

the real difficulties & expenses & then make a contract or contracts for carrying it through on such terms as may be fair. If a contract can be made as advantageously to continue to the end of the year 1815 it would be desirable; But as provisions and forage will in that year become plentiful it can then be carried for a less sum than at this time - The mail was formerly carried by way of Ferris near the mouth of Pearl River & thence to New Orleans in a canoe by water. This route was frequently interrupted by high water & was abandoned for the present one across Lake Pontchartrain. This is found to be uncertain being impassable in high winds. It would be desirable that you should pass through the route from Ferris to New Orleans before you contract to ascertain whether the difficulties have not diminished & whether it would not be preferable to the one across the Lake, & if it appears so that this route may be taken the contract in this case would be from St Stephens to Ferris & thence to New Orleans.

It is considered that from ten to twelve dollars a mile a year counting distance one way is a fair price for this service in ordinary times.

You will take a memorandum of the distance from place to place on the routes meeting all water courses & swamps & the difficulties of passing them, also all where post offices are established or where it would be useful to establish them

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with the names of proper persons for Postmasters of the latter. The route is to be carried by Fort Gadsden at the junction of Horse & Taliposse rivers - Blank Contracts & Bonds are furnished here In your route to Middleville you will notice the manner in which the mail is conveyed & communicate from time to time information to this office -

R. J. M.

* Jacob Herrington

April 25. 1815
Mercer Pa. The Post route to which you have referred will soon be advertised. When we hope to see your proposal renewed.

R. J. M.

* Jesse Smith Jr.

April 25. 1815
Clinton Ms. I have concluded it is proper to pay you the additional sum of \$500. per annum for sending six mails instead of three mails a week between Boston Ms. & Newport R. I. with the understanding that the same accommodations shall be continued by you as were granted under your late contract, with its several amendments to all offices on the roads which you travel between those towns with the mail.

R. J. M.

* Simeon Draper

April 25. 1815
Brookfield Ms. I have yours of the 17th ins^d. Your pay for P. Route no 828. was by accident omitted. It will be added to your next quarters pay

R. J. M.

193+ James S. Hodges

Taunton Ms.

April 25th 1815

I have rec'd yours of
the 19th Inst & I have concluded to authorise
Mr Smith to carry the mails three additionaly between
Boston & Newport &c &c at the rate of \$500. per annum

R. I. M.

X W. Edward Parish

near Fredericksburg Va

July 17 1815

The president of the U States leaves the
seat of government this day for his seat in Orange county Va
I wish you to make provision for accommodating the president
with five additional weekly mails between Fredericksburg and
Montpelier - the arrangement that you had lately in operation on
that route will be satisfactory - I wish you to begin without delay

R. I. M.

X W. Peter Williams

Cincinnati Ohio

July 17 1815

I observe in reply to yours of the 5 inst.
that when you furnish a certificate from a postmaster on
the route - stating your actual increased trial by calling
at Centerville with the mails, and the period that you began - we
shall give you a fair and just credit for the service

R. I. M.

X Theodore D. Bradley Esq.

Pr. Master N.Y. Sir

July 18 1815

A lock and key are sent you for Castleton
You may contract for the transp of the mails from N.Y.
to Castleton to go and return as often as Gov^r R. Trumbull
may desire herewith you will receive a blank contract

R. I. M.

X W. Joseph Palmer

Portland Me

General Post office

July 18 1815

Gir

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I wish you to convey a seventh mail between
Portsmouth and Portland if you will convey the mails without ad-
ditional expence - and you will convey the six mails between Port-
land Wiscasset agreeably to the Schedule of that contract as is en-
dorsed this day thence and the two mails between Wiscasset and Bucks-
town and the weekly mail between Goldsboro and Calais agreeably
to the alteration endorsed this day on the Schedules of those contracts

R. I. M.

X G. Gale Pm

Troy N.Y. Gir

July 18th 1815

I have yours of the 11inst. before me. the Albany
mail is due at Waterford at 8 A.M. every day except Sunday it of course
should arrive at your office by 7 A.M. I have written to the contrac-
tor this day on the subject of his irregularity

R. I. M.

X W. Leonard Baker

Albany N.Y. Gir

July 18 1815

You are bound by contract to deliver the albany
and southern mail at Waterford every day except Sunday at 8 A.M. - It
is alleged that you do not deliver that mail at the post office in Troy
frequently before 11 A.M. for such gross negligence you must be pun-
ished and every penalty will be rigidly exacted.

