

188. General Post Office, 27<sup>th</sup> Feby 1823,

To James Breckenridge.

Sir Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>  
I observe in reply to yours of the 26<sup>th</sup> instant  
and to the resolution of the county court of Jefferson there  
enclosed, that I shall be glad to have the mail carried  
in stages between Louisville by Nashville Tenn provi-  
ded it can be done at a reasonable price

R. J. Meigs Jr.

28<sup>th</sup> Feby 1823

To Gen<sup>l</sup> Lewis Williams.

Sir Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>  
To your letter of yesterday's date & to Mr  
Isbelle of the 3<sup>d</sup> Inst there enclosed, I beg leave to reply  
that should it be found necessary to send a mail from  
Statesville by Mount Pisgah to Melksboro. I know of  
no person who would be a more acceptable contractor  
than Mr Isbelle

R. J. Meigs

28<sup>th</sup> Feby 1823

To Gen<sup>l</sup> Thos Bailey

Sir Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>  
I Have yours of the 26<sup>th</sup> Inst and the  
memorial of the inhabitants of the Town of Newmarket there  
in enclosed, I Have again specially addressed the  
mail contractor upon the subject of carrying the mail  
on the route pointed out by the memorialists, to which  
I do not see that he can offer a serious objection

R. J. Meigs

1<sup>st</sup> Feby 1823

To Gen<sup>l</sup> George Tucker

Sir Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>  
I beg leave to remark in reply to Mr  
Lansers letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ult. That as our mails are  
arranged, Danville is to receive two direct weekly  
communications from Warrenton

R. J. Meigs

1<sup>st</sup> Feby 1823

To Gen<sup>l</sup> T N Edwards

Sir Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>  
The Post route to which Mr Daniel refers  
in his letter which you sent to this Departt yesterday  
has been provided for

R. J. Meigs Jr.

General Post Office 1<sup>st</sup> Feby 1823

To Gen<sup>l</sup> E Herrick

Sir Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>  
Shaw who was complained of by the Post  
Master at Lisbon is not a contractor, but must be a ride  
under Paine & Rice. I have directed him to be dis-  
missed. I have to apologize for the delay of this note

R. J. Meigs

1<sup>st</sup> Feby 1823

To Gen<sup>l</sup> Gabriel Moore

Sir Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>  
I Have yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> and the enclosed  
proposal of Mr McFullock, I do not know any post route  
to correspond with the one he has named

R. J. Meigs

1<sup>st</sup> Feby 1823

To Gen<sup>l</sup> Jas Gil

Sir Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>  
I Have yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ult. I have written  
to the contractor upon the subject of visiting Hancockville  
& as an inducement to visit that office. I have offered  
him the net proceeds of said office to cover his expences  
for extra travel

R. J. Meigs

24<sup>th</sup> Feby 1823

To Gen<sup>l</sup> John Read

Sir Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>  
I beg leave to state in reply to your letter of the  
22<sup>d</sup> & to the letter of Mess<sup>s</sup> Shaw, Freeman & Knowles there enclosed  
that the proceeds of the office at Eastham for four successive  
quarters amount to more than \$1.75. being on an average less than Eight dollars a  
quarter, I therefore do not think it will comport with the public  
good to increase the mail expences for its accommodation

R. J. Meigs

22<sup>nd</sup> Feby 1823

To Gen<sup>l</sup> Sam'l Sutherland

Sir Member H<sup>o</sup> Senate  
They have to observe in reply to Mr Hermans letter  
enclosed on Nov<sup>r</sup> of the 21<sup>st</sup>, that we had made our mail arrange-  
ments such as to have the Trenton Mail meet the Easton mail at  
Belvidere on Wednesday, we thought that object was effected in  
the receipt of Mr Hermans letter, I have directed the mail carrier  
from Trenton to arrive at Belvidere two hours earlier than he  
is now required to do, which can be easily done

