

Southeast Ohio Conference

CHURCH OF
THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

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J. P. WEST, Westerville

Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15

Dear Boys:-

Had a fine time at 5th you then went to train, my ticket for
West was there so I was soon in bed and asleep before reaching Circleville
I was awake at Portsmouth then went to sleep and did not awake
until 5:30. I looked out and noted that my wife followed
up a clear and beautiful stream about as large as Hoop.
The wooded hills are immense, high & crumpled. My wife and the
tiny little cottages indicate that some one is trying to keep out a
daring. I can see the faithful old engine as it rounds the
curves, now we come to Jaeger, Davy, which seems like quite
a large town. The usual type of houses are seen at the station,
tumbled after tunnel, now great coal works, coke works
and here is an acre of level ground, now a bare valley
field, another tunnel, the piles are cut right out of the
hill side. Now hills that remind of the Greeks who said the
lands piled Ossian upon Pelion, now at Kimball, I go
through the Gullman to the play coach. I could have
stole a dozen pair of shoes, most of them looked too
small for me. Away up on the hill side I see a bus
marked "Black Diamond Lines". We stop at North Fork, some good
buildings, altho built right into the hills. The engineers surely had a
time surveying this road. Now at Elk Horn. They are cutting
a tube out of the hill side that makes the Sharpshooter
hill look like a baby in comparison, hundreds of abandoned
coke ovens. Now we are on the hillside and look down into the
narrow valley among the tops of high trees. Women are about
their morning work. We are now on a very high trestle, then in
a deep cut, we seem to be climbing the mountain. I do not wonder
that they have land-slides, a pig is rooting and as he gets hold of a
fine morsel he looks up at the standing team and snarls his lips.
Now we go again. We look down on top of a little church that is

grade now and the engine chucks. "That I could, that I could"
now at Bluestone. The name of our Pullman is "Diverses"
Here are some stone fences, now come to the first farm land
(rough enough) that I have seen. Now at Bluefield, quite a place
a long train, I get breakfast in dinner. Buttered toast,
two small pies, cream of wheat, and coffee, lots of cream
for wheat & coffee. 60¢ of them 10¢ tip for a fellow
to watch me eat the stuff. It is now 9:15. wonderful
scenery on every hand. Cloudy. Here an old man and
a boy plainly something market stores & stumps remind
me of early days when even the sight of such a train
would have been a real thrill. Here the strata of the rocks
stand almost perpendicular. Now we come into Va.
Here a beautiful river (New, I think). Cliffs at my right so
high I cannot see the top from the car windows.
There are 12 cars and frequently the engine is out of view
around the curve because of cliffs that jut out. Now at
Walton Ia. and some passengers get off. We follow the
course of the river about as large as Mackinac.
There goes a woman with a wash tub over her head and
a bucket in one arm. - wash day I presume.
The country seems more open but in the distance is the
high and long range of hills. Now we are nearing Roanoke
where I change. Perhaps I will get home before this does
but it will give a little idea of reality. Some women near
me are coughing. Now at Roanoke a city of considerable size
& center for the N. W. Change of station. I get a sandwich for 15¢.
Trains are standing here. The special goodtype and kitchen are going on.
In front end of coach in large letters is the word "White".
Colored folk may not enter I wonder that they did not
challenge me. The new boy is calling "cherries, nabiscoes etc."
Train is full. Now we go again. There is quite an expanse
fairly level land with poor looking soil reddish clay mingled
with gravel. Both to right and left are the mountains
covered with shrubs and evergreen. They look mighty rough.
Here is a large Cooper factory at Cloverdale.

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Several log houses. This soil is finer than Tick Ridge. Trumbull, an old Colonial house stands near station. Thousands of Xmas trees, 65 years ago detachments of contending armies were sweeping over this territory. Arcadia is about as big as Plainville, but the scenery surrounding it is now no more along at base of mountain, steep and great rocks jutting out. An old gentleman in front of me has attracted the attention of a little girl with her writing tablet and they are having a great time. Now we are following the course of the James River, reminding me of course of James River at Natural Bridge. Here is a range of what appears to be almost solid rock now within a few ft of water's edge of James River. Here a fine field of wheat ripening. Here is a concrete dam, making a beautiful body of water. Still cloudy and fog rising. Now at Berena Vista, Raining some now. Tops of mts in distance are hidden by the fog. This train is about like the N. & W. in this, the same characteristic whistle. We now come into a beautiful plain with the mts far in the distance. There are some beautiful farms with orchards, splendid houses and great barns. Here is a flock of sheep the first I have seen. Plenty of birds here. A wonderful orchard. Now at Waynesburg, quite a little city. Another R.R. crosses overhead. E & W at Cremona is a firm named Harris. Sell farm implements. Loge is Harriettos which consists of a little station house. Now we come to the Shenandoah River and soon we reach Elkton. If you can't read this perhaps I can interpret it. Mrs Maiden met me at Elkton now in Harriettos.

at this point the river is a little larger than Hooking.
Now at New market and we come to the scene of many of
historical incidents. On the dome of the station are words, white
Colored - Here Gen Early's army camped after Sheridan
turned on him at the battle of Cedar Creek - which
Uncle Geo Harris participated. Both armies marched
up and down the valley the Massanutten peak was used as
a signal station. From just West of Harrisonburg the
Lincoln moved to Kentucky, for near Staeburg
where Gen Banks' line was cut by the Confederates. The
remains of the earth work are still visible. Though

this section Lee's army marched on the way to fatal
Gettysburg. Now at Prodetook. The station is built of
beautiful limestone with which this community abounds.
at Staeburg we change to B & O, for Harper Ferry.
The train turned on the G. & O. I seem to be going
South. Have not seen the Sun since I left Wheeling
but presume it is still there. Now the mts appear
in the distance. Now at Cedar Creek. There are monuments
here marking the scenes of carnage. The preacher
points out the battle field where Uncle Geo was.
He showed me the house of Sheridan's headquarters. The
traheman was reared in this valley. It was the home
of Dr Frank Jones, Frankham, Benton, etc.
I see several stone fences and I can understand why
an army liked to get behind a stone fence.

