



long since, did the earth quake reach  
your section, it reached us here Fannie  
had gone up stairs to go to bed and she  
came running down to our room badly  
frightened saying the window lights clattered in  
the windows and the head board of her bedstead  
clattered and the bedstead shook all over it,  
I see it is again predicted by some wise man  
I believe his name is Wiggins that we are  
to have a more severe and disastrous shock  
on the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month, this prediction is  
for the Southern boundary altogether, I hope  
this will prove to be a false prophecy,  
how is the crops in Texas or in your section,  
we have the heaviest corn crop here that we  
have had since I have lived in the State,  
wheat was pretty good oats excellent and  
grass never better. Cattle and Hogs in a  
bundance but nothing selling for a living  
price, every thing down to a low price under  
this democratic administration lands will

not bring within \$25 = or \$30<sup>00</sup> per  
acre of the price they sold for a year or two  
past, money matters are very close and the  
people are howling for relief, but I see no  
relief under the present state of affairs,  
but we have to take it as it comes.

John has closed out his stock of goods  
and has quit merchandising, he traded the  
last of his stock for a farm in Missouri, he is  
now in Kansas looking after some lands he  
owns there, I don't know what he will engage  
in when he returns home but it will take  
him sometime to wind up his business here,  
we are still living with John but I don't know  
how much longer we will stay as being married  
at any time and then we would have to still  
keep my property where I moved from when  
I came to live with John, I have not been  
to Ky since you were there, have not heard  
from our old brother Lewis for some time  
the last I heard from him he was keeping John  
and still at Wash Readers, I think I write

Greensburg Ind  
Sept 27th 1886

Dear Brother Thomas,

It has been a long time since I have herd from you. I think a year last April. I should like to know how you and your young wife are getting along, how many young children have you and how are you getting along generally. How is your son Tommies health and how is he getting along, how is all your girls getting along. I hope they are all well and prospering, is Black Dan still living. I should like to see him, how is your cattle prospering do you still keep your little farm.

Is your wife satisfied to live in Texas and does she enjoy good health. I see from reading the papers that you had a cyclone not far from you not far from you not long since did the earth quake rock your section, it reached us here Frannie had gone up stairs to go to bed and she came running down to our room badly frightene says the window lights clattered in the windows and the headbord of her bedsted clattered and the bested shook all over & I see it is again predicted by some wise man I believe his name is Wiggins that we are to have a more serious and disasterous shock on the 29th of this month, this prediction is for the Southern boundery altogether, I hope this will prove to be a false prophesy. How is the crops in Texas or in your section. We have the heaviest corn crop here that we have had since I have lived in the State, wheat was pretty good oats excellent and grass never better. Cattle and Hogs in abundance but nothing selling for a living price, every thing down to a low price under this democratic administration lands will not bring withing \$25 or \$30 per acre of the price they sold a year or two past, money matters are very close and the people are howling for felief, but I see no relief under the present state of affairs, but we have to take it has it comes.

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Mary Renners oldest daughter Sis died. Ed Renner is married. BC Foxworthy's wife died recently. She was 80 years old She was the last of the DeBell family.

I have written to Sister Julina to day the last letter I received from her she was at Mart Wallings in Kansas, Mart has got rich out there. Julinas health is not first rate but she manages to make her own support and pay her own way where ever she goes, what a resolute and industrious woman she has been. My heath is about as it has been for the past year or so, still am troubled with my stomach hardly able to walk around. My lower limbs swell through the day but go down through the night. I am now in my 76 year since June past, My dear Brother I hope you will answer this letter promptly and fully. Love to all your Bro - Hiram Wallingford

Commentary by Nick Wallingford, 21 September 2008

Another in the family letters that we have from Hiram Wallingford (Indiana) to his brother T.G. Wallingford (Texas).

T.G.'s last letter and news to Hiram would have been April 1885. T.G. had returned to Kentucky in August/September 1884, marrying Annie Tucker. T.G. and Annie's first child, Alvin Monroe, was born in October 1885, so Hiram would not know about him when asking T.G. how many young children he has.

Hiram asks about T.G.'s son Robert Thomas's health I am not sure if this was a reference to Tom having had yellow fever (along with his sister Eliza). They were put in tubs of cold water, and both survived (though another son, James Monroe, died...) that would have all been some years before, so this question about his health probably was something else...

Hiram asks about how Black Dan is doing. This makes me think that Hiram did, at some point, travel to Texas to see T.G. Another letter made an oblique reference to seeing Texas again, so I believe that Hiram (with his son John and possibly others?) came to Texas about 1872 or early in 1873.

Frannie who was going upstairs when the earthquake shook Indiana is Hiram and Hannah's daughter. John, who appears to be doing well, is Hiram and Hannah's older son.

Hiram refers to not having been to Kentucky since T.G. was there. In another letter from Hiram's daughter Eliza, she said how disappointed that Hiram was that he had not been able to see T.G. during that visit. T.G. and one of his nephews, George Warder, did apparently get to Buena Vista, Ohio, to visit John Devoss, who was married to Mary Bragg Devoss, one of T.G.'s nieces.

The specific reference to Tom earlier in the letter makes it seem likely that Tom may have accompanied T.G. to Kentucky in 1884, though that is conjecture...

Hiram says that their brother Lewis is keeping sober. That is an ongoing topic of interest between these brothers.

Jerry Debell was Evaline Debell's uncle, brother of her father Lewis Debell, (Evaline being T.G.'s first wife).

Col Dudley refers to Col William Dudley, who married Kitty Debell, one of Evaline Debell's sisters.

Not sure who the Renners were. B.C. Foxworthy was married to Sally Debell, a sister of Lewis (making her Evaline Debell Wallingford's aunt). Baldwin Foxworthy was a minister, and was the executor of Evaline's father's (Lewis Debell's) estate – T.G. had dealt

through him when he sought to get his own children's share of the estate on his visit to Kentucky in 1884.

Hiram refers to their sister Julina I'm not sure who Mart Wallingford is, but possibly a son of one of their other (numerous) half brothers, or possibly a son one of them.