

an arrangement made by the parties interested -

The P.M. Genl. is aware of the great importance of a direct and regular mail communication with this City, to the persons engaged on the Canal, and is solicitous to extend to the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company every mail facility in the power of the Dept<sup>t</sup> to grant -

The Contractor is now instructed to convey a mail twice weekly along the line of the Canal on horseback and to begin the service at once - it is hoped this plan will be satisfactory -

The establishment of the offices recommended by you has been referred to the Bureau of Appointments -

A. Nelson for P.M.G.

✓ Hon. John Tucker,  
Tuckerton, N. J.

The P.M. Genl. instructs me to say in reply to your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>r</sup> that it affords him pleasure to make the change you suggest in the route of Mr. Isaac Jenkins and that, that gentleman has been required to leave Cressham out of his route from Tuckerton to Phil<sup>a</sup> and to go by Jackson Glass Works at which Office Mr. Joseph Horritage is appointed Post Master -

A. Nelson for W. T. Barry

✓ Hon. S. R. Hobbs,  
Delhi, N. Y.

9<sup>th</sup> Oct 1829 -

The P.M. Genl. instructs me to say in reply to your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>r</sup> that he finds himself constrained to make all retrenchment of Post routes not absolutely necessary to the public convenience or interest, & that upon a careful consideration of your proposition to continue the route from Mornsville to Rosbury, he cannot deem it expedient to incur the expense, when those places are already supplied with the mail on route No 75 and when the current engagements of the Dept<sup>t</sup> greatly exceed its income from postage - The P.M. Genl. is most anxious to extend mail facilities to each section of the Union & he indulges the expectation that at no distant day the improvement of the revenue of the Dept<sup>t</sup> may

enable it to meet the many claims which are daily coming in for mail facilities - At this time it is impossible to do so -

A. Nelson for W. T. Barry

✓ Hon. J. Richardson,  
Wm<sup>g</sup>ham, Me.

24 November 1829.

Your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> is at hand - Mr. Briggs is written to on the subject of his mail routes with a view to the satisfactory adjustment of his pay -

A. Nelson for P.M. Genl

✓ Hon. Sam'l P. Carson,  
Raleigh, N. C.

25.

The contract on the Route from Asheville N.C.  
via Waynesville & Franklin to Rabon C. H. Ga does not expire till Decr 31<sup>st</sup> 1830 - Mr. Coleman of Asheville Contractor -

A. Nelson for P.M. Genl

✓ Hon. Geo. M. Dupper,  
Glouce.

11 Decr 1829.

Your letter of yesterday's date with the letter of the P.M. of Edgefield L. Ga herein enclosed have rec'd the attention of the P.M. Genl. The contract of Mr. Tallman for the route specified by Mr. Frazier has been annulled, and a blank contract forwarded to Mr. Frazier to be filled up and executed by such person as he may agree with for the services -

A. Nelson for P.M. Genl

✓ Hon. John Magee,  
Glouce.

14.

The P.M. at Hoight N.Y. will continue to consider his office a private one under the provisions of the P. Office Law & apply the net proceeds of postage to the supplying of it with the mail as Lettopore - his letter is herewith returned -

A. Nelson for P.M. Genl

Post Office Dept

14 Decr 1829.

Hon John Magee,  
House.

It is not thought advisable to grant to the P.M. of Linsleytown - N.Y. the privilege he asks as it would subject other offices to trouble and would no doubt be protested against by the P. Masters on whom the required duty was imposed & perhaps by the public interested -

A. Nelson for P.M.Gent

Letter required to be returned -

Hon. Robert Decher,  
House,

In reply to the enclosed communication I am instructed to say that the route agreed to having been assigned to Mr. Buckley, the Dept<sup>t</sup> has no legal right to annul his contract - Should Mr. Buckley, that meet his engagements, it then may become necessary to provide for the transportation of that mail, but until he does something to forfeit his contract, it would be sheer injustice to deprive him of it -

