

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter March 20th 1863.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Camp of the 23rd Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Bowling Green, KY, March 20th 1863

Dear Wife,

I received yours of the 15th tonight and I now hasten to answer it. I am glad to hear that you and the children are well. I am well as usual and keep the same. I received a letter from Frank the other day and he was well. I seems that we are bound to keep well and I hope we will for as long as I keep well I am all right. I am sorry that George has got sore eyes and I hope that they will soon get well. You wanted to know how I wanted the deed of the land made. Well, Susan, I supposed that you knew how I wanted, and I was surprised at the question. However, I will tell you again I want it made in your name because it belongs to you more than it does to me and the deed must be made to you. You wrote that Father was about to trade his farm away for another at Hartland *{M}*. Well, if he can better himself by the exchange tell him to do so.

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You say you wanted my advice about going to live with them if he traded. Well, Susan, you can do as it best pleases you and I will be satisfied if you can write as often and get my letters as quick. I am sorry that Sarah is so saucy and contrary. I was in hopes that she would be a good girl and be a nice young lady. If she will not try you ought to report her to headquarters for a reprimand or punishment. She is not too old to be made to mind, to mind and behave herself and Father had ought to do it. I will have to write to her and see if I can do any good. I am sorry for her for she has no mother now to learn her and how to do right and be a lady in actions and have people like and respect her. You must try and do all you can for her and tell her better and she may do better. She is an only sister to three of us and I would like to have her one that we could be proud of. Yesterday I received an Enterprise and it was the first one that I have received yet. I was very much interested to see a Saginaw *{M}* paper and I read it through. I see that they had a very close election

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there for city officers ranging from two to fifteen majority all around. It came very near being a tie. Well, we don't have to vote here for officers; the colonel appoints, or rather recommends, them to the Governor and makes officers of them. The commissions are soon expected for several ~~new~~ and I cannot tell for certain where they will put me until they come. We have the same duties now that we have been at lately, which is picketing every two or three days and guarding trains to Nashville *{TM}*. We do not go to Nashville as often as we did

at first as the other regiment here help us on that job, so our company only goes once in fifteen days now. Last night a small party of guerillas attacked the mail train which was not guarded near Woodburn *{TN}* station. They placed obstructions on the track and threw the train off the track and there was three empty guns aboard of the train and the passengers scared them away by them three empty guns; and fortunately the freight train arrived on time, which was to meet the mail train at that station, and the guard from that train rescued the passengers from being plundered and saved the train and mail from destruction. A telegraph dispatch was sent to General *{Henry M.}* Judah and he sent the 111th Ohio down there immediately. What the result

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is I have not yet heard. I only know that the trains run regular now as usual. I hope that the scoundrels will be brought to justice by having their neck stretched or a few ounces of lead administered to them by a Springfield Rifle.

Our company is going on picket tomorrow. I am going to stay in camp for I have got considerable writing to do copying orders in the order book. We have to go to the adjutants and copy our own orders now while the adjutant reads them. The adjutants tent looks like a school room when we the 10 Orderly Sergeants are all in and writing each one with a sheet of paper and pencil busy writing and all writing the same thing. By our doing it saves him a great deal of writing and as we get so many orders it would be very near a days work for one man to copy all the orders.

I hope you have got the others photographs that I sent you. Please send me your likeness as soon as you can conveniently and write me a good long letter. I still remain

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

P.S. Direct your letters to Bowling Green, Kentucky, after this for I can get them one day sooner than I do when they are directed to Louisville *{KY}*.

Yours Truly, Deck

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Bowling Green Ky March 20th 1863

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Adjutants and copy our own orders now while
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of paper and pencil ~~by~~ writing and all writing
the same thing by our doing it saves him
a great deal of writing, and as we get so many
orders it would be very near a days work for one
man to copy all the orders,

I hope you have got the other
photographs that I sent you. Please send
me your likeness as soon as you can conveniently
and write me a good long letter I still remain
your Affectionate Husband O. K. Miller

P.S. Direct your letters to Bowling Green
Kentucky after this for I can get them
over day sooner than I do when they are
directed to Louisville
Yours Truly Dick