

5-23-1848

## Letter from John P. Finley to James B. Finley

John P. Finley Jr.

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Direct to Bloomfield Davis county Iowa  
if you should see Jas D Brown or W. H. Cook  
Please give my respects Yours affectionately  
Jas B Fenley John B Fenley  
NB was not A A Gattas a great scamp



No. James B Fenley  
Columbus Ohio

J. B. Fenley  
Bloomfield  
Iowa  
April 48



Bloomfield May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1848  
Dear Uncle

After a long silence on my part  
simply because I had nothing to write which would  
be either interesting or amusing I have concluded  
to write at a venture. For the last 10 years  
I have been tossed from post to post and buffeted  
with adversity in all its various forms. I am finally  
located here in the southern portion of Iowa in  
- a great in the practice of medicine with a fair  
share of practice and the good wishes of a portion  
of the community.

For days since Mother arrived  
here with the calculation of making her future  
home in Iowa she is in tolerable health and brought  
with her Elvira's youngest child. She intended to  
pay you a last visit that fall but Elvira's sickness &  
death prevented her. and this spring she had no  
time or strength to do it. It is doubtful whether  
she ever goes back to Ohio.

We have a fine country here  
settling in with an industrious and enterprising  
community and in a few years will have a happy  
improved country. Our high rolling prairie  
of from 1 to 4 miles in width interspersed with  
groves of timber presents a ~~very~~ beautiful scene  
while casting the eye from east to west nothing to obstruct

the view something like an Ocean of Peruvian white  
you behold the farmer bussing in turning over with his  
plow a rich black loam just as rich as the Meany  
Bottoms while occasionally you see some 4 or 6 yaks of  
Oxen toiling before the primitive plow, as it turns the  
green Swamps under, and turns up the black dirt  
lumpy while on the distant Peruvian coquina with  
Cattle & Horses fat & fine, to use the Language of  
Ishman, it is (Gods own Country).

You may wish to know how many  
children we have and all about us we have four  
refined boys as you ever saw in your life the  
eldest is Caleb John Patterson, the 2<sup>d</sup> James W  
the 3<sup>d</sup> Charles Parker, and the youngest is  
Bradley, all are total now some are going to school  
making outing & all smart Finley like

William is living in this place  
along my river with only one child a  
daughter, Elizabeth lives about 60  
miles from here her health is only tolerable  
she has three daughters and has been  
3 children.

A man died at the Walla Walla Station  
Oregon in Apr 1846. Supposed to be about 40 years  
old by the name of James Finley, said he had  
relations in Ohio. I suppose this was Cousin Sam  
and I wrote to Robert & to Sarah Reed but  
presume they never received my letter as

never a no answer from them

For years I have had no intelligence  
from any of your family as you are a noted man  
I have been kept apprised of your movements but  
how is Aunt Cousin Eliza and all her family  
I hope they are in the enjoyment of good health  
blessed with prosperity.

Why can you not pay  
us a visit we would be pleased to the live  
to see you here and you would be delighted  
I think to see this Country, why not come  
out this fall to see us. It would be rest and  
recreation to you, in your long life you have taken  
but little rest. My age is ~~not~~ making his interest  
upon you total and if you rest on this side of  
grade you must do it now. If you come out come  
to Churchville on the Mississippi and take up  
the Les More, about 140 miles up you will  
find Chapel Bonner Sam Clark Doct Belmont  
and a thousand other old friends who would  
be glad to see you and as 16 miles further up  
you will find your nephews who will be rejoiced  
to see you, and treat you to the best the South  
affords.

And our dear Mother & Maria and all  
the children, love to all your family and to  
all the connections when you see them.

When you get time please write to us