

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter July 9th 1864.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Envelope:}

{Postmark:} GRAND RAPIDS MICH JUL 20 1864 MISSENT

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

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Headquarters Supply Train 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps
Near Chattahoochee River, Georgia, *{Saturday}* July 9th 1864

Dear Wife,

I was up to the regiment this morning and I found a letter for me from you and glad I was to hear from you and that you were well, but I am sorry that Frankie has the ague. I hope she will soon get over it and be well again. I am well and running a supply train yet and am now near the front. This morning three days rations were issued out of my team and unloaded part of my wagons. I loaded the empty ones from another section and that has gone back to the depot for another load and I shall lay over for one trip and rest my teams and myself, too. You said that you had not had a letter from me in four weeks. Well, Susan, two weeks is the longest that I have went without writing to you and I do not think that I ever went so long before without writing. It has been almost an impossibility for me to write sometimes when I want to, but now things have got to running regular and I have more time than I did in the commencement of this campaign.

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I do not know what should make you think that I am captured or anything else happened me for there has been no wagon trains captured since the 24th of May last. I was not with that, but I had 6 wagons with it that was captured. I had left them to be loaded and to come on when loaded. The teamsters all got away and all I lost was the wagons & mules. Other quartermasters lost some as the train was made up of empty wagons of several trains. When you hear of a train being captured do not worry about me, for there is more than a hundred wagon trains here and wagons enough if in the road in one line to reach 40 miles. There is seven army corps here and a cavalry corps and each corps has over a thousand wagons, so you see there is more wagons in this army than there is at any wagon makers. I am very sorry that you worry so about me when there is no need of it for I assure you that I am safe and have been all of the time, so give yourself no uneasiness on my account for it worries me more to think that you worry so about me. You must try and cure the ague on little Frankie and sleep

well nights and do not imagine anything awful has happened *{to}* me. you know that I can endure all the fatigue

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and hardships and also stand all sorts of weather well enough. And as for danger I do not have to go into that, for my train cannot be so easily spared as to let it be captured so every trip except when I have to drive where troops are camped I have a strong train guard. So you see that I am safe as though I was home where I would like to be. I tell you, Susan, that you must be patient and as soon as I see any chance of getting home I shall make another trial. I think that I shall succeed when I can be spared, for I have a great many friends in the army and some that can help me if I ask them, which I will when it is necessary.

I cannot say how long this campaign will last. it may last all summer and most assuredly it will last until we get Atlanta *{GA}* which place I have seen from the Kennesaw Mountain the other day. Our troops are, some of them, across the river now. Yesterday, part of our corps crossed and today the balance crossed. Our corps is the first across. Yesterday, the way part of the men crossed was to strip and charged acrossed in line and they drove the rebels and captured two cannon from the Johnny Rebs while naked. After that a pontoon bridge was laid and the rest of the corps crossed on that.

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I suppose you must be getting out of money again and will need some more soon. Well, so am I, but I can get along a while yet. I have four months pay now due me and no signs of any paymaster yet. I shall have to get me some clothes as soon as I get my pay for I am now wearing privates pants. I shall have to get me a new suit complete from top to bottom. I have got to put on some style or I may as well be anywhere else as in the army. Tell all of the folks that I am well and that perhaps before this reaches you I shall be in that rebel city of Atlanta, which is seven miles further for us to go. If I fail to write often do not attribute it to any ~~mishap~~ accident on my part for sometimes I have something else to do. I have been in the saddle for two hours for every three for over a week and I have drove seven nights in succession and you may believe that I was obliged to rest when I could and let writing go. Write soon and I will try to, so goodbye for a while. Take good care of Frankie and yourself and may God bless you. I am as ever, dear Susan,

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

Head Quarters Supply Train 2nd Div 23rd A.C.
Near Chatahochee River Ga July 9th 1864

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D. Miller



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