

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter March 1st 1865.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Envelope:}

{Postmark:} WASHINGTON DC MAR 2 1865

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

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Office of Acting Assistant Quartermaster 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps
Washington, DC, *{Wednesday}* March 1st 1865

Dear Wife,

It was with pleasure that I read your kind letter of the 19th and in answer I am happy to inform you that I am well and enjoying good health. I have not yet got away from this famous city, but I have shipped four steamships of mules and I still have another vessel load left which I am now waiting to load which I will do as soon as a steamship arrives for me. I expect one every day and I hope I will soon get away from here, for I have got tired of staying in one place so long and as it costs me so much here I cannot stand it long. I have not seen many that I know here and as the most of my acquaintances are already gone I get lonesome. I saw Captain Charles Richmond yesterday. He left for home last night. He has been here several days settling his accounts with the government.

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You spoke of me being a captain. Well, I will explain that. I am not a captain yet. I am a first lieutenant. I have been recommended for captain, but I have not yet received a commission. I expect it is at the regiment for me and they are in North Carolina where I will get it. Then I have to be mustered out as 1st lieutenant and muster in again as captain before I can assume that rank. I will only accept it on the same terms that I did my last promotion, that is, only to muster for the unexpired term of the regiment, which expires on the 11th of September next.

I can do better if I want to stay in the service, but I do not. My chance is good for the position of captain and assistant quartermaster of volunteers appointed by the Secretary of War. I think that I am better off as I am as acting assistant quartermaster, for I do not have to give bonds and it makes no one responsible but myself.

Last Sunday I was too busy to write and I had my sergeant write for me to you as I was determined not to disappoint you with a letter. I enclosed a photograph of myself and also another with this. How do you think I look? Am I not the picture of health? Do I look any as I used to

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or as you expected? I have yours yet and I have taken good care of it and I will as long as I stay away. I have got but six months and 11 days more and you may rest assured that I will not do anything to prolong my absence.

I received a letter from a cousin of mine living at Union, New York. He wants me to go that way when I go home and to send for you to meet me at that place. I cannot say as I can do it for when the regiment goes home to be mustered out I have got to go with it or else be delayed in getting mustered out. I want to get home as soon as I can on your account, for I know you have waited with patience and I will not be any longer away than I can help.

I wrote to that lady you spoke of, but it is not quite time for an answer and I do not think she will exchange photographs with me nor do I know that she will answer my letter. I wrote her a very fine letter and one she cannot find any fault with. I will not do anything that will lead to a serious result. I have made but very few female acquaintances here nor do I desire to. I made the acquaintance of a young and beautiful lady that knows my brother Frank.

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She is a nice respectable girl and I guess that she thinks a heap of Frank. She used to live at Fredericksburg, Virginia. As for the ladies that visit the camp and issue cards I think you had better advise me to let alone as their character is not the very best and I dare not risk my future happiness ~~enough~~ so far as to be led into their snares. They look pretty and appear to be what they are not and I would not dare to go home to you if I should become a victim of their charms. Temptations are great and many, but I am all right yet and can stand a heap more than I have yet.

I have not seen either Mr. or Mrs. Wentworth since I last wrote. I thought of what you mentioned when I saw them. The show was not quite like the one in the window, but I saw enough that was pretty girls dressed in tights that made their voluptuous forms show to good advantage some of the prettiest legs I ever saw (don't think of it).

Well, dear Susan, I hope you will be patient and keep up good spirits and not worry for I have been a soldier long enough to take good care of myself and I am looking forward for the happy day that will unite us again. I hope to part no more. Take good care of yourself and our little one. Remember me to all. I am as ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

Office of A. A. M. 2nd Div. 20th A. S.
Washington D. C. March 1st 1865

Dear Wife

It was with pleasure that I read your kind letter of the 1st and in answer I am happy to inform you that I am well and enjoying good health. I have not yet got away from this famous city, but I have shipped four Steamships of Wales and I still have another vessel load left which I am now waiting to load, which I will do as soon as a Steamship arrives for me. Expect one every day and I hope I will soon get away from here, for I have got tired of staying in one place so long, and as it costs me so much here I can not stand it long. I have not seen many that I know here and as the most of my acquaintances are already gone I get lonesome. I saw Capt Charles Richmond yesterday. he left for home last night. he has been here several days settling his accounts with the Government.

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Well Dear Susan I hope you will be patient and keep
up good spirits and not worry for I have been a Soldier long
enough to take good care of myself and I am looking forward
for the happy day that will write us again. I hope to feel no more.
Take good care of your self and our little one remember
me to all.

I am as ever your Affct Husband

D. S. Wheeler

Mrs Susan M. Keller
East L. Va.
Much



Mrs Susan M Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan