

London Key March 5th 164

Again I am happy to find an opportunity to scribble a few lines.

We left Rock Castle River yesterday morning at 6 o'clock and arrived here at 3 P.M. when we found plenty of mud to lay in as usual but we made the march through the mud of 15 miles much easier than we expected. The day before (3rd) we were occupied nearly the whole day in getting the men and Train across the River and to the top of the hill just this side. Nearly everything on the Train had to be unloaded and carried up the hill by the men and then help the mules haul the empty waggon.

On the march of 15 miles from

the River here I saw but found
4 small log Houses with but
a little clearing round them
The natives here are making
maple sugar now but it looks
more like turp than the sugar
London Key is a small tetrapedate
Town, not as large as Brookfield
but its general appearance would
lead one to think that it was
quite a thriving Town before
the war broke out There is no
Church but ^{there} is quite a large brick
School House, which plainly
shows the marks of the soldiers
and their bullets There are two
Hotells and 4 or 5 Stores which
are only kept open by the patron-
age of soldiers stationed here and
those passing through
There has been a great deal of
bushwhacking in this section
of the Country and Earth works

are to be seen on nearly every
hill top in sight of the
Town. The men are cleaning
and fixing up today preparatory
to an early start tomorrow
morning for Sulist-Lick a
place 2 miles from here and
about half way from here to
Cumberland Gap. We probably
shall not stop long at any place
until we get to the Gap
so I cannot tell when I shall
get another opportunity of
communicating with you.
There is a P. O. here and I shall
send this tomorrow morning.
We have received no mail since
we left Point-Burnside and it
is uncertain when we shall
but hope to soon. And you
must write as soon as you
get this and direct - as
before Vra Lexington

Since being on the march
I have found out a fellow in
my Co by the name of Foaster
a recruit from Portsmouth N.H.
who has served under Capt Josh
Hickey for seven years, and is
well acquainted with Sarah, Abby
and Jim Hickey as well as G.
Murdham and Aunt Sarah, says
he understood before he left that
the latter had retired from business
says he saw Jim Hickey last
summer in N.O. but doesn't
speak very highly of him ~~and~~
He is well acquainted with Albert
Brown being 2^d Mate of the USS
when A. went to Sea. Says he was
the hardest nut of his inches
that he ever came across
He speaks very highly of Capt Hickey
and says Old Mrs H had been as
good as a mother to him, but I
must close. My health never
was better and I hope this will
find you all enjoying the same
As ever your affec^t son

C. M. Wilcox
Lieut - Cavalry Co E,
9th N.H. Vol