R. J. Meigs

190. General Post Office 24th July 1823  
Hon'l W Campbell  
Sir Member H<sup>t</sup> Rep<sup>r</sup>  
I beg leave to observe in reply to ~~your~~ the documents from Ripley & C enclosed in yours of yesterday. That the direct weekly mail between Columbus, Ohio & Washington D<sup>C</sup> now passes both ways through Ripley, a Post route goes from Ripley via Williamsburg & C to Lebanon Ohio, and returns each week, while Ripley possesses these mail facilities. It does not appear <sup>to be</sup> expedient to increase our expences for its accommodation, as the various post routes in Ohio all terminate with this year, we may probably make more satisfactory mail arrangements for Ripley the summer ensuing  
R. Settig  
- 1<sup>st</sup> March 1823 -  
Hon'l R M Saunders  
Sir Member H<sup>t</sup> Rep<sup>r</sup>  
I have yours of the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, at your instance I sometime ago addressed Mr. Morris upon the subject of awaiting the arrival of the Warrantee mail at Miller, by resting at the latter place on Saturday, in his reply he gave me to understand distinctly that he should comply with my request, I took it for granted that he had done so until I rec<sup>d</sup> yours, I have again address'd that, that connection is essential and must be maintained  
R. Settig  
24<sup>th</sup> Feby 1823  
Hon'l Sam'l Southard  
Sir Member H<sup>t</sup> of Senate  
In reply to the letter of Mess<sup>s</sup> Payne & Shad<sup>o</sup> enclosed in yours of the 21<sup>st</sup> I beg leave to observe that to answer their object best, it will be advisable to establish a post road from Deckertown by the Turnpike road to Goshen D<sup>C</sup>  
R. Settig  
6<sup>th</sup> Feby 1823  
Hon'l Sam'l Campbell  
Sir Member H<sup>t</sup> Rep<sup>r</sup>  
I observe in reply to Mr Ely's letter to your address of the 21<sup>st</sup>, that I have made a proposition to Friends that if he will extend his ride to Utica, I will release him from his obligation to visit the Post office at Guilford and permit him to carry newspapers out of the mail for his own private com<sup>mon</sup>. His interest evidently will be promoted by such an arrangement

General Post Office 27th July 1823  
Hon'l Mark Alexander  
Sir Member H<sup>t</sup> Rep<sup>r</sup>  
I have directed the mail to be carried as follows, under the contract which is to begin with the next year, Viz From Harrisville by Fieldsville, Beaverville McFarlands, Lumberville to H<sup>t</sup>, Matlock, Shattockford, Newborn Boylston, Ferry Hill, Roanoke, Marshallville, Abbeville, Spanish Grove, & Christianville to Harrisville  
R. Settig Jr  
Feby 6<sup>th</sup> 1823  
Hon'l Wm H Crawford  
Sir Secretary of the Treasury  
I will thank you to issue a warrant in favor of P Bradley for two thousand Dollars being the remaining part of the sum appropriated for the contingent expences of this department for the last year  
R. Settig Jr  
8<sup>th</sup> Feby 1823  
Hon'l H G Burton  
Sir Member H<sup>t</sup> Rep<sup>r</sup>  
In reply to the letter of Mr Britton which you submitted to the Dept<sup>t</sup>, I remark that the current expence of the route to which he refers is \$125, If we send it weekly it will cost \$125 making \$250 a year while the extent of the receipt of the route is about \$80, its nett product is now so inconsiderable as to make it necessary to report it to Congress, If the road is discontinued by Congress, I will accede to the offer of Mr Britton, Mr B might probably for a small consideration persuade Madock Holden the carrier to relinquish the contract. If so, he might have the route he desires, omitting its extension to Windsor as now arrang'd  
R. Settig Jr  
March 6<sup>th</sup> 1823  
Hon'l Phillip Reed  
Sir Rock Hall add<sup>d</sup>  
I have yours of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inclosing the letter of Mr Arder with a memorial therin enclosed. We will to give all reasonable mail advantages to the Post office at Post Office & we must be in some respect guided by the conduct of that office, what that office has hitherto produced we know not as the Post master has not made his post office returns for several successive quarters  
R. Settig

192<sup>o</sup> General Post Office 14<sup>th</sup> April 1823

John Atkinson

Sir New London Ct

I have yours of the 7<sup>th</sup> Inst, You and Mr Scranton can adopt the arrangements that you suggest without the intervention of this office, all that we say in the business is this, that the mail if not faithfully carried by the present contractors will be confined to other persons

R D Meigs

14<sup>th</sup> April 1823

Ezra Smith Esq Pm

Sir

Whitehall NY

I have yours of the 4<sup>th</sup> Inst. I wish you to tell Daly, that if he carries but two mails weekly between your office & Vergennes during the season that the Steam Boat does not run, that he cannot effect pay

R D Meigs

14<sup>th</sup> April 1823

Mr Thos Evans

Sir

Goshen NY

I have yours of the 8<sup>th</sup>. It is not certain whether the steam Boats will or will not carry the mail, we therefore cannot decide upon your proposition for sending the mail between New York and Albany with increase of expedition. I shall arrange your mail so as to meet ~~the~~ the Newburgh mail at Wardsbridge. The Post Master at Monroe Iron Works must do his duty, or retire

