

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Dec. 31st 1863.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Envelope:}

{Postmark:} Knoxville, Tenn, Jan. 3, '64

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

{Page 1:}

Headquarters 23rd Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Strawberry Plains, Tennessee, Dec. 31st 1863

Dear Wife,

As the mail did not go when we expected and as it was two or three days since I wrote, I thought best to write a few lines more as it is but an hour before the mail goes out. I can write but little this time as I have to frank all the letters that have not stamps on. I am well yet and in good comfortable quarters, and a plenty to eat. As today is the last day of the year, we have engaged a fiddler to play a few tunes while we parch corn and sing songs and crack jokes and to pass the long evenings off as fast and pleasant as we can. The mail did not as expected and I have not my letters to answer; the last from you was dated Nov. 29th and it is now over a month and I feel anxious to hear from you. I am very busy now and will be for a few days more. I am in good health and I hope you enjoy the same blessing. My love to all the folks and write often to

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

P.S. I wish you a happy new year.
Deck

W^h Quarters 2^d Regt Mich. A. S.
Strawberry Plains Tenn Dec 1st 1863

Dear Wife

As the Mail did not go when we expected and as it was two or three days since I wrote I thought best to write a few lines more, as it is but an hour before the mail goes out I can write but little this time as I have to frank all the letters that have no stamps on I am well yet and in good comfortable quarters, and a plenty to eat. As to day is the last day of the year we have engaged a fiddler to play a few tunes while we parch corn and sing songs and crack jokes ~~and~~ to pass the long evening off as fast and pleasant as we can. The mail did not as expected and I have not any letters to answer the last from you was dated Nov 29th and it is now over a month. And I feel anxious to hear from you I am verry busy now and will be for a few days more I am in good health and I hope you enjoy the same blessing My love to all the folks and write often to your affectionate Husband

D. D. Keeler

P. S. Wish you a happy new year
Deck



Mrs Susan M Wheeler
East Saginaw
Michigan