

Post office Dept
22nd Feby 1831.

Hon. T. J. Maxwell.
House.

The Post Gent desires that I inform you that he has in accordance with your recommendation permitted Mr Hale to leave Northumberland before the arrival of the Wilkesboro mail.

OBB.

Hon. M. Dickerson.
Senate.

22nd

The Post Gent desires me to inform you that the suggestions of yourself & Mr Patterson, on the subject of a change in the present route from Somerville to Stanhope, will receive his attention at the making of the next Contracts for New Jersey.

OBB.

Hon. J. S. Barbour
House,

22nd

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a letter, written by the Post at Smith's Tavern. No reply has been recd - Mr Hawley has been written to, on the subject of his irregularities.

OBB.

Hon Lewis Maxwell,
House.

22nd

The Post Gent instructs me to inform you, that Post Route No 1985 from Union to Vanney's Bridge, is established by law and no part of it can be discontinued.

OBB.

Hon. R. Allen.
House.

22nd

I have the honor to inform you, that the fines imposed in consequence of the failures, to which the within letter of Genl Simpson alludes, on the route from Middletown to Strasburg, has been remitted.

OBB.

Post office Dept
22nd Feby 1831.

Hon. G. D. Webb,
House.

I have the honor to state in reply to the enclosed communication to your address that if the Contractor on the route from Newburgh via Milton &c to Poughkeepsie will carry a second weekly mail thence for the additional annual compensation of £26, that sum will be allowed him. This is the proposition of Mr Roe as understood by the Dept.

OBB.

Hon R. Desha,
House,

23rd

I have the honor to return your Mr Murray's letter. Mr Murray's construction of our letter of the 26th ulto to you, is erroneous. If Mr Murray will carry the Eastern mail on his line to Nashville & arrive there earlier than the mail now arrives by McMinnville &c - he can do so but nothing will be allowed him for that service.

OBB.

Hon. R. H. Wilde,
House.

23rd

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th Inst recommending Mr Edward L Thomas, of Athens Ga as an Agent for examining and surveying the Post Routes in Georgia.

It is not contemplated at present, to institute an Agency for that purpose. Full confidence is given to your recommendations; and should a service of that kind be deemed necessary at a future time, it will be taken into respectful consideration.

W. C. Barry

Post Office Dept

Hon. John M. Clayton,
Chairman of the Committee
of the Senate to examine into
the Condition of the P. O. Dept.,
Sir.

23rd Feb'y 1831.

To the inquiries
of the Committee, contained in your letter of the
4th Inst^o I have the honor to reply -

On the 1st Sept^o last, a proposition was
made in writing, by Abner McCarty and
Billingsly Roberts, both of Brookville, Ind. to carry
the mail in stages, twice a week each way, from
Cincinnati - Ohio, by Cincannati, Miami, Clark's,
Harrison, Indiana, New Trenton, Brookville to
Richmond, 82 miles, at \$15 per mile, \$1230.-
Also from Lawrenceburg, Ind. by Elizabethtown to
Harrison, where it would intersect the above route,
16. Miles at \$15 per mile, \$240... Also, once a week
each way in stages, from Brookville by Connerville
to Centerville, Ind. 36 miles, at \$7 50/100 per mile, \$270-
making together the sum of \$1740... The mail was
before carried on horse back over those routes; but
it was desirable, both for the safety of the mail, and
for the convenience of the citizens of that region, to
increase the stage transportation of the mail, & also
its frequency, by giving two mails a week when they
had enjoyed but one. No other proposition was made
by any person for performing the services proposed by
them; and as their terms were as reasonable as could be
expected, under any circumstances, the proposition was
accepted, & a contract made with them for the same,
dated Oct^o 14th 1830.

These are all the circumstances within the
knowledge of the Dept respecting said contract.

Several other persons proposed to carry the mail
in stages from Hamilton to Richmond, but none at a
lower rate than \$15 per mile for two trips per week -

The finances of the Dept would not justify the
establishment of all the Stage Routes proposed; and
in making the selections, it was deemed much more
important to make Cincinnati the point from

Post Office Dept

which the direct intercourse should pass to Brookville
& other parts of Indiana, than Hamilton - The
relative magnitude of business of the two
places will justify this conclusion -

For carrying the mail between Madison and
Indianapolis, C. P. Johnson was the lowest bidder
when the routes were advertised, and therefore became
the original Contractor - No extra allowance has
ever been made him for services on that Route -

He was also the original Contractor for transporting
the mail between Indianapolis and Lawrenceburg, 90.
miles - On this last route he has rec'd an additional
allowance at the rate of \$700... a year for carrying
the mail in stages - the allowance commencing on
the 25th of May, the day when he commenced the
transportation in stages -

W. J. Barry -

Hon. Wm. R. King,

Senate,

23.

