

446<sup>th</sup> is inescapable, unless you have something to alledge, of which, I can now form no conjecture. I wish to hear from you on this subject, and to know particularly; whether in future, strict attention will be paid to your duties. Your office in a pecuniary point of view may be of very small importance to you, but it is important that those for whose convenience the office was establish'd, should realize the benefits intended to be conferred.

J. McLean

Genl J. T. Johnston / Sir,  
George Town City, Del.

20 Aug.

Yours of the 31<sup>st</sup> July was rec'd. two or three days since. The enclose'd statement, may refresh the memory of Mr. Kawter, and perhaps convince him, that, labours under some error as to his accounts. If he can pay what really is due, I should not enforce against him, the penalty, and if after examining the enclose'd statement, he is still under an impression, that he can convince me, that he is entitle'd to further credits, and it should be convenient for you, to see that such steps were taken, as to secure the eventual payment of the money, you may direct the Marshal to suspend proceedings, until the 21<sup>st</sup> of January next, by which time, he may, through you, present his case fully to the Department.

J. Mc.

Wm. Ulster & others  
St. Washington N.C. Esq.

20 Aug.

I have rec'd. your remonstrance against the conduct of your post master, and have written to him on the subject. Unless he shall hereafter give very strict attention to the performance of his duties, he shall be remov'd, and the person recommended by you, app'ted in his stead. Unless he offers some satisfactory excuse for his omissons of duty, this course may seem'd indispenable by me, without a further trial.

J. McLean

Thomas Neurde Esq.  
R.M. Hallamell Mr. Esq.

19 Aug.

I wish to ascertain the lowest terms - that a weekly mail can be transported between your office & Belfast - per annum - until you make the enquiry, I wish you to mention the schedule that will best suit the public, for that portraint.

J. McLean

Post Office Dept.  
19 Aug. 1823.  
Hon John Chandler Esq.  
Monmouth Md. Esq.

I have just ascertain'd that a letter you address'd to my predecessor in March last has had no reply - as you believe it to be important to the public to extend the mail direct from Hallamell by Salem N.C. to Belfast I shall send the mail in that way for one year - if, I can have the duty perform'd at a reasonable price - in that time we can determine whether it is or is not advisable to continue it.

John McLean

1 Bayn. Gary Esq.  
R.M. Milton N.C. Esq.

19 Aug.

I have yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> - George Kincaid contracted to transport the mail between Milton & Salem N.C. - and he has been fully paid by the Deptl. for the services perform'd - while the mail is carried agreeably to contract - by Kincaid or his agents, we cannot place the mail in other hands - if Kincaid fails in his contract Mr. Waggoner would be an acceptable substitute.

J. McLean

1 John Bagley Esq.  
R.M. Staunton Va. Esq.

18 Aug.

I have yours of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. I am surprised at the conduct of Spiller - I wish you to state the particular times that he has omitted to call at your office with the mail, as he shall be fined for his negligence.

J. McLean

1 B. Temple Esq.  
R.M. Walkerton Va. Esq.

18 Aug.

I am favoured with yours of the 7<sup>th</sup>. I am surprised to learn that Spiller has ceas'd to supply your office with the mail - he shall be fined for his negligence, and if he does not in future faithfully carry the mail, he shall cease to have further concern with the mail, either as a contractor or carrier.

J. Mc.

Post Office Sept

Ottis C. Miller, M. Contractor,  
near Walkerton Va. 15th Augt 1823.

Spcl.

I shall fine you for neglecting to visit the Post office at Stearnsville & Walkerton, with the mail, and suspend your pay until a satisfactory explanation is made in regards to your omitting those offices.  
John McLean

Jat. Peacock Esq.  
P.M. Fredericksburg Va. Spcl.

15 Augt

I am favour'd with yours of the 10th inst. it is intended that the mail shall be transported between your office and Carlisle on the Turnpike road, we are about running our list of Post Offices - and Adams, Caughlin &c. shall be stricken out.  
J. Mc.

Jat. Lyon, M. Contractor  
Cheraw S.C. Spcl.