A. Nelson for P.M.Gent

Hon. R. M. Johnson,  
House,

The application of Mr. Vaughn, and your earnest co-operation with him and Mr. Boyers, have been duly considered - An extension of the stage route from Glasgow to Nashville through Scottville & Gallatin would require an increase of expenditure to the Dept<sup>t</sup>, which the present state of its finances will not justify - The P.M.Gent would be highly gratified in affording the accommodation; but necessity compels him to suspend the measure till he shall see the funds of the Dept<sup>t</sup> in a rising state - Should that day speedily arrive, the subject will be taken up for a re-consideration -

O'Brown

Post Office Dept

15 Decr 1829.

Hon. Wm Russell,  
House,

Your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> is at hand - The P.M.Gent has directed that a blank contract be forwarded to the P. Master of West Union - Ohio to be filled up with the name of such person as he may contract with for the weekly transportation of the mail between his office & Manchester - Ohio. The distance is but eight miles & the office at Manchester yields to the Dept<sup>t</sup> an annual revenue of forty two Dollars, which is too high an allowance for the service required - besides the office of P. Master cannot be held by a Contractor, and the practice in this instance has been erroneous & inconsistent with the rules of the Dept<sup>t</sup>. It is hoped the course adopted in this case will meet your views -

A. Nelson for P.M.Gent

Hon. Jas M. White,  
House,

I am instructed to inform you that the pay of Mr. Heir has been forwarded him with the exception of so much as he claims for services performed at the instance of Post-Masters of Monticello and Tuscarilla - There does not appear on record any authority from the Dept<sup>t</sup> to the P. Masters named, for the extra service required by them of Mr. Heir - but if upon application to these gentlemen, Mr. Heir will furnish evidence of the liability of the Dept<sup>t</sup>, he will be paid for any duties thereby required -

Heir's letter returned -

A. Nelson for P.M.Gent

Hon. Perkins King,  
House,

The P.M.Gent instructs me to inform you that he has given to the memorial from batckill praying for a daily mail between Hudson & batckill (Sundays excepted) due consideration - and, that the necessary instructions have been made out for the Post Masters of New York City, Albany, Hudson & batckill pursuant to the wishes of the Memorialists, to carry the object into effect -

A. Nelson for P.M.Gent

## Post Office Dept

16. Decr 1829.

Hon. W<sup>r</sup>. Gaither,  
House,

I am instructed to say in reply to your note on the subject of Mr. H. B. Hutchinson's contract, that the schedule on the route from Greensburgh to Elizabethtown No 95 has been changed as requested, and Mr. Hutchinson is now authorized to start from Greensburgh instead of Elizabethtown - The Dept cannot incur the expense of an additional mail on that route - the expenses of the Dept already exceed its revenue derived from postage, and until a more prosperous state of its finances is realized, no additional expenditures can be made unless imperiously called for by the public interest - On route No 411 from Greensburgh to Litchfield Mr. Hutchinson's schedule is altered, so as to allow of his arriving at Greensburgh on Sunday by 12 A.M. instead of Saturday at 6 P.M. as he had obligated himself to do - this privilege to extend to the 1<sup>st</sup> of April next, after which time, he must live up to his original contract - We trust these arrangements will be satisfactory to Mr. Hutchinson and the public interested therein -

A. Nelson for PM Govt

Hon. Jas<sup>r</sup>. Hoy, Jr  
House,

19.

In reply to your letter of yesterday's date I observe that the P<sup>r</sup>l<sup>c</sup>nt<sup>r</sup> is prohibited by Law from making "additional allowances to the contractor or carrier of any mail, on any route, over or beyond the amount stipulated in the contracts entered into for the transportation of the mail on such routes, unless additional service shall be required" The 13<sup>th</sup> section of the act "establishing and regulating the Post Office Dept" is clear and positive in this matter, and leaves to the P<sup>r</sup>l<sup>c</sup>nt<sup>r</sup> no discretionary power - Mr. Barn's case therefore tho' a hard one cannot be relieved here -

A. Nelson for PM Govt

Post Off Dept.  
Off. of Mail Contracts  
Decr. 17. 1829Hon John Magee  
At of Dept.

