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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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9-1-1829

## Letter from George S. Houston to James B. Finley

George S. Houston

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good may be done there. But as the prospect of  
the population of Dayton increasing is consider-  
able and its importance being greater, I do think  
it worthy of giving Methodism a fair trial,  
I am no advocate for a settled ministry, but  
at this time and for two or three years I con-  
sider it worth the trial, I should not ask  
for a married preacher, but the society  
consider no one will answer but Brother  
Raper at this time, and certainly I am no one  
so well, But your long acquaintance with  
the Church, your willingness to do all in your  
power to serve us, will enable you to judge  
for the best in this matter and let us know  
your mind and opinion on the subject before  
any motion is made respecting such arrange-  
ment, and should you think it advis-  
able, we can pursue such course as you  
may recommend in the matter.

May the Lord direct all things for  
the best, bless the present Camp Meeting  
bless the good cause and prosper his  
work, bless his servants and your  
and yours. Yours in Christian  
affection

G. S. Causton

Dear Brother,

I am so confined that it is out  
of my power to meet you at Ridgville, I have  
many things to say, and my business takes up  
my time so closely that I have but little  
leisure to write, if my life is spared I must  
patiently wait events and hope things will  
be better, I hope the Lord will see me  
on the way, guide and direct me, grant  
that my latter days may be my best days  
and save me at last, that amid the trials,  
afflictions and difficulties of life, we and  
ours may meet on the banks of everlasting  
deliverance and together sing the song  
of Moses and the Lambs.

I need say nothing on distant subjects or I  
would fill my letter alone with it, I shall  
therefore confine myself to our own part of  
the Kingdom. The meeting House is going  
on and will soon be enclosed, though  
I am dissatisfied with its plan, yet as its  
has been begun I should like to see it  
finished, it will be better than the old one.



Of the state of religion here, I can say very little, it is true many are joining the Baptist, and that few with us, we will feel anxious for the increase of their particular branch to which we belong, and when others appear to be prospering, regret occurs is not so, at this time the Presbyterians and Baptist have a preacher stationed in the place, the new lights have Dr. Worley near Dayton, W. McIntosh the German reformed minister resides here and designs trying to get up a meeting house in town, our preachers are but little with us, true we have Bro Sullivan & Ashton, but I need not say more than their particular situation prevents their being useful. I have thought much on the subject, and he being if Dayton could at this time be joined to a station it would be the best plan, very many in and out of society are anxious we should get Bro Raper here, none but would be pleased with his being stationed here, and after the best enquiry I have no doubt we should be able to support him, could he be with us for one year or two, to set things in order, to see the members, get well acquainted with them, visit from house to house, see the children and enforce the Methodistism, I have not a doubt but we should see better times, the present is truly an important time with us here, the new meeting house could soon be fit to preach in, would hold a large congregation, and though it could have been better, yet it will be more

convenient than the old one, and by opening it, by an able, acceptable and pious preacher, I would feel strong hopes, yes I think the Lord would bless the labors of our worthy brother Raper here, the times require some affectionate influential person, such is he and I know no one that would equally suit, so many have expressed the desire, that I have strong hopes he would be serviceable, I can but remind you of the good John P. Giddley did while here, his life, his conduct and conversation had their influence, but while he preached with the tears streaming from his eyes, while the words came from the heart, they went to the heavens, yes my brother his solemn, feeling, and affecting manner will never be forgotten, it was blessed, was spiritual and where could we get such another, where is there one so near like him as Bro Raper, where is there one who knows the affections of the people so strongly as he has, I know of no one. Then I do not wonder so many are anxious to get him to reside among us for a season.

My dear Brother, I consider it all important we should have some good man among us in whom the people had confidence, at the same time I should be ashamed myself to ask the favor of Conference when I consider the dearth of our society pays in, but they have assurances of help from the Church, and those who will help will assuredly attend and



Houston\_ab519

Dear Brother,

1829???

I am so confined that it is out my power to meet you at Ridgeville. I have many things to say and my business takes up my time so closely that I have, but little leisure to write. If my life is spared I must patiently await events and hope things will be better. I hope the Lord will see me on the way, guide and direct me, grant that my latter days may be my best days and save me at last, that amid the trials afflictions and difficulties of life we and ours may meet on the banks of everlasting deliverance and together sing the song of Moses and the Lambs.

I need say nothing on distant subjects or I would fill my letter alone with it. I shall therefore confine myself to our own part of the Vineyard. The meeting house is going on and will soon be enclosed, though I am dissatisfied with its plan. Yet as it has been begun I should like to see it finished. It will be better than the old one.

Of the state of religion here, I can say very little. It is true many are joining the Baptists, and but few with us. We will feel anxious for the increase of the particular branch to which we belong, and when others appear to be prospering, regret ours is not so. At this time the Presbyterians and Baptist have a preacher stationed in the place. The New Lights have \_\_\_\_\_ near Dayton. \_\_\_\_\_, the German Reformed minister, resides here and designs trying to get up a meeting house in town. Our preachers are but little with us. True, we have Bro Sullivan & Ashton, but I need not say more than their particular situation prevents their being useful. I have thought much on the subject and believe if Dayton could at this time be formed to a station it would be the best plan. Very many in and out of society are anxious we should get Bro Raper here. None but would be pleased with his being stationed here, and after the best inquiry, I have no doubt we should be able to support him, could he be with us for one year or two, to set things in order, to see the members, get well acquainted with them, visit from house to house, see the children and enforce old Methodism. I have not a doubt but we should see better things. The present is truly an important time with us here. The new meeting house could soon be fit to preach in, would hold a large congregation, and though it could have been better, yet it will be more convenient than the old one, and by opening it, by an able, acceptable and pious preacher, I would feel strong hopes. Yes I think the Lord would bless the labors of our worthy Brother Raper here. The times require some affectionate influential person, which is he, and I know no one that would equally suit. So many have expressed the desire that I have strong hopes he could be servicable. I can but remind you of the good John P. Finley did while here. His life, his conduct and conversation had their influence, but while he preached with the tears flowing from his eyes, while the words came from the heart, they went to the heavens. Yes my brother, his solemn feeling and affecting manner will never be forgotten. It was blessed, was effectual. And where could we get such another, where is there one so near like him as Bro Raper. Where is there one who now has the affections of the people so strongly as he has. I know of no one. Then I do not wonder so many are anxious to get him to reside among us for a season.



My dear Brother, I consider it all important we should have some good men among us in whom the people have confidence. At the same time I should be ashamed myself to ask the favor of Conference when I consider the Quarterage our society pays in, but they have assurances of help from out the Church, and those out who will help will assuredly attend and good may be done them. But as the prospect of the population of Dayton increasing is considerable and its importance being greater, I do think it worthy of giving Methodism a fair trial. I am no advocate for a settled ministry, but at this time and for two to three years, I consider it worth the trial. I should not ask for a married preacher, but the society consider no one will answer but Brother Raper at this time. And certain I am no one so well. But your long acquaintance with the Church, your willingness to do all in your power to serve us, will enable you to judge for the best in this matter and let us know your \_\_\_\_\_and opinion on the subject before any motion is made respecting such arrangement. And should you think it advisable, we can pursue such course as you may recommend in the matter.

May the Lord direct all things for the best, bless the present Camp Meeting, bless the good cause and prosper his work, bless his \_\_\_\_\_ and you and yours. Yours in Christian affection.

G.S. Houston