

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter April 4th 1863.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Camp of the 23 Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Bowling Green, KY, Apr. 4th 1863

Dear Wife,

It is with feelings of a sad heart that I sit down to write to you that I received the sad and unwelcome news of our poor George's death. I received a letter today from Sant bringing the sad news of his sudden death. You must imagine my feelings when I read the letter for I cannot find words to express the feeling I have since receiving the sad news the letter contained. Dear Susan, it is a hard blow to you who have been with him ever since he was born. It must be that *{you}* miss him more than anyone else and I can and do sympathize with you in our sad bereavement. Little did I expect to hear that he was gone and I can hardly realize that such is the fact, but it must be so or Sanford would not have wrote it. Poor little sufferer, how hard it is that he should be taken from you when I am absent. Oh dear, what will I do when I return from the army not to see George. He has been in my dreams as well as you

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since I have been absent; dreams never to be realized. Such is the will of God and we must submit; there is no other way. Do not give up for you have another little one to live for and if God spares that we may be happy yet. Keep up your spirits and do not despair, for I am as anxious about you as ever a man was for his wife. I wish I was with you to cheer you up during this great affliction, but I cannot. You will find friends there that will sympathize with you and you must remember that God saw fit to take him home to Him and we must abide by His judgment and you must find relief in Him for He alone can give and take away. I will try and keep up my spirits and you must; do not give up, but keep up your spirits until I can come home, then I will help you. Remember that you have a husband and a good little girl yet to live for. Be a good woman and you shall not go unrewarded. The war cannot last a great while longer, for they are now almost starved out and as soon as I can I will hasten to you and we will once more be happy. We will know how to appreciate each other the more, for our afflictions will not last always and if God sees fit we will be happy again. Dear Susan, it is hard for us to part with our little ones, but we have the satisfaction to know that we done

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all we could to save them. Do not fear any reproach for I am satisfied that all was done that the power of man could do to save him and you did the same. Kind friends will sympathize with you and you must accept of their councils. Do

not worry about me, for I can bear it better than you. It gives me pain to think what you suffer in my absence, but when the war is ended I hope you will never have occasion to regret my absence again. I will never leave you again, but where I go you go. I wrote to Sant this evening and last night to Father. You must write to me often and I will do the same by you. Never give up, but remember that it is all for the best. Do not fear for me for I am safe. There is no furloughs granted here yet, but as soon as there is a chance for me to get one I will do so. Do not think too much on it for we may get disappointed and it is better not to put too much reliance on getting furloughs, for none of us may get any. Take good care of little Frankey and yourself and keep up your spirits. Give my love to all and remember that you have a husband that sympathizes with you.

Yours in Affliction,
D. D. Keeler

Camp of the 23 Regt of Mich Vol Infy
Bowling Green Ky Apr 4th 1863

Dear Wife

It is with the feelings of a sad heart that I sit down to write to you that I received the sad and unwelcome news of our poor George's death. I received a letter to day from Sam bringing the sad news of his sudden death. You must imagine my feelings when I read the letter for I can not find words to express the feeling I have since receiving the sad news the letter contained Dear Susan it is a hard blow to you who have been with him ever since he was born. It must be that miss him more than anyone else and I can and do sympathise with you in our sad bereavement. Little did I expect to hear that he was gone and I can hardly realise that such is the fact but it must be so or Samford would not have wrote it. Poor little sufferer how hard it is that he should be taken from you when I am absent. Oh dear what will I do when I return from the army not to see George. He has been in my dreams as well as you.

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Yours in Affection D. G. Kuler