R D Meigs

14<sup>th</sup> April 1823

Mr Nathan Peck Esq

Sir

New Haven Ct

I have yours. The post master of Boston had in reply to my letter to him relative to the late complaint given you full credit for successfull exertions as mail Contractors the past winter, I was much gratified to have a report so favorable to you

R D Meigs

14<sup>th</sup> April 1823

C Daniel Esq

Sir

Lodmont NY

I wish you ride to call at Rockville instead of Rodgersville with the mail

R D Meigs

General Post Office 14<sup>th</sup> April 1823

Mr Edmund Pratt

Sir

White Hall NY

A petition having been presented in your behalf, I have to observe, that the circumstances of your case will not justify a relinquishment of the debt, the money being clearly and justly due to this Dept. The best terms I can propose are that you pay the amount by installments at regular periods and within a reasonable time, say in four payments of 3 months each sufficient security being given, If this proposition be accepted the Dist atty will be instructed accordingly

R D Meigs

14<sup>th</sup> April 1823

(R M Williams Esq Pm

Sir

Middlesex NY

I have yours of March 17<sup>th</sup>, I wish to know whether the mail does not supply your office on its passage between Canandaigua & Bath. If so. for what period, your early reply is desired

R D Meigs

14<sup>th</sup> April 1823

John Filson Esq Pm

Sir

Humphreysville (Chester co) Pa

I have yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> the contractor agreed only to perform his route in the manner he does, I wish that it proved to be more satisfactory to you and to your fellow citizens than it is. Your return should be made quarterly yearly. But you can render your a/c's at once on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June next and thereafter every three months

R D Meigs

14<sup>th</sup> April 1823

Geo Thos Bailey Pm

Sir

New York

I have rec'd your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> & regret that you should have requested the continuance of the extra mail on the east side of the River when the reason assign'd for not employing the steamboats was stated to be a deficiency of funds for supporting the existing establishment. The existing arrangements are calculated to convey a daily mail (saving sundays) between New York & Albany & the extra mail was arranged merely on account of the obstructions with the passage of the river in the winter season, that difficulty having ceased, the extra mail ought of course to cease. The accounts have not yet gone into such a state of forwardness as to enable me to judge when I can transmit the mails between Albany & New York as before. Post. You can inform Mr Lynch that I consider him as

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at three cents a letter for such letters as delivered into a Post office. But I do not consider myself bound to send any mail by the boats or any letters deposited in a Post office or to pay the expence of transporting them between the Post offices & the boats, I am aware that it is a matter of considerable interest to convey the mails by the boats on account of the greater expedition I have been hastening a statement of the last year's act that I may have the mails sent in that manner if the funds of the office will admit of it, In the mean time you will send the mails that branch from Newburg on such days as will ensure the conveyance of them with the least possible delay from the Post office at Moundsbridge. The times of arrival & departure of the mail on the western side of the river cannot be altered.

R D M'Niggs

You can pay the masters of steamboats for a cent for each newspaper.

Genl. Post Office 30<sup>th</sup> January 1823

Hon James Noble

Sir

Member of Senate

I have yours of yesterday with the petition of sundry citizens of Gainesville therein enclosed, with a view to better accommodate that section of your state, we addressed a letter to Mr Gathen the Post Master of Brookville to ascertain how we could best improve the mail arrangement with that place & at the least expence. we expect that he will give us such information as will enable us to grant relief without any legislative act, perhaps at your leisure you could give us the necessary information.

R D M'Niggs Jr

3<sup>rd</sup> February 1823

Hon Mark G. Will

Sir

Member of Rep

In reply to Mr Purley's letter which you presented to me in relation to the Paxton mail I beg leave to remark that if he will cause a mail to be sent from Pritchill corner by Minster to Clinton that he can proceed direct to Paxton. Or if he will make a satisfactory arrangement for the Post office at Clinton out of his contract pay. But it will be incorrect to abridge his route unless his pay is proportionably reduced. My only inducement to vary the arrangement is to make a more direct mail between Augusta & Paxton.

R D M'Niggs Jr

General Post Office 4<sup>th</sup> July 1823

Hon Wm R King

Sir

Member of Senate

I beg leave to remark in reply to Mr M'Niggs statement which you have submitted to the Department, that No legal steps will be necessary to effect the object he has in view, the want of regular information has protracted our adopting a more usefull mail arrangement in that section of your state as soon as we obtain necessary information as to price &c we shall send the mail on the route he has pointed out or substantially so

R D M'Niggs Jr

27<sup>th</sup> January 1823

Hon F. Jones

Sir

Member of House Rep

I have yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> Inst & Mr Whetlers letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult therum enclosed, we some weeks since directed Jacksboro to be supplied with a mail from Knoxville

