



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.

**Rev. E. W. BEDINGER,**

**Anchorage,**

**Ky.**

RECEIVED from E. W. BEDINGER, Treasurer  
of the Evangelistic Fund of the Synod of Kentucky

*Fifty*

100 Dollars.

*On account*

Amount of appropriation for

*the 14*

*year*

ending

*Dec 31 '92*

*Feb 11*

189*3*

*check just rec'd*

*J. E. Stevenson*





**Rev. E. W. BEDINGER,**

**Anchorage,**

**Ky.**

RECEIVED from E. W. BEDINGER, Treasurer  
of the Evangelistic Fund of the Synod of Kentucky

Twenty five  $\frac{X}{100}$  Dollars.

On account Amount of appropriation for the quarter

year ending Decr 31<sup>st</sup> 1892

Feby 1 1893

J. E. Stevenson





NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D.D.  
Anchorage  
Ky

Dec 12/92

Hazard, Perry Co., Ky, 12, 12, 1892

Dear Dr. Deinger:

Since writing you a few days ago I have succeeded in having the location for the church here changed so as to face a street at the side of Court House and hope we have gotten rid of the Masonic Hall idea on top. That was Dr. Mickel's proposal they tell me, altho' what he had to do with the building of the church here when he is teaching school in Jackson is more than I can tell. Today the contract was made for the foundation sills and I will push work as fast as possible now altho' that may mean most of my time in Hazard instead of only half.

Yours D. E. Stevenson





NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.

**Rev. E. W. BEDINGER,**

**Anchorage,**

**Ky.**

RECEIVED from E. W. BEDINGER, Treasurer  
of the Evangelistic Fund of the 'Synod of Kentucky

Eighty  $\frac{x}{100}$  Dollars.

Amount of appropriation for the two

months ending Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 1892

Oct 24 1892

J. E. Stevenson



POSTAL CARD ONE CENT.

Nov 24/92

United States of America



THIS SIDE IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY.



Rev. E. W. Redinger D.D.  
Anchorage  
Ky

Whitesburg, Nov. 24, 1892

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D.D.

Anchorage, Ky-

Dear Sir: I am just back home from delivering the first Thanksgiving sermon ever preached in Whitesburg or Letcher Co. That is three firsts for our Church = 1. The first union service with any other denomination last Sept. 2. The first union prayer meeting (or any other sort) where laymen took part. 3. First Thanksgiving Judge Lillie adjourned Circuit Ct. at my request, Rev. Nelson of M.E. Ch. South assisted at service. Have been busy ever since my return and go to Hazard next week. Adieu me at Whitesburg

Yours + J. E. Stevenson



Whitesburg, Letcher Co. Ky.

August 29, 1892

Rev. E. M. Bedinger, D.D.

Anchorage, Ky.

Very dear Sir: Your favor of 25<sup>th</sup> with enclosure received on Saturday night. Please accept thanks for same. As I wrote you some days ago, your nephew Rev. E. H. P. of Highlands, Newport, Ky - is here with Rev. W. W. McClure on behalf of the Methodist Ch. South and Rev. Mitchell, of Covington is looked for tomorrow. Mr. Bedinger has preached twice per day gospel sermons, they are trying to work up an excitement; have not done so yet. The attendance to date, Wed. eve. 51, Thure. morn. 50; Frid. morn. 27; Sat. morn. 29; " eve. 44; " eve. 51; " eve 53;



Sund. eve. 61. Yesterday (Sunday) morning  
I do not know, as I held services both  
morning and afternoon at Colley School  
house to good audiences. Colley is six  
miles from town and I walked in  
and out. So far there has been no  
results from the Methodist efforts.

I was told last night by Mr. Adams  
(the Presby.) that if the Presbyterians  
(north or south) built a church here  
that his brother-in-law, Mr. Jno. Craft  
would join it. That he Craft's only dif-  
ferences with us are immersion, and by  
the work of Dr. Hendricks he has come to  
point of saying the English Bible don't say how  
Christ was baptized, and he doesn't understand  
Greek, and close communion and he is  
shaky about that. Mr. Craft is a prominent  
Hard Shell (Liberal wing) Baptist preacher!

I don't know Mr. Neville, of Frank-  
fort, but will take him on your recom-  
mendation and be glad to see him too,  
have just written to him -  
yours to  
J. E. Stevenson





Rev. E. W. Redinger d.d.  
Anchorage  
Ky

REV. J. E. STEVENSON, B. L.,  
EVANGELIST OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
PERRY COUNTY, KY.

Hazard, Ky., Dec'r 7<sup>th</sup> 1892

Rev. E. W. Pedinger, D.D.

Anchorage, Ky.

Dear Dr.: After a dozen disappointments and over a weeks delay I at last obtained a horse to come here from Whitesburg from the Methodist minister at that point Rev. J. R. Nelson. Leaving Whitesburg about noon Monday I rode 22 miles and stopped for the night and early yesterday came the remaining 15 into Hazard, arriving about noon. I have consequently been here just about 24 hours and all my impressions of place and people are of course hasty and crude, but here they are for what they are worth - subject of course to future modification.

Hazard has naturally a more beautiful and picturesque situation than either Jackson, Hindman, or Whitesburg. There is too, an air of push and life and go-a-head-iveness which is lacking in



the others, or at least the two last named. The people are better dressed and seem of a better type intellectually, although I have found many a bright mind in Letcher and other mountain counties under a rough exterior and torn coat. The difference is most apparent in the women and children, they do not seem to have so much of that prematurely old, weazen, faded out look and have the appearance of taking life more easily.