Sir

It appears that the contractor Mr. J. Magee, is bound to run the mail only 3 times a wk between Genesee & Rochester, but that he has been carrying it daily, since the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan. 7 last, on the authority of a letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. 7. 1829 to the P<sup>r</sup>l<sup>c</sup>nt<sup>r</sup> at Genesee, for which add. compensation is claimed.

The situation of the Dept does not admit of any add. allowance, except where a certain stipulation requires it. The direction to the P<sup>r</sup>l<sup>c</sup> at Genesee is silent as to add. allowance; yet an order to send the mail, may imply an obligation to pay for it - Under these circumstances, the P<sup>r</sup>l<sup>c</sup> Gen<sup>r</sup> agrees to make an add. allowance of \$300 a year, which is about half the pro-rata allowance, provided he shall continue the daily mail, & to commence from the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan'y last.

O. B. BrownHon. Ebenezer Young,  
House,21<sup>st</sup>

The papers submitted by you to the consideration of the P<sup>r</sup>l<sup>c</sup>nt<sup>r</sup> have rec'd due attention, and I am instructed to say that a contract will be forwarded to the Post Master at Pompey Landing for execution agreeably to Law, and that when executed the pay for the mail's transportation between Pompey Landing and Pompey will be made Mr. S. S. Parkhurst, in compliance with the instructions of the Dept to Mr. Child of the 13<sup>th</sup> Decr 1827 -

A. Nelson for PM Govt

Hon. John Magee,  
House,23<sup>rd</sup>

I have the honor to enclose to you blank contracts for the P<sup>r</sup>l<sup>c</sup> at Freedom N.Y. which when properly executed by the person with whom he shall contract for the transportation of the mail on Route 275 from North China by East China, Freedom, Howlett's Corners & Franklinville to Hemisdale will be returned to this Dept - The P<sup>r</sup>l<sup>c</sup> at Freedom

is directed when the contracts are filled up and the Bonds  
properly executed to inform the P.Masters of North China  
and Consdale with whom he has contracted, in order that  
the mail may be delivered to said Contractor or his order.

A. Nelson for PMG

✓ Hon. John M. Lean,

Senate,

23<sup>o</sup>

There is now law establishing a mail route from Equality to Salem-Ky. direct - There is a law establishing a route from Frankfort to Golconda, & from Golconda to Salem-Ky. - There is also a law establishing a route from Frankfort to Equality - The advertisement for proposals last issued, specifies the Route "from Frankfort-Ill. to Salem-Ky. in stages"; but on making the contract, it was obvious to me, that it would be an improvement which would save the Dept. \$70 a year, to commence at Equality, as the Route from Shawneetown by Frankfort to Carlisle runs through Equality, & that part of it which runs from Frankfort to Equality will keep the connection with Frankfort as perfectly as if the route commenced at that place - The Law of 1815 establishes a route from Johnson C.H. Ill. to Salem-Ky. which runs through Golconda - The Law of 1821, establishes a route from Golconda to Franklin C.H. - The Law of 1828 establishes a Route from Shawneetown by the seats of Justice of Gallatin, Franklin and Washington Counties - The Route therefore from Equality to Salem-Ky. is included in the two former of these laws, and a part of the Route established by the Law of 1821, is covered by the contract under the Route established by the Law of 1828 - I should not therefore think it necessary for Congress at this time to legislate on the subject -

M.B.Brown

Post Office Dept

24 Decr 1829.

Hon. G. Lyon,

House.

I am instructed to state in reply to the enclosed letter from the P.M. at Oberlin-Ky. that the Route from Brookhill Tenn. via Trenton, Bucknerville &c discontinued in Oct. last on the representations of the P.Masters at Elkton, Bucknerville &c has been ordered by letter from this office of the 18<sup>th</sup> Inst. to the P.M. of Brookhill to be re-established - It is not the wish of the Dept. to deprive any section of country of receiving mail privilege, but it is an object of importance to its revenue to discontinue all useless Routes - and such the Route in question was represented to be by those immediately interested in it.

The Route from Clarksville-Tenn. to Elkton-Ky. via Trenton was discontinued in Sept. last - The P.M. at Clarksville in reply to a query from this Bureau as to the propriety of discontinuing said route, says on the 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. last "scarcely any letters ever come or go by that Route".

