Family Home Page

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Dec. 14th 1862.tif" Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

(The letter is to his sister, his only one being Sarah, who was then 13 years old. He tells her to mind Lucy, his brother Sanford's wife, so Sarah was probably living with them at the time, since her mother had died October 5, 1862.}

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Camp of the 23rd Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry Bowling Green, KY, Dec. 14th '62

Dear Sister {Sarah Edwene Keeler},

I suppose you would like to hear from me so I will write you a few lines while I have time. Well sis, I am well and hope you are. I suppose you would like to know how I like the soldiering. Well, I can tell you I like it pretty well and it is no harder than I expected. The only thing I don't like is being away from Susan *{his wife, Susan M. (Reading) Keeler}* and the children and not seeing the folks when I want to, but that can't be helped as long as the war lasts; and there is no other alternative but make the best of it until the war is over and if nothing happens *{to}* me I will come back with the satisfaction of doing my duty to my country. Perhaps you would like to know how we live and what we live on. That is easy told. We live on bread, beef, bacon, beans, rice, coffee, and sugar and while on a march we have nothing but hard bread & bacon, coffee and sugar. Sometimes we confiscate a chicken or a goose that happens to be handy and take a farmer's ???

{*Page 2:*}

to cook and keep warm by. We live very comfortably in our tents with ??? ??? in them, but on the march we have to take it as we can get it. Sometimes we have stones to sleep on. Sometimes we find a hay or straw stack, then we use that for a bed. I have got so I can sleep on the ground no matter how hard it is, as well as if I were at home in bed. If I should come home now I should have to lay on the carpet a while before I could sleep on anything softer and get used to a bed by degrees. I would like to come home and stay a few days on a visit, but there is no use of thinking of it so I don't let it worry me. I keep busy and that helps me from getting homesick. The first thing I have to do in the morning is to call the roll and then make a report of the strength of the company to the Adjustant, then detail the guard, then breakfast, then take the sick to the doctor and get the company out to drill until noon, then dinner and at one drill again until four o'clock, then inspection of arms for 1/2 hour, then dress parade, then supper, then draw rations for the next day, call the roll again and at 8 o'clock lights out and all noise stopped. Answer soon and be a good girl and mind Lucy *{M.* (Nelson) Keeler} and I will write again.

From Your Affectionate Brother, D. D. Keeler

and of the 23 10 ogt the for and Barring Green & J. Dec 4th Not Vern in when al support you would like to hear from me so I will soule you a felo lines whi I have time evel sell I am well and pope you are I suppose you would like to know how Hike Soldering well Hantet you a like it pretty well and it is no harder than Dethe de the only thing I don't like is being away from Sidean and the children and salt seeing the filks when I want to but that can' be helped as long as the war las and there is no other alternative but make the best of I tail the war is over and if thothings happens me Prill come back with the sate faction of loing my laty to my country, perhaps you would like to know how we live and what we liver that is easy total live live on Bread Bey Bacon Beens Thick Toke and Lugar and whill on a march we have nothing but thered 13 read & Bacon Top and chique donal tones we confacturate chatten the grose that happened to do day he and late adjarder to det

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