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Letter from D. Lewis to James B. Finley

D. Lewis

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PAYED



Rev J. B. Finley

Chapman A. P.

Columbus Ohio

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Tamuel Lewis
Nashville
March 1848

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Dear

Matthew Finley

Pushville Tenn Feb 6

March 2^d /48

My dear old Father Tillman Lewis is no more with us he left this world of toil on Sunday Evening 27 Feb his funeral was attended by the Rev Jacob Hooper²⁹ who delivered a discourse from Rev. last Chapter & 3-4-5 verses to a large & mostly aged audience was entered by his request in a plain old fashioned way (by the side of his first wife)

you have been acquainted with him for a long time (even before my recollection) & can publish at once notice in the W. L. Advocate without my saying anything with regard to his life & he but to assist your memory it may not be amiss for me hereafter to give you a short sketch of his life - from which you may select a few remarks as may be by you deemed proper to publish - I am never fond of long notices nor do I think it profitable in a general way -

Born in Germany Dec 1767 - aged 80 years 2 mo came to United States 1777 - settled near Shepherdstown Va joined the M. E. Church under the administration of Rev Thornton Fleming Bartty County Va at the age of 21 after was married to Mary Graves moved to Redstone Penn thence I think in 1798 to the High bank on Secoto thence near the Pickaway plains in 1812 to the place of his residence where he died - he indeed many persecutions as a Methodist in his early journey in the early settling of this country & may not tell you your experience will tell the story my first recollection near the plains he settled & built a large log cabin for the double purpose

of his family residence & a meeting house and of
course as his house was the most roomy in the
neighborhood he secured preaching - after he had a
small log cabin built in his yard for a parsonage
& well known Alexander Cummings & Benjamin Lacey
with their families residing in the little log building
it was a place of resort for Methodist Ministers &
also a camp ground was prepared in sight
where many old fashioned camp meetings were held
after leaving in 1812 moving to Fairfield his
first wife died leaving 7 children - again meeting
was moved to his house at length a meeting
house was built on his farm - it may be safely
said said during his religious career he was an
old fashioned uncompromising Methodist an attentive read-
er of his German Bible unflinching to the last
in family worship delighted in teaching class as well
as attending meetings week day as well as Sabbath and
consequently enjoyed much of the presence of his
God during life & more especially in his late sickness
which has lasted for more than 2 years most of
the time confined to his bed weighed down with old
age suffering pain with but little intermission
his soul devoted to his God his mind clear to
the last often would break out with expressions of joy
and holy triumph his savior was with him
with great patience he bore his sorrows & pain
after he had his friends call & held meeting with him
the Sabbath morning before he died being raised up

& told this was Sunday he replied with all his heart
Oh that this may be the day of the coming of the
Son of Man to my soul then sunk away & said
No more did the same evening calm & easy no struggle
or more afterwards (as Brother ^{Worley} stated in his journal he
lying by his bedside when he died) a delightful smile
= he set upon his countenance =

I have now been tedious & lengthy might have said more
that he had his 3^d wife who has done a good
part towards him in his late long sickness with other
metters in his religious life that he never had a
church ~~change~~ against him his firmness as a
Methodist was given to his children all of whom in
principle are nothing but Methodists -

Brother Linley Excuse the foregoing scattered hints a few
of which you may use as you may think best
I am not able to get my thoughts together having been
confined by inflammatory Phlebotomy - to my bed & room
for the last 10 days & too feeble to write - I am
however better able to sit up most of the day & feel
in a few days by the blessing of Providence like
getting about again =

The station in this place is doing well for the
last 6 weeks & has gained the church & the good
work still going on Brother Sturges labors
hard & to a very good purpose

Pray for us Remember me to my family
in your dear ones Affly J. Lewis