15 Augt

Complaint is made that the mail confided to you, is irregularly delivered - both as to days & hours, strict and uniform punctuality, must be observed by every contractor - the fines you have incurred must be added to your account, and if you are not hereafter punctual, I shall be compelled to place your mail in other hands.  
J. Mc.

Jat. R. Green & others  
New Etlan &c. Va. Spcl.

15 Augt

I have your petition of the instant requesting me to send two mails a week between Philadelphia & Pittsburg - the only objection to the application is the expense of sending a second mail on the route, under the present circumstances of the Department.  
J. Mc.

Jat. Grisham Esq.  
P.M. Pendleton S.C. Spcl.

15 Augt

I am favour'd with yours of the 3<sup>d</sup> the contractor has been authorized to make his arrival at your office on sundays by noon, and he will not willingly arrive 18 hours earlier - you will be drawn upon for the balance now in your hands.  
John McLean

Post Office Sept.

19 Augt 1823.

R. H. J. Gunders Esq.  
P.M. Short Pump 3<sup>d</sup> Va.

I have your letter of the 14th and I have again addressed the mail contractor for the post roads Frederickburg & Goochland &c. to visit the post office at Walkerton - he cannot leave Frederickburg one day earlier than he now does, and accommodate the persons immediately interested in his mail, in a manner as useful & satisfactory as the arrangement that now governs him. John McLean

Enoch Breedon M. Contractor  
Fredericksburg Va. Spcl.

19 Augt

I wish you to visit the Post office at Walkerton with the mail - if you can do so without incurring additional expense, may I have your early reply.  
J. Mc.

Sam'l. Patridge Esq.  
P.M. Potsdam N.Y. Spcl.

19 Augt

The postroute referred to in your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> instant will go into operation, the first of July ensuing, the mail will pass in a direct course between your office and Ogdensburg instead of the present circuitous route.  
J. Mc.

Adam Shuey Esq.  
P.M. Miamisburg O. Spcl.

19 Augt

I am favour'd with your letter of the 2<sup>d</sup> can we better serve your office with the mail than by inserting it in postroute 210 - between Franklin & Centerville may I have your reply.  
J. Mc.

Sam'l. Gale Esq.  
P.M. Troy N.Y. Spcl.

19 Augt

M. Powell of Schenectady wishes to transport a mail between your office and Schenectady, will the public be benefitted by the establishment of the mail on that route will you favour me with your views upon the subject.  
John McLean

450. Arch: Campbell Esq:  
P.M. Walterboro, S.C.

Post Office Dept.  
19th Augt. 1823.

Epi:

Will you inform me of the names of  
the different stages between your office and Charleston, and their  
relative distances one from the other, also the names of places and  
their distances from each other, between your office and  
Columbia.—

John McLean

1 Thos: W. Bacot Esq:  
P.M. Charleston S.C. Epi:

19 Augt.

Will you favour me with a  
list of stages, and the respective distances of the stages (or stopping places)  
between your office and Fish Pond Bridge — and the nearest  
point on the Savannah road to Walterboro' — and the respec-  
tive points & distances from Walterboro' to Columbia — Can  
the post road between your office and Columbia and between  
your office and Savannah be advantageously — or the  
Mail expenses lessened. J.M.

1 Danl. Barber Esq:

19 Augt.

P.M. Danville Ky. Epi:

I am favour'd with your letter of  
the 29th ult. — It suggests several useful improvements in the  
mail arrangements — in several postroads near Danville, all  
of which will merit with due consideration — I believe it will  
be advisable to send two perhaps three Mails a week between  
your office and Hagerstown, and I wish to receive  
proposals to effect that object. John McLean

1 Hon: Daniel P. Cook,

Edwardsville Ill. Epi:

19 Augt.

I am favour'd with your letter of the  
27th which contains many useful suggestions in regard to the mail  
arrangements in your State — the Mails will be generally arranged in  
accordance with your views, and I trust to the satisfaction of your  
Citizens generally, in my letter to you under date of the 30th ult.  
I informed you of my intention to send a direct mail  
between Shawneetown Hamilton Co. & Ft. Lewis, I am since  
informed by a gentleman, who has travelled that route, that  
Carlisle on the road by that place is decidedly preferable to the  
road by Covington, on account Prairies and water courses, I have  
however made my arrangements to send the mail by Covington on  
the presumption that you are little informed upon that subject, there is

Post Office Dept.  
19 Augt. 1823.

