

Guilds Stone Waller Co

Sep 30<sup>th</sup>

Mrs Lide Moore

Dear Sister

I received your letter a few days ago. was glad to here from you all and also glad you all are well but am sorry you all cant get much to do there is not much any one can get to do here I am done gathering my crop I made three Bales of cotton and about (250) bushels of corn I expect I will go down in Braxton County next wuk to pick cotton they cant get hands to pick the negros have have all made a strike for

higher wages every where I have rented the John Fisher place for next year it is good land I think I can make some money there Fisher sold out to Joe Wood he gave six hundred dollars for it old man Mathews sold to George Sugatt Abe Norris has sold two he sold to a man by the of Jordan <sup>name</sup> they are all going to leave this country Bill Smith has sold out to and Dr Brown and also D.D. Robertson. our baby is walking every where and can say lots of words he has ben sick a good deal



Since you all left here  
my horses run away  
with the wagon with  
me and Jennie and the  
baby I got them stoped  
long enough to get the  
baby out but they run  
again before Jennie could  
get out she started to jump  
out and fell but it never  
hurt her much they run  
on down by your alls old  
place and down by the  
cabin and down to the Field  
and stoped and never broke  
a thing we are all well at  
present and <sup>hope</sup> this will find  
you all the same I would  
write more but my fingers  
are sore and stiff I dont expect  
you will ever read what I have  
wrote my fore finger has

Got a sore on it so  
I cant hardly write at all  
tell the children that  
Uncle Tom has not  
forgotten them I would  
like the best in the world  
to see you all but I reckon  
it will be a long time before  
we will see one another  
Mrs Abbott is well she  
has ben over here to day  
helping Jennie quilt  
Mr Abbott bought my  
improvements I got  
Sixty dollars for them

Your Brother

Thomas Wallingford



Fields Store Waller Co  
Sep 30th

Mrs Lide Moore

Dear Sister

I received your letter a few days ago. was glad to here from you all and also glad you all are well but am sorry you all cant get much to do. there is not much any one can get to do here. I am done gathering my crop. I made three Bales of cotton and about 250 bushels of Corn. I expect I will go down in Brazoria County next week to pick cotton. they cant get hands to pick. the negros have have all made a strike for higher wages evry where. I have rented the John Fisher plase for next year. it is good land. I think I can make some money there. Fisher sold out to Joe Wood. he gave six hundred dollars for it. old man Mathews sold to George Sugatt. Obe Noris has sold two. he sold to a man by the name Jorden. they are all going to leave this counry. Bill Smith has sold out to and Dr. Brown and also D.D. Robertson. our baby is walking evry where and can say lots of words he has been sick a good deal since you all left here. my horses ran away with the wagon with me and Jennie and the baby. I got them stoped long enough to get the baby out but they run again before Jennie could get out. she started to jump out and fell but it never hurt her much. they run on down by your all aold plase an down by the cabin and down to the Field and stoped and never broke a thing. We are all well at present and hope this will find you all the same. I would write more but my fingers are sore and stiff. I dont expect you will even read what I have wrote. my fore finger has got a sore on it so I cant hardly write at all. tell the children that Uncle Tom has not forgotten them. I would like the best in the world to see you all but I reckon it will be a long time before we will see one another. Mrs Abbott is well. She has been over here today helping Jennie quilt. Mr Abbott bought my improvements. I got sixty dollars for them.

Your Brother

Thomas Wallingford

**Commentary on the letter by Nick Wallingford, 1 February 2016:**

In transcribing this, I have put full stops in, though Tom did not when he wrote it...

This letter was sent to me by Arthur Moore Jr. It had been found in an old chest that belonged to "Grandmother Moore" (Eliza Wallingford Moore), and was written by Robert Thomas Wallingford to Eliza – who was known as Lide throughout the family.

It was written almost certainly on 30 September 1891, based on a number of references.

It was during this year that Lide and her husband Melvin Moore Sr were living in Hamilton County, Texas – they had moved there in hopes to improve Lide's health, but were only there for a year or so.

Robert Thomas ("Tom") would have been about 29, his sister Lide about 31 at this time.

Joe Wood referred to in the letter would be the third person arrested along with T.G. Wallingford and Reuben Boulware (T.G.'s son in law) for a shooting in Fields Store in 1892.

George Suggat (in fact, Suggitt) was a brother of William Suggitt, who was the first husband of Fannie who had a short-lived marriage to T.G. Wallingford a bit over 10 years earlier.

Jennie is Tom's wife, Virginia Butts (Deweese) Wallingford.

The baby referred to would be Robert Lee Wallingford, who was born in 1890.

The reference to Mr and Mrs Abbott in the last paragraph seems to imply they owned the land that Tom and Jennie were living on – it may be that name was repeated as the middle name for a daughter that Tom and Jennie had in 1908 – Gladys Abbott Wallingford. That child lived only for 3 months or so.