

11-1-1843

Letter from A.W. Musgrove & W.B. Peat to James B. Finley

A.W. Musgrove

W.B. Peat

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Recommended Citation

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Dayton, Nov. 1st, 1843

Dear Brother Finley:- I have just received your kind letter, and take the first opportunity in sending you a reply. I am glad to find that my view of discipline is so honorably supported. I have always considered it the common sense view. It would have afforded me great pleasure to have labored with you in your District; but, if Providence directs otherwise, I cheerfully submit. The friends here, are very anxious that I should remain; and I think, perhaps, it would be best for the work to do so. If a second preacher is not obtained for Finley, it must go down; as you know the Locality is not acceptable; and brother Star can supply but one house: indeed, if he could, his labours would do the canalers no good. So far as a support for two preachers is concerned, there is no difficulty; for this Station raised fourteen hundred dollars last year. Now, if this had been applied to the payment of Preachers, it would have paid you and three others; but this is not my business. Brother Whitecomb wrote me a very kind letter: he talked like a Brother indeed; but supposing the Church desired my labours here, I declined his brotherly offer. I, sir, was born a Methodist. I was ^{taught} to love the Ministers, believe the doctrines, obey the Discipline, and labor for the interests of that church; and I think I can say, without boasting, though my efforts have been feeble, they have all been directed to that point. If money could have severed my attachments from Methodism, they might long ago have been broken; but I rejoice that my soul is too large to be measured by dollars and cents. It has been said to me: "the Church treats you harshly, come thou with us;" but, God forbid, that I should leave that Church to whom I owe my all.

Nov 1
 of Mr. Finley's
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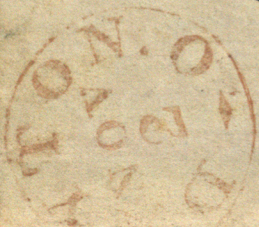
Rev. James B. Finley
 Lebanon

Licking county
 Ohio

J. B.

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I cannot express on paper those sentiments of regard I have ever cherished for you: but I feel they are written with an ink that fades not, upon the tablet of a heart which warms with affection for its friends. It would be gratifying to me to live long enough to convince all of the purity of my designs in my efforts to enter the travelling connexion. If God will favour me but in this, I shall die contented. My health is as good as usual. I preached three times last Sunday, and I trust not in vain. You say nothing in your letter about Sister Pinley. I intend to visit her as soon as possible.

It is now late, and I must bring my letter to a close. May the Lord renew your strength, and add many additional seals to your ministry. Doctor Watters & family send their love to you. Give my love to all who know me on your District. Write to me frequently, and I'll pay the postage.

Yours in the bonds of a peaceful Gospel.
A. W. Musgrave

Date as above.

Dear Uncle: Being on business at Dayton and having the pleasure of engaging myself for the evening as Brother His amanuensis, and the privilege of filling up the space left on this sheet, I embrace it with a great deal of satisfaction, though perhaps, not to much profit. It was a matter of great surprise to me and Lavinia, to hear of Brother Reed's appointment to Asbury charge. I fully expected brother ~~Reed~~ to appear our Minister, and so did many others. And I think the suggestion by Brother Marley, to insert brother R.

nance in the vacant list, was, as you remarked, done by the inspiration of the Spirit of God. In regard to his talents, I am unable to form a correct opinion, having never heard him but 3 times; altogether an insufficient number to base ~~an opinion~~ a correct decision upon. But as far as I have seen, in his manners, and as far as I have heard, from his preaching, and as far as I have been informed by others, he is just the man for Asbury station. To far he takes well, and none, if not most, of our good revival members, raise their heads with a joyful expectation of better times in the Church. Affairs are worse than I had expected them to be. No less than 3 or 4 appeals for our next quarterly meeting; which will be enough work for a new President and Minister to attend to. Besides this, we are beginning to be troubled with "True Wesleyanism," a name of big sounding import, but ^{which} unwesleyanizes all the British Methodists, and those of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. Truly if the True Wesleyans are right, Mr. Wesley himself was not a True Wesleyan - was not a follower of the rules laid down by himself. A war on slavery, I say, but I hope God will keep out of the M. E. Church the blighting, withering, and scathing influence of discord, anarchy, and confusion. But I am out of my track. I have heard since I came here that Lavinia is laid on her bed by sickness, and shall have to hurry back in the morning. We heard of Aunt's debility, but hope she is recovering. We expect Mother down at the city to live with us this winter. A letter at any time from you would be very acceptable.

I remain your most sincerely
Rev. J. B. Pinley
John B. Reat.