

you need not show this
to any body but yourselves

~~W. D. H. H.~~
Big Bottoms Nov 7/65

Dear Friends,

At this
hour, I am alone & five miles
from any inhabitants, I am
~~xxx~~ in the house ^{that} in Wilcox
that has been the home
of the boys for most
a year, it looks just like
old Mrs. Farrels at the depot
only a little longer, the
engine house is one end of
it, the Merrick where
the well has been put
down is about 20 feet from
the Shanty, a belt goes from
the engine out to it, the
Merrick is made of boards
bracing each other, is 12 feet

Some one's Horns

square at the bottom
& about 3 at the top & is
about 50 feet high & is
used to draw the tools
out & let them down
into the well, the boys
are at Rocky Run now
at work on a well 6 or 8
miles from here Some has
gone to Irvine to see about
his school, Andrew &
Gute & I are going to Pit-hole
soon or expect to Pit-hole is
a hundred miles from here
I will not say any thing
about the boys affairs, they
have had to earn all they
have got, they are going to
put down two wells at Por-
t 1 mile from there they
expect to hit it, if they
do not they will be a
lank set of hounds. but there

but what they will get
Littie's

Muskrot on its shores. We are
in the James township so
is Wilcox Station & village &
a good many other villages &
villes the town contains
about a half Million acres
of land with now & then a
clearing mostly woods which
is full of Deer but so wild that
none but experienced Hunters
can kill them there are also
Bear, Wolves, Wildcat, Foxes &

occasionally on Elk, never
have seen any thing but Deer
though. There is nothing for
me to do now for a few
days, so I have laid in with
an old Hunter, to come here
& hunt with me & I expect
him every minute. if he does,
not come shall have to get
alone to night. Smith's sheep
ed here last night we saw
from Rocky Run yesterday.

there is most a whole barrel
of flour in one corner. I at 4
lbs of Butter, Sugar do. Lard, I'll
kall bakers plenty wood & a
good stove here well thinks
~~for~~ I can stand it a spell.
I have heard that you sent
me a letter ~~from~~ by Sen. R.
I have not got it yet shall
I soon I guess, guess these packen
up from your town will be
back before spring, tell hi
that if there is out chance
I will write him. H. N. Wilson
Elk Co. Wilson Pa

I am hard up for paper you
perceive, but mine is at
Pithole. I will say a few
words more about the shanty
as we are about to bid it
good bye it is made of rough
boards & is situated about 5
rods from the East Branch
of the Clorion river a
stream about the size of
Dushee River it has trout
in it waters Mink, Otter &

Wilcox Pa.

Clarion River

Elk Co 1865

Titusville Oil Strike 1859

Brother Jimmie is still busying
around on his black mule, or long
saddled Peep, we were all glad to learn
you were so well pleased. Brother
Jimmie and I want to know if you
have found any large timber up there
so tall that you could not throw over
the Linn's and Miss Delia are coming
down in a few weeks. Linn said he
could not find any gloves, I guess
he lost them. Aunt Polly is staying
with us. Sare says kiss you self for
her, the family all send love to
you. I presume you will not
be reading this nonsense, so I will
not tax your patience any longer
write down be a good boy
and do not take on too much
about these party girls.
please excuse penmanship, as this
was written in haste.

As ever your devoted sis

Maggie Drake



TO: Johnnie Drake
Ferguson Station, Poplar Co., Ky.

Scenicville Kentucky

Sep 28th / 1867

Mr Johnnie Drake,

Dear Brother

we received your letter a few days since
and as I have not time to answer
it just now, I thought I would write
a line. our general health has been
tolerably good only, since you left,
I was very sick all last week, but
am as well as usual this.

Brother Jimmie went to see about that
School, but they had concluded to
employ their some teachers again.
Mr Willson has a very good School at
Rhosades, School house. Sophie and
Sare, are going to him. I said
I could go if I wanted to, but
I do not like to leave her here
with so much to do. Bellie Passey
is here at work, and his pa. is painting

the house, Pa. has hired Mr. Bennett
to fix the yard fence James will
finish hauling hay today, we have
hired a Negro woman until Christmas
she has three children, we are just
going to clothe her, those Negroes that
were in the schoolhouse have left.
One day tell you the interest to
write, but thought I was writing
to some boys, and sure enough I
was, I had a letter from Aunt's week
ago, you ought to have heard him
speaking of Alice, we also had a
letter from Kate, she is doing very
well, Aunt Margaret is not going to
live at Stanton's any longer, Ellen &
Fanni, still talk of coming down, Elb
Lacke and Ann Wells are to be married
soon, Louisa Berrest and Mr. Johnson
and also of "Crusop", and her sister,
runaway and married, and were at
church Sunday, I heard say they
were quite devoted, and as loving

a couple as you ever saw,
"Sir Wandal", is looking very well,
just as gay a young as need be,
when our ^{young} Misses arrived he
thought he was taking the hoop again
but it was merely a bad cold, the hogs pa
sold nearly all come back, he has not
sold any more stock except a cow or
two, he sold one for twenty two dollars
Besides I will send you a picture if
there is any passing, I saw your Ella
the third Sunday in this month, our
cousin Sallie Willis has gone to
California, I formed her acquaintance
before she left, I like her very much
she would have been glad to have seen
you.
There is talk of Ben's Christian's overjoying
County is going to Sweden, to spend
several weeks, I presume she will
come by to see you and Felix,