I went to the hotel of Dr. W. T. Wilson an elder in the Presbyterian Church here and he seemed to be expecting me, took me to a room, made fire &c and then requested me to preach last night in the Court House. I was very tired but consented to do so, and spoke to a very fair sized (and attentive) audience considering the very short notice of the service. Just before church I called on Judge Josiah Combs, another of the elders of the church, and this morning on Mr. Jerry McIntosh, the other elder, and also at home of Mrs. Sue Eversole



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mother of Jno. B. Everole, the deacon of the church who is away at school.

I have tried in vain so far, to find out who is clerk of the session or who has the roll of membership, or even to ascertain their names. After most persistent and diligent inquiry have succeeded in getting names of 27 out of the 61 members. There are a number however, who live on Big Creek four or five miles in the country, so far, to my knowledge I have met personally eight (8) out of the 27 whose names I have.

There has been absolutely nothing done since Mr. Sawyers left here toward the church building and all he and Jno. Everole (who is also away) did was to haul a few rock. This work needs to be pushed vigorously but nothing practical can be done until a new saw mill is set up in town, the one now here is totally inadequate in power to saw



lumber required for a church and besides its boiler is in so dangerous condition as to make it impossible to run it even to its capacity. I am told a new saw and planing mill is promised here in a week or ten days. The oak timber is on the mountain side directly across the river, and the poplar, and the rock but a short distance away so the amount of hauling to do is insignificant. They tell me a couple of good hands can cut enough timber for the building in one day and all the material could be put on the ground in a week if they would only get at it. There seems to be difference of opinion as to whether a Masonic Hall should be built as a second story or not. I am personally decidedly opposed to having a building anything else than a church. What does your Com. say? I find the same difference of opinion as to the desirability of the site chosen by Dr. Guerrant. He selected the most unsightly and unsuitable place on the whole knoll behind and above the town that could be chosen -



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It is immediately back of the Court House and cannot be seen from the main street until you reach a cross street below it; is on a steep place that will require a decided change of grade to render it accessible and much digging to lay your foundations, and will be always muddy and slippery in bad weather; it is right in front of the town cemetery and while I am by no means afraid of ghosts I do not fancy such uncanny neighbors peering ever into my windows as white tombstones. Besides it looks too much as if Presbyterianism was dead and you had brought it up on this hillside to bury it. If ever it should become desirable to build a manse or enlarge the church itself there is no room on this lot. A few hundred yards beyond on the same knoll is as beautiful a site as can be found and



as it all belongs to Judge Combs the place may yet be changed. His daughter (Mrs. Eversole) told me the Methodist Church was begun last June but only the framework is up. If they work on it as they were doing yesterday it may be finished A.D. 2000 but not much earlier.

I shall try and push the Presbyterian church as rapidly as possible and so far as I can give my personal attention to it.

They have a so-called Union Prayer-meeting on Wednesday nights and the same sort of Sunday School, the Methodist element being predominant in both. Can you not suggest some way to change this? The same inquiry made concerning Sun-School literature for Letcher Co, is pertinent to Perry also.

The people seem well disposed and I believe will work to build up our church, but there is still an undercurrent of uneasiness and apprehension and but a very slight spark will be needed to re-kindle the French-Eversole war into a fiercer flame than before. It is the current opinion that Rob



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May, whom I know personally and who now lives at Hindman, will some day when he is about two drinks ahead kill French, who is now living in Winchester and it will depend just how it is done as to whether it will start a general fight again or not. Bob May was really, so his own friends say, the real cause of the whole trouble before. He was a clerk in French's store and his friend and lived in a small house at the side of the store. His (May's) wife was a Miss Georgie Vermillion and said to be young and handsome. May went off on a collection tour for French and asked him as his friend to see after Mrs. May's welfare which he promised to do. Rumor had it that in May's absence his wife and French became too intimate, and before he reached Hazard he heard the reports and swore he would



kill French on sight. Sometime before Mr. Jos. Eversole, the leading lawyer of Hazard, and French had a difficulty but nothing serious came of it. Bob May now goes to Eversole, tells him his grievance, offers his services, and also brings a man who says French had hired him to kill Eversole for \$500 and Campbell, his brother-in-law I believe, for \$200, and then the war began. May and Campbell collected a posse as friends of Eversole, and one Sunday afternoon (this part May himself told me) surrounded French and 16 men in a frame house in Hazard and held them there, (killing one man) from 2 p.m. to dark. They were just ready to fire the next building and burn them up or shoot them as they attempted to escape when Eversole came up from church down the river 6 or 8 miles, and refused to let May & Campbell harm French or his men. On Monday a compromise of all difficulties between French and Eversole was made and in less than a week after, early in April Eversole was waylaid and assassinated. Campbell followed in August, and a general war resulted.

But I have written so much I must close. I shall stay here about two weeks. Yours &c J. E. Stevenson



REV. J. E. STEVENSON, B. L.,  
EVANGELIST OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
PERRY COUNTY, KY.

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P.S. After I had sealed up this letter Dr. Wilson wanted to know if it would be possible to get some one here to hold a series of meetings at the Xmas holidays, say to begin a few days before and running thro' the holiday season, I told him I would write you and see if you felt like coming. His idea seemed to be to have a religious meeting anticipate the usual frolicing of the holiday season. I do not know the situation well enough to advise anything one way or other in the premises. It would be well however, I believe, after this conversation with him for you to come up here or send some other member of the Com. authorized to speak for it before work is begun on the church building -



While I appreciate Dr. Guerrant's work here and elsewhere and feel most kindly toward him, I am perfectly well satisfied there will be trouble over it if they press the Masonic Hall project and Judge Coube is the man who is most urgent as to that. And as I said in the body of this letter the proposed site is unfit for the purpose and I cannot see why a momentary whim of Dr. Guerrant in selecting it ought to put everybody who must live here and go to the Church while he is miles away and has forgotten all about the place he chose, to inconvenience and unnecessary expense. They tell me to use the place chosen will require the erection of a high stone wall almost a full story in front as they do not wish to dig down to a level for a foundation. This will increase the expense fully one third over what is necessary. I am sure before they are done paying for it the Committee will be appealed to pay for part of it as they do not hesitate even now to say many of the subscribers will never pay, and we ought certainly to have some voice in the matter. Your J. E. S.



