

and eight pence, New York currency, per gross hundredweight out of which he would agree to pay two pence per hundred weight towards defraying the expenses of keeping up the roads and bind himself to keep a sufficient number of horses, oxen, &c., to carry over ten tons a day, and a carriage to convey forty hundredweight or a large bateau. He stated that during the last two years he had sustained considerable losses by the death of cattle, for which he had received no compensation and asserted that he was in a position to transport the government stores more expeditiously than any other person, as he possessed a large stock of cattle and waggons and a farm conveniently situated for the purpose, on the west side of the river. He was warmly recommended by his uncle, Philip Stedman, Sr., a survivor of the massacre at the Devil's Hole, who said in his letter: "I shall not urge our family's long services in time of imminent danger to the life and property of the person who undertook it, tho' it is natural to suppose a preference would be given to an old servant of the public who had always given satisfaction to the officers who have at different times commanded at Niagara."

Hamilton and his associates presented the following statement:

"For these two years the merchandise and peltries of the Upper Country have all been transported by the inhabitants on this side without the least delay, with advantage to the undertakers and with satisfaction to their employers. The plan adopted was allowing every person who thought proper, if of respectable character, and who had taken an oath of trust, to join in this business, only securing at all times, when wanted, the services of those who thus joined. In no one instance has it yet been found necessary to complain of want of attendance. The encouragement afforded the settlement by this has been so great that two teams are this season in employ for every one of last year and more are preparing. If not constantly employed, still what little they gain assists them much, and the oxen they must necessarily keep for this purpose enables them to go on in their farms with spirit and advantage. To increase this encouragement