

The distance from the city of Washington, via Athens, on the present route, according to the latest information, is one thousand one hundred and eighty-two miles. Thirty miles may probably be saved by surveying and causewaying the road. The actual travel will then be one thousand one hundred and fifty-two miles, and the distance between the same cities, via Nashville, is one thousand four hundred and seventy-two miles.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GIDEON GRANGER, *Postmaster General.*

GENERAL POST OFFICE, *March 20th, 1806.*

[9th CONGRESS.]

No. 20.

[1st SESSION.]

INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 17, 1806.

Mr. CLARK made the following report:

The committee, who were appointed on the 21st of March, 1806, to inquire into the conduct of Gideon Granger, Postmaster General of the United States, and report whether, in their opinion, the said Gideon Granger hath so acted, in his capacity as Postmaster General, as to require the interposition of the constitutional powers of this House, submit the following report:

That the committee, without loss of time, engaged in the duties assigned them, and have made some progress therein. It was the sincere desire of the committee that the inquiry should be concluded during the present session, as well as the wish of the Postmaster General; but, from the distance and dispersed situation of the witnesses, whose testimony was deemed necessary, and the approaching close of the session, it is found impracticable. While the committee regret the situation of a public officer, laboring under the suspicious appearance of a constitutional scrutiny into his conduct, yet, in a government like ours, where watchfulness of men in office is the surest guarantee of the preservation of the liberty of the people, the public functionaries must yield their feelings to the general benefit, and endure a temporary inconvenience as an honorable sacrifice to the freedom of our institutions.

That a hasty and premature result is less to be desired on the part of an officer, supported by a consciousness of the integrity of his conduct, than the suspension of an inquiry that may terminate in a satisfactory refutation of charges, which, on the part of the accused, are affirmed to be without foundation, the committee have no hesitation in believing.

Justice to the public, as well as to the individual, requires a thorough investigation, which is found to be impossible before the final adjournment. The committee, therefore, recommend a postponement of the further inquiry until the next session of Congress.

[9th CONGRESS.]

No. 21.

[2d SESSION.]

PROGRESS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT FROM MARCH 3, 1793, TO JANUARY 12, 1807.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 19, 1807.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, *January 12, 1807.*

SIR:

Herewith I transmit to you the information required by your communication of the 9th.

With the design of enabling the committee to form some estimate of the labors of the various persons employed in this office, I have likewise transmitted "A view of the progress of the Post Office Department," commencing the third of March, 1793, and ending this day.

I am, sir, with the highest esteem and respect,

G. GRANGER.

Hon. JOSEPH B. VARNUM, *Chairman of the Committee on Post Roads.*

GENERAL POST OFFICE, *January 12, 1807.*

SIR:

Yours of the 9th was duly received. The deputy post master's accounts for the last quarter of the year 1806 have not yet been received; and the examination of those for the third quarter has not yet been completed.

A statement, therefore, such as the committee request, cannot be furnished from this office, to a later period than July 1, 1806.

The following will show the expenditure and nett proceeds of the Post Office Department, for one year, from July 1, 1805, to July 1, 1806, viz:

	Amount of balances on Post masters' accounts.	Expense of transportation of the mail.	Incidental expenses of the General Post Office.	Nett proceeds of the Post Office Department.
From July 1, to October 1, 1805, - -	\$76,329 26	\$56,180 79	\$367 52	\$19,780 95
From October 1, to December 31, do. - -	73,941 89	61,596 29	3,029 07	9,316 53
From January 1, to April 1, 1806, - -	73,146 54	69,929 45	2,226 75	990 34
From April 1, to July 1, do. - -	81,978 64	60,318 69	2,478 73	19,181 22
Total,	305,396 33	\$248,025 22	\$8,102 07	\$49,269 04

The contracts for the roads, established at the last session, commenced the first of October, 1806. They are not, therefore, included in the above.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect and esteem, your obedient servant,

GIDEON GRANGER.

JOSEPH B. VARNUM, Esquire.