

his daughter married since you was here she married George Becket-Daniel
Dore & don't know much about him her mother was not riding for the most
et - so I have heard we have had some very cold weather has bin raining to day
we have filled our Ice house our sisters is done I find it very convenient
I am doing my work all except washing I hire it done Jimmie has bin very sick
is well enough to go to school her Allie Ralph is not married I think will not
very soon It is very hard on you to take those little children but you cant help
yourself you would not see them suffer Sallie Foswether is dead was buried last
week she was sick when you was here Charly has killed some Loops since you
left commenced plowing last week I will not close my letter untill Ch. sees
Auddith again Charly sent Auddith the some time ago he had not gotten your papers
then he seen Bolden Foxworth he told him the money was ready for you I wonderd

why you did not send the papers I will send my letter now - I not - wait longer hoping your papers will come all right Ch says he will see Auddith about them - & have him to write you about them - now - write This is a very bad letter but you must answer it hoping mine will be better
Flemingsburg Fleming Co Ky
Dear Uncle I had most dispare of hearing from you & family any more was sorry to learn of hard times with you it seems hard enough here money is hard to get this years Tobacco is not selling at any price the raisers wont sell at the price & the buyers wont give any more I hope things will make a change for the better the Boys are most done shipping she is done I had a letter from Pa last week he wanted to know if I had heard from you he stated that he had never heard a word from you since you left Kingsville I wish you had went to see him he had so much he wanted to ask & talk about to you that it was a great disappointment.

let your door with you
to the love to all
with your
clear trouble & so good
try

& I feare you will never see him any more
his health is poor he dont seem to get any
better you must write to him I will write
to day I tell him all I now about you that
will do him some good write if you had
let me know what you was going to marry
I would have went to see you married you
did not know it very long yourself but I herd
of you going to Flemingsburg after the ^{ce} ~~time~~
and your returne you might have come
up I told us but you know best I done
what you thought was best I havent a doubt
I hope you will live a long & happy life
with your Wife if you are happy that is all
that is needed I do your duty buy her you
are kind hearted that I now tell her she
is a good ways from home but must not
think any thing about that but be good
to you & the Dear children I all will
be write like a Family are well Charley

went to see Mr Suddith he says he never
received the papers you spoke of he will
see him again before I send this letter I think
he will do you write about it Josh Debelles
& Nancy his Mother is fussing over what
Uncle Jerry left she has gone to live with
Cath Points Josh has moved up to Lerris
house Haret sold out to him Jerry did
not leave Cath Points any thing that
Maid Aunt - Nans - Mad she is a very
unsatished Mother they must always
want their Children to have all they can
get I havent seen Bud or Wife since you
left she sent me word to come to see
them they live in Josh house I havent
herd from Uncle Lewis but once since you
left that was under very unfaberable
circumstances he was in Carmel very Drunk
I was sorry to here of that but poor Old
man he will never quit that bad habit

Jan 11 1885

Flemingsburg Fleming Co Ky

Dear Unkle

I had most dispared of hering from you & family any more was sorry to learn of hard times with you it seemes hard enough here Money is hard to get this years Tobacco is not seling at any price the raisers wont sell at the prices & the buyers wont give any more I hope things will make a change for the better the Boys are most-done striping Ike is done I had a letter from Pa last week he wanted to now if I had herd from you he stated that he had never herd a word from you since you left Maysville. I wish you had went to see him he had so much he wanted to ask & talk about to you that it was a great disappointment to him. & I fere you will never see him aney more his helth is poor dont seem to get any better you must write to him I will write to day & tell him all I now about you that will do him some good Unkle if you had let me kown that you was going to marry I would have went to seen you married you did not now it very long yourself but I herd of you going to Flemingsburg after the Leisen [has 'ee' above this word] & on your return you might have come up & told us but you new best & done what you thought was best I havent a dout & I hope you will live a long & happy life with your Wife if you are happy that is all that is needed & do your duty buy her you are kind harted that I now tell her she is a good ways from home but must not think any thing about that but be good to you & the Dear Children & all will be write Ike & Family are well Charley went to see Mr Suddith he says he never received the papers you spoke of he will see him agan before I send this letter I think he will do you write about it Josh Debelle & Nancy his Mother is fussing over what Unkle Jerry left - She has gon to live with Cath Points - Josh has moved up to Jerries house Haret sold out to him Jerry did not leave Cath Points aney thing that maid Aunt Nan mad She is a very unnatekerel mother they most always wantt ther children to have all they can get I havent seen Bud or wife since you left they sent me word to come to see them they live in Josh house I havent herd from Unkle Louis but once since you left & that was under very unfaberable surstampes he was in Carmel very drunk I was sorry to here of that but poor old man he will never quit that bad habit his daughter married since you was here she married George Beckel-Danelson I dont now much about him her mother was not smiling for the mart etc So I have herd we have had some very cold wether has bin raining today we have filled our ice house our sisters is done I find it very convenient I am doing my work all except washing & hire it done Frannie has bin very sick is well enough to go to school her & Ollie Ralph is not married & I think will not very soon It is very hard on you to take those little children but you cant help yourself you would not see them suffer Sallie Forwether is dead was berried last week She was sick when you was here Charley has halled some logs since you left Commenced plowing last week I will not close my letter untill Ch sees Suddith again

