

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter April 5th 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. 5th 1863

Dear Wife,

I received your sad letter of the 31st containing the sad news of my poor George's sudden death. Last night I got a letter from Sant containing the particulars of his sickness and unexpected death. You may imagine my feelings for I cannot express them. It was so sudden and unexpected that it was some time before I could believe it. It did not seem possible to me, but it must be so or he and you would not have wrote if. I never felt so homesick since I left home as I have today. Tonight I received yours and it done me good to read it. You must write more letters of the kind, for they help to make my duties light and make time fly fast. Dear Susan, I am proud of you to know that you have not give up to grief and affliction. Your kind letter gave me more consolation than I expected.

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You say that you wrote to Frank for that likeness. We, Susan, do not send it to me at present, for I have the one yet that we had taken before I came away. I would rather not see it for it would recall to my mind the happy hours that I have spent with him. I feel bad enough now without looking at his picture at present. I will send to you for it by and by. It seems to me that for the last 8 months that we has had our share of trouble and affliction, and I hope that there will be no more very soon. As you say, we have another little one to place our affections on and we must submit to the will of Him who gives and takes away. He knows what is best. Perhaps that it is better that he should be ~~better~~ taken now than when he was older. We now have the satisfaction that he has gone to God where Rachel *{Keeler}* is and his grandmother *{Sarah L. (Warner) Keeler}* too, and where we must prepare to follow. I will try to mind my ways after this and if I fail it will not be because I did not try. The temptation of the camp are great, but I think I can overcome them with your help and when I get back we will try and be Christians.

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Do not despair, for we are not always to be afflicted I hope, and as soon as I can leave the war honorably I will hasten to you and if I can get a furlough I will, although it don't look like getting one for some time yet, as there has got to be an order issued from the headquarters of the department before that any can be granted. I am where I can find out as soon as anyone here when the order is issued. I am sorry that you are lonesome, but I cannot help it. You know I would if I could. Sant wrote that Tip and Sarah were not very well. I hope that they will not be sick. I have not had a letter from Sarah in some time, nor Lottie either.

Mrs. *{Henry Heber}* Woodruff is going to start for home tomorrow. She will get home the last of the week. You must see her. She can tell you more of myself than I can write. I sent a package to you by her and a small flag. Keep them both. I meant the flag for George ~~but~~ and I am sorry that he can never see it. He would have been so pleased with it that I expected to hear what he said about it. I could imagine how he would march around with it, looking up at it and saying that Deck sent it to him. Alas, how liable we are to disappointment.

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If you see Major *{Benjamin F.}* Fisher give him my best respects. Do not worry about me, but keep up your spirits and be cheerful. Kind friends will sympathize with you and help you all they can. I have many friends here and I appreciate their friendship. Give my love to all of the folks and write soon to

Your Affectionate and Affected Husband,
D. D. Keeler

Camp of the 23^d Regt of Mich Vol Infy
Bowling Green Ky Apr 5th 1863

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Alas how liable we are to disappointment

If you see Major Fisher Give him my best
respects do not worry about me But keep
up your spirits and be cheerful Your
friend will sympathize with you and help
you all they can I have many friends
here and I appreciate these friendships
Give my love to all of the folks and write
soon to Your Affectionate and Affected Husband
G. G. Weber



Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East. Saginaw
Michigan.