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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.
12 miles from Winchester
March 9th
Camp in the Woods

Dear Mother
After remaining a couple of days at Harpers ferry and doing the hardest work I ever did, unloading cars and loading canal boats, we marched out by the Winchester road, And at night We camped at this place, We passed all the troops and so were on the advance, but while stopping here other Troops were pushed ahead, but I suppose We will pass them tommorrow, this gives one Brigade time to rest while another is passing, And by Making easy marches the Armey is always fresh for action.
tomorrow we will march and camp at night and the next day we will reach Winchester. We will probably rest that night and make the attack the next day, if the place is as strong as they say it is. We will have a pretty hard fight, but we have the boys to do the work. Yesterday I got a pocket put in my jacket so that I can carry my revolver by my side and no one can see it. A tailor in my company put it in for me and made a nice job of it. You should take the papers and then you could follow up our movements. I think if the war is pushed with vigor that it out to be short, for everything is now ready, it is a curious sight to see the long line of men, wagons, and canons all moving at once.
as soon as Winchester is taken it will be in the Papers And you will know all about it,, I saw john steptoe last night He is in good spirits And thinks all is going on well,, the People about here are very ignorant And say We can not whip them. but They appear down hearted, We marched through Charlestown the band playing Hail Columbia. the People have all fled leaving their black servants to take care of Their Property but They need not be afraid for We wont injure citizens, but They think We are going to destroy all we come across,, one old Women said We had better leave the bridge up for we would want it to run over before long, but They talked that way in Tenesee [Tennessee] at first, some Prisoners we took say They are depressed And
think They will get whipped and I guess They
think [underline]right[underline]..

give My respects to all My friends,

I suppos Anah [Anna R. Fulton] and Sarah
[Sarah C. Fulton] are as [underline]Patriotic as
ever, [underline]