The mail from this place to New
Orleans, runs thro' the State of Georgia via Milledgeville
& Macon to Columbus ^{on the} Oatchoochy River, where it crosses
the River and turns at an acute angle down the
River, 12 miles to Post Mitchell; thence on a serpen-
tine road, very imperfectly constructed, to Line Creek
and Montgomery, etc. At Post Mitchell, it is farther
from Line Creek, than it was when it crossed the
River twelve miles above Post Mitchell, at Columbus.
To avoid the increased distance occasioned by this
circuitous route, it has long been the desire of the
Dept, to have a good road constructed from Columbus
direct by Line Creek to Montgomery - Could that
object be effected it would very considerably facilitate
the transportation of the mail on that important
route -

Al. J. Barry -

Post Office Dept.
Office of Mail Contracts.
24th Feb. 1831.

Hon. Wm. T. Nuckolls,
House of Reps. -

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the P. M. Genl. has taken into consideration your earnest application, together with that of Genl. Tucker, for increasing the trips so as to run the stages with the mail twice a week each way between Columbia and Greenville. The utility of the improvement appears to be so great, that he has determined to cause it to be made. - From the first of April next, the stages will run twice a week between those points.

O.B.B.

P. S. Please inform Genl. Tucker. -

Hon Cornelius Holland
House of Reps.

24

Your letter of the 22nd Inst enclosing a certificate of the Post master of Augusta he. that W^m John M^r Curtis commenced carrying the mail twice a week on Route No 59 & on the 4th inst has been received and the proper credit given M^r Curtis on the Books of the Department

O.B.B.

Hon R. Craig Jr
House of Reps.

I am instructed to inform you that the Petition for the establishment of a Route from Fincastle Va to Blacksburg has been examined and that the route cannot be established but by an act of Congress

O.B.B.

Hon A. H. Sheppard
House of Reps.

24

You will please read and forward the enclosed letter to Mrs^r Morings relative to charge of Route No 2108

O.B.B.

Hon James Blair &
Edmond Deberry
House of Reps.

24

Your communication of the 23rd Inst is at hand the contractor has been instructed to visit Gold Mine on his way from

Post office Dept.
Chewaw to Blairsville and to return by the way of Meltonville. You inform the Department that this is preferable to going by Meltonville and returning by Gold Mine

O.B.B.

Hon W H Overton
House of Reps.

24

I am instructed to inform you in reply to your communication of the 21st ulto. that it would afford the Post Master General much pleasure to cause the mail to be carried twice a week from Hatchetts Mills to Monroe La instead of once as at present but upon mature reflection he is convinced that the state of the finances of the Department render it necessary that this additional mail should not be ordered at present. \$1150 is the lowest amount for which this second mail can be run and he does not think that the advantages which would be derived from it will counter balance the expense incident to the improvement

O.B.B.

Hon C. H. Kane
U S Senate

July 25th

I have the honor to inform you that Mr Garretts Contract for route No 54 has been transferred to Mr Barker and a contract and Bond transferred to the Post Master at Kaskaskia for Mr Barkers execution

O.B.B.

Hon J. Evans
House of Reps.

25th

The Post Master General has caused some inquiries of the Post Master on the subject of Mr Timbers failure and a decision in this case will not be had before the receipt of the answer. The Post Master General will if Mr Timbers can show any authority from the Dept for the performance of the additional service, then consider his claim to the \$1500 but cannot do the Dept. not to pay for services which may be performed but which were not ordered by the Department

O.B.B.

Hon Ratiff Brown
House of Reps.

25-

I have the honor to inform you in reference to the claim of W Wilson for Seventeen Dollars that if he will show the authority of the Department for employing the individual and he shall not have been paid the case will receive due attention and authority to him appears on the Books of the Dept

O.B.B.

