

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: “Letter Dec. 22nd.tif”
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{The year is not specified, but was probably 1862 as he was in Bowling Green in December 1862 and January 1862. Also, he mentions his son George who died March 29, 1863.}

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Camp of the 23rd Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Bowling Green, KY, Monday Morning, December 22nd

Dear Wife,

I have just come in camp this morning from picket and found a letter for me from you and I was glad to hear from you and the children. I am glad that you are all well and hope you will continue so. I wrote today and yesterday and as I have this forenoon to sleep I thought that I would answer your letter first, and then sleep what time I have to spare afterwards, for I know that you feel anxious to know that I am well. Have not had a fight yet, and I don't believe we will have either for some time yet. You must not worry about me for I am safe yet and guess there is not much danger of our having a fight here. However, we are still at work on the entrenchments and building stockades and a rifle pits. We are stockading both sides of the railroad bridge where I was last night and when that is done a very few men can fight against greater numbers.

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I have been expecting some ??? of some kind from Saginaw and I see by your letter that you just received my letter in time to not send them. Well, the reason that I wrote for you not to send anything then was that we were expecting marching orders to go to Nashville {TN}, so I wrote for you not to send anything for if we had left this place I should have lost them. But since I have wrote for you to sent them along, for we are going to stay here now and I can get it safe. The charges on a box one hundred pounds will be four dollars, so you need not send a very heavy one. Have it directed to me Company B. 23rd Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Bowling Green, Kentucky. I think it will come safe for some of our company have already received things by express from home, and as Christmas and New Years are close at hand we want something extra. You say that they think that the war will be over by spring. Well, that seems to be the opinion of some of the officers here, and if it is it won't be long before we will be home. So you must keep up good spirits and wait until we have brought the South to terms. Then we can enjoy the blessings of the same government that we always have. Tell Sarah and Tip that I don't receive any letters from them lately and that I have answered all that I have

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ever received and will write to them again as soon as I can get time and tell them the more that they write the better it suits me, for good long letters are a luxury to a soldier away from home in a camp where he has not got a chance to leave whenever he would like to . Tell George that I will come home after a while and bring him something, maybe a knapsack or a soldier coat and a gun and perhaps a sword and he can be a soldier. I have been promoted to First Orderly Sergeant so I will now get better wages and if the officers keep on resigning I will get another hoist before long. You must excuse me for not filling the sheet for our n--- wants the the table that I am writing on to get dinner on, and I will write more next time. Tell father and mother that I will write to them as soon as I can. Give my love to them and when our cook does not hurry me I will write a full sheet. Remember me to Sant and Lucy and Sarah if you see them.

From Your Affectionate Husband

D. D. Keeler

Camp of the 23rd Regt of Mich Vols Int
Bowling Green W. Va Monday Morning Dec 22nd

Dear Wife

I have just come in
camp this morning from Picket and found
a letter for me from you and so I was
glad to hear from you and the children
I am glad that you are all well and hope
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yesterday and as I have this fore noon to
sleep I thought that I would answer
your letter first and then sleep what time
I have to spare after wards for I know
that you feel anxious to know that I
am safe and have not had a fight yet
and I dont believe we will have either
for some time yet you must not worry
about me for I am safe yet and I
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having a fight here. However we are still
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stockades and rifle pits. We are stockading
both sides of the Ball Road bridge where
I was last night and when that is done
a very few men can fight against great
numbers

I have been expecting some traps of some kind from Saginaw and I see by your letter that you just received my letter in time to not send them well the reason that I wrote for you not to send any thing then was that we were expecting marching orders to go to Marshall so I wrote for you not to send any thing for if we had left this place I should have lost them but since I have wrote for you to send them along for we are going to stay here now and I can get it safe the charges on a box of one hundred pounds will be four Dollars so you need not send a very heavy one have it Directed to me Co B 2^d Regt Mich Vol Infantry Bowling Green Kentucky I think it will come safe for some of our company have all ready received things by express from home and as Christmas and new years are close at hand we want some thing extra you say that they think that the war will be over by spring well that seems to be the opinion of some of the Officers here and if it is it wont be long before ~~that~~ we will be home so you must keep up good spirits and wait till we have brought the south to ~~terms~~ terms then we can enjoy the blessings of the same Government that we always have Hell Sarah and Liza that I don't receive any letters from them lately and that I have answered all that I have

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the table that I am writing on to get dinner
on And I will write more next time
Tell Father and mother that I will write to
them as soon as I can give my love to them
and also to Harrison and Sarah and children
and when our cook does not hurry me I will
write a full sheet Remember me to Aunt and
Lucy and Sarah if you see them

From your Affectionate Husband

D. W. Miller