

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 come 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 *Oscar S.} Davis* arrived here and you may believe we were glad to hear from 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 stockings 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

Co. 2nd 3rd Regt Mich. Inf.
Strawberry Plains Tenn. Jan 10th 1864

Dear Wife

Sunday has again come and as it is a day for
letter writing with the soldiers I will not break over the rule
to day 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 on 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 letters very regular.
I answered the last one I received from you and was glad to hear from
you last night. Al Davis arrived here and you may believe we
were glad to hear from ~~see~~ him for we had heard that he was
killed by Guerrillas 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

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 were 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 & non-commissioned officers ^{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 pickets 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 every thing is quiet I have no news of any importance to write. We can get no news here

not as much as you can at home no fighting has been
heard of lately and every thing is quiet along the Holsten
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 stockings 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 god send and was just
what I have been aching for by the glasses far exceeding my expec-
tations and I am now all right. The cigars are better than can
be had in Tenn and I gave each of the officers one.
Later Jan 11th

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 to day and I was glad to hear from
you I am sorry to hear that they all feel so bad
about St 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

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 he stopped behind when we marched
from there and has not yet joined us since when last
heard from he was well. Tell Mrs Swine 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. St Davis received
a letter from home to day containing notice of his death
and I have a considerable to do this afternoon I will
close this letter with telling the who send my respects
to Mr & Mrs Davis and all inquiring friends and believe
me ever your affect Christian

C. S. Weller