

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter March 24th 1864.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Headquarters 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Mossy Creek, Tennessee, {Thursday} March 24th 1864

Dear Wife,

I received your kind and welcome letter of the 10th inst with one with from Miss Jeanne Delavergne. I am glad to hear that you are well and I hope that you always will be so, also little Frankie, too. You seemed to think that we were going further south and was to leave Tennessee. Well, Susan, we are in East Tennessee yet and poor prospects of getting away from here at present. We have been camped here at Mossy Creek a week now since we have moved or since we moved back from Morristown *{TN}*. Everything is quiet and no reports of any forward movement very soon. The weather is very fine today and the snow that fell day before yesterday is all gone except on the highest hills which look white yet. We have not yet got our pay, but expect it soon as the paymaster is here and has been for several days. I expected it before this time.

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Well, dear Susan, I must joke a little for the fun of it. Jane Delavergne says that you are trying to get her beau away from her and she says that you are growing young and wear short dresses. I hope that you will not grow any older and be an old woman, for I expect to go home myself and I want to see you look as young as I do and you must let Jane have her beau. I suppose you are looking for a photograph or ambrotype every letter you get. Well, Susan, as soon as I get paid I will try and send you one and you must do the same and send me yours as soon as you can. I am going to apply for a leave of absence as soon as Lieutenant Colonel Spaulding gets back here from Michigan where he is now on recruiting service. I asked the major about going now and he says that he cannot spare me now and that when Colonel Spaulding gets back and takes command of the regiment he thinks of going home and that I had better wait until then, but if *{Adjutant Campbell}* Montgomery the adjutant returns to the regiment I shall make out an application at once. Now do not begin to look for me yet, for it may be a month before the Lieutenant Colonel gets back and I am not sure of getting a leave granted. So do not worry if I do not get home, for if I do not it will not

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be because I don't try. Keep up your spirits and the longer I stay the nearer my time will be out. Remember that every day counts one day less and it will soon be two years since I entered the army and that I have gone through the hardest part of it and have stood it well and we must not get discouraged now, but keep up good spirits and the time will come when we will be glad that I was not

cowardly enough to stay at home when the country needed me to help sustain one of the best governments in the world. Excuse me for not filling this sheet for it is nearly time for brigade drill and I have got to be on hand in time. Tell Frankie to be a good little girl and to mind her mother and her pa will come home and see her one of these days. Kiss her for me and I will repay you with interest when I get home. Write soon and I will answer every letter. I like to read your letters and I do not care how often that they come. Goodbye for a short time from,

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler
Lieutenant & Acting Adjutant

Head Quarters 23rd Michigan Infantry 10th Co
Mossy Creek Tenn March 24th 1864

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From your Affectionate
Husband

D. D. Welles
Lt. Adj't