

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter March 8th 1864.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

*{Envelope:}*

*{Postmark:}* KNOXVILLE TEN, MAR 10 '64

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler  
East Saginaw  
Michigan

*{Page 1:}*

Headquarters 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry  
2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade 2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps  
Near Mossy Creek, Tennessee, *{Tuesday}* March 8<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Wife,

Again with a pencil seated on a log with paper on my knee I pause from duty to write to you to let you know that I am well and able to eat my share of beans and hardtack, which I assure you is a great blessing indeed and as long as I can eat I have not fears of bad luck. We are camped near Mossy Creek, Tennessee, the same place where I last wrote to you. We have sent to Knoxville *{TN}* for our baggage and the prospects are that we shall be here several days and yet we may be ordered to move at any time. A small force of the enemy are at or near Morristown *{TN}* on our front.

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Last Saturday a party of one hundred of a Tennessee regiment from our division were out on a reconnaissance about 8 or 9 miles and were attacked by five hundred rebel cavalry and fought them until they reached our picket line. Our loss was 27 killed, wounded and missing. The rebs lost a major, a captain and 9 men known to be killed and several wounded. Our loss was mostly in prisoners. Only two were known to be killed which were recovered the next day by another party. One of the prisoners escaped and reported that he with 23 others were all the prisoners they got, so our loss could not be more than 3 killed as only 27 were missing. I received a letter last night from Major *{Benjamin F.}* Fisher and his photograph with it. I expect a letter from you the next mail and I hope that I shall not be disappointed, for nothing suits me better than to receive letters from you, and that often.

*{Page 3:}*

The last one that I received from you was dated February 15<sup>th</sup> and you spoke of coming down here to see me. Now, dear Susan, if you have any love or respect for me and for yourself, do not attempt any such thing. For if you knew my situation and the inconvenience we both would be subject to, you would not think of it. If we were stationed at some place where I could get quartered at a house

and have some place for you to stay it would be different. Now as we are in the field and at the front and with nothing but little pup tents with only one blanket to each man and no accommodations, to have you come here would embarrass both of us. I hope you will not think of it. It would cost about 300 dollars for you to make a trip here and then we could not see each other I will send you some money as soon as we are paid and when that will be I cannot tell. I hope before long.

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It is most time for battalion drill and I must attend to that so I will not fill this for the bugle is now blowing to fall in.

Since drill the mail arrived and I received one from you and glad I am to hear that you are well. If you think that you can board cheaper than you can keep house, do so, and be careful to rent the house to a reliable tenant so you can get your pay as pay days are a long ways between in the army and I can only send you money when I get it. One thing it is sure when it does come I will give you all the advice you want at any time when you write. It is most dark and the mail boy is collecting the mail so good night and happy dreams. I am as ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,  
D. D. Keeler



Head Quarters 23<sup>rd</sup> Regt Mich Vols  
2<sup>nd</sup> Brig 2<sup>nd</sup> Div 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps  
near Mossy Creek, <sup>from</sup> March 8<sup>th</sup> 1861

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D D Reber

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East Saginaw  
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