

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter April 18th 1865.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

*{Page 1:}*

Office of Acting Assistant Quartermaster Supply Train  
2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23<sup>rd</sup> Army  
Raleigh, North Carolina, *{Tuesday}* April 18<sup>th</sup> 1865

Dear Wife,

I received today yours of April 2<sup>nd</sup>. I was very glad indeed to hear that all were well at home. It had been some time since I had received any letter from you and you may believe that a letter was anxiously looked for. I am well and in good spirits over the glorious prospects of peace. I do not think I shall ever hear another hostile shot fired. The war is nearly over and we already talk of soon returning home. I do not think that it will be longer than two months before we shall be home. In the midst of our rejoicing we mourn the loss of our President Abraham Lincoln. The sad news of his assassination reached us yesterday and cast a gloom over the whole army and many threats of vengeance were expressed by the soldiers of one of the best armies ever trod the earth. In the death of Abraham Lincoln our nation has lost the best man yet known. To be assassinated when he had nearly completed the object of establishing supremacy over the whole United States is hard to realize the fact that it is so.

*{Page 2:}*

You say that Tip is going to try and part us when I get home. What can he do to accomplish that? I am sure I cannot tell. You must give yourself no uneasiness on that point. For I assure you he can do nothing nor say anything to make me distrust you for I know him to be too big liar to believe any of his yarns. If he parts us it will be because he makes you believe that I am to blame for I shall not believe but what you have been true to me in my absence. You always was to me a good wife and I will not believe any of his slang, have no fears on that score. He will have to mind his own business when I get home. I have not forgot his insult to you during my long absence. I will have a settlement if I see him. He must not speak to me. I consider myself above him since he has sought to destroy our future happiness. He must not seek to make an associate of me in his drunken career. You cannot imagine the happiness I anticipate in a few weeks. I do love you dearly and the projects of soon seeing and clasping you to my heart repays me for all I have endured, all the trouble of parting and moments of lonesome care. I would not be disappointed in only expectations, for a world you are to me, my all, and I hope soon to possess you as I once did. It is nearly 9 years since we were wedded and nearly three years I have been absent from you. The balance of my life I hope will be spent as we began.

Give my kind regards to all. Take good care of our little one. Hoping soon to be  
with you I remain as ever

Your Affectionate Husband,  
D. D. Keeler

To  
Mrs. S. M. Keeler  
East Saginaw  
Michigan

Office of A & M Supply Train  
23<sup>rd</sup> Div AC

Raleigh N.C. April 18<sup>th</sup> 65

Dear Wife

I received to day yours of April 9<sup>th</sup> I was very glad indeed to hear that all were well. at home It had been some time since I had received any letter from you and you may believe that a letter was anxiously looked for. I am well and in good spirits over the glorious prospects of Peace. I do not think I shall ever hear another hostile shot fired the war is nearly over and we already talk of soon returning home I do not think that it will be longer than two months before we shall be home. In the midst of our rejoicing we mourn the loss of our President Abraham Lincoln The sad news of his assassination reached us yesterday and cast a gloom over the whole Army and many threats of vengeance were expressed by the Soldiers of one of the best Armies ever trod the earth. In the death of Abraham Lincoln our Nation has lost the best man yet known To be assassinated when he had nearly completed the object of establishing supremacy over the whole United States is hard to realize the fact that it is so,

Give my kind regards to all  
Take good care of our little one  
I hope my soon to be birth  
you know in as ever  
your true friend  
and affectionate  
husband  
D. M. W.

To Mrs  
J. M. Keeler  
Care of  
C. O. Sturman  
1846

you say that Exp is going to try and part us when I get home. What can he do to accomplish that I am sure I can not tell. You must give yourself no uneasiness on that point. For I assure you he can do nothing nor say any thing to make me distrust you for I know him to be a big liar to believe any of his yarns. If he parts us it will be because he makes you believe that I am to blame for I shall not believe but what you have been true to me, in my absence. You always was to me a good Wife and I will not believe any of his slang. Have no fears on that score he will have to mind his own business when I get home. I have not forgot his insult to you during my long absence, I will have a settlement if I see him. He must not speak to me I consider myself far above him. Since he has sought to destroy our future happiness he must not seek to make an associate of me in his drunken career. You can not imagine the happiness I anticipate in a few weeks. I do love you dearly and the prospects of soon seeing and clasping you to my heart repays me for all I have endured all the troubles of parting and moments of lonely care. I would not be disappointed in my expectations for a world. You are to me my all and I hope soon to possess you as I once did for it is nearly 9 years since we were wedded and nearly three years I have been absent from you the balance of my life I hope will be spent as we gain