

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter March 27th 1863.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Camp of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry  
Bowling Green, KY, March 27<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Wife,

I am still well as usual and I begin to think that you are sick for I have not received a letter from you in over a week and none from anyone else in over two weeks. I don't see what the reason is for I have answered every letter that I have received and more, too. I used to get three and four every week and now I don't get any. Perhaps you have heard that I am dead again, but I am not. I am in good health and I hope you are. Perhaps I will get some mail tomorrow. If I do I will write again. Mrs. *{Henry Heber.}* Woodruff is here yet and she talks of starting for home the first of next week. I have a small package to send you by her. It was captured from a rebel and I send it to you to use for a table spread if you like. I wrote to you last week and told you what to do about the deed and so on and as I have not had a letter since you must not expect

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a very long letter this time for I have wrote so many letters lately and received no answers that I am getting discouraged a little, and if I do not get any mail in a day or two I will hold on for a while and not write to anyone but you for I am sure you will write if you possibly can. As for news, I cannot write much, only we get reports of rebel invasions every day in Kentucky and tonight the rumors were contradicted. We keep a good lookout here and are always ready for any emergency. Our pickets lines extend clear round the place and every approach is well guarded. Picket duty is about all we have to do now and General *{Henry M.}* Judah keeps us pretty busy at it; so much so that the men come on duty every other day. I have been out only once lately as my duties are mostly confined to the camp although now I am out of Company B and in the non-commissioned staff. Tonight I was notified to report to the adjutant tomorrow for duty in that line, so my duties will be some different and I will be entitled to the next vacancy of lieutenant. There has been no order issued here yet to grant furloughs and if there

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was I don't think I could get one for some time. We have had considerable rain lately and it is raining now. It does not affect me any for our tent is good and we have plenty of wood and are as comfortable as can be. The men have all got new rubber blankets and they keep them dry as can be no matter how hard it rains. The blankets are large to cover two men with a hole in the center to stick his head through and strings to tie it together around him. Four of them will

*{make}* a good sized tent and large enough for four men to sleep in comfortably, so you see the men carry their rubber tents with them on picket and they can pitch them in a few minutes and no rain can wet them through. The health of the regiment is better than it has been in some time and the boys are in good spirits. I will write again soon and I hope you will for the more good letters I get from you the better I feel. I will enclose a small ring for one of the children that I made out of a clam shell and if I get time I will make you one. You may give this one to the one that it fits the best, either George or Frankey. Oh, how I wish I could see them and you, too. But I can't yet so I live in hope that the days

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far distant that the war will be over and as soon as I can come home honorably I will. So you must keep up your spirits and I will and when I do come home you will have no cause to regret my absence now. I know that it pains you to have me away and it also does me and for all that you ought to be proud that my absence is occasioned by doing my duty to our country. Nothing else would keep us apart and I hope that the war will not much longer. Give my love to all of the folks and tell them to write soon to

Your Affectionate Husband,  
D. D. Keeler

P.S. Direct your letters to D. D. Keeler, Sergeant Major of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Michigan Infantry, Bowling Green, KY.

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We expected to get a mail today but it did not come and I am as ignorant as ever of what is going on in the other part of the world or that part north of here, and you I suppose are as anxious to hear from me as I am from you. One thing I know you are safe but you are not sure that I am and I wish you did know for you would feel better than you would when you were in doubt as to we had been fighting or not and I am going to send this as quick as there is a chance for it to go to relieve your anxiety about me. You may be sure that I always will do so and I want to hear from you, too, and the little ones if they keep well and grow they will be of some help to us by and by. I would like to see you and them but I can't so I son't talk about it now for as soon as the war is over I will see them and that is the only thing I can do. The war cannot last a great while longer if the rebels get such a licking as they are getting now at Murfeesboro *{TN}* byt General *{William S.}* Rosecrans and he is a following their rear and says he will not stop until he shakes hands with General *{Benjamin}* Butler at New Orleans *{LA}*, and if General *{Ambrose Everett}* Burnside wins on the Potomac they, the rebels, are short-lived, or their confederacy is at any rate. We have church here in our regiment every Sunday and we are blessed with a good chaplain. We have got so that we like him and he does everything in his power for the regiment which we appreciate.

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Our regiment has suffered some from sickness and we have lost some of our men, mostly those who had no care for themselves. We have had seven die out of our company since we left Saginaw *{MI}*. Three have died here in Bowling Green. We buried them in the U.S. Burying Ground and ~~they can~~ their bodies can easily be found by going to the undertaker who keeps a record of every grave and numbers it. The men that we lost here we buried according to military rules which is the most solemn I ever saw and I never shall forget it as long as I live. When I get home I will tell you all about it which will I can do if I forget everything else. I have learned a great deal since I have been in the army, which I never thought of before and it has well paid me for my experience so far and I find that there is a great deal more to learn yet before I know half of it. Our regiment has got a great deal of praise for its discipline and promptness and as long as we have good officers we will keep it. We are the best drilled in the brigade and there is more reliance placed on us than any other regiment here. We have got so used to being ready at a moments warning that it has got to be a second nature to us and it is a strife between our companies to see which will be the first in line of battle every morning and at the call of the bugle every man is on his feet in an instant under arms ready for any emergency, so we are not much in danger of being surprised. Answer soon and give my love to all inquiring friends. Good night and pleasant dreams.

From Your Affectionate Husband, D. D. Keeler, O.S.  
To Susan Keeler, East Saginaw, Michigan

Camp of the 23<sup>d</sup> Regt of Mich Vol Infy  
Bowling Green Ky March 27<sup>th</sup> 1863

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Picket lines extend clear round the  
place and every approach is well  
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us pretty busy at it so much so that  
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Your Affect Husband  
D. Wheeler

P.S. Direct your Letters to D. Wheeler  
Sergt Major of the  
23<sup>rd</sup> Regt Mich Infy  
Bowling Green Ky

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The men that we lost here we buried according to military rules which is the most solemn I ever saw and I never shall forget it as long as I live when I get home I will tell you all about it which will I can do if I forget everything else

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Thom. Your Affectionate Husband J. White  
Co. Susan White Co. Saginaw Mich