

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Feb 14th 1864.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Quartermaster Office, Supply Train 2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps  
Camp Stoneman, DC, *{Sunday}* February 14<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Susan,

Yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> was received today and I was glad to have so late news from home. As you see it was only five days coming. I am well as usual except a bad cold which I caught since I came out of town to camp to stay. My expenses at a hotel was more than my wages and if I continued I would soon be out of funds and that would not be very convenient, so I took up quarters in my tent. If I have a cold I had the satisfaction of sleeping in a good bed 10 ten nights and all alone every night except one night when I took in my best friend Lieutenant Ellis AAGM of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, an old companion and associate for the last 9 months. We have had very cold weather lately and it has been very severe on us who have been used to warmer climate. I have got a good stove in my tent and am very comfortable except when the wind blows the wrong way and

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makes my stove smoke. Tonight it don't smoke and I have a good fire and plenty of wood. I am at work on my papers all of the time I can get, for I want to get caught up and not have so much to do when I go out of the service before I get my pay and to prevent my pay from getting stopped. I have yet to settle up my 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant's pay which I must do soon or I will not get a chance to again very soon I am afraid. You say that you read in the papers that I was Captain Keeler now. Well, I am not yet, but expect to be soon. My commission will go to the regiment and as I am not with it I have to wait until I can get where it is to get it, as they have been gone several days and are now on their way to Fort Fisher, North Carolina, where I expect to follow in a few days with my wagons and mules. I am not alarmed about getting relieved and have to go back to the regiment very soon, and if I did I would have to have thirty days to settle up my papers and then I would have but little time left anyway. I have got a pretty heavy responsibility on hand now and I have to take care of it sometime yet. I go over to the city every day and back and I probably shall as long as I stop here.

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I see any amount of pretty women every day for the city is full of them and they often ride out to camp to distribute cards. You must not get jealous of me for I will let them alone.

You say that the shorter my time is the more anxious you are to have me come home. Well, I hope that you will not be disappointed when the 11<sup>th</sup> next September comes, for I am anxious too to get home as you are to have me and

you may be sure that I shall do nothing to prolong my stay or get in any scrape. I have been very lucky so far and I hope it will continue so. And you must not worry about me, but keep up good spirits and time will fly fast. It has been nearly a month since we started from Tennessee and it will be nearly a month before we all got away from here. Well, dear Susan, what will I be good for when my time is out? What will I do for a living? I must do something and I fear that I will make poor headway going to work again. I am spoiled for my trade; it will hard work for me to go at that. I have *{been}* in a position so long where I have to put on style, wear good clothes, ride a good horse. I will not feel like work.

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Well, I do not fear but I can get a living at any rate; if I have to take hard work for it and if I cannot do what I undertake it will be the first time I have failed. I believe I will try my old trade if nothing better turns up, for I once made a living at it and I can again.

If I had improved my education more when I was young I might be good for something else; however, my education has not failed me in the quartermasters department and I believe that requires a man's intelligence and a pretty good education to go through all straight. Well, dear Susan, do not let my absence keep you awake nor worry you for I am where it is beyond my power to get home until my time is out without being dishonorably dismissed, which would not sit well after I have tried so hard to gain a fair reputation in the army.

It is getting late, so good night, take good care of our little one and be a good girl. My love to all of the folks: Father, Mother, Sarah, and Lottie, and all. I am, dear Susan, as ever

Your Affectionate Husband,  
D. D. Keeler

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler  
East Saginaw  
Michigan



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