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Finley Letters

James B. Finley Letters

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7-20-1846

## Letter from James B. Brooke & M.F. Brooke to James B. Finley

James B. Brooke

M.F. Brooke

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The James R. Hilkey  
Columbus Ohio

J. B. Brooke  
July 27 1846

The recipient  
July 24

Mail Spring July 20<sup>th</sup> 1846  
Dear Grand Father

Your favor of June was received the first of the present month from which we learned of <sup>your</sup> health's station, and spirits. We were pleased to hear you had so pleasant and engaging charge and that your health was not sufficient in a measure for your labor & fondly hope you may find the change for the better in regard to health and labor. Yet I think your station in life so much of frequent speaking in public such excessive labor as you needly must endure in filling promptly & efficiently your work to one of your age deleterious to health & must inevitably weaken your declining years. Frankly would it be for me but a month to advise a sage or one who felt the discharge of duty paramount to any earthly aggrandizement. Yet rest is essential to the propagation of health & long life. You may censure my neglect in not answering your favor sooner but my steady application to my business which at this season demands my whole attention will be some excuse. It is not that I am so reckless or ungrateful as to disregard or forget a parent; that detains me from corresponding more readily & being more prompt. Were I not sooner would I be known no more among men and my name ~~not~~ forgotten to all living than be guilty of treating or feeling ungrateful to my Parents. My sensitive faculties are quick and strong enough but a want of proper knowledge generates negligence could I but pen a few lines that would convey any thing desirable or that would render you satisfaction. My ambition would be attained. But probably you may think this a monotony of only words without meaning. So to domestic life at home

We are only in tolerable health. The season being  
favorable for killing attacks. We have a brush  
with my wife & self excepted; yet not dangerously ill  
We have another heir which we call Eliza Margaret  
after its G. Mother's & Mother. & Margaret is very  
smart. We commenced well no knowing the end  
We have ~~in hand~~ the products of 16 acres of wheat. 13  
acres of oats to bind up. 16 acres of corn well tended  
& have yet 7 acres of meadow to cut about half through  
harvesting. Hard work enough to bring the runt  
to his feelings. I might fall up 126 lbs but enjoy  
excellent health with a tolerable appetite. I could  
not be at home as you requested Owing to our  
business being so urgent and as your motto is  
first business then play. I know you would not censure  
I heard from Home some 6 days ago all were well  
I intend going in about the first of August and  
when I want to make a beginning for a farm  
I have given you some things and some nonsense  
Just as my haste strewn them out. And having  
but little either to amuse or console you I will close  
Mr & Mrs Fisher wishes to be remembered to you  
& we all join in one hearty wish for your  
health, peace & prosperity in all your undertakings

From your children

Hagerstown, Md.

A. C. Miley Please write again soon