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James B. Finley Letters

2-25-1830

Letter from Jacky M. Bradley to James B. Finley

Jacky M. Bradley

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in 1829 I traveled the Jackson C. & N. C. and now this pres-
ent as I have said afore the prospect on this Circu-
it are but dull as far as I have you yet tho-
ugh that is but one weeks travel. write to me
Dear Brother and let me know how you are
coming on and in my next I will try to tell
you more of my feelings in the Cause of my
Lord and may the Great head of the Church
bless you and yours so prays your friend
and Brother in the bonds of a peaceful Gospel.

Jacky. C. B. Bradley.

25-
Dells
4 March

Rev. James B. Finley
Cincinnati
Ohio.

April.

My Dear Brother May the Lord of
Heaven and the Father of the earth
bless you and yours in this life and
the life to come.

Received April 16 1831

Jacky
C. B. Bradley

Whitesville Black Creek E. Florida.

Blanchua E. Florida. Feb 25 30th

Dear Cousin (or if you please) Brother in the Lord.

It is with pleasure I indit a few lines
to you to let you know where I am
and what are my present prospects
but let me first assure you that it
was not for want of inclination that
I have not troubled you long since
with a scrawl from under my hand
but for want of information of
the proper place to direct to "this abode"
which however in the way no more since
I have seen Brother J. Capers at our last
Conference who gave me information
of your present place of labour and
of your welfare. From the South
Carolina Conference last Session I
have recieved my appointment to the
Blanchua Circuit in E. Florida in lat-
itude between 28 & 31 and of course the sum-
mer will be very warm and the insects
trouble some, there are however some

advantages on the other hand to ballance
these evils. For though this may not be
literally a land flowing with milk and
honey yet it abounds with the former
and Shagan Cane oranges and other fine
fruits there is also a considerable variety
of scenery as I pass along these alone
some roads consisting of large beautiful
ponds peroras and lime sinks with some
tracts of excellent lands heavily timbered with
live oaks on which the moss grows to such
a degree that the trees are literally covered all
the year. this long moss people in the cold
lands of Ohio would perhaps call the Cu-
rtens of death but we of the South find
it very convenient to make Summer mats
to sleep on and I assure you that the nights
are quite pleasant in this part of the world
perhaps more so than farther north.
These however are but small things in com-
parison to the great business of carrying
the Gospel of my Lord and Saviour to a lost
and ruined world I should blush to name
them in way of complaint they are not
to be compared to the sufferings that
some of my Brethren have to endure in other
parts of the work much less of being compared
with the sufferings of my Dearest Lord

& Saviour to redeem my poor Soul in Com-
mon with the Humane family.
The history of my life is as follows. In Lincoln
County N.C. I was born June the 3rd 1808. I was born
again in the month of August 1820 in 1826
I entered the Slavery in the S.C. Conference and
travelling on the Okefenokee in Georgia in 1827 I was sent
to Black River S.C. during which time my
poor Father dyed on my return home I found
the family in a state of deep affliction
from the much greater encumbrance of the
estate that Father ^{than was expected} left though not insolvent
yet every thing had to be sold to pay the demands
against it except the lands perhaps 2,500 acres
but as Father dyed intestate there is yet no
division in the lands. As for my Father I
have I think a good hope of his Change of
heart after living in the pale
for many years and living in the use
of race and serving as C.L. for several
he was suddenly taken on the road
from home and after painting a re-
al times as he made his way to a house
road side he at last reached the door
stepped sick down dead! without
in the year 1828 I returned to Black River
early in church my poor Mother who
home sick was called to her reward
as she lived strong in the faith given
to God after taking an affection
all at home. She said "tell Jacky tell the
ed in the faith and I dy in the faith."