately made for the publick. You will be pleased to obtain a bill and receipt for the carriage and transmit it as a voucher for the payment.

I fear the inhabitants of Wilmington must submit to the inconvenience of receiving their Mails irregularly while the epidemic prevails in Philadelphia — taking the Southern mail into the city at an earlier hour even obliged to alter our arrangement through the whole Line and the drivers under present circumstances will not bear regular as they might be or they would not vary so much in their arrival at Wilmington as I find they do.

Jam^d J^r.

Memorable Walker Esq^r
Sir

Septem^r 10. 99

Immediately after the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant I wrote to Mr Ellis on the subject of his repeated failures and my letter produced an answer with a number of unsatisfactory certificates from some of the Post Masters on his route.

I am extremely mortified to find from a late representation of the inhabitants of Cambridge that Mr Ellis still continues to employ horses and riders unequal to the service he has undertaken to perform notwithstanding every thing I have done to rouse him to a proper sense of his duty — The fees he incurs have been and will be considerably exalted though this will not compensate the Public whose correspondence is so unreasonably delayed by his unproper conduct.

I am not vested with discretionary power to make any alterations in the established Post Roads. The inhabitants of Petersburg however may rest assured that I will not fail when a proper opportunity offers to recommend a more direct communication by Post with Augusta than they have at present on the circuitous route by Washington. — from the growing commercial importance of Augusta and Petersburg as well as the productive n^e of the Offices, they are entitled to this accommodation without dropping the crop Post from Petersburg to Washington with which place their must be some correspondence.

Jam^d J^r.

Will^g. Hunter. A post Master.

Sir

Septem^r 10. 1799

I have just received your favor of the

3⁹
3. instant. covering Twenty dollars which are paid to the credit of your account with this Office

I am sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Matthews it will be necessary to make a new appointment at Layton; can you recommend a person who will be fully approved of by the inhabitants of that place?

Jacob J. H.

Doctor Ephraim McDowell

Septemt 10. 99

Sir

I am duly favored with yours of the 3rd of July and consent to Westerfield arriving upon Louisville at Danville ^{on} Monday by 5 P.M. instead of Saturday - the Schedule was made for Mr. Bridges accomodations his residence being at Danville

The Contract from Danville to Moffts offered to Mr. Hargrove at one thousand Dollars which is a liberal compensation for that service: since writing to him on the subject I have received a good proposal for the conveyance of the mail on that route for the sum I have offered Mr. Hargrove

Mr. Westerfield must not leave Danville until Tuesday by 8 o'clock.

Jacob J. H.

Mrs^t Slagle Denwiddie & Downing Septemt 10. 99

Sir

I have lately received information that you carry news papers in your stages between Philadelphia & York other than those conveyed in the mail which you do not deliver to the proper postmasters. Every mail carrier who does this is liable to be

be prosecuted for defrauding the revenue, unless he is authorised in his contract with the Postmaster General to carry newspapers for his separate emoluments. No such authority is contained in your contract - I must therefore insist upon your desisting from that practice immediately and that you render an account of all newspaper carried in that manner to the Postmasters of Lancaster and York and pay them the amount of their postages.

Jacob J. H.

Jacob Spangler Esq

Septemt 10. 99

Sir

Your letter of July 10 came duly to hand and would have received an earlier reply had it not been mislaid. The contractors who carry the mail between Philadelphia & York are not authorised to carry news papers for their own emoluments out of the mail ~~as well~~ and are liable to a prosecution for defrauding the revenue of the Postages. I have written them to that effect and have informed them that they may save themselves from a prosecution by informing you of the number of the papers they have thus carried and paying you the amount of their postages. The practice to be discontinued immediately. If they do not discontinue the practice or do not account with you for the postages you will give me information

Jacob J. H.

Appointed Joseph Farley D.P.M. of New Castle in the room of John Farley resigned.

Appointed Jeremiah Menden D.P.M. of Elizabeth City North Carolina in the room of Francis Gage resigned.

244
Solomon Ellis.

Sir

Your letter of the 15th July is received in which you inclosed certificates to the following purport.

1st By David Brewer June 21. That your rider's horse was lame and could not return by the proper route in time. This is no excuse when your horses get lame & you are to provide others.

2^d By David Brewer July 5. That high water prevent returning by the proper route. This is a sufficient excuse.

3rd Eugene Brum May 10. that he had lost certificates having him by your order shewing that little River and Long Creek were impassable. As he does not state the time or when those creeks were impassable and you do not mention it they cannot have effect.

4th D Bells dated June 3 which states that the North Branch of Broad river was impassable on the 19th May which is a sufficient excuse.