Post Office Dept
25 Feby 1831

Hon. Mrs^{rs}

J. Maxwell & Halsey
House.

The P.M. of Hector N.Y. is authorized by the P.M. Genl to contract for the carrying of a weekly mail from his office to Reynoldsburg via Logain in accordance with the views & wishes of the P. Masters of Hector, Logain and others in a memorial presented by you for the consideration of the P.M. Genl

OBBS

24th Feby 1831

Hon. Jeptha Speight
House of Reps
Sir.

In answer to the representations through you, of the Hon. Mr. Gaston - I have the honor to remark:- The Route from Raleigh to Newbern under Contract with Mr. Dillard has been performed for the last four years by Mr. Dillard, twice a week, in two hours stages. At the time of renewing the Contract in October last, I was not apprised of any dissatisfaction with the manner in which it had been performed. On the other hand, Mr. Dillard bore to the Dept. the most satisfactory testimonials of his faithfulness; & that the same accommodation might be continued to the citizens interested which they had before enjoyed, the proposals of Mr. Dillard were accepted at \$50. ayer more than those of S. A. Saltmarsh. The time for running from one point to the other is the same that was allowed under the former Contract, except that it is now required to run from Raleigh to Newbern in 3, & from Newbern to Raleigh in 2 hours less time than under the former Contract. It was not known at the Dept. that any dissatisfaction existed till communicated by Mr. Gaston through you. The evils now complained of shall be corrected. The alternating system between Petersburg & Raleigh will cease on the 1st day of March. I did not approve of it when the contract was made; & I never should have originated it; but when I came into the Dept. I found it in operation; when the advertisements were open for a different arrangement, the remonstrances were so loud & strong that I yielded my own opinion to what appeared to be the wish of the citizens interested; Experience has demonstrated its inexpediency & from the 1st of March the mail will be carried in Coaches three times a week direct from Petersburg to Halifax to Tarboro, which, with the stage 3 times a week from Tarboro to Newbern will make the route direct from Petersburg to Newbern

Wm. T. Barry.

Post Office Dept

25 Feby 1831

Hon C. C. Haynes

House of Reps

Please forward the enclosed to P. Grinnell Esqr Post at Monticello. So as an answer to your application - The route from Killedeville to Athens No 23 h leaves Killedeville every Thursday and if Thursday should be a convenient day for the mail to leave Sparta for Monticello so as to pass through Elizabethton in the afternoon of that day, it would take the mail from Elizabethton which will have left Killedeville on Thursday, direct to Monticello and so furnish a mail from Killedeville by Elizabethton to Monticello in addition to which they now have please suggest this to Mr. Grinnell and if the arrangement is agreeable request him to advise the Post Master at Killedeville that he may make up mails for Monticello to be sent by way of Elizabethton. Though you have most promptly attended to the interest of your constituents in this matter I must confess there has been an unintentional delay on my part, but my apology must be a confinement with sickness for a week in which time a mass of business accumulated which I have not yet been able to bring up. This together with the confinement of the Post Master General for a month. I am certain of our liberality will regard as a sufficient apology

OBBS

Hon

Thos M. Gaston,
House.

25,

To append the better accommodation for the Citizens of Danielsville, and other places on the route from Elizabethton to Barnesville, the Schedule is so altered as to leave Elizabethton every Friday at 6 AM. arrives at Barnesville, every Sunday by noon. Leave Barnesville every Sunday at 2 PM. and arrives at Elizabethton every Tuesday by 6 PM. By this arrangement, the mail which leaves Danielsville on Monday morning, will arrive at Millidgeville on Wednesday by 3 PM. and the mail which leaves Millidgeville on Thursday, will arrive at Danielsville and Saturday evening -

OBBS

Hon C. C. Haynes,
House

25,

I have the honor to inform you that the Cont^r has been directed to expedite so as to run from Macon to Columbus in two days & the same time will be consumed returning -

OBBS

Post office Dept

25 Feby 1831.

Hon. S. Butman,
House.

In reply to the enclosed letter to your address I observe that in March last the P.M. of "Corinna-Me" was authorized (on his own application) to get his mails from North New Port Post office (distant but three and an half miles) instead of Dexter, nine miles distant. Corinna is a private office under the provisions of the Post Office Law, and the rule is to apply the net proceeds of private offices to supply them with mails from the nearest office to them as a public or established route, provided that the amount paid for such accommodation shall not exceed the ratio of five dollars per mile, and when the net proceeds of said offices shall exceed this amount the balance to be paid over to the Dpt. P. Master can under no circumstances be engaged as Contractors. The P.M. of Corinna is written to on the subject of his office, and a private contract forwarded him to have executed by some responsible persons to carry a weekly mail to Dexter or North New Port as may be deemed best - When he returns the draft made on him, and states his acct for charges incurred in supplying his office with mails since July 1829, his claim will be adjusted.

