

Alexandria Mo Novemb<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>

To The Senate, & House of Representatives of  
the United States in Congress Assembled

The undersigned  
Your Petitioners would respectfully represent to your  
Hon<sup>ble</sup> Body, that a portion of the State of Iowa  
lying 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 & Post office  
facilities, and that a large portion of these sections  
of our country are densely inhabited and other portions are  
fast filling up with an enterprising, industrious and  
intelligent Population, and Nature has wisely adapted  
these sections of our beautiful country for a cheap  
and rapid transmission of intelligence, owing to the  
evenness of the face of the country, dryness of the  
roads, and there being no streams of consequence to  
cross, because the streams run parallel with the  
main thoroughfares of the country. And we would  
further represent to your Honorable Body, that owing  
to the want of mail and Post office facilities, and  
the present arrangement of the mails, we are longer  
receiving intelligence a distance of thirty miles on  
a parallel line South west of the Des Moines River  
than we are from some of the most distant sections  
of the Union. For these causes and others which  
we assign, we pray your Hon<sup>ble</sup> Body to pass a law  
providing for a mail route starting at Alexandria  
Mo (at the mouth of the Des Moines River) thence to  
Fort Des Moines at the junction of the Racoon fork & the  
Des Moines <sup>at Haverhill</sup> of the Des Moines River, by the route of  
the post office at Woods Mill Van Buren Co Iowa and  
Fox, Bloomfield, Des Moines, Iowa Co Iowa, Princeton & Keosauqua  
to Fort Des Moines the end of the route. To be transported  
once a week both ways. Your Petitioners would further  
represent that all the citizens of the South west side of  
the Des Moines river in the State of Iowa, and a large  
portion of those of Northern Missouri would receive  
intelligence more direct, and at an earlier date, than  
by any other route now authorized by law. for the  
obvious reason that the Mississippi river (the main  
Channell through which most of the Eastern & Southern  
News is derived) remain open most of the winter  
below the lower rapids of the Mississippi river, while  
above the rapids, the river remains frozen from three  
to four months every winter, and in the summer season  
when the water is low so that Boats cannot pass the  
rapids cause another delay in the transmission of mails.  
Another reason is that this route prayed for is free  
from any obstructions or impassible streams, while on  
the route by which we now derive our news is obstructed  
by the lower rapids & by ice in the winter. Intelligence  
at Burlington and then met with delay, and delayed  
at various points on the way, by bad roads running through  
low, wet, prairies and impassible streams on account of  
high water in the spring.

For these causes and many others  
that might be assigned, we pray your Hon<sup>ble</sup> Body  
to provide by law, for the above mentioned mail route  
for which favour we unite our prayer &c

Wm. J. Piffroy  
Geo. Clove  
E. Burdick  
A. Maxwell  
L. B. Mitchell  
John A. Drake  
James Watson  
D. Thomas

J. S. Stearns  
Amos Delbridge  
Osem Winters  
D. F. Green  
C. J. Stanley  
W. J. Phillips  
D. L. Baggins  
Willard Church

Samuel Valenman  
Ephraim Warner  
C. T. Leake

Amos Mattman  
W. Johnson  
E. C. Hyde

Lucas L. Harrison  
W. M. Johnson  
W. A. Bacon  
Geo. W. Bowyer  
E. McBride

Chas. Church  
Jes. A. Poor  
C. J. Greenleaf  
D. A. Hitt  
M. B. Benson

A. D. Fox  
J. M. Dug  
E. T. Lamb  
J. M. Morris  
John Freeman

Henry Shively  
Wm. C. Smith  
Thomas Ray

William Porter  
R. L. Robertson  
T. Merrill  
Walter B. Smoot  
J. R. Tull

J. B. Baldwin  
L. J. Sisson  
Nathan Smith  
Geo. Toront  
Prof. Mitchell  
E. Johnson

Moses W. Tenney  
G. Spurgeon  
James Hancock  
W. R. Rudd

Sam. F. Haywood  
John W. Johnson  
W. H. Hitchell  
B. F. Hagaman  
Edward Daly  
J. R. Price

James W. Smith  
C. W. Bickwith  
A. J. Warner  
James W. Bull  
Abel Miller  
Alexander Smith

Missouri (Ph  
Petition of sundry  
citizens of North East  
Missouri, praying the  
establishment of  
a Mail Route from  
Alexandria Missouri  
to Fort Des Moines in  
the State of Iowa -

Referred to Committee  
on Post Offices &  
Post Roads

January 18, 1848 Referred to  
the Committee on the Post Office  
& Post Roads

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