P.S. For the present at least I will have regular appointments as follows, viz: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup> P. C. NAPIER & CO., SUNDAYS each month Whitesburg & Letcher County DEALERS IN—3<sup>d</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Hazard and Big Creek -

## GENERAL MERCHANDISE,

You can direct letters accordingly. I wrote Bro. Weirille of Frankfort about coming up here in Jan'y but have not heard from him. The mail is very irregular and uncertain - a number of my letters have miscarried and my last from Cythiana came via Louisville - Hazard, Ky. Dec'r 22 1892

Rev. E. W. Redinger D.D.

Anchorage, Ky.

Dear Dr. Your favor 17<sup>th</sup> inst came to hand on last night's mail and contents noted. I expect to leave for Whitesburg today unless prevented by weather, to spend the holidays. I have been in Hazard a little over two weeks, have visited most of the people in town, conducted a funeral service of a young woman who died from childbirth after an illness of five weeks; when I first saw her three days before her death she was delirious and remained so until her death. Col. Salyers (her husband) is a lawyer and a Methodist but she did not belong to any church, she was Col. S. third wife, and had six other services. The weather for about half the time has rendered getting about impossible and these people are wild over Christmas - it seems to be a drunken, noisy, shooting, howling carousal with most of them in advance of the day, what it will be then I do not try to imagine.

I think the Presbyterian Church will be built very near the place chosen by Dr. Guerrant but immediately facing a street leading down at the side of Court House to the Main Street. The contract for hewing out the sills for the foundation 8 pcs. 22½ ft long each and 4 pcs. 15 ft long each = 310' x 745'



It was given to a colored man Wm Buck, said to be very good workman and reliable, for \$8<sup>00</sup>. One of the church members here will work out his subscription by cutting the sleepers, and another by getting the foundation in place. Judge Combs - an elder - will do the hauling of rock (already quarried) for foundation and will have timber cut for saw mill. We can get no money on subscriptions until foundation is in then 1/3 is due. After the hauling and sills had been contracted for and I supposed everything was going on smoothly I was told they refused to work unless pay was guaranteed in cash, I advanced myself \$10 for this purpose - proof enough I hope that I am in earnest in pushing the church. I have also sent to Cincinnati for a book of plans of Churches costing from \$500 to \$1000 to see if they can't get something better than a square box for the same money. I shall not agree to any extravagant expenditure but do not see how we can build and furnish house under \$1000 but will try to get it inside \$750 if possible. The subscription list amounts to \$688 but I think - judging by experience with other subscriptions I have known, that does not mean over \$500 goods if that much. The church membership here in Hazard is weak in more ways than one. Think of out of 34 in all of having 4 young men away at school, 1 man "hiding out in the timber" and 1 in jail <sup>here</sup> under indictment for murder, 1 Ruling Elder under indictment for manslaughter but out on bail, 1 man who has deserted his family and left for parts unknown, 1 woman a prostitute and left town for none know where, 1 man in jail in Louisville for killing revenue officer and his sister tells me will go to Penitentiary for long term his own lawyers say, 1 Ruling Elder who was drunk and swore at the last political convention, 1 private member who is said to be drunk most of the time, 1 woman no one seems to know at all, 8 married women or widows, 6 young men and women, 7 boys and girls 3 men! So not that an aggregation from which to expect much? What the 23 others on Big Creek are I have not yet learned. I hope your appeal for finances will be speedily & liberally answered particularly as my funds are daily growing smaller and beautiful here and I had hoped you would have been able to have paid Nov. & Dec. early in January and kept me straight - Wishing you a merry Xmas I am Yours Truly J. E. Steubson



REV. J. E. STEVENSON, B. L.,  
Evangelist of Presbyterian Church,  
HAZARD, - - KENTUCKY.

Membership in  
Hazard

Whitishmy

Dec 22, 1892

Rev. E. W. Redinger D.D.

Anchorage

N.Y.



REV. J. E. STEVENSON, B. L.,  
EVANGELIST OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
LETCHER COUNTY, KY.

Whitesburg, Ky., December 2 1892

Rev. E. W. Redinger, D.D.

Chairman Ev. Com. Anchorage, Ky.

My Dear Sir: Returning to my work in Letcher Co. early in November I found that there was the usual reaction from the tense strain following the extraordinary efforts last summer of the Presbyterian Church (North and South) and the Methodist Church in this community, which succeeded in stirring up the people generally and the Hard Shell Baptists particularly until they found it necessary to import some preachers themselves from Virginia for the purpose of holding their own lines from insubordination in their ranks upon the question of man's freedom of will and a salvation broader than the narrow bounds of "the elect" Hard Shells. In addition to this was the excitement of the presidential election, rendered all the greater by local questions and tickets; one thing being the proposed removal of the County seat up the river. These questions filled the minds of everyone and in some cases caused bitterness and strife that will



