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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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5-7-1823

## Letter from Henry Wilkins to James B. Finley

Henry Wilkins

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Take of Bark <sup>galls</sup> 103  
 Snake Root 1/2 oz  
 Calamus (or cloves) 1/4 oz  
 cloves 1/8 oz

4 oz Strong Spirit  
 one Battle Lishon will let them  
 draw by the fire & sun for a week  
 or put them up two months before hand

good yellow Willow Bark & Snake root are the best substitutes  
 for peruvian Bark — Peruvian Bark is good in  
 proportion to its giving out its virtues & make the best  
 will draw as easy as Tea the most require more boiling  
 than an old Ham — Yours &c Henry Williams

Wm. L. M. Farley  
 Wyandot Mission  
 Ohio

Post  
 Jenkins Boston  
 1823  
 May 1



Woods Town near Natick May 1823.  
 You spent an evening at my little cottage with B. McPondree  
 at the last Genl Conference and I hope to have the same pleasure  
 the next one. The Bishop left my house for Pittsburgh this day  
 with Mr. Tidings and in pretty good spirits and health  
 He means to move on for your Quarters to be there in  
 August at any rate. He bid you to tell you so.  
 He did not go on to Phil & New York Conf. He found the  
 tide of Revolution so evident here that he went to the  
 deeper waters would be a mere presentation of himself and  
 not worth the labor of the journey much less the anxiety  
 of mind (nothing new worth seeking) it would produce.  
 I am sure that if one step is taken another will  
 follow and the people will choose for themselves  
 If one overseer is grievous to the preachers ten must  
 be to the people. a negro could readily solve the question  
 whether one overseer or ten would be the most  
 oppressive — But you will hear enough of this  
 unprofitable dispute. I wish to address you on  
 another subject which I am afraid will give you  
 some trouble. It is this — 1 Do the Wyandots use any  
 medicines? 2 What are they — 3 Do they prescribe them  
 with any regularity as to time 4. What are their diseases  
 5 How they come to the knowledge of <sup>medicine</sup> them, whether from their  
 own ancestry or from the Europeans — I wish you  
 to bring me a flower (just blown) and two or three leaves



of any plant (not known generally) that may seem  
to be effectual in curing. These must be put  
between the leaves of an old Book pressed and changed  
in 5 days to another place in the Book they will  
there dry sufficiently to be put up in a little paper  
and kept in a packet Book - I am an unbelieve in  
any powerful remedies among them - our Physicians  
have declined quoting Indian medicines in proportion  
as we gain a knowledge <sup>of the Indians</sup> that should increase it - and  
the Quacks are now imposing greatly on the public  
in the way the Physicians opened for them - I wish to  
put it down as much as possible and you and I  
think will enable me and do a lasting benefit to  
the sufferers by these impostors - I shall be under  
great obligations to you and so will the Med. world  
for if they <sup>(the world)</sup> have any good medicines we want them  
in a direct line so that they may be well known  
and not administered in a concealed manner -

I know that a flat Country bordering on lakes must  
be to you and all newcomers especially a sickly land  
Intermittents and Remittants must be there - I was  
unfortunately brought up in a land of Fevers I will  
give you my plans - prevention is better than cure  
and not above everything. Keep fires in the Evening  
when they can be born without inconvenience

In all the sickly season take Bark or bitters daily and  
occasional purges of calomel & Jalap by this plan I kept a  
family in a place 5 years without a fever at a place that  
was abandoned for its sickness - For Intermittents if  
in the Spring and with cough or pains bleed once take  
an Emetic then good Bark. if it returns take a painful  
dose of Calomel & Jalap and at the Bark again. if it returns  
take another Emetic, take the Bark and apply Blister to  
the wrists - This will be effectual - In remittants  
if in a stout habit and there are much pain in  
the Back or cough or if the remissions are <sup>the fever high</sup> trifling  
Bleeding may be performed twice at least for the  
large Glands & Pancreas are generally inflamed - take  
the calomel & Jalap one day next day fever powder  
consisting of  $\frac{1}{2}$  grain of Tartar & 5 grains nitre every  
two hours - next day Castor oil - next day fever powder  
next day calomel - then begin to Blister the right  
side and then the angles - Emetics of Ipecac  
may then and at first be used if the Stomach  
is much loaded - Virginia Snake Root and  
Decoctions of Bark are sufficient when there is  
a clear remission to check the returns especially  
if the Blisters are then running - If your time  
this will you will seldom fail - I will close by giving  
you a good prescription for Bitters <sup>do not</sup> please