It is to be hoped that the order for re-establishing the Brookhill Route via Trenton &c to Elkton-Ky. will be satisfactory to the P.Masters thereon -

A. Nelson for PMG

✓ Hon. Pryor Lee,

House,

In reply to the communication of Genl Parsons enclosed in your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> Inst., I remark, that the attention of the Dept. was at an early day, called to the subject of this bid, by a letter from Mr. Stanley, the actual lowest bidder on the route; and upon a revision of the bids, it appeared that the bid of Messrs. McLean Parsons & Willis was erroneously entered upon the Books at \$4.500 (and it is somewhat surprising that those gentlemen, or one of them who was present at the time of the decision of the bids should have remained silent & suffered the mistake to pass uncorrected) when in fact their bid was \$5.500 - Mr. Stanley claimed the contract as being the lowest bidder, and as such the Dept. was bound to give it to him - If Messrs. Parsons &c will examine the last clause in their acceptance, they will discover the right. The Dept. has no interest in such cases; and that as errors or mistakes were anticipated,

the remedy was provided -

It is painful to the Dept., under any circumstances to come in conflict with the interests of individuals, but when justice requires it, it must be done - Those gentlemen were written to at the time on the subject, and it was hoped that the explanation given would have been satisfactory - Genl Parsons' letter is herewith returned -

O. B. Brown -

✓ Hon. H. L. White,

Senate,

30.

In reply to Genl Parsons' communication enclosed in your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>2</sup>, I have to make the same remarks, that I have made to the Hon. Mr<sup>2</sup> Lee in relation to this subject - At a very early day after the decision of the bids made on Post Routes in Minnesota, the attention of the Dept<sup>2</sup> was called to the bid of Majrs McCann, Parsons & Willis, by a letter from Mr<sup>2</sup> Stanley, stating that his bid was lower than that of Majrs Parsons &c & upon a revision of the bids, it appeared that the bid of those gentlemen was erroneously entered upon the Books at \$ 4,500 (and it is somewhat surprising that those gentlemen knowing the mistake, should have suffered it to pass uncorrected) when in fact their bid was \$ 5,500 - Mr<sup>2</sup> Stanley claimed the Contract as being the lowest best bidder, and as such, the Dept<sup>2</sup> was bound to give it to him - If Majrs Parsons &c will examine the last clause in their acceptance, they will discover the right the Dept<sup>2</sup> has to interfere in such cases; and that as errors or mistakes were anticipated, the remedy was provided -

It is painful for the Dept<sup>2</sup>, under any circumstances, to come in conflict with individual interests, but when justice requires it, there is no alternative - Those gentlemen were written to at the time on the subject, and it was hoped that the explanation given would have been satisfactory - Genl Parsons' letter is herewith returned agreeably to your request -

O. B. Brown

Post office Dept

30 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1829.

✓ Hon. John Biddle,  
House,

The Route from Fort Wayne to Green Bay - Mich. Ter<sup>r</sup>. may be supplied by mail as heretofore; that is, the proceeds of the office at Green Bay will be applied towards the payment of the transportation, and the P.M. at Green Bay is hereby authorized to procure the transportation so often as the proceeds of his office will admit - I will thank you to request the P. Master at Green Bay to ascertain the lowest rate for which a mail can be regularly carried, once in two weeks, between those two points -

O. B. Brown

✓ Hon. Lewis Coblentz,  
House,

30.

In relation to the subject of the enclosed communication from Mr<sup>2</sup> Burnet, I am instructed to say, that Majrs McCaury & Drake will be responsible to the Dept<sup>2</sup> under their Bond for the faithful performance of their contract for the transportation of the mail on Route No 265 originally from Jersey City to Easton Pa but now abridged, to commence at Morristown instead of Jersey City - These contractors have been thus informed, and their surety, Mr<sup>2</sup> Nathaniel Harton also - Should there be a failure on this Route as anticipated by Mr<sup>2</sup> Burnet his propositions will receive due consideration -

A. Nelson for P. M<sup>2</sup> Gandy

✓ Hon. P. L. Tracy,  
House,

30.