1 Thos: W. Bradford Esq:

P.M. Millersville Ga. Epi:

19 Augt. 1823.

I have rec'd. your letter of the 31<sup>st</sup>  
ult. proposing to have your office established as an office of  
Distribution instead of the Post Office at Creek Agency, while  
the duties are faithfully perform'd at that office I do not perceive  
a sufficient reason to make the change at present.

John McLean

1 Jas: Medley Esq: & others, (C)  
P.M. Covington Ill. Epi: 19 Augt.  
it is my intention to send the mail on the most direct & best  
road between Shawneetown & St. Louis via Hannibal Ch. &c &c  
John McLean

1 John Odell M. Contractor,  
Phoebe Springs Va. Epi: 19 Augt.  
I have your letter of the 11th.  
& the petition then inclosed, as the mail is regularly transported  
in stages between Concord & Lynchburg, it does not appear  
to be advisable to extend your postroute beyond Concord.  
J.M.

1 James Harrison  
Andersonville S.C. Epi: 19 Augt.  
I have yours of the 5th. You can  
convey the mail to Hargettville on Wednesdays, instead of  
Tuesdays, as the Edgefield Mail does arrive in time to depart  
for Hargettville on Tuesdays — by the law fixed in your contro-

1 Danl. Andrews Esq:  
P.M. Meadville Pa. Epi: 19 Augt.  
I think your letter contains  
many useful suggestions, and it is entitled to consideration,  
several useful routes are pointed out — but they must be con-  
sidered until Congress repeals them. I shall put your letter on  
file that we may refer to it, when I make a commun-  
cation upon subjects of a similar character to Congress.  
It is equally objectionable and illegal for mail carriers  
to carry letters unsealed, as it is if they were sealed — and  
fined against the Post Office Law ought to be passed  
John McLean

452.

## Post Office Dept.

19th Augt. 1823

Henry Pitter Esq.  
Mr. San Ciburg D. & fil.

I have yours of the 10th. the letters on hand ought to forward'd to their respective places of destination, You will not be liable to the administrators for letters for letters forward'd to other offices, you are liable to them for such as you deliver out of your office, (and) for such as are forward'd to this office as dead letters, the old Newspapers are of no value - I intend to make some improvement in the mails that connect with your office.

John McLean

Judah Dana Esq.

19. Augt.

Mr. Fryeburg Me &amp; fil.

I have yours of the 9th. It was supposed that the new post road was intended to supersede the old one, but Congress did not repeal the old roads near Goffstown &c to Lancaster when they established the new one to Littleton, it is therefore under these circumstances best for Major Merile Abbott to continue this usual route.

John McLean

Edmund Woodard off.

19. Augt.

New Columbia S.C. &amp; fil.

Your letter of the 10th inst. has given the only information to the Deptl - in regard to the Death of Mr. Keith - His representatives have a right to continue the mail - if it is their choice to do so - in fact it is their duty.

John McLean

John Boyle Esq.

19. Augt.

Washington City &amp; fil.

I observe in reply to your letter of the instant - that the information you ask in behalf of Doct. McCaffrey cannot be given with propriety before the 20th. of the ensuing month.

John McLean

Chas Mingo,

West Chester Pa. &amp; fil.

20. Augt.

I wish your mail carrier to visit the Post Office sometime since established at Clingens, where James McLean is appointed Postmaster, the Office is situated between Chatham and Cochranville.

John McLean

## Post Office Dept.

21 Aug. 1823.

Hon. J. Gaines

Tuscaloosa A. &amp; fil.

