

✓ Richards Back Esq^r Sir

General Post Office

April 20th 1829

On Phila I have yours of the 16th the Postmaster at Huntsville & is not authorised to distribute for the state of Louisiana it is advisable that you put all letters in one package for that state, if well wrapped it will pass safely through, in ordinary cases.

R. Phillips

✓ Joseph Graham Esq^r Sir

April 21st

Pendleton ch fl^r I am favoured with yours of the 8th it appears to me that the Contractor has abundant time to travel from Edgefield ch to your office via Abbeville, and that mail seems well arranged.

If the route can be more satisfactorily arranged in Andersonville I shall direct it to be done, but the Contractor must not thereby be subjected to additional expense.

I wish you to direct the carrier of the Barnesville mail to visit the office at Bachelor's retreat hereafter.

R. Phillips

Alexander McDonald Esq^r Sir

April 21st

Mr Oak Grove Jasper Co Esq^r I have yours, under the authority of this letter you can require the Contractor to call at your Office, and at the P.O. at Covington likewise, on his way to Hale ch &c & if his ride is consequently increased, he shall receive a just consideration for his increase of travel.

R. Phillips

✓ B. B. Smith Esq^r Sir

April 21st

Mr Raleigh Ma^r I have yours of the 16th the mail to mint not depart until the northern mail arrives, and which Mr Hof thinks cannot before ten o'clock.

Mails for Louisville should be sent from Salisbury via Salem and thence to their place of destination by the direct route, and not take the Circuit by Marionton, if the Mr is advised of his error he will correct it.

The Factors mail must not depart from your Office, on Friday's till the Salisbury and Salem mails shall have reached your Office, and by your sending the mail for Edenton by Tarboro, very little delay will insure in regard to that mail.

R. Phillips

✓ Jas. Armstrong Esq^r Sir

As per Vol 3 live expected

General Post Office

April 21st 1829

that in your charge of postroute that you would pass from Pipin Tree by King William ch to King & Queen ch &c.

I wish to know why you have not called there, and at an early day.

R. Phillips

✓ Peter Detoe Esq^r Sir

April 19th

Mr Somerset O Esq^r I have discontinued the P.O. at Uniontown O & wish you to open and account for the mails in the same manner as if directed to your Office.

R. Phillips

Alexander McDonald Esq^r Sir

April 19th

Mr Putnam O Esq^r Your letter of the 12th conveys information that Yonkin Mr at Uniontown O has been arrested and confined owing thefts, upon. He has been in office since the 6th July 1821 and as thefts have been committed on the mails from the West of Uniontown for several years past.

I should wish to know whether Yonkin had any charge of the P.O. or accepted it before July 1821, if he did not there must be another undetected.

There has been a number of sums of stolen addressed to and from this office & from P.O. in Kentucky to Baltimore &c Phila and the sum which he acknowledges is but a small part of the whole.

I have discontinued the office at Uniontown and have requested the P.M. at Somerset to open and account for the mails.

R. Phillips

✓ John W. Cook Esq^r Sir

April 19th

Mr Monroe ch fl^r I wish you to state how near your P.O. is to the nearest travelled postroad, and the nearest P.O. to yours, if it is not on a postroad. I can give no more for the accommodation of it by mail, than its next post road, your early reply.

R. Phillips

✓ Danl Alexander Esq^r Sir

April 19th

Alexandria O Esq^r I have yours of the 16th you did right in not travelling p. route 218, as no Mr. would operate in it, that route is suspended & would be more useful, if the mail travelled once a week, & we cannot give more than \$100 a year for it, if for that sum you will carry the mail once a week, I wish you to make out a bill of rates and send it

General Post Office

April 18th 1823

David Baltimore Esq^r Sir
In Hertsmere Co^r The time for wheeling is to depart from your office on Sunday & Thursday by 5 PM or on the morning of Monday & Friday at 4 o'clock, and it is to return to your office from Wheeling on Monday & Friday by 6 AM until further advised.

R Phillips

Wm C. Ridgman Esq^r SirApril 18th

In Newport I^r I have yours of the you will under the authority of this letter require the Central carrier from the East at your office on Thursday by 6 PM and depart the next morning. The Western mail must arrive at your office by 8 PM on Saturday and depart the next day for Blountsville.

R Phillips

J. Addis Lewis Esq^r SirApril 22nd

In Mobile Al^r I have yours. You did right in sending the mail to Jackson ch Mi. I wish you to continue sending that mail once in four weeks at p^r 144. a year as per contract enclosed, the person who you first employed may wish to contract, you will file the several blanks, have it executed and returned as soon as practicable.