R D M'Niggs Jr

27<sup>th</sup> January 1823

Hon F. Jones

Sir

Member of House Rep

I State in reply to Mr Haggard's letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Inst enclosed in yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> Inst. that the mail route between Sparta (Tenn) & Wayne C<sup>o</sup> Oly was so unproductive that we reduce it from a weekly to a fortnight mail, I am however induced by the representation of Mr Haggard to try a weekly again, at least for the current year, & I have given instructions this day to effect that object

R D M'Niggs Jr

15<sup>th</sup> April 1823

Lars Haubrock Esq Pgh

Sir

Ogdensburg N.Y

I have yours of the 2<sup>d</sup>. Mr Dilleron is now here and has assured the Department, that he shall continue to supply you with two mails a week agreeably to the agreement made with this department

R D M'Niggs Jr

15<sup>th</sup> April 1823

Jas McDonald

Sir

Big Spring (Mo)

You will forward all mails rec'd at your office to address to Kentucky state via Nashville Tenn

R D M'Niggs Jr

196. General Post Office 15<sup>th</sup> April 1823.

J P Neale Esq P.M.

Sir

Huntsville (Ala.)

I Have yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> ult. you will distribute all mail addressed to Alabama, Mississippi & Tennessee and forward the mail by the proper carrier, you need not make up separate mails for Kentucky, But put all mails for that State in a package address'd "Kentucky State" send once a week by the direct route to Nashville & two other times a week by McMinnville meaning the Kentucky mails

R D Meigs

15<sup>th</sup> April 1823

Simon Perkins Esq P.M.

Sir

Warren, Ohio

Whenever the height of water shall impede the regular travel of the mail to Nelson &c on the usual or present route, I wish you to direct him to take the road that passes thro' Southington, If he does not adopt that course he shall be fined to the extent of penalties incurred

R D Meigs

15<sup>th</sup> April 1823

J F Harman Esq

Sir

Mantua, Ohio

I am oblig'd by your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> ult the contractor in case of high water is instructed to take the road via Southington &c to Nelson, & he can return by the two other offices

R D Meigs

15<sup>th</sup> April 1823

Isaac Mills Esq P.M.

Sir

Nelson, Ohio

I Have yours. the contractor is directed when the state of high water presents an impediment to his travel to visit your office by taking the Southington road

R D Meigs

15<sup>th</sup> April 1823

Peter Datto Esq P.M.

Sir

Pomerset Ohio

I Have yours of the 5<sup>th</sup>. Does any cause of suspicion attach to any post office near you as to integrity, If so in what respect. your communications will be considered perfectly confidential, do you distrust any contractor or mail carrier, If so who & what grounds. your early reply is desired

General Post Office 15<sup>th</sup> April 1823

J Bent Gideon Tomlinson

Sir

Member H. Rep.

I beg leave to state in reply to the letters of Mr Sturges that it does not appear to me to be expedient to increase the expense of transporting the mail between Fayfield & Millville

R D Meigs

14<sup>th</sup> Feby 1823

Mark Wm McCoy

Sir

Member H. Rep.

The reasons you have urged in favor of sending the mail once a week as formerly between Staunton & Clarkesburg Virginia, &c such as to induce me to so send the mail.

The carrier is instructed to begin the weekly mail on the first of April and continue until the year terminates. Its further continuance must depend upon the receipt of the route to other circumstances

R D Meigs

23<sup>rd</sup> Feby 1823

J Dan Saber Leftwich

Sir

Member H. Rep.

In reply to yours of the 22<sup>nd</sup> I observe that Brown's Store and Dickinson's Store are both included in the Post route Contract between Liberty & Henry Co & I am surprised that the contractor has not so carried the mail I have given him a positive order to do so this day

R D Meigs

23<sup>rd</sup> Feby 1823

Mark Wm Smith

Sir

Member U. S. Senate

In reply to Mr Walton's letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> ult enclosed in yours of the 22<sup>nd</sup> And I beg leave to remark, the two post routes pass thro' the County of Rutherford at this time which may be considered as almost exclusively for the benefit of that County. The annual expence of these routes amount to \$750 while the product of the several offices in the county is about \$2000 pr annum, on ac't of the wide difference between receipts and Expenditures the mail was sent half acre in two weeks on both routes. But as Rutherford has for a considerable time had a weekly mail and is the seat of Justice for the county, I believe it will be of public use to send a weekly mail between Rutherford & Morgantown. I shall this day make a provision for that arrangement

R D Meigs

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General Post Office at March 1823.