Yours of the 27th of July is before me. I am apprehensive, that the roads are so bad in your part of the country, that it would not be practicable, without incurring a very heavy expense, to run stages from Monticello to Tuscaloosa, at certain seasons of the year. I presume there are very few Bridges constructed, and that the general state of the roads is such, as to greatly obstruct the progress of carriages at the most favorable time. Stages have seldom, if ever, been found profitable, except in routes connecting over most important points, and passing through the most populous parts of our country. The expenditures of this Deptl. for some years past, have greatly exceeded its receipts. On this account, my predecessor for some time before he left the office, declin'd sending the mail in a stage, when it required, a considerable increase of expense. Under our present circumstances, a stage conveyance on any route where it is practicable, will be profited, but I could not agree to pay for it, any considerable increase of compensation. If the funds of the Department would justify it, I should most cheerfully pay thirty three and a third per cent more for a stage conveyance of the mail, than to have it convey'd on horses. This is the amount which was formerly given in addition, and some contracts were made, on leading routes, without reference to the expense of conveying it in any other manner, than in the Stage. I am glad to see so much enterprise in your country, on this subject, and hope, that the day is not very distant, when it may be in my power, to second effectually, the laudable wishes of your citizens in this respect.

John McLean

A. G. Gordon

Jonesburg N.C. & fil., Yours of the 1st. of July has been rec'd. Mr. Caleb G. Homer is recommended as your successor, by several Post Masters and other respectable citizens. His residence is stated to be six miles from the nearest Post Office, and in the most public place in the County. From this recommendation, I have thought it my duty to appoint Mr. Homer, the your continuance was desirable to the Department, in the place where the office is now located.

John McLean

454. New Joshua Cushman Post Office Department.  
Winslow Med. Esq. 20 Aug. 1122

Yours of the 5th inst. has  
been rec'd. On consultation with the assistant P.M.G., I am in-  
formed that the subject spoken of in your letter, produced some  
excitement last winter - that a part of the Members from your  
State, were strongly in favour of the present arrangement; on  
the ground, that the travel was leponed, and that the stage  
in which the mail is conveyed, was of great public conven-  
ience - I discover the inconveniences under which you labour,  
and think that in some way, they should be remedied.  
It is represented to me, that to change the route for the  
stage, would be almost impracticable, as the road by  
Winslow and Clinton, is very mountainous, and not at  
all adapted for the rapid movement of a stage. I have  
just instructed Mr. Burley, that he must either pass your  
villages with his stage, or send a horse mail by them,  
with such speed, as always to meet the stage the same  
route, at the place of intersection. This may delay  
the movement of the stage, from twenty to thirty or  
forty minutes, on this part of the route, but not longer,  
unless the distance be greater, than I understand you  
to represent. I trust that this arrangement will be  
satisfactory to you, and that by it the inconveniences of  
which you complain, may be all remedied.

John McLean

Editor of New Hampshire Republican, Gt. 20 Augt.  
Concord N.H. Gt.

I observe in your paper  
of the 13th inst. under the editorial head, complaint is made,  
against the present arrangement of the mail routes, in your section  
of State. You are no doubt aware, that mail routes are es-  
tablished by Congress, and that it is not in the power of the  
P.M.G. to change or discontinue them. I will however thank you,  
to furnish this Dept. with a general sketch of routes in your section  
of country, that would more promote the public convenience,  
than those at present established. Your statement shall receive  
an consideration, and will be presented to the committee on  
Post Offices and Post Roads, with such remarks from this  
Dept. as may be seem'd just. If such statements were  
furnished generally from those parts of the Country,  
where the mail routes, injudiciously arranged, I have no  
doubt, that it would lead to valuable improvements.

By this means, the members from each state, would  
have their attention called to the objectionable routes, and  
to such as would better advance the publick interest.

