

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original files: “Letter Feb. 11th 1863.tif” and “Letter Feb. 11th 1863 envelope.tif”

Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Envelope:}

{Postmark:} BOWLING GREEN KY FEB 12 1863

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

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Camp of the 23rd Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Bowling Green, KY, Feb 11th 1863

Dear Wife,

I received your kind letter of the 5th last night and I were glad to hear from you. I am sorry that Hatty has got the scarlet fever. I hope she will soon get over it. We were paid off yesterday up to the 31st of December and I sent you \$40.00 by express. It is in a package along with Captain Woodruff's. I gave it to him to send it to you. You can go over to his house and get the money off Mrs. Woodruff. It is marked to you in care of L. S. Keeler and I wrote a few lines on the inside of the wrapper.

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I got sixty-four dollars and 60 cents, the amount due me at \$17 a month. Next pay roll I will draw First Sergeant's pay from the 18th of December 1862, that being the date of my warrant. I owed the sutler \$3.35 and one dollar of borrowed money and some for washing and I want to get my photograph taken to send to you which will cost \$4.00 and I have signed \$3.00 for a picture called the Soldiers Memorial to send to you, so I only sent you \$40.00 this time. You must use it to the best advantage. Get you some clothes and also the children all they need. I do not want to get strapped again or I would send more for I don't know

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when pay day will come again. If I can spare any more before I get paid again I will send it. I owe Pratt some. Tell Father to settle that. You let him have the money to do it with. If Father does not know how much it is, let me know and I will tell him. Have him get Pratt's bill and I can tell whether it is right or not. You need not send me any more paper for I have a plenty now since I got the box. I received a letter from Sarah yesterday and one from Lotty the day before. I will answer them today if I have time. It is now dinnertime and I must stop. We have oysters for dinner and the fixings with them. Let me know as soon as you get the money.

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Give Mrs. Woodruff a receipt for the money when you get it. It may be there before this letter is. At any rate it is on the way now. Use it as you think best and I will soldier for more and get better wages before long if I am not mistaken.

Write soon and give my best respects to all.

From Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

Camp of the 23 Regt Mich Vol Infy
Bowling Green Ky Feb 11th 1863

Dear Wife

I received your
kind letter of the 5th last
night and I were glad to
hear from you I am sorry
that Batty has got the scarlet
fever I hope she will soon get
over it We were paid yesterday
up to the 31st of December and
I sent you \$4.00 by Express
It is in a package along with
Capt Woodruff's I gave it to
him to send it to you You
can go over to his House and
get the money of Mrs Woodruff
It is marked to you in care
of L S Kuler and I wrote a few
lines on the in side of the
wrapper

I got Sixty Four Dollars and
60 cents the amount due me
at \$17 a month, next pay
Roll I will draw, draw first
Sergts pay from the 15th of
December 1862 that being the
date of my warrant, I owed
the sutler \$3.35 and one dollar
of borrowed money and some
for washing and I want to
get my photograph taken
to send to you which will cost
\$4.00 and I have signed \$3.00
for a picture called the Soldier's
memorial to send to you so
I only sent you \$40.00 this
time, you must use it to
the best advantage get you
some cloths and also the children
all they need I do not want
to get strapped again or I would
send more for I dont know

when pay day will come again
If I can spare any more before
I get payed again I will send
it I owe Pratt some tell Father
to settle that you let him have
the money to do it with If
Father does not know how much
it is let me know and I will
tell him have him get Pratt's bill
and I can tell whether it is right
or not You need not send
me any more paper for I
have a plenty now since I got
the Box I received a letter
from Sarah yesterday and one
from Dolly the day before I will
answer them to day if I have
time It is now dinner time
and I must stop we have
Oysters for dinner and the fixings
with them Let me know as
soon as you get the money

Give Mrs Woodruff a receipt
for the money when you get
it it may be there before this
letter is at any rate it is on the
way now Use it as you think
best and I will bolder for
more and get better wages
before long if I am not
mistaken Write soon and
give my best respects to all
From your affectionate Husband
D O Heiler



Mrs Susan M. F. in
East Saginaw
Michigan