OB3B

Hon Jas. Carl, Jr.
House.

26.

I am instructed by the P.M. to say that the expense of extending Post Route No 94 from Mica to Lazonoria on to Tabius via Delphi, a distance of seven miles cannot be incurred, and that you the information rec'd at the Dpt since writing you on this subject on the 12th Inst, it would not be advisable to discontinue the route from Micanis by Oran, Delphi, Tabius, Apulia, Pompey & Waterdale to Micanis. No 177 as recommended by your Albany Correspondent whose letter was returned you on the 12th Inst.

OB3B

Post office Dept

26 Feby 1831.

Hon. Abraham Bочек,
House

Your letter of the 25th Inst in relation to the Attebury - P. O. on the Route from Rhinebeck to Sharon will be submitted to the P.M. (now detained from the Dpt by indisposition) as early a day as practicable. This decision made known to you -

OB3B

Hon Mrfrs A. Archer and

L. Williams

House of Reps

28

M^r. Late the contractor on Route No 3125 has been written to on the subject of running his stages in the manner stated in your communication of the 19th Inst. The Post Master General is pleased with the plan and it will be adopted if too much expence will not be incurred thereby.

OB3B

Hon A. H. Claiborne

House of Reps

28

I have the honor to inform you that Mr Starling late contractor on Route No 88 had to supply the following offices which were specified in his Contract viz Martinsville or Henry's Shady Grove, Snow Creek, Dickenson's Store, Rocky Mount, Germantown, Browns Store and Hendricks Store to Liberty and back weekly. This contract expired on the 31st last Decr. If Mr Starling supplied other offices than those mentioned in his contract and his route was thereby increased in distance he will send on certificates from the Post Masters stating the length of route the distance which the route was increased by including each of these offices they will also state the time he began to supply them with a mail, by what authority he did so and whether any of these offices were otherwise supplied with a mail by any other route. His claim to additional compensation will then be acted upon.

OB3B

Hon Wm McCoy

House of Reps

28.

for

The Post Master General has directed that the mail shall be carried once a week on route No 1980, between Bath C.H. and Hunterville.

OB3B

183
Hon. John Forsythe
U.S. Senate
Sir

Post Office Dept.

Feb 28th 1831.

The Post Master at Augusta has been directed to send letters, and papers to Louisville by way of Pawletton, as it was supposed he was doing till the receipt of the enclosed. The whole evil complained of, arises from their having been sent by way of Waynesboro. Under the present direction, a packet will leave Augusta at 10 o'clock on Sunday night, and arrive at Louisville on Tuesday at 11 o'clock in the morning. So a packet leaving Louisville on Tuesday at 1 o'clock, in the afternoon, will arrive at Augusta on Thursday.

It is hoped that this arrangement will meet the wishes of the citizens of Louisville.

O.P.B.

Hon. E. Whittlesey
House of Reps.

Sir

28.

I have the honor to inform you that the Contractor has been written to on the subject of supplying Jefferson with a mail three times a week in stages from Warren.

O.P.B.

Hon. R. P. Satchler
House of Reps.

Sir

28.

I have the honor to inform you, in reference to the claim of Elijah Combs Esq., that the Post Master General requests me to state that, if Mr. Combs will make out his acct., and have its correctness attested, by the Post Masters at the Offices which he has supplied with a Mail, he will then consider the claim.

O.P.B.

Hon. C. Forward
House of Reps.

28.

I have the honor to inform you, that arrangements have been made, to prevent further delays on the route, from Tomlinson's to Edensburgh.

O.P.B.

✓ Hon. Wm. Robinson
U.S. Senate

Post Office Dept.
Feb 28th 1831.

The Post Master General directs that you be informed, that he has considered the petition, desiring the establishment of a mail route from Centreville, via, Fords Ferry, Equality and Mount Vernon to Carville, Illinois; and declines its adoption.

O.P.B.

✓ Hon. Wm. H. Irvin
House of Reps.

28.

