

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: “March 6th.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 in February, March, and April of 1863. Also, he mentions his son George who died March 29, 1863.}*

*{Page 1 – written sideways at top left corner:}*

March 7<sup>th</sup>

P.S. – Mrs. Woodruff has arrived here all safe.

*{Page 1 – main body of the page:}*

Camp of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry  
Bowling Green, KY, March 6<sup>th</sup>

Dear Wife,

I received yours of the 27<sup>th</sup> this morning, I being absent when it came, while I was absent from Bowling Green. I was glad to hear from you and that you got them ambrotypes. I am well as usual and the health of the whole company is considerably better. We had men enough for duty to furnish guard for the depot and to guard a freight train through to Nashville *{TN}* and back. That is more than any other company in the regiment can do. We have only a few men sick and they are improving. Captain *{Henry Heber}* Woodruff has gone to Louisville *{KY}* to meet his wife. We expect him tonight.

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We have a plenty to do now and are on some duty the most of the time. It takes a part of two companies every day to guard freight trains to Nashville and back and two to guard the camp and depot and two companies are down the river and have bee absent several days, so we have been on duty the most of the time. The last trip to Nashville was a very pleasant one considering everything and I enjoyed myself very well. We went down in the night and came back in the night so had all day to look around in. I saw the Michigan 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> there and I saw several men that I was acquainted with in Saginaw *{MI}*. They were glad to see me as I was them. We had a long talk about times. I went and gave the State House a call; it is a beautiful building built

*{Page 3:}*

on a hill near the center of the city and commands a view of the whole city. It is built of marble and cost over one million of dollars. It is well fortified and guarded; two batterys are planted around it and command the whole city and surrounding country. Visitors are allowed to go in and see the building. I was in the Assembly Room, the Senate Chamber, and the Library. It was worth going to see and I felt paid for my trouble. The hills around the city are all fortified and

well supplied with artillery and it would cost the rebels a great many lives to take the place. There is some very good building in the city and a great many poor ones. The one we were quartered in is a large brick building designed for a hotel and is large enough to hide the Bancroft *{Ballroom in Saginaw, MI}* in it.

*{Page 4:}*

It was built by the rebel *{Brigadier General Felix K.}* Zollicoffer and is used now as barracks and our soldiers keep. Hotel isn't now, which I am sorry to say, in no very great style. Some of the rooms are large enough to have a battalion drill in them and not be crowded for room for skirmishes. The building is large enough to quarter five regiments comfortably and perhaps more. Well, I guess I saw most everything in the city worth seeing and around the city and when we got back to Bowling Green I was tired enough to stand a day's rest having been up two nights and one day. I am glad that George is a good boy and helps his grandma. I shall soon look for the likenesses of yourself and children and so don't fail to send them. I want to see if they have grown any since I left home. You want I should come home, but I cannot now. I will come as soon as I can, I will warrant you. If the law is passed to grant furloughs I will try and get one. If I had a commission I could not resign without good reasons. No more at present from

Your Affectionate Husband  
D. D. Keeler

March 7<sup>th</sup>  
P. O.  
Mrs. Woodruff  
has a new  
box all  
safe.

Camp of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regt Mich Vol Infy  
Bowling Green Ky March 6<sup>th</sup>

Dear Wife

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to furnish guard for the depot and  
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Affect Husband C. Keller