Winchester where Sheridan's army was surprised and routed
was Gen Braddock's & Wash Giv's headquarters.

There are many orchards here. Kernstown where
a severe little battle was fought. Station at Winchester
is built of stone. The limestone soil produces good blue
grass. One sees many old Colonial homes. Some fields are
so stony & barren they never have been plowed.
This is a high train. The engine is attached to this coach so I
am pretty close to the engine.

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There is a flock of turkey buzzards
 now at Summit Point W. Va. Here is a very old stone
 barn, a boy comes bounding out to examine the engine
 now at Charles Town, where John Brown was imprisoned
 tried and executed. Gen Chas Lee and Gen Gates lived
 here. Polly Madison was married here. Our engine has
 left in ^{fareport} here a boy comes leading a little dog with a
 chain, a greasy looking negro with hands in pockets
 is tracing up a post of the station. Our engine comes
 back and on we go. Now at Halltown, now at Willsville
 where we come into full view again of the Shenandoah
 River. Only 4 miles to Harper Ferry, where John Brown
 made his raid. The R.R. is right by the river's edge,
 very stony and the mts come right down to
 now. At Harper Ferry I have a little over an hour so I
 get ticket then not seeing a guide I walked half way to the Jno
 Brown St. & Store School. ^{At the} I fell down the door with ladder
 I reached rock and went to Jefferson Rock then got some sand
 inches or more to train at the station are labels concerning
 John Brown also a large tablet which shows the site of the
 U.S. Arsenal which Brown captured. I feel like saying
 "John Brown's body lies mouldering in the tomb etc"
 Now we start with the bluffs of Harper Ferry at left and the
 beautiful Potomac at right. The conductor is folly and tells
 me I can go via Pittsburgh or Grafton as I choose and get
 to Cole on same train Martinsburg a city of 18000, and rough
 come into more level country for a while but off to the south
 is a range of mts. I get cup of coffee and eat the two

present cheese sandwiches. The limestone continues, splendid
orchards, cloudy skies. Although it is December day I have
seen no signs of it except a few tourist machines passing
through Harper's Ferry. This is a good train about 45 feet per
Coach about full. But so far nice I left Cole I have had seat
alone. We go through deep cut. Here we come to Potomac again.
Several children with their dollies remind me of old days.
Splendid to look out on the river on right, rocky bluffs on
left. The strata in rocks are almost perpendicular.
Christmas trees by the thousands. I can see one engine quite
frequently. A great concrete wall on left to hold the bluffs
for a long way or follow the river's edge. Now at "Law Law"
Some get off, others get on. Now at Green Spring. Now we come to
Cumberland Md. We have crossed the Potomac into Md. This
is quite a R.R. center. Now we follow along N. bank of Potomac
Now the mts like great paddles of the Gods, covered with thick
foliage. The cliffs beyond river are much like the Palisades
from Piedmont to Mount Park Hotel 20 miles. The grade 1554 ft
Now at Keyser nestled among the mts. Now at Piedmont 2:30 P.M.
quite a place where some Civil War activities took place. We may
begin to climb the Alleghenies. and the engine is saying "think
I can" pretty lightly. The river here is rocky and swift and
soon we leave it having followed its course about 130 mi.
Away ahead on the mt side I see the tracks over which
we are to go. The cliff on left is perhaps 100 ft perpendicular.
On right we look down upon the trees far below. There are 3 tracks
all the way. There is a watchman to note if anything rolls down on
the tracks. A great spring gushes out of the mt side. Now we
are coasting. Really the steam is showing about half her strength.
now we are getting away from the mt range and a wonderful agreement
sectors opens up.

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Now we go up grade again to
 Terra Alta 2500 ft and then begin to coast again.
 This certainly is wonderful! Looking ahead I can see
 almost a steep grade with three tracks. We meet a coal
 train with two great engines pushing to help the third one.
 I have noted several overhead P.R. crossing our tracks and several
 of these tunnel right into the mt. They have some powerful
 engines to climb the mt. cliffs cliffs perpendicular and
 high. Now we dart into a long tunnel. There is another long
 side of this. Change at Gafters. Train crowded so I give
 my seat to lady. ^{at Gafters} follow course of Tiger Valley River
 clear, part of it very stony and swift, wonderful scenery
 This river joins with another branch just above Farmmont
 to form the Monongahela river. At Farmmont we leave
 the river and dart into the hills, tunnels, bridge, cuts
 and fills. We go up alongside a little creek where
 there are mines, some agriculture. Here and there are
 little huts where it would seem people dig in almost
 degradation. The conductor is fully and hails me as he
 a drunk station is in seat back of me vomiting and
 snoring. The conductor came along and said "John
 you're on the wrong train you must get off at next
 stop." As we passed thru Farmmont I thought of Sam
 and John. Mines, abandoned coke ovens