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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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7-31-1848

## Letter from Squire Gray Eyes to James B. Finley

Squire Gray Eyes

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Wyandott Nation Ind. Ter. July 31<sup>st</sup> 1848

Dear Brother

Your welcome letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> of June came duly to hand. Much rejoiced indeed was I to hear from you, of your health, and your progress along the heavenly road.

My health is as it has been for some years past rather feeble. Still I have strugled yet to travel about some and tell to our brethren the riches of the love of Jesus. I have visited the Kickapoo above this several time. A great work has gloriously commenced among that people. One hundred and fifty have already joined the Church; the Kickapoo Prophet who has so long held out against against the religion of the bible has renounced his pretensions and united himself to our Church.

Among our Shawnee friends there is no unusual indication but there is a faithful band of the true followers of our blessed Saviour. Our Delaware friends are steadily advancing in the divine way.

The last time I was at Kickapoo our worthy brother Paschal Fish informed <sup>me</sup> that they had unanimously decided to remain in the old M. E. Church. Brother Fish is the Missionary to the Kickapoo and firmly united to the north; he is an educated Shawnee. he preaches to the Shawnees, Delawares and Kickapoo without an interpreter. he is married to Kester Jane daughter of your old friend Isaac Jane. At a Quarterly

Minnie Gregory  
Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 1849

meeting recently held among the Shawnee  
brethren Brother Fish brought the subject  
of the Southern division of the church before the  
official members, and with one dissenting  
voice they decided to remain with the  
North. The Delawares are also at work  
but have come to no decision yet.

You will see by the accompanying paper how  
the Wyandotts stand. Last Saturday we  
held a meeting and the official members were  
unanimous, as you will see by their names.  
As to which conference we should petition  
was not so unanimous; a majority however  
decided in favor of the Ohio Conference.

This paper I inclose to you and leave it  
with you to take what ever course with  
it you think best.

Some of our old friends have fallen asleep  
and among the number old Mrs. Madecator  
who died last spring in great peace. I myself  
have been called to mourn the loss of a dearly  
beloved daughter in law, wife of my son John  
but I do not mourn as those who have no  
hope she died in the full triumphs of faith.  
She was the only daughter of Geo. D. Williams and  
has left one child, a boy about four years old.

As to our future Missionary, we shall  
gladly receive whoever, in the wisdom of the  
Conference shall be appointed. yet I may be  
allowed to express an opinion in favor Brother  
John W. White of your conference. He is a young  
man and we are all well acquainted with him.

In conclusion I would once more renew to  
you my assurances of love, friendship and esteem  
I wish you to remember me to my old friends

in Ohio. Jacob Young W. C. Sheldon A. Poe  
Power, Elliott, and all other inquiring friends.  
I am still endeavoring to walk in the  
road to heaven.

I remain your brother in Christ

Josiah Gray Eyes

Rev. J. B. Finley

Ohio Conference

GrayEyes\_ab781

Wyandott Nation Ind. Ter. July 31<sup>st</sup> 1848

Dear Brother

Your welcome letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> of June came duly to hand. Much rejoiced indeed was I to hear from you, of your health and your prayers along the heavenly road.

My health is as it has been for some years past rather feeble. Still I have thought yet to travel about some and tell to our brethren the riches of the love of Jesus. I have visited the Kickapoos above \_\_\_\_\_ several time. A great work has gloriously commenced among that people. One hundred and fifty have already joined the Church; the Kickapoo Prophet who has so long held out against the religion of the Bible has renounced his pretensions and united himself to our Church.

Among our Shawnee friends there is no unusual indication but there is a faithful band of the true followers of our blessed Savior. Our Delaware friends are steadily advancing in the divine way.

The last time I was at Kickapoo our worthy brother Paschal Fish informed me that they had unanimously decided to remain in the old M.E. Church. Brother Fish is the missionary to the Kickapoos and firmly united to the North; he is an educated Shawnee. He preaches to the Shawnees, Delawares and Kickapoos without an interpreter. He is married to Hester Zane daughter of your old friend Isaac Zane. At a quarterly meeting recently held among the Shawnee brethren Brother Fish brought the subject of the Southern division of the Church before the official members and with one dissenting voice they decided to remain with the North. The Delawares are also at work but have come to no decision yet.

You will see by the accompanying paper how the Wyandotts stand. Last Saturday we held a meeting and the official members were unanimous, as you will see by their names.

As to which Conference we should petition was not so unanimous; a majority however decided in favor of the Ohio Conference. This paper I inclose to you and have it with you to take what ever course with it you think best.

Some of our old friends have fallen asleep and among the number Old Mrs. Mudeater who died last spring in great peace. I myself have been called to mourn the loss of a dearly beloved daughter in law, wife of my son John. But I do not mourn as those who have no hope. She died in the full triumphs of faith. She was the only daughter of George D. Williams and has left one child, a boy about four years old.

As to our future missionary, we shall gladly receive whoever in the wisdom of the Conference shall be appointed. Yet I may be allowed to express an opinion in favor Brother John W. White of your Conference. He is a young man and we are all well acquainted with him.

In conclusion I would once more renew to you my assurances of love, friendship and esteem. I wish you to remember me to my old friends in Ohio – Jacob Young, H.O. Sheldon, A. Poe, Power, Elliott and all other inquiring friends. I am still endeavoring to walk in the road to heaven.

I remain your brother in Christ

Squire Gray Eyes

Rev J.B. Finley

Ohio Conference