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James B. Finley Letters

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5-3-1838

### Letter from William Simmons to James B. Finley

William Simmons

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For Samuel B. Smith  
 Ridgewell  
 Warran County  
 Ohio

19/10

Warran  
 May 1838

Bansville May 3<sup>rd</sup> A.D. 1838

Dear Father J. B. F.

After a long silence which I have often thought of breaking I feel moved this morning to devote an hour, and give you a little paper talk. I here in the hill country away from all my old friends and was it not that the Lord is the God of the hill as well as the plains I should feel quite gloomy. But he being with me I can be reconciled especially as I am permitted to talk to you so often in that country through our big sheet, thank God for it, may the dutchman soon start on his sturvant campaign - and lay ignorant and superstitious as Sampson did the Philistines I have just passed through a severe trial thro my my love, and grace. My dear Ann has been sick alone about one week after an illness of near three months, in which her life was despaired of. She was a scrupulous affection some dreadful ulcers were formed and discharged an incredible quantity of matter, and she was reduced to a skeleton. The prospect now is that she may get along now and enjoy some health, O how thankful should we be to our heavenly father for all his mercies. In the middle of this severe affliction the Lord revived his work among us often I left from 10 to 50 at the altar at 8 or 9 o'clk and came to nurse a wife who was threatened with desolation in a short time



The Lord has given us some good times in this place  
indeed there has been a gradual rising in this place  
for 18 months—especially this year our 100 have  
been added on trial, <sup>since 1<sup>st</sup> Jan</sup> a goodly portion of them are  
males—and many young men, and I believe if you  
live long you will see some of them on the  
Conference floor. one young man of good mind  
has lately joined and is happy in the Lord who  
was raised a Roman Catholic whose uncle is  
a priest in Maryland—his widow mother and  
all her friends are of that order on last Sat  
morning I had a young mens class which I just  
formed, the 5<sup>th</sup> new class which I have formed  
since I am 1<sup>st</sup> and at night tried to preach  
from Lu 32.10. had a good time, as you know it  
is not a small matter to preach to the same people  
so long yet the congregations are large, we now  
have over 500 members 35 classes and all the duties  
of this station with all these members, I tell you  
fills my head, heart and hands—I feel some times  
almost like singing under the load, but the Lord  
is good—and we have a good officiar and on  
the whole we get along tolerably well, I find there  
is more to be done by attending to all the small  
matters, than in preaching just so or thus in the pulpit  
Auntie Jimmy tells me of the time when your father  
went to father Wilkys while you were preaching and  
you shouted, hugged him, asked for Hannah and preached on  
The old lady has been quite ill, she is a good woman

I have  
gone on and said but little, my soul rejoices because  
of what the Lord is doing in Lib. Hamletton. Dayton  
and Red Sym. Vt. I remember how I begged of the people  
to build a meeting house. how as they came at Springboro  
Ridgeville Vt. how does the Latta & Elliott case  
operate—have any prominent men joined in Dayton  
or Hamletton, who are they, you must dwell in the  
land of Bala and live on honey milk and wine  
this year, well thank God for all his mercies to you  
in your old age, may the fire continue to burn  
in your soul untill it shall be rekindled in heaven  
to flame forever to the glory of God, & free grace  
I bless the Lord for what I often feel, in my heart a  
the blessed prospect of meeting the saints of God in heaven  
I think I am growing in grace a little and feel my  
love more alive to God—and engaged in the work  
of saving souls than formerly, O pray for me  
and mine—that we may glorify our heavenly  
father and join you and yours on the other side of  
London, to sing of Salvation forever amen,  
give our warmest love to all our friends in that  
country, especially Sister Finley, Bro & Mrs Brooks  
I and Mr. McLean families, I hope you will write soon  
and fill a large sheet and lay all the good things which  
you have, give any advice which you think proper  
name any fault which you find—dont regret  
writing, If Capt. Swain of Dayton has not given the next  
time you go there, go and draft him, God bless you. pray for us  
I remain your affectionate Son in the Gospel Wm. Moore