I have just received a letter from several Gentlemen at Cambridge P.C. which states that you did not deliver a mail there from 1st to 6th August and that your rider excused himself by saying that his horse was sick that not being a good excuse I have charged you with \$8.07 for the loss of that trip: I have also charged you with \$4.19 for the loss of a trip from Georgetown to Augusta on the 21st June. You have incurred several other penalties of which you will be notified when you are charged with them on our return to Philadelphia.

I am sorry to find the mails continue to be carried so irregularly on the routes you have contracted for and that failures should so frequently arise from the weakness of your horses and inactivity of your riders

James J.W.

Sept. 11. 1799

Lord Richardson Esq^r

Sir

Your letter of the 15th instant inclosing one hundred dollars is received and I am glad to hear what is likely to pay the amount of my draft on him you may charge the expence you was at in going to Mr Usher for the money to this Office in your account of Contingent expenses.

Bacon's orders for his pay for carrying the Mail in Rhode Island payable in October next will be duly paid. And if ~~it is a fact that~~ he has decamped I shall be careful in paying any draft of his which are not in favor of those whom he has employed to convey the Mail.

No. Mr Bacon's stand is at Stockbridge

James J.W.

Thaddeus Burr Esq^r

Sept. 3. 1799

Sir

Your letter of the 17th ultimo with your accounts and forty one dollars and forty cents have been received the money is entered to your credit in the Books of this Office

James J.W.

Benjamin Buck Esq^r

Sept. 3. 1799

Sir

I have received your letter of the 20th July accompanying your accounts and thirteen dollars: the money is entered to your credit in the Books of this Office

James J.W.

Mr Joshua Whitney

Sept. 3. 1799

Sir

Your letter of the 8th July has been received in which you mention that you are in want of a map of the Post Roads. In answer I have to inform you that the maps provided for the Post Offices have been

243
but all made use of sometime since, if a new Supply
should be procured one will be transmitted to you

Send a table of Post Offices herewith, you will be
able to fill out the rates by help of the table annexed to the
Post Office act.

James 9th

John M'Kernal Esq.

Septem 12. 1799

Sir

I have just received a letter from W.M'Kernal
dated the 30th of August in which he says no person will
act as Deputy Post Master of Hillsborough unless some fur-
ther provision is made than the commissions allowed by law.
As I can make no such provisions the Office at Hillsborough
must be discontinued. You will therefore be pleased to shut
up the Office until some person will consent to do the
business there on the usual terms, and until that is the
case the Contractor is directed to pass Hillsborough without
calling with the Mail at that place.

There would be few Post Offices of pecuniary in-
terest alone attract those who hold them, the advantages
of however of this Useful Institutions have always induced
proper characters to accept appointments where the em-
oluments are less and the trouble greater than at Hills-
borough.

James 9th

Cob John Hawkins

Septem 12. 1799

Sir

W.M'Kernal late Deputy Postmaster
of Hillsborough has left that place and as no person will act
in that capacity I am under the necessity of discontinuing
the Office there and have directed it to be shut up.
You will
be pleased to direct the Post Rider not to call with the mail

at Hillsborough until a Post master is regularly appointed
at that place

James 9th

Oliver Whipple Esq.

Sir

Your account is credited with nine dollars and
twenty five cents, the sum you paid for sending thirteen
to Washington for the Mail when Mr. Ellis rider failed to
arrive with it at Petersburg.

It appears to me that Mr. Ellis horses and riders
have been unequal to the Service he has undertaken, either
want means or will not make sufficient provision to have the
business done with credit to himself or satisfaction to the
Public. Under those circumstances his friends have been ready
waited in every instance except when he has produced satis-
factory proof that his failures were occasioned by high waters.

I wish you to continue to send to Washington for the
Mail when it fails to arrive in season at Petersburg the expense
will be defrayed by this Office and the Public indemnified out
of Mr. Ellis Pay unless he produces satisfactory excuses for
such failures.

I shall use my endeavours to have Petersburg
accommodated with a more direct communication by Post
with Augusta, ^{for the present} this however cannot be done until the endur-
ing Session of Congress as I am not vested with any discretion
or power to make alterations in the Established Postroads.

James 9th

Mrs^{es} James M'Craken & Others

Septem 12. 1799

Gentlemen

I have received your representa-
tion of the 13th ulto relative to the failures experienced at
Cambridge from Mr. Ellis's improper conduct and am

am extremely mortified to find he cannot be routed to a proper sense of his duty notwithstanding the penalties already deducted from his pay which amount to one hundred and fifty five dollars and he now stands charged with fifty dollars more for runt failures. If I could discharge a Conductor I should be induced to take that step with Mr. Ellis. I am tired of writing to him on the subject and shall rigidly exact every fine he incurs unless satisfactory excuse are offered and none will be admitted except the impability of Rivers. I am sensible that the exactation of fines will not compensate the Public for the unreasonable delay of their Mails but it is all that can be done under the existing contract with Mr. Ellis.

