

## Gilbert C. Russell to Thomas Jefferson, 1-4-10

Fort Pickering, Chickesaw Bluffs,  
January 4th 1810

Sir,

Conceiving it a duty incumbant upon me to give the friends of the late Meriwether Lewis such information relative to his arrival here, his stay and departure, and also of his pecuniary matters as came within my knowledge which they otherwise might not obtain, and presuming that as you were once his patron, you still remain'd his friend, I beg leave to communicate it to you and thro' you to his mother and such other of his friends as may be interested.

He came here on the 15th September last from whence he set off intending to go to Washington by way of New Orleans. His situation that rendered it necessary that he should be stoped until he would recover, which I done & in a short time by proper attention a change was perceptible and in about six days he was perfectly restored in every respect & able to travel. Being placed then myself in a similar situation with him by having Bills protested to a considerable amount I had made application to the General & expected leave of absence every day to go to Washington on the same business with Governor Lewis. In consequence of which he waited six or eight days expecting I would go on with him, but in this we were disappointed & he set off with a Major Neely who was going to Nashville.

At the request of Governor Lewis I enclosed the land warrant granted to him in consideration of his services to the Pacific Ocean to Bowling Robinson Esq Sec'y of the T'y [Treasury] of Orleans with instructions to dispose of it at any price above two dollars per acre & to lodge the money in the Bank of the United States or any of the branch banks subject to his order.

He left me with two Trunks a case and a bundle which will now remain here subject at any time subject to your order or that of his legal representatives. Enclosed is his memo respecting them but before the Boat in which he directed they might be sent got to this place I rec'd a verbal message from him after he left here to keep them until I should hear from him again.

He set off with two Trunks which contain'd all his papers relative to his expedition to the Pacific Ocean, Gen'l Clark's Land Warrant, a Port-Folio, pocket Book, and Note Book together with many other papers of both a public & private nature, two horses, two saddles & bridles, a Rifle, gun, pistols, pipe, tomahawk & dirks, all ellegant & perhaps about two hundred & twenty dollars, of which \$99.58 was a Treasury Check on the U. S. branch Bank of Orleans endorsed by me. The horses, one saddle, and the check I let him have. Where or what has become of his effects I do not know but presume they must be in the care of Major Neely near Nashville.

As an individual I verry much regret the untimely death of Governor Lewis whose loss will be great to his country & surely felt by his friends. When he left I felt much satisfaction for indeed I tho't I had also been the means of preserving the life of this valuable man, and as it has turned out I shall have the consolation that I discharged those obligations towards him that man is bound to do to his fellows.

It is probable that I shall go to the City of Washington in a few weeks also. I shall give you a call and give any further information you may require that has come within my knowledge.

Having had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Wm. Randolph, I pray you to tender my respects to him.  
I remain Sir with the utmost veneration and respect your Ob't Servant.

Gilbert C. Russell

Thomas Jefferson Esq.

## Lewis Memorandum for Gilbert Russell

Fort Pickering, Chickesaw Bluffs,

September 28th 1809

Capt. Russell will much oblige his friend Meriwether Lewis by forwarding to the care of William Brown Collector of the port of New Orleans, a Trunk belonging to Capt. James House addressed to McDonald and Ridgely Merchants in Baltimore. Mr. Brown will be requested to forward this trunk to its place of destination.

Capt. R. will also send two trunks a package and a case addressed to Mr. William C. Carr of St. Louis unless otherwise instructed by M. L. by letter from Nashville.

M. Lewis would thank Capt. R. to be particular to whom he confides these trunks &c. a Mr. Cabboni of St. Louis may be expected to pass this place in the course of the next month, to him they may be safely confided.

[On reverse side of Lewis Memo to Russell]

Memorandum

Sent Capt. Hous's Trunk by Benjamin Wilkinson on the 29th Sept. 1809

Russell

Gov'r Lewis left here on the morning of the 29th Sept.

(Thomas Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/collections/thomas-jefferson-papers>)