

Ohio Wesleyan University

Digital Commons @ OWU

Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

4-15-1813

Letter from John P. Finley to James B. Finley

John P. Finley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters>

Recommended Citation

Finley, John P., "Letter from John P. Finley to James B. Finley" (1813). *Finley Letters*. 911.
<https://digitalcommons.owu.edu/finley-letters/911>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James B. Finley Letters at Digital Commons @ OWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finley Letters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ OWU. For more information, please contact earutigl@owu.edu.

224
Recd James B. Finley
Minerant Preacher
St. Clairsville Ohio State
St. Clairsville is towards
Steubenville

My Dear James, I received a letter from you dated January 6th and would have written an answer before this time but I thought proper to delay until I had fixed myself for this year. I have been wavering in mind being solicited by the people of Cincinnati to make a settlement there by the people of the town of Lawrenceburgh to make an establishment there and by the friends of this place to stay where I now am and thought best to settle myself before I would write. I have concluded to tarry at the union and this day have commenced school for another term of nine months. Nothing of great importance has transpired since you heard from me last, save only that, we are trying to find our way to heaven a matter of the greatest moment not only to us but to people also of every description. I cannot say that there has been any particular revival since the Chillicothe Conference on this Circuit. I grieve because iniquity abounds and the love of many grows cold. ~~Nevertheless~~ tears of sorrow frequently run down from mine eyes because men keep not God's law. Yet I feel that I am pressing on for a immortality and am carried above the storms of life by that glorious hope which is as an anchor to the soul. When I look around me and see professors stretching their arms like seas to grasp in all the shore, I cry with the poet, Grant me the visits of thy face, Lord, and I desire no more, again, when I look at their heaps of dust that like a mole-hill can be carried away by the flood or like the chaff driven by the wind and compare it to the inheritance at the right hand of God after which I am daily seeking I feel thankful that my heart is there. When I view golden crowns palms of eternal victory robes of righteousness and everlasting glory I say farewell earthly treasure you cannot be compared to Heaven, sweet Heaven, I am still trying to spread the news of salvation but am so unsuccessful that sometimes I am ready to conclude the Lord certainly has never called me to minister in holy things and am almost ready to resign my office. But something forbids and says you must not yield so basely to the tempter and I still keep moving in my little circle calling sinners to repentance. We are involved in the calamities of War which strikes a great damp to religion and in a great measure impedes its progress in this as well as in other places. Many of our great Methodist ready to bow down to the golden image.

I know not where to settle myself for I have relinquished the
of purchasing land in this Neighborhood and if I had where with
I would not buy land until the war was over especially in the western
country My land suit is not yet determined and should the result
be against me I expect to be a tenant while I live but should it
terminate in my favour I shall be able to fix myself down for
life - May God place me where I can be most useful in his cause
and best glorify his Name - I am truly afraid that you intend
to locate and give up travelling this Idea I form from your letter
and I can truly say that I would almost as soon see you buried
When I consider your high calling the most dignified station on
earth and the most ^{glorious} work that any person could be called to do
I conclude that there might be some danger in declining
And again when I contemplate the mercy of God in bearing
with you and I when we were sinners against him and pursuing
that mercy in calling us from darkness to light and in not
only suffering us to come but willingly receiving us into
his favor and his Church placing us on the walls of Zion
as Watch Men to hold forth Jesus and the resurrection
I conclude there would be great danger in declining - hold
out My dear Brother in the Name of the Lord Jesus will be
with you his presence is sufficient for life and after death
eternal glory will be more than a reward Your Sun will
soon go down with smiles the surging billows of the raging
deep will soon become a serene surface the stormy winds
shall cease to blow the rain be over the dreary Winter past
and you ascend to canaan's vernal top to hear the heavenly
Singers tune their celestial voices in noble strains to sing the
praise of God. Garlands of glory to ornament your head and
palms of Eternal victory to constitute you more than a
conqueror through him who loved you and gave himself for
you - I feel like dying under the standard of Christ although
I have many things to war against yet I know the purity of my
intentions and that my Master will be with me. When I gaze
in a hard battle and can see the royal ensign raised above me
and the colours waving merrily dypt in blood divine directly
over my head I can shout victory in a Moment, Our Capt
has never lost a battle and we are victorious in him
Oh for ten thousand tongues to praise his ever blessed Name

Brother Morgan VanMeter has finished his course here in the
faith and gone to rest I went last Sabbath to preach his
funeral I hope that his death, altho lamented, will prove
a blessing to his friends that are left behind - Brother Robert
is here at school with me and intends staying this term of
time - William and Thomas Strane have returned safe
from the Army while many have been killed and others died
with sickness - I think long to see you Hannah and Betsy
to converse pray and praise God together - Brother ^{Hough} is anxious
that you would buy a small tract of land near to him I will
not advise you but was I able I would not - If you intend
settling yourself you can buy land and if my affairs terminate
so that I cannot buy also I intend settling on yours to take care
of Hannah and you to continue travelling - I must soon
finish my desultory letter - I don't know when I shall see
you perhaps never on earth again. May God help us to be
faithful even until death that when the day of Christ is come
And he collects his jewels home On Zion's Mount we then shall
stand. And join the bright Angelic band - Tell sister
Hannah Heaven bless her and give her a Benjamin's mess
every day. Sally James & Alvira with myself join to
our best love to you all Remember us in your prayers and
believe me to be your sincere tho unworthy Brother until
death and after death in glory My heart and my eyes and
full farewell - farewell

John P Finley

Rev. James B Finley

P.S. I suppose Sally will have another one after a while
I could tell you a great many things if I were with you
about the place and the people in it especially the
Preachers

Rev James B Finley

April 15th 1813

Green County Ohio

This letter in much love
& great haste