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James B. Finley Letters

5-23-1849

Letter from Lyman C. Draper to James B. Finley

Lyman C. Draper

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Paid.

Rev. James B. Finley,
Columbus,
Ohio.

Mr
Logan to
Dr. Finley May 23
49 Philadelphia

Philadelphia, 23^d May, 1849.

My Dr. Sir -

Your very kind favor of the 11th of Dec^r last, duly rec^d, & heartily thank you for it. Sometime after its reception, I had the pleasure to succeed in procuring a copy of your History of the Wyandott Mission, the perusal of which gave me much delight & tended to re-ignite within me a love for, & sympathy with, Christian missions. I cannot but thank you for having written that work. On some other occasion, I shall examine it carefully, & note down some matters of inquiry, & submit them to you.

I am gratified to learn from your letter, that John Finley, the early Kentucky explorer, was distantly related to your family. Can you tell me where your father was born - where his ancestors were from (Ireland, I suppose) - & what his father's name was? Was your father educated at Princeton - or am I to understand by your letter that Gen^l. Sam^l. Finley was? -

What relationship existed between your father & the Rev. Dr. Sam^l. Finley, who was President of Princeton College before the Revolution? This President Finley was a

native of Armagh County, Ireland - & all that northern part of Ireland seems to have been settled at an early period by a large Scotch Colony. I mention this, thinking it may aid you in replying to my inquiries, as to the native region of your father's, & John Finley's ancestors.

There was a Maj. John Finley who went from Penn^a, I think, & settled at the Upper Blue Licks - & I believe was a brother of Genl. Saml. Finley, of Chillicothe. If you can give me the names & address of descendants of either of these, I beg you will do so. Also of any other descendants of the Carlisle Finleys. If you have any aged brothers or sisters living, perhaps it wd. be well enough for you to consult them if they reside near you - if not, to give me their address. The truth is, I wish to combine the opinions & recollections, & traditions of all the Finley family I can hear of, about John Finley, the Kentucky Pioneer, & his origin. Add, if you can, the names of any of your relatives who may still remain in the Carlisle region.

Was the Wm. Finley, of Westmoreland Co. Pa., who was a member of Congress

who wrote a History of the Whiskey Insurrection, related to your family? - Wm. Finley, who was Govr. of Pa. (& brother of Genl. Jas. Finley of Cin.) should not be confounded with his namesake who wrote the history.

Hoping soon to hear from you - & wishing you every blessing here, & the joyous reward of the righteous hereafter - I remain

Most truly yr. obliged friend
and Christian brother,
Lyman C. Draper.

Rev. Jas. B. Finley }
D.D.

P.S. - Have you ever heard any reliable traditions from Whites or Indians of a remarkable leap of Capt. Saml. Brady, over Cuyahoga River, or elsewhere? - If so - please inform me fully about it. L.C.D.