EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter April 6th 1864.tif" Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Headquarters 23rd Michingan Volunteer Infantry Mossy Creek, Tennessee, {Wednesday} April 6th 1864

Dear Wife.

Yesterday I received yours of the 24th and glad I was to hear that you are all well. I am well and hearty, able to eat my rations and stand all the duty that I am called on to perform. We are still at Mossy Creek and this morning we moved camp to a better place where we have plenty of wood and water handy. I would have answered your letter last night, but I was busy until nearly bed time and the sergeant major wanted to use the desk to write to a girl of his and so I gave way for him if he would write to you for me, which he promised and did not do it so I am a day behind. I guess he thought that I had better write my own letters and he would write his. We have not been disturbed lately by any rebels and the Army of the Ohio is quiet for once. The rebs have left and our 2nd Division now occupy Bulls Gap *{TN}* 15 miles above Morristown *{TN}* and the division remains at this place for the present.

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I do not know how long we will remain here but. We are ordered to make a permanent camp, but that is no sign of staying long. We have two wagons to our regiment so we are well provided with transportation in case we move. You said that Oscar S. Davis was home. Well, I am sorry he was discharged and I hope he will be reinstated for the service loses a valuable man when they lose him. He was honorably discharged for disability, that is, he was sick over 60 days and unfit for field duty during that time. Captain Smith of Company C was discharged at the same time for the same thing. You know him, it is Fayette Smith from the bend of the Cass {River} that went out as 1st Lieutenant of Company B. He did not get notice of it as soon as Davis did and when last heard from was at Louisville, KY, sick and in hospital. He wrote to the regiment and wanted to be detailed for recruiting service. I sent him a copy of the order discharging him which he must have by this time. Colonel [Marshall W.] Chapin is going to resign immediately, consequently there will be a vacancy in the field officers and probably the lieutenant colonel will be made colonel and the major, lieutenant colonel, then the guestion is who will be major. Some of the captains but which one I cannot say.

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You must not worry about the smallpox for we have none of it in the regiment now. Some of our men had it in Knoxville {TN} and only one died. Two others caught it and are now most well. I got vaccinated and now I will not catch it if I

should happen to be exposed to it. There has a been considerable of that disease in Knoxville among the n----- and lots of them have died with it. Comparatively few of the white soldiers have died to them. The health of the regiment very good at present and I hope it will continue so. I wish that you would send me about a dollars worth of postage stamps when you get the draft that I sent you. I have not got a stamp and I will have to send this as a soldiers letter and you will have to pay the postage on it. There is none to got here for any price. No prospect of any furloughs at present as all applications are sent back disapproved. Tell little Frankie that her Pa wants to see her and to be a good girl and I will come one of these days. Do not get discouraged for time flies fast and now I am on the shortest half of my term of service it won't do to give up. I sent you my ambrotype so you can see that I am not dead nor sick. When I send you the other draft I wish you would make me or buy a pair of shirts and

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send them by mail of express. I will give you more directions when you get them ready. I think that you can get them cheaper than I can here. A pair of woolen shirts here cost \$12.00. I guess that I will send you a memorandum of what I want and you can make up a package for me. When you answer this let me know what good shirts cost there. Paper ??? socks, that is all that I need at present. If the cost and the express charges are less than the cost of the article here I will let you know. Remember me to all inquiring friends and I will remember you as ever. Dear Susan, as *my* ever as an affectionate wife take good care of our little one and kiss her for me and and and - she will kiss you for me or I will myself when I get home. I am as ever,

Your Affectionate Husband D. D. Keeler

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler East Saginaw, Michigan

Mossy Greek Hem Afril 6th 864 Gasterday Proceived yours of the 25th and glad of was to the that you are all well. Dan evel and hearty able to eat my rations and Stand all the duly that I am challed on to kresom Mean Still at morning Greek and this morning we moved comp to ta Setter flow where we have flenty as award and water handy I would have answered your teter last night but I was Judy until mary I bed time and the Dergt Major wanted to we the deste to write to a fire of his and sold gove now for him if he would write to you for me which he promised and did not do it Do Dania day thind It que to he thought that that tetterwrite I myown tellers and he invould with his. We have not been disturbed lately Ag any Rebels and the army of the Ohio is quiet for one The los have left land our 3 m Dwidson now occupy Bulls Gap 15 Miles a fore Morristown and our Division remained at this blace for the pres

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Lend them by Mail or express, Davil giveyou more derections when you get them ready Ithink that you can get them cheaper than Dean here a pour of woolen thirts here cost \$ 12,00 - De guef that Dwill Send you a memorandant of what I want and you can matelup a package for me when you answer this let me know what a good Shirts coas there covers docks that is all that I need of freezent I the cost and the express charges are less than the cost of the articles here I will let god Know Remnember me to all prisuring freinds and the will remneder you as ever Dear Saran las A as an affectionate wife take good Care Jourg lettle one and Kip her for myself when I jet tom and as ever your affectionale Hustang OD Touler Susan M. Keeler East Saymow Mich A company of the same of