R Phillips

G. Shober Esq^r SirApril 22nd

In Salem N.C^r There appears to be some misundersstanding about the German town & Halifax mail route, we hold a contract executed by George Skinner for said route, it was not to our knowledge applied to remove by him, how Mr. Blum became the carrier, we know not, can you explain it.

R Phillips

David Clark Esq^r SirApril 23rd

In Scotland Neck N.C^r A Congress at their last session of Congress discontinued the Route Scotland Neck & Tarboro, if that route is now in operation it must cease, you reply.

R Phillips

George Dury Esq^r SirApril 23rd

In Myrtle ch Va^r The time for the mails transport between Myrtle ch and Montgomery and between Myrtle and Seven mile Ford has by accident been unequaly divided. You will therefore inform the Eastern Carrier that his departure must be 4 P.M. instead of 3 P.M. and his arrival 7th instead of 8th AM the Eastern Carrier will arrive at 4 P.M. and he will depart at 8 A.M. you will acquaint the carriers respectively upon offer of this alteration.

R Phillips

General Post Office

April 25th 1823Thomas Corcoran Esq^r Sir

In Georgetown Dela^r Enclosed you have a copy of your ac^r the balance, already large is rapidly increasing, and it is indispensably necessary that it be paid in full, with as little delay as possible.

R Phillips

26th April 1823

Rev Dr. Gedwick

Sir

Tanesville (O)

I have yours of the 15th & that the present mail arrangement being adopted at the request of many of your fellow citizens as it relates to Tanesville. I think had better remain.

I am always disposed to require any agent of the Deptt to perform service on the sabbath, but when the public service imperiously calls for their services on that day - My public duty requires me to exact their services ~~as far as it reaches~~ As far as it ^{concerns} my official duty, I am disposed to accommodate Mr. Pelham in that and every other respect.

R Phillips

26th April 1823Wm Purke Esq^r PM

Sir

Cincinnati (Ohio)

I have yours of the 14th I hope that the letter to which you have referred will reach this Deptt as a dead letter. If it does not reach the person addressed, it may have been purloined, if so I hope to be able to detect the offender. In that event I shall advise you.

R Phillips

25th April 1823

Wm James Dow

Sir

Lureon Ap^r Y

I have yours of the 17th; you can leave Lureon every Thursday at 3 PM and arrive at Chester the next by 4 PM, leave Chester in two hours and arrive at Lureon the next Thursday by 2 PM. This schedule can be noted on the contract sent to you.

R Phillips

25th April 1823James Elder Esq^r PM

Sir

Clarksville... Tenn

I have yours of the 5th on your recommendation we concluded to send a weekly mail between your office & Danville 4th instant sending the mail to Danville via Hudderville; this can be done by Mr. Mullis for carrying the mail to Hudderville at twelve M^o and the same to be delivered to you at Danville at twelve M^o and the same to be delivered to you at Clarksville at twelve M^o.

General Post Office

212^d
J H Peterson Esq PM

Sir
City Point Va
I have yours of the 11th Inst. we consider the compensation given for the mails transport between Petersburg & City Point a liberal one, we shall want the authority of Mr Southall. If we pay you as his substitute

R D Meigs

24th April 1823

Geo Cox Esq PM

Sir

Monroe Co. (Tenn)
From your letter of the 8th Inst. we infer that the mail is not transported between your office Lebanon. is our inference right, with you I agree that the mail route between your office & Hillman is of little or no use

R D Meigs

24th April 1823

Mr James Walker

Sir

Columbia (Tenn)
I have yours of the 3rd the late arrangement of mails in Alabama, has render^d your further visits to Athens unnecessary

R D Meigs

24th April 1823

James Nelson Esq PM

Sir

Orange Springs Va
I have yours of the 20th You can under the authority of my two former letters, take charge of the mail between your office & Orange to H^t at once, we wish to know your days of performance, that the mails for your office may be properly sent

R D Meigs

25th April 1823

Pho. M. Bradford Esq PM

Sir

Will the arrival of Lyon at your office on Friday's be more useful to the Public than on Monday, on what days of the week are your public Journals printed, your early reply is desired

R D Meigs

April 30th 1823

Joseph White Esq PM

Sir

Whiterville, (Anson Co) NC
If Mr Lyon has not supplied your office with a mail, you can transport a mail once a week between your office & Wadesboro, receiving therefor the nett receipts of your office

