EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Jan. 10th 1864.tif" Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

*{Page 1:}*Headquarters 23rd Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry Strawberry Plains, Tennessee, Jan. 10th 1864

Dear Wife,

Sunday has again came and as it is a day for letter writing with the soldiers I will not break over the rule today and put off writing until some other time, for I have always tried to make it part of my duty while in the army to write to you Sundays and have done so to a considerable extent. Sometimes it is impossible to write when I want to, but before the week passes I generally find time and opportunity to write to you. Although I do not get my letter very regular I answered the last one I received from you and was glad to hear from you. Last night O (scar S.) Davis arrived here and you may believe we were glad to hear from see him for we had heard that he was killed by guerillas, as I wrote in my last letter. I hope his folks will not hear of it. If you see them tell them that he is well and joined the regiment last night in good health and says he never was in better health than at the present time. He told me that he saw you and Frankie several times and he brought the things that you sent by him. I have not got them yet as his trunk is on the other side of the river from here and will not be brought over until this afternoon. He said that it was reported that I had been killed and told me how bad you felt when you heard of it. I hope you never will hear of such

{Page 2:}

news again of me, and if you do you must not believe it ??? until you are sure it is so. I am well as usual and the officers all say I look as young as though I was only 18 years old, and I do not feel any older either. I am getting as fat as I did last winter. We have a plenty to eat now and we eat a plenty, too. We are now having the coldest weather now that we have had yet and some snow, just enough to make the ground white. The river has some floating ice in it this morning, so you see that we are having a taste of winter down here.

We are yet building fortifications at this place and have considerable yet to do to finish them, and will take some time at the rate we work. Our brigade of four regiments is all that is at work. Each regiment details daily 112 men, 8 non-commissioned and 3 commissioned officers. The detail is divided into three reliefs, and each relief works two hours for a days work, so each regiment does 112 days work each or 224 hours work each day. We also detail 35 men and one officer every day for picket. That constitutes all the duty that the regiment does at present, that being as much as we care about doing. My duties are of a different character, which is writing most of the time. I have very near got

everything finished up to this date and will not have much to do until the first of next month.

Evening. As I was called away from writing this forenoon, I again attempt to finish this letter. Nothing new has occurred and as everything is quiet I have no news of any importance to write. We can get no news here,

{Page 3:}

not as much as you can at home. No fighting has been heard of lately and everything is quiet along the Holston {River}. I went with Davis and helped him get his trunk over and have now got those things that you sent by him; also the good long letter that was with them. I am very thankful for it all. The stocking were just what I needed as what I had were worn out and I could not get any here for any price. I have offered two dollars a pair for a couple of pair and could not get them at that. The tobacco is a godsend and was just what I have been aching for and the gloves far exceed my expectations and I am now all right. The cigars are better than can be had in Tennessee and I gave each of the officers one.

As I did not finish this yesterday as I expected, I make another attempt before the mail goes out to finish this. I received a letter from you dated the 27th today and I was glad to hear from you. I am sorry to hear that they all feel so bad about Lieutenant Davis, for he is now here eating his dinner and is well. He wrote a few lines for his father which he wanted me to enclose with this for you to send down to his folks when you receive this. He is very busy and did not have time to write more. He sends his respects to you and Father. I wish I could see little Frankie and hear her talk. You wanted to know how I spent Christmas & New Years. Well, they were spent as all other

{Page 4:}

days are spent in the army; that is, on duty as usual and as we had the same to eat as other days it passed as any other day does. I hope you are well and live comfortable at home. Tell Mrs. Delavergne that Lute is in Knoxville {TN}. He stopped behind when we marched from there and has not yet joined us since. When last heard from he was well. Tell Mrs. Devine that her husband is getting along finely and will be sent home on a furlough as soon as he is able to go with safety. Lieutenant Davis received a letter from home today containing notice of his death. As I have a considerable to do this afternoon I will close this letter with {out} filling the whole sheet. My respects to Mr. & Mrs. Davis and all inquiring friends and believe me, ever

Your Affectionate Husband,

D. D. Keeler

Tro 23 Roy Mich Mal Dear Mile may house see all sall glade to Hundry has a gain came and as it is a day for letter conting with the Soldiers I will not break oper the hale to day and put of writing in til someother time for I have allways tried to make it part of my duly while in the army to write to you and undays and have done so to a considerable extent Sometimes it is impossible to write when I want to but before the week passes & generally find time and oppertuinty to write to you although I do hot get my letter overy regular I answered the last on I received from yed and dowl glad to hear from you Last night Del wis arrived there and you may believewe rivere glad to hear from see him for we had heard that he was Killed by Gurilleras as I wrote in my last letter I hope his fores will not hear of it & of you see them tell them that he is well and joined the regiment fast might in good health and says he mover wasinbetter health tham at the present time. He told me that he saw you and Frankie several times and he brought. the things that you sent by him. I have not got them get as his trunk is on the other side of the river from here a will not be brought over until this afternoon the said that it was reported that I had been killed and told me how bad you felt when you heard of it I hope you never will hear of such

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days are spent in thearmy that is on duty as usual and as we had the same to eat as other days It passed as any other day does It hope you are well and five confortable lat home, Tell Mrs Delavergne that Lute is in Knowille he stoped befind when we marchel from there and has not one somed as Since when last heard from he was well to fell purs Devine that Her Husbay is getting along finely and will be Sent home on a furlough as soon as id is afte to go with safely It Davis received a letter from home to day containing notice of his death ast have a consideratole to do this before nown I will close this letter with filling the who speck Myrespects to Ma Mis Divio and all inguiring funds and believe me ever your affect to be said with the state of eat to fined the O seasoned of letter from you dated to 27th to your said & core glad to sear from und him down to war that they all till de had about it also for the is not break after sid die and is well he winde a year thine for antifection which the winder me throught without his you mill a send down to his folks; where you weder This the Warrey have and did intofehave thing the wite more. He sendil his alsperts to you and Frethe Downto Warde Lee Let Frankie and have been to a granted to have how the fresh To interest your land good hay now the standard of the I will de south in the second of the second