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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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12-20-1823

## Letter from Isaac Smith to James B. Finley

Isaac Smith

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Creek Agency Ga  
24 Dec.  
May 26  
Ben James B. Friday. Superintendent

Indian Mission. Wm

Sanctuary. Ohio. 1823

Dec 26 1823  
Creek Agency  
George Smith

694

My Dear Mother. Asbury school. Creek nation. Dec 20. 1823.  
Yesterday I received your favour of the 17th. for which  
I thank the Lord and you. The account given by you  
of what God is doing among the Wyandottes, is truly  
pleasing, and must rejoice the hearts of all who hear it  
that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. It  
is a truth the Lord hath done great things where of  
we are, and ought to be glad. Blessed for ever be  
the name of the Lord our God. who does not  
despise the day of small things. We have since I  
wrote to you been highly favoured. Our good God  
has blessed the souls of some of our children, who are  
we trust converted to God. We have seven that meet  
with us in class meetings, they appear determined to  
live for God, and do believe the most of them fear &  
love Him. The change is great that has taken place  
in them. I hope this the beginning of a glorious harvest  
in this region of darkness where Satan reigns. At a  
late meeting of the Chiefs. they appeared more joining  
towards the school than they had at any time  
since I came among <sup>them</sup>. They expressed their warm  
feeling with our proceedings, and <sup>said</sup> that they would encourage it  
should a certificate signed by the Chiefs and head  
men to this effect, which I expect to forward to our Annual  
Conference. With me the day of life is far advanced. I am  
happy to see that these children speak very low, and  
under it out of my power to teach them to read as  
well as to write. I expect from what Bishop  
Roberts told me last winter, that my place will at

at the next Conference be filled up by another. I hope one better  
qualified to serve the Society doubt whether there are any  
who feel a greater willingness to live and die with and sometimes  
I feel as if I might say for this people. I was never with a  
people who shed more tears in their last throes than these.  
My wife since we came here missed something like  
a stroke of the palsy in her left side, thus rendering her  
incapable of doing what she once did. Her bereavement  
is often too heavy. God alone supports her. <sup>women</sup> ~~women~~  
except herself has ever come to the mission. The burden  
is too heavy for one, to attend to domestic affairs and the  
girls thought at any rate to have a woman to over look  
I teach them, as reading & writing is a small part of  
the education of girls — they endeavor themselves to my  
wife by their affection and attention to her, perhaps  
equivalent to that of her own children. If I live to see the  
first of July it is forty years since I set out to travel  
to try to preach. 16 years of that time will have been spent  
in the Steamer. 24 years located in the Town of Camden  
S.C. I am now in my 66<sup>th</sup> year and still within three years  
I felt very little of the effects of age. by a fall from  
my saddle the year before I came here I got my arm  
broken and much hurt in other parts, since then I have  
been tottering like one standing on a precipice looking  
every moment to leave home. The Gospel that I have  
labored to preach I know to be the power of God to salva-  
tion I have now proved it such, and have no doubt that  
if we were permitted to preach to these people, that we should  
see <sup>do</sup> ~~see~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~be~~ brought home to Jesus. My devotion is to be the

Lords, to live only for him, that has done so much  
for me. Upon my dear Brother in the Name of Jesus  
of Jesus. He is a good master, we cannot do too much  
him. Pray for us. and when convenient write to me

I am as ever Yours in

Jesus.

Isaac Smith

Give my love to your wife.