

1847

Davis County, State of Iowa Oct the 27th
To the Senate and House of Representatives of
The U.S.A. in Congress assembled.

"The undersigned (your Petitioners would
respectfully represent to Your Hon. Body
that, that, portion of the state of Iowa laying south
west of the Des Moines River, and a portion of
the North East corner of the State of Missouri
are almost entirely destitute of Mail and
Post Office facilities, and that some portions
of these sections of our Country are now dense-
ly inhabited and other portions are fast filling
up with an industrious, enterprising and in-
telligent population, and that Nature has wisely
adapted these sections of our beautifull Country
to a cheap and rapid transmission of Intel-
ligence owing to the evenness of the face of the
Country, dryness of the roads, and there being
no considerable streams to cross, they (the streams)
running parallel with the main thoroughfares
of the Country. (Your Petitioners would further
represent that owing to the present lack of Mail
and Post Office facilities and the arrangement
of the Mails, that we are longer, receiving In-
telligence on a line parallel with and South
West of the Des Moines River, a distance of thirty
Miles than we are from some of the most distant

sections of the Union & for these causes and others
that we will assign, we pray your Honor Goddly
to pass a Law providing for a Mail Route
starting at Alexandria situated at the con-
fluence of the Mississippi and Desmornes Rivers
in the state of Missouri, thence to Fort Desmornes
at the junction of the Raccoon fork and the Des-
mornes fork of the Desmornes River, in the state
of Iowa, by the way of Woods Mill Vanburen
Co. Lo. Troy Post Office Davis Co. Lo. Bloom-
field Davis Co. Lo. Drakeville Davis Co. Lo.
Princeton Monroe Co. Lo. Knoxville Marion Co.
Lo. Thence to the end of the Route, Fort Des-
mornes, to be transported once a week both
ways. Your petitioners would further represent
to your Honor Goddly that all of the Citizens of
the south west side of the Desmornes River in the
state of Iowa and a large portion of those of
Northern Missouri would receive Intelligence
much more direct and at a much earlier date
by this route, than any route now authorized by
Law, for these very obvious reasons. The Missis-
sippi River the main channel, through which most
of the Eastern and Southern news is derived by these
sections of the Country, remains open, free from ice and
in a condition to pass boats most all of every win-
ter below the Desmornes Rapids in the Mississippi
River. While above the Rapids the River is frozen

over and obstructed by running ice from three to four months in every winter, and in the summer season when the water is low, so low that Boats cannot pass the Rapids, They Cause delay in the transmission of news. Another reason is, that this route prayed for is free from any obstructions in the way of impassable streams or bad roads. While on the other hand the Route through which we ^{now} derive most all of our news from those directions is obstructed by the Des Moines Rapids in the summer, ice in the winter. Intelligence gets to Burlington and then meets with delay on account of the arrangement of the Mails, delayed at various points along the way by this last mentioned cause, obstructed with bad roads across low wet flat prairies and by impassable streams in consequence of high water and ice except at particular seasons of the year. For these causes and many others that might be mentioned, we pray your Hon. Body to provide by Law for the afore mentioned Mail Route, for which favor we will ever pray and if granted we will be ever grateful

Subscribed

Alpheus Phelps
E. G. Reever
Lewis Wilkinson

William Cameron
M. J. Stevens
Reuben Wilkinson

Jesse F. Hill
J. C. Wheeler
P. P. Herod
J. D. Wheeler
J. F. Wilson
C. B. Wheeler

~~W. M. W.~~
Jas Jones
Wm M. Davis
James Stevens
Abraham Button

Sam. N. Dunbar
William H. Taylor
W. J. Johnson
J. C. Gensinger
Jesse Fitzgerald
Michael Rominger
Wm. K. Findley

C. C. Greene
Jm. Finley
Wm. Woodbridge
E. J. Harrison
William Day
G. W. Ditzler
Bert. Brooks
J. F. Fister

Sam. Riggs
Wm. Walker
William Freeman
James S. Robinson
Jos. B. McCoy
L. Rominger
R. H. Steele
John J. Gholton

J. Selman
Matthew Noble
C. M. Gany
William S. Taylor
Ephraim Gony
Jas. Perry
Thomas J. Hallaway
Lloyd A. Nelson

Abel Harris
N. Pittman
John Richardson
Jefferson Easley
William Witham
Sam. B. Wells
Abr. N. Putman

Delaney Swinney
Henry S. Fisk
Wm. Garretson
Robt. Moore
James W. May
A. W. Rankin
Nat. Gouman

Francis Keel
Wm. C. Leary
R. N. Davis
Thomas Rambo

Abraham Weaver
James J. Fitzgerald
Harrison Morgan
Shelly Ferris

L. C. Thomas
Josiah Burnwell

A. E. Collier

Thos. Hale

W. H. Hazens

Wm. Sticklin

Brewer Jones

D. M. Morris

Thos. D. Williamson

Stiles, J. Carpenter,

Reubin Reeves

Iowa. 20th
The petitioners of 171
Citizens of the State
of Iowa, in addition
to a former petition of
the same import,
praying for the estab-
lishment of a Mail
Route from Alexandria
in the State of Mo. via
Wood's Mills, Fox P.O.,
Bloomfield, Snakesville,
Princeton & Knoxville,
to Fort Des Moines
in Polk Co.

December 24 1847 Referred to the
Committee on Post Offices & Post Roads.
~~Refer to Comm. on Post Offices~~
~~& Post Roads~~

Wm Thompson