

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

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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 usual 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}* DeLavernne 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.

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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

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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.

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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. ~~for~~ 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

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D. Keeler
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Direct to me D. Keeler

It is A. A. G. M.

Supply Train
your Division

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