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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

9-25-1849

Letter from Laurin Dewey to James B. Finley

Laurin Dewey

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Ohio Penitentiary
Sept. 25. 1849.

Father, Finley.

I owe you an apology, perhaps, for not replying sooner to your last favor. The whole summer I have been overwhelmed with anxiety and care, and have scarcely written to any of my friends. A letter from you is always welcome, and ever will be. And I hope in future, should our lots be cast separate, often to receive a friendly line from my faithful and venerable friend at Eaton. Our associations under the same roof have probably ceased forever; yet if we are spared, I trust we shall meet again. And I hope you will take an early opportunity to make us a visit. No one would be received more gladly at my fireside and board. We all long to see you. I expect to leave soon after the election for the north, to be gone about 3 weeks. If you do not visit us with in a few days, do not come till I return. While absent I

Oct 18 1849
L. J. Finley

intend to visit my mother,
and make arrangements to
render her comfortable this
life. The little hymnbook you
took charge of for her, please
return to me, if you have
an opportunity, before I leave.

The cholera belt has passed
by, and health is again resto-
red to our ill-fated institution.
But we have been successfully
smitten. In a very short period
after you left (11) of our inmates
found a convicts grave, and
when the scum left, only 283
were left; and most of them were
sickly and feeble, scarcely able
to help themselves, or move about
the yard. Our condition, now, how-
ever, is such, that you would
hardly know that we had
been afflicted, tho' our numbers
are far from being what they
formerly were, being only 302. Most
of the ships are occupied, and the noise
of the machinery and the Engineer
gives our Institution its usual
lively appearance - notwith-
standing our diminished numbers.
Many of our old guards have left,
and the places have been sup-
plied with new ones. Miles, Reid,

London, Galton, Overhalse, Roston,
Stickney, Madenmouth, Royce, and
one or two others fled from the
port of duty, in the hour of dan-
ger, and left me to fill their
places as I could.

You write that you had
heard of a farm near Eaton
that would probably suit
me. In your next, be more
particular. State the acres,
price, distance from Eaton,
and what kind of buildings,
&c.

When I sat down I intended
to write you a long letter,
but have been so often
called off, you will please
excuse this short letter, with
the assurance that next
time I will do better.

With good will to your family
I am as ever, yours,

LAMMIE DUDLEY

How does the book
get along