

Ashland 2^d Dec. 1829.

My dear Son

Your grandfather Watkins died last Wednesday night, after a short illness. I went to Woodford to see your grandmother, who is also very feeble, and I fear will soon follow him. I offered to take her to Ashland to reside with us but she preferred to live with your Aunt Blackburn, where she now is. Perhaps it was the best arrangement.

Thomas started this day, with Mr. Kerr to see my Illinois land near Terre Haute. If he likes it he intends settling upon it, as Kerr proposes also to do. It is a fine piece of land and I think he cannot fail being pleased with it. But I confess I have very little confidence in Thomas' stability, and I shall be agreeably surprized if he becomes steady.

I observe what you say in your last letter, in regard to being employed by the State as an Engineer. Should you wish such a service, after you are fully qualified, I have no doubt you can obtain it. The spirit of Internal Improvement seems to be awakening here. I have put it in motion by an attempt to construct a Turnpike road between Lexington and Frankfort, which I think will be made.

But my opinion remains the same as to the propriety of your studying Law when you leave the Point. That is my sincere and anxious wish, which will however be yielded to yours, if you have a contrary one.

We have had the most disagreeable fall I ever experienced Rain - rain - incessant rain. I hope the weather has been better with you.

Your mama unites with me in love and good wishes to you.

H. Clay

Cadet H. Clay Jun^r