

Post Office Dept
Sept 18. 1828

Friend Morse, P.M.
McConnellsville, N.Y.

If proper care has been taken of the post office, I should suppose it impossible for any person to open the mail desk. Is it left with the key in it, and no sworn agents present? If so, it is not kept with the care which so sacred a depository as a post office should be kept. I hope, however, no letters are taken; and for an office so small, the account of mails sent is of no great importance in making up your returns. The account of mails received is the principal document required.

M.L.

Henry Freeman, late P.M. 20th
Bennetville, Ga,

On the resignation of Mr Mitchell at any time, you can be re-appointed. The Deptt desires to know nothing more than your wishes on the subject, in the event of a vacancy.

The gentleman recommended by you was clearly ineligible, under the post office law, on account of his interest in a mail contract: and as Mr Mitchell was recommended by Mr Stanford, whose respectability was unchallenged, in strong terms, by the Hon Mr Lumpkin, who I have no doubt is your friend, I could not hesitate to do, what is done in all similar cases, appoint the person, against whom no strong objection existed.

In Mr. Stanford's communication there is not the slightest imputation against your official or private character. He recommends Mr Mitchell, supposing the office to be

vacant.

You will permit me to say that you have suffered your feelings to become excited, quite unnecessarily on this occasion, as I have no doubt you will see, when in possession of the facts. There are trials enough in life, without creating to ourselves imaginary ones. I have no doubt your feelings arise from a high sense of honor and supposed injustice, but, you will find that your views may be as well attained by the appointment ^{of Mr. Mitchell} as the person named by you, and that your standing has in no way been impeached.

M.L.

Joseph Nourse 23d
Register of the Treasury.

I have the honor to enclose you herewith an estimate of the expences of this Deptt for the year 1829.

M.L.

Estimate of an appropriation which will be necessary to cover the salaries of the Post Master General, Assistants, Clerks &c for the year 1829. D.V.

Compensation to the Post Master General \$6000. 1500

"	the two assistants each	\$2,500.	5000	12,500
"	Chief Clerk	1700	425	
"	3 Clerks @ \$1400	4200	1050	
"	5 ditto " \$1200	6000	1500	
"	23 ditto " \$1000	423,000	5,750	
"	6 ditto " \$800	4800	1,200	
	The Messenger.....	700	175	
	2 ap't. Messengers	700	175	

contingent expenses of the Deptt - Wood, Stationary, keeping up blanks, Newspapers &c &c, not including various expenses of prosecution, mail postmen teams &c &c, these being paid for out of the funds of the Deptt.

1,500

14,525

58,100

Post Office Dept
Sept 22. 1828

J. S. M. Allen
New York

I enclose you a letter from Mr. Simpson, which contains a statement of the knowledge he possesses respecting the robbery of the mail, referred to in your letter of the 20th inst. The fact of the deposition can be best proved, by the P. Master who made up the mail last, and the one whose duty it was to distribute it. Mr. Simpson can only state facts, from hearsay, which, you are aware, cannot be received as evidence. As he is much engaged at present, it would be inconvenient for him to leave the Dept^t, and I would suggest the propriety of taking his deposition, if on consultation with your lawyer, his evidence shall be deemed of importance. I would certainly send him to N. York, if his personal presence could be of importance to protect your interests.

J.M. Lean

J. G. Williamson P.M. 22.
Wilmington, De,

I enclose a slip from the U. S. Gazette in which a complaint is made, that the subscribers to that paper, do not regularly, regularly receive them in Wilmington. That these failures are attributable to the person who folds and directs the paper in the printing office, is more than probable, and in order to ascertain the fact, that the censure may fall on the right person, I will suggest, that after obtaining a list of the subscribers to that paper, who live in Wilmington, that you compare each packet with the list, and give notice to the publishers you neglect your subscribers.

Post Office Dept
Sept 22. 1828

Ebenezer Bell,
Union Village,

New York,

Your letter of the 15. inst. is rec'd. You can send proposals, specifying when you would leave Union Village, and when arrive there; and on making the contract, the subject will be taken into consideration.

J.M.L

John M. Roberts P.M. 22.
Spartanburg C. H. S. C.

There is a post office named Oak Grove in Union district. No doubt there was a mistake in the direction. Send them there, and drop the P. M. a line to receive them for delivery the same as if they had been mailed for Oak Grove, Union Dist.