Hon C. H. Newton

Sir

I have yours. I am prepared at once to contract with the Steam Boat proprietors to convey letters between Norfolk & Baltimore, but the land route between Norfolk & Fayetteville must be advertised with the other Post-Routes established at the late session of Congress

R. D. Meigs

5th Febry 1823

Hon Geo. Jennings

Sir

Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>

I beg leave to observe in reply to the memorials from sundry citizens of Indianapolis which you have transmitted to this department, that I believe no place of the size and present importance of Indianapolis has greater mail advantages which may be called exclusively their own, as all present mails that go there are sent on a/c of Indianapolis, a direct weekly mail will pass from Brookville to that place in a few weeks and a regular weekly mail now passes between Brookville (Ind) and Columbus Ohio. We have had no advice of a road being cut from Indianapolis to Vandalia. If there be a direct road, the mail will be sent between those places as soon as suitable arrangements can be made

R. D. Meigs

21st Febry 1823

Hon C. F. Mabbet

Gent

Fayetteville N.C.

Mr W H Beatty complains of a recent change made by you as relates to the vicinity of his place, as we have arranged with you. It was understood that you should maintain the last years arrangement & in no respect to lessen the accommodation to offices on the route. I trust you will毫不迟疑地 correct the error upon receiving this notice

R. D. Meigs

21st Febry 1823

Hon Charles Hawks

Sir

Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>

I have rec'd a letter from Mr Beatty of the 15th inst in a note addressed to you, in a note without a signature, to that letter I reply. That I have this day instructed the contractors to maintain the last years mail arrangement, Mr Beatty's letter contained the first information we have rec in relation to the subject or unexpected changes

R. D. Meigs

General Post Office 27th Febry 1823

Hon Wiley Hampton

Sir

Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>

I have yours of the 26th inc enclosing the memorials of the citizens of Monroe County Georgia, I pray you to be assured & to assure the citizens of Monroe, that they shall have a weekly mail as soon as the receipt of the mail route will justify the measure

R. D. Meigs

27th Febry 1823

Hon John Reed

Sir

Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>

I will thank you to assure the mail carriers on the south road, leading from Yarmouth to Orleans that if they faithfully carry the mail as now arranged that the present pay shall be continued one year beyond the period stipulated by our last contract or agreement with them.

R. D. Meigs

27th Febry 1823

Hon Mex. Smyth

Sir

Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>

I have yours of the 26th inc letter or newspapers sent from the east p[er]s that address to Smythe to [ ]  
must be at fault of the Post-Master not faithfully selecting mails for his office from the mail bag. all mails addressed Virginia State from the Eastern States are opened and distributed at the Post office in this city, where a special mail is made for every Post office in the State of Virginia forwarded on the regular post days

R. D. Meigs

27th Febry 1823

Hon Chaslop &amp; Rankin

Sir

Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>t</sup>

I beg leave to remark in reply to the memorial of the citizens of Parkwayville enclosed in yours of the 26th inst that the present post route between Natchez & New Orleans is shorter and less impeded by water courses than the road by Parkwayville & is therefore preferred. Had the Bayou been bridged, the change would not have taken place so soon as it did, but the increased distance is a strong objection especially to so important a mail as that passing between Natchez & New Orleans. I pray you to assure the citizens of Parkwayville that they shall be supplied with a mail and regularly so

R. D. Meigs

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General Post Office 12<sup>th</sup> Feby 1823

Hon. John Williams.

Sir

Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>re</sup>

I beg leave to <sup>observe</sup> reply to your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst that they pay for the transportation of the mail was duly transmitted to Mr. Deary the partner of Mess<sup>s</sup> Kennedy & Dickinson. No kind of obligation rested on the department to take any of the stage property of Mess<sup>s</sup> Deary, Dickinson & Kennedy, yet we required the successors of those bankrupts to take such of their stage property as was fit for service and necessary to effect the object of their undertaking. The contractors have made a purchase of Deary and until the rest of your late letter we supposed that the sale made by Deary was for the benefit of his late concern.

R D Meigs

19<sup>th</sup> Feby 1823

Hon. John Foster

Sir

Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>re</sup>

I take leave to enclose to you a letter addressed to the Post Master at Lancasterville which I wish you to forward to him after its perusal.

R D Meigs

Feby 4<sup>th</sup> 1823..

