

Orangeburg Mass. Co Oct. 3. 1849  
Dear Brother and sister I write a few lines  
To inform you that your kind letter came  
To hand I had despaired of getting an  
answer I was truly glad that you have not  
forgotten me it hard for me to write my  
Wright fingers is drawn so bad I cant use  
a pen to write a good hand I am sorry your  
Health is bad for good health is a greatest  
Blessing on earth sorry of failure of your crop  
our crops of all kinds are good Brother  
Mr Hull is dead Jos Wallingford is living and  
Stout and sprightly he is 92 years old the  
Oldest Wallingford living and I the next  
I met Jeff Tucker and Pat Conner driving  
Stock Jeff was glad to hear from you he said  
He he could not come to Texas soon he told  
Me he would see Abner and tell him to write  
Abner is near Mayville

Imine Applegate and wife send their  
Love to you Lucy and Mary Arnold  
Speaks of Anny Mary is married to Mr  
Craycraft she is living in farrows creek  
Wed Davis place where Mr Tucker built  
P R Tolle has his second wife she is a good  
step Mother the children like her they get  
live agreeable Paes is selling goods he is  
making a living but laying up no money there  
Is two stores in this place the store on the  
Corner was robbed last night of 75\$  
of goods the board the lock of and get in  
And clue to the robbers Brother Sister  
Hannah is in on a visit I see her at E Jones  
She is looking tolerable well of her age she  
asked about you she says John did not  
Intend to insult you and John did not  
know that I had just drink that I was a  
Drunkard he told you the people was  
Opposed to persons visiting Saloons it was  
a disgrace breeders health is bad at times  
He cant pass his water has to use an instrument  
Passes blood and corruption no more but  
Remuner your Brother till I see you  
S B Wallingford

Orangeburg Mason Co Oct. 3. 1889

Dear Brother and Sister I write a few lines To inform you that your kind letter came To hand I had despaird of getting an Answer I was truly glad that you have not Forgotten me it hurd for me to write my Wright fingers is drawed so bad I cant use A pen to write a good hand I am sorry your Health is bad for good health is a greatest Blessing on earth Sorry of failure of your crop Our crops of all kinds are good Brother Mr. Hull (or Hall?) is dead Jos Wallingford is living and Stout and sprightly he is 82 years old the Oldest Wallingford living and I the next I met Jeff Tucker and Pat Conner driving Stock Jeff was glad to hear from you he said He he could not come to Texas soon he told Me he would see Abner and tell him to write Abner is near Maysville

James Applegate and wife sends their Love to you Lucy and Mary Arnald speaks(?) of Anny Mary is married to Mr Craycraft(?) she is living on farrows creek Ned Davis place where Mr Tucker built PR Tolle has his second wife she is a good step Mother The children likes her they Live agreeable Pres is selling goods he is Making a living but laying up no money there Is two stores in this place the store on the Corner was robbed last night of 75\$ of goods the boarded the lock of and got in And clue to the robbers Brother Sixter? (or Sixer or maybe Sister?) Hannah is in on a visit I see her at E Jones She is looking tolerable well of her age she asked about you she says John did not Intend to insult you and John did not Know that I had quit drink that I was a Drunkerd he told you the people was Opposed to persons visiting Saloons it was A disgrace Reeders health is bad at times He cant pass his water has to use and instrument Passes blood and corruption no more but Remur your Brother L B Wallingford

## Commentary by Nick Wallingford, 21 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!

Mr Hull is mostly likely Samuel Hull, who had married their older half sister Sarah Wallingford, though I have him recorded as having died some years before this. Joseph is most likely their older half brother. In both instances, Lewis appears to be identifying the oldest/last living of the generation of their siblings.

The Jeff Tucker that Lewis met driving stock would be Jefferson Davis Tucker, the younger brother of Annie Eliza Tucker, T.G.'s wife. T.G. had returned to Kentucky in 1884 to sort out moneys owing to his children from the estate of Lewis Debell, father of his dead wife Evaline, and on that trip got married to Annie. They returned to Texas and began to raise T.G.'s 'second family'.

The Abner that Jeff referred to is his brother, again a brother of Annie's.

PR Tolle is likely 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.

The question as to why T.G. or Annie in Texas would know who bored out the lock, broke into the store and stole \$75 worth of goods hints at a good story. Sadly, it isn't one we know!

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.

Lucy and Mary Arnold are daughters of Peter and Sarah Arnold, also living in this same region. Lucy would be 37 at this time, and

Mary about 24. I'm not certain of the connection. Back in 1850, Sarah Arnold nee Powers was living next door to Jerry Debell, the uncle of T.G.'s first wife Evaline. Peter and Sarah had lived in the Lewis County area for some years, and may not be related to the Wallingfords, but just neighbors, and seemingly friends of the Tuckers (T.G.'s wife Annie's family).

Hannah is Hannah Wallingford, widow of T.G. and Lewis' older brother Hiram. She would still have been living in Indiana, and come to visit her daughter Eliza Wallingford Jones. The 'John' who had insulted T.G. (perhaps 5 years before on his trip to Kentucky?) was John Nicholas, son of Hiram and Hannah. There is a mild irony in a letter from 15 years earlier when John called on T.G. to try to help him get payment for some Kentucky whiskey that he had shipped town to Texas!

'Reeder' refers, I think, to George Washington Reeder, the son of Elizabeth Wallingford Reeder (older half sister of T.G. and Lewis) and Benjamin Reeder. In age, he was between Lewis and T.G., and would have been known to both of them all of their lives (albeit with T.G. living in Texas from his middle/late 20s).