

CONGRESS
JAN 1834

Brief of the Case of J. McKae (M. Fayetteville N.C.)

This claim consists of three items, - one of them being for the expenses of a Special Messenger from Fayetteville to Charleston amounting to \$53⁵⁰/₁₀₀, and the other two being for rewards of \$200: each for the apprehension and conviction of ~~the~~ mail robbers. Account marked N^o. 1

1. It appears from a letter dated May 6th 1837 addressed by A. Kendall, Postmaster General, to J. McKae, P.M., that the President of the United States gave McKendall, sometime in March preceding, the sum of \$30: - "to be paid to the young man" sent by McKae express to South Carolina. This money was forwarded in McKendall's letter of the date above, with directions to McKae to "apply [it] according to the President's intention". McKendall's letter is marked N^o. 2.

2. With regard to the two sums, each \$200:, claimed for the arrest and conviction of Mail Robbers the following facts connect themselves with the subject: -

On the 15th August 1832 J. Small, Postmaster of Pittsborough, N.C., informed the Department that Fraughn, aged 13 or 14 years, & a son of the Mail Contractor, had committed a depredation on the mail, and had confessed the same: it, also, appeared from Small's letter that the lad was induced to commit the act by some one, not named. Perhaps the person alluded to may have been Milly. From a letter of P. M. Barry to McKae dated Febry 8th 1833, in answer to one from him dated 31 January 1833, claiming a reward for the apprehension of Fraughn, who it seems had previously been tried and convicted, and afterwards escaped from prison, that the claim was rejected on the ground that it was not "consistent with the usages of the Department to give a "

"reward for the apprehension of a convicted mail robber
"who has made his escape after sentence"; the pursuit &
re-arrest being the business of the United States Marshall.

On the 29th May 1833. the PM of Fayetteville
wrote that he had arrested the carrier on the route
from Salisbury by Chisholm's store to Fayetteville Mc
for having robbed the mail and that he had confessed
his guilt. This seems to have been Butters case.
The papers are marked N^o 3

The Department's correspondence with McKae
seems to throw little or no light on by which we can
discern the precise nature and extent of his service
or claims. The following however presents all that
seems to be at all to the point.

June 21st 1832 The Department acknowledges the receipt
of information that the carrier on route N^o 2160 has been
committed to await his trial; forbid his offering a reward;
but is willing he should "incur the necessary expense,
"not exceeding \$100.-, to bring the man to conviction." To this
letter the following postscript is added: "The Postmaster
"General instructs me to inform you that your impressions in
"respect to a standing rule authorizing you to offer \$200.-
"for conviction &c of a robber are incorrect. He is willing
"that you incur the necessary expenses to bring the man
"to conviction" — the remainder is stated above.

Oct 26 1832 The Department acknowledges the re-
ceipt of information from ~~him~~ ^{him} authorizing McKae to investigate
the route from Mendon by Winton to Fayetteville; but on
the next day informs him that the PM of Winton has
absconded, being probably the rogue, & that therefore he
need not make the investigation unless he has doubts

as to the honesty of some other officer on the route.

Sept 7 1835 The Dept. acknowledges information from him that the letter bag from Petersburg Va arrived at his office unsealed and with the N.Y. Distⁿ package missing; and requests him, should a robbery have been committed, to use every means to detect the depredator.

May 6 1837 The Dept. declines appointing him to investigate certain losses reported by him.

Wm McKee claims that it was usual to allow to Postmasters arresting and convicting mail robbers a reward of \$200: in each case.

In June 1834 Tho. G. Scott PM of Raleigh N.C. was allowed \$200: for arresting and convicting Dillahunty for mail robbery.

In the same year W. D. Coleman PM of Maysville Kentucky was allowed \$200: for apprehending and convicting Dixon \$200:—

These two cases of allowing reward, to Postmasters, are cited as showing the usage of the Department about the time of McKee's claim.

Reward to Agents

July 5. 1837 The Postmaster General (Kendall) says in a letter to John A. Miller, Special Agent: "I have this day directed that \$200: be allowed you for the apprehension and conviction of Sparks for robbing the mail, and have also decided that it is inexpedient to make any similar allowance to the Agents of the Department in future."

This case was submitted to W. Wickliffe, Postmaster General, Feb^y 1842, who decided

against it ~~and~~, will be seen on paper marked N^o. 4
In Jan'y 1845 the claim was again presented by
Hon. R. M. Saunders & W. McKeliff who again
repeated it & notified W. Saunders & McKeliff both
of that effect

The expenses of the Messenger &c
sent by direction of the President would seem to be
a subject for the State Department to act on.

The question of the two rewards claimed
is the only one for this Dept. to decide.

* Mr. Saunders, owner of the ~~submarine~~ ~~to the Submarine~~ was made after the arrest.

There is no ~~submarine~~ ~~in~~ regard to Strengthen

The reward is for his ~~submarine~~ ~~before~~ ~~travels~~ and not for any
services rendered afterwards or proposed to be rendered