John McLean

B. M. Atherton Esq. /  
Medina O. Esq.

21 Aug.

I will thank you to in-  
form me, whether John Greer post master at Braintree  
resides at the place where his office is established.  
On examining the files of this Office I find that an applica-  
tion was made to this Department last Spring, for the re-  
moval of Mr. Greer, there is also a remonstrance against  
his removal, sign'd by a great number of signatures,  
than are contained on the application for his removal.  
Under such circumstances, a removal cannot take place  
unless some substantial objection be made, as to his want  
of character or inattention to the duties of his office. I  
observe it is stated, that he does not reside in the Town  
in which the office is kept, in the paper, however, pre-  
sented in behalf of Mr. Greer, it is represented, that  
he was about returning to the place where the office  
is kept, which is the most central in the Town.

The absence of Mr. Greer from the Town, will  
be deemed by me a sufficient ground for his removal,  
that is, if he reside in a different place.

John McLean

Hardin T. Franklin  
G. C. & L. Camps N.C. Gt.

22 Augt.

(For your ride's failing  
to deliver the mail at Ash c.t. on the 25th ult. you  
are fined twenty dollars.)

John McLean

456.

## Post Office Department.

21 Augt 1823.

✓ Robert Ball  
Rogersville Tenn. 1<sup>st</sup> Jy.

For a failure in the due delivery of the Cahaba mail at Centerville on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July you are fined twenty dollars.

John McLean

✓ Chester &amp; Stowers.

W. Contractors,

Village Springs N.C. Jy.

21<sup>st</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>

For failing to deliver the mail at Centerville the 25<sup>th</sup> of July - you are fined twenty five dollars.

John McLean

✓ A. Parks Esq:

P.M. Jefferson N.C. Jy.

22, Aug<sup>t</sup>

I am favour'd with yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> & I have fined the contractor for the jailor's route.

John McLean

✓ Moses Purley  
Patrons Md. Jy.22. Aug<sup>t</sup>

It will be necessary for you to visit the offices at Winslow & Clinton - with your stage or to send a horse mail from Gitchells Corner by those offices to some point on your route - so as to give those offices the benefit of a direct mail to Bangor - and on your return from Bangor you must send a horse mail from Fairfax or some more eligible point on your route via those offices to Gitchells corner there to meet the stage - the object is to restore to those offices the same advantages of the mail that they had before the late change was adopted - viz. a direct eastern and western correspondence.

John McLean

✓ Henry Gates Esq.

P.M. Centerville N.C. Jy.

21, Aug<sup>t</sup>

I am favour'd with yours of the 21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> ult. - both the delinquent contractors are fined.

John McLean

## Post Office Dept!

21. Aug<sup>t</sup> 1823.

✓ Jas. Walker.

W. Contractor

Columbia Co. Epw. I have yours of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. - you can make your arrival at Columbia on Monday at 11 A.M. until further advised.

John McLean

✓ A. H. Camp Esq. & others  
Hanover N.Y. Epw.21. Aug<sup>t</sup>

I have yours of the 19<sup>th</sup> ult. the Master of Kensington is informed that he has no right to detain or take out of the mail Portmanteau any package except such as are address'd to his office - the mail can be convey'd twice a week between the Post Offices in Hanover & Kensington if it can be done free of expense under the direction of the Master at Hanover.

John McLean

✓ Asa Pierce Esq:

P.M. Kensington N.Y. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jy.21 Aug<sup>t</sup>

It is improper for a Master to detain Mails address'd to any other office than his own - all he has to do with the contents of the Mail Portmanteau is simply take out the Mail packets address'd to his office.

John McLean

✓ Shen Cooper. W. Contractor,  
Providence Ms. Jy.21 Aug<sup>t</sup>

I have concluded to accept your proposal to transport a second weekly mail on the route Worcester & Providence at the rate of one hundred & fifty Cts p. Annun - you will commence with the second mail on the first of October ensuing. You can leave Worcester every Tuesday & Thursday at 4 P.M. arrive at Providence the same day by 6 P.M. leave Providence every Wednesday & Friday at 6 A.M. and arrive at Worcester (the succeeding morning by 9 A.M. in stormy weather) and in good weather the evening preceding by 7 P.M.

