EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Aug. 21st 1864.tif" Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Page 1:}

Quartermasters Office Supply Train 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps In the Field Near Atlanta, Georgia, *{Sunday}* August 21st 1864

Dear Wife,

I now answer the kind and welcome letter I received this morning from you bearing date of August 7th 1864. I was glad to hear that you and Frankie were both well and I hope you will continue so. I am well as ususal and nothing has yet happened that I should be otherwise. The campaign progresses slowly but surely. Yesterday the road to Macon *{GA}* was cut by our forces so now all the rebel's railroad communications are cut and ours is again in running order. I have not seen Lute *{Lewis}* DeLavergne for some time and whether he is with the regiment I am unable to say at present. I can find out the next time I see the regiment all about him. I have heard nothing amiss with him. The regiment is again in the line and has been relieved from duty at department headquarters and a dismounted cavalry regiment detailed in their place. Major Wheeler is again in command of the regiment and the boys say that they are glad to have him back to command them. The reason of their being relieved was that there was nothing else for the dismounted cavalry to do.

{Page 2:}

When last I wrote I was ordered to Marietta with a train. I returned again in three days and found that the paymasters had gone back so I have missed getting my pay for a short time. I am told that more paymasters are coming to pay off the whole army soon. Those that were here came to pay some Indiana regiments and only paid them with the exception of one or two other regiments. It has been raining considerable the last two days and by the looks of the sky it is not done yet, and the roads are beginning to get muddy. Since I got me a clerk I know the days of the week; according to his calculations it is Sunday. But it is nothing like Sunday here any more than any other day as I can see. Every day is alike here. My n----- are playing marbles and cutting up like a lot of mules. I have been out on the line to see the skirmishing. No one was hurt and I will bet that there is not one man hurt to a thousand shots that is fired. Both lines are behind strong breastworks and the skirmish line is in rifle pits or holes dug in the ground, so it takes a good marksman to hit a man on either side. Our trains are parked in a large field beyond range and safe from any danger. I often wish that I could pencil scenes that

{Page 3:}

I witness to send to you, but I am afraid if I should undertake it I could not make a picture worth the paper it would take. I suppose that you see pictures of the

exploits of our army in the illustrated papers, Harper's Weekly and Frank Leslie's and others. If you get any of them save them for when I get home. I would like to look over them and see if I can recognize any of them. I have seen some down here that look very natural in the Harper's Weekly. I do not see why Sant does not write. Perhaps it is because that I owe him a letter. I have less time to write than he does I know, for I am continually on duty. I do not have certain hours for business, but every hour night or day when it happens. As for writing I pay, or government does, a man 75 dollars a month to write for me and he is busy every day and late at night. I must make out my returns every month as regular as ever or get my pay stopped. I have just completed my returns and abstracts, vouchers and other papers for the month of May and I am behind two months yet. You have no idea the amount of work it is to make out a set of papers where anyone has so much property to account for. It has to be done neat and without a mistake, no alterations, erasures are permitted or they would come back to made over. When I get home I will bring my retained copies and you can see what a pile I have.

{Page 4:}

I have to keep for our safety one completed set of papers and I wish some of them were home now in some safe for safe-keeping. I hope that I shall be able to get home this fall or sometime before long for I do want to see you and Frankie. I would like to see all of the folks, but you most of all. As soon as I get clear of this wagon train I will see if General Scofield will not let me go home for 30 days. I guess he will on the recommendation of certain officers on his staff which are friends of mine.

