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James B. Finley Letters

3-29-1824

Letter from Joshua Soule to James B. Finley

Joshua Soule

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Rev James B. Fisk
undercharge
Ridgely
New Lebanon
Ohio

Trilock Fisk

Dear Brother, Situated as I have been, it has been impossible for me to make any definite arrangement, relative to my removal to the West till this time. This is the reason you have not heard from me before on this subject. My affairs in the Eastern Country required that I should attend to them. I had written on the subject, soon after I saw you in Ohio, requesting an answer by the time I should arrive at home, depending on the nature of the information I might receive, to determine whether I would visit that country before my removal to Ohio. I have waited in suspense till this time, and received no information. I have therefore determined to remove at as early a period as possible after the Baltimore Conference. As you was kind enough to say in your letter to me at Nashville, that you would undertake to furnish two Carriages, to carry four or five persons east, from Ohio, and in your letter to Mr. ^{Sayle} Say that you calculated to accompany her and the family over the mountains, I take this opportunity to communicate on the subject. If you can come on with such means of conveyance, it will be highly gratifying to me, and to the whole family. There will be 10 persons in my family, but I shall have my horse in company, consequently there will be but nine to ride in the Carriages, and three of these you

know are small. The whole will make about, or a little less than the size and weight of 7 ordinary persons. But it would be very desirable, on so long a journey, to have the carriages so large as not to be crowded, and so strong as not to be in danger of breaking. Respect should also be had to the convenience for carrying trunks, with the necessary wearing apparel for the family on the road. I think, if no adverse providence prevents, I can be ready to start by the first of May; but I suppose it would be impracticable for you to be here by that time. With regard to a house to occupy when I shall reach that country, I think that it would be more convenient for the family to take a dwelling either in Lebanon, or Leno till I can determine on a permanent residence. I have not much choice of the places; but would be governed by the probable convenience of obtaining, and the price of rent of a house. My object is to obtain a location on a farm as soon as it is in my power. And whether I could do this in the vicinity of Leno or Lebanon to the greatest advantage, depends on information which I can only obtain after my arrival. I shall pack my goods in boxes and send them to Wheeling, and thence to Cincinnati.

On the Rest of this letter, I wish you to write to me and let me know whether you can come on for me, what

strength of carriages you can supply, that is, whether one or two. For if you can furnish but one, I must obtain the other here. Let me know also, as near, as possible, when you can be in Baltimore that I may be in readiness. I desire to start at the earliest possible period after the Baltimore Conference, to avoid the heat of summer on the journey. I should be glad to start by the first of May; but at furthest by the middle.

I do not, I cannot hold you under any obligation to come on for the family; and certainly could not wish you to do so to your own injury. Yet nothing could be more gratifying than your company and aid on the journey. Let me hear from you with the least possible delay.

Yours in much affection

Joshua Soule.