J.M.L

Hulford Marsh P.M. 22.
Jacksonboro' Ga,

It is the duty of the driver to deliver the mail at the door of the Post Office, if it is so situated that he can conveniently drive to the door. No order has been taken as to any particular part of the Village in which the office shall be kept, except that the general rule is, that it must be convenient to the business generally of a Village, and on the street which the stage regularly passes. It is the duty of a driver to carry letters delivered to him on the road to be deposited in post offices, but it is not his duty to take letters from an office to deliver to persons on the road.

Maps of the U. S. are supplied to such offices as need them on account of many

Sept. 22. 1838

routes branching from them; but from Jacksonboro' very few letters are sent into other states, except what are sent through one of the distributing offices of Augusta or Savannah.

M. L

John L. Lang P.M. 22d.

Ramsey St. H.

A mail key should be kept with sacred care, always secured under a lock. By the carelessness of Post Masters, in permitting improper persons to obtain the key, great depredations have been committed on the mail. Another is sent.

M. L

J. W. Johnson, 23d.

Montgomery, Ala,

Complaints of negligence in the transportation of the mail on your route from Montgomery to Blakely have become so frequent, from travellers and others, that the public interest requires a radical change to save the contract from forfeiture.

It is represented, that two horse stages are not used on the route, agreeably to the contract, when steam boats do not fly between Montgomery & Blakely, and that the horses used in the one horse wagon, and the vehicle itself, are not adequate to the service.

I regret to say, that you have not met the expectation of the public or the Department, and that the high confidence which was reposed in your energy as a contractor can no longer be continued.

No Contractor can sustain himself with the Deptt, who does not make the public service his principal object; and when confid-

Sept. 22. 1838 409

is reposed in him, he ought never to trust to the performance of others, except they act under his immediate control.

I have instructed the post masters at Montgomery and Mobile to place your contract in other hands, if the very letter of it, is not complied with. Indeed I regret that this change has not been made before, as I am sensible the Deptt has lost character by the shamefully negligent manner in which your contract has been performed.

M. Lean

Genl. J. M. Forman 23d.

Cecilton, Md,

Packets are rated according to the distance which packages actually travel, and not the distance in a right line. From Baltimore to Cecilton, therefore, the proper rate is 10 cents on a single letter, because from Baltimore to Elkton is 52 miles, and there is a route direct from Elkton to Cecilton on which they ought to be sent. If packages are still sent by way of Wilmington, so as to increase the distance, it is not proper that a higher rate should be charged on that account. Newspapers printed in Washington, are not considered as printed in Maryland. Though it once was, it is not now a part of Maryland.

The inclosed is neither a newspaper nor a pamphlet; and is therefore subject to letter postage.

M. L

Post Office Dept
Sept 23 1838

J. P. R. Brandall P.M.
Barre, N. Y.

Your letter of the 17th inst. is rec'd. Letters mailed for your office are to be retained in your office for delivery, except for such persons as request you to forward them; and in that case you are to forward them; also if they are directed to "Leavenworth Corners", you are always to forward them there, though they may have been erroneously mailed for your office. Individuals have a right to control their own correspondence; and to effect this, every letter must be sent to the office to which it is directed, and there retained for delivery, unless the writer or person addressed, shall direct otherwise, and then their instruction is to be observed.

M. L.

Mr. H. Hunt P.M.
Pensacola,

24th

Your letter respecting the relinquishing of the office of P.M., is received, and in answer I have to state, that in making appointments, I have no other object than to consult the public interest by selecting the most competent person, and those who will best meet the public approbation. The recommendation of the Representative from the district in which the office is situated, is, generally relied on as affording the best recommendation to appointments. This is a reform to the practice of the Deptt, and no other assurance can be given in any case.

J. M. Lean

Post Office Dept
Sept 24. 1838

Hon T. W. Cobb
Greensboro, Ga,

Your letter in behalf of Mr. Dillard for the post office at Columbus, was not received, until an appointment was ordered, on a recommendation of Gov. Forsyth, given at the place, & several others, who are gentlemen of great respectability in Georgia. The recommendation was considered so strong, as not to admit of any doubt, that it would be acceptable to the public, to appoint the person named; consequently he was appointed so soon as the resignation of the P. M. was received.

I enclose you a copy of my letter of the 23rd July last, in answer to yours informing me that three trips in the stage would be run between Powelton & Madison at \$100 per annum. From your letter just received, I presume you cannot have received the above.

