

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Feb. 17th 1865.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

*{Envelope:}*

*{Postmark:}* WASHINGTON D.C. FEB 18 1865

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler  
East Saginaw  
Michigan

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Quartermaster Office Supply Train, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps  
Camp Stoneman, DC, *{Friday}* February 17<sup>th</sup> 1865

Dear Wife,

I am well as usual and as I have a little leisure I thought I could not improve it more to your satisfaction than by writing to you and as I have sometimes let writing go a good while I will make up lost time when I can. I am yet at Camp Stoneman with my trains and do not expect to get away until next week sometime. I am now keeping house. What do you think of that? Well, I have no woman to help me so you need not think I am rushing things. I could get a woman by sending over Washington *{DC}*, but they are not suitable for house keeping so I live as I always have. A man cook and I sleep alone or sometimes with my clerk. I hope you will not take offense at that.

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I have been drawing clothing for my men today and I have yet to issue it. I draw it in bulk and issue to the men myself taking their receipt and charging the amount on their descriptive lists so that their company commanders can settle with them on the payrolls. I got some of my pay yesterday and I will send you a small amount by express tomorrow. I am sorry that I am unable to send a larger amount, but I cannot this time as I only drew (2) two months pay and as I had borrowed some and I also got me some clothes and I have to keep some for necessary expenses.

I do the best I can to save my money, but I find that I have used a great deal and I do not see as I could have got along any cheaper. Any expenses on this trip are as little as any officers that I know. I have a good suit of clothes and they cost my nearly two hundred dollars, overcoat, boots, and all. I have to go dressed in the best uniform ~~and~~ for officers and wear it every day while

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I am not in the field, but when I am in the field I wear common clothes. I have to keep up my end and assume the dignity pertaining to my rank and position and I can truly say that I never got in any scrape yet since I have been in the army and

I mean to finish what little time I have to serve honorably and faithfully as I have done so far.

I hope you never will have cause to regret that I did leave you to serve my country and that ~~the~~ you may be glad that we have done something in this great struggle.

The news from the front is cheering and I hope that the trouble will soon be over and peace once more restored, a peace that will be honorable to the brave boys who have fought for it. Not any other will do. We can dictate the terms yet and we will have it on those terms or we will keep on and wear the traitors out, which we can do with the help of our friends in the north, and we can do it in spite of the vile traitors in the north.

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You must keep up good spirits and be patient and I will do the same. I hope to be with you after the expiration of my time and I hope that we will never be disappointed. However, we will do the best we can and all will be well. Kiss Frankie for me.

I directed a letter to you for Lottie to prevent it falling into Tip's hands. I have not heard from Tip yet, nor do I expect to.

Give my best regards to all and I will soon write again.

I am as ever

Your Affectionate Husband,

D. D. Keeler

To  
Mrs. S. M. Keeler  
East Saginaw  
Michigan



Q M Office Supply Train <sup>2000</sup> No 35 a c  
Camp Stoneman Dec 17th 1865

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J. W. Keeler

To  
Mrs J. W. Keeler  
East Saginaw  
Michigan



Mrs Susan M Keeler  
East Saginaw  
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