

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: “Letter May 15th 1864.tif”
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Camp of Supply Train, 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps
Chattanooga, Tennessee, *{Sunday}* May 15th 1864

Dear Wife,

I suppose that you think that I am dead or have forgotten you for not writing as often as I used to. Well, dear Susan, I have not had a chance to write since I left Knoxville *{TN}* until now, and you must excuse me for it as I have been so busy that I could not write oftener. I had to drive my mules loose from Knoxville and my wagons were shipped to me here by railroad and I have had a job catching and harnessing the wild mules for each wagon. My train is to haul supplies to the troops and I am now awaiting orders for a move. Our 23rd Army Corps are, as near as I can learn, near Dalton, Georgia. It has been nearly two weeks since I left the regiment and they have had some fighting to do since I saw them which I have missed. I suppose you are glad that I have escaped going into a fight and I am not much sorry myself. Yesterday I received a letter from you and I am glad to hear that you were all well. You said that you had

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sent me your picture which I suppose has gone to the regiment and I cannot get it until I see them and I do not know when that will be, but I think that I shall have a chance before long. I cannot say that I like the quartermaster business yet, but I think I have got through with the worst part of what I had to do. I have my train nearly ready to go to work with. My teams are not yet broke. The boys have been drilling them most all day and with few exceptions they have them so that they can drive.

The news from the front is encouraging. Our men are successful and as far as I have heard from the Potomac things look as though there was something being done and I think that the rebellion will play out this summer. I passed over the battleground of Missionary Ridge *{TN}* and where our brave boys charged up the hill. Lookout Mountain *{TN}* is close by and from the top the country can be seen for thirty miles distant. Chattanooga is in the valley of the Tennessee River and every little hill has a fort and of the strongest kind. There is a n----- regiment here and as far as I have seen they make good soldiers. I saw them on dress parade last night and I never saw white troops do better.

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They are well drilled and keep themselves clean and neat and have every appearance of good soldiers. I have no more objections now to making soldiers of them for they can be made good soldiers as well as anyone. The

commissioned officers are all white, but the sergeants & corporals are all black. There is not many troops here now for they are most all at the front.

I have been well all of the while and am now in good health. I have three good horses and very little walking I have to do now. I camp and stay with my train and as I have wagons I have all my baggage hauled which cannot much.

The boys have considerable trouble to handle the wild and ugly mules. They eat off their halters and get loose and we have to lasso them to catch them again. I have learned considerable since I have been in the quartermaster department and I expect I have more yet to learn. I have had no trouble yet nor do I anticipate any. I have given up all hopes of getting home this summer and I hope that you will not worry about me for I am safe and shall not have to fight as long as I am Acting Assistant Quartermaster. I tried hard to get home and I will send you my paper that I made out and you can see the endorsement which will show you that all was done that could be done for me.

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Be a good girl and take good care of yourself and little Frankie and I will do the same. I shall not have very hard work but such work as keeps a man's mind pretty generously occupied and if I can write often I shall do so.

You must write often and direct as follows:

~~Lieutenant D. D. Keeler, 23rd Michigan Infantry, Acting Assistant Quartermaster, 2nd Division 23 Army Corps Supply Train and~~

~~D. D. Keeler, Lieutenant, 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and Acting Assistant Quartermaster, 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps, Supply Train, Chatt Tennessee.~~

Give my respects to all inquiring friends and excuse my writing with a pencil. I have no ink with me and I have lost my pen. I am ever

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw, Michigan

Camp of Supply Train 2nd Div^{ion} 23rd A.C.
Chattanooga Tenn May 15th 1864

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get home and I will send you my papers that I
made out and you can see the endorsements which will
show you that all was done that could be done for me

