

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: “Letter Jan. 12th 1864.tif”
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Page 1:}

Quartermasters Office Supply Train 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps
Clifton, Tennessee, January 12th 1864

Dear Wife,

I suppose you think that something has happened to me by not writing oftener. Well, dear Susan, I am all right yet and well as usual and able to eat my full share of rations. I have not wrote for the reason that since we left Columbia there has been no chance to send any mail back nor is there yet and I am writing this to have it ready when the mail goes out. I believe that the last letter I wrote to you is not gone yet. We are now on the Tennessee River somewhere I can't tell you where; only at Clifton or where Clifton used to be, but is not now for there is nothing left of the place but a lot of half tumbled down chimneys and a piece of a schoolhouse which I use to keep my horse in. Our corps is awaiting for steamboats to go somewhere else. That is all I know, only that those ahead of us have

{Page 2:}

gone up the river and we expect to follow. I have loaded my train on an old coal barge and that is as far as I can go at present or until a steamboat takes me in tow. I was six days on the road from Spring Hill here and over the worst roads I ever saw. Talk of mud, why I have seen more mud lately than ever before, for it is nothing but mud and deep mud, too, and the country grows worse as we advance. And the weather lately beats all. It either rains or snows two thirds of the time and cold as Greenland. Today has been the finest day in some time and I expect it will rain tomorrow to keep the mud from drying up or we can't get along for we are not used to dry weather now. You must not worry for my comfort for I stand it first rate and I can stand it for I have good long tops to my boots and I received by mail from someone from somewhere two good new pair of woolen stockings which I now am enjoying the benefit of. The are thankfully received whoever sent them and may the one that sent them be ever happy and prosperous for I wish him or her all the good luck imaginable. I am now well provided with clothes and cold

{Page 3:}

and wet weather has had no effect on me yet.

Now, Susan, if you do not hear from me regular you must not lay it to any accident to me for it will be because that our mail facilities are such that I cannot send you my letters as often as I would. Our only communications now is by the Tennessee River and boats have not got to running regular yet and none have yet gone down nor has there any come up with any mail. The last mail the troops

received I brought through in my train. Oh say, Susan, send me a few postage stamps as I am out and none are to be had here.

I suppose you are now having regular winter now while we have mud in place of snow. As it has been several days since I had a letter from you I would like to see a mail boat as bad as anyone. I hope you are well and Frankie too. Well, Susan, it is just eight months from today when my time will be out or 239 days, and now every day makes one day less and we will soon get to be 100 day men is not the time growing beautifully less. So you must keep up good spirits and I will and we will soon see each other. Give my respects to Father & Mother, Sarah and all of the folks.

{Page 4.}

Excuse me for not writing much on this page for it is not ruled and it is bedtime, too. So good night and pleasant dreams.

I am, dear Susan, as ever,
Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

I M Office Supply Train²⁰⁰ Dec 23rd '60
Clifton Tenn January 12th 1864

Dear Wife

I suppose you think that something has happened to me by not writing oftener Well Dear Susan I am all right yet and well as usual and able to eat my full share of rations I have not wrote for the reason that since we left Columbia there has been no chance to send any mail back nor is there yet and I am writing this to have it ready when the mail goes out I believe that the last letter I wrote to you is not gone yet. We are now on the Tennessee River some where I cant tell you where only at Clifton or where Clifton used to be but is not now for there is nothing left of the place but a lot of half tumbled down chimneys and a piece of a school house which I use to keep my horse in Our Corps is awaiting for Steam Boats to go somewhere else that is all I know only that those ahead of us have

gone up the river and we expect to follow
I have loaded my Train on an old Coal Barge
and that is as far as I can go at present or until
a Steam Boat takes me in that I was six days
on the road from Spring Hill here and over the
worst road I ever saw talk of mud why I have
seen more mud lately than ever before for it is
nothing but mud and deep mud too and the country
grows worse as we advance. and the weather lately
beats all. it either rains or snows two thirds of
the time and cold as Greenland. To day has
been the finest day in some time and I expect
it will rain tomorrow to keep the mud from drying
up or we cant get along for we are not used to
dry weather now. You must not worry for my
comfort for I stand it first rate and I can
stand it for I have good long tops to my Boots
and I received by Mail from some one from some
where two good new pair of woollen Stockings which
I now am enjoying the benefit of they were thoughtfully
received whoever sent them and may the one that
sent them be ever happy and prosperous. for I wish
him or her all the good luck imaginable
I am now well provided with cloths and cold

and wet weather has had no effect on me yet

Now Susan if you do not hear from me regular you must not lay it to any accident to me for it will be because that our mail facilities are such that I can not send you my letters as often as I would our only communication now is by the Tennessee River and Boats have not got to running regular yet and none have yet got down nor has there any come up with any mail the last mail the troops received I brought through in my train Oh say Susan send me a few postage stamps as I am out and none are to be had here

I suppose you are now having regular winter now while we have mud in place of snow. As it has been several days since I had a letter from you I would like to see a mail Boat as bad as any you I hope you are well and Frank & two. Well Susan it is just eight months from to day when my time will be out or 239 days. and now every day makes one day less and we will soon get to be 100 days men is not the time growing beautifully less. So you must keep up good spirits and I will and we will soon see each other. Give my respects to Father & Mother Sarah and all of the folks.

Excuse me for not writing much on this
page for it is not ruled and it is bed time too
So good night and pleasant dreams

I am Dear Susan as ever
Your Affectionate Husband
Wm. W. Wheeler