

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: “Letter July 17th 1864.tif”
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Headquarters Supply Train, 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps
Chattahoochee River, Georgia, *{Sunday}* July 17th 1864

Dear Wife,

I received a letter from you day before yesterday and glad I was to hear from you. I am sorry that little Frankie is not well and I wish that she would get over the ague and be healthy again.

You must take good care of her and not let her get any other disease.
July 18th 1864.

Dear Susan,

Soon after I commenced the above I received a call from the chaplain of the 111th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. I had to entertain him and while he stayed I had to talk with him. He wanted to know if I got along with my mules without swearing. I told him that I did swear occasionally, and that I had the first man yet to see that drove mules without swearing. Well, he soon dropped the subject and we talked of something else. When he left I asked him to call again and he did the same.

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Yesterday we moved our trains over the Chattahoochee River and now we are quietly camped on the south side of the river. The troops are advancing and are now about nine miles from here, going to the east of Atlanta *{GA}*. I was with them today and returned this afternoon to my train. I was to the regiment a short time yesterday. They are in excellent spirits. I saw them again today on the road. They are, or the whole regiment is, now detailed as provost guards at 23rd Army Corps Headquarters, and now have the nicest thing going. Their duties are light to what they have been so you must not worry about me now if I am relieved for I will be as safe there as where I am.

The weather has been very mild for the last two days and not so hot as it has been. The nights are cool and very comfortable for sleeping. I have been very well all of the time, nothing but a slight diarrhea which I am well of now. I get lousy every week and sometimes oftener. I had all of my clothes boiled yesterday and again today, blankets and all, which will kill them for a day or two when I expect to be lousy again and another boiling operation will fix them again and so on for I can't say how long to come. It is an impossibility to keep clear of graybacks for the ground must be covered with them.

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While I am writing I think I feel a grayback crawling; so I imagine a thousand times a day, and sometimes my imagination is correct for no sooner do I feel one

than I have to strip and skirmish a while. Yesterday I had a swim in the Chattahoochee River and I lost my watch in the river, but found it again a running as well as ever and it is going yet. I have this evening hired a clerk at \$75 per month so I will have less to do. I have also got a good sergeant detailed and I have easier times than I did at first. I have two horses to ride so I do not walk much and two n----- to take care of them, black my boots, brush my clothes and wash them, pitch my tent, and numerous other things, and a cook besides who cooks for my mess which consists of four besides myself. So you see I get along as well as I can ask. I hope you will not think that I have such hard times. Keep up good spirits and I will do the same. It is getting late and I must sleep when I can, so good night and happy dreams. Remember me to all inquiring friends and believe me. As ever, dear Susan,

Your Ever Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler
Lieutenant 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry & Acting Assistant
Quartermaster
Supply Train 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps

Head Quarters Supply Train 2nd Div 23rd
Chattahoochee River Ga July 17th 1864

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D. Steeler

Dr^d Mich^l W^h A. A. G. W.
Supply Train 2nd Div 2³ A. C.