

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Feb. 12th 1864 #2.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

*{The envelope may not be the original as the postmark is much later than the date of the letter.}*

*{Envelope:}*

*{Postmark:}* CHATTANOOGA TEN, 25 MAY '64

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler

East Saginaw

Michigan

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Headquarters 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry  
Camp Pratt, East Tennessee, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Wife,

Yours of January 31<sup>st</sup> is at hand together with one from Sant of the same date and a Saginaw Enterprise of January 28<sup>th</sup>. You may believe that I was glad to hear from home for it had been a long while that I did not get any letter. I hope now that the cars have got to running from Chattanooga *{TN}* to Loudon *{TN}* that we will get out mail by that route more regular and sooner than we have been in the habit of doing. There is nothing new since I last wrote. I am well and in good spirits and have got into my winter quarters that I had the buglers build for me. So now I am as comfortable as I can be. I wrote to Sant last night and now to you tonight and as I wrote to you day before yesterday I will not attempt to write so long a letter now. The rebs have let us alone now for some time and all is quiet in our vicinity and no alarming news that we have heard. You said that little Frankie was full of fun and well. Well, I am glad to hear it. I would like to see her very much, also yourself, too.

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Leaves of absent are only granted to sick and disabled soldiers and as I am neither sick or disabled I cannot get home. I would like to be there while Frank is home to see him. As for resigning, I do not want to do that for I might get drafted and then I would be worse off than I am now and what is more they do not accept of resignation unless based on surgeon's certificate of physical disability. Captain *{Henry Heber}* Woodruff has not resigned, but has made application to be transferred into the Invalid Corps. I carried in his papers today for it. He is too old a man to stand the hard service of the field and I do not blame him for trying to get something easier. He has done his duty well so far while younger men have failed. You spoke of trading the 30 acres of land for some lots and wanted to know my opinion on the subject. Well, as I am not there and have been away so long I cannot say whether it would be best or not. I think that the

land is worth more than the place you spoke of for you know that we gave two lots and a better house nearer town for it some time ago, and if the land is worth as much now or grown in value as city property it ought to be worth the most of the two places. And as you did not say on what terms Dr. *{Andrew B.}* Spinney offered to trade I am unable to say much about it. And I am not anxious to get rid of the land at present for I want the wood and

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land to busy myself with when I get home. You had better ask some good responsible man's opinion and let me know what he says about the matter.

I have not seen Quartermaster O*{scar}* S. Davis in some time. He is at Knoxville *{TN}* and I am five miles from there and do not see him very often. The stockings that you spoke of have holes in the heels of them already. However, that is nothing for I can fix them when they get so bad that I have to. Captain *{John}* Carland of Company H of our regiment is going to start to Michigan on recruiting service and said he was going to Saginaw *{MI}*. I told him to call on you and he said he would do so. Sant says that he does not hardly see Frank at all as he is off with the girls all of the time. I hope he enjoyed himself while he has a chance for it will not be long before he will off to the tented field again where girls are a scarce article, if it is like East Tennessee.

I have not seen but three good-looking women since I have been in Tennessee and I cannot remember when I spoke to a woman it is so long ago. However, that does not trouble me in the least, for I have enough else to attend to without bothering about anyone but you. And as my wife calls all my idle thoughts, when I have the leisure I sit down and write to her thinking that it would improve the time most to your satisfaction

*{Page 4:}*

I thought your folks had moved out to Hartland *{MI}* but I see by your letters that they have not. Tell them that I hope that they are all well & send my love. I am sorry to hear that Mr. Lord was taken prisoner for his regiment. I hear has reenlisted and gone home on a furlough and he will not like the diet that they get at Libby Prison *{Richmond, VA}*. I hope that the spring will bring troops enough in the field to finish up the war in short order and liberate all of the prisoners that have been gobbled up by the rebs from time to time.

With the hope that this may soon reach you I will close this hastily written epistle wishing that it will find you well and in good spirits. With my best regards to all inquiring friends, I remain as ever

Your Affectionate Husband,  
D. D. Keeler

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 73<sup>d</sup> Regt of Mich V<sup>o</sup> I  
Camp Pratt East Tenn Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 1864

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