

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Aug. 10th 1863.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

*{The envelope is probably not the original one as it is addressed to D. D. Keeler.}*

*{Envelope:}*

D. D. Keeler  
Sergeant Major, 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment  
Michigan Infantry  
Bowling Green  
Kentucky

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Headquarters 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry  
2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps  
New Market, KY, Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Wife,

Yesterday, contrary to my usual custom, I did not write because I had writing to do that had to be done for the benefit of the service. I wrote 11 pages of orders and other writing too numerous to mention and today I have done as much more, besides attending to regimental inspection. The reason that I have so much to do is because we are a month behind with our books and reports and it is necessary that it should be done up as soon as possible. And why I have it to do is because the our adjutant is on Colonel *{Marshall W.}* Chapin's staff as acting adjutant general, and I am acting as adjutant in his place, which I probably shall act for some time. I like the position first rate and no one finds any fault. I do not have to do duty in any company and will be entitled to a horse on the march. I have no better prospect about getting mustered yet, consequently I shall only get sergeant's pay, or twenty-one dollars a month and rations. I hope that it won't be so long

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for if anyone has worked since I have been in the army I am one of them. I will get the books of the regiment about finished tomorrow, the I shall have it easier. We had dress parade tonight for the first time in over a month and I had some long orders to read to the battalion. Our new major has joined us and my opinion as far as have got acquainted with him is that he is a good officer and a gentleman. He has been with us two days and our new surgeon has also reported for duty. Colonel Chapin commands our brigade now. There has been a new organization and we are now in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade and 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, so you will have to alter the direction on my letters by directing to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps, Louisville, KY. As it is after bell time and I cannot fill this sheet this time, I hope

you are well and also Frankey and all of the rest of the folks. Give them all my love and tell them that I am well and in the best of spirits. The health of the regiment is fair and the boys are ready for any emergency. We are now getting everything in readiness for a march for somewhere and an order is issued cutting down baggage and tents. The company officers have to carry the shelter tents the same as the men and only allowed thirty pounds of baggage. Well, I won't have

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*{to}* throw any away for I have not got any more than that, so I am lucky for once. My clothes are good, what I have got. I have one entire new suit and another that has been worn very little, so I am well enough off for clothes. We have lots of blackberries here and I have all I can possibly eat three times a day. We detail from 10 to a 100 men every day to pick blackberries for the regiment. I never saw them so plenty as they are here. Green corn is getting plenty so we do not live very bad. Take good care of Frankey for me and may God reward you. Live as you have resolved and I will try and do the same. I hope to come home when the war is over and live happy with you once more and with God's permission I will. I look forward for that day with pleasure and I hope that our wishes will be realized before long as the success of our arms look brighter than ever before since I have been from home. Keep up your spirits and all will be well yet. So happy dreams and pleasant thoughts to you with the love of An Affectionate Husband I bid you a good night.

D. D. Keeler

Head Quarters 23<sup>rd</sup> Mich Vol Infy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade 2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23, D, C.  
New Market Va Aug 10<sup>th</sup> 1863

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Serg. & Maj. 23 Regt.,  
Mich. Inf. -

Bowlby Green  
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