General Post Office

213^d

Wm Taylor Esq PM

Sir

Cahawba Ala,

I am obliged by your letter of the 6th Inst while I much regret the cause of it, the mail to Claiborne now the route to St Stephens is in operation, is of little use owing to natural impediment, is it of sufficient importance to justify a continuance

R D Meigs

25th April 1823

Mr Joseph Walker

Sir

Cahawba (Ala)

Three failures have occurred on your Montgomery route, the penalties for those failures although exacted and thereby have the Government in saving of money, will not answer the object of those interested. Your Claiborne route it seems if anything is worse carried, It is said that Drifting lads have charge of your mails, I shall regret to adopt an alternative course than fines, Ver the abroiling of your contracts - a measure that must be resorted to, Help you faithfully execute your contract

R D Meigs

25th April 1823

Mr Robert Tunnel (mail contractor)

Sir

Campbell's Station, Tenn

I wish you to state the length of your post route & the distance to each place of any note upon the route I wish to know whether you cannot call at Washington and Pikeville, and if your ride be thereby increased how much I wish you to state the difficulties if any, that would attend the change besides the increase of travel, an early reply is desired,

R D Meigs

25th April 1823

R D Richards Esq PM

Sir

Washington Tenn

I have yours of the 15th I wish you to ascertain from Mr Tunnel how much he will ask for calling both at Washington & Pikeville with the mail. How much will he ask for carrying a mail extra, so as to make a weekly mail between your office, Washington & Pikeville, the other part of the route to remain as at present a fortnight & has one "Done" carries a mail between your office and Washington & Pikeville since the year began. Has any change taken place in the Stage lines west of your office. Your reply to each question is desireable the sooner the publick will be better served.

R D Meigs

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General Post Office.

John Collyer Esq P.M.

Sir

Has Mr. Mitchell transported the mail between your office and Monroe, or any other person since the beginning of the year, what is the distance between your office and Monroe. Your early reply will oblige.

Lebanon, Penn.

R. D. Meigs

25th April 1823

John Reynolds Esq P.M.

Sir

I wish you to state when Culver & Evans began to transport the mail upon the canal & what offices they supply upon the route & what days of the week the service is performed. Your early reply is desired.

R. D. Meigs

25th April 1823

F. Penruzel Esq P.M.

Sir

The mail carrier to Hall & H. C. must visit the office at Covington or Newburg, you will instruct him to do so upon the rest of this letter, will this act increase his ride, if so, of how much, your reply is desired.

R. D. Meigs

25th April 1823

John Hawker Esq P.M.

Sir

It appears that two failures had occurred in the delivery of the Vernon mail prior to the 5th April, is a new contractor necessary for that time,

R. D. Meigs

25th April 1823

Aaron Shohfield Esq P.M.

Sir

Has Dr. Hawkins carried the mail since the year commenced, who has carried the mail between your office Washington &c for that period, Has changed the carrier of the mail between your office & Alabama pass by your office without a material increase of travel, and supply the Post office at Washington too. How much will his travel be actually increased by such a measure, Has any change in mail stage line west of Kingston taken place, your early reply is desired.

Pikville, Tenn.

R. D. Meigs

General Post Office - 24th April 1823

Genl. Solomon Van Rensselaer P.M.

Sir

I am informed that you have transmitted the mails to New York by steam boat which arrived there on 22d notwithstanding my letter to you that they were to be sent by land only until further advice, I hope it will be duly attended to.

R. D. Meigs

April 25th 1823

James Monroe Esq P.M.

Sir

Annapolis - Md.

The Captain of the steam boat which plies between Baltimore & Annapolis & Easton is to be paid three cents a letter or packet (each) which he delivers into your office

R. D. Meigs

April 25th 1823

Jos. P. Smith Esq P.M.

Sir

Easton Md.

The steam boats which plies between Baltimore & Easton carries letters & packets under agreement, & the captains are to be paid three cent for each

R. D. Meigs

April 26th 1823

Wm. Davis Butler

Sir

South Merfield, N.H.

I have yours of the 15th. since I last addressed you rec'd unequivocal assurance from Mr. Hill that he would immediately change the mail that passes between Concord & Exeter, His schedule requires him to go from Concord to Exeter on Tuesday, and to return on Wednesday, if on the receipt of this letter he has not changed said route you can under the authority of this letter, take charge of the mail for that route, and the several Post Masters on the route are hereby required to deliver to you or to your carrier the mail

R. D. Meigs

April 24th 1823

Mr. Groome

Sir

Genl. Post Office.