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require a long time to heal. The election was hardly over when the Circuit Court began and is still in session. The docket was full, and between lawyers and witnesses and grand and petit jurors almost every man in the county has been here. There has been a great deal of "moonshine" drunk but so far no serious disorder. In consequence of these things and the further fact of cold weather, the attendance at preaching services has fallen off somewhat. I am glad to say however, the Wednesday night prayer meeting still successfully holds its ground. It has from the very start been popular with the young people and attendance has averaged at least 25% of the entire population of Whitesburg, men, women and children; some good work in prayer, leadership and song has been done too by these young people themselves, and when I proposed to organize it not one of them had ever taken an active part in any meeting and everyone said the second meeting would be a failure! I had sufficient influence to get Judge Lillie and the gentlemen of the bar to adjourn Circuit Court over Thanksgiving Day a thing heretofore unheard of in Letcher Co., and had the honor to deliver the first Thanksgiving sermon ever preached in this county which is almost fifty years old! So upon the whole I think we can say we have fairly held our own in this place. But everything moves so slowly that



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you cannot put your hands on any tangible results as yet, altho' I have not lost faith that the ultimate outcome will be to win Letcher Co. for Christ and Presbyterianism to a large degree.

About the middle of November, Mr. E. S. Roswell, Visitor of Eastern District of the Ky. Sunday School Union was here and appointed a County Committee for work in the Sunday School cause and insisted upon my acceptance of the Chairmanship. It was with considerable reluctance I consented, but believe now God will over-rule it to my own and our church's advantage. I requested the County School Supt, Mr. Jas. P. Lewis to let me have the names of all the children in the County enrolled in the limits of School age in order that I might have something to guide me in this Sunday School work. Mr. Lewis has been very friendly toward me ever since I attended and took part in his Teacher's County Institute last summer and readily



agreed to give me the list, which I hope to have in a few days. I had another object also in wanting these names. It occurred to me here was the material on which Presby. Ch. must work for next ten years at least - those between 6 and 21 and it would help to know who they were and where they lived. I know of two (2) places where almost to a certainty Sunday Schools will be organized in the County between this and spring, and have in mind two (2) other points where I believe the same thing can be done. Now while all four will be nominal Union or inter-denominational schools I believe they can be practically converted into Presbyterian ones by the introduction of our literature. The people in this county are poor and have never been educated up to giving to religious things and someone will have to start them on their supply of literature why not our church and indoctrinate them from the start? Is there any way in which I could get such supplies? I believe it would help build up our church and be of material assistance in our future work. How do you regard the matter? I have said nothing about it to anyone here. I had hoped to go to Hazard this week but was unable to get a horse, but have the promise of one and company for Monday. If I can get it will go then.

Very Truly Yours J. C. Stevenson

Whitesboro



REV. J. E. STEVENSON, B. L.,  
Evangelist of Presbyterian Church,  
WHITESBURG, - KENTUCKY.

*Dec 3  
1892*



*Ans'd Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 92*

Rev. E. W. Pedinger D.D.  
Anchorage  
Ky





502 West Seventh St  
Cincinnati, O. Oct 28

Rev. E. W. Bedinger D.D.  
Anchorage, Ky

Dear Sir & Bro: Your letter  
enclosing check for \$80  
balance due me, was  
handed to me last night  
on my return from Lexing-  
ton, where I had gone  
over Sunday to preach  
for our friend, Rev. C. J.  
Thomson. Please accept  
thanks for same.



I had hoped if the  
Ev. Com. decided I  
was to take both Perry  
and Letcher Counties  
they would have fixed  
the salary at \$700 as  
it will cost about  
that to keep up at both  
places and the work  
is more difficult than  
that at Jackson and the  
Breathitt Co. churches  
where the salary is \$800.  
But you wrote before:

The Committee met and did not  
know what their action would be.  
I shall return to the mountains  
about November first - if I am to go  
at all - as I wish to take advan-  
tage of favorable weather to get there,  
hoping for greater blessing than in  
visiting for greater blessing than in  
during this year on the branch of the  
Lord's work. I am truly yours  
D. Stevenson

J. E. Stevenson  
Ansd Oct - 26. '92

go to Perry & Sletcher Co

Salary \$6.00.

Stevenson  
Wahington

Oct 25, 1892



Rev. E. W. Pedinger  
Anchorage  
Ky



8th 2, '92

Whitesburg, Ky. 9. 2. 1892  
Rev. E. Guerrant, D.D.  
Hazard, Perry Co. Ky.

Dear Bro: Your postal of Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> and also one from Mr. Sawyers were handed to me together late tonight by the Postmaster who had overlooked them when distributing the mail at 6 o'clock.

I had expected to remain here until about Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> next. Dr. Redinger has several times written asking me to remain permanently in this work - or at least through the coming year, and once spoke of my work, if I so decided, as being in Perry as well as Letcher County. I have not yet replied what I

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will do in the matter.  
Now as to your request that I come at once to Hazard for a month or two, I can only say that I have a letter from Rev. Dr. E. M. Sedinger under date Aug't 25, 1892 saying, "I have secured the help of Rev. M. G. Neville of Frankfort, Ky. who will go to Letcher Co just after the 1<sup>st</sup> Sab. of Sept. and can stay 10 or 12 days." As Sunday next is "the 1<sup>st</sup> Sab. of Sept." and as I do not know just when next week Mr. Neville expects to come I do not see how I could come to Perry Co. at once. I think I ought to be here to meet Mr. Neville. If after his arrival it seems best for me to go over to Hazard I might be willing to do so for a time in "important work" whether I finally determine to

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I remain through the winter or not. This is all I can say tonight.

I thank God, and congratulate you on the success of your efforts in Hazard.  
Please tell Mr. Sawyers the contents of this and ask him to accept it as an answer to his card also.

