

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter May 2nd 1864.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Envelope:}

{Postmark:} CHATTANOOGA TEN 4 May '64

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

{Page 1:}

Camp of the 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Charleston, Tennessee, *{Monday}* May 2nd 1864

Dear Wife,

I received your welcome letter several days ago and I was glad that you were getting better and that Frankie was also getting better. I am sorry to inform you that all of my hopes of getting home at present are all knocked in the head for the present. My application for leave was returned disapproved with notice that no leaves would be granted at this season. I cannot say that I am disappointed, for it is as I expected. We have marched one hundred miles in less than five days and our division is now within two days march of Chattanooga *{TN}*. We are now camped here for a few days to wait for other troops as there is going to be

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something done and a large army is being collected here and the Army of the Ohio has joined the Army of the Cumberland. I am now detailed as A A Quartermaster and am going to Knoxville *{TN}* today to draw my wagon train which I shall have charge of to be a supply train for the 2nd Division. Susan you may not be alarmed about me if a big fight happens down here, for my duties do not now call me into danger. We came over our battleground at Campbell's Station *{TN}* and I saw many marks of our fight. We did not halt there long and I only saw what was to be seen from the road. Some of the rebel graves were by the roadside and the houses were more or less riddled by shot and shell. I do not know how long that I will be on this detail. I understand that it is a permanent thing and I probably shall be on duty all summer.

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Direct your letters as before to the Regiment and I can get them. Enclosed I send you a draft of one hundred and fifty dollars which you will please acknowledge the receipt of as soon as you get it. I shall try and make another application for a leave as soon as I see any chance of getting it granted. I hope you will not worry for I have done all that possibly could be done to get home and I have failed as well as others. Colonel Spaulding has formed us with several

other officers. Keep up good courage and remember that I think of you as much as ever and the time will come after a while when I will be out of the service. My duties now I expect will be very easy and not any drilling or such work as I have got to get my teamsters ready to go on the train. I will not write any more this time. My respects to all and believe me as ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

{Note written of the back of a page:}

I received a letter signed ??? from some girl in Saginaw {MI} which was intended for Frank so I forwarded it to Frank and wrote an answer to Miss Sarah McKnight. I hope she will take no offense for the directions were wrong and as it is a good ??? you may ask her what she directed her letters to me for.

D. D. Keeler

Camp of 25th Mich Infy Co
Charleston Tenn May 2nd 1864

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St. L. G.



Mrs Susan W. Wheeler
East Saginaw
Michigan