

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

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Headquarters 23rd Michigan 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 question 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

W^o. Du 28th Micht Insty Vols
Mossy Creek Tenn April 6th 86

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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 a good shirt cost there, ^{perhaps} cheap socks, that is all
that I need at present, & the cost and the express charges
are less than the cost of the articles here I will let you know
Remember me to all ~~my~~ ^{my} friends and I will remember
you as ever Dear Susan ~~and~~ as an affectionate
wife take good care of our little one and kiss her for
me and send a kiss - I she will kiss you for me and I will
myself when I get home I am as ever your
Affectionate Husband
D. D. Water

Mrs Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw Mich