The contract for carrying the mail between Baltimore, Annapolis & Easton expire at the close of this year, an advertisement will shortly be given for new proposals & it will be so shaped as to meet the times for arrival & departure of the steam boats, until the time for deciding on the proposals arriving no answer can be given, But I agree to your proposal to pay three cents for each letter & packet of letters delivered into the several Post offices by those employed by the Steam Boat Company & will direct the Post Master to that effect.

215 General Post Office 28th April 1823

Stan'l H. Hall.

Sir

Parsons. Ct

I have yours of the 17th instant. it is the general practice of the Deptt. to put all post roads into operation at the same period which are established at the same congressional session. This cannot be correctly done: until we collect the necessary information in regard to the various post roads to enable the Department to advertise the routes in such a manner as will best subserve the public interest, I pray you to be assured that the post route Norfolk &c to which you have referred shall receive due attention from this department.

R. D. Meigs

26th April 1823

Stan'l P. Parson

Sir

Fredericksburg Va

I have yours of the 24th. on the 3^d ult. I inform you that we had assurance from Mr. Parish that he would supply the Post office at Orange Springs with a mail, to guard against a disappointment as related to that office, on the 7th ult. I addressed a letter to the Post Master of Orange Springs upon the subject of supplying his office with the mail, He informs that he did not receive my letter of the 7th March till the 20th April, it having been detained in the Post Office of Fredericksburg. He has accepted the offer I made him, this office is I trust now regularly supplied with a mail. I have made a similar offer to the Post Master at Red Bank which I trust he will accept.

It is the general practice of the department to put all post roads established at one period into operation at the same time. Before that measure can be done correctly, we have much information to collect as regards the different postroads in the remote sections of our country. As soon as we obtain the information I shall take immediate measures to establish the different post roads.

R. D. Meigs

26th April 1823

Coakland Herrick & Otter

Sir

Zanesville (Ohio)

I have yours of the 10th. The late mail arrangements of the main mail at Zanesville, was as we believed the best that could be adopted as regarded those interested in the Post office at Zanesville. But from the representation of many of your citizens, we were induced to change the arrangement not only as it regarded Zanesville: but the whole mail ar-

angement from Whiting in Va to Louisville Ky. was at the same time necessarily changed in order to perfect the regular movement of the mail throughout the line,

To meet the object of the memorialists we should be compelled to change that whole line again. Although I should take pleasure in yielding to your request, It does not now appear to be advisable to do so as all the Post Roads in this will be advertised in the course of the summer, we hope to adopt an arrangement that will be satisfactory to you & to your fellow citizens

R. D. Meigs

General Post-Office. 28th April 1823

Phas Morris Esq PM

Sir

Dublin, Ga,

I have yours of the 13^d. as you have transported the mail between your office & Telfair Co &c, in consequence of the absence of a regular carrier and as you believed in consonance with your duty as a Post Master. It appears to be right that you should be paid for the services rendered in that way. You may therefore make out an ac^c against the Depart^r for the services thus render^d, at the annual rate = 200 mils a year & credit your ac^c as a Post Master for the amount, this was the rate proposed to be allow^d for said service

R. D. Meigs

28th April 1823

Eb May Esq PM

Sir

New London Ct

I have yours. I am glad that Mr. Dutton conduct as a mail carrier at your office, has merited your approbation. I trust he had sustained a credit equally favorable at Connecticut river, where it is understood that he & Mr. Scranton interchange mails

R. D. Meigs

Stan'l Aaron Hobart

Ap 28th 1823

Sir

Quincy (Mass)

I have yours of the 15th Inst in regard to the ~~change~~ of the mail route Boston, Plymouth &c and Falmouth, that now passes through Hingham, during the late session of congress petitions were presented from Plymouth and Barnstable Ms, urging the mail route to be so chang'd as to have the mail pass over the Turnpike of Queen Anne and thereby avoid the town of Hingham. The reason offered in favor of the change, was that it shortens the travel about 3 miles. and it is probab^{ly} as you observe that the road by Hingham is more exposed to snow drifts during the winter seasons than one over the Queen Anne Turnpike, to which we have made

