

Davis County State of Iowa #
Oct. the 27th 1847

To The Senate & House of Representatives of
the U.S. in Congress assembled.

The undersigned, Your petitioners
would respectfully 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 densely inhabited and
other portions are fast filling up with an
industrious, enterprising, and intelligent pop-
ulation, and that Nature has wisely adapted
these sections of Our beautifull Country to a cheap
and rapid transmission of Intelligence owing
to the evenness of the face of the Country dry-
ness of the roads and there being no consid-
erable streams to cross. They (the streams) run-
ing parallel with the main thoroughfares of
the Country. We would further represent to your
Hon. Body, that Owing to the lack of Mail
and Post Office facilities, we are longer receiv-
ing Intelligence on a line parallel with, and
South West of the Des Moines 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 Hon., Body
to pass a Law, providing for a Mail route, from
Alexandria, situated at the confluence of the
Mississippi and Desmoines Rivers in the State
of Iowa to Fort Desmoines situated at the junction
of the Racoon fork and the Desmoines fork
of the Desmoines River by the way of Wood's mill
in Vanburen Co., Ia. To Post Office, Bloomfield
Drakesville Davis Co., Ia. Princeton Knoxville to
Fort Desmoines the end of the route, to be trans-
ported once a week both ways. Your Petitioners
would further represent that all the Citizens of the
South west side of the Desmoines 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
obvious reasons. The Mississippi River the main
Channel through which most of the Eastern and
Southern News is ^{conveyed} by these sections of the Country
remains open, free from ice and in a condition
to pass boats most all of every winter below the
Desmoines rapids in the Mississippi River
while above the rapids the River remains frozen
over 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 rap-
 -ids, they cause delay in the transmission of
 News. Another reason is, that this route projected
 for is free from any obstructions in the way of im-
 -passable streams, (While on the other hand, the route
 through which we now derive our news, is obstruc-
 -ted by the Des Moines Rapids, ice in the winter
 Intelligence gets to Burlington and there meets
 with delay on account of the arrangement
 of the mail, delayed at various points along
 the way from this last mentioned cause. Ob-
 -structed with bad roads a cross low wet, flat
 prairies and impassable streams on account
 of high water and ice except at particu-
 -lar seasons of the year. For these causes and
 many others that might be assigned we
 pray your Hon. Body to provide by Law for
 the afore mentioned mail route, for which fa-
 -vor we will ever pray and be greatfull
 Subscribed

Asaphus Phelps	Edward Robinson
John A Drake	J. C. Humble
Orange Bailey	Austin Fouts
Moses Childress	John Jones
John Cross	Joshua Patterson
Wm Kirkham	James M. Coz
William Watt	Levi Cook
	B. Holder

Robt Hoasley	God Thormarson
Wm H. Taylor	John H. Drake
J. J. Pilliou	Manual Lee
Jacob Neal	John M. Clanchan
E. H. Nelson	Faro Fitzpatrick
Hayden Smith	Stephen Sparks
William H. Fitzpatrick	Samuel Starr
Thomas Selous	Joseph Dier
William J. Wallace	David C. Coz
J. R. White	Samuel Chapman
William Shipley	J. D. Miller
Reb. Wallace	John R. Spencer
Jackquith Sparks	John Fleming
Wm Rankin	Gabriel Trubling
Wm Gale	John Lehman
Cortlan Harris	Herbert Stait
Moses Greeno	Alexander Downing
Reuben Black	Thos Lockman
Jonathan Wells	James Cross
	E. L. Evans
David Baer	Thomas Fitzgerald
John Jones	Alfred Downing
Edward Bayre	John Zuck
William H. Fouts	John Goady
John W. Laines	James Fitzgerald
Richard Kirkham	E. B. Townsend
W. O. Thompson	John Wood
Hough L. Cooper	Wm Downing
Henny Taylor	James Carr
Martin Shuck	John Lockman
William Reuck	Alton Reynolds
William Crow	

Iowa
Petition of
Alpheus Phelps
and 80 other
Citizens of the State
of Iowa praying
for the establishment
of a Mail Route
from Alexandria
Mo. to Fort Westmore
in the State of Iowa

February 3. 1848 Referred
to the Committee on the
Post Office and Post Roads.

Wm Thompson