

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter April 8th 1863.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Page 1:}

Camp of the 23rd Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Bowling Green, KY, April 8th 1863

Dear Wife,

I received your kind and welcome letter of the 3rd of April and I am glad to hear that you and Frankey are well and I hope that you will both keep well. I am well as usual and I would be contented if George had lived. Since then I feel as though I had lost everything almost and I do not know hardly what to do. Dear Susan, you must take good care of Frankey and yourself, for I do not want to lose any more friends while I am absent and I know you do not either. I will not despair for I know that I have as good a wife and child as ever was to welcome back when the war is over and I do not care how soon it is over, the sooner the better. I showed your letter (the one before this) to the chaplain and he read it and sympathized with us. He said I had a noble wife and one that I could be proud of and cheered me up considerably. He told me not to forget your noble advice and to profit by it. He's a good man and anyone in trouble can go to him and he will cheer them up in spite of affliction. While I was mourning our loss our regiment met with a loss that cannot be easily repaired. Our Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert E. Pratt was thrown from *{continued on Page 2}*

{Sideways:} Do not worry about me for I am in a good and safe position. The next promotion I will have a commission and get more wages.

{Page 2:}

a horse and instantly killed. His body was embalmed and sent to his friends today. He was a young man and of a kind that everyone could be at home with. He was a brave and an efficient officer and done his duty without fear, favor, or affection, and won the esteem and confidence of both officers and men of the whole regiment. Yesterday his remains lay in state at the Episcopal Church where everyone could see him through the glass in the coffin. His sword, belt sash and cap lay at his feet and two guards were placed, one at each end of the coffin, and the colors were draped in mourning and placed one at his head and one at his feet. The guards stood at rest on arms and I tell you it looked solemn. This morning his body was brought to camp and escorted to the depot by six companies of our regiment with arms reversed and marched left in front in column of companies followed by the hearse and pallbearers. Behind that was his horse dressed in mourning and led by his servant. After that came the 111th Ohio and 11th Kentucky Infantry and the 8th Kentucky Cavalry with side arms. When we got to the depot we opened ranks and faced inwards and stood at present arms while the whole procession marched through, the drums muffled and playing a dead march. We then closed ranks, marched back to camp at

quick time. The whole thing was strictly military and I assure you it was the most solemn ceremony I ever saw. Enclosed I send you a copy of General Orders No. 22. Give my love to all of the folks and believe me.

Ever Your Affectionate Husband,

D. D. Keeler

Next time I will try and fill a whole sheet and that before long.

{Sideways:} Last night I received a letter from Frank. He is well.

Camp of the 23rd Regt of Mich Vol Inf
Bowling Green Ky April 8th 1863

Dear Wife

I received your kind and welcome letter of the 3rd of April and I am glad to hear that you and Franky are well and I hope that you will both keep well I am well as usual and I would be contented if George had lived since then I feel as though I had lost every thing all most and I do not know hardly what to do Dear Susan you must take good care of Franky and yourself for I do not want to ~~lose~~ lose any more friends while I am absent and I know you do not either I will not despair for I know that I have as good a wife and child as ever was for welcome back when the war is over and I do not care how soon it is over the sooner the better I showed your letter ^{through help of the} to the Chaplain and he read it and sympathized with us he said I had a noble wife and one that I could be proud of and cheered me up considerably he told me not to forget your noble advice and to profit by it He is a good man and any one in trouble can go to him and he will cheer them up inspite of affliction While I was mourning our loss our Regt met with a loss that can not be easily repaired Our Guest Col Gilbert C Pratt was thrown from

Do not worry about me for I am in a good and safe position
I will have a commission and get more wages

a horse and instantly killed His body was embalmed
and sent to his friends to day He was a young man
and of a kind that every one could be at home
with He was a brave and an efficient Officer and done
his duty without fear favor or affection and won
the esteem and confidence of both Officers and men
of the whole regiment Yesterday he remains lay
in state at the Episcopal Church where every one could
see him through the glass in the coffin His Sword, belt
sash and cap lay at his feet and two Guards were
placed on at each end of the coffin and the Colors were
draped in mourning and placed one at his head and one
at his feet the guards stood at rest on arms and I tell
you it looked solemn this morning his body was brought
to camp and escorted to the depot by six companies of our
regt with arms reversed and marched left in front in column
of companies followed by the Hearse and pall bearers behind
that was his horse dressed in mourning and led by his
servant after that came the 11 Ohio and 11 Ky Inf and the
8 Ky Cavalry with side arms when we got to the Dept
we opened ranks and faced upwards and stood at present
arms while the whole procession marched through the drums
muffled and playing a dead march we then closed ranks
marched back to camp at quick time the whole thing was strictly
military and I assure you it was the most solemn ceremony
I ever saw Enclosed I send you a copy of Gen Orders No 12
Give my love to all of the folks and believe me ever your
Affectionate Husband

And that I will try and fill a whole sheet

D. Keller

Just might I receive a letter from Frank He is well