R. I. M.

194. George Hull, Esq. }
P.M. Sandisfield, Mass } Sir

General Post Office,

July 19, 1815

Mr. Daniel Williams of Lanesville has contracted to convey the mail, which accommodates your office. If he neglects to call at your office may advise us.

R. J. M.

July 19, 1815

* Richard H. Simmous, Esq.
P.M. Barn Tavern Ha } Sir

I have received yours of the 13th ult. there is no fixed hour for the mail carriers arrival at your office. it is however, his duty to be regular in his arrivals; and he must be regular.

R. J. M.

July 19, 1815.

* Genl. T. M. Forman
Savinton near Georgetown Roads Mass } Sir

I very much regret that your letter of the 3d ult. has been mislaid, it would otherwise have met with prompt attention. I wish you now to forward the proposals that you mentioned, and we will agree to such schedule as you may propose, if the proposal is satisfactory it will be accepted.

R. J. M.

July 19, 1815.

* David Bailey, Esq.
P.M. Frankfort N.H. } Sir

I have received yours of the 24th ult. all letters that are brought to your office for delivery by mail carriers must be charged with proper postage, and the amount thereof must be entered to your debit in the column of letters uncharged.

R. J. M.

* A. Walworth, Esq. }
P.M. Cleveland, O. } Sir

General Post Office

July 19, 1815.

I have received your letter of the 26th ult. I am sorry that Mr. Wallace's bid did not entitle him to the contract; but when the Shapers were found to be incompetent Mr. Philo Taylor offered to transport the mail between your office and Fort Meigs at \$1,200 per ann. his proposal has been accepted.

R. J. M.

* William Comstock, Esq.
P.M. Reading Pa } Sir

July 18, 1815.

It appears by the information which I have received that it is impracticable for a stage to run from Danbury by Reading townhouse to Norwalk. I therefore propose that you should resume your functions as postmaster & send a mail from your office once a week to the post office at the townhouse. The distance I am informed is about 3½ miles & I suppose you could hire some one to carry a small mail there for half a dollar a trip once a week. It would probably be most agreeable to the inhabitants to have the mail leave your office immediately after the arrival of the mail from Norwalk.

R. J. Meigs

You will have to procure a small portmanteau & a lock is sent herewith.

* Daniel Weisiger, Esq.
P.M. Frankfort Ky } Sir

July 20th, 1815

Received of the instant. The practice of conveying sealed letters out of the mail by mail carriers is contrary to law & persisted in must be stopped by prosecutions. The sealing or not sealing is not considered as essential to the character of a letter this construction has always prevailed.

R. J. Meigs

196 *Jedediah W. Gaff* Esq.
P.M. Princeton Va } Gir

General Post Office

July 20th 1815

Yours of the 16th inst is received
enclosed you have a key which I wish you to be particularly carefull
with. also to see that the mails are well secured with Locks, for the loss
of keys no doubt is the cause of some. among the many accidents which
takes place on the mail routes.

R. J. Meigs

July 24th 1815

X Thomas W. Bassett Esq.
P.M. Charleston S.C. } Gir

In reply to your letter of the 11th I observe that
the package for the Secretary of State seeing it was put into the post
office contrary to his directions may be rated or reduced to ten Dollars.
It was intended that you should occupy the place for a post
office provided by your city council. A deficiency of room was
not contemplated, but if that should be the case it certainly cannot
be expected that you should occupy it. A room 16 by 20 I should sup-
pose would be adequate. I hope you will find it adapted to your
wishes & that it will diminish your expences.

R. J. Meigs

July 21. 1815

X John H. Davena Esq.
P.M. Milledgeville Ga } Gir

It is represented that there are still a great
number of mails for the Mississippi Territory & New Orleans at your
office. I wish they may be thoroughly examined the old Newspapers
should be burnt & the letters sent on to Fort Stoddert if they are
too heavy for a horse, a cart or waggon should be employed for the
purposes at a certain price.

R. J. Meigs

X John Ratcliff Esq.
P.M. Faifax Co Va } Gir

General Post Office

July 21. 1815

There are many complaints respecting your
office, stating that the mail frequently leaves it without locked, and
that letters are frequently permitted to lie two or three days therein,
before they are forwarded, I hope you will pursue such mea-
sures as shall cause those complaints to be groundless.

R. J. Meigs

July 21. 1815

X Benjamin M. Perkins Esq.
near Scotts Ferry Va } Gir

Yours of the 13th inst is received. I will
thank you to nominate some suitable persons, that will accept of
the office as postmaster at Scotts Ferry, and inform me thereof.

