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James B. Finley Letters

8-22-1848

Letter from Joshua Robinson to James B. Finley

Joshua Robinson

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Pittsburgh Aug 22/1848

Rev J. B. Girdley

Dear Friend & Brother,

Your kind letter in answer to mine to the Warden of the Ohio Penitentiary has just been rec'd and I must confess that I am much rejoiced to hear so good a character of Thomas Bruton, as well as that you are on the spot and are willing to take an interest in his discharge, you will very possibly remember me as the Man with the strong voice that leads the singing at the South Common M. E. Church where you preached during the General Conference Brothers Rounds and Marsh from Maine were my Guests - I am determined that an effort shall be made for Tom's release, I can make interest enough for him thro Corwin and Ewing of Ohio, and a Host here that will do the job, also a many very influential men in different parts of Ohio. It must and shall be done, for altho I cannot for a moment countenance crime, yet when I reflect upon Tom's case I cannot restrain myself. Knowing all the circumstances of his life, a Touch of which you shall have and I know your sympathy will be more than doubly aroused for him. He is an English Boy, from Gloucestershire, his father came to this Country about 16 years ago, leaving the Mother, Charles and Tom behind, they followed in about 3 years say 13 years ago the Father turned out a drunken worthless vagabond, and soon was the cause of his wife's death say 9 years ago, thus were these lads thrown upon the world with nothing but a drunken Father for a protector, very speedily was every body in his house sent down his throat, until the Hat, and

John W. Robinson
Pittsburgh Pa
Aug 48

Rev J. B. Girdley
Chaplain of Ohio Penitentiary
Columbus
Ohio

Card

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clothing, save pantaloons and shirt of
poor Tom, were sold to buy liquor, and
then he picked out of doors almost a
child with the oath of his father bidding
him go and steal for more, the other
brother had earlier than this left home
and gone to a trade fortunately for him
the history of poor Tom is marked with
a great deal of suffering - It would
take too long a time to say half, but
I think this will suffice.

I wish you to have a power of
attorney drawn forth with to me, and
I will do not only all that can be done
but will by his permission use as part of
what I may get for him in attending
to his Pardon by Gov Bebb - He is not
aware that his Uncle Samuel Fisher is
dead this 5 or 6 years. By the small boy
the Pardon must be acknowledged by a
Notary Public, and dated at Columbus
without stating the Prison, If Tom has no
Means to Pay, please to have it done speedily
and send the Amount of charges, and I will
forward to you, Let my name be inserted
as follows, Joshua Robinson, European Agent
Pittsburgh, I shall be glad to reciprocate
in any way I can either with you brethren
here or any other way, any thing you may
do for Tom, as I feel deeply interested in
him, since I know what has become of him
There are not many members of the Pittsburg
Conference but know me so that you may
learn who I am at any time, Your attention
will oblige
Yours truly in the faith
Joshua Robinson