In reply to your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>2</sup> I am instructed to say that W. D. Balcom has been paid up to 1<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> last for the mail's transportation on Routes No 163 & 168 - That the contract for said Routes is in Balcom's name & there is no entry upon the Books showing that Mr<sup>2</sup> Luther was to receive any portion of the pay arising therefrom - It would appear that after the acceptance to Luther, he had made a transfer of his rights to Balcom, and no contract having been executed by him, Balcom's contract was made having reference back to 1<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>r</sup> 1829 altho' it is apparent from the certificates

of the P. Masters on the Routes and the letter of P. Bradley  
of the 23<sup>d</sup> April 1829 that Butler was looked upon as the  
responsible person up to that period - to which period his  
appendant goes or thereabouts -

A quarter's pay for the Routes referred to will come due  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan'y 1830 - which will not be transmitted to Mr.  
Bacon until a fair understanding is had, and Mr. Butler's  
rights secured - this arrangement will afford Mr. Butler time to  
substantiate his claim, and we trust will be satisfactory -

A. Nelson for P.M.Govt

✓ Hon. Benedict Arnold.

31<sup>st</sup>

House,

In the case of Messrs Hobbs & Elliott, I  
have the honor to state, that when a contract is made for  
carrying the mail, the Contractor is bound to deliver it to all  
offices then on the Route, or that may be established on the  
route without additional pay - When a new office is established  
which increases the distance of the mail carrier, he is entitled  
to additional pay in the same proportion which that increased  
distance bears to the whole length of the Route, & in such  
cases the Contractor is required to produce the certificates of  
two P. Masters on the Route of such increased distances - In  
this case, they have produced the certificate of W<sup>m</sup> Hand P.M.  
that the increased distance by going to Annisville is 3 miles;  
for this they are entitled to additional compensation of \$11 a.  
year from the time of their going by that office - If they will  
furnish similar certificates for proving the increase of dis-  
tances to other offices, the additional compensation will be  
allowed in the same ratio - The certificates which they have  
furnished from the other offices are silent as to distance, though  
the increased distance is all that the Dept<sup>t</sup> wishes to be certified -

O.B.Brown

Post Office Dept  
31<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1829.

✓ Hon. Dudley Chase,  
Senate,

I am instructed to say in reply to the letter  
of Mr. Williams that Messrs Barker, Wall & Wood will be paid  
for the transportation of the mail from Rutland to Woodstock N.H.  
at the rate of \$250 per annum from the commencement of the  
service, and in consideration of transporting two weekly mails between  
said places an additional sum of \$50 will be allowed them from  
and after the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan'y 1830 - This pay will be remitted them when  
they shall have executed their Contract - It is contrary to the usage  
of the Dept<sup>t</sup> to make allowances for services not specified in  
Contracts or specially directed to be performed -

Papers returned -

A. Nelson for P.M.Govt

✓ Hon. C. H. Kane.

Senate,

Your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>r</sup> is at hand - The  
letter of Mr. Morrison of the 8<sup>th</sup> on the subject of Routes which  
go into operation on the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan'y 1830 is noted -  
Should there be failures on the part of Contractors, it is very  
probable that some of the routes alluded to by Mr. Morrison will  
be assigned to him -

A. Nelson for P.M.Govt

✓ Hon. Thos Beckman.

31<sup>st</sup>

House,

The enclosed petition has for the first time  
come to my view this day. The person having taken charge of it in  
August last being subsequently employed on <sup>other</sup> business, is the cause of  
my not receiving it earlier -

The Route petitioned for is not established by Law; it therefore  
requires the authority of Congress to satisfy the wishes of the petitioners

O.B.Brown

Post office Dept

1<sup>st</sup> Jan'y 1830.

