

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Dec. 4th 1864.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Page 1:}

Quartermasters Office Supply Train, 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps
Nashville, Tennessee, *{Sunday}* December 4th 1864

Dear Brother Frank,

I received two letters from you since I returned from Columbia *{TN}* declining my offer, which I do not blame you if you have got a good situation at home out of reach and hearing of rebel shells, tar buckets and blacksmith shops, Minnieé balls and other implements of destruction. I wish I was home, too. I do not think I would accept the offer either. I tendered it to you in preference of anyone else and if you had seen fit to accept I would been glad of it, but I am not disappointed as it is and I have engaged the services of a young man from Ohio this morning and I can get along without any trouble. Our army is now at this place (Nashville, Tennessee) commanded by Major General *{George Henry}* Thomas and the Johnnies are close

{Page 2:}

at hand and now fighting on the other side of the city. Cannonading is pretty heavy at this very moment and has been for over one hour. Fort Negley is sending her hundred pound shells over to the rebs right smart. It is now 11 o'clock a.m. and music is expected before night. The rebels fight desperately and our brave boys repulse them every time.

At Franklin *{TN}* they made eleven distinct charges on our lines and were repulsed every time with heavy loss. I was there and never did I see as hard fighting as was done there. Our loss is 700 and the rebel loss estimated of from 4,000 to 7,000. The 23rd Army Corps captured 22 rebel flags at that fight. We had to leave our dead and wounded in their hands. Poor fellows, I do not know what has become of them. I had a little adventure with my train while on the road to Franklin after the fight at Spring Hill *{TN}*. I was moving with other trains in the night and myself and my train was attacked by *{Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford}* Forrest and his cavalry. They were only fifty yards distant and in line parallel with the road.

{Page 3:}

They fired on the whole of my train at once, killed two teamsters, a lot of mules, and charged at us. Well, I did not get hit, but my horse did and threw me off and I had to leap a stone wall and flank them which I did successfully in the dark. I thought I was gone up, but I did not halt and their shots ~~felt~~ went harmlessly by me. I run two miles and got into the road again, found myself all right, and another horse. Fourteen of my wagons got away, some of the mules wounded. The rebs got twelve of them and all of my blankets and other household traps. I

saved my desk and papers. I had on my best clothes in expectations of such an event and got them pretty muddy. They burnt the wagons and I have now a short train. Thank Providence I am safe, let the train go. I never want to run another gauntlet of rebel balls when they are so close again. I have not room in this letter to give you the full particulars of our campaign nor of my own adventures lately, which are not a few I assure you.

{Page 4:}

I mustered as 1st Lieutenant yesterday for the unexpired term of the regiment and now a bar adorns my shoulders. I have got to fill up my train again to 45 wagons and I shall be very busy for a few days. I saw Banty yesterday. He is here now at the forage office of this post as shipping clerk. Give my respects to all inquiring friends and write soon.

Your Affectionate Brother,

D. D. Keeler

1st Lieutenant and Acting Assistant Quartermaster

Supply Train 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps

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J. A. Reuler

1st Lt and A. A. G. M.
Supply Train. 20th Div 20th Reg