

7-5-1814

## Letter from Robert W. Finley & Rebecca Finley to James B. Finley

Robert W. Finley

Rebecca Finley

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218

July 5<sup>th</sup> 1816 Highland County  
State of Ohio -

Dear affectionate children, your old parents are  
sitting in their cottage by their sides, rolling on to their  
soft eternity, pluming prospect, when the toils, fatigues  
& all the storms of life be past, & for ever fled. Your mother  
is still poorly, afflicted with violent pain, & considerably  
swelled, but still partakes of the tender mercies of God. Am  
in the midst of her affliction, as blessed with a tolerable appe-  
tite to eat, & enjoy her Reason, & what is better a general  
resignation to the will of God. I have preached more this  
season, than I ever did in the same number of months  
, no help, the members numerous, I was determined to die  
in the harness or keep the scote poised. The struggle went  
hard, but blessed be God, I have safely gained the tree, &  
& the balance pondered in the favor of the blessed  
Jesus. On my last visit we had some meetings equal  
to any I ever saw for the number of people at one place.  
I tried for a hour to meet the class & did meet half of them  
those out of doors. Broke open the door among them a minister  
in his wickedness, that frequently had bid defiance to re-  
ligion, and all the powers of earth & hell, sat on his knees  
at the first bench he came to just before Jesus was, & be-  
gan his prayer as follow. Lord give almighty hell power  
in heaven & on Earth is in thy hand bind my knees to this  
floor, that I may never rise till my soul is so converted  
and Lord seal in heaven that prayer with the blood of  
Calvary. And it was for he never rose, till he shrouded die-  
ing thru the tomb of God. He joined society, some places

New Market D.  
12<sup>th</sup> July

11

Geo. James Smith  
Barroville, Clinton Co.  
Post office

we are in fine for however, & some others almost cold enough  
to freeze a parrot out of if you were to place it near us -  
but we hope the spirit is flowing, the smoke incensing, & that  
like ~~Elijah~~ Elias will soon break out - Lord grant it feel my  
soul now.

My Camp meeting will commence at the time mentioned  
before on the last Friday of August on Pitt Street at  
Brother Hughes' Circumstances will not admit of all  
iteration. As there will be so many Camp meetings on  
that day, & some opposition, & threats, we have been afraid  
of being scarce of help, & have a principal dependence  
on you & the help you can bring with you, if health  
permits do not let us suffer a disappointment. Come over  
to help us, present my best compliments to Brother Fend  
young Ellis. Give him & invoke them in the name of  
the Lord to our assistance, if we do not get assistance from  
you in that quarter, I shall dread the consequence but  
my will I hope forever shall be the will of God. The  
consideration your mother has been in for six months  
past, appears to call for a solicitor, shutting up in a  
cell, but it may be I know not the will of the Lord to be  
done, if it should be the will of the Lord let one die in the  
burning: inviting everything unto the lovely sum of God.  
your friends here are all well, but Prof. St. He is as usual  
on this road. I intended going with him into Cincinnati  
to see if he could find relief - John Tom told us to move  
to Hartin in a week to take charge of an Academy, you  
what terms I have not been told, William is purposed  
to take a circuit in the fall if accepted, your mother would  
be glad if you could run within the limit of her life  
God see you

if occasion required, as she expect soon to remove where she  
will return no more. She still retains her flesh but is consider-  
ably swelled. I wrote you that Joseph had gone to the  
Luddites trade, but every thing did not suit. She is now at  
home. Frances has learnt to read pretty well, her capacity  
to take learning is certainly equal to any of the family.

Our dear children pray for us. Let us all struggle into  
the fulness of redemption, the perfect love of God, on my  
last road we had several <sup>but</sup> professed sanctification, one  
day preaching on the subject an old Presbytarian  
woman cried out, that is true, for 15 years ago the Lord  
sanctified my soul, after struggling for it for some months  
& I wanted a minister to preach it, but the world not  
& said it was not attainable, you are first men & ever  
heard preach it, it kindled a fire among the people, the  
old woman joined meeting - We bid you all farewell  
in the Lord we are your affectionate parents in the  
Lord &c &c

Robt & ~~Rebecca~~ Rebecca Pinley