

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter April 21st 1864.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Envelope:}

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

{Page 1:}

Headquarters Company D, 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Mossy Creek, East Tennessee, *{Thursday}* April 21st 1865

Dear Wife,

As we are ordered to march tomorrow at 8 o'clock a.m. with two days rations in haversack to go on some special duty, where and what it is I cannot say at present, I am well yet and as hearty as ever and I hope this will find you the same. Yesterday I made out and forwarded an application for thirty days leave of absence for one thing based on your sickness, and the major put on the back of it a very strong endorsement and recommended that leave be granted and he went with it to division headquarters and done all he could for me.

{Page 2:}

And I can safely say that more has been done by Major Wheeler to get me a leave of absence than ~~any other~~ for any other officer in this regiment. He has befriended me to the utmost of his authority. I expect to hear from my application in about a week as it takes about that time for it to go through the several headquarters and back to the regiment.

I hope that it will be approved, but I cannot say that I expect it will be so, for two applications were returned yesterday disapproved as the exigencies of the service would not permit of any officer fit for duty to be absent. So if I do not get a leave I hope that you will not be disappointed nor discouraged, for I have now done all that a man can possibly

{Page 3:}

do ~~and~~ to get home, and if I do not go it will not be my fault nor the fault of my officers now commanding the regiment. We expect to be back in two days and then I will write again.

The weather now is very fine and we improve it in drilling. I wish that I had got a letter today from you for now it will be two days before that we can get any mail and I am very anxious to know how you are getting along. I hope that you are well again for it worries me to think that you are sick and I not there and now where I cannot get away. Well, dear Susan, I have done all that can be done and so has Major Wheeler done all that he can do for me and if I do not get home it will be because General Scoville will not let me.

{Page 4.}

You must do all that you can to get well and write often how you get along, and if I should be so lucky as to get a leave I will make the best of time to reach home and I shall start on the first train after I receive it so I will surprise you again; that is, if I am fortunate enough to get leave which, I am sorry to say, prospects are against me. Keep up good courage and all is for the best and I will improve every opportunity to write if I do not go home. Take good care of little Frankie and also yourself. I will do the same. My love to all inquiring friends and believe me. As ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,

D. D. Keeler

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw, Michigan

Wth Co 23rd Mich Infy 88s
Mossy Creek E Tenn April 21st 1864

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