✓ Hon. Ratliff Brown,  
House,

The Route from Fredonia to Princeton-In-  
is discontinued because it is of no utility compared with its  
expense - The route from Princeton to Evansville & from  
Evansville to Fredonia goes quicker, & is that by which  
all correspondence between these two points is kept up -  
On the Route which is discontinued, there is not more than  
one office, & that is not worth \$ 20 a year to the Dept., of  
course it can be of no great public utility; but the  
expense of carrying the mail in that way would not be  
less than \$ 225 a year - It is hoped that these reasons will  
satisfy both you and your constituents in that regard -

Letter returned

O.B.Brown -

✓ Hon. Joseph Duncan,  
House,

1<sup>st</sup>

If Dillard & Cobb should fail to execute their  
contract for carrying the mail from Shawneetown to Carlisle, it  
is expected that the contract will be given to Mr. Morrison at  
his bid, agreeably to your request -

O.B.Brown

✓ Hon. John McLean,  
Senate,

1<sup>st</sup>

Your application on behalf of Mr. Wilbanks is  
recd. Your high recommendation of him would make it desirable  
for the Dept. to enlist him in its employ, could it be done with  
propriety; but if Dillard & Cobb to whom No 63 is assigned, shall  
fail to execute the contract, it belongs next in order to another  
person, whose bid stands far below that of Mr. Wilbanks -

O.B.Brown

Post office Dept

2<sup>nd</sup> Jan'y 1830.

✓ Hon. John Campbell,  
House,

I am instructed to say in reply to the  
enclosed letter from Mr. Dolzer that Mr. Harrell is given distinctly  
to understand that the postes granted him of running the mail  
in a Sulky was based upon the express condition that all  
travellers should be provided for, and not detained one moment  
longer than they would have had to have continued his transport  
the mail per stage in contract time - Mr. Harrell will be required  
strictly to conform to this regulation or at once resume the  
transportation of the mail in stages -

A. Nelson for P.M.Gent

✓ Hon. R. M. Johnson,  
Senate,

2<sup>nd</sup>

Your application in behalf of Mr. Watson to  
carry the mail twice a week in four horse stages between Philicote  
& Portsmouth in Ohio has been duly considered - The interest which  
you take in favor of Mr. Watson is highly commendatory of his  
merit; but when a contract already exists, if a change is to be made  
in the mode or frequency of the performance, it is due to the contractor  
to give him the refusal - Application has been made by the present con-  
tractor to do what Mr. Watson proposes to do; and if it is a matter  
yet undecided whether the Dept. will incur the additional expense; but  
should the P.M.Gent decide in favor of the measure, the contract must  
still continue in the hands of the present Contractor if he shall con-  
tinue to merit it -

O.B.Brown

✓ Hon. Prayor Lee,  
House,

2<sup>nd</sup>

The proposition which you have urged for the  
establishment of a stage Route from Newport via Sevierville to Maryville  
in Tenn. with the petition of sundry citizens in its favor, has been  
duly considered - The expense cannot be ascertained by the Dept.; but if  
it can be done at a moderate rate, the P.M.Gent will probably accede  
to the wishes of the citizens, after sufficient time to comply with the Law.  
The law requires notice to be given by advertisement at least twelve

weeks before making a contract. If it shall meet the approbation of the P.M. Genl I shall cause proposals to be advertised for as soon as the P.M. Genl returns, which will probably be on Monday -

O.B.Brown

Hon. Mr. Peter Birch Jr.  
House of Reps.

4. Jan'y 1830

The P.M. Genl. instructs me to say that the Dept<sup>t</sup> cannot incur the additional expense of increasing the mails' speed between Easton & Mount Pleasant Pa as proposed by Mr. Ely - the current expenses of the Dept<sup>t</sup> already exceed its income, and until there is an increase of Revenue from postages, the strictest possible economy must be practised - The P.M. Genl. is most anxious to extend mail facilities to every section of the Country, but his capacity to do so is necessarily limited by the means placed at his disposal - At a future and perhaps not distant day, the proposition of Mr. Ely may be entertained -

Mr. Ely's letter returned

A. Nelson for P.M. Genl

Hon. Wm Lumpkin,  
House,

4.

