

Portsmouth Ohio Mar 11th 09

MOR.

Thomas J. Wallingford

Fields Store Tex

Dear Sir and Comrade

In looking over some papers in my desk today I found a letter from you dated Oct 12th 1908, about the time I moved to this place. I hope you will excuse my delay. I had not forgot you but just neglected to write. I have often thought of you and remember the time you and Geo Warder came to my house when I lived in Buena Vista. my dear wife always thought so much of you, she was so much pleased to have you make her a visit. I have had a stormy life since my dear ones left me I haven't saw a clear spot in the horizon since. I am running the Elevator in the Excelsior Shoe Factory. The Shoe Factory are all out on a strike

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about five thousand people are out of work. Geo Warden is living here and is doing well. He has quit drinking. My Daughter and her two little Boys, John Marshal and Earl Bragg are living with me their father

was drowned in the Ohio river, they are bright little fellows and of course think a great deal of their Grand Pa and he does of them. I hardly know what to write to interest you Uncle. I was at Lawrenceburg Ind. before I moved here, to see Siegel my wife's sister son Mary Waring Richards wife who are both dead. Richard died in Richmond Va and his wife died at Manchester O. his second wife who survives him lives at Covington Ky. I saw John Wallingford when I was at Lawrenceburg he has since died he held some Government position at the time. His parents Kirham live

or did live at Greensburg Ind.
 Siegel Reichards son works in a saw
 factory at Lawrenceburg and is
 married. He married a widow with
 two children (Girls) she is a good
 woman and makes him a good wife
 Now Uncle if such a thing is possible
 I would like to have you come and
 see us. My dear wife will not be here
 to welcome you as she did at Buena
 but I assure you it will will be a
 welcome meeting of the Blue and the
 Grey. I love you because my dear wife
 loved you and you fought for what
 you thought was right. Now I will
 close with love to all your family
 and especially our dear sweet little
 Minnie. Prame sake. Hoping to
 hear from you soon I am Yours
 Truly John W. Devoss.
 610 Gay St.

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Commentary by Nick Wallingford, 14 September 2008:

T.G. Wallingford would have received this letter about two months before his death at age 81. John W. Devoss had married T.G.'s niece Susan M. Bragg, daughter of Volney and Sophronia Wallingford Bragg. This would be the 'second' Susan Bragg, as Volney and Sophronia had a daughter who died young who had that same name...

The reference to T.G. and George Warder visiting him and his wife must have been part of the 1884 trip that T.G. took to Kentucky. It seems somewhat surprising that T.G. made such a visit, as he did not manage to visit his older brother Hiram in Greensburg, Indiana.

George Warder was a nephew of T.G., the youngest child of Albert Moss and Julina Wallingford Warder.

By the time of this letter, John's wife and two children had died (John himself would die of 'apoplexy' two years later...), and he seems quite bereft in this letter.

His daughter is Bertha Burkley, and he refers to her two children, John Marshall and Earl Bragg.

Some of the references are confusingly written. He appears to refer to his wife's sister, though none of Mary's siblings survived childhood. But again, the way it is written is confusing and he may well be referring to other people entirely.

John Wallingford is John Nicholas Wallingford. John refers to John's father, Hiram, uncertain about whether he is still living (he died, in fact, in 1888, nearly 20 years earlier).

The son of Siegel and Richard is, I think, Richard Waring. His wife, the widow he married, is Minnie, and her daughters are Fannie and Alice Dougherty - they show in the 1900 census of Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County, Indiana.

John's reference to the 'welcome meeting of the Blue and the Grey' refers to the fact that John had been a Sergeant in the Union Army (though he was only about 21 at the time, and was only in the army for 11 months) while T.G. had fought for the Confederacy.

John's final closing refers to the name sake of his own daughter Minnie Bell, Minnie Devoe Wallingford, the daughter of T.G. and Annie. Minnie Wallingford would have been 19 at the time of this letter, and though John will never have met her, he obviously was still grieving for his own Minnie and others of his family who were gone.

From

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dbid=27096&iid=dvm_LocHist011478-00241-1](http://content.ancestry.com/Browse/print_b.aspx?dbid=27096&iid=dvm_LocHist011478-00241-1)

J.W. Devoss, Postmaster and Notary Public, Buena Vista, was born in Rockville, Adams County, Ohio, Feb. 20, 1843, a son of David and Rachel Devoss, natives of Ohio. He learned the blacksmith's trade off his father. He located in Buena Vista in 1869, and worked for a year for the Buena Vista Freestone Company. In 1870 he established himself in business and has since worked at his trade. He was appointed Postmaster June 6, 1881, by President Garfield, and Notary Public in 1882 by Governor Foster. In 1864 he enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Seventy-third Ohio Infantry, and was appointed Sergeant of his company. He was injured accidentally and was unable to do active duty. He was married in 1868 to Susan M. Bragg, a relative of General Bragg. They have three children - Mary A., Libbie and Minnie. Politically Mr. Devoss is a Republican. He served one term as Trustee of Lower Nile Precinct.

History of lower Scioto Valley, Ohio : together with sketches of its cities, villages and townships, educational, religious, civil, military, and political history, portraits of prominent persons, and biographies of representative citizens.. Chicago: Inter-state Pub. Co., 1884. Page 429