

Ellston, July 7<sup>th</sup> 1850.

Dear Cousin

I intended writing to you shortly after my arrival in Ellston, but neglect in doing so. ~~thing~~ I have indeed this morning to write you a few lines to let you know how Robert & myself are getting along. We are well, and doing as well as we could expect, our business are not as active as it was during the spring. Though the ground cause is the people generally are very busy in their crops. They are very backward on the account of the excessive rains we had during the spring, therefore crops will be compelled to be late but be fair to be good. If the farmers should fail in the present crops I will as sure you that it will be gloomy times in this country and the account of the fall crop being nearly exposed, Corn is selling higher here than had for a great many years. The sales now are from \$3.00 to 3.50 per Bal. The general price is from seven five cents to 87 1/2 per Bal, the cause <sup>of it</sup> so high is the farmers turned their attention to raising ~~the~~ <sup>of</sup> poll and use the present part of their corn in fattening their hogs. I have nothing more at to relate of interest; Cousin John I wish you would collect the money for Frank's higher that has fallen due and send it to me as I am needing it now and write to me how he come on &c. I have nothing more give my love to Dr. Freeman and his family and receive a good portion over self.   
John M. Atkins