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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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2-22-1849

## Letter from John Mears to James B. Finley

John Mears

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now brother finley the greater part of my leased property was  
leased when the land was worth say <sup>\$</sup>50 per foot now is worth 150 per foot  
and all future advantage of raise in the price of the land they have it  
My ground rent don't yield more than <sup>3</sup> percent on the real or present  
value <sup>of the</sup> ground. on second street the present value is \$16000 well covered  
with 3 story brick buildings and the taxes all paid & my incum  
on this property is \$4.78-50 cents a year and the incum tax on this am  
ount is \$68.30 thus you see how unfair & unequal the tax last year  
and this years taxes and costs if I have to pay them won't be less than  
\$1000 and all my lawfull taxes has been paid, this law was got  
up and passed as I am informed to catch sum persons that was  
suspected of not paying all the tax they ought to <sup>pay</sup> but if that be the case  
with a few I hope not with  
the large Mass of the people I never wish to flinch from paying  
my just and lawfull taxes all most all refuse to pay this tax last year  
they sold houses & carriages & the price paid under protest the tax gather  
was notified a suit at law would be brought against them as I understand all  
the money collected last year is in the trust Company bank for  
safe keeping and not paid into the state treasury, several ~~have~~  
left the state to get clear of so unlawfull tax sum have changed  
their leases to avoid the tax, to change the subject sum what I am informed  
that a bill has been offered before the house to repeal this tax law  
and it wants all the help it can get to get it through and I think if all  
the honest members of the legislature that was acquainted with the true  
character of the law it could be affected, I was written to yesterday  
by a gentleman urge me to leave home this morning for columbus  
to try and see all the members of our church and all good honest  
farmers that would surely aid us in getting the law repealed  
my health having compelled me to stay in the house for sun  
day I have not been able to go to church last sabbath, & I thought  
Brother Finley you would be acquainted with a number  
of the members that were members of our church, and  
I think you would vouch for the truth of what I state  
to you & thought if you could see a few of them and inform  
them of all the facts they would try and help to get the  
law repealed and any thing of this kind that you may

be able to assist us in it will be a most fitting the church  
last spring we had 20 acres of land laid in lots and  
sold, and believing a considerable settlement will soon  
take place in this neighborhood I bought a handsome lot  
for a meeting house 90 feet front by 180 feet deep cost me  
\$270 one third in hand & the remainder in one & 2 years  
another payment & interest cums due next may and the  
last payment the May following, & we want to have a  
suitable Church erected on the lot the lot I intend to  
pay for myself, but if I don't do as much or much more  
we may fail, and if I can get clear of this unequal and  
unrighteous law I want to apply all I can to the benefit  
of our church so all you can do in this matter if  
we succeed will through the fund there in stead  
of being robbed of so much money unjustly and unfa  
irly I leave the whole matter in the hands of the good  
Lord and if after you read this scroll & if you think  
you can render any assistance in whatever way you  
may think best you shall never be forgotten by  
me while life may last, Judge Spence a son of  
oliver O M Spencer is now in your place trying  
to get this law repealed, with sum other persons is up to  
assist to get it repealed, but I place great dependence  
in your influence with good & honest men who desire  
to act fair & right, My familie have been much afflicted  
this winter my wife has been worse than any time for 10 years  
last past she is now better and able to be out my daughter Anne  
is confined to her room for a long time with a com  
plaint in her spine and a severe asthma my own health  
has been poor this winter I am going down hill fast



one fact in this unjust law I forgot  
to name, the law was made by the state  
an of course to beare on the whole state  
but as I am informed and I believe  
correctly, that no attempt has been made  
to put it in force in any part thereof  
but a part of Hamblton County  
and that in dayton Cleveland  
Urbanna & the greater part of the city  
of Maryatta is on lease hold, and  
had the law been put in force all  
over the State it would have caused  
a rebellion against it and it would  
have been repealed before this time  
these facts in the case should be  
known, forgive me Brother Finley  
for troubling you so much I hope  
I may be able to pay Sunday or other  
Brother James B. Finley John Mears