

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter June 28th 1864.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Envelope:}

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

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Headquarters 2nd Section Supply Train
2nd Division 23rd Army Corps, Acworth, Georgia
{Tuesday} Jun 28th 1864

Dear Wife,

I now take the first opportunity that I have had in a long while to write to you and to answer your kind and welcome letters that I have received from you. I am glad that you keep well and I hope you will not worry about me. I am well and I have not yet been sick. I have a great deal to do and I am busy the whole of my time every day. Yesterday I did not see an idle minute from 4 o'clock a.m. until 10 o'clock p.m. I am now at this depot with my train waiting for supplies to load with. Yesterday I loaded part of my wagons with forage for mules and horses at the front and the rest of them I will load with rations for the troops. It will then take one day to drive to the front, about 14 miles.

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I now have forty wagons in my train. I had more but my mules gave out and died and I had to turn over some wagons to make to every one wagon a 6 mule team.

I suppose you think that I have forgotten you and Frankie or that I would write oftener. Well, Susan, I have not and it worries me to think that I could not write oftener. I know that you want to hear from me as often as once a week and as it is so long between my letters lately I know that you feel anxious about me. You must keep up good spirits and I will do the same. Do not be alarmed about me for my place is with my train and that is kept out of danger of rebel balls. There has been a heap of fighting here and our forces are victorious every time. Our army advances some most every day. Sometimes the fighting is very hard and some of the time nothing but skirmishing. For the last two days there has been considerable fighting on the right of our line, which consists of the 20th and 23rd Army Corps. What the result is I have not heard. The weather now is very warm and the most like summer I have seen yet. It is not any hotter than I have seen in Michigan, nor do I think it is as warm as I have seen it there. One thing, the

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nights are cool and we can sleep well. I am now more comfortably provided for than I have been since I started from Knoxville *{TN}*. I yesterday got me a good wall tent, a table and desk, and any amount of stationery for which I had to

receipt for. I have fixed up a mess of myself and wagon masters and with a good cook and two n----- to wait on me and my horse, so you see I have things about right now. When we go into camp my n----- pitch my tent and fix me a good bed, bring some cool water, unsaddle my horse and feed him, and the cook gets ready something to eat while I am figuring up rations or forage and mules or something else. I find enough to do to occupy all of my time, work that I cannot trust to anyone else for I am held responsible for all pertaining to my train. I have been trying to make out some returns, but have not yet for want of time. By figuring up my mules I find that 19 mules died during the month of May and I cannot yet tell what will be the loss during this month until it is ended. You wanted to know what I thought of your photograph. Well, Susan, I think it looks just like you and I cannot see as you have grown old at all. You look younger and better than I expected and you may believe that. I am glad you look so well and I would not part with the picture for any price.

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Last night I saw our regimental post boy and he told me that there was a letter at the regiment for me and I expect it is from you as you are the only one that I receive letters from lately. If I received more I could not answer them for I can't write half the answers to your letters. You say that you want to see me so bad that you can hardly stand it, and if it was not for Frankie you should die. Now, dear Susan, I want to see you as bad, but I can't get away now and you must be patient and not get discouraged and remember that my time is growing shorter and is only lack a few days over one month of being two years since I first enlisted and to you it may seem long and tedious, but it will come round when I can be my own or your own man. Do not make yourself uneasy about my safety for I am not expected to get in the way of bullets nor do I intend to when I have no business there. I always park my train at a safe distance in the rear and there the rations are issued to the several brigades and then I send the wagons for each brigade with a wagon master to unload them and return with them to the camp of the train. Our troops have been well supplied with full rations of bread, meat, sugar, coffee and salt and it has kept my train busy to do my share of it. As I have now facilities for writing I will try and write oftener and you must feel easy on my account for I can endure all that I have to do with ease. I shall expect to hear from you as often as ever and you must remember that this campaign is a big thing. Our boys have been fighting most every day and they have got so used to it that they think nothing of it. Speaking of fighting, two of my n----- had a fight this morning much to the amusement of the other teamsters. Give my respects to all inquiring friends and take good care of yourself and our little one for I am where I cannot do it. Keep up good courage and spirits. The time will soon come when we will have this rebellion crushed or the rebels either killed or taken prisoners as they are growing less in numbers every day while we grow stronger and every prospect is favorable. There comes my loading and I must load my train, so goodbye for a few days my dear and affectionate wife believe me as ever.

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler, 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Lieutenant and Acting Assistant Quartermaster

My Head Quarters 2nd Section Supply Train
2nd Division 23rd A.C. Acworth Georgia
June 28th 1864

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and we have other business on hand than writing for nearly two months
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D. M. Wheeler 23rd March 64
I am A. A. 2nd

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Mrs Susan W. Welles
East Saginaw
Michigan