

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter March 14th 1865.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Enclosed please find a receipt for \$50.00 dollars from the express company for money I sent you and take care of it until you get the money. I should have sent it before. I have not heard whether you have got the money yet.

DDK

I have not received any answer yet from my lady correspondent owing I think to me not getting my mail lately. Perhaps she will not answer my letter.

Office of Acting Assistant Quartermaster, 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps
Morehead City, North Carolina
{Tuesday} March 14th 1865

Dear Wife,

I am now safe on dry land once more and well as usual. I have not landed all of my wagons yet and cannot for a day or two yet, so I have only to wait the pleasure of the quartermaster department here. I have got so used to delays that I do not let it trouble me any. I am well and able to eat all that two men ought to and I have a feast of oysters and clams three or four times a day at no expense. I am right where they grow and when the tide is out I have only to go down to the beach about 300 yards from camp and pick them up, as many as we want. I can enjoy oysters about as well as anyone and as they only cost the picking of, we all have all we want to each. I had another fine dish for dinner, that was a boiled crab. He looked like a mammoth spider and a great curiosity to most of my men. One of the boys caught him while

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gathering oysters and brought him to camp as a great curiosity. He gave him to me and was horror-struck to see me put him in a mess pan and boil it and the eat it. I tell you it was a splendid dish and a luxury that few enjoy. Well, as I have plenty of oysters and then more oysters I think I can stand it very well. I wish you could have part of them.

Morehead City is not a very extensive place and I do not think it would beat ~~Zilawalky~~. Zillawalky *{possibly Zilwaukee, MI}*. Beaufort *{NC}* is a mile from it and I am told of about seventeen hundred inhabitants. I have not been over there yet and cannot tell you anything about it.

As soon as I can get things together I am to go to New Burn *{NC}* and report to the chief quartermaster of the corps and haul supplies as usual. I hope soon to get out of this country for it is the poorest attempt for a country I have yet seen. It is nothing but sand and bayous and covered with yellow pine. The railroad is in running order to the front from here and the cars run to and from the front every day. Since I landed we have had the very finest of weather and today

was very warm, even too warm for comfort, and tonight the frogs are peeping and reminds me of spring, or Saginaw *{M}* in May, and here it is only the 14th of March.

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It looks like rain tonight and the wind blows quite fresh and looks like a bad night to be at sea off the coast and I am glad that I am safe on shore and I hope that there is no Monitor out at sea if it blows, for I can never forget the one I saw in the gale I enjoyed on my way here which † satisfied me so much that I do not want to see another such a blow. I have not had any mail for some time and I am getting anxious to hear from home. I lay awake until midnight last night thinking over how I would like to go home and I let my imagination run farther than I have in a long time. I imagined that I did go to Saginaw and that you was up to Father's on the farm and the first thing I did was to go to the livery stable for a buggy take me out there and drove up Washington Street to Father's and I stopped there only long enough to tell them that I was home and then made all haste for the farm and when I arrived you all were in bed asleep. I found the door unfastened and found you and stood with the light in my hand looking at you and Frankie asleep thinking whether it was best to wake you or got to bed without waking you, when the light woke you and looking up you saw

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me, looking at me for a moment before you was wide awake and recognized me when you gave a spring and landed on the floor and caught me in your arms with the exclamation of "Oh! Deck is that you?" and bursting out crying, which woke them all up and up they got to see what the matter was and I was discovered to be home and up they all got and got supper for me and got a good look at me; and I then turned over in bed and discovered I was on board of the steamship Oriental and my imaginations were nothing but imaginations and I finally got to sleep again and the next thing I knew it was morning. I hope I will have the pleasure of realizing something similar in six months and will do nothing to prevent it. I have now less than six months and time flying slowly, but every day makes one less. I will write as often as I can and you must do the same. Be patient and take good care of yourself and Frankie and the joys of meeting will repay the long weary days of care and anxiety for the last three years. Give my love to all and retain a wife's share to yourself. I am as ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

Enclosed find
find a receipt for
\$20.00 Dollars from
the Express Co.
for money I
sent you
take care of
it and let me
get the money
I should have
sent it before
I have not time
to get the money
yet
DAX

Office of A. D. M. ^{you} Div 23rd Al

Wachod City Wb

March 14th 1865

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land once more and well as usual I have not
landed all of my weapons yet, and can not for
a day or two yet so I have only to wait the pleasure
of the I. M. Dept here. I have got so use to delays
that I do not let it trouble me any I am well
and able to eat all that two men ought to and
I have a feast of oysters and clams three or four
times a day, at no expence I am right where they
grow and when the tide is out I have only
to go down to the beach a bout 300 yards from
camp and pick them up as many as we want
I can enjoy oysters about as well as any one and
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dinner that was a boiled Crab He looked like
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It looks like rain to night and the wind flows quite
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the coast and I am glad that I am safe on shore
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it blows for I can never forget the one I saw
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home and then made all haste for the farm, and when I
arrived you all were in bed asleep I found the door unfastened
I went in still and struck a light and went looking for you
and found you still stood with the light in my hand
looking at you and Frankie asleep thinking whether it
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and I am sure the joys of meeting will repay the
long weary days of care and anxiety for the last three
years. Give my love to all and retain a wife's share
to your self. I am as ever your affectionate Husband

C. S. Parker