The mail from Athens to Monroe Ga is carried under a contract with John H. Eliason, for £180 a year. It would not be correct to contract with another person to carry it in a stage, unless the other person should first establish a line of stages on the Route, or unless the present contractor should refuse to do so - If the Dept<sup>t</sup> should determine to cause the mail on that Route to be carried in stages, it is due to the present contractor to give him the alternative of doing it - The P.M. Genl. would probably allow about £120 additional for stages, which would make the whole compensation £300 per annum -

Eliason's letter returned

O.B.Brown

Post office Dept  
5 Jan'y 1830

Hon. Joel Nancy,  
House,

The very frequent failures reported by the Post Masters on Mr. Evans's Mail Route No 408 from Bowling Green to Glasgow Ky. have subjected him to many fines, and caused his pay to be suspended - So remiss had Mr. Evans been that the P.M. at ~~Rocky Hill~~ was required on the 30<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> last to contract with some other person for the mail's transportation on that route, and in all probability has done so before this time - The public interest requires that Contractors should personally superintend their Routes, & be answerable for the conduct of their carrying, and when remonstrance has no effect, resort must be had to fines - Mr. Evans has been warned from time to time of the complaints made against him and failing to profit thereby, it became the duty of the Dept<sup>t</sup> to exact fines for failures which he could not, or would not account for satisfactorily - Evans's letter returned

A. Nelson for P.M. Genl

5.  
Hon. Mr. B. Shepard,  
House,

I am instructed to state in reply to the enclosed communication from Mr. Henderson, that the certificate of which he makes mention has not been rec'd at this Dept<sup>t</sup>, and that there is no authority on Record here for the P.M. of "Newbiggin Creek" to employ a carrier to supply his office with the mail - The rule of the Dept<sup>t</sup> is this whenever a new office is established, the Postmaster is authorized to call on the Const<sup>t</sup> who supplies the Route on which (or near which) his office is situated, to visit his office & if the travel of the Const<sup>t</sup> be increased thereby a pro rata pay is allowed him - This is a general rule & cannot be departed from - If Mr. Henderson will forward the certificate of the P.M. at Newbiggin Creek, that his route from Elizabeth City to Norfolk, has been extended by his calling at that office - and how far extended, with a notice of the time he has been calling at said office, then a pro rata compensation will be allowed him for the extra service -

A. Nelson for P.M. Genl

Post Office Dept

6 Jan'y 1830-

✓ Hon. Joel Bancey,  
House,

In reply to your letter of this morning I am instructed to say, that under the peculiar circumstances of Mr. Evans' case & your high recommendation of him, no greater fine will be exacted for the failures reported against him, than such as he is liable to for an entire loss of traps. That should be in future regularly and faithfully come up to his engagements he may be continued as a contractor. This clemency is extended to Mr. Evans entirely upon your representations and not for any claim he has upon the Dept' for the fulfilment of his duties as a contractor.

A. Nelson for O. M. Gen'

✓ Hon. Pryor Lea,

& Hon. John Blair, 6,

House, of Reps.

Agreeably to your united recommendation and request, the contract of Samuel Haskins for running the mail from Knoxville to Shown's & Roads will be so altered as that he will <sup>be allowed</sup> \$1690 per year, provided he will carry it in four horse stages. As soon as his contract shall be returned executed, the alteration will be entered upon it. Please give Mr. Haskins this information.

O.B.Brown

✓ Hon. Lewis Bondick,

6,

House of Reps.

The contractors on Route No. 265, from Jersey City to Boston have been informed, that the part of the Route from Jersey City to Morristown, is discontinued, & one third of the pay deducted in consequence of the abridgement of the route. The remainder is still to run in stages, which will connect at Morristown with the other lines running through that place to New York.

O.B.Brown

Post Office Dept

6 Jan'y 1830.

✓ Hon. C. C. Clay,  
House of Reps

The delay of the Newspapers complained of in the enclosed letter of Mr. Tarkt, arises from the manner in which the papers are put up by the printers. Packages for South Alabama are sent most expeditiously by way of Montgomery, and for North Alabama, by way of Huntsville. The Editor of the Telegraph does his paper up in two bundles, one for North, the other for South Alabama, and endorses them accordingly. The Editors of the Intelligencer and Journal put their papers in one bundle, and endorse it simply Alabama. I have instructed the P.M. in this place to furnish the Editors of the Intelligencer & Journal with a list of the Post Offices in North Alabama, & request them to put up and endorse their bundles accordingly - and when a bundle comes to the office directed to Albany, simply, to send it by way of Huntsville.