458. Joshua Hathaway Esq.<sup>3</sup> Post Office Dept.  
1 P.M. Rome N.Y. 3<sup>rd</sup> fin. 22 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1820.

I have yours of the 14<sup>th</sup> the same  
justice has been done to the citizens interested in the route  
between Rome and bats four corners - as to any other postroute  
in consequence of the depressed state of the funds of the Dept.  
my predecessor decided not to increase the mail expenses - by  
encouraging the establishment of stages - in giving an in-  
creased price for the mails transport - for that object over  
the current expense of carrying the mail on horseback.

By referring to the list of proposals - it appears that  
there were four bids made for the mails transport on the  
postroute referred to. viz. one at \$450 do \$450 one at  
\$420 and Wardens at \$400 - the bidder at \$420 was well  
recommended - Parker being recommended and the lowest  
lowest bidder was preferred - if the receipts of the Dept. would  
authorize an increased of expenditure I should feel <sup>safely</sup> give  
some further encouragement toward the establishment of  
a line of stages on this route - but at present it does  
not appear to be advisable to do so.

John McLean

1 Miss<sup>r</sup> Mrs Peters & others Esq<sup>r</sup> 22. Aug<sup>t</sup>  
Blairsville Pa. 3<sup>rd</sup> fin.

I have yours of the inst  
the postroute between Hagerstown & Pittsburgh was advertised  
to pass but once a week in consequence of the receipts of  
the Dept being less than its expenditure, as well as  
from the circumstance that the postroute was an un-  
productive one.

John McLean

1 John Bagg<sup>s</sup> 22. Aug<sup>t</sup>  
Grazburg Pa. 3<sup>rd</sup> fin.

I have yours of the 18th. the  
successful bidders will receive acceptance soon after  
the 20th. of the ensuing month.

John McLean

1 Jeptha Prosser Post Office Dept.  
Milledgeville Ga. 3<sup>rd</sup> fin. 22 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1820.

I have yours of the 7th. instant  
the letter sent to you on the 7th of July was sent by  
mistake, as it appears from the records of the Dept.  
that your contract as a contractor end<sup>d</sup> the 31<sup>st</sup> of March  
last.

John McLean

1 P.M. Lockhart Esq.  
P.M. Kingston N.Y. 3<sup>rd</sup> fin. 21 Aug<sup>t</sup>

I have rec'd yours of the 19th.  
inst Any expression of the public sentiment which you may  
deem proper to forward to this Department, shall be duly  
examined. I am apprehensive, that the principal ground  
of complaint, has originated from the inattention, and  
imprudent conduct, of your Clerk. You have done right  
in dismissing this Clerk, and appointing another, who  
will be attentive to the office. He who is of an accommo-  
dating disposition. No removal of a Post Master  
shall be made by me, without substantial cause,  
and not until after he shall have had an opportunity  
to rebut the charges against him. I wish to make a  
removal of the utmost consequence to the officer. This  
can only be done, by adhering strictly to the rule above  
stated. You need not understand, that any expression  
of the public sentiment in your favour, is indispensable to  
your continuance in office, though I suppose under the  
circumstances, you would prefer having such an ex-  
pression, to some extent, made to this Dept. The letters  
you speak of have not yet come to hand.

John McLean

## Post Office Dept.

Aug. 21. 1823.

J. F. Beardby Esq'r. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jy.

Utica N.Y.

Years of the 2d. of Augt. is before me. There is no ground for that part of the difference set up by Hall and others, which rests upon a private agency. The bond taken on the 25th. of December 1818, was intended as additional security, and not as a substitute of the bond first given. The Court however must determine, that the latter, was a substitute for the former bond, and not hold the first securities liable, beyond the date of the second bond. It has been contended in some cases, that the second bond was not only a substitute for the first, but that it rendered the first bond null & void, so that no recovery could be had on it, for any defalcation, though it took place prior to the execution of the last bond. I have not heard of any decision on this point, tho' several cases are pending in which it is made. No Court, I presume, will sustain such a defence. I have myself doubts, whether the lapse of many years, from the time the defalcation took place, to the commencement of suit, does not go to release the securities. The lapse of time should be great, to sustain this defence, unconnected with other circumstances. If the circumstances of the Post Master had become materially worse, so that the money could not be made of his property, it would present a strong ground of defence for the surety, if he could show the ability of the Post Master to pay, at the time the defalcation took place, and for a reasonable time afterwards, as it is understood that this point has been determined by some of the District Courts, it will be taken to the supreme Court, and a final decision had. I am not aware that the atty. general has given any opinion upon this point. The statement which you requested, has been enclos'd to you.

