Family Home Page

Keeler Civil War Letters

Contact Information

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Jan. 26th 1863.tif" Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

(Envelope (probably not the original one:) {Stamp:} Nashville, Tennessee, Aug 22 '64 Mrs. Susan M. Keeler, East Saginaw, Michigan

{*Page 1:*}

Camp of the 23rd Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry Bowling Green, KY, Monday Jan. 26, 1863

Dear Wife,

I have not received a letter from you in a long time and I keep writing every week to you so you will know how I am. I am well yet and hope that you and the children are. We have had but one mail since Christmas and we begin to want another one and are expecting a large one every day now. I suppose you have got my letters regular and have answered them expecting that I got them. There has been no express running since the railroad was smashed and consequently I have not got that box yet. We had had some bad weather lately. It snowed and rained here three nights and four days without stopping and the snow was very near a foot deep when it stopped, but it didn't stay on long and there is not a bit to be seen now and the weather is guite warm again and we are enjoying spring weather in January. Well, I guess that I can ??? now we have got a mail at last and I got two letters, one from you dated Jan. 16th and the other from Sarah, the first that I received from her in a long time. I feel better now that I know that you are all well. I tried to write this forenoon, but could not do much at it so I stopped and made up my mind I would wait until the cars came and see if the mail come. It come and there is a great many of our regiment fees better

{*Page 2:*}

and everyone that can get paper is writing. I cannot write much news for there is nothing transpires here outside of the ordinary line of camp duties which is not worthwhile to mention again. The three companies that have been on provost guard in the city are going to be relieved this week by the 25 Michigan Infantry and they will come back into camp again, which will relieve us of some of our duties in guarding the camp and railroad depot. We now take our turns by company in guarding, so I do not have to detail a guard every morning from the company. We have not drilled much lately, only one hour every day when the weather will permit, so our labors are not very hard now. I have not done enough lately to keep me from getting lazy. I built 2 ovens for the regiment so we will bake our own bread now. The two ovens will bake 800 loaves to one baking, so you can judge how large they are. The major had me do it alone for there was not another bricklayer in the regiment. They are now ready for use and we will soon be eating our own bread instead of ??? hardtacks. Yesterday our company were on guard at the depot and today they to rest in. We see a lot of paroled prisoners from the south. They speak very ill of the rebels. Some of them say that they were used very well and others did not fare quite as well and a rebel would not fare very well if they should get into their hands now. They say that they can strike a rebel now with a good conscience.

{*Page 3:*}

Company A is detailed to guard them through to Louisville $\langle KY \rangle$ tomorrow. Major *(Benjamin F.)* Fisher is going to resign and will be in Saginaw *(MI)* in two or three weeks. I will send a letter by him when he goes and if I can get my likeness taken I will send that by him too. Perhaps we will be paid before he goes. If we are I will send you some money. You must be in need of some by this time as well as myself. The captain of Company A will probably take the major's place and some more of the officers are going to resign and the consequence will be another batch of promotions. Whether it will reach me next time I cannot tell yet as six orderlies stand between me and promotions, so I will have patience and time will bring it around. Instead of Company A being detailed to go to Louisville, Company B is going. I have just detailed the men to go. I may probably go myself with them. I have not made up my mind yet. I will send this letter through by some of the men to have it mailed at Louisville if I do not go. Lieutenant Graverse of Company A died tonight. That is the reason why they are not going. It is raining tonight and the rain patting on the tent make me feel like sleeping good tonight and I think I shall while I am writing. I have to stop occasionally and talk with Lieutenants { William A. } Lewis and Ashby and I have made up my mind to go with the guard to Louisville. Consequently I have to get ready with two days rations to report at 4 o'clock with the men at the depot and as I have got to write another letter yet

{*Page 4:*}

to Sarah Lester I will have to stop before I get this sheet full, so you must excuse me this time if I do not write a full sheet, and as I can't get any letter paper I have to take foolscap and it holds more than letter paper. Tell George I have not shot any n----- yet, but I hate them bad enough. I would not have a Kentucky n----- around me for any price. They are not worth much and the more n----- the secesh have the worse they are off in my opinion. I came down here to fight for the Union and not for the n-----. If they are like the ones around here they are a curse to any country where they make slaves of them and I say curse the rebels with n----- if they want them. We have great n----- regiments here in our camp and there is but few that likes them. I must stop this and let them do what they have a mind to with the slaves. I won't bother my head with them. So take good care of my boy and girl and also yourself and I will look out for myself and I will write again as soon as I get back. So good night and be sure and write to soon to

Your Affectionate Husband, D. D. Keeler

Camp of the 28 Begt of Mich Yol Infanting Dear The I have not receaved a letter from you in a long time and of thech I writing every week to you so you will know how I am all am well yet and hope that you and the children are we have had but one mail since Christmas and we begin to want another one and are expecting a large one every day now of suppose you have got my letterd regular and have answered them expecting that 29 got them, There has been no exprept running sind the Bail Revad was smashed and conservinity I have not get that toxyet We have had some bad wether lately it Snoweg and rached here three mighto and four days withbut stoping and the Snow was very mear a foot deep when it stoped but it didnot stay on long and there is not a bit to beseen now and the wether is quite warmagain and we are enjoying Joing wether in fanuary Mell of quet that at how we have got a Mail at last and got too letters one from you dated gan 18th and the other for Clarah the the first that I receaved from the in along time I feel better now that I know that you are all hoell I tryd to write this forenoon but could not do much at it so I stoped and made up my mind I would wait till the cars come and see if the mail come At come and there agreat many of our Megiment feels better

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