

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Feb. 15th 1863.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Camp of the 23rd Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Bowling Green, KY, *{Sunday}* February 15th 1863

Dear Wife,

It is Sunday and I have not much else to do than write so I will write to you. You must not expect much but nonsense for I have wrote so much lately that I have used up every subject and as for news, there is none but what I have wrote before. However, I will send something that will substitute in the shape of a poorly executed ambrotype of myself taken by a Kentucky artist. It is the best I can get here at present. Next week I will get some photographs

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taken and I will send you one. One of the ambrotypes give to Sarah Keeler my sister after taking your choice. I think the one with the camp in the rear is the best one. Well, take your choice and I will be satisfied. Let George see if he can tell who it is. See if he has forgot how I look and let me know what he says about me. The mail train has just arrived and I will not finish this until the mail is distributed. 5 o'clock p.m. Mail distributed and nothing for me this time. Tomorrow Company B will go to the depot on guard for 24 hours. I shall probably go with the boys there and help the officer of the guard through the night so he can get some sleep.

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I hope that you will get the money that I sent you in good time so you can get an ambrotype taken to send to me. I would like yours and the children's so I can see how they have grown. Get them as soon as you can for I would like to get them before we are ordered away from here. We have not got orders yet to march and don't know as we will either, but we are subject to march anytime as a soldier is not his own master. We may stay here some time yet for all I know. There is not many troops here now and some regiment has got to stay here and it may be us. It will soon be pay day again. The paymaster says he will be ready to pay us again as soon as our pay rolls are

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made out on the first of March. I hope that Hatty is well by this time for it is hard to be sick. Tell Sant that I have not received a letter from him in some time now. Tell him to write as soon as he can get time. I have answered every letter that I have received and wrote a great many that I never got any answer. I am sorry that you have got so sick of Saginaw *{M}* for Saginaw is a Heaven by the side of some of the places that I have seen. Bowling Green is one of them. I don't know

what it was once, but now it is half in ruins and half of the houses have not got a dooryard fence around and the country around has not a fence in sight & has been stripped by the army. Many houses have been torn down for the lumber for kindling wood and other uses to numerous to mention. Give my love to the folks and write soon to

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

Camp of the 23^d Regt of Mich. Vol. Inf.
Bowling Green W. Va. Feb. 15th 1863

Dear Wife

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away from here, We have not
got orders yet to march and
dont know as we will either
but we are subject to march
any time as a Soldier is not
his own master We may stay
here some time yet for all I
know there is not many troops
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Your Affectionate Husband
D. L. Heder