

Ohio Wesleyan University

Digital Commons @ OWU

Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

4-4-1839

Letter from William H. Lawder to James B. Finley

William H. Lawder

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters>

Recommended Citation

Lawder, William H., "Letter from William H. Lawder to James B. Finley" (1839). *Finley Letters*. 174.
<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters/174>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James B. Finley Letters at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finley Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact earutigl@owu.edu.

Tell Bro James, I rec^d. his letter & will write to
him so soon as I have any thing to interest him. Beare
say to him that I rec^d. a letter from father a few days
since. The friends are all getting better but Mary Ann
who is still declining. Dr. has given her up.
Wm L. Lawder

Barnesville April 4th 1837

Dear brother Finley - Do not think that because you
are out of sight you are out of mind. I have thought of
you very often & of my promise of writing to you, but have
put it off, not that I might have a more convenient
time, though I have not so much leisure now, as I had at
some other appointments, but that I might find something
worth writing. In this way I have neglected my promise
while one matter has succeeded another until near one
half of the year is spent. But at last I have resolved to write
now, though my ~~of any~~ mind is as barren of any thing which
I have reason to ^{believe will} interest you as ever.

We arrived in this place with safety, were kindly received, found
many warm friends & a comfortable home. The parsonage proper-
ty is worth about 2 thousand dollars & is tolerably well furnished
I am allowed \$400, & all my travelling expenses. The friends have
also shown us much kindness, in gratuitous contributions. A
brother Davis (who moved you some years ago from the
neighborhood of Judge - (name forgotten) on Hog-run or Walnut
creek I think, to Barnesville) has furnished near all the coal
we have burned this winter.

Our church is rather out of the way, & is too small for
our congregations. Some talk of a new one. We had some
thing like an excitement in the winter which resulted
in the addition of about 50. Nothing special at present.

I suppose the appearance of the place has changed
very much since you travelled in this country. In Barnes-
ville, there are 5 thousand inhabitants, of whom between 5 & 6
hundred are members of our church & about twice as many attend
your church, as any other in the place.

Rev. James B. Finley
Germantown
Montgomery
Ohio

Wm L. Lawder
1837

You have long known brother Gouny. & perhaps it is impos-
sible for me to say any thing new in regard to him. However it
may not be improper for me to say that I think very differently
of him now from what I used to do. I used to suppose him one
of the most austere, overbearing tyrannical men in his disposi-
tion, anywhere to be met with. I am will not think strange
that with this impression, I should have been almost terrified
at the thought of coming to this station, to have him suspect
my public & private acts for a year. It was 3 or 4 days after coming
before I visited him, until I began to be ashamed & thinking it time I
should see him, I mustered all the resolution I possessed (which
you know is some times not very much) & walked to his house
with as much palpituation of heart, as I should feel, perhaps, if
I were going to see the King or to have a surgical operation
performed. But I found him accessible, communicative,
kind. He has never treated me with the least unkindness. When
I wish counsel, ^{he} seems most ready & willing to give it. I love
him as one of the patriarchs of our Israel. He is pebble - may possi-
bly get through the present year, but I think it will be as much

After visiting the sick & attending funerals (of which I have
had a great deal here) & attending to other duties which
make almost a constant demand upon my time & attention
I have but little time to prepare for the pulpit. I find
it exceedingly difficult to keep up that variety which is
necessary to interest & edify a congregation, without de-
pending more or less upon those who have written. But
how far I am warranted in doing this, I have not been
able to determine in my own mind. I frequently get my
arrangement from others & frequently the ideas, though I never com-
mit the language. I should like to have some thing ^{+ this subject} from you upon

There is another subject of which I wish to speak to you
in this communication, & which I mention ^{with} some considerable
reluctance. The responsibility of my present situation to the church
& the intense anxiety which presses my spirit, have made me
almost a daily sacrifice. When I entered the ministry I supposed
I wanted after a while be able to perform my duties with
some ease & satisfaction to myself & with a greater degree of use-
fulness to the church. But this is my sixth year, & I confess I
have not realised all that I hoped. It still seems to be an
up hill business & likely to be such. I have no reason or dis-
position to complain of my appointments. In this respect I
have rec^d. more attention than my talents & usefulness have mer-
ited. The fields assigned me, I have not been able to cultivate, as
they ought & might have been by able hands. But enough of
this. I some times think, every thing considered it would be

better for me to retire to a more private situation &
life. In a word to locate. I have not as yet, however
been able to determine that in this I should be doing God's service
If you feel at liberty, a word from you on this subject will be
thankfully rec^d. by one who would both to ask & experience for advice

Our health is at present tolerably good, tho' not so good heretofore.
Our love to sister Fink, Brooks, Taylors, Bruners, Sunkles &c &c to
all the friends. My love to all the preachers. Write immediately
Do not treat me as I deserve to be. You have matter in quality
& quantity, such as I need. Any thing you can say about the Miami
Country will ^{be} highly interesting to me, as it will seem to come
from home. How are they doing in Dayton & Franklin. What
about A. W. Elliott's case. We learn from the paper, he has been
preaching at a revival; how is that? Do write as soon as you get
this - a long letter - yours, most affectionately Wm. & Louisa