John McLean

## Post Office Dept.

22 Aug 1823.

Hon. A. Robert J. Garrett  
Loyds P.O. Epis Va. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jy.

I thank you for your communication of the 12th inst. To correct every evil in the operations of this Dept. may be impracticable, but I hope to do much; and the belief that I may not be able to accomplish all that is desirable, shall not in the least discourage me, from doing all I can. Sometimes Newspapers are miscarried, by not being properly in a substantial envelope, and carefully directed. In such cases the printers are to blame. I have no doubt that it is the practice of many post masters, to send papers which are sent to their officers, and ever to retain them on their passage, for this purpose. This is in direct violation of law, and of their instructions. If you can by any means discover, that your papers are delayed for this purpose, or under any other pretext, by any Post Master, I will thank you to let me know the name. I am ready to make an example, if any such case occurs, and can be substantiated. It would not require many examples of this kind, to make Post masters more cautious in executing their duties.

John McLean

M. E. L. Head M. Contractor  
Salem Ky. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jy.

23 Augt.

The certificates enclosed in your letter of the 27th inst. appear to be satisfactory as to the cause of failure - but they shew an evident negligence in regard to securing the mail from the weather, was your mail covered either with an oil cloth or Beauchine at the periods referred to.

John McLean

Clark & Wall M. Contractors  
near Milledgeville Ga. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jy.

23 Augt.

The Post office at Danielsville is included in your post route to Barneville - Does your rider visit Danielsville with the mail.

John McLean

462.

## Post Office Dept.

23 Augt. 1823.

Mapes Burley  
Palermo Me. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jir.

I have yours of the 12th. as it is necessary to extend your route from Hampden to Bangor, to establish a direct correspondence between Hallowell & Augusta &c and Bangor. You will continue the arrangement directed by my predecessor - at the rate of fifty cents a year.  
J.W.McLean

J. Long Esq:  
Master Danville Ga. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jir.

23 Augt

I have yours of the inst. Your office is included in the mail contract, executed by Clark & Hall - and I have directed the attention of those gentlemen to the fact.  
J.W.McLean

D. B. Patterson, M<sup>c</sup> Contractor.  
Lynchburg Va. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jir.

23 Augt.

Your letter of the 15th inst. is before me - I am informed that you demanded eighteen hundred dollars a year for the mail transports between Lynchburg & Big Dick - and that \$1340 was offered to you for that service by the Dept and that a bond and contract at that rate was forwarded for you to execute, which you declined to execute - under the circumstances of the case, I have concluded to offer you \$1500 a year, to take date with the current year - Altho' your legal claim upon the Dept. may be considered as limited to \$1340 or at that rate for the services rendered  
J.W.McLean

John Riley Esq:  
Mr. Hamilton O. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jir.

23 Augt.

I wish you ascertain whether a mail is transported between your office & Bath Mr. And if so how often, and by whom it is carried. Your early reply is desired -  
J.W.McLean

## Post Office Dept

23rd. Aug. 1823.

L. Dilling Esq:  
Fairfield O. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jir.

I am favoured with your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. Gach Graves contracted to transmit the mail between Hamilton & Bath Mr. at the yearly compensation of \$168 - can you inform me whether a mail has been carried between those places - or whether a mail carrier has travelled.

J.W.McLean

F. & E. A. Duplessis  
Plaquemine La. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jir.

Augt. 23rd.

Instead of going to Opelousas with the mail I wish you to go to St. Martinville and to arrive at that place on Thursdays by 6 P.M. - presuming that there can be no objection on your part to this arrangement I shall consider it as being adopted by the 20th. of next month.

