

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter May 6th 1864.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Envelope:}

{Postmark:} CHATTANOOGA TEN 13 MAY '64

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

{Page 1:}

Knoxville, Tennessee, *{Friday}* May 6th 1864

Dear Wife,

I am well as usual and busy catching my mules for my wagon train. I am in where I shall be very busy several days. Yesterday I drew 180 mules, most of them wild and this afternoon am drawing 90 more. My wagons and harnesses will be shipped to me at Cleveland, Tennessee, so I shall have to lead my mules down. I shall not do it myself, for I have men for that. I have to be with them and am responsible for all that is in my charge. We have great times with the wild mules. They are without any exception the meanest and most stubborn animals that I ever saw and I expect I shall have a time breaking them. I have also three horses and can ride. I shall not be with the regiment as long as I am Acting Assistant Quartermaster, but with my train which is to carry supplies from the depot to the army at the front, then unload and return to depot. If I have any laying over it will be at the supply depot.

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I am sorry that I could not get home for your sake for I know that you would like to see me as bad as I do you, and as soon as I am relieved from my duties as Acting Assistant Quartermaster I shall try again and I think I shall be more successful, so keep up your spirits for the every day decreases the time I have to stay in the army. If I do not write as often it will be because that I am so situated that is is impossible. I shall improve every opportunity to write. Direct your letters to the regiment as before and I can get them. I have considerable responsibility resting on me and I have got to attend to my business before anything else. I have to account for everything that I receive and if I do not I shall have it to pay for. I think that I can keep things straight, and if I do it is more than most quartermasters have done. I hope you will get the draft that I sent you of \$150 and you can live. Again, do not worry about me for I shall have to be safe this summer. I start tomorrow or next day for Cleveland, Tennessee, or as soon as I get everything ready, and will not have another chance to write for several days. Give my respects to all inquiring friends and believe me. As ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

W. Knoxville Tenn May 6th 1864

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J. W. Elder
A. A. 2^d



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