Sand 9th

Thomas Nelson Esq^r.

Septem^r 12. 1799

Sir

Inclosed I send you a statement of the accounts of Robert Smith late postmaster at Cartersville Va. which shews a balance of forty⁸⁰ dollars and five cents to be due from him. Not being able to obtain that balance of him I wish you to commence a suit to enforce the payment. An act of the last Session of Congress directs all suits for the recovery of balances in favor of the General Post Office to be instituted in the name of the "Post master General of the United States" — and that judgement shall be rendered the first term. See Acts of Congress Chap 149. Sect 22. 29

I cannot procure copies of Smith's accounts until the Register returns to Philadelphia

Sand 10th

John Daubney C^ro^r

Sir

Septem^r 13. 1799

It is very probable that Capt Fosters letters have been sent

sent to Salem North Carolina or some other Office of that name and hope it will prove to be the case from the circumstance of Mr. Fosters sending only three letters from his Office for Salem Massachusetts on the 12th of August. I shall write to him immediately on the subject and will endeavor to have the same thoroughly investigated. In both instances the missing letters from New York and Baltimore may have received improper directions so many things of the kind have come within my knowledge and so few actually have been sustained in the detail that I flatter myself that letters in question will find their way to Salem or be returned to the General Post Office as dead letters — if the latter happens it may be some months before their Contents will be recovered. On hearing from Mr. Fosters I will write to you again.

Sand 10th

Alexander Funeral C^ro^r

Sir

Septem^r 13 1799

The Postmaster of Salem Massachusetts informs me that Captain Foster of that place deposited six letters in your Office on Sunday the 11th of August for his Office covering properly in Notes and Bills to a considerable amount which were not received at Salem on the 5 of September. It appears from copies of your Bills that he has sent one there was one dated the 13th August the day on which Capt. Fosters letters ought to have been sent from Baltimore for Salem without three letters — from this circumstance I am induced to believe that the letters in question have been sent Salem North Carolina or some other Office of that name. Will you be so good as to examine your account of letters sent and give me every

every information on the subject that may have a tendency to clear up this mysterious circumstance.

Jam dth

Lewis D'Villers esq.

Sir

Some time ago Mr Morris informed me that it was your intention to remove from Buttermutts and recommended Mr Buchanan as your successor in the Office.

I then sent Mr Morris a bond and Oaths to be executed by Mr Buchanan ~~on your removal~~ from that place: as that has happened and I have received Mr Buchanans bond as your Successor I wish you to deliver up all articles of Post Office property that may be in your possession to him and to render your account to the time of leaving the Office.

I was so well satisfied with your Conduct as Deputy Postmaster of Buttermutts that had you remained there I should not have appointed any other person to that Office.

Jam dth

W. Geo. Buchanan

Sir

I have just received Mr Morris's letter of the 31st ulto. inclosing your Bond and Oaths as Deputy Post Master of Buttermutts and you will be pleased to receive your Compt on a due.

Mr D'Villers is informed of your appointment as his successor and will deliver over the Maps Letters remaining on hand Blanks and any other articles of Post Office Property that may be in his possession.

Jam dth

Mr John Roche

Sir

From the information I have received presume it will be agreeable to you to accept the appointment of Deputy Post master of Georgetown & Roads. I have therefore inclosed you a blank bond and Oaths of Office which are to be executed and returned to the General Post Office and on receiving them I will send you a Commission as Deputy Post Master of that place. The representatives of the late Mr Dinsmore will deliver over all letters Maps and other Post Office property that may be in their possession as they are apprised of your appointment by the Post.

Jam dth

Doctor W. Matthews

Septem 14 1799

Sir

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 8th instant recommending Mr John Roche as Deputy Postmaster of Georgetown & Roads to whom I send an appointment in the enclosed letter.

When Mr Roche has duly executed the Bond with sufficient security and taken the Oaths before a Magistrate they are to be returned to this Office and on receiving them I will send him a Commission as Deputy Post Master of Georgetown & Roads.

Jam dth

Miss Maria Dinsmore or the Representatives of Mr William Dinsmore deceased.

Sept 14 1799

Madam.

I have appointed Mr Roche to succeed your late husband in the Post Office at Georgetown & Roads

Crop Roads