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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

5-23-1848

Letter from John P. Finley to James B. Finley

John P. Finley Jr.

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Direct to Bloomfield Davis county Iowa
if you should see Jas D Brown or W H Clark
please give my respects Yours affectionately
Jas B Fenley
NB was not A A Gattas a great scamp



Mr. James B. Fenley
Columbus Ohio

Wm. Fenley
Bloomfield
Iowa
April 48



Bloomfield May 23rd 1848
Dear Uncle

After a long silence on my part
simply because I have nothing to write which would
be either interesting or amusing I have concluded
to write at a venture. For the last 10 years
I have been tossed from post to post and buffeting
with adversity in all its various forms I am finally
located here in the northern portion of Iowa in
- a great in the practice of medicine with a fair
share of practice and the good wishes of a portion
of the community.

For days since Mother arrived
here with the calculation of making her future
home in Iowa she is in tolerable health and brought
with her Edwin's youngest child. She intended to
pay you a last visit that fall but Edwin's sickness &
death prevented her. and this spring she had much
time or strength to do it. it is doubtful whether
she ever goes back to Ohio.

We have a fine country here
settling in with an industrious and enterprising
community and in a few years will have a happy
improved country. Our high rolling prairie
of from 1 to 4 miles in width interspersed with
groves of timber presents a beautiful scene
while casting the eye from east to west nothing to obstruct

the view something like an Ocean of Persian white
you behold the farmer bussing in turning over with his
plow a rich black loam just as rich as the Meander
Bottoms while occasionally you see some 4 or 6 yaks of
Olive toiling before the prairie plow, as it turns the
green swaras under, and turns up the black dirt
up, while on the distant prairie comes with
Cattle & Horses fat & fine, to use the language of
Isidore, it is (Gods own Country).

You may wish to know how many
children we have and all about us we have four
active boys as you ever saw in your life the
eldest is Caleb John Patterson, the 2^d James W
the 3^d Charles Parker, and the youngest Frank
Bradley, all are total now some are going to school
making counting & all smart Finley like

William is living in this place
along my river with only one child a son
a daughter, Elizabeth lives about 60
miles from here her husband is only 50 years
she has three daughters and has been
3 children.

A man died at the Walla Walla Station
Oregon in Apr 1846. Supposed to be about 40 years
old by the name of James Finley. I suppose he had
relations in Ohio. I suppose this was Cousin Sam
and as I wrote to Robert & to Sarah Ann but
presume they never received my letter as

received a no answer from them

For years I have had no intelligence
from any of your family as you are a noted man
I have been kept apprised of your movements but
how is Aunt Cousin. Eliza and all her family
I hope they are in the enjoyment of good health
blessed with prosperity.

Why can you not pay
us a visit we would be pleased to the life
to see you. here and you would be delighted
I think to see this country. why not come
out this fall to see us. It would be rest and
recreation to you. in your long life you have taken
but little rest. My age is ~~now~~ making his interest
upon you today and if you rest on this side of
grade you must do it now. If you come out come
to Churchville on the Mississippi and take up
the last house, about 140 miles up you will
find Chapin Bonner Sam Clark Doct. Abbott
and a thousand other old friends who would
be glad to see you and 16 miles further up
you will find your nephews who will be eager
to see you. and treat you to the best the South
affords.

And our dear Mother & Maria and all
the children. Love to all your family and to
all the connections when you see them.

When you get time please write to us