

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter April 18th 1864.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Headquarters 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry  
Mossy Creek, Tennessee, *{Monday}* April 18<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Wife,

I received today yours of April 10<sup>th</sup> and I answer it at once, for we are to go on picket in a little while and I would not have a chance to write until day after tomorrow. I am sorry that you are not well and if I could do anything for you I would. I hope you will soon get well and I shall look with anxiety for another letter to hear how you get along. You must write often as you can, for I want to know ??? how you are. I am relieved today as acting adjutant by C{ampbell} Montgomery and now I go to my company and you must direct letters to Company D after this. I am going to make application for

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leave of absence now I am relieved. The major told me to try and he would help me, so now as soon as we get in from picket in goes my papers. I cannot say that the prospects are favorable, for most every application comes back disapproved, so I cannot say much to encourage you for we may be disappointed. However, do not discouraged if I should not succeed. I am determined to do all I can to get home and if I do not succeed it won't be my fault. Tell little Frankie that her Pa wants to see her and for her to be a good little girl and when I do come I will bring her something. I am well as usual and as you are sick I will have that as a base to make my application on which I hope will help me in getting my leave. I suppose that you have got money now and I will bring more if I succeed in getting away, and

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if I do not I will send you more, so keep up good spirits and do not get discouraged and get well again if you can. It is time I was getting ready for picket and I cannot fill this sheet full this time, so you must excuse me this time for not writing a long letter this time for I am hurried so that I have not time. My love to all and believe me, as ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,

D. D. Keeler

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Company D, 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry

2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade 2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps

Mrs. Bell Erwin

McHenry

McHenry County, Illinois

Wm. C. 23 Mich. Crafty Poles  
Mossy Creek Tenn April 18<sup>th</sup> 1864

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Husband

J. J. Wheeler  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Co D 23<sup>rd</sup> Mich  
Art. Bde 20<sup>th</sup> Reg 2<sup>nd</sup>  
28<sup>th</sup> Dec

Mrs Bell Carwin

Mc Henry

Mc Henry Co  
Ill