

Head Quarters 20th Regt. Mass Vols.
2nd Brigade 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps
New Market Virginia August 14th 1863

Dear Brother Sam

You perhaps think that I have forgot you by this time as I have not wrote to you in so long well Sam it is not so I never remember you well I will not go in to a great line of excuses about it either If you had known what I have had to do you would be satisfied.

I am well and in good spirits and hope you and family are the same. Our Regt is now at New Market Va where we were last fall and will be in readiness to march to morrow for East Tennessee We were in pursuit of Morgan and chased him through Kentucky Indiana and most through Va we travailed 1245 Miles from the 23rd of June to the 5th of August which brought us back to Lebanon Va five miles from here We were organized over and in the 2nd Brigade now under command of Chapin at our Regt Our Brigade consists of 3 regiments of Infantry and one battery. Our Regt is commanded by our Col and he is a good officer our new Major is our 1st Lt so we are two field officers now and we consider our

in good shape for any emergency. We expect
we will march tomorrow and if you don't get
another letter very soon do not think I am
dead or getting up for it will take a heap of work
to do that we can scare them as we did at Paris
where 2500 of them thought to attack 350 of us
and could not sent them back before the rest of
us could get a shot, with the help of one 6 pound
rifled gun. I have been very busy since we have
been here on account of our books and reports and
returns were a month behind and I have had
to ~~catch~~ catch up with them which I done
yesterday and do not have so much to do. The
reason I had it to do is that our Adjutant is
on Col Chapin's Staff as A. A. G. and I am acting
Adjutant of the regiment. I have got a 2nd Lieut
Commission from the Governor of Michigan but I have
not been mustered yet and according to a recent
order from the War Dept I can not be until we
are filled up to the minimum number consequently
I am a Lt. with only Sergeants pay which don't suit
If my Commission had been five days older I should
have been alright as the order is dated June 20th
and my Commission is dated June 25th I am assigned
to C. D. Capt Huston from Tuscola it is a good
Company and numbers 74 men and only lacks
six more or enough to have one more
I do duty in that company until our Adj. was

detailed away then I was detailed in his place
I like the position first rate and can go ahead
with it. with out any trouble and satisfactory
to the Col. Comd. I have not heard from you in
some time and if you can get time write me a few
letters and they will come welcome I get letters from
Susan verry often and occasionally from Frank
He was well the last letter I got from him which
was since the battle of Gettysburgh. How do they
feel up there about the war and Drafting do
they fear the draft or is one man waiting for
someone else to go first I do not see what they
need be affraid of if they become soldiers we
do not dread it any and I do not know a home
sick man in our Regiment We have our several
dutys to perform and every one knows it and does
it without complaining. The men are all in the
best of spirits and confident of success and there
is no talk of giving up or stopping the war until
the rebels are all whipped which they will be. It is
now dinner time and I must go and eat my Black
berry. Give my love to Lucy and write soon to your
Affectate Brother

D. Keller

Direct to D. Keller

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