

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Aug. 6th 1864.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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P.S. I am informed that the paymasters are at headquarters. If so I will soon get paid and send you some money so keep up good spirits.

Deck

Quartermasters Office Supply Train  
2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23 Army Corps, Marietta, Georgia  
{ August 6<sup>th</sup> 1864, 8 1/2 o'clock p.m.

Dear Wife,

Now after a busy day of catching mules and loading my train I am at leisure to answer your kind and welcome letter of July 24<sup>th</sup>, and you may believe that it was with pleasure that I read it and found that you were all well and I hope that the news from home will always be so. I am well and enjoy better health than I could expect. I have yet the first days duty to lose from sickness in over one year. I suppose that while I am now writing you are thinking of the same thing this very minute that I am, that is, that it is just two years ago this very night that I enlisted for a soldier. And two years ago this very night that I went to the last fire meeting that I have attended. I remember well how bad you felt when I went home

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and told you that I had enlisted, and how Georgie was up to his Grandmas and came home the next night and asked me if I was shot and how long it was before we could make him believe but what I was shot. All these little things run through my mind tonight and I am almost sure that you are thinking of the very same thing this very same evening. How different we are now situated. Two years ago we were both living happy as could be and contented with this one exception, that is, I thought it my duty to enlist and serve my country and you are well aware how I felt until I enlisted. I now have been a soldier two years and served the whole time faithfully and my conscience tells me that I have done right.

Dear Susan, it is hard to be so long absent from home and loved ones, but it would be harder yet if we had submitted to the dictates of a hot-headed set of rebels that sought to destroy our government and plunged us into ruin forever. Now they are reaping the fruits of their folly by forcing us to invade their once peaceful homes and laying waste their plantations and leaving nothing behind but the broad green earth and that not very green except the forests besides being dug up more

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or less for hundreds of miles by both armies.

Between Atlanta {GA} and Chattanooga {TN} the country is traversed by long lines of fortifications, one after another at intervals, of from 20 yards to two or three hundred yards, and none to exceed 6 miles that I have seen yet, some of them of the more formidable kind. The country is deserted by all except soldiers. The women and children are gathered at the depots and sent north. There are a few left in this town yet awaiting transportation. By the way, there is a fine house opposite my tent just across the street with three families in it; among them is several factory girls. How many at present I do not know, but there was seven of them last Sunday when I was there. I was over to see them before supper and found them to be respectable, honest and good looking, their parents being church members. I talked with the old man and found him to be a Union man and glad to see a Yankee soldier. The old lady was a fine old lady and by appearance was very much respected by the girls who had a great many questions to ask about the north. I told them that it was the finest country in the world and all that sort and advised them to go there and marry a Yankee soldier as soon as Uncle Sam got through with us.

*{Page 4:}*

You must not be hurt that I have forgot you by going over to see those girls for I assure you that they are respectable and as it is so seldom that I have a chance to speak to a woman that I hardly dare speak to one when I have a chance to and I had more conversation this afternoon than I have had with any female since I left home. I told them about you and showed them your photograph. They said that they could not see what could have induced me to leave such a pretty wife to go in the army. I told them it was to help kill rebels. Which, by the way, I guess there was a few killed today if only a tenth part of the shots took effect that was fired today. We could hear the roar of artillery this afternoon very distinctly and it was terrific; it was so rapid that it was one steady roar. I have not heard the results. I start for the front tomorrow with my train loaded with three days rations and three days forage for the animals at the front. I have about 16 miles to go to reach the 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps which is now on the right. The regiment is still on duty as provost guard at corps headquarters and does not have any fighting to do now. I filled my train up to 48 six-mule teams this forenoon and loaded them. I have got pretty well learned now and do not work so hard as I did at first. Also, my men understand their business which makes a great difference. As this sheet is so near full and it is getting late I will wish you good night hoping that the last year of my time will find me a citizen at home with you. Give my respects to all and believe me. As ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,

D. D. Keeler

Lieutenant & Acting Assistant Quartermaster

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that the Reg. State  
will soon  
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Quarter Masters Office Supply Train  
2<sup>nd</sup> Div 2<sup>nd</sup> AC Marietta Georgia

August 6<sup>th</sup> 1864

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I believe me as ever your affectionate husband

D. J. Wheeler  
U.S. A. & M.