Family Home Page

Contact Information

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.

### *{Page 2:}*

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

# {*Page 3:*}

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.

# {Page 4:}

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 Begt of Mich Bold Infl-Reveling Green Holy March 14th Dear Mile Thave just received your Kind and welcome letter of march & and Dam glad to hear from you so often Dam well as usual and of hope to continue so for I find that good health in the army is the greatest blefing that can be lenjoyed and is worth every precaution to preserve it it have been booking lately for your pictures of was in hopes to find it in this letter but was slightly desapointed well no matter I will be patient and it will be along I queb before a great while Sent you another pholograph that was better than the first one Myou must go to the post Office and inquire for a solders memorial I subscribed for one to be sent to you and it 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 to B, and the field Officero I am of duty to day and are havein a good rest Our company is lout on Picket to day in command of Seient the Kommey of coa, as I was out the last time I die not have to go to day Day after tomorrow. I shall have to go to Masholl again to guard a train

I am thankful for the complemento fronthafor Fisher & wrote to him last night and the letter is on the way now Oknew that I had a great my friends in the Begt but I was not aware that I had more than any one else, I am glad to hear that Frank is young to have a Surlough for I think he deserves one Dwish & could get one so as to get home while he was there for would like to see him myself There will be Sturlought granted to our Begt before long and Dwill try and get one if D can Mowever you must not be disapointed of I down not get one right away but heek up your spirito and time will bring me home after a while yo must not worry about me for am as safe here as I would be at home The prospecto for marching are not verry good and we are not lifely to have here for some time yet the probably never shall see a fight the Officers say that if we march it. will be Month to Louisvill or Cincinatte Sam not promoted yet and I am not in a hurry about. it yet for Dan as well of M where I am now as I would be in the non commissioned staff Whe had another Horse frace to day which made considerable fun Me have lately very fine wetter labely to day have have have then sugar

improved it playing ball out on the parade ground We have not many sick mour company now only two on three are renfit for duly and they are improvening : We have got our Ovens going now and we have soft fread of our son own make everyother day and our other rations are good and filenty to we live pretty well Since Mers Moodruff came here we have cath and pie at our table lose live verry and could not complain if we had begite bles Shat is what is not to be had here so we have to do with out Shave not forgot your advise yet you said must be a good Bay Mellelusan I have been and never have shirked my duty Shave been on hand every time ready for any thing and I do not know a maker in the Regiment that has done more duty than Phave and I feel as well as I ever did in my life. A am glad to hear that the children ar so well and you must harry and send their an well as your self George must be quite a big Boy now Dwould like to see him and I will if I am fortuneate enough to get a Surlough for a short time . The expect to be paid again before a great while If we are I will get \$40 two months wages, then I would like to have the privelige of taking it Home

I have not much news to write 25 yoursmuth be satisfied of I do not fill this sheet of write so many letters that I have all cande to find subjects to write about Bell Stather that I will write to him soon Five my Best respicto to all Andrurening Chiends and writ often Direct as before to Bowling Green and leave the Esy off my name for it is not a Military tille Do good might From your affect Husband Di Heder Of