In addition to what I have stated in the enclosed letter, you can inform the contractor, that I will add \$300 per annum to his compensation for a third trip in the stage, and if he shall refuse to run the third trip, I authorize you to make the arrangement with any other person for the third trip, at \$300 per annum. In the event of a third trip being carried into execution operation, I will thank you to regulate the arrival and departure of the mail at the different points, as may best suit the public convenience, & inform me of the times fixed. I hope the increase, over my former letter, of the compensation, for the third trip, may be a sufficient inducement to secure the performance of the service.

J. M. Lean

Post Office Dept
Sept 24. 1828

John G. Martin P.M.
Sunbury, Pa,

Your letter of the 16th inst^t is received. You should always make up a special mail for Baltimore and for Washington City. For offices in the district of Columbia and south of it, you should make up a mail and send to this place for distribution. Letters for Baltimore, Washington and south, you should send by way of Harrisburgh, and not by way of Phila.

M.L.

Emory & Bangs
N^o York

24th

Your letter of the 19th inst is recd.—The information given you by the P.M. at Pittsburg is incorrect. During the winter, the time of transporting the mail from N^o York to Kentucky &c by Pittsburg is the same, as by Hagerstown and Wheling, and much more certain. During the summer, the time is one day less on the latter route than by Pittsburg, though the distance is a little greater. This is effected by keeping the mail as light as possible, and giving the greatest possible expedition to it. If the New York papers should be sent by it, the weight would be so increased as to render it impossible to give to it that expedition, so that the object which you have in view would entirely fail, besides retarding the progress of letters. Another injury would arise. Your papers for the northern part of Ohio, which are now separated at Pittsburg, would go to Washington Pa, to be separated, so that they would be one day later than they now are in

reaching their destination. No change therefore can accelerate their conveyance in either direction.

M.L.

Lewis Markhart P.M. 24.
Mechanistown, Md.

I have written to the P.M. at Fort Ball, and received for answer, that no letter has been received at his office mailed at Mechanistown for Fort Ball. I presume the letter, in consequence of its going in the manner it did, lost its proper direction, and is wandering in some other region. It was no fault of yours sending it as you did, seeing it was the special request of the writer. If you hear anything of the letter, please inform me.

M.L.

Morice Stull 24th
Montpelier, Vt.

The route referred to in yours of the 15th inst from Montpelier to Franklin, as well as some others in Vermont was accidentally overlooked in preparing the avertogements. They are now directed to be avertogized in the Montpelier papers.

M.L.

D. H. W. Stull, P.M. 24th
Hagerstown, Md.

Your letter of the 22^d is recd.—If among the papers returned from the west, there were any Phila. papers, then the error certainly originated in Phila.; but if there were none south of New York, then it occurred in all probability, at N^o York. I have written to both those places on the subject.

M.L.

Post Office Dept
Sept 24. 1838

Thomas Sergeant P.M.
Phila. Pa.

On the morning of the 22^d inst there came from the West, to Hagerstown, a quantity of eastern papers sufficient to fill the largest canvas bag, directed to South Carolina and other Southern States. The error occurred by their being sent from Phila via Pittsburg instead of the way of Baltimore & Washington City. As these disorders have several times occurred, it is important to trace their origin, that they may be prevented in future. The western post Masters suppose the mistake is at your office. Whether it is at your office or at N. York, I am unable to determine. Possibly the Southern & western papers are mixed at N. York in the expectation that they will be separated at your office, and from your office sent together to the West in the supposition that they have been separated at N. York. I will thank you to write to N. York so as to have a proper understanding with the office there.

M.L.

Hale & Waterhouse 24th
Portland, Me.

The suggestions in your letter concerning the routes from Boston eastward, will be duly considered when deciding on the proposals and making the contracts.

M.L.

Post Office Dept
Sept 24. 1838

Setting P.M.
New York N.Y.

On the 22^d inst a quantity of eastern papers arrived at Hagerstown from the West, sufficient to fill a large canvas bag, directed to South Carolina and other Southern States. If at your office, you separate the western and southern papers, and put them in separate bags so as not to require revision, then the error has occurred there. Perhaps you have expected this separation to be made at Phila, and the P.M. at Phila has taken it for granted that the separation was made at N. York. They must have gone from Phila to Pittsburg instead of Baltimore & Washington. I will thank you to correspond with the P.M. at Phila on the subject, so as to learn the origin of this error, and prevent its recurrence.

M.L.

William Allen P.M. 24th
Head of Cow Neck, N.Y.