O.B.Brown

✓ Hon. M. C. Spriggs

House of Reps., 7,

The petition of the Citizens of Alleghany Co. praying for the establishment of a private Route from Somerville to Friends M<sup>o</sup> has been granted, & I now enclose you a blank contract, that you may have it filled up with the name of some suitable person. If after a sufficient trial, it is found that the proceeds of the office at Friends, will justify the mail being sent twice a week it shall be done.

P. S.

It is deemed sufficient to extend the Route from Somerville to Friends; and as the Route is not established by Law, the proceeds of the office at Friends are all that can be applied to the pay for transportation.

O.B.Brown

Post Office Dept  
7 Jan'y 1830 -

Hon. Jas. Buchanan,  
House of Reps

In answer to your inquiries, I have the honor to state, that the distances are as follows, viz -  
From Columbus, Ohio. to Indianapolis Ind. 203 miles  
Indianapolis Ind. to Vandalia Ill. . . . 181 do  
Vandalia Ill. to St. Louis Mo. . . . 76 do  
St. Louis Mo. to Jefferson City Mo. . . . 127 do  
Cincinnati Ohio to Columbus Ohio . . . . 110 do  
Cincinnati Ohio to Indianapolis Ind. . . . 105 do

O.B.Brown

Hon. Wm Armstrong,  
House of Reps

7.

An additional trip each week, on the Route from Winchester to Romney is directed - The mail will leave Winchester for Romney every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday morning - The mail will also hereafter leave Gainesboro for Cumberland every Friday after the arrival of the Winchester Mail -

O.B.Brown

Hon. Joseph M. White,  
House of Reps

7.

The contract for carrying the mail between Galliapee and Telphair C. H. will expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> Decr 1830. Advertisements will be issued for proposals to renew the contract in course of the ensuing summer - If the Contract is dead, his representatives have the alternative of completing the contract -

O.B.Brown

Hon. Wilson Lumpkin,  
House of Reps,

8.<sup>th</sup>

The P. Masters of Monroe & Athens Ga are informed that if the change contemplated by Mr. Betts will not destroy or interrupt any mail connections at their offices, it may be made -

A. Nelson for P.M. Gandy

Post Office Dept  
Office of Mail Contracts  
8<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1830

Hon. C. G. Davitt  
H. of Reps  
Sir

On a thorough investigation of the case of Thos. B. Smith for transporting the mail from Poughkeepsie to Bloomingburgh, it appears that Mr. Smith entered into contract for carrying the mail on that route from Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1829 at \$140 per m<sup>ile</sup>. It also appears that the mail has been satisfactorily carried, & that the service entitles either the Contractor, or the person who performed under him, or in case of his failure, under the Dept to the compensation stipulated. It further appears, that the P. L. & O. N. Y. & P. K. refused to deliver the mail to Smith, because Smith wished to receive & carry it by hand to the ferry, so as to save the expense of crossing the river with his horses & wagon, but that he delivered the mail to Roswell Baker, who carried it. A dispute on this arose, which of the persons, Smith, or Baker, was entitled to the compensation from this Dept. Both claimed it. The contract was with Smith & Baker performed the service. In Sept last, it was alleged that Smith had assigned the contract to Baker, & Baker applied for the pay. Baker was answered, that he must look to Smith for his pay till Smith should give notice to the Dept of his having assigned the contract to him, & in the meantime the pay was withheld till that point should be settled. Smith however informed the Dept. in Oct. last, that he had not assigned the contract to Baker. It appears therefore to be the correct course for the Dept to pay Smith, who is the Contractor, & to leave the point in dispute between him & the person has performed the service, to be settled by themselves. It is desirable however, that they should settle on equitable principles, without litigation.

O.B.Brown

Hon. J. W. Weeks,  
House of Reps,

8.

If the change of the Route referred to in your letter of yesterday, and the accompanying remonstrance shall become a subject of investigation by the Dept., your <sup>& your representation</sup> will be solicited -

O.B.Brown