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Letter from Squire Gray Eyes to James B. Finley

Squire Gray Eyes

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Alexandria, N.C. June 11th 1848

Dear Brother,

Your welcome letter of the 10th of June came duly to hand. Much as I rejoiced to hear from you, of your health and your progress along the Speriany road. My health is as it has been for some years past rather feeble, still I have thought not to travel about home and see all of our brethren and teach to our young ones the marks of the love of Jesus. I have visited the Kickapoos above this second time in a great work has openly commenced among that people. The first and second 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 churches. Among our Shawnee friends there is no unusual indication but there is a faithful bond of the two followers of our Blessed Savior. Our Delawares proceed an industriously advancing in the divine way.

The last time I was at Kickapoo our worthy Brother Fische informed me that they had unanimously decided to remain in the old M. B. Church. Brother Fische is the Missionary to the Kickapoos and firmly set is to the north, he is an educated Shawnee, he preaches to the Shawnees, Delawares and Kickapoos without an interpreter. He is married to Miss Jane daughter of your old friend Jane Jane. At a Quarterly
meeting recently held among the Shawnee brethren at Fort Pick, brought the subject of the Southern division of the church before the official members, and with one dissenting voice, they acceded 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 Iroquois stand. Last Saturday we held a meeting and the official members were unanimous, as you will see by the paper. As to the Western Conference, we should join it was not so unanimous, a majority however decided in favor of the Ohio Conference. This paper I enclose to you and leave it with you to take what ever course with it you think best.

Some of our old friends have fallen away and among the number was Mrs. Mentzer who died last spring in great peace. I may have been called to mourn the loss of a dear beloved daughter-in-law, wife of my son John but I do not mourn as those who have no hope the Ohio in the full triumphs of faith. She was the only daughter of Rev. D. Melram 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 of 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 urge to open my account as of love and friendship and esteem. I wish you to remember me to my old friends.
Dear Brother

Your welcome letter of the 10th 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 pretentions 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