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James B. Finley Letters

4-14-1824

Letter from John Johnston to James B. Finley

John Johnston

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The Rev.
James B. Finley

Public
Wm. D. Johnston
April 14. 1824

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Dear Sir.

Upper Pigued
April 14. 1824

I arrived at home on the 7th inst
and found my family in good health. while I
was at Mr. Phersons I wrote a reply to the publication
which appeared against you in the Urbana paper, have
not yet learned whether the printer has given it an
insertion. I hope this may find you safe landed
at Washington, with this expectation I enclose to our
worthy friend The Honble Mr. McLean who will
hand it to you or send it after you as the case
may be. Since my return home have been very
busy in preparing the evidence and papers in the
case of Mr. Shaw, have completed them and shall
forward them by this weeks mail to Governor Cass. I
never had any idea from the commencement of this
business that the testimony would authorize the removal
of Mr. Shaw, and I shall be greatly mistaken if the
Governor does not view it in the same light, that the
accused has acted very improperly there can be ^{no} doubt
but the testimony will not prove guilt. If Mr. Shaw cannot
regain the good will of the Indians, he will resign
How would it answer to exchange with Saml
Montgomery, would he answer at Upper Sandusky?
Shaw would of course answer below, if such an
exchange would suit, I could easily have the ar-
rangement made with Governor Cass. you can write
me your view thro Mr. McLean as it will save
postage. I think it as important for the mission as
well as

for all concerned that Mr. Shaw should be tenderly
dealt with, if he was arbitrarily removed. An impression
would prevail with many that he was persecuted
and Religion would be blamed. The respectable community
to which he belongs, would be greatly distressed at his
removal. in a Government like this, such things
must be regarded. I have endeavored to act entirely in the
case as a public man, and in reference to the
religious character which we are all endeavoring to
support. have discarded my private feelings entirely
I can have no improper motive in trying to save
him, for he has long since emptied the vials of his
wrath against me. I think Montgomery might answer
all our purposes with the Wyandots. If the course which
I wish to pursue in the case of Shaw does not come up to
the views of the subject. I hope we shall nevertheless
be friendly. for I am honest and sincere, as no doubt you
are. I will do any thing in my power to serve you
in your department, and I have no doubt in the end
all will go well. we must in Religion as well as
in every thing else manage men and things as we find
them, we are not always master of our own course
no sentiment can be true with regard to public
matter than this

I hope God will bless and prosper you abundantly
and bring you back in safety to your charge at
Leprosy Land us by. Remember me to Armstrong and
the Chiefs, if with you.

yours affectionately in the Bonds of the Gospel

John Johnston

The Rev.

Jas. B. Finley

On my way home at Lewis Town the most unpleasant
piece of news met me that I ever recd. from the Indians
a runner had just arrived giving an account of the
murder of 9 Indians 3 women & children and 2 men
by a band of white men. in cold blood and without
any provocation whatever. the account is since fully
confirmed and the murderers, one excepted, remain
I hope we shall on this occasion at least be able
to vindicate the justice of the Country in the trial
condemnation and execution of all or most of
these monsters in human shape. J. J.

The murder was committed in Madison
County Indiana 20 to 30 miles from Indianapolis