

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter July 1st 1863.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Camp of the 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Tompkinsville, KY, July 1st 1863

Dear Wife,

I have just received two letters from you and I was glad to hear from you and Frankey. The letters just caught up with us and were very acceptable You may believe I am well as usual. We have been on the march for over a week and have not had a fight – yet – we are now only seven miles from the Cumberland River where there is a plenty of rebels. When we left Glasgow *{KY}* we marched to Scottsville *{KY}*, a place only 25 miles from Bowling Green *{KY}* where we camped two days and it rained all the while we were there, which gave us a very poor opinion of the place which only amounted to three or four old houses and never was meant to be called a place.

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We got marching orders to march from there after it stopped raining to Tompkinsville so we pulled up stakes and left about four o'clock p.m. and marched 10 miles and camped on the bank of the Barren River, which was too deep for us to ford, so we had to wait there a day and a half before the water went down so we could cross. A raft was made to carry the ammunition over to keep it dry and the infantry were ferried over on the cavalry horses and we all arrived over safe and started forward. After about 5 miles march we camped at Jimtown *{Jamestown, KY, also called Fountain Run, KY}* for the night. We got an early start in the morning and reached this place last night about 5 o'clock and camped on an old battleground where a fight took place one year ago the 9th of this month. I do not know how long we will stay here. I do not think

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it will be only long enough for us to make out our pay rolls and returns. There is two brigades of us here now and they are not very small ones either. General *{Henry M.}* Judah came through with our brigade and he says that the 23rd is the best volunteer regiment he ever saw. Colonel *{Marshall W.}* Chapin took an affectionate leave from us this morning to take command of the forces at Carthage *{TN}* on the Cumberland River below here. General *{William S.}* Rosecrans sent for a fighting man and General Judah sent Colonel Chapin. We may have to go without him for a long time and we are sorry to part with him as he was with us, but he had to go where he was ordered and he will do his duty nobly wherever he goes; and may God bless him for his country's sake, for

Michigan never sent a better soldier in the field than Colonel Chapin. He was kind and lenient as he could be and

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do his duty. He won the confidence of both men and officers in this regiment and even the whole brigade which he has had command for the last two weeks in the absence of General *{Mahlon Dickerson}* Manson. We have other officers I would like to speak of, but space will not permit on this sheet. Things are all right here with us and we are in the best of spirits and confident of success in the end, which must come after a while, so do not get discouraged in my absence but cheer up. And when I get back I will finish up on some of the secesh in Michigan if they do not stop their rebellious noise and that cousin of yours that does not know any better than to insult you by talking secesh before you in my absence would do well if he was here we would discipline him so he would know manners. Do not ever own him again as a relation and may they draft him the first one and send him to our regiment – where he would not be safe to open his rebellious mouth in presence of a soldier. I wish I could hang or shoot him and all other of his class. I can hardly keep from swearing when I think how they are trying to discourage all loyal men from their duty. They are no better than a pack of murderers and thieves and worse than the rebels in arms and ought to be treated accordingly.

Camp of 2^d Mich Vol Infy
Tompkinsville Ky. July 1st 1863

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