Act of 1 May 1863

Statute I, Chapter LXXIV – An Act to authorize the establishment of Express Mails.

Source: *The Statutes at Large of the Confederate States of America, Passed at the Third Session of the First Congress, 1863* (Richmond, VA: 1863), 156

This Act authorized the establishment of an Express Mail service across the Mississippi River (Trans-Mississippi Express Mail).

The rate for this mail was set at 40 cents per half ounce for letters only for any distance. This service was not available for Soldier's letters sent due.

The service was several months in preparation. The earliest known Trans-Mississippi mail use was in October 1863.

Postmaster Gen- The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact	
eral authorized to the Destandard Concerned to in hereby such as in a first state of the	
establish express the Fostmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized, in mails. practicable and necessary, to establish express mails for the	
veyance of letters and government dispatches only, as a m	
securing greater dispatch than can be afforded by the r	
Express mails so mails; and the lines of express mails so established shall be d	anne
	leemed
post routes. Post routes.	her th
Rates of postage SEC. 2. The rates of postage on such lines shall be fixed	
on such lines. Postmaster General, but shall not exceed one dollar on a	
letter not exceeding in weight one half ounce, and at the	
rate for any additional half ounce or fraction of a half oun	
any distance not exceeding five hundred miles, and for a	ny dis
tance exceeding five hundred miles double the said rate to	o he se
Proviso. fixed : Provided, This law shall not repeal the laws now in	n force
regulating the ordinary mail service.	
Approved May 1, 1863.	