R. J. Meigs

July 21. 1815

X William Gayford Esq.

P.M. Reading Town House Et } Gir

On receipt of your letter of the 4 ulto. the
contractor was written to on the subject of carrying the mail by your office.
In answer it is stated that the road is impracticable. I have therefore
continued to request Mr. Constock to resume his office to be called
Reading & to send a mail to your office to be called Town House once a week
until your road shall be made good or until I am better advised on the
subject. This will afford you a mail once a week & I hope satisfactory.

R. J. Meigs

198 Col. Benjamin Hawkins
P. O. Creek Agency Ga Giv General Post Office

July 21. 1815

It is ~~still~~ represented that there are still a great number of old newspaper mails at your office & Milledgeville. I have written to the post master at the latter place to have them over hasted so as to separate all letter mails & letters to destroy the the news papers & forward the letter mails by a cart or waggon if there are two may to carry on horseback. I hope you will do the same having done in reasonable terms.

R. J. Meigs

Mr. James Bohlan
near Crosswhatchy S.C. Giv July 22. 1815

Your letters have been received stating that it was impracticable for you to continue the contract for carrying the mail between Charleston & Savannah, on account of the return of peace, in consequence of which the travellers has deserted your stages & pass by water. I must therefore agree to annul your contract & have authorised Mr. Baust to make a new one to carry the mail 6 times a week on the last terms that he cannot however to exceed ten thousand dollars a year. I wish you to continue the conveyance of the mail 6 times a week until a new contract can be made & you shall be allowed at such rate as shall be stipulated for the new contract from the first & must refer you to Mr. Baust for a new contract.

R. J. M.

James Frasier Esq
P. W. Augusta Ga Giv General Post Office

July 24. 1815

W. H. McDonald who has contracted to carry the mail between your office & Athens has employed bad horses and faith less riders & has very frequently failed to perform his general route agreeable to his schedule. I am now to request that you will be prepared to place that mail in the hands of a man who has the means and disposition to carry his contracts into effect (provided that McDonald shall in an other instance fail to convey that mail agreeable to his contract) you will stipulate to pay him at a rate not exceeding eight hundred dollars per annum - we trust that you will employ a carrier at less than that price - but that point is left to you - if you employ another carrier you will then inform McDonald that his contract for that route is annulled - and inform this office of the transaction.

R. J. Meigs

W. H. McDonald
Mail contractor
Augusta Georgia Giv

July 24. 1815

The mail confided to you that passes between Augusta and Athens has been so badly carried as to cause a strong and general complaint the failures appear to proceed from insufficient horses and negligent riders. I am now to inform you that the post master of Augusta is this day instructed to place that mail in other hands - in case you suffer another failure to take place on that route after he receives the letter referred to.

R. J. M.

Col. Benjamin Hawkins
Creek Agency Ga Giv

July 24. 1815

I am favoured with yours of the 9th inst - and have apprised the contractor of his riders negligences.

R. J. Meigs

200 Col. George Fisher
St. Stephens M.C. { Dir

General Post Office

July 24. 1815

There were three mails laying on the road between the Creek agency and Coveta on the 13rd instant - I trust that you will immediately take such measures as will insure the regularity of that mail in future - if not we must place that mail in other hands.

R. J. M.

* Messrs. Cobb & Moore and others

Lexington Georgia { Gentlemen

July 24. 1815

I have received your letters of the 13th instant - and I have taken such measures as will correct the evil complained of.

R. J. M.

* Messrs. Clark & Thibbs

Morristown N. Y. { Gentlemen

July 25. 1815

I agree that you carry the mail agreeable to the schedule mentioned in your letters of the 13th instant vizt Leave Sandyhill every Wednesday at 5 P.M. arrive at Saratoga Springs on Thursday by 11 A.M. leave same day by 1 P.M. and arrive at Sandyhill same day by 9 P.M.

R. J. M.

* Mr. Hazlewood Parish

near Frederickburg Va { Dir

July 25. 1815

I wish you to send a mail from the president seat in Orange Va to the residence of the Secretary of State for such length of time at that gentleman may remain in Virginia - it is desirable that the mail be carried from Frederickburg to the Secretary of State. and return from thence to Frederickburg between the hours of 7 A.M. and the succeeding days by 3 P.M. allowing for the trip thirty one hours, we wish the arrangement to be immediately adopted. Mr. Monroe left this on Tuesday for his seat

R. J. M.

* John Johnson Esq.