The President of the United States

Sir

(at Home)

Mr. James Eddington was advanced some years ago a sum of money for erecting a line of stages between Knoxville & Nashville for the purpose of carrying the mail. The business turned out disadvantageously & he failed owing this office 225<sup>10</sup> D<sup>s</sup>. Mr. Eddington was a long time an active and punctual contractor on that difficult route & on others, and subsequently say 1821.. he commenced two small contracts for which he was to receive 445 D<sup>s</sup> per quarter yearly, out of that sum a part as portion was to be retained from time to time towards discharging the old debt, which has been done and the <sup>Debt</sup> contract now stands at 1535<sup>16</sup> D<sup>s</sup>. But he in fact according to our understanding of the contract (nothing being expressed) ought to receive 200 D<sup>s</sup> more & to owe 1735<sup>16</sup> D<sup>s</sup>. But the law recently passed prohibiting advances, prevents our paying the sum of 200 as above mentioned without your approbation & direction. If that sum & future payments are made so as to deduct a moderate sum from future earnings. the whole sum can be paid off. His means will not enable him to bear the whole expence of transporting the mail & if it is not done the 115<sup>85</sup><sup>14</sup> may possibly be lost.

R D Meigs

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General Post Office 30<sup>th</sup> Feby 1823

Hon. Wm J Archer

Sir

Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>re</sup>

I beg leave to State my reply to the letter enclosed in your note of the 2<sup>d</sup> Inst from sundry citizens of Chambersburg Ordinary, that the Offices on the Post route to which they refer produced a net revenue of about \$60 a year; the current expences \$160, for the post route, and if the object is met which the Gentlemen have in view, the expence will be \$320, the route in that case would not produce one fifth of its expence.

R D Meigs

22<sup>nd</sup> Feby 1823.

Hon. Ph Reed

Sir

Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>re</sup>

I have yours of the 21<sup>st</sup>. I much regret that your letter to Martinsburg has not been answered. I fear that some Post-Master in the prep<sup>s</sup> of Business has permitted the mail for Martinsburg to pass beyond Boonsboro.. Md.. from whence it should go to Martinsburg. The mail from Martinsburg is due at this city on Tuesday.. Thursday & Saturday morning.

R D Meigs

28<sup>th</sup> Feby 1823

Hon. Walter Forward

Sir

Member H<sup>o</sup> Rep<sup>re</sup>

I have yours of the 1<sup>st</sup>, as arranged the three western mails which leave Wheeling at 4 P.M. arrive the succeeding mornings at Pittsburgh by 11.. A.M.. I fear that the contractors have been remiss. I have given them special & positive instructions to do their duty. if they do not. I shall supersede them & place the mail in more efficient hands.

R D Meigs

Thomas Rye Esq. Feby 9<sup>th</sup> 1823  
John James Patterson (copy to each)

Sir

Boston  
Pittsburg. Pa.

Since my proposal for locks & keys was spued I have concluded to change the form. Three proposals for making the old locks & keys were rec<sup>d</sup> on terms nearly equal & I propose to give the making of the locks to the one who offers to do the new lock on the lowest terms. I have enclosed the sample & wish to know your terms for making them. the locks are to be riveted together in place of the screws, the bottom part of the key to be made thicker & the words "Post Lock" to be stamped on each, if one of plates are made of brass it will be prefered but not at much difference of price.

General Post Office, 30<sup>th</sup> March 1823

/ H. W. Smith

Sir

Member No Rep

In relation to the subject of your enquiry this morning about sending the mail between Leadville & Woodrings Mills I beg leave to observe, that that route was duly advertised, But on reflection it was concluded to defer sending the mail on it at present, as a mail now passes direct from Leadville to Kingwood or Preston to H.C. It was thought to be superfluous to send the other mail, as by Kingwood intelligence would pass from Leadville to the northwestern or eastern sections of Virginia much quicker than if sent via Woodrings Mills inasmuch as the mail in the latter direction would pass but once a fortnight, whereas two mails a week go to and from Kingwood both east & west

R. D. Allrigs

25<sup>th</sup> March 1823

/ H. W. Gray Esq & others

Sirs

Boston (Mass)

I have rec<sup>d</sup> yours of the 14<sup>th</sup>, whether the system you suggest of sending the mail seven miles an hour including the necessary stops, & by limiting stage passengers is practicable must certainly be consider<sup>d</sup> as doubtful - On its operation in your section of country especially in winter and spring, of its practicability a part of the year I have no doubt, The additional expense in effecting the object would be considerable as an increase of stages & horses would be indispensable & a restriction of passengers to the number of four, would be consider<sup>d</sup> as strongly objectionable by the contractors as diminishing their receipts, While the present contracts continue it appears to me to be most advisable to enforce the current arrangement, If the contractors take such a number of passengers as to jeopardize the certain delivery of the mail & a failure is the consequence, their contract will be forfeited, if the fail in the due discharge of their duty from inadequate means or any causes within the control of man, a like forfeiture is the consequence, & shall make a strict investigation into the causes that led to the failure that you particularly notice

