

good class of boats, which if you conclude to come by
 water will make you trip a very pleasant one
 — If you come on a steam boat, you can better
 leave it at St Louis and take the stage; — you
 will find the roads, coaches & horses, better than when
 you last travelled the route, and there is no night
 travel — Do not think of taking stage further
 than St. Louis; — My carriage, driver & awaits you

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John Thomas & Russell
 Lexington
 Fayette County
 Kentucky



and will be under your control while you remain
 among us — May still come you at St Louis —
 — I have no news worth communicating —
 — We have had much rain that will give us very
 respectable crops — Make you hope for it as
 well as to be a great blessing, that so many of the
 children as well as parents you visited have been getting
 home sick — We are all in better health — One
 day but how do all — I am your affectionate brother
 Wm. A. Russell }
 Wm. A. Russell

Fulton 7th September 1840

My Dear Brother

In a letter addressed
 you on this day week jointly by
 cousin Tom Allen and myself at
 our poor brother Robert's, whose body
 whilst we were writing lay a corpse
 before us, you were informed of his
 most sudden and melancholy death
 ; — I also if I remember correctly prom-
 — ised to write you more fully than af-
 — ter, the order which engagement I now
 again take up my pen —

The cause of his illness and
 death yet remains a mystery, and
 will perhaps never be to the entire
 satisfaction of all unravelled —

He was apparently in perfect health
 late the evening preceding his death, and
 in company of several of his neighbours
 as was very much his custom took a
 hunt; — on the morning of his death (about
 10 o'clock) until after breakfast he was so
 little unwell, that our parents left home
 at his request solicitation to visit Mr. Smith
 in Columbia; — They had left not exceeding