P.M. Pittsburg Pa { Dir

General Post Office. 200

July 25. 1815

I have received yours of the 10th instant. although you are authorised to detain the western mail under certain circumstances until 1 P.M. yet Mr. Stewart is bound to deliver his mail by the stipulated hour or suffer the penalties that he may incur by failing so to do

R. J. M.

* Caleb Field Esq.

P.M. Mallory's Store Ga { Dir

July 25. 1815

I have taken such measures as will in my opinion correct the evil complained of in your letter of the 7th instant.

R. J. M.

* Duncan McRae Esq.

P.M. Fayetteville N.C. { Dir

July 26. 1815

I am forwarded ~~with~~ yours of the 22nd instant to detect the person or persons who place the mail in an insecure situation about the stage and to ascertain if practicable whether that error is known to the mail contractor - I wish you to send a faithful and intelligent person to Camden, and if necessary more than once - who will enquire into the facts and make his report to you which report you will transmit to this office - that we may do justice between the public and the contractor - the expense you will pay and credit yourself therefore your account current as a contingent expense in making this enquiry - we shall expect you to be strictly economical in relation to the expenses attending it.

R. J. M.

2024 Col John Taylor
Dumfries Va } Sir

General Post Office

27 July 1815

I was in due course favoured with your letter of the 23rd as Mr Shoemaker was absent we could not get at the facts that were necessary to be known in order to decide correctly on your application - as he is still absent I cannot decide on your application we have expected his return daily for some days - as soon as he return you will hear from me

R. J. M.

Mr Charles Dittmer
Youngstown Ohio } Sir

July 27th 1815

I wish you would instruct your carrier on the Mansfield route would call at the post office established at Sandy store or Hanover ohio - his ride will be but little extended - but to compensate you fully for the extension I propose to allow you four dollars a quarter for calling at that office from the period of beginning, may we have your answer.

R. J. M.

Mr Edward Pyc
Post Tobacco M. } Sir

July 27. 1815

I wish you to perform your route as follows - leave Port Tobacco every Sunday at 8 A.M. one half an hour after the City mail arrives, arrive at Ridge on Monday by noon. Leave there same day by 2 P.M. arrive at Port Tobacco on Tuesday by 8 P.M. you will please to continue this arrangement until you are further advised from this office.

R. J. M.

Mr Daniel Wissinger Esq.
Frankfort Ky } Sir

July 27. 1815

I have your letter of the 11th all letters whether sealed or unsealed are alike chargeable with postage.

R. J. M.

James Craig Esq. P.M.
Hanover or Gamay store O } Sir

General Post Office 203
July 27. 1815

Your letter of the 13th ult is received - your office has not been accommodated by mail in consequence of the extravagant demands made by the contractor for its accommodation under a belief that the Newbern and Mansfield carriers will call at your office for a reasonable compensation - I have written to him this day on the subject.

R. J. M.

John Jackson Esq.
Buckanan Va } Sir

July 27. 1815

The irregularity of your mails arrival at and departure from Clarksburg is much complained of. - I invite your particular attention to this subject.

R. J. M.

Mr John Jackson
Lawrenceburg Ind Ter } Sir

July 27. 1815

We are informed by a letter just received from Charleston Ind Ter. that the mail between Washington C.H. or Salem and Virginia is now carried. I invite your attention to this subject.

R. J. M.

Mr James Lewis Mail
contractor Columbia T.C. } Sir

July 27. 1815

I have received your letter of the 10th if the postmasters or part of them who reside on your route are of an opinion that by your calling at Little River and Claytontown Post offices you endanger the certainty of the trips at Ashville you will in that case be permitted to accommodate those offices by a wagg mail.

R. J. M.

204 W. Dalloway Esq.
Mr. Oswego N.Y. { Sir

General Post Office

July 27 1815

I have received yours of the 12th instant - you can credit yourself with ten cents for each mail register returned from your office in your account current as a contingent expense.

R. J. M.

X Abraham Deverport Esq.
P.M. Stamford C.P. { Sir

July 27 1815

A Gentleman in Baltimore states that a letter was 35 days in passing from Baltimore to Brooklyn C.P. I cannot see what cause can have produced such a delay - I cannot suppose that the delay was from design or that it was not promptly distributed.