Charly sen Sudith some time ago he had not gotten your papers then he seen Bolden Fox he told him the money was redy for you & wonderd why you did not send the papers I will send my letter now & not wait longer hoping your papers will come all rite Ch says he will see Sudith about them & have him to write you about them now Unkle this is a very bad letter but you must answer it hoping times will be better soon with you Love to all EL Jones

Tell Tom to stay with you good buy dear Unkle

Commentary by Nick Wallingford, 21 September 2008

This is a letter from Eliza Jones to her Uncle Thomas Ginn Wallingford, written 11 January 1885.

Eliza Wallingford Jones was the wife of Charlie Jones and the daughter of Hiram and Hannah Ann Wallingford, Hiram being T.G. Wallingford's older brother. Charlie and Eliza lived in Fleming County, Kentucky, (near Carmel, I believe) while Hiram and Hannah lived in Greensburg, Indiana.

Eliza refers to the very depressed tobacco farming market, and the fact that 'the boys' (her husband, sons and several workers who were living in the household with them) were currently finishing striping the tobacco - removing the leaves from the stalks after the tobacco has been dried.

She refers to the fact that T.G. had not gone to visit her father Hiram on T.G.'s trip to Kentucky in August 1884, and the disappointment relating to that. T.G.'s main purpose for the trip was probably to sort out any inheritances due to his children following the death of his father in law, Lewis Debell (T.G.'s wife - Lewis' daughter - Evaline died about 15 years earlier). Whether it was planned or not, he also got married to Annie Eliza Tucker on that trip. Based on Eliza's letter, it sounds like the decision may have been made quickly, rather than a long term plan.

She refers to her husband Charley and Ike, his brother. Charley appears to have been working on T.G.'s behalf with "Mr. Suddith" who appears to have been the lawyer working on the inheritance issue with the Debell estate.

Eliza writes about Josh Debell and his mother Nancy Debell, and the death of "Jerry" (Jeremiah Debell, a brother of Lewis Debell, T.G.'s father in law. (Though she uses the terms Aunt and Uncle, I believe they are simply expressions of 'soome' sort of relationship. The various Debells and Wallingfords and Jones were all in the same area of Fleming County for many years...) Nancy was the widow of another of the Debell brothers - Joshua Hutchison Debell, and was living with her son Josh with Jerry and his wife Mary in 1850.

Harriet, who sold out her share of Jerry's house to Josh, was another sibling of that 'older' set of Debells, the siblings of Lewis, T.G.'s father in law. I am not certain who Cath Points is.

Eliza says that T.G.'s brother Louis (or Lewis) Bean Wallingford was still drinking, an ongoing reference in most family letters. Louis had four daughters, but the marriage mentioned here is not one I have been able to confirm - it would likely have been Francina, but I have not been able to confirm that. The mother of the bride who was 'not smiling' was Cecelia Tolle Wallingford.

She refers to some of her children - Frannie/Fannie, Ollie and Ralph. "Bolden Fox" is Baldwin Foxworthy, who had married Sallie Debell (another of Lewis Debell's siblings) and who was a trustee of the Lewis Debell estate.

The final P.S. refers to T.G.'s son, Robert Thomas Wallingford.