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Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Camp of Bivouac of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry  
Elizabethtown, KY, July 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Wife,

I suppose you feel very anxious about me and as we are on the march all of the time I have not had a chance to write, and if I had it would not have done any good for John *{Hunt}* Morgan has stopped the cars and mail again and gobbled some of the mail, perhaps the last letter I wrote to you when we were at Tompkinsville *{KY}* about 1 hundred miles south of here. For the last three weeks we have been on the go all of the time. We have not halted over two days in one place since we first left Glasgow *{KY}*. I wrote to you on the third of July, the day before the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the way we celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> was

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by marching 30 miles in the boiling hot sun back to Glasgow and we rested there a half of a day and started for Munfordville *{KY}*, a place on the railroad 42 miles north of Bowling Green *{KY}*. We got there and Morgan was not there, nor within 40 miles of there. He crossed the railroad between here and Louisville *{KY}*. He cut the telegraph wire and telegraphed to Munfordville to know how many troops were there in the name of General *{Jeremiah Tilford}* Boyle. Our general answered him and Morgan telegraphed for our general to hold the men in readiness to move by rail at a moments notice. Well, we were ready and for some reason we did not go or Morgan would have had us where he could gobble us. Colonel *{Orlando Hurley}* Moore of the 25<sup>th</sup> Michigan *{Volunteer Infantry}* with six companies of the same regiment met him and fought Morgan and repulsed

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him with only a loss of 6 killed and a very few wounded. Morgan lost over fifty killed and over a hundred wounded. Morgan sent a flag of truce to bury his dead. Colonel Moore told him to come and bury his dead, but he would not cease firing as long as he had a shot left in the cartridge boxes. Bully for Colonel Moore of the 25<sup>th</sup> Michigan. Last night we got orders to move immediately from Munfordville which we did by rail to this place, which is only 40 miles south of Louisville. We got here this morning and I reckon we will stop two or three days. A right smart lot of cavalry are in pursuit of Morgan and I guess they will gobble him before he gets out of the state. It is no use for infantry to chase mounted men and I guess we will not go any further.

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If we do not have a fight as long as we have to foot it after guerillas we never will have a one at all, for it is as much as cavalry can do to catch them. I am well as usual and feel first-rate as well as ever I did in my life. We did not bring anything with us so I borrowed this sheet of paper and are writing on my knee so you must excuse this bad writing. I have some news to tell you now. Last night at dress parade I was appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in Company D and hereafter direct to Lieutenant D. D. Keeler, Company D, 23 Michigan Volunteer Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Judah's Division, 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps, Glasgow, KY, that being the place of headquarters of the division. Do not worry about me as there is no danger of our having to fight any for we have to march too much for that. Give my love to all of the folks and write soon and believe me.

Still Your Affectionate Husband,  
D. D. Keeler

Camp Bivouac of the 23 Regt Mich & S  
Elizabethtown Ky July 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

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Husband

D. Keeler