

Head Quarters 2nd Mich Vol Infy
 2nd Brigade 2nd Division 23 Army Corps
 Jamestown Lemasee Aug 28th 63.

Dear Wife

Another opportunity occurs to send a letter consequently I improve it for I do not know when I shall have another chance I wrote last night and it went this morning by a Sutter. And this Henry L Johnson a Sergt of Company I will mail for me at Lebanon or somewhere else He goes home on a 20 days furlough and starts in the morning You must know him he used to live in Saginaw and married a Davis Girl while there and lived in Ed Merstons House where I went did. I do not know wether he will go to Saginaw or not we expected to march to day but have not got started yet althoug we have orders to hold ourselves in readiness to move at a moments warning. I hope we will have a better road than we had on our way here or we can not get along very fast for the roads we traviled were the worst I ever saw without any exceptions our mountain was so steep we had to lower down ropes and hoist up our Mules and wagons and artillery

and we hove on the ropes all day Sunday and
beside march foreteen miles the marching we
done before day light and after sun set at night
You may believe we had a pretty hard days
work for Sunday and it was hot enough to
almost melt a man but we stood it first
rate and the boys went into camp at 11
oclock at night singing as thoug we had only
march one or two miles we have got so use to
marching that it is not considered any
great job to march 25 miles in a day this
hot weather as long as the knapacks are carried
by the teams. I get along well enough for I have
a horse to ride all of the time and when I get
tired of riding I can get off and let some tired
man ride a ways while I rest my self by
walking a ways My duties are not verry hard now
and I can not complain I have to be on hand
at all hours when wanted as I am all ways
for duty I am allways around this morning I
had to help mount the Grand Guard for
picket that is the most I have done to day
I have a good Sergt Major and he does most
of the running while I do the writing We have
lived first rate so far but dont expect to
much longer for nothing is to be got except
what we carry along there is not a Dollars
worth of Merchandise or groceries in this

whole country excep that came throug with
the Sutters with our train and with the men
Our Brass Band is a great sight for the women
here and a great many squads of them come
in to camp to hear them play they never
have seen or heard any thing of the kind before
One woman came in and said I would like
to hear them blow on them ere brass horns
right well, so I told the drum major to play
a time which was done and it beat all she ever
heard or ever thought of hearing and she went
off and brought a big squad of other women
and they had to have a little musick which
amused them greatly and so it goes every day
and it helps to amuse the men and keep them
in good spirits. Since we have been here the people
are returning to their homes from their hiding
places where they drove by the rebels who were
conscripting every man they could find and
forcing them against their will in to the rebel
ranks & this is the most loyal part of Dixey
that we have been in yet and it has suffered
greatly And I tell you it makes me feel proud
to hear them welcome us to their assistance
They have been looking for us two years and
~~that~~ we have not been able to get there before
now we are here the hurrah for the union without
fear. one woman came 10 miles to see the Union
flag she never saw any thing but the rebel flag

Do not say any more about Tennessee this time but
another time I will I suppose you are thinking
that it is not as healthy down in the enemys
country as when we were in Kentucky where we could
not catch the rebels, and all we could do was
to chase them around the country well Susan
you must not think I am in danger yet - but there is
no telling what may happen, I have not the least
idea of getting killed yet and hope I shall not be for
your sake I am not going to back out yet now nor
show myself a coward if any one else does I did not
enlist for that if I should fall remember that it
was for my country and if I come out all right I will
be thankful I do not anticipate any very great fight
yet - but I expect we will have some skirmishing
before we are a year older or less. do not let this worry
you in the least but keep up your spirits like a good
wife and I will write as often as possible to relieve
your fears as to my safety and you must do the same
a mail rout is to be opened by way of Lexington to us so we
will have a mail. Give my love to all of the folks and
remember your share is the largest every time and when
the time comes around for me to come home I will do
which I hope will not be two years nor one either.
remember me in your Prayers and Believe me ever
Your Affectionate Husband

D D Keller
Lt & A, Adjt
23rd March, 1862