

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter May 31st 1865.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Envelope:}

{Postmark:} WASHINGTON DC ???

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

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Office of Acting Assistant Quartermaster, Salisbury, North Carolina
{Wednesday} May 31st 1865

Dear Wife,

I received yours of May 21st today and glad I was to hear from you. I had not received any letters in so long that I had begun to feel inxious about you. I am very glad to hear that you have got back from your visit safe and that you enjoyed it so well. I am well pleased with Frankie's picture and am surprised to see what a large girl I have got at home. It does not seem possible that it can be so as I left her a little baby when I came in the army.

I never should have known her if I had went home and saw her anywhere but with you. I am sorry that you were so disappointed about my going home and I hope next time that I will go sure for I do not like disappointment myself. I have now just on hundred days more to serve to finish my time and am now a hundred days man now and three months will make that look short. You say that your father lives just across the river opposite the depot. I am glad you have told me for I have been thinking that I would like to know for I have imagined myself looking all over town to find where he lived when I get home. I have thought of it daily of the hour that I should arrive in Saginaw *{M}* and where I should find you and imagined that he lived somewhere he could have a big garden in the suburbs of the city and now I know where to find you. I hope that will trouble me no more. You spoke of housekeeping two weeks before you expected me. Well, I like that plan very well for nothing would please me better than to find good comfortable quarters of my own on my

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return with you at home. You do not know how glad I shall be to see you and time cannot fly too fast that will bring me home. It seems that the nearer my time is out the worse I want to get home and the slower time flies by. Perhaps it is because I do not have so much to do as I have been used to. I do all I can find to busy myself and the last two days I have succeeded very well. I have been looking up government property and done a very good thing at it, much to the discomfiture of some of the citizens, those that do not comply with existing orders I go for. Yesterday I took a splendid horse claimed by a beautiful lady of the

southern persuasion which did not please her one bit, but as the horse was branded US I kept him and am now using him myself and congratulate myself that I ride a better horse than anybody. I also met a young chivalry riding with a young lady on horseback and 3 miles from town. My perceptive qualities discovered he was riding a government saddle. I ordered him to halt and politely asked him for the saddle. He commenced to debate on the subject and finally did not think he would give it up. I told him to shut up and not dispute me and to dismount which he thought best to do when he saw I meant what I said. He said he was riding out with a young lady and it was leaving him in a fix. I offered to escort her back to town as I had men enough to take good care that she was not harmed. At that he caved and asked me to lend him the saddle to ride back with and would leave it at any place I designated giving me his name and residence and on his honor let him go. This morning I found him with the saddle as he promised which I took possession of. I have not made the acquaintance of any of the Salisbury citizens and they are all alike to me and I make no distinction among them. They have wore enough of government property and I intend that it shall not be so under my observation as what belongs

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to government is not for private use and I am collecting all I can find to account for it for when a quartermaster once gets it on his papers he will take care of it and government will not lose it so easy. All property marked CS is jut the same as if it was US. I am getting to be a terror to evil disposed persons sho are trying to smuggle what does not belong them and it surprises them how I can find hidden and secret plunder and makes it interesting for me. I gain information from unnoticed characters and by accident, sometimes one way and sometimes another. I have full instructions what to do from the general and report every day what I find and the disposition of the property and often get some of the mean and rascally men in the hands of the provost marshall.

Yesterday I stopped at a farm house where I saw a very pretty young lady sitting in the door. I had no excuse but to inquire the road and where some person lived and finally for a drink of water and by that time got in conversation with her about Yankees which she said she liked very well. Well I thought here is a chance to see what I could make out of her as the old woman was out and the children too small to notice much and my sergeant who was with me kept in the distance. Well I found she would like most any good looking fellow that would flatter her any and that soon with a little more persuasion she would ----- Yes, I guess she would. I had my attention called to some other direction when she pulls out a big snuff box and a swab stick go to dipping snuff and as I have a particular disgust for such a habit it spoiled all my fun, so I bid her good day and left thinking what a fool I had been to descend to make myself agreeable to one of those filthy snuff chewers which I abhor beyond comprehension.

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Now as I have gave you my adventure with the fair sex it will not, I hope, make you feel mad at me for being so indiscreet for I assure you that I did not go to extemes in my advances to this snuff dipper.

I had to laugh at what you wrote about the ship carpenter and think he must have been a fool to not have know who he was asking company of and must have been rather sold when he found out the facts.

I will send you another photograph and when I get home I will bring what I have of friends which will fill a large album. I have lost a good many and will try and take care of what I have left. It is talked about camp that we will soon be mustered out, but it is not from any reliable source that I can find, but this much I do believe that we will not be kept to the full extent of our time. I do not care how quick they discharge us as I am tired of this Salisbury and want to move. As soon as I can hear of any probable time that we will be mustered out I will let you know when to look for me. Give my kind regards to all and write often as usual.

I am as ever

Your Affectionate Husband

Captain D. D. Keeler

Acting Assistant Quartermaster

2nd Division 23rd Army Corps

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

Office of A. A. 2^d M. Salisbury N. C.
May 31st 1865

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As ever Your affectionate Husband
Captain D. D. Wheeler

A. A. D. W.

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M

Mrs Susan M. Wheeler
East Saginaw
Mich



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East Saginaw
Michigan