Yours Truly  
J. C. Stevenson



And now as to my own affairs.  
On Saturday night I received a  
letter from Rev. W. J. Neville of  
Frankfort, saying his Presbytery met  
on 13<sup>th</sup> and he could not come until  
after that date and said he would be  
on hand on Thursday, Sept. 22 ready  
to commence a meeting.

On Friday evening I had received a  
postal card from Rev. Dr. Guerrant  
dated Hazard, Perry Co. 29<sup>th</sup> Augt  
as follows: "Dear Bro. Are you at  
Whitesburg yet? How long will you re-  
main? Could you spend a month or  
two here in very important work?  
Ist have joined the church here in a  
week. Please answer at once." By same  
mail came a similar card from Mr.  
Sawyers. I answered Dr. Guerrant by  
Saturday morning mail that I had  
agreed to stay here until about Oct 1<sup>st</sup>  
that I had a few days ago rec'd  
a letter from you telling me Mr. Neville

Whitesburg, Letcher Co. Ky  
Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> 1892

Rev. E. M. Bedinger, D.D.  
Anchorage, Ky.

My Dear Dr.: The meeting conducted  
by our Methodist brethren closed last  
night. Mr. Mitchell failed to come and  
so the entire burden fell upon your nephew,  
Rev. H. E. Bedinger, of the Highlands, Newport,  
and old Bro. W. W. McClure who has charge  
here and at Hindman. I have quite fallen  
in love with Mr. Bedinger and regretted  
very much to say "good bye" this morning  
when he left for Conference at Middle-  
boro'. During the entire meeting of 12  
days not a word was said that any  
Presbyterians could not cheerfully assent  
to; it was a call on sinners to repent  
and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and

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then obey His command by confessing Him before men by joining any evangelical Protestant Church where they could be happiest, most content and the most useful Christian men or women. This being the case I have not hesitated to accept the invitation of these brethren to take part in each of their services (25 in number) and to preach one sermon for them. The sum total of persons present at these various services was about 1400. As to results, the Methodist Church here which had fallen into "innocuous desuetude" was to some slight extent revived; three members were received from other churches or rather two who had taken their letter from this church sometime ago returned them and the other was a lady transferred from the Pikeville Church, and three persons, two young men and a married lady received upon profession of their faith, the lady being baptized by

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sprinkling and one of the young men by immersion, the other had been a member before but had "fallen from grace." In addition to this an interest was awakened in the mind of several others (mostly those whose religious influences had been heard Shell Baptists heretofore), which I sincerely hope may yet result in their conversion. During the last week we agreed to pray at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily, and at their farewell meeting last night I had the honor to propose a Wednesday night prayer meeting of all Christians of whatever denomination. There hasn't been a public prayer-meeting here for at least two years; is it any wonder God hasn't done anything for them? I hope my action in joining with these Christian brethren of the Methodist Church in this meeting will meet your own and the Committee's approval, but if it does not, I have no apologies to make for trying to thus advance Christ's cause and kingdom.



for me to postpone my going home until December for the holidays instead of in October. If I do so stay what about this Hazard work? I imagined that Dr. Guerrant has or will organize a church there and I supposed he wanted to put me in charge of it. I am still of opinion that while Whitesburg and Fletcher Cos. is one of the hardest fields in Kentucky to work in that some day with persistent effort and by the right man a good Presbyterian church can be built up here. It will take time and hard work before results are visible however. Now Hazard and Whitesburg are 40 miles apart, over a road having much water on it and hard, consequently, to travel in bad weather, but one man might look after both places by giving half of the month to each by regular appointments. But anyone who remains here

would come here immediately after the Sabbath of Sept. (yesterday) and I looked for him this week to stay 10 or 12 days. That if after he came it seemed then desirable for me to go to Hazard I might be willing to do so. The next morning came Mr. Neville's letter as above.

Now I had intended to leave here on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> to reach Broadwell on 29<sup>th</sup> night or 28<sup>th</sup> to attend meeting of West Lexington Presbytery within whose bounds I belong, but were Mr. Neville to come on 22<sup>nd</sup> or I to go to Hazard for any length of time I could not do this.

My own judgment is that Mr. Neville would do better to come a few days later, sometime in October than the date he has chosen and which I understand from his letter has been approved by you, for this reason: These people are now in the midst of a political contest for nominations to various offices, the nomination will

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be tantamount to election here and all that will be over before Oct. Many men are scouring the country and drinking a good deal of whisky on this behalf just now. Another reason is that this whole country side turns out to "funeral preaching" and on next Saturday and Sunday there is the funeral preaching of Mr. Cornett, an old and highly respected citizen, at Sand Lick Baptist Church 1/4 mile from town. On the following Saturday and Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> inst., the Baptist Association meets on Mill Stone Creek 6 or 8 miles from here, and on the next Saturday and Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> another funeral, that of Mrs. Adams whose connection is a large and important one, and one of whose daughters (Mrs. S. C. Tyree) and two of whose sons - one a prominent lawyer and the other ex-Postmaster, are among the persons most deeply interested in this Methodist

meeting just closed, but who did not make up their minds to profess Christ and join any church. I am satisfied from personal conversations that they will not be Baptists, and in my mind the question is Presbyterian or Methodist, which? Mr. Neville if he came at the date named by him, Sept. 22<sup>d</sup> would miss these people entirely as they would be in attendance at the funeral services.

I have written thus fully to let you know just the situation and to submit the whole matter to you for you to determine, I to abide by your decision.

