

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter April 13th 1864.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Headquarters 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Mossy Creek, Tennessee, {Wednesday} April 13th 1864

Dear Wife,

Yesterday I received your kind and welcome letter of the 3rd inst and glad I were to hear that you were well. I am well as usual and I am thankful that I enjoy so good health which I find is the greatest blessing that anyone can enjoy, especially if he is in the Army. We are yet camped at Mossy Creek and having a good rest and we are getting quite proficient in drill. We drill 1 1/2 hours in the forenoon by battalion and the same in the afternoon by brigade, which makes just exercise enough to keep our appetites good and from getting lazy. I do not know how long that we will stay here, but reports are current that we move soon towards Chattanooga *{TN}*.

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If so, we shall be nearer to Nashville *{TN}* and where communication with the North is not so apt to be broken. O*{scar}* S. Davis arrived here yesterday and slept with me last night. He says that he did not see you when he was home and was sorry that he had no more time to stay there. He says that you was up to Father's on the farm when he was there and he missed seeing you. Adjutant *{Campbell}* Montgomery has also got back and has gone on duty again at brigade headquarters in his old place and consequently I shall have to remain in mine. He did not go to Saginaw *{MI}* as he expected Lieutenant Colonel Spaulding is soon coming back and other officers that are now absent and when they arrive I hope that I can be spared for a few days to make you a visit. You said that you were out of money and was getting in debt. I am sorry that I could not send you money sooner and I hope that by this time that

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your circumstances are relieved by this time in that respect. I have another draft to send you and I do not know yet whether it is best to sent it by mail before I hear from the first one I sent. I have a good mind to send it in this but I guess that I will wait a few days longer before I sent it unless I change my mind before the mail goes out. You say that you can get two dollars a week rent for the house and if you want to rent it you may, and you can live with Father and Mother if you want to and the rent will nearly support you. I have got to stop 26 days of my next pay for my muster in was not accepted at the adjutant general's office to the time I was mustered for. It was accepted to take effect from the 1st of September 1863 and I can only receive pay from that date and as I was

discharged on the 5th of August I was a citizen for 26 days and a soldier, too. I may get sergeant major's pay for that time and I shall try for

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it costs me considerable to live and keep myself decently clothed, which I have to be, and I soon will have to get me a new suit of clothes complete, coat, pants and vest. A good suit of clothes here cost nearly a hundred dollars. Last fall I bought a new dress coat and now I have torn the lining all out of it by going through briar bush and so on, and by constant wear it begins to look a little old. It cost 28 dollars in Cincinnati {OH} last summer and now such coats here cost nearly 50 dollars. If I was where you could do a little mending once in a while *{and}* my clothes would last me longer. There is a chap here taking photographs and he charges 7 dollars a dozen, so I guess that I will not get any this time. Please send me your ambrotype and Frankie's for I want to see how you and Frankie looks. As far as I can hear other officers that have made application for leave of absence are unsuccessful and applications are returned disapproved, so the prospects of getting home are not very favorable at present. However, do not get discouraged but keep up good spirits for time rolls on and something lucky will turn up yet, and at any rate they can only keep me until my time expires which is growing shorter every day. Remember me to all inquiring friends and write soon to

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

P.S. I have succeeded in getting a dollars worth of postage stamps and you need not send any.

Deck

Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw, Michigan

Wm. D. 23rd Wick Smith 1844
Mossey Creek Tenn April 15th 1844

Dear Wife

Yesterday I received your kind and welcome letter of the 3rd inst and glad I were to hear that you were well I am well as usual and I am thankful that I enjoy so good health which I find is the greatest blessing that any one can enjoy especially if he is in the Army. We are yet camped at Mossey Creek ^{and} having a good rest and we are getting quite proficient in drill. We drill $\frac{1}{2}$ hour in the forenoon by Battalion ^{and} the same in the afternoon by Brigade which makes just exercise enough to keep our appetites good and from getting lazy I do not know how long that we will stay here but reports are current that we move soon towards Chattanooga

if so we shall be nearer to Marshall's
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2^d in his old place and consequently
I shall have to remain in mine He
did not go to Azoginawa as he expected
Lt Col Spaulding is soon coming back
and other officers that are now absent
& when they arrive I hope that I can be
spared for a few days to make you a
visit. You said that you were out of
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your circumstances are relieved by this
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you can live with Father and Mother
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approved so the prospects of getting home are not very
favorable at present. However do not get dis-
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only keep me until my time expires of which he grows
shorter every day. Remember me to all inquiring
friends and write soon to your

affectionate Husband

J. M. Keeler

P.S. I have succeeded in getting 3 Dollars worth
of Postage stamps and you need not send any
Susan M. Keeler Deck
East Saginaw Mich