You are to charge yourself at the commencement of each quarter, with the whole quarters postage in advance, on all newspapers coming for regular subscribers, in a little memorandum book to be kept for that purpose. Pamphlets & Newspapers coming occasionally for persons who are not regular subscribers, you are to enter in the same memorandum book from time to time as they are received. At the close of the quarter, enter the whole amount in your A/c current. This supercedes the necessity of entering newspapers in past bills or in account of mails received or mails sent.

M.L.

Post Office Dept
Sept 24. 1828

Presley Saunders P.M.
Leesburg, Va.

Your letter of the 20th is rec'd.
The P. Master at Pensacola has acted cor-
rectly. Please acknowledge the receipt of his
letter, and let him know that his course in
this matter meets the approbation of the Dept.

From the representation which
you make of the character of Dan'l G. Smith,
I am willing the matter should end where it
now lies. Letter postage should be paid on
the newspaper on which he wrote, but he
need not be prosecuted for the penalty.

M.L

George L. Burton P.M. 24th
Louisa, Ky.

Your letter of the 8th inst^t is
rec'd. In an action for defamation, the Dept
can take no part, nor give any advice, as it
is a concern between individuals.

M.L

Rev. & Moses Winkle 25.
Springfield, Clark Co., O.

Your favor of the 19th inst^t
is rec'd & I have directed the change in the
route, as recommended by you.

M.L

Post Office Dept 417
Sept 25. 1828

Joseph Ficklin, P.M.
Lexington, Ky.

In the case of Mr. Cook you have
construed the law correctly, as I have informed him
in my letter of this day. It would be better that
the sheets should be mailed separately, as 25 cents
postage on each would be the highest postage
chargeable unless the sheet equal or exceed one
ounce in weight.

M.L

John E. Cook 25.
Lexington, Ky.

In answer to your letter of the 14th inst^t
I have the honor to refer you to the 5th sect. of the act "
amendatory of the act regulating the post office
establishment passed 2d March 1807." The provision is
as follows "Section 5. and be it further enacted that
one or more pieces of paper, mailed as a letter, &
weighing one ounce, shall be charged with quadruple
postage, and at the same rate should the weight
be greater:

From this provision you will see that it
was the duty of the P.M. to charge the postage on
the packets you refer to according to the weight,
if they weighed each one ounce or more.

There have been cases, where one very
large sheet weighed an ounce and more, and
which was charged by weight.

M.L

Post Office Dept
Sept 25. 1828

D. W. Haley
Jackson, Mi.

I have examined your letter of the 30th of August, inclosing the receipts of Mr. Sippey and Turnbull. You refer to parts of the road which need further repairs, and you are desirous of being authorized to make them.

On the 25th of March last, I wrote a letter to Mr. Donley, who applied for authority to make some repairs of the road on his route, that there were but one thousand dollars in my hands, out of which the charge of yourself and Mr. Ward, for the superintendence of the road was to be paid, and that the balance and no more, could the Dept pay for repairs.

Since this letter was written, I have paid to Mr. Ward for his compensation in superintending & repairs made by others \$354.50 and to yourself for repairs made under your direction \$164, making in the whole the sum of \$518.50. This leaves in my hands \$481.50 which is the whole amount that can be paid for repairs.

Mr. Donley has not advised me of having made any repairs under the authority of my letter in March last, but he may have done so. I wish you to consult him on the subject, & if he has incurred no expense, in the repairs, I have no objection to your expending the above in making the repairs most necessary. It would be well to give notice to Mr. Donley, if he has incurred no expense, to avoid doing so, and in making the expenditure, I wish you to procure the greatest amount of labor possible for the above sum, and on such parts of the road as will be most beneficial to the public.

When you send on an ac^t. you will certify to it as having

done before, and inclose a receipt.

M. L.

J. G. Bobbitt
Raleigh N.C.

25.

Your letter of the 20th inst. is rec'd., designed to be an answer to my circular of July 26; but you have omitted to answer the inquiries, what number of horses, and what number of riders are employed on your route No. 149.² Please answer by return of mail.

M. L.

Howard Wright P.M. 25.
Madison Co. W. Va.

Your letter of the 14th is entirely satisfactory. The object of what you seem to regard as a complaint, was designed only to correct an unintentional error which seemed to have occurred.

M. L.

Wm. Strong P.M. 25.
St. Francis,
Phillips Co. Ar. Ter.