General Post Office

- praying the continuance of the current arrangement - as more beneficial to them than if the route was chang'd; as under the present arrangement, their communication by mail with Boston is better & their communication with Plymouth the shire town of the county is now & necessarily so immediate, as well as with the towns in Barnstable, It is an object with Plymouth to have the mail half an hour earlier than they now have it from Boston, that object can be obtained by causing the mail to depart from Boston at an hour earlier & which will not deprive Hingham of its current advantages or the contiguous country, For I believe it is conceded that the population on the Hingham road is much more dense than on the other & the consequence is a greater proportion of population is served by the present arrangement than would be if the route was chang'd. From these considerations I am induced to believe that the present mail arrangement is more beneficial to the public than the one contemplated by the petitioners from Plymouth & Barnstable, The mail route via carvers must not leave Plymouth before the Boston mail has arrived at & has been opened. I pray you to be assured & to assure your constituents that my desire is to make this departure subserve the public interest

R. D. Meigs

Ap. 28th 1823

Dear C. Cockerham P.M.

Sir

Rockford N.C

I wish you will further advise to carry your mail on Post Route 143 as follows. Leave Hillsboro every Friday at 4 P.M. (Or if preferred on Saturday at 6 A.M.) arrive at Rockingham 6th on Monday by 9 A.M., leave there same day by 11 A.M. arrive at Hillsboro the next Friday by 3 P.M.; the object of the alteration is to effect a meeting with the Leakville mail to be at Rockingham 6th and cannot be productive of loss or inconvenience to you

R. D. Meigs

28th April 1823

Isaac T. Hill Esq Mail Contractor

Sir

Concord N.H.

I have this moment rec^d yours of the 22^d
I regret that you did not only make but continue the change on
your Post route Concord & Exeter, as you stated you would in your
letter of the 9th Inst, as on the 21st last I authorized John Butter
to take charge of the mail on said route provided you were not
carrying the mail in conformity with your contract as well as my special

instruction, I should much regret the necessity of superseding you upon any postroute whatever, but it is a matter of indispensable necessity to the Deptt to have the mails carried agreeable to the schedules affixed to contracts, unless the schedules are changed with the consent of the Deptt.

R. D. Meigs

April 28th 1823.

Dear Thos Bailey P.M.

Sir

New York

On referring to your a/c I do not find that you make up any mail on Sunday & it appears to be the only large office where it is not attended to.

It is something disagreeable to all & offensive to the convenience of some, to work on that day for this a/c as little ought to be done on that day as is consistent with the interest of the community, On that a/c my instructions require the offices at which mails arrive on Sunday to be kept open only one hour on that day for the delivery of letters. But places should be kept constantly open for the receipt of letters to be forwarded by mail & all mail which arrive on that day should be opened for delivery & Distribution & mails should be made up as on other days to which I much request your attention

R. D. Meigs

28th April 1823

I Barnett Esq

Sir

Leakville N.C

I have yours of the 13th I have directed the carrier of the Hillsboro mail to make his arrival at Rockingham 6th so as to form a connection with the mails to which you have referred

R. D. Meigs

28th April 1823

Robt Martin - Esq P.M.

Rockingham 6th. N.C

Sir

I have directed the Hillsboro mail to be delivered at your office on the mornings of Mondays of Monday by 9 A.M. with a view of effecting a junction with the Lyndon & W. Lebanon mails, Will you state whether the mails are so carried as to best subserve the public interest or whether a change will be useful

R. D. Meigs

24th July 1823

Wm. C. Rhea

Sir

Member of Rep. Represent.

I beg leave to state in reply to Mr. Shields letter of the 22^d which was enclosed in yours of the 22^d that a contract was sometime since given to the Post-Master of Hanoverburg for the purpose of sending a mail to

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office and Greenville via Brighthope

R. D. Meigs

24th Feby 1823

Hon. John Ross

Sir

Member H. Rep.

I have yours of the 22^d enclosing the letter of Mr. Ross & the memorial of the citizens of Jonesboro urging me to cause the mail to be transported between Phenixville Jonesboro, Greenville &c and Knoxville Tenn, after having that subject duly considered I am satisfied that it is not at this time proper to increase our mail expences for that object, to oblige you & in so doing your constituents will be ever a source of pleasure to me but my public duty must be paramount to all other considerations

R. D. Meigs

24th Feby 1823

Hon. J. Speed Smith

Sir

Member H. Rep.

I have yours of the 20th; it has long been my wish to receive satisfactory proposals for the due transport of the mails in stages between Beans station and Lexington Ky; But my wishes have not been realized as proposals for that object would meet with due & just consideration by the Deptt. The mail has not been to my knowledge interrupted in its due transmission between Beans Station or Rocky Spring and Lexington the last season except from causes that appear to be beyond the control of man, we may however be misinform'd upon that point,

The mail from Norfolk, Petersburg, Richmond &c passes daily and expeditiously between those places & this city, and three times a week (with expedition) between this place & Kentucky it is therefore the most eligible post route although executions so far as relates to offices in the north western & middle sections of Kentucky

R. D. Meigs

24th Feby 1823

Hon. Arthur Smith

Sir

Member H. Rep.