If I come out as I did last spring I know what I can do next year. fro I do not think that I will go for three years more and you must not give yourself any uneasiness about it for I am bound to have a rest when my time is out. I expect that I shall find it rather hard to go to work again at my old trade. The price of everything has raised so that my wages now do not much more than keep us living as we should and I do not think that we will be able to lay up much. Well, we will do the best we can. I guess we can get along. Keep up good spirits and do not get discouraged and I will do the same. Remember me to all inquiring friends and believe, as ever,

Your Ever Affectionate Husband,

D. D. Keeler

P.S. Direct to me

D. D. Keeler Lieutenant and Acting Assistant Quartermaster Supply Train 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps

An Office Supply Frain 2000 Dio 23 May 1864 Dear Hife , D D . Abnow answer the Kind and welcome letter Proceived this morning from you bearing date of August yth 1864 Dovas glad to hear that you and Arkantie were both well and hope you will continue At. I am well as usual and nothing has yet happened that I should be otherwise the campaign progresses slowly but surely gesterday the road to macion was Cut by our forces so now all the Rebelo Rail Road Communications or cut and ours is again in runing order De have not seen Lute Delevergne for some time and wether he is with the Beginnent Sam unable to say at present. Dean find out the next time of so the Beginnent all about him to have heard nothing amile with him The Regement is again in the line and has been relieved from duty at Department Hand get and a dismounted Cavelry Regt detailed in their place Major Wheeler is again in Command of the Root and the Bogs Day that they lere glad to have him back to command them Haroabon of their being relieved good that there were nothing else for the desinounted Caselry to do

when fast wrote I was ordered to Marcetta with a train Obreturned again in threedays and found that the lag masters had gone back so thave mubed getting my Pay for asbort time. O am told that More Pay masters are coming to kay off the Whole army soon Those that were here came to pay some Andianid Regiments and only payed them with the exception of one or two other Brunds applicate been raming considerable the last two days and by the looks of the sty it is not done yet, and the roads are begining to get middy Since Dgot me a clerk & know the chays of the week according to his calculations it is Danday but it is nothing like & Sunday here any more than any other day as Dean see, every day is alike here, my nigero are playing marbles and cuting up like a lot of mules, I have been out on the line to see the Skerinishing no one was hurt and buill bet that there is not one man hurt to a thousand shots that is fired, Both lines are behind strong Breast works and the skirmish line is in rifle kets or holes dug in the ground so it takes a good marksman to hit a man on either side. Our hains are parked in a large field beyond range and safe from any danger Doften wist that Dould pencil seems that

that Durtness to send to you but Dam rapaid of should undertake it I could not make a pecture worth the paper it would take Desuppose that you see pectures of the exploits of our army in the Altustrated papers. Harpers weekly and Frank Leeslies and others, Of you get any of them save them for when I get home Iwould like to look over them and sel if Dean recognise any of them De have seen some down here that look very natural in the Warpero Meetly, Ado not see why & ant does not write perhaps it is because that Down him a letter. I have less time to write than he does I know for Daw continually orderly Add not have certain hours for business but every hours night or day when it happens as for writing to pay or governmen does a man 75 Dollars a month to write for I and he is busy every day and late at night & must make out my returns every mouth as regular as ever or get my pay stopede have just completed My returns and abstracks vouchers and other papers for the month of may and Dam betund two months get you have no idea the amount of work it is to make out a set of Papers where any one has so much properly to account for it has to bedone near and without a pultake no alteralions eraseures are permeted or they woul come to de to made over When bythome Swill bring say retained coppies and you can sel what a fill there

I have to keep for my our safety one complete set papers and wish some of them were home now Vin some safe for safe keeping Do kope that Oshall be able to get home this fall or some time before long for I do want to see you and Frankil I would would the to see all of the follo but you most of all. as soon as El get oclear of this wagon train Swill see if General Scofield will mot let me go home for 130 days Ob guess he will on the recommodation of certain officers on his stoff which are freeds of mine All come out as I did last spring & know what Acan do. next year. food do not thinto that It will go for three yeard more and you much not give yourself any improgness about if for thom bound to have a rest when four time is out bexpect that I shall find it rather hard to go to work again at my old trade The price of every thing has raised so that my wayes now do not much short than keep us liveing as we should and ch do not think that we will be able to lay up smuch well we will do the bestwee can. I queso we cangelf along. Teep up good offereto and do not get des coura god and Claud to the same remounder me to allingureing friends and believe as ever your ever affectionate Husband Berect to me DA Receler It was & A A GMO Supply Frain Division 16