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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

10-22-1830

Letter from Jacob Young to James B. Finley

Jacob Young

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Brook County Virginia October 22nd 1880

Dear Bro

When I parted with you in Lancaster little did I
I think that I should trouble you so soon with
Bad news but in the event of my trouble with
to make my communications to some old & long tried
friends & notwithstanding our circle now has been
hardly broken off for some years yet this sore afflict-
ion my thoughts have returned to you I have been
thinking of you day by day & this ~~my~~ morning sitting
solitary at Sonathens Truckus near the Cross Roads
between Newbarrow & Pittsburgh I have con-
cluded to drop you a line & I think it probable
that it will be the last you will receive from
me as I am partially blind & still getting
worse it is likely that I will write but little more
I was afflicted with sore eyes in Lancaster
in time of confinement they continued to get worse
the inflammation is subsiding but the sight is so
impaired that I see but little I came to my little
place on Short Creek & found the House nearly
rotten down & all the other buildings in the same state
In deciding the tract of Land formerly belonging to
my Father in Law it threw my lot so much on the
points of the Ridges near the molting House that it is
worth but little we cannot make a living on it I
own a dollar & 31 cents between me and poverty I have a
sickly wife worn out by sickness & hard Labour
She has followed me 15 years through the hills &
swamps of Ohio sometimes bearing with fear
then shaking with Ague

18 1/2

James B. Fenley
Cincinnati Ohio
wellsby. v.
Oct. 26

Wm. B. Fenley

654

Give my love to Sister Henley & to Bro & Sister
Burr till them I am ready Blind

I will now say a few words about the Church

Robert C. Hall has been & gone to the
enemy & affected a section in New Canaan
has got 89 to join him he was appointed to
Willsbough alone there was no one to supply his place
& the Pass camp pouring in like waters from the
Mountains when the cowardly shepherds leave the
sheep on the plains & Campbell with all
his coadjutors have joined the general out cry the
Methodists are failing & he is despising them in the Ohio
Do of a day & some of the poor silly Methodists are
a monster then Blind as I am I have concluded to
visit the Cemetery & have got partly round the
whole & the people hail me when I am

This is a very important part of our work but be-
lieve there is a different set of men sent there all is
lost It would make your very soul ache to see
the pine fields that we cleared & planted cultivated 20
years ago thrown open to the wild beasts of the forest

A Campbell & Old Scott in entering into a con-
labours Upon one year of I B H in this part of the
world if God would give me the use the sight of my
eyes & a good colleague I think I would make Hell
 tremble I add no more and soon I must to West
Liberty Ohio County Virginia I am with dear
Respect your Son

Bro J. H. Henley

Jacob Young

Till she is worn down to the skeleton
& now if God does not almost work a miracle & restore
me to the sight of my eyes I must quit the Ministry
field and after serving the Church 28 years faithfully
I am about to retire in poverty

Now Bro Henley I have one thing more to say & I make
be my last request to you & I make this request in
behalf of my wife & children for God is my witness
that if I had no family I never would take pains for my
self I had much rather wrap myself in a blanket &
live on bread & water

If I had the two notes that I placed in the
hands of Bro Holladay to secure the claim that the B.
Convent held against me I could with those funds
a little spot of land some where in Ohio on which my
Boys could make a living for as they say with tears in
their eyes if they had a place they would work to support
themselves Blind Father I wish you to use your influence
with Emory & Haugh & with Bishop McKendree if he
still lives & Bishops Roberts & Soule to have those notes
returned to me again when I give them up I had the
sight of my eyes & the windows all before me but
now I live in the dark Should they in their kindness
return the notes I will pay them gradually & should the
money materialize all I need be only like a small hat from
a large bucket Should they retain the notes it will
it will distress me to extreme poverty I have many things
to say But I will not weary you I wish you to say this
of my request as you in your wisdom may think prudent
If you can do nothing for me in a temporal point of view
you will please to love me & pray for me to all the
Brethren named above to cast the mantle of charity over my former
imperfections I am trying to be a good man