

Well we are passing through one of the coldest winters I ever experienced, we have had about five weeks of good sleighing and some as cold days as I ever felt, but it has now moderated and the snow about all gone, but the high waters are now on the boom, the Ohio River is said to be 64 feet at Cincinnati, and still rising, we had just about such a flood in the Ohio this time last year about the time I last wrote to you, well Brother I have nothing very encouraging to write you, my health is not good I am troubled with indigestion, I suffer a great deal from it. I have lost about 20 or 25 lbs in flesh but am still heavy enough weigh full 200 lbs. I am taking medicine constantly, but without much improvement. If I were not so old I would try a trip to your country or the hot Springs in Arkansas to see if I could be benefitted, but I will soon be 73 years old most too old to be bumming around hunting health, Hannah's health is about as it has been for a year or two past, Fannie is nearly as heavy as I am, John and children are well, Mary Tully is still in Indianapolis taking care of her grandchildren, Alicia and family are all well, Mrs. and family well, Eliza is still in Ky - they were all well the last letter we

Greensburg Ind
Feb 8th 1884

My dear Brother Thomas,

I have waited as long as I can stand it to hear from you, and have concluded to write you once more to try to induce you to let me hear from you, It has been one year at least will be on the 10th of this month, since I received your last letter, which I answered on the next day, recd it on 17th and answered 18th July 83 your letter being dated on the 10th and recd on the 17th the only word I have had from you during all this time was through a letter that John recd from you last August. In your last letter to me you stated that you had a widow living with you with one child and a young man who were going to stay a year. I gave you a caution in my last letter about this widow, I hope you took no offence at what I said, for I hope you know me well enough to know that I was sincere in

what I said, and only desired to give you a brotherly
caution, what has become of the widowth. In your letter
to John you said nothing about who was keeping house
for you, you stated that Sally was with you but would
leave about the 1st of Sept or Oct to commence a school
some 7 or 8 miles from you, how did she succeed and is she
still teaching, I do hope she has succeeded well and has
continued to teach as she can make a good living in
that way, I hope you will answer this letter and give
me all particulars concerning her and your self & family
you spoke of Ed Mattins in your letter to John saying
that his time would expire in the penitentiary the first of
October last, he was here in Decatur County Indiana about
that time well dressed and plenty of money, I learn that
he is engaged to marry a widow in his mothers neighbour-
hood with some property, they are only waiting for the
widow to get a divorce which is to be tried in our court
at this place which is now in session, I am told that
she will have no trouble in getting a divorce as her husband
left her over two years past, she is said to be a woman
of good character and industrious, that her former
husband left her without any cause on her part,

had from them, I have not heard from Brother
Louis for some time, I have written to him and
begged of him to write me, but he has failed to
do so, The last I heard from him he was still
drinking, I have not heard a word from our
old sister Pulina since I wrote you last, the
last I heard from her she was living somewhere
in Missouri with one of her children,

My dear Brother we are expecting to celebrate
our ~~thirtieth~~ fiftieth marriage anniversary on the first
day of May next if we are spared to live to see
that day, we expect to have our golden wedding
at that time, oh how we would like to have you
present, cant you come, we want to have all
our children present and as many of the relatives
as can come, there are but very few persons
living now that witnessed our marriage, well I
shall expect a long letter from you one that will
make up for lost time, let me hear all about your-
self and children, give all of them my love,
and believe me as ever your devoted Brother,