I beg leave to state in reply to the proposition of Mr. Cocke enclosed in your letter of the 20th that before I decide upon his application, I must obtain the opinion of the Post master of Norfolk & others on the subject

R. D. Meigs

Feby 25th 1823

Hon. Walter Taylor

Sir

Member M. P. Senate

General Post Office

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I have yours I beg leave to observe in reply to Mr. Harrison's letter enclosed in yours of the 24th, that we intend this ensuing summer to improve our mail arrangement in the state of Indiana. the Post route referred to by Mr. Harrison will be then probably in accordance with his views

R. D. Meigs

Feby 14th 1823

Hon. R. C. Mallory

Sir

Member of H. Represent.

Yours of yesterday is rec'd Examination has been made for the letter written by James D. Butler addressed to Anthony Butler &c to contain a Twenty Doll Bill, But it is not found, & it is very certain that it has not been return'd here as a Dead Letter

R. D. Meigs

4th Feby 1823.

Hon. Gabriel Moore

Sir

Member H. Rep.

In reply to yours of the 3^d & to Col. Day's letter therein enclosed, I observe that I cannot but believe that the route Huntington, Moonsville & Columbia Tenn is performed now as it was the last year, it is in the same hands & the contract were the same or they may have been chang'd. I have a second time given the contractor positive orders to supply each office on the route as was done last year & I have assured him he shall have no pay unless he does so perform his route

R. D. Meigs

4th Feby 1823

Hon. W. Smith

Sir

Member H. Rep.

I have yours of the 25th & a Post route from Morgantown, by Clingwood, Lanesville &c were established last year & have been put in operation. If insisted on I shall put the other route in operation although the one of them will be useless, in fact both will not produce a third of their expences, the Post route by Nicholas &c yields but very little revenue indeed & its expences ought not to be augmented it does not pay an eighth of its expence

R. D. Meigs

15th Feby 1823

Hon. W. Smith

Sir

Member H. Rep.

I remark in reply to the memorial enclosed in your letter of the 13th that it is evident the contractor John Reen has not faithfully performed his duty, several other complaints against Reen have reached the Deptt, & I have therefore believed it to be my duty to expose him, I have accordingly

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done so and I have tendered the contract to the late career
Sam'l Wethrow

R. D. Meigs
General Post Office 14th July 1823

Hon'ble Lewis Williams.

Sir

I beg leave to observe in reply to Mr. Blume's letter
which you enclosed to the Deptt - that Mr. Blume had formerly
a contract for transporting the mail between Warrenton and
Salem. - It was found advisable to send a stage upon a
part of his route, of course so far as the stage travelled his
pay was reduced in the ratio originally stipulated to be paid
him, we subsequently extended the stage as far as Milton,
This pay therefore was again reduced, we uniformly deducting
from his pay for the part of his route supplied by the mail
stage, at the ratio paid him for his whole route and
no more. It has been our intention to do justice between
the public & Mr. Blume & to pay for all the services he
performed agreeable to our stipulations with him

R. D. Meigs

April 28th 1823

✓ Thos P. Smith P. M.

Sir

Easton Pa
I wish you to keep the Post office open one
hour for the delivery of letters after the arrival of the mail from
Cambridge every Sunday

R. D. Meigs

29th April 1823

✓ Mr John McFaughan

Sir

Rocky Ridge Oly

You can still further orders or advise carry the mail
between Hopkinsville and Eddyville as you were bound to do previous to
the receipt of my last letter, this change is made at the instance
of the Post masters of Eddyville & Hopkinsville, under you will observe
as to be visited on your route to Hopkinsville & on your route to Eddyville

R. D. Meigs

28th April 1823.

✓ Mr. Kellogg Esq

Sir

Cornwall Ct

I Have yours of the 15th Inst. the mail from Litchfield
must reach the Post office in Goshen before the mail departs thence
for Cornwall &c. I have so informed the Post Master of Goshen

R. D. Meigs

General Post Office 28th April 1823

✓ Mr. Sawyer Esq P.M.