R. D. Allrigs

Feby 15<sup>th</sup> 1823

/ Henry Joseph M Hernandez

Sir

Member No Rep

I am favour<sup>d</sup> with your letter covering a petition for an

order mail on the route from Jefferson up Gen. Ford to St Augustine, that route was duly advertised the last year, and it was represented that there was no road there, the former having grown up & become impassable, On this representation the post master at St. Mary's was advised to contract with Mr Floyd to continue it on the old roads, this has been done & the mail has been carried upon it, If the old Kings road is repaired so as to be practicable the mail must be sent upon it as soon as it can be done for a reasonable price: The sum demanded fifteen hundred dollars is out of all bounds, In the middle states we pay five to six Dollars a mile New Mexico 8 to 10 Dollars for carrying such a mail, The post master at Jefferson will be directed to ascertain & to contract if to be done on reasonable terms & a post office will be established at Jacksonville, The contractor has been directed to carry the mail direct between Savannah & St. Mary between the latter & the former

R. D. Allrigs

17<sup>th</sup> April 1823

/ J. J. Skinner Esq P.M

Sir

Baltimore Md

I wish you to dispatch the southern mail by 5 A.M or as soon as the Eastern mail arrives, this measure is necessary and I wish it to be adopted without delay, It is my wish to have the mail delivered out at Fredericksburg on the day it departs from your office, I wish you to agree with the proprietors of the Norfolk Steam boat to carry letters to and from Norfolk, at three cents a letter & half a cent for a newspaper the payment for letters & newspapers to be paid by you, This is all that the law allows & will be a handsome perquisite to the owners

R. D. Allrigs

17<sup>th</sup> April 1823

/ Eliza Barney & Davis

Sirs

Baltimore Md

I wish you to leave Baltimore every day by 5 o'clock AM & to arrive in this city by 11 A.M, This measure is indispensable, as it is my determination to have the mails delivered out of the Post office at Fredericksburg on the days they depart from Baltimore

R. D. Allrigs

April 16<sup>th</sup> 1823

/ H. W. Smith Esq P.M

Sir

Raleigh N.C.

Through pressure of business your letter of 11<sup>th</sup> is unanswered & I regret that it is impossible to

204.

General Post Office, 17th April. 1823

Mr. Polk &amp; Gallant

Sir,

Charlotte N.C.

I enclose you a bond and contract for carrying the mail between Salisbury & Laurens C.H. instead of carrying the mail between Salem & Union C.H. The route as among is shorter than the route contemplated in your proposals, I have consequently reduced your compensation one hundred dollars a year & let your credit and pay begin with the year, in the charge you are evidently the gainer, no credit can be given or pay made you until the bond & contract are executed and return.

R. D. Meigs

17th April 1823

Baltimore &amp; Seaboard Esq late P.M.

Sir,

Princeps Anne. Md

The law does not give the Post Master General any discretionary power in the case of prosecutions. It requires him to prosecute & the power of relief or release is in the Executive or in Congress.

R. D. Meigs

17th April 1823

Mr. J. F. &amp; M. Fullerton

Sir,

Walpole N.H.

In reply to yours of the 10th Inst. there is one quarterly pay due to Mr. Rockwood \$191.50 on 1st Ap<sup>r</sup> 1823 Besides that an extra allowance of \$100 per ann for a third <sup>mail</sup> contract between Rutland & Walpole from 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 1821. to Ap<sup>r</sup> 1823 is two years & one year, making in all \$416.00 which will be sent in a few days.

R. D. Meigs

17th April 1823

Mr. John Morin

Sir

Raleigh. N.C.

Enclosed you have a contract for transporting a mail between Halifax C.H. & Galbury instead of carrying the mail between Charlotte N.C. and Salem. The length of roads do not differ a mile & the road between Halifax & Galbury is reported to be better than the road between Halifax C.H. & Charlotte. The consideration of \$1600. is less than your late pay. whether it begins with the year or not is not settled. The execution & return of the bond & contract must precede the credit to be given you. Your interest will require your immediate attention to the subject.

R. D. Meigs

205

General Post Office 17th April. 1823

Mr. C. Daniel

Sir,

Lodgment. S.C.

I enclose you a bond and contract for the Post route between Laurens C.H. and Powelton S.C. at \$1500. a year, we had a bid of \$2000. to carry the mail on the whole of route No 258, from a source highly recommended in stages, as you have property on the road & you have a wish to continue, I have at that ratio tendered you the above contract trusting that you will accept it. you will find upon examination that we have done justice in the pay, as soon as the contract is return<sup>d</sup> credit will be given you & payment made from the partial expedition made on the line, we trust that we shall aid the correspondence & induce travellers to accompany the mails,

R. D. Meigs

17th April 1823

Mr. Monroe Esq P.M.