If I finally determine to stay in this work I believe that I ought to be ordained to it and yet it might be much better to wait under all the circumstances until the Spring meeting of West Lexington Presbytery before doing so, and



permanently<sup>9</sup> must own a horse  
and keep it. They charge \$1 per  
day at the lowest for horse hire  
here. A good, serviceable horse costs  
\$100 and from \$150 to \$200 accord-  
ing to cost of feed, to keep per year.  
The two stations are a long way  
apart with hard riding between; one  
must have a boarding place at each  
end and consequently increase ex-  
penses. My board has cost me this  
summer \$3<sup>50</sup> per week and has  
gone on whether I was here or not.  
Of course anyone in this work,  
in one sense, ought not to allow such  
questions as these to intrude upon him  
but I really do not see how a person  
could buy a horse, keep it, board  
and clothe himself on the salary  
you have paid me for summer  
work. While you said nothing in  
regard to this matter when you  
asked me to consider the question  
of my staying permanently at this



1881  
5 Apr

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point and taking charge of the work in Perry and Letcher Counties I took for granted you had considered these things and would act accordingly if I agreed to stay.

I wish you would answer this letter at your earliest convenience and advise me 1<sup>st</sup> What to do about Mr. Neville's meeting?

2<sup>d</sup> What am I to do in the matter of Dr. Guerrant's request for me to come at once and remain a month or so at Hazard?

3<sup>d</sup> If I decide to remain in this work permanently, had or not my ordination best be postponed until Spring or take place at meeting of W. Lex. Presby beginning on 27<sup>th</sup> inst.?

4<sup>th</sup> If I decide to remain in the work just what will be expected to do and what will be salary &c as near as you can say? <sup>By so answering</sup> you will oblige yours &c  
J. E. Stevenson





NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS TO BE ON THIS SIDE.

**Rev. E. W. BEDINGER,**

**Anchorage,**

**Ky.**

RECEIVED from E. W. BEDINGER, Treasurer  
of the Evangelistic Fund of the Synod of Kentucky

*One Hundred & Twenty five*  $\frac{x}{100}$  Dollars.

Amount of appropriation for *two & one half*  
*months* ending *Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>* 1893.

*March 11* 1893

"Many thanks" *J. E. Stevenson*



POSTAL CARD ONE CENT.

United States of America



THIS SIDE IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY.

Rev. E. W. Redinger D.D.  
Anchorage  
Ky

APR 13, 93

Whitesburg, Ky. April 13/893

Rev. E. W. Redinger D.D.

Anchorage, Ky-

Dear Dr: I beg to acknowledge  
about 1/2 hr. ago, the receipt of your  
letter of April 11, enclosing check for  
\$50<sup>00</sup> salary for month of March, 1893  
Please accept thanks for same -

Yours Truly  
J. C. Stevenson

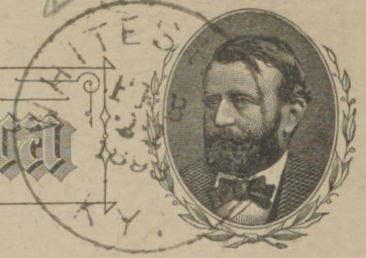


Feb. 21, 1893

POSTAL CARD ONE CENT.

United States of America

THIS SIDE IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY.



Rev. E. W. Redinger D.D.  
Chairman Syn. Ev. Com. Ky-  
Anchorage  
Ky-



Whitesburg, Ky. 2. 21. 1893

Dear Dr.

I regret exceedingly that the weather and roads have made me again break my appointment at Hazard. In Jan'y it was snow and cold, in Feb'y rain and mud making roads impassable and dangerous. You can scarcely hire a horse to go to Hazard at any time for they have the reputation of starving them and then taking them from the stable and riding them all night, and to these causes add an attack of "la grippe" and I think I have valid excuse. It was our friend Dr. E. O. Guerrant who drew up the subscription paper for Hazard church without providing any means to pay for foundation. It was myself who loaned them \$10 to get it done. This in answer to your question - I am  
hastily yours J. E. Stevenson



Whitesburg, Ky. Sept. 2/1893

Rev. E. W. Redinger, D.D.

Anchorage, Ky

My Dear Dr: Let me  
thank you for the \$50 check  
rec'd a few moments ago.

This pays my salary up to  
June 1<sup>st</sup> 1893, leaving on Sept  
1<sup>st</sup> a balance of \$150 still  
due. Please consider this  
a receipt for same.

Hoping that the financial  
outlook may speedily improve,

I am

Yours Truly  
J. C. Stewart



REV. J. E. STEVENSON, B. L.,  
EVANGELIST OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
LETCHER COUNTY, KY.

Whitesburg, Ky., Feb 1 189<sup>3</sup>

Rev. E. W. Redinger D.D.  
Anchorage, Ky.

Dear Dr. Your favor of 30<sup>th</sup> Jan'y received on the noon mail. Please accept thanks for enclosed check for \$25. I came over from Hazard, as I wrote you, at Christmas and was "snowed in" here when the third Sunday of January came and had to miss my appointments there, but I do not think much was lost as I have kept up church services, on Saturday and Sundays the Wednesday evening prayer meeting and Sunday School here in Whitesburg. For the past three weeks I have been suffering from an attack of grip and nervous prostration but have missed but one appointment - last Sunday morning - altho I have attended other services in direct defiance and violation of my physician, Dr. McCrary's - command.