The Post Master General has considered the petition, submitted by you, desiring a "daily or tri-weekly mail" on the route from Lancaster by Newark to Mount Vernon, and declines making, at present, any change in respect to said route. The contracts for Ohio expire with the current year, and if it should be regarded expedient, at the making of the new contracts, some facilities will be given on this route.

O.P.B.

March 1st 1830.

Hon. John Anderson

House of Reps.

The Post Master General has had under consideration the petition referred to by your Correspondant W. G. H. Smith whose letter is herewith returned you. The Post Master General has decided in favor of changing the route from Waterville to Bangor to meet the views of the Petitioners, viz the route to commence at Millburn instead of "Waterville" by which much delay in the transmission of correspondence will be avoided between Storridgewock and Bangor without injury to Waterville or other places. The number of trips on this route cannot be increased until the expense therefore is ascertained, if the additional trips asked for can be made for a small increase of pay of the contractor the Petitioners may be gratified but not without as the amount now paid for the mail transportation on this route exceeds the entire revenue of all the offices between Waterville and Bangor and the finances of the Department are not adequate to the numerous calls for mail improvements daily pressed upon the attention of the Post Master General.

O.P.B.

Post office Dept
March 1st 1831

Hon A. H. Liver

House of Reps

The Postmaster General desires me to inform you that the question of making Little Rock a distributing Post Office has been considered and it is determined to be inexpedient to adopt the suggestion of the Post Master at Little Rock on this subject.

OBB

✓ Hon H. H. Leavitt

1st

House of Reps

The Post master General desires that I inform you that it is perceived the law requires the mail to pass from Cedar to Moon Salt Works and if your proposition to change the route which goes to Scroggsfield was adopted the alteration would defeat the object of the law. Under other circumstances our view would doubtless have been acceded to.

OBB

✓ Hon James Standifer

1st

House of Reps

Please read and forward the enclosed letter to Mrss Gilliland and Carter

OBB

✓ Hon H. G. Lamer

1st

House of Reps

I have the honor to inform you that the subject of altering the stage route from Pensacola to Tallahassee was to pass Richard Morgan's where a new office is desired is under consideration. Investigations are making to ascertain the propriety of altering the route so as to supply the office if established.

OBB

✓ Hon R. Dusha

1st

House of Reps

The contr on No 141 (Mr Usery) has been written to in the subject of visiting Statesville that office is on his stage Route for his failure he is fined \$50 and unless he visits Statesville regularly his contracts will be forfeited.

OBB

Post office Dept
March 1st 1831

✓ Hon N. H. Bladorne

House of Reps

The Postmaster General instructs me to acknowledge the receipt of a Memorial signed by the citizens of Bedford Franklin Henry and Patrick Counties for recommending sundry improvements and alterations in the manner of transporting the mail on Route No 2021 from Salem N.C by Germantown Penns tone &c I am instructed to inform you that the proposed alterations will receive due investigation and if found to be expedient will be adopted.

OBB

✓ Hon G. A. Smith

1st

House of Reps

The Post Master General desires me to inform you that as the contracts for Pennsylvania expire with the current year no alteration will be made in the route from Easton to Bristol at the present

OBB

✓ Hon C. C. Hoynes

1st

House of Reps

Your favor of the 2^y ulto is at hand upon examination it does not appear that the petitions to which you allude were filed in the Department

OBB

P.S. It can be of little importance for full weight would be given to you our representation on the subject especially as you will state that such a document was sent from Georgia

OBB

✓ Hon J. L. Barber

1st

House of Reps

Your favor of the 2^y ulto enclosing a letter from the P.M. at Fairmount is received. The contractor for Route No 19 P.S has been written to. The P.M. at Strasburg is instructed to employ some one to carry the mail on this route in the event of Mr Wm. Wally failing. The evil shall be remedied

OBB

✓ Hon Thos. H. Hall

1st

House of Reps

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication submitted by you signed by sundry citizens of Edgecomb recommending sundry improvements in the transportation of the mail in that vicinity. The grievances of which the petitioners complain were removed before the receipt of the communication (No 2101)

OBB

Post office Dept.

