Act of 16 April 1863

Statute I, Chapter XXIV – An Act to establish a preferred mail across the Mississippi River.

Source: The Statutes at Large of the Confederate States of America, Passed at the Third Session of the First Congress, 1863 (Richmond, VA: 1863), 108-109.

This act authorized the establishment of a Preferred Mail service across the Mississippi River. Several Trans-Mississippi covers are known franked with 50 cents postage, as prescribed in the Act for Preferred Mail. However, there is no evidence a Preferred Mail service was ever implemented. The Trans-Mississippi Express Mail authorized two weeks later took several months to plan before service began in October, 1863. See Act of 1 May 1863.

April 16, 1863.

CHAP. XXIV .- An Act to establish a preferred mail across the Mississippi River.

Mail route to be

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That established across the Postmaster General of the Confederate States is authorized to estabthe Mississippi lish a mail route for the more speedy transmission of letters and dispatches, only, between the States lying east and those lying west of the Rate of postage. Mississippi River. Postage on mail matter to be sent by said route shall be prepaid at the rate of fifty cents for each half ounce; but in calculating the weight of such mail matter, any fraction of an ounce less

other matter.

than a half shall be regarded as a half ounce. Letters and dis- Sec. 2. Letters and dispatches for the route hereby authorized shall patches to have have preference over all other mail matter in the transmission of the mails across the Mississippi River.

SEC. 3. The Postmaster General is authorized to establish regulations eral to establish for the prompt mailing, forwarding, and distributing of mail matter on

said route, and he may apply the money arising, from time to time, from necessary regulathe postage thereon in the employment of couriers, or other means, for tions. How to apthe postage thereon in the employment of couriers, or other means, for ply the money arthe safer, more frequent, and more rapid transmission of said preferred rising from the postage.

APPROVED April 16, 1863.