I am so much afraid my work has



not been done as it should have been  
 and results are not up to what the Ev. Com.  
 expected from me that I am really ashamed  
 of myself. But I am sure of this that  
 since I came to Whitesburg the 1<sup>st</sup> July last a  
 very noticeable altho' indescribable change has  
 taken place here and all for the better. How  
 much has been due to my efforts I would  
 not be egotist enough to say even if I knew but  
 not much I'm afraid. But the result has  
 come about in some way I do know. It is  
 embarrassing always to me to write about  
 myself, I do wish either yourself or some  
 others of the Ev. Com. would come up and  
 see the situation for yourselves and help me  
 with suggestions <sup>to</sup> as to work. My congreg-  
 ation averages 25 <sup>out of a possible 125-40% effective</sup> at every service in this  
<sup>population</sup> most severe winter weather and are almost  
 without exception young people and boys and  
 girls. I thought it a compliment - I know  
 it was intended, as such, to be told a  
 few days ago that I was the only min-  
 ister of any sort who had ever been here  
 that the young people and boys and girls  
 "were not afraid of, but <sup>they</sup> felt that I was  
 their friend and understood them". Of



Whitesburg, Ky., ..... 189.....

course that was all a mistake you know, for others certainly must have had quite as strong an attractive force in their work as I have exerted.

Another thing in which I have received some credit was in a quiet but so far successful fight against granting license to sell liquor in this town and County. I was asked to prepare a "protest" to the County Court and did that. Then Atty Genl Hendricks - a good Presbyterian too you know - gave a written opinion that a special <sup>act</sup> of the Legislature would be necessary to repeal the prohibitory act of April 17, 1884, and then I prepared a Memorial to the Legislature protesting against the repeal. Thinking it best when in such a fight to use every weapon that comes handy I wrote a dozen letters on my own account to members of Legislature and friends in various parts of the State to help defeat



the efforts being made to effect the repeal of this act. I am not a third party Prohibitionist as you know, but if the Legislature repeals this and similar acts as to other mountain counties it would not take long nor require an extraordinary missionary effort to make me one!

On Jan'y, 1860 they made me Supt. of the Union Sunday School at Whitesburg. They had been using Methodist literature and when it came time for new supplies and no one else offered to put up funds I volunteered to get a supply of literature and wrote to our Dr. Hazen at Richmond Va and the "Earnest Worker" and "Pearls for Little Ones" are now in use. I reorganized the School and now have a Bible Class, Intermediate, and Primary Class, Mr. Adams (the only Presby and by the way the only male member of any church save two Hard Shell Baptist preachers in Whitesburg) has the Bible Class; Miss Ellen Long, an earnest Christian girl, member of the Methodist Church South, the Intermediate class, and Miss Louie Vermillion, the sweetest and brightest mountain girl I have met any where and one of the most devoted, earnest,



REV. J. E. STEVENSON, B. L.,  
EVANGELIST OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
LETCHER COUNTY, KY.

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P.S. Altho I have written three times to have my mail forwarded from Hazard they have never sent one thing, I never rec'd the check Jan'y 6<sup>th</sup> \$50, nor anything else from there, Please notify your Bank that my checks will come to them through The Farmer's Nat'l Bk. Cynthiana and not to pay any Whitesburg, Ky., other sort endorsed agent

loyal christians I ever knew - just now a Methodist but I think someday to be a Presbyterian - has the Primary Class. I have raised \$6.75 and a load of coal for fires, sexton &c for church and Sunday School and Prayer meeting services a thing never before attempted there. I confess I like Whitesburg and Letcher County and their people better than I do Hazard and Perry Co, and believe I can do more for and with them, but perhaps when I know the other field better my opinion as to the place, people and my own ability to deal with the problems they present may change.

What my influence in either place is I have no means of testing except by slight surface indications - and these never mean much. It is the strong under-current that flows silently albeit swiftly beneath the surface that accoun



plished the ends after all, and of it I myself can not judge.

A few moments ago I was told (I give the tale as it came to me and do not intend to say anything about it again unless it becomes an accomplished fact) that in the early Spring a new street parallel to the Main Street of town is to be opened, and as soon as this is done "if Mr. Stevenson remains here at work for the Presbyterian Church I intend to give him a lot free to put up a church house. My own sympathies are naturally with Methodists but they have a lot already paid for, and have done nothing, have not tried to, and he has been here working for the good of our people and asking nothing from them while the Methodists have done nothing for 40 years" so said Mr. Jas. P. Marrs, Ex-Cou. Atty and probably the most prominent and wealthy citizen here, my informant tells me. I hope and pray he may and that some one else will give us enough to build and then I believe we shall see the beginning of a movement that will make Letcher Co eventually Presbyterian - Yours Truly J. E. Stevenson

REV. J. E. STEVENSON, B. L.,  
Evangelist of Presbyterian Church,  
WHITESBURG, - KENTUCKY.



Rev. E. M. Bedinger D.D.  
Anchorage  
Ky.





REV. J. E. STEVENSON, B. L.,  
EVANGELIST OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
LETCHER COUNTY, KY.

Whitesburg, Ky., January 25 1893

Rev. E. W. Bedinger, D.D.

Chairman Ev. Com-  
Anchorage, Ky.

Dear Doctor; I returned here from Hazard the day before Christmas and have been weather bound ever since. I had made arrangements to be here the first and second Sundays and in Hazard the third and fourth of each month, but as the roads over the mountains were impassable and dangerous - and are so still - the January appointment at Hazard was not kept. This made but little difference over there anyhow as the weather has been unfit to work on the foundation of the church, and so far as I personally am concerned I much prefer to be in Whitesburg where I can get something to eat that I can put into my stomach beside crackers, I like them occasionally but not as a steady diet. But beyond this it seemed to me that while they treated me courteously enough after their own fashion that both socially and in the pulpit the people in



2

Hazard and I were "out of touch" in some way. I am sure I felt uncomfortable and constrained all the time I was there. Possibly when we know one another better this feeling may wear off.