Hiram Wallingford

Greensburg Ind
Feby 8th 1884

I have waited as long as I can stand it to hear from you, and have concluded to write you once more to try to induce you to let me hear from you. It has been one year at least will be on the 10th of this month, since I received your last letter, which I answered on the next day, recd it on the 17th and answered 18th Feby 83 your letter being dated on the 10th and recd on the 17th the only word I have had from you during all this time was through a letter that John recd from you last August. In your last letter to me you stated that you had a widow living with you with one child and a young man who were going to stay a year. I gave you a caution in my last letter about this widow. I hope you took no offence at what I said, for I hope you know me well enough to know that I was sincere in what I aid, and only desired to give you a brotherly caution. What has become of the widow? In your letter to John you said nothing about who was keeping house for you. You stated that Pally was with you but would leave about the 1st of Sept or Oct to commence a school some 7 or 8 miles from you, how did she suceed and is she still teaching. I do hope she has succeeded well and has continued to teach as she can make a good living in that way. I hope you will answer this letter and give me all particulars concerning her and your self & family. You spoke of Ed Watkins in your letter to John saying that his time would expire in the Penitentiary the first of October last, he was here in Decatur County Indiana about that time well dressed and plenty of money. I learn that he is engaged to marry a widow in his mothers neighbourhood with some property. They are only waiting for the widow to get a divorce which is to be tried in our court at this place which is now in session. I am told that she will have no trouble in getting a divorce as her husband left her over two years past, she is said to be a woman of good character and industrious, that her former husband left her without any cause on her part.

Well we are passing through one of the coldest winters I ever experienced. We have had about five weeks of good sleighing and some as cold days as I ever felt, but now it has moderated and the snow about all gone but the high waters are now on the boom, the Ohio River is said to be 64 feet at Cincinnati and still rising. We had just about such a flood in the Ohio this time last year about the time I last wrote to you. Well Brother I have nothing very encouraging to write you, my health is not good I am troubled with indigestion, I suffer a great deal from it. I have lost about 20 or 25 lbs in flesh but am still heavy enough weight full 200 lbs. I am taking medicine constantly, but without much improvement. If I were not so old I would try a trip to your country or the hot springs in Arkansas to see if I could be benefitted, but I will soon be 73 years old most to old to be bumming around hunting health. Hannah health is about as it has been for a year or two past. Fannie is nearly as heavy as I am, John and children are well. Mary Tully is still in Indianapolis

taking care of her Grandchildren. Alicia and family are all well. Wm. and family well. Eliza is still in Ky - they were all well the last letter we had from them. I have not heard from Brother Louis for sometime. I have written to him and begged him to write me, but he has failed to do so, the last I heard from him he was still drinking. I have not heard a word from our old sister Julina since I wrote you last, the last I heard from her she was living somewhere in Missouri with one of her children.

My dear Brother we are expecting to celebrate our fiftieth marriage anniversary on the first day of May next if we are spared to live to see that day, we expect to have our golden wedding at that time, oh how we would like to have you present, can't you come, we want to have all our children present and as many of the relatives as can come, there are but verry few persons living now that witnessed our marriage. Well I shall expect a long letter from you one that will make up for lost time, let me hear all about yourself and children, give all of them my love, and believe me as ever your devoted Brother.

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.

There are some gaps in the letters from Hiram that we have in our family, as he refers to at least one letter he wrote in 1883. Sadly, as with such saved family letters, we have only these letters to T.G. and nothing much that he has written...

We don't have any knowledge of who the widow with one child and a young man who were living with T.G. in these times. No family stories or documents much relate to this 1881 - 1884 period to shed light on T.G.'s life directly.

"Pally" is almost certainly Palmyra Clark, daughter of Hiram and T.G.'s sister Martha A.E. and Patrick C. Clark. Though some believe that Martha came to Texas about the same time as T.G. and Evaline, I believe that to be not likely, as Martha died before T.G. and Evaline moved in late 1855. At some point, however, Palmyra Clark did join into the T.G. and Evaline family, as she was with them in the 1860 Waller County census, and is referred to in a letter T.G. wrote home while away in the Civil War.

Ed Watkins, fresh out of the penitentiary, is Hiram's grandson, daughter of Alicia B. Hiram's wife Hannah still suffers after her paralysis. His daughter Fannie is still growing larger, as referred to in other letters. John is his son John Nicholas with whom he, Hannah and Fannie are living. Mary Tully, Alicia, William and Eliza are other children of Hiram and Hannah.

Brother Lewis (again, Hiram spells it Louis) is the brother a few years younger than Hiram, and Julina the sister mid-way between Hiram and T.G.

T.G. did not make it to the 50th wedding anniversary the next year - but in the meantime later in this same year he made a quick trip to Kentucky to marry Annie Tucker, and didn't get by to see all of the rest of his family on that trip!