

Head Quarters 23<sup>rd</sup> Mich<sup>l</sup> Infy Vols  
Mossy Creek East Tenn.  
Sunday April 10th 1864

Dear Susan

Although I do not owe you  
a letter I will write to let you know that  
I am yet well and have you in my mind as  
much as ever. I hope this will find you  
and Frankie as well as ever and may you  
continue so. I suppose that the news that I was  
sick would worry you a great deal well if I should  
hear that you or Frankie were sick it would  
worry me, and I hope that we never shall  
hear that either of us are sick. I have been  
well all of the time and I have not missed  
a day of duty since I was from last  
Spring and I hope that I never shall  
prove sick as long as I am in the army  
We have been camped here at Mossy Creek  
the longest that we have at any place since  
we left Loudon last fall every thing is quiet  
and no prospects of any movement and the  
rebs have left and our forces are now in posses-  
ion of Bulls Gap. Spring has come and fruit  
trees are now in bloom, and the grass is growing finely

I can not write much news and you must not trouble your self about any danger as our army is very quiet. And we have only slight duty to perform we drill a little each afternoon in brigades and get on Picket once a week. It's day is Sunday and tomorrow night comes our turn for Pickett so every Monday night and Tuesday you may know what we are doing. Capt. Manton is in Command of the Regiment temporarily and our Major is temporarily in Command of the Brigade. It may look strange to you to see a Major in Command of a Brigade when it is a Brigadier Generals place. but owing to the absence of Superior officers it happens so in our case as Major Wheeler is the senior officer present for duty now with the Brigade Col. Chapin is sick and going to resign and the other Colonels and Lieut. Cols are either absent or sick. We live very well now and we have to pay extravagant prices for it to us have to pay 20 cents a quart for milk which we get a little of daily at a farm house near camp. I went with Lieuts. Long and Fowler after milk to night for my first time and I was introduced to two young ladies the first that has been my fortune to see and speak to for a long time they were very good looking and neatly dressed in calico and all though I say it who ought not to I was tempted to accept their invitation to stay the evening and enjoy their society for

a few short hours. but I thought of you Susan  
and so I had business in camp and we came back  
I thought of you for one of them was named Susan  
and I wished that on my way to camp again that  
it had been my Susan that I had seen, instead  
of her, the other one was Molly, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> name  
I have forgotten. You must not get jealous of me now  
because I have found two girls and a fellow to get  
milk for I shall not forget you and Sissy and  
as I have less time to go for milk than the other officers  
of the mess, and as the unmarried ones are willing to go  
all of time I wont have that chore to bother me  
We got there before the Cows were milked and Capt Long  
and Fowler went out to see the girls milk and I  
stayed in the house and read the latest news paper to  
their blind Father who could not see a bit so you  
I performed an act of a charity, which pleased the old  
man, I suppose that you have received the draft by  
this time and I shall be looking for an answer for it  
the last of this week or the first of next, as soon as I  
can get some stamps I will send the other draft to you  
If I do not send it that way I will by express from  
Knoxville. I received notice this last week that my  
muster, was <sup>now</sup> Lt was received and accepted by the  
war department to take effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sept  
instead of Aug 5<sup>th</sup> and on the next pay roll I shall  
be obliged to stop 25 days pay from my full pay which  
will be nearly one hundred Dollars, this is mentioned  
by you in Muster

I have just received an order for a detail and that will have to be attended to immediately and I will not write the sheet full Do not get discouraged and I will try and not be. Remember that all of my affections are placed on you and that you are in my mind constantly and for your sake I will not do any thing that will prolong my stay in the service nor to mar our future happiness I have conducted my self all right so far and with you in my mind I trust that I shall hereafter Remember me to all and may the time soon come when you can see your ever

Affectionate Husband  
D. Keeler

Susan M Keeler  
East Saginaw  
Michigan

P.S. I have no Stamps and I shall have to mark this a Soldiers letter and sign my own name officially as I do for the men when they are out of stamps as they are now. The postage can be paid on a soldiers letter when it reaches its destination all other have to be prepaid

D. Keeler