R. J. M.

X Nathaniel F. Williams Esq.
Baltimore Maryland { Sir

July 27 1815

I am favoured with your letter of the 18th. It is a matter of surprise how a letter could be thirty five days a travelling from Baltimore to Brooklyn C.P. I pray you to be assured of my determination to detect and correct errors of this kind.

R. J. M.

X William Nichols Esq.
P.M. South Kingston R.R. { Sir

July 27 1815

I have received your letter of the 17th instant you are hereby authorised to carry newspapers out of the mail for your private emolument - for such persons as are not conveniently situated to a post office.

R. J. M.

X Roger Skinner Esq.
Gandy hill N.Y. { Sir

General Post Office

July 27 1815

Since the receipt of yours letter of the 11th inst we have altered the Schedule of the new post route established between Gandy hill and Saratoga Springs.

R. J. M.

X W. John Mc Taggart
Charleston Ind Serv { Sir

July 27 1815

I have received yours of the 8 instant - Mr. Jackson has lately informed this office that his carrier was actually carrying the mail between Salem and Valonia - if his statement is correct we do not want a carrier for that route.

R. J. M.

X W. William Garrison
Amonaga New York { Sir

July 28 1815

It is represented that you are extremely negligent in performing your route and that you are from five to six hours a travelling from Amonaga to Galina a distance of about six miles - a strict compliance with your contract is indispensable necessary

R. J. M.

X Hon. Mr. John W. Taylor
Balstons Springs N.Y. { Sir

July 28 1815

I have the honor to observe in reply to your letter of the 30th that the schedule as altered by Messrs Clark & Hicks is satisfactory to me - and that their contract shall terminate December 31. 1816 instead of Decr. 31. 1817 if they hereafter prefer that the contract shall terminate at the former period

R. J. M.

206+ Messrs Jacob Ayers & Co,
Zanesville Ohio { Sirs

General Post Office

July 29th 1815

I wish you to perform your route between Chillicothe and Mansfield from and after the 13th of next month - as follows
Leave Chillicothe every Thursday at 6 A.M. arrive at Delaware on Saturday by 6 P.M. arrive at Mansfield on Sunday by 11 A.M. leave Mansfield every Tuesday by 3 P.M. Arrive at Chillicothe on Wednesday by 6 P.M.

R. J. M.

+ Mr John McFarland {
Laurel Hill N.C. } Sir

July 29th 1815

I have received your letter of the 25th stating that your post rider has been obstructed, maliciously, on his route to Conwayboro. By the 7th section of the act for Regulating the Post Office Department every person is subject to a penalty not exceeding 100\$ for such an offense. In this case the prosecution should be before the United States court & thos. the District attorney.

R. J. M.

+ Samuel Hart Esq. {
P.M. Marietta O. } Sir

July 29th 1815

I herewith send you four contracts - filed up with the names of Mr Prentiss, Mr Williams, Mr Dunlavy, and Mr Drake. I wish you to make a duplicate of each contract, and a bond - and you will then forward to each of those Gentlemen a Bond and contract, with a request that they or the Postmasters of the Towns where they reside will return them to you duly executed - and when you have received them you will forward all the contracts and Bonds to this office without delay.

R. J. M.

+ Dr. Charlotte Shadrack {
Rough Creek Church Va } Sir

General Post Office

July 31st. 1815

I observe in reply to your letter of the 26th Mto. that the present product of the Postroute, that passes between Charlotte C.H. and Campbell C.H. falls short of forty dollars per annum - and the expense of that route as now arranged costs one hundred and fifty dollars per annum - with these facts before me I cannot acced to the expense of that route by sending a weekly mail theron.

R. J. M.

+ Mr Nelson Esq. {
Hancock Penn } Sir

July 31st. 1815

I have yours of the 18th instant before me. I very much regret that mails in your quarters of the Country are so frequently injured - by the mail carriers being compelled to swim the watercourses to avoid the loss of a trip - but that alternative is considered to be better than to fail in the due transmission of the mail - as the mails are seldom but little injured in that way. to guard against injury from water I some time since instructed the postmasters at Nashville and Natchez to enclose the mail that pass between those offices - in oiled leather cloth bags - that measure may be extended to Knoxville. I wish the experiment tried.

R. J. M.

+ Aaron Belknap Esq. {
P.M. Newbury N.H. } Sir

July 31st. 1815

In reply to your letter of the 26th I have to observe whenever a letter is addressed to a persons merely as an imposition it should be returned to the postmaster & the postage be refunded. The letter would be sent as a dead letter to the G.P.O. in course to account for the postage.

R. J. M.

