

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter July 27th 1864.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

*{Envelope:}*

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler  
East Saginaw  
Michigan

*{Page 1:}*

Headquarters Supply Train, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23 Army Corps  
On the Field near Atlanta, Georgia, {Wednesday} July 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Wife,

I am well and as usual, all right and sound, and I hope you and Frankie are in a good health. I received a letter from you the other day and I have forgotten whether I have answered it. If I have not, let this be the answer and tell Sarah that I will answer hers as soon as I have time. I suppose you imagine all sorts of dangers down here and that I am either wounded, captured or sick, and that I have hard times to contend with. Well, Susan, do not let any of these things give you any trouble for I can live through all I have had to stand yet and I do believe that I am good for most anything that comes up. I do not do any more than is necessary and take it as easy as I can and do my duty and have my men do the laborious part of it. Today I have had a good rest and I have a good place to sleep tonight.

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My sergeant makes the bed and we sleep together. I was out to the front line today and had a look at Atlanta about a mile distant. From there our batteries were leisurely shelling the city and knocking the houses to pieces and shelling the rebel works. I stayed as long as I wanted to. While I was there one of our shells struck a rebel rifle pit and buried several rebels in it. One of the gunners I do believe can hit any brick he has a mind to in sight at Atlanta, a mile distant. He would watch and when he saw a head at a window he would let a shell into the house and the way the shingles, brick and pieces would fly was a caution. I am afraid that Atlanta will not be worth much by the time we get the place, for the rebels are doing the best now that they can to resist our victorious army. The other day they made a charge and I am told that the rebels buried 2,000 under a flag of truce and that our men buried 1,000 of them and we got 4,000 of their wounded and I saw 1,800 of the prisoners myself. Our loss was very small. The greatest was the loss of General *{James Birdseye}* McPherson who was almost instantly killed.

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I am hauling supplies yet and I guess that I shall be kept at that as long as this campaign lasts. I have now 40 wagons and make a trip about once in six days to Marietta *{GA}*, about 20 miles to the rear. I have got me a good horse and a splendid mule to ride. I saw Captain *{Henry Heber}* Woodruff the other day. He has rejoined the regiment again. The other men are well as usual. My men are from a dozen regiments and I have some citizens and n----- besides, so you see I have all sorts of teamsters. I wish that I could go home and see the folks and above all the rest I would like to see you and Frankie. I would not want you to come here for there is hardly a minute in the day or night but some of our batteries are thundering away at the rebels and it is almost one continual roar. Once today there were over fifty cannon firing at once and small arms innumbrably, making a most an awful din. Our corps has used eight wagon loads of ammuniton today, making 160,000 rounds fired and it has not been much of a day for fighting either, only skirmishing and shelling, not one tenth of the corps being engaged.

*{Page 4:}*

I have got so that I can sleep with all the noise that can be made. By golly, Atlanta is burning! Hurrah! It has just this minute broke out and a grand sight it is this summer night. The whole sky is illuminated. What havoc war makes with this sunny south. There is nothing left behind us this side of Chattanooga *{TN}* but desolation and so it will be as we advance. I never want to see another war as long as I live and I hope this will soon end. It must end or we will leave nothing but the broad green earth of these rebellious states. We can do it and do it we are bound unless they come to terms. I shall soon have in two years of my time. I can see it grow short and I hope you can. Keep up good spirits and do not get discouraged during my absence. Remember that my services are needed and I have not to feel that I have not done my duty to my country. Write soon I will do so. Give my best wishes to all inquiring friends and belive me. As ever,

Your Most Affectionate Husband,  
D. D. Keeler

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler  
East Saginaw  
Michigan

W<sup>h</sup> Dns Supply Train 2<sup>nd</sup> Div 23<sup>rd</sup> A G  
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