

First



# SHERIFF DECATUR COUNTY,

JOHN W. STOUT, - - - SHERIFF.

Greensburg, Ind, Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 1882

My dear brother Thomas, it has been a long time since I have heard from you, and I have been anxiously looking for a letter from you in answer to the last one I wrote you, I have nothing very interesting to write you, except that our relatives are all generally well, we are still living with John and will perhaps remain with him another year, we have been with him one year up to the first day of the present month, I have not sold my home residence where I lived for sixteen years, ever since I have been in this place, my wifes health is about the same as it has been for some time, she has not entirely recovered from her attack of Paralysis and perhaps never will entirely recover, but she is so much better than we thought at the time of her affliction that she ever would be, that we feel thankful that she is as well as she is, John's three little boys are all attending school, our daughter Fannie is still with us I don't think she will ever marry, she is the largest one of the family she weighs 175 lbs, Mary Jolly is still keeping house for her son in law in Indianapolis and has charge of his children (her three grand children) they are all girls and very sprightly children, Alicia lives some 12 miles from here, her husband is a farmer and owns a good farm, Alicia's son John is married and lives not very far from her, he is now a very good account he married a woman that had some twelve hundred dollars and

2<sup>nd</sup>/<sub>11</sub>

OFFICE OF

# SHERIFF DECATUR COUNTY,

JOHN W. STOUT, - - - SHERIFF.

Greensburg, Ind, ..... 1888

has been through with all of it, her oldest son Ed is somewhere in your State of course doing no good, her only daughter (bna) is living with her. She is grown, 20 year old, Alicia has two children by her present husband a son and daughter, Eliza Jones still lives in Ky - her oldest son Hiram and third son Thomas recently made us a visit, and her second son (Raeph) made us a visit several weeks past, he is 19 years old, her son Hiram is a very stout robust man is married and making a good living, he speaks some of moving to this County, my son Wm is still living on the farm I bought and put him on, I pay the taxes on the land and his individual taxes furnish horses and Cows and all farming implements and hogs to feed for his meat, and charge him no rent, and still he cant make a living, it seems as though he cannot prosper in anything but in raising children, he has five living and one dead,

I learn that our Brother Louis is not doing much good still takes his spears and has no settled home, his wife is living near Quaintances old horse mill, bought land and is doing well, I have not heard from sister Lulina since I wrote you last, dont know her post office, My dear Brother I hope you will answer this and tell me all about your family and how you are getting along, I am writing this hurriedly in the Court house, I think we ought to hear from each other more than once a year, so do write to me, give my best love to all your children, and believe me as ever your devoted Brother

Hiram Wallingford

[Letterhead - Office of Sheriff Decatur County, John W. Stout,  
Sheriff. Greensburg, Ind.]

Sept 21st 1882

My dear Brother Thomas, it has been a long time since I have heard from you, and I have been anxiously looking for a letter from you in answer to the last one I wrote you, I have nothing verry interesting to write you, except that our relatives are all generally well, we are still living with John and will perhaps remain with him another year, we have been with him one year up to the first day of the present month. I have not sold my home residence where I lived for sixteen years, ever since I have been in this place. My wifes health is about the same as it has been for some time. She has not entirely recovered from her attack of Paralysis and perhaps never will entirely recover, but she is so mutch better than we thought at the time of her affliction that she would be that we feel thankful that she is as well as she is. John's three little boys are all attending school, our Daughter Fannie is still with us I don't think she will ever marry, she is the largest one of the family she weighs 175 lbs.

Mary Tully is still keeping house for her soninlaw in Indianapolis and has charge of his children (her three grandchildren) they are all girls and verry sprightly children, Alicia lives some 12 miles from here, her Husband is a farmer and owns a good farm, Alicia's Son John is married and lives not very far from her, he is no earthly account he married a woman that had some twelve hundred dollars and he run through all of it, her oldest son Ed is somewhere in your state of course doing no good, her only daughter (Ina) [Possibly Ira?] is living with her. She is grown, 20 year old, Alicia has two children by her present husband a son and a daughter. Eliza Jones still lives in Ky - her oldest son (Ralph) made us a visit several weeks past, he is 19 years old, her son Hiram is a verry stout robust man is married and making a good living, he speaks some of moving to this county. My son Wm is still living on the farm I bought and put him on, I pay the taxes on the land and his individual taxes, furnish horses and cows and all farming implements and hogs to feed for his meat, and charge him no rent, and still he cant make a living, it seems as though he cannot prosper in anything but in raising children, he has five living and one dead.

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Hiram Wallingford

**Commentary on the letter by Nick Wallingford, 1 August 2008:**

Transcription of a letter from Hiram Wallingford, to his brother Thomas Ginn Wallingford in Texas. Hiram and T.G. were both sons of Nicholas Wallingford and Mary Ginn/Guinn, born in Mason County, Kentucky. T.G. and his wife Evaline Debell had moved down to Texas in late 1855.

A previous letter from Hiram to T.G. was dated 3 October 1881 - it is not clear if T.G. ever answered that letter or not, or if any other letters were exchanged between - Hiram's comment that "we ought to hear from each other more than once a year" leads me to think not...

Hiram again refers to living with his son John, and the fact that his daughter Fannie is with them, the largest one in the family! Others mentioned are his children Mary (widowed young), Alicia (Hiram's dislike for his grandsons John and Ed Watkins is very clear!), Eliza (Alicia's twin sister) and his son William, the youngest of his children.

Brother Lewis (Hiram spelled it 'Louis' in this letter, I notice) has an ongoing battle with 'the drink'. Julina is a sister about half way between these two brothers, who are 17 years different in age.

All of T.G.'s girls (of the children still living) have families of their own by now. Martha C. ('Mattie') and R.F. Day have had three children (2 still living), Eliza ('Lide') and Lewis Moore have two. The youngest girl Annie Debelle (who in the last letter was thought to be pregnant at age 14...) may have lost that first child, but by this year later has had a little girl. The only child left with T.G. would be Robert Thomas, and he would be 20 and out on his own, too.

T.G.'s marriage to Fannie, that lasted less than a year, is now nearly two years behind him. Looking into the future, T.G. will take a trip to Kentucky in another two year's time - to get married to another quite young woman!

No real record of just what was going on in this time - T.G. was buying but mostly selling bits of land, he was still in a partnership with John Pinckney for some farming. He was also working as a constable for the area, doing mostly court-ordered debt recovery, from the written records we have in the family.