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

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Headquarters 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Mossy Creek, Tennessee, *[Monday]* April 18th 1864

Dear Wife,

I received today yours of April 10th 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 2nd Lieutenant Company D, 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry 2nd Brigade 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps

Mrs. Bell Erwin McHenry McHenry County, Illinois

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