March 1st 1830

Hon Lewis Williams

House of Reps

Your letter of 28th ulto enclosing a communication from James Martin on the subject of certain changes proposed to be made in the route from Huntsville to Wilksboro is at hand, and in answer thereto I am instructed by the Post Master General to inform you that the mail is directed to leave Huntsville on Friday morning, arrive via Rockford at Wilksboro on Saturday, leave Wilksboro on Thursday and arrive at Huntsville on Friday in time for the mail at Salem

OBB

2nd

Hon Horatio Seymour

U. S. Senate

The Postmaster General has directed to give the citizens of Burlington and Honesburg three additional weekly mails making six mails a week as prayed for in the petition presented by you from sundry Citizens of Burlington, St George, and Honesburg N.P. The Post Masters of Honesburg and Burlington will be advised of the decision and the contractor also.

OBB

2nd

Hon Wm W. Irvin

House of Reps

I am instructed to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from you relative to a change suggested in Route No 325 from Thornville to Logan (I Hazleton contractor) the subject will receive due consideration

OBB

3rd

Hon J. M. Robinson

U. S. Senate

The Post master General has attentively considered your proposition to have the mail carried twice per week in a two horse stage from New Haven to New Haven and Concord to Carmi, and has determined to acced to it unless it should be found to cost more than is anticipated or interfere with some of the existing arrangements so far as to render it impracticable. It is his expectation that he will be able to have the plan adopted at an early period in this spring. The contractor has been written to on the subject

OBB

Post office Dept.

2nd March 1830

Hon Mr. T. Irvin

House of Reps

Sir

A Beard proposing to run a line of stages from Lancaster to Cincinnati via Lebanon is received and I am directed by the Post Master General to say in answer that the finances of the Department will not allow him to authorise the improvement at this time — Q.S. S.

encl

Hon L. Williams

House of Reps

The Post Master General instructs me to inform you that he does not think it expedient to incur additional expence at present by establishing a line of mail stages on Route No 1492 from Salem N.C to Wytheville Va

OBB

2nd

Hon James Gedell

U. S. Senate

I have the honor to inform you that the Postmaster General has instructed the mail contractor to carry the mail twice a week between Winston and Windsor Route No 2147

OBB

2nd

Hon Thomas F. Foster

House of Reps

The proposition to change the line of stages lately established from Pensacola to Talahapee so as to run from Mount Vernon at the mouth of Flint River to Bainbridge and there terminate would be highly displeasing to the inhabitants of Pensacola and Talahapee and much more expence to the Department than at present

It is the first and only stage route ever established entirely within the bounds of Florida and to divert this to a terminating point in Georgia would not give satisfaction though there might be another route dropping that point to Talahapee and the proprietors of the line if not permitted to carry the passengers to Talahapee or if required to increase their distance to do so would consider it a loss for which they would justly claim indemnity from the department. It would be more eligible to establish a distinct route from Mount Vernon to Bainbridge which if the law would authorize it would give the Post Master General pleasure to do. As it now is if any person will transport a weekly mail from Mount Vernon to Bainbridge a distance should not exceed of less than 30 miles for the protection of the

Post office Dept.

office of offices which would be established on it. The Post master General will willingly establish the route, but he is not authorized to incur a quarter expence when the route is not laid down by law

OBB.

From John S. Barbour

House of Reps.,

2^o

In answer to your enquiries relative to the Contract for carrying the mail by land during the Steam Boat Navigation between Alexandria and Fredericksburg, I have the honor to reply -

The advertisement for proposals for transport the mail on route No 1901, between Washington & Richmond, provided for the transportation, during the running of Steam Boats, by Alexandria, Fort Washington and Potomac Creek; & a mail to be carried on horseback during the same period, three times a week each way, between Alex^a & Fredericksburg.

For this land Route, the following proposals were rec^d.

Wm L. Colquhoun	at \$ 695 per year
Mason French	--- 698 "
Glas Beach	--- 675 "
J. A. Hawkey	--- 600 "
James Foster	--- 600 "

The above were all the proposals which were rec^d for the route as advertised, and as it was intimated that it shd be run -

There were also the following proposals sent in for transporting the mail between Alex^a & Falmouth, omitting Fredericksburg, and thereby saving a mile & a half in the distance, & the expence of crossing six times each week, the Toll Bridge over the Rappahannock River viz - W. O. Bockrell at \$ 695 per year

John W. Williams 675

John G. Rubleman 550

My decision was that the proposals for a part, and not for the whole of the horse route as advertised, had no claim to consideration, & expressed that decision when examining the proposals - Of all the proposals

Post office Dept.

for carrying the horse mail as advertised, those of Mr. Hawkey and of Mr. Foster were the lowest, being each \$ 600 or Mr. Hawkey had been one of the persons who carried that mail under the former Contract, and therefore his preference was given him over Mr. Foster, their bids being equal. Under these circumstances, I gave the decision, that Mr. Hawkey was entitled to the Route.

