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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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5-18-1849

## Letter from Thomas Coke Wright to James B. Finley

Thomas Coke Wright

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Kenna Ch May 18th 1849

Dear Uncle

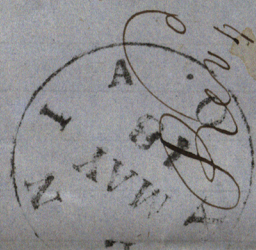
I finished my sketches about Hiramilton on the 5th Inst. and should have informed you immediately but Cousin Samuel I Owing was going down to attend the Temperance Jubilee and I concluded to send the manuscript to Sister Beft by him. But that is now postponed. Still if you had rather it was sent down so you could go the other way and see your family. I expect I can find a chance of sending it down shortly.

I have copied the best parts of his letters and had to make numerous corrections. They abounded in much bad grammar and some erroneous transposing of figures of speech. Which showed plainly such composition was entirely new to him. that he had no practice in such writing. Still with all their defects they indicate natural talent and if his parents had been literary instead of commercial he would have made an elegant writer.

1511 Mr Fairbairn says what I have would make a book of 120 pages of the size and print of the Hon Waddy Thompsons book about Mesico. As I believe I informed you before I extended <sup>it</sup> on purpose to give myself practice in more lengthy composition than any I have ever been engaged in to prepare myself for writing other things. I have in contemplation. Any part of it deemed irrelevant and tedious can be left out very easily.

My next labour of this kind will be to give some

James B. Givley  
Chaplain C. D.  
Columbus Ohio





sketches of one Jacob Funk a noted man in his day  
who at one time set the sheriff and his posse at defiance  
and for some time defeated all attempts to take him. He was at  
last captured being taken while fast asleep and secured before he could  
make resistance. We had him in our jail nearly 6 months. He was  
killed in 1886 in Tozwell county Kansas while in the act of resisting  
the sheriff. But I expect as like as not you have seen him.  
The Funk family lived many years in Fayette county in this State  
some 8 or 9 miles from Washington.

A gentleman in this place a  
Doctor started to New Orleans shortly after I commenced writing about Hamilton  
and while he was gone he thinks he learned from a police officer what  
Hamilton's real name was but I do not think the description suits  
Hamilton. The following is from the officer. "Tall, dark brown hair  
long nose a little aquiline, very gentlemanly in his address and appearance  
once a merchant in and a native of New York a celebrated counterfeiter and  
negroe stealer in the South Had a career a noted burglar in the Ohio  
Penitentiary named Buck." According to my recollection Hamilton thought  
a spare man was not a tall man. I have forgotten whether his nose was  
aquiline or not.

I sent you a paper containing some account of Jacob  
Hunt. I was a little boy when he came to where we lived in the big cotton  
Mr. Hunt was here before he moved in his new frame house to sell  
Hatter some pork. I stood in the chimney corner and heard him narrate  
by adventures to Brother Wright as he called Hatter. It remained in my

memory 34 years before ever a word of it was written.  
Nor should I have ever thought of writing of it had it  
not been for our mutual friend Howe. He heard me telling  
about it and ~~assured~~ insisted on my writing it for his Ohio  
Historical collections. Be kind enough to send me a line  
and inform me whether I shall send the manuscript  
to Dr. Keft or keep it until you come. and if you come  
when shall we look for you.

I remain with sincere esteem  
your friend

Thos. Coke Wright

64  
Sept 10  
Coke Wright