

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Feb. 19th 1865.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Quartermasters Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trains 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps  
Camp Stoneman, DC, *{Sunday}* February 19<sup>th</sup> 1865

Dear Wife,

It being Sunday and a great day for letter writing in the army when it can be done, I thought I would write to you for I know that you expect me to write Sundays if I possibly can. I have nothing new to write and I will try and interest you with something. I am well as usual and in good spirits. Yesterday I had nothing to do in camp and having business over in Washington *{DC}* I went over to the city, reported myself to the chief quartermaster for orders and he told me he had nothing for me to do at present and after finishing what little I had to do at headquarters I went down to the express office and expressed you \$50.00, which you must look out for soon. I paid the freight on it and you will have nothing to pay on it. I then went and had my negative taken for some photographs and will send you one as soon as they are printed.

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I ordered two dozen as I want some for my friends. I then went and got supper and visited Billy Driggs and spent an hour or so very agreeable with him. I then went up to my old boarding place, the European Hotel, found my old associates and spent the evening very pleasantly. I retired for the night a little after 10 o'clock to a well furnished bedroom and a luxurious bed and got up this morning at 10 o'clock, I being bound to have the worth of what it cost me and I think I did get it if laying a bed late was of any use. I then went to a late breakfast and made out some reports and at 2 o'clock I started for camp and in passing the residence of the Hon. *{Representative}* John F *{letcher}* Driggs I thought I might find him at home and at leisure, so I called and found him busy answering letters. As he was nearly through I had to wait and take dinner with him and finally got started for camp again. I waited for a coach or a hack to come along and finally I started on foot and got nearly half way out when a hack came along and took me out of the mud and drove me right to my own door and charged me one dollar, which I paid and now I am all sound and safe

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in my own quarters and it nearly bedtime. I sleep tonight on the floor in my blankets and I am sure I can sleep as well as is necessary for me, yet I could stand it if I had the bed I slept in last night. Well, as I cannot afford it all the time I will be satisfied with what I have got. I will be glad when I get in the field again so I can make my expenses as less. To do the best I can while I am moving about as much lately and being obliged to buy everything that I have and pay such

enormous prices I cannot lay up anything. I do not know an officer but what has more than used his wages lately. I expect to get away the first of this week and then it will be several days before I can write again and you must not worry if you do not hear from me so often for our mail will have to go further and by water. However, I will write as often as I can and you must do the same. Keep up good spirits and not get discouraged for every day makes one day less and now it is but 203 days more and then three will be off before this reaches ????. The news is cheering and getting better and better every day. General *{William Tecumseh}* Sherman is more than they can stand.

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I understand that another draft is to be made. Now are not you glad that I am clear of all the draft and in the most honorable way, too, and that my time will soon be out? I do not fear any draft in for soldiers and I will be exempt hereafter, which is the beauty of it.

Well, I am soon going to bed and I wish you good night. Remember me to all, Frankie, too.

I am ever

Your Affectionate Husband,

D. D. Keeler

P.S. Direct as before

Q M Office 2nd Train 23rd Army Corps  
Camp Stonehouse DC Feb 19th 1865

Dear Wife

It being Sunday and a great day for letter writing in the Army when it can be done, I thought I would write to you for I know that you expect me to write Sundays if I possibly can. I have nothing new to write and I will try and interest you with something. I am well as usual and in good spirits. Yesterday I had nothing to do in camp and having business over in Washington I went over to the city reported myself to the Chief Quarter Master for orders and he told me he had nothing for me to do at present and after finishing what little I had to do at Head Quarters I went down to the Express office and expressed you \$5.00<sup>00</sup> which you must look out for soon I paid the freight on it and you will have nothing to pay on it. I then went and had my negative taken for some Photographs and will send you one as soon as they are printed.

I ordered two dozen as I want some for my pencils.  
I then went and got Supper and visited  
Billy Driggs and spent an hour or so very  
agreeable with him. I then went up to my old  
boarding place the European Hotel found my old  
associates and spent the evening very pleasantly.  
I retired for the night a little after 10 o'clock to a  
well furnished bed room and a luxurious bed  
and got up this morning at 10 o'clock. I being  
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of any use. I then went to a late Breakfast  
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came along and took me out of the mud and drove  
me right to my own door and charged me one Dollar  
which I paid and now I am all mud and safe.

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I am sure I can sleep as well as is necessary for  
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in last night. Well as I can not afford it all  
the time I will be satisfied with what I have got  
I will be glad when I get in the field again  
so I can make my expenses up, to do the best  
I can while I am moving about as much lately  
and being oblig'd to buy everything that I have and  
pay such enormous prices I can not lay up any  
thing. I do not know an officer but what has  
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Well I am soon going to bed and I wish  
you good night remember me to all Frankie too

I am as ever your  
affectionate Husband

J. P. Walker

P.S. Direct as before