Sir

Barker Ct
Does the Litchfield mail for Cornwall &c arrive
at your office in due time to proceed with the immediate or
pending mail, If not, it must arrive early enough to
effect that object

R. D. Meigs

29th April 1823

✓ Hon'ble Brooks Esq P.M.

Sir

Huntington. I.C.

I wish you to forthwith report the failures that
have occurred in the due transport of the mail since the 1st May
last. You will likewise state the causes that have induced the
failures, as represented to you, this enquiry has special reference
to the post route to China Grove. You will likewise inform me
whether a man of more efficient character can be had, than the
present contractor, to transport that mail let me know his name
and terms

R. D. Meigs

29th April 1823

✓ Mr. Warner Mason

Sir

Huntington I.C.

To my great surprise I learn that you have
suffered so many failures to take place on your post route
as to induce the Grandjurons of Huntington District to make a
formal presentation against the Department. As soon as I
have investigated the subject, I shall inform you of the course
that is adopted, for each failure a penalty of thirty Dollars must
be exacted, and if the failures have arisen from causes beyond
your control. It will become my duty to annul your contract

R. D. Meigs

29th April 1823

✓ Mr. C. Porter mail contractor

Sir

Fredericksburg Va

I am officially informed that the mail on its
passage from the Steamboat to Fredericksburg has been much injured
by Water, and that the mail is confined to people of colour, for a
time that the mail is entrusted to people of colour, the contractor
incurred a penalty of one hundred Dollars, Your immediate to the sub-
ject is desired

R. D. Meigs

April 29th 1823

✓ Mr. Knapp Esq. P.M.

Sir

Fredericksburg

2244 I am obliged by your letter of yesterday, the contractor
must not let the mail go into the hands of people of color
under a penalty of one hundred Dollars, nor must
they suffer it to be sent

R D Meigs

29th April 1823

Frank Rich. Sante

Sir

Williamsburg Va

This day's mail brought me your letter
of the 12th Inst & the document therein enclosed. It is the duty
of the Post-masters at the respective ends of a Post route to make a
representation of every failure of the mail on its occurrence, &
as soon as their reports reach the Deptt. prompt and efficient
measures are taken to guard against their recurrence.

No representation from the Post-masters at either end of the Post-route
at either end of the Post route referred to, nor from Post-masters
at the intermediate points of the route have reached the Deptt, since
the present contractor commenced his contract, we were therefore
unapprised of any irregularity in that mail until the
receipt of your letter, I have instituted an enquiry into
the cause of that mail's irregularity and if the contractor has
suffered failures to occur from causes other than those beyond
the control of man, he shall be fined forthwith suspended
& the mail shall be placed in efficient hands.

I take the liberty of enclosing you a copy of a letter addressed
to Post-masters on the subject relative to their duty in giving
prompt information to the Deptt, in regards to failures of the mails
at other points immediately connected with mail contractors

R D Meigs

29th April 1823

P.S. Enclosed P.M.

Sir

Petersburg Va

The northern mail is to be delivered at your office
every day by 7th A.M. & you will have all necessary arrangements
made for its prompt assortment, and distribution after its arrival.
You can then in all cases be prepared to deliver the mails
within an hour to your citizens, having first general distribution
if necessary to the dispatch of the southern mail, if that measure
is suspended you will deliver your mails in 30 minutes with
convenience say by 8. A.M., I wish you to apprise your
citizens of this arrangement and let it begin by Monday next
Your reply is desired.

R D Meigs

* until the 1st of October next & you will deliver before you distribute

General Post Office 29th April 1823

2245

Mr. Porter, Allow H^r

gent

Richmond Va

As the mail is now delivered to your carrier
at 12th P.M. it is expected that you will deliver the mail at
Fredericksburg by 8 P.M. that the mail for that place may be del-
ivered out on the evenings it arrives, the mail can until
the first of October be delivered at Petersburg on its passage south
every day by 7th P.M. & that is the hour now fixed at that
place for the mail's delivery, the citizens of Petersburg will
then receive their mail over night.

R D Meigs

30th April 1823.

Mr. A. Patterson (Mail Contractor)

Sir

Concord Va

Congress at their last session directed that the
mail should travel the "Le Pratts Road" from Richmond by Post
to Farmville, it is said that you can change your route in
part without injury can you do so, I wish your early
reply.

R D Meigs

30th April 1823

Frank Newell Archer

Sir

Spots Bridge Va

I have yours of the 26th Inst, off we can attain
the object you have in view by persuading the contractor to
travel "Le Pratts Road" without an increase of compensation
the road will not be advertised, I have noted down Dr.
Porter to be post master at Hopewell when the post road via
Le Pratts goes into operation

R D Meigs

29th May 1823

Frank John Rhea

Sir

Member H.C. R.P.

