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3-25-1850

Letter from William Gunn to James B. Finley

William Gunn

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Christiansburg
March 28

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Chas. B. Finley

Eaton
Pocahontas
Ohio



Wm
William Sumner
Ky. 1850

Shelby Co. Ky. Mar. 25. 1850

Dr Bro. Since I saw you I have witnessed the best revival of religion in Shelbyville, I have seen since 1842. I never think of the best I ever saw any where - I was there most of the time for four weeks - I am now making arrangements to leave my home in the country and go wherever providence may direct. I feel like I have been evangelized and to preach & sing & work for God. I have been quite unwell the last week, confined to my room - But as I have been able to sit up I have been looking over some books & papers and among other matters I have found a document ^{written} throwing some light upon the history & character of Benjamin Ogden, one of the first two preachers that came to Kentucky - Bro. Hinds vice this old prisoner a great injustice in the notice he takes of him in the Methodist Magazine for 1819. "Theophilus Ammiral" was a very loose careless writer. He charges upon old Bro. Ogden, that ^{he} went off with Abbeys schism, and was then being a poor backslider - The truth of his history is this - He came to Ky in 1786, as the minutes will show I am acquainted with an old lady in this county who was taken into the church by ^{him} early in 1787. She still adorns her profession - Ogden was appointed missionary to Cumberland in 1787. After staying in the west two years he went back

to Virginia, & in 1788 he traveled Bruns-
wick circuit. ~~Here~~ Here my Father became
personally acquainted with him, as I have often
heard him say, and we conversed about the matter
a year ago just before my father died —
Some time before the ^{via} conference of 1789, he obtained
leave of Mr. Skilly then his P. E. to go to Charleston
on business, and did not return till after the
conference. The conference dropped his name
without making any kind of note on the minutes
~~He~~ was simply discontinued, and he knows not
why. He continued in that country until about
1795; when he moved to Kentucky; for a number of
years he did not claim his membership in
the church, until he became acquainted with
Bro. Cartwright in the Green River Country
who inquired into his case and admitted him
against the privileges of the church. I first saw
him in 1820, near Edgsville Ky at a camp-
meeting in Joshua Branches circuit —
A few years after this he was admitted into the
Ky. Con. Bro. Morris was his P. E. two years
and he ended his days with us — He never joined
Skilly, was not expelled from the church, nor
formally charged with immorality —
He was a man of moderate talents, rather
tedious in his manner, but aimed to do good
I trust he is now with God.

You can obtain some information relative to the
case & edge by writing Rev. George
Shoother, Milton, Trimble Co. Ky. He is a local
preacher, a very sensible good man, and was
at the camp meeting — He was then young —
Bro. Lewis & family are well — Their school
shared largely in the revival — He was gratified
to hear from you — It was reprimanded last fall
that some of us had hurt our useful ness by
the course we took in the election. However this
may have been, I have not seen a time in my
itinerant life when I have had so many pressing
calls to visit different points; I would have to
visit my home & circuit both if I put all these
Nor have I seen a time for many years when I
more fruit of my labors — I have been learning
something more about carrying on our work than
ever hitherto — I feel now like living & laboring
for God, until He says "it is enough" — nor am
I careful where I labor so long as He is with me —
I rejoice to learn through the Advocate & Journal
that the good work is prospering among you
in different parts of the country; may the
work go on until the whole world is filled
with the "light of the knowledge of the glory
of God!"
yours in the Lord Wm. Gunn —
P.S. my address is Shelbyville Ky.