If the "large bound book" sent by mail from Missouri was put into the office by accident, contrary to the intention of the person sending it, and of the person to whom it was sent, you may consider yourself authorized to remit the postage; otherwise, the law must be so far observed, that pamphlet postage must be paid on the book before it can be delivered, say 6 cents for every 16 pages of octavo, or for every 24 pages of duodecimo.

M. L.

Post Office Dept
Sept 25. 1828

J. A. Wormack P.M.
Bathsbury, Ky.

It has been stated, that you permit the mail carrier to be present when the mail is opened and made up in your office; and even in some cases, that the carrier on the route from Bathsbury to Pike C. H. knows what is in the mail. This is unlawful, and therefore inadmissible. It is also stated, that on one occasion, when the mail arrived at Louisa, the bag was found to be ripped; and on an inquiry into the cause, the carrier alleged that it was done at your office, because the key was lost or mislaid. This would be such a departure from correctness, that you certainly would not have given countenance to it. The key should be always kept with sacred care, secured under a lock.

J Emory & Waugh 25.
New York N.Y.

Your letter of the 10th. inst. is rec'd, in which you state, that "letters from official characters, from post masters and afft. post Masters, are received by you not endorsed free, with their names outside, but charged with postage". Such letters should be franked (unless they are agency letters) and on your presenting them to the P.M. at N. York and showing him this letter, he will consider it as his warrant for remitting the postage.

Mr. L

Mr. L

Post Office Dept
Sept 25. 1828

E. G. Lebaron's P.M.
Calloway's Mills, Va

A post master has a right to frank all his own letters upon his own business as well as upon the business of his office; except enter into agency business, and then the communications on the business of the agency are not to be franked.

Mr. L

Thomas Sergeant P.M. 25.
Phila Pa,

Letters are said to suffer injury, on the route from Phila through Haddonfield, Woodstock &c by being put into the mail loosely with the newspapers. Please always cause the letters to be put into a canvas bag for that mail.

Mr. L

J. Russee

26

Phila Pa

I am informed by Mr. Dailey and the P.M. at New Ark, that your driver was arrested the other day, while he was in the act of driving the mail stage, which detained the mail several hours. It is important to know, on what kind of process the arrest was made. Was it on a warrant which you had for a breach of the peace, or any criminal offence, or was it by virtue of a writ which was issued in a civil case?

J. L.

Post Office Dept
Sept 26. 1828

Richard L. Stockton
Baltimore, Md.

I have maturely reflected upon your proposition to convey a part of the eastern mail from Baltimore, by the way of Lancaster to Phila, and I am fully convinced, that such an arrangement would create great excitement against the Deptt. There are no persons so sensitive as the Editors of Newspapers, at any delays or irregularities of the mail, and as the above arrangement would cause a delay of all Newspapers, both south and east, a day, immediate complaint would be made. During the session of Congress, great anxiety is usually felt for the intelligence from Washington, and the members here are always impatient at any delay of the eastern mail.

It would be a source of great dissatisfaction to separate the mail, if one part of it should be delayed. Upon the whole, I am compelled to decline the proposal made, & hope that your arrangements will be made to convey the entire mail on the old route, with an energy which will be creditable to the Contractor and the Deptt.

I have lately received a remonstrance from the publishers of the "Christian Advocate" in New York, against sending that paper to Ohio, by the way of Pittsburgh instead of Baltimore, as on the latter route there is greater expedition than on the former.

J. M. Lean

Post Office Dept
Sept 26. 1828

J. Blunt

N. York,

In answer to your letter of the 22^d. inst. I have to state, that you must have misconceived the purport of my remarks respecting your Register. I could never have stated that it would be clasped with Newspapers, and charged with postage as such. The conversation, of which I have no very distinct recollection, must have been whether, your publication would be called periodical, as it was to be an annual publication. You are aware that the postage is less on periodical than other pamphlets - and I may have informed you that the Register would be clasped with periodical publications, the same as the Register of Debates published by Gales & Seaton.

The law which authorizes an exchange of publications free of postage, is limited to newspapers. The publishers of pamphlets cannot exchange them, with each other, free of postage.

I regret that any misunderstanding should have led you to take several Newspapers, which you would not have done, had you not supposed they were exempt from postage. If by any decision of the Post Office at New York, you was induced to take the papers your right to, under an expectation that there would be no postage charged, a correction of the error ought not to have a retrospective operation; but if the office delivered the papers without postage, under an erroneous impression of any decision made by me, which had not been officially communicated, I do not feel myself authorized to remit the legal charge.

J. M. Lean