

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Aug. 16th 1862.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Envelope:}

{Postmark:} LEBANON KY AUG 17

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

{Page 1:}

Dear Wife

As we are under orders to march tomorrow morning at daylight I thought best to write while I have an opportunity, for we may be on the march for some time and you would want to know why I did not write. So I will tell you not to get alarmed if you do not hear from me very regularly. However, I will write as often as I can and you must feel at ease about me as we will be safe. Today is Sunday and it is like any other day with us as we have a march before us and the necessary preparations have to be made so we can start

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at the hour appointed. We have to guess where we are going; indications make us think it is East Tennessee to protect the loyal citizens of that state and punish the rebels that can be found there. I do not know what kind of mail facilities we will have but we can find out when we get there. I received that letter bringing the news of a brother being born since I was home. I think the old folks are pretty smart and had ought to have a premium for their industry. Tell Sarah not to get mad about it for perhaps they were not to blame, for sometimes such things cannot be helped. I should like to see it anyway. How old is it and how do they all like it? Is it welcome or not? How does Mother get along as well? Answer the few questions.

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I see Bob Shirley every day. He is well and is not married any more than he was before he came in the army. We have had our baggage and tents cut down. Only three wall tents are allowed a regiment. The Quartermaster and myself have one, the doctors one, and the Colonel & Major one. All other officers have the little dog tents, the same as they can carry on their backs. Only 30 pounds of baggage is allowed to an Officer instead of 80 as heretofore; consequently some of them will have to leave some of their things behind. I carry part of mine on my horse, my blankets and overcoat, which lightens mine down to the prescribed weight and as I can handle the Quartermaster he has to keep his own side of the tent and keep out of my desk. We have considerable fun in camp once in a while

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to keep our spirits. Among so many men there is something going on all of the time to enliven the camp. We have not drilled any lately but have dress parade regularly every day. That and a little guard duty is all we have had to do aside from getting ready to march since we have been here. You want me to come home again this fall. I'm afraid that is an impossibility for they have stopped granting furloughs now, and as there is a good many that have not been home yet they will have the first chance when there is any. Do not get discouraged but try and keep up your spirits and remember it was necessary that I should be away for the good of the country and as there is likely to be an end to this war before my time is out we must be contented as we are. Time will repay us for our sacrifices and we must not complain. Remember that there is one that watches over us and in the end all will be well. Give my love to Father & Mother, Sarah & all of them. Write soon and believe me.

Your Affectionate Husband
D. D. Keeler

Head Quarters 23rd Mich V^{ols}
New Market Ky Aug 16th 1862

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D. O. Wheeler



Mrs Susan M Keller
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