Sir

Washington City

I have directed the Eastern mail to be delivered at your office by 11 A.M. & I wish you to be prepared to deliver to the southern contract by 12 M. P.M., I am desirous to have the mail that leaves Baltimore in the morning delivered out of the office at Frederickburg the same day evening & the succeeding days at Richmond & Petersburg three hours earlier than usual.

R. D. Meigs

18th April 1823

Joseph Walker

Sir

Cahawba, Ala

I have yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> ult. I cannot understand how it can become necessary to employ another horse to effect the change recently order to be made on your route, set aside the certainty that that change or alteration cannot induce the removal of another carrier.

R. D. Meigs

18th April 1823

Jacob Wayne R.R.

Sir

Longtown &amp;c

I have yours of the 11<sup>th</sup> Inst. I wish you to come at your office every day by 6 P.M. so as conveniently arrive much earlier, I wish you to apprise him of the contents of this letter.

R. D. Meigs

P.S. Mr. Dover, must depart by 7 A.M. the charlton and he

206 New Post Office, 18th April 1823

Mr Elias Jones

Sir

Charleston I.C.

You must deliver the mail at the Post office in Georgetown by 6 P.M. until further advised, it may hereafter be expedient to make an earlier arrival at that office

18th April 1823

R.D. Meigs

At Capt. Waller's 4 1/2 Post Office

Sirs

Nantucket Mass

I have yours of the 1st & very much regret that through the mistaken zeal of the Post master at Falmouth your lives & the safety of the mail were brought into jeopardy. He has now special instructions to close the mail for Nantucket, before he delivers out either letters or newspapers from his office, whenever the mail contractor or his agents shall believe such a measure necessary

R.D. Meigs

18th April 1823

R.S. Woods Esq P.M.

Sir

Falmouth Mass

Your first duty upon the arrival of the Eastern mail at your office, is to make up & deliver the Nantucket mail to the carriers, you will then deliver out the mail to your citizens

R.D. Meigs

18th April 1823

J.C. Wright Esq

Sir

Steubenville O

I have yours. If the contractors and Post Masters were faithful, the delays that have noticed would not occur, I have so arranged the mail, as to have the whaling mails delivered at Steubenville on the evenings of Mondays & Fridays

R.D. Meigs

Solomon Hendee Esq

Sir

On New Market Dr

I have yours the mail carriers as well as mail contractors must be worn - all agents to masters both male and female must be worn before they act

A Postmaster is bound to deliver letters and newspapers with as little delay as possible after their arrival unless the arrival is after 9 A.M. then immediately after sunrise in the morning

R.D. Meigs

207 Aaron Belknap Esq Sir  
In Newburg N.C.

General Post Office  
April 18th 1823

I have yours of the 15<sup>th</sup> if we fail in making a satisfactory arrangement with the proprietors of the North River Steam Boats we shall supply your Office duly with a land-wire

R.D. Meigs

John Sample Esq Sir

April 18th

In Camerville Ind<sup>s</sup> I trust that the mails are now so arranged as to suffer no detention in arriving at your Office from Brookville

I have yours of the 3<sup>d</sup>. if the mail arrangement can be usefully improved in your vicinity, I wish you to state in what respect as I am desirous to make improvement

R.D. Meigs

James Nelson Esq Sir

April 18th

In Orange Springs Va I have yours - having asperance from the mail contr. that your office shoula be supplied with a mail - I do informe the Honble P. Barbour.

I am surprised that the cont. has not fulfilled his promise I wish you to send a weekly mail between your Office and Orange Ck or Mt Pleasant which you prefer - once a week the service shoula can be performed for a dollar a week. Will the arrangement to be adopted without delay, will you state who you have engaged when he began & price paid him.

R.D. Meigs

John McLeary Esq Sir

April 18th

Wellsburg Va I You will observe the annexed schedule until further advised.

Leave Steubenville every Sunday & Thursday by 5 P.M.  
or the succeeding morning by - - - 4 A.M.  
Arrive at Wheeling on Monday & Friday by 10 A.M.  
Leave there at noon

Arrive at Steubenville on Monday & Friday by 6 P.M.  
I wish this schedule adopted upon the receipt of this letter

R.D. Meigs

John S. Skinner Esq Sir

April 22<sup>nd</sup>

In Baltimore Md I You can pay three cents for all letters delivered into your office from steam boats, that price will induce the captors to be vigilant in collecting letters from passengers who intend deliv. them to the persons addressee and the postage would in that case be paid by the receiver