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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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1-27-1824

## Letter from John Johnston to James B. Finley

John Johnston

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Piqua Jan. 27. 1824

Dear Sir.

I have been informed by my friends at Washington that there is some person at work there to injure me at the War office. I have good reason to suspect that the person is General M<sup>c</sup>Arthur who is now in Congress for on two or three former occasions he done all that he could to get me removed from the Agency, apigning as a reason that as long as I was Agent the Indians could not be removed out of this state. it seems that my destruction must precede the destruction of the poor Indians, for I must agreeable to M<sup>c</sup>Arthur's policy be removed before the attempt is made to <sup>remove</sup> them. the present Agent once out of the way, and a creature of M<sup>c</sup>Arthur, choosing in my place, then the last act of the ragedy would soon follow the dispersal and destruction of the Indians. On an occasion like the present I can

not, after what has passed, confide in Mr Shaw, and must submit to you the propriety of getting the Chiefs and head men as many as you can, to sign an address to the President and Secretary of War requesting my continuance in the Agency

a Request to get the Indians to return for his confinement in the Agency.

Jan 27 1824

John C. Smith

Jan 27. 1824

William C. Smith

James B. Finley  
Upper Sandusky  
Ohio

The Rev.  
Piqua  
Jan 27. 1824

O.S. July 6<sup>th</sup> (Mr. Patton the Methodist Minister at Detroit) has been all night on the 3<sup>rd</sup> just going down the making collection in aid of their meeting house. he appears to be a clever man, but I am afraid his name is almost hopeless at this time. Mr. Johnson has lately had a young son the 12<sup>th</sup> child. he is an all well myself accepted. Shawell. 1824



and protesting against any change. I presume  
you can get this done thro' the agency of  
William Walker. in a private manner at  
your House. the mode is left to your discre-  
tion. yourself and William Walker should  
sign and certify the paper. and yourself  
and him might give a certificate of  
your views and sentiments on a separate  
sheet. it is left to your better judgment  
whether Isaac Walker and Armstrong be  
a party to the proceedings or not. it would  
be better with them to sign also. but it  
must of all things be kept from Mr. Shaw's  
knowledge. I would not wish to hurt his  
feelings. and still from many strong  
circumstances I could not feel safe in  
trusting him on this occasion. I have no  
want of confidence in him, but I know  
in proof, that he on one occasion endeav-  
ored to destroy me. you will exercise  
in this business your soundest discretion.  
Secrecy is important. get Lewis to sign  
your paper also. Have the business done  
as soon as you can, and send me by mail  
the paper. it should not be known that  
I advised the measure. Mr. Montgomery  
has been written to on this subject.

I am sorry to impose this task upon you, but  
you must excuse it as it is for the benefit  
of the Indians, as well as all concerned.

I want to hear from you again as soon  
as possible. let me know how you  
succeeded in your mission to Detroit.

My love to Mrs. Finley the Chiefs  
and all your charge.

Yours in the Bonds of the Gospel

John Johnston

P.S. Probably a letter from you to John  
M. Lean, to speak to the Secretary of War  
might have a good effect. The Secy should  
know what an unfeeling hard hearted  
Land Speculator Mr. Arthur is. I I

The Rev.

James B. Finley

Sandersky

My health is very bad. this open winter is greatly  
against me. I hoped however to see you in the Spring  
if God grants me life and health.