As to Whitesburg I can see here in many ways that are indescribable and which one off the ground would fail to appreciate, that I have been exerting a quiet steady influence for good that is beginning to tell in the community. But I have not organized a church nor had anyone "fine the parson"—and continue on their journey to the devil as I think has been the case elsewhere. I have only had four (4) services and Sunday School each week. The Wednesday evening prayer meeting still runs and Sunday School is looking up. I have had an average of 20% of the entire population (including babes in arms) within the radius of a mile each way from town at all these services during this most severe winter weather with its ice and snow, and I doubt seriously if many Blue Grass or Louisville churches can beat that record. I have had about 25 to 30 at each preaching service and there has been no beating of tom-toms or blowing of hew-gags to get them there either, only the old orthodox gospel of Christ without any "visible admixture" of myself either.



3

Whitesburg, Ky., ..... 189.....

And while I have been here at the front doing whatever I could for the cause of Christ and our Church, I think my existence must have been forgotten at headquarters, for I have not had a cent of salary paid me since last October 1<sup>st</sup> but have been obliged to pay all my bills out of my own pocket. Fortunately or unfortunately according to the point of view I was raised to honestly pay my debts when due and to expect others to do the same, and I have not been preacher long enough, and hope I never shall be, to learn otherwise and turn dead beat and sponger. But much as I should like to be able to do this work in the mountains without asking the Ev. Cou. to pay me any salary at all I cannot afford to do so and consequently depend upon them to meet their obligations to me. I know the financial straits everyone has been in the past year for I am myself away down at the bottom of the tureen in



the soup. My experience is that if you are not a "dead beat" and beggar but pay your way like a christian gentleman should that living is more expensive here than in the Blue Grass even for what you get in the mountains to say nothing of those things you can not obtain for love or money. At any rate I cannot much longer afford to do the work and pay myself too; if it is impossible for the Presbyterian Church to keep its solemn promises to the men at the front the sooner she says so plainly the better for all concerned. If it is necessary for me to retire from this Evangelistic work please let me know it while I still have funds enough of my own left to get back home at least. I disliked (and always did) to be obliged to ask for pay for service honestly rendered but I must either get my salary or resign from this work and enter some other field of labor. I should regret more than I can express, such a necessity and hope it may not arise, and am, hoping to hear from you at an early date with check enclosed,

Yours Truly,  
J. E. Stevenson

REV. J. E. STEVENSON, B. L.,  
Evangelist of Presbyterian Church,  
WHITESBURG, - KENTUCKY.

*Ans'd + CK sent Jan 31 '93*



*Rev. E. W. Redinger D.D.  
Anchorage  
Ky*



matter. I confess to a  
feeling of complete and  
utter discouragement when  
I consider the whole situ-  
ation. I know I have done  
everything in my power  
and then to feel that I am  
deserted by both God and  
man and my work given  
over to others of another church  
makes me almost ready  
to give up the contest entirely.  
But I did not intend to  
write a complaint only a  
bit of information and to  
ask for instructions by which  
to govern my own conduct in  
the matter. Please reply to this  
Yours faithfully  
J. B. Stevenson

Whiteburg, Ky. June 26/93  
12 noon  
Dr. E. W. Redinger  
Anchorage, Ky.  
My Dear Dr: I wrote  
you this morning and sup-  
plement it with this to say  
I have just heard that  
Rev. Hyden and Rev. Mac-  
donald I believe is the latter  
of Northern Presby. Church  
are coming here to hold  
meetings sometime between  
July 12 and 18 next.  
Mr. Hyden was here  
several years ago in



charge of the Methodist Church. He went over to Presbyterian and is now a student in Danville Sem. I am told he is a fine pulpit orator but very peculiar fellow. The other man I know nothing whatever about.

What am I to do under the circumstances? It hardly seems fair for me to have been left entirely alone to work in this field by my own church all last summer,

fall, winter & spring and to be no nearer now receiving any assistance in the way of a meeting and thus to have Northern Church come in and reap all the benefits of my work if there are any. Is it not acting in bad faith on their part to come into this territory at all? We abandoned Knott County and Hindman to them last summer when Dr. J. P. Hendricks and A. D. Seelig came up and thought that County the most promising field. The Com. must determine what I am to do in this



Ans'd June 29-93



Rev. E. M. Redinger D. D.  
Anchorage  
Ky



CUN  
18  
Y.



Cincinnati, O. 12. 6. 1873  
Rev. E. W. Bedinger, D.D.  
Anchorage, Ky.  
Dear Sir <sup>and Bro:</sup>

I write to you now because I am not sure just who I should address, knowing that at Synod you retired from the Evan. Cou. and ~~the~~ <sup>my</sup> last information being that the Cou. had not yet reorganized. As you know I did not believe I could stand another winter in the mountains, and so did not return there. Since seeing you in Winchester I have been sick myself, my wife has been quite ill and one of my sisters is

and for the past month  
has been, lying at the point  
of death; the physicians  
have been in consultation and  
all agree upon the extreme  
gravity of her condition. Both  
Mrs. N. and I are better  
and I am very anxious to  
get to work once more. I would  
like a pastorate where I could  
see some results of my work.  
Meantime if it is possible  
I wish you would - if you  
are still responsible for that  
sort of thing - let me have  
the quarter's salary (\$150)  
still due me on account  
of services for July, August  
and September last. Sickness  
and expenses of living with  
nothing coming in compel  
me to make this request. If

you have turned these old  
accounts over, to whom should  
I write? As I say I hope  
and wish I may soon get  
a field and go to work, until  
I do my address will be,  
Yours &c  
J. E. Stevenson  
No 502 West 7<sup>th</sup> St  
Cincinnati, O.



Rev. J. E. Stevenson

Ans'd & ck sent Dec 12. '93

W. S. Stevenson

Whitesburg  
Dec 6, 1893



Rev. E. W. Pedinger  
Anchorage

Ky