J.W.McLean

John Brownson Fathers  
St. Martinville La. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jir.

Augt. 23rd.

I have yours of the 24th ult. and I have requested the Mess<sup>r</sup>. Duplessis to visit the Post Office at St. Martinville instead of Opelousas.

J.W.McLean

P.M. Patterson N.Y. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jir.

Augt. 23rd.

I find on the files of this office, that complaint was made, in the year eighteen hundred and twenty one, that the place where your post office is kept, increases the travel of the mail, two miles every trip, over a very bad road, at particular seasons of the year: and that the public interest would be better promoted, by keeping the office on the Turnpike road. You will be pleased to state to me, any objections, which exist, to removing the office as above suggested.

J.W.McLean

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## Post Office Department.

22 Aug. 1823.

Arnold Coll Esq.  
Wilkesbarre Pa 3 Jir.

I am inform'd that for three years past, you have resided at Wilkesbarre, instead of the place where your Post office is located, and that <sup>your</sup> Deputy is in the practice of franking letters. It shall be made an indispensable requisite by me, to the continuance in office, of any Post Master, that he shall personally superintend the business of his office. Please to inform me, if the above information is correct, and whether you intend to continue to continue your residence where it now is.

John McLean

Hon. Walter Forward  
Pittsburg P. 3 Jir.22<sup>nd</sup> Augt.

Your letter of the 2d inst. has been rec'd., and the other papers which accompanied it. The subject of your letter shall receive due attention, in making the contracts for the conveyance of the mail, on the routes, of which you speak. Last month I address'd you a letter respecting the Post Master at Harmony - have you received it. Your affly would be thankfully received.

John McLean

Mr. Johnston Hill, & others  
Savannah Ga 3 Gentlemen,22<sup>nd</sup> Aug.

Your memorial, complaining of the change that was lately made in the conveyance of the mail from Savannah to Augusta, has rec'd. The contract made with Mr. Early, by my predecessor, is obligatory on this Dept., to have the mail carried in the manner in which it is now conveyed, by hitches in a Steam Boat. As the expeditors of this Dept. for some years past, have greatly needed its receipt, an increased expediton for the conveyance of mail on the Georgia side of the river, cannot be incurred, during the continuance of Mr. Early's contract. As then thousand five hundred dollars, is the full amount of compensation paid by this Dept. to Mr. Early, I apprehend that you must have greatly overrated the local advantages, which the citizens of Ga would derive, from the necessary expenditures of a contractor on the Georgia side. Your memorial shall be filed, and I will confer with your members of Congress on the subject. Any thing that I can do, consistently with my duty, and the public interest,

shall most chearfully be done, to afford you redress.

John McLean

The President,  
of the U. States 3 Jir.

22 Aug. 1823.

Alas! Sir. I observe by an act of the last session the President is authorized to cause to be cleared, repaired, and improved, the United States Mail road from Nashville, in the State of Tennessee, to New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana. You are limited to seven thousand nine hundred and twenty dollars, and confined to that part of the road, which lies within the Indian territory. Not knowing whether any steps have been taken under this law, I thought it my duty to call your attention to it. It would greatly facilitate the transportation of the mail, if the above sum were judiciously expended on the road designated. A Mr. David W. Early who has been mail contractor on the above road for four years, is desirous of being appointed to superintend the work. He refers to the members of Congress from Mississippi, of which State he is a citizen, for his character & qualifications. Mr. Early became entirely convinced of the propriety and justice, of my decision in his case, and did not wish to be held any longer, under consideration. I have rec'd. several letters from Maine, very highly approving of the course taken in the case of Mr. Early. They wrote in saying, that his removal would have produced very great excitement in the State, and that the objections to him, originated from feelings which had no connection with the public interests. I have instructed the Post Master in the vicinity of your residence in Albemarle to furnish you with your mail as soon as he shall receive it.

I have the honor to be  
Very sincerely yours  
John McLean