

Oct. 24. 1888.

My Beloved Brother

I attempt to write a few lines to inform  
you that I am tolerable well hoping you  
and family are well I am at G. B. Zoller  
He has married a clever good lady she is  
kind to the children Pats is selling goods  
Times is hard he cant make much money  
I am sorry of your afflictions and failure  
of crops I hope you are relieved and well  
Brother at the time you wrote me last  
Brother Hiram was dead you and I are  
all that are left and I am expecting to  
shortly be taken to an unknown world to us  
I hope to be reconciled when the time comes  
Brother I fear I cant get means to come to  
Texas Hiram is gone I expected to call at  
Greensburg and he would have conveyed to  
Texas Albert Tucker is living Chester  
and doing well direct your letter to  
Mayvill and he will get it I cant write much  
It is about stage time write soon James Applegate  
and wife wants you to write to them they are my  
best friends in case this or all I will do better raised  
your brother affectionately L. B. Hallingford

Oct. 24, 1888

My Beloved Brother

I attempt to write a few lines to inform You that I am tolerable well hoping you And family are well I am at RP Tolles He has married a clever good lady she is kind to the children Pres is selling goods Times is hard he cant make much money I am sorry of your afflications and failure of crops I hope you are relieved and well Brother at the time you wrote me last Brother Hiram was dead you and I are All that are left and I am expecting to Shortly be taken to an unnown world to us I hope to be reconciled when the time comes Brother I fear I cant get means to come to Texas Hiram is gone I expected to call at Greensburg and he would have conveyed to Texas Albert Tucker is living Chester And doing well direct your letter to Mayvill and he will get it I cant write much It is about stage time write soon James Applegate and wife wants you to write to them they are my Best friends excuse these scralls I will do better next

Your Brother affectionately LB Wallingford

## Commentary by Nick Wallingford 23 September 2008

This is my transcription of a letter from Lewis (or Louis) Bean Wallingford, living in Kentucky, to his brother Thomas Ginn Wallingford, living in Texas. Lewis would have been 75 as he wrote this, T.G. only 60 years old. Lewis had a drinking problem for most all of his life, and his drinking status was a subject in most all family letters. The handwriting is quite tortured, as Lewis explains in the letter. Readability is also difficult due to his use of capital letters – instead of putting one at the beginning of a sentence, he begins each new line on the paper with a capital letter, regardless of where in the sentence that word might be!

Lewis is living at his son in law's, Richard Presley Tolle, who married Jerinda, one of Lewis' daughters. Jarinda died 13 May 1885, and in Oct 1888, he married again to Mrs Lennie (Parks) Davis, a widow. The reference to Pres is to the same person – Presley Tolle.

Hiram Wallingford, older brother of both Lewis and T.G., died 9 September 1888. It sounds as if T.G. had written one letter to Lewis without knowing that, but that the news had been conveyed to him in the time since.

In a previous letter Lewis had talked about trying to get Hiram to give him enough money to get to to Texas, even saying Hiram might give him the money just to get rid of him!

The reference to Albert Tucker is confusing. I think Lewis was confused, and meant to refer to Abner Tucker, who was T.G.'s wife Annie's older brother.

James Applegate and his wife refers, I believe, a grandson of T.G. and Lewis' Uncle Joseph (the brother of their father Nicholas). The Applegates and Wallingfords intermarried at various times, so this might not be right, but it seems to fit the ages and location. James was, in fact, not too many years younger than T.G., and may well have interacted with him when T.G. was in Kentucky five years earlier.