

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

*{The year is not specified, but was probably 1863 as he was in Bowling Green, KY, around then. Also, he mentions his son George who died March 29, 1863.}*

*{Page 1:}*

Camp of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry  
Bowling Green, KY, March 14th

Dear Wife,

I have just received your kind and welcome letter of March 8 and I am glad to hear from you so often. I am well as usual and I hope to continue so, for I find that good health in the army is the greatest blessing that can be enjoyed and is worth every precaution to preserve it. I have been looking lately for your pictures. I was in hopes to find it in this letter, but was slightly disappointed. Well, no matter, I will be patient and it will be along, I guess, before a great while. I sent you another photograph that was better than the first one. You must go to the post office and inquire for a soldiers memorial. I subscribed for one to be sent to you and it's about time it was there. As soon as you get it let me know. It is a nice thing and contains the names of all of Co. B and the field officers. I am off duty today and are having a good rest. Our company is out on picket today in command of Lieutenant McKinney of Co. A. As I was out the last time I will not have to go today. Day after tomorrow I shall have to go to Nashville again to guard a train.

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I am thankful for the compliments from Major *{Benjamin F.}* Fisher. I wrote to him last night and the letter is on the way now. I knew that I had a great many friends in the regiment, but I was not aware that I had more than anyone else. I am glad to hear that Frank is going to have a furlough, for I think he deserves one. I wish I could get one so as to get home while he was there, for I would like to see him myself. There will be furloughs granted to our regiment before long and I will try and get one if I can. However, you must not be disappointed if I do not get one right away, but keep up your spirits and time will bring me home after a while. You must not worry about me for I am as safe here as I would be at home. The prospects for marching are not very good and we are not likely to leave here for some time yet. We probably never shall see a fight. The officers say that if we march it will be north to Louisville *{KY}* or Cincinnati *{OH}*. I am not promoted yet and I am not in a hurry about it yet for I am as well off where I am now as I would be in the non-commissioned staff. We had another horse race today, which made considerable fun. We have lately very fine weather lately. Today has been very warm and the boys have

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improved at playing ball out on the parade ground. We have not many sick in our company now; only two or three are unfit for duty and they are improving. We have got our ovens going now and we have soft bread of our own making every other day and our other rations are good and plenty so we live pretty well. Since Mrs. Woodruff came here we have cake and pie at our table ??? live very and could not complain if we had vegetables. That is what is not to be had here so we have to do without. I have not forgot your advice yet. I have been and never have shirked my duty. I have been on hand every time ready for anything, and I do not know a man in the regiment that has done more duty than I have. And I feel as well as I ever did in my life. I am glad to hear that the children are so well and you must hurry and send their ambrotypes for I want to see how they look as well as yourself. George must be quite a big boy now. I would like to see him and I will if I am fortunate enough to get a furlough for a short time. We expect to be paid again before a great while. If we are I will get \$40, two month's wages, then I would like to have the privilege of taking it home.

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I have not much news to write so you must be satisfied if I do not fill this sheet. I write so many letters that I have all I can do to find subjects to write about. Tell Father that I will write to him soon. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends and write often. Direct as before to Bowling Green and leave the Esq. off my name for it is not a military title. So good night.

From Your Affectionate Husband D. D. Keeler.

Camp of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regt of Mich. Vol. Inf.  
Rowling Green Ky March 14<sup>th</sup>

Dear Wife

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From Your Affect Husband *Wm. Miller*