The announcement of the decision was however deferred, till it should be determined whether the proposals for the Stage Route would not require the person taking the Stage route to perform this also, both being included in the same number of the advertisement. On examination it appeared that the person who obtained the stage Route had expressed in a note accompanying his proposal, that he did not intend to include the horse route -

Before the time for commencing the contract, it was represented that a mail had been regularly sent twice each day from Fredericksburg to Falmouth, & that the same accommodations would be expected to be continued. I remarked that I had no intention to curtail their mail privileges, and directed their continuance. This rendered it unnecessary to continue the mail from Alex^a beyond Falmouth. The curtailing of the route, so as to end at Falmouth, saved the travelling of nine miles, and the crossing of the toll Bridge six times in each week; and for this a deduction of \$ 75 was made from the original acceptance, & the contract entered into with Mr. Hawkey, at \$ 625 per year -

Mr. Williams, though formerly engaged with Mr. Hawkey in the transportation of this mail, had no claim whatever to the Contract, because his bid was for a part, & not for the whole of the route as advertised and because his bid for that part was \$ 75 higher than Mr. Hawkey's bid was for the whole -

Mr. Rubleman's bid for a part of the route advertised, was supposed to have been for himself. If, it was alleged, he bid as the agent of Mr. Williams, he concealed the fact from the Dept^t, for it was never intimated by him, that his proposals were not for himself. He was very highly recommended by my chief Clerk, who manifested a strong desire that Mr.

Post Office Dept

Rubleman should obtain the contract, if it could be given to him with propriety; but I observed it to be my duty to overrule his wishes, and give the contract to Mr. Hawley, because he was already engaged in transporting the mail on the route - and because, in case the Dept. might wish to curtail the route, his bid would still be most advantageous -

The complaint that Mr. Hawley had employed a person to carry the mail who was not a white man, if sustained, would require correction, but not the forfeiture of his contract; & if his contract should be forfeited, this would not give Mr. Williams a title to it -

Complaint was made to the Dept., by Mr. Williams, that Mr. Hawley was employing a person to carry the mail who was not a white man.

The complaint was immediately communicated to Mr. Hawley - He visited the Dept., & brought the person with him - It could not be determined by his appearance that he was not a white man - It was alleged that he was the son of a white woman, & had no legitimate father - It was not considered the duty of the Dept. any farther to investigate the subject, nor to require him to be dismissed -

W. T. Barry

3d

Hon. Noyes Barber

House of Reps

The petition from Norwich (enclosed to you by Mr. Gilman whose letter is herewith returned) you will receive the prompt attention of the Postmaster General - The great press of urgent business in the Department pending the session of Congress has prevented a reply to the petition from Norwich received in December last. The Postmaster of Norwich will be advised of the decision of the Postmaster General as soon as made

OBB

Post Office Dept

March 1831

Hon. Thos. H. Benton

U. S. Senate

The Post master General instructs me to state, in reference to the request for additional facilities on the route from Louisville to St. Louis that although it is an object highly desirable he is from a due regard to the financial concerns of the department compelled to withhold his assent to the proposition

OBB

Hon. Geo. Duncan

House of Reps

The Post master General instructs me to inform you that he has considered the petitions desiring that the mail be carried from St. Louis via Alton and Carrolton to Springfield in stages and determined to grant them unless it shall be found to cost more than is at present anticipated - Inquiries as to the expense have been instituted and as soon as answers are received the case will receive due attention The letter of Judge Hall to your address will receive attention

OBB

Hon. William W. Brown

House of Reps

I have duly considered the application for an increase of trips on the route from Lancaster by Newark to Mount Vernon. It would give me great pleasure to accommodate the wishes of the citizens of that region if paramount considerations did not forbid its expensiveness. It is necessary to avoid as far as possible all increase of expenditures especially on those contracts which will terminate with the current year Of this number are all the routes in Ohio. Experience has shown that improvements can be made upon the most advantageous terms at the making of contracts under these considerations, I have been constrained to defer the improvement asked till the letting of the contracts next fall, when its expediency will be fully considered I directed Mr. Brown to give you this decision

W. T. Barry