I beg leave to remark in reply to the memorial from Fredericks-
burg, that with a view of inviting more favorable proposals I advertised
post routes on both sides of the Holston between Blountsville & Smyrna. The
mail to be carried three times weekly in stages on that side of the river which
was viewed by the bidder to be most eligible, My advertisement was before
the public for more than 3 and 4 months before that the memorialist had
during that period convinced an acceptable person that the south side of the
river was the preferable road, I found among the bidders that
the same who forwarded the memorial, but he did not bid
the south side route & why he should not have performed
is singular in view of his repeated self contradiction.

226 as the other one, the contracts being now made cannot be rescinded, without the contractors consent & our funds are too low to justify an additional expenditure upon that. It would afford me great pleasure to yield to your urgent solicitations in behalf of your constituents & I could do so & at the same time serve the public.

R. D. Meigs Jr

General Post Office 4th Jan 1823

Hon. John Cooke

Sir

Member H. Rep't

In reply to Mr. Tracy's letter to your address under date of 11th I beg leave to remark, that neither that Gentleman nor his associates have the slightest ground to complain of this Deptt. It is true I presume that they undertook the mails transport as subcontractors under disadvantages, being involved as sureties for a contractor who proved not competent to the discharge of his engagement & the management of a stage concern & while the mail was in their charge it was faithfully carried. Had these Gentlemen made a reasonable proposal. It would have met a satisfactory consideration, But they demanded no less than the sum of \$13000, a year for the mails transport on the north side of the Hudson between Poughkeepsie & Newburgh (Tenn). Among a number of offers one (& the lowest) was made by Gentlemen highly recommended to perform the same duty & in the same manner. viz in four-horse stages at \$5450 per year. This offer was accepted, and partly with a view to relieve the then contractors, the Deptt stipulated with the new contractors, as they thought much against their interest to take such stage property as was usefull & necessary from Mr. Tracy &c. But it seems these Gentl^m were not disposed to sell upon such terms as was thought justable by the purchasers, and they rather than oblige the Deptt & in so doing the Public, refused even under any emergency to continue the mail, after their contract expired provisionally. But imperatively demanded that if \$13000 - a premium should be paid them for four years or they would withdraw from the public service. Had a doubt been entertained of a willingness on the part of Tracy to sell stages horses on reasonable terms, the contractor would have provided good stages & in time to have commenced their duties with the current year in a style acceptable to the good people of Tennessee.

R. D. Meigs

3rd Feb 1823

Hon. James Barbour

Sir

Member H. Senate

In reply to Mr. Burney's letter of the 27th ult. I observe that the contractor is obliged to supply all offices under his present contract as he did under the former

General Post Office 3rd Feb 1823.

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Hon. M. J. Archer

Member H. Rep't

Sir, I beg leave to state in reply to your letter of the 20th ult. that the irregularity upon the route you have noticed has ceased. The mail is now regular, so we are assured by Dr. Tompkins

R. D. Meigs

3rd Feb 1823

Hon. Simeon Tompkins

Sir

Member H. Represent.

The amount due Mr. Stevens for distribution shall be remitted to him

R. D. Meigs

3rd Feb 1823

Hon. N. H. Knight

Sir

Member U. S. Senate

I have yours of the 1st. as we shall send a mail between Providence & Worcester via Mendon, two mails will then pass twice weekly between those places & at an expence much more than ~~equally~~ the receipt of the routes, & therefore does not appear to be for the public interest to add any further expence at the present periods upon that route

R. D. Meigs

3rd Feb 1823

Hon. Lewis Williams

Sir

Member H. Rep't

I beg leave to reply to Mr. Walton's letter enclosed in yours of the 1st as follows. That two post routes pass through the county of Rutherford, at an expence of more than three times the amount received for postage, even while sending the mail once a fortnight. But Rutherford being the seat of Justice for the County, I sometime since directed the mail to be convey'd weekly

R. D. Meigs

3rd Feb 1823

Hon. C. Sawyer

Sir

Member H. Rep't

I have your note of the 30th ult., I agree to the schedule that Mr. Williams has suggested & he can be governed by it till further advice

R. D. Meigs

3rd Feb 1823

Hon. Wm. Fulller

Sir

Member H. Rep't

I have yours of the 31st ult. & the letter of the 10th ult. enclosed, this report is reasonably well drawn, directed that full care be used