

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: “Letter May 7th 1865.tif”
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Envelope:}

{Postmark:} ??? VA MAY ??

Mrs. Captain D. D. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

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Office of Acting Assistant Quartermaster Supply Train, 2nd Division 23rd Army
Corps
Greensborough, North Carolina, *{Sunday}* May 7th 1865

Dear Wife,

I received yours today from McHenry, Illinois, and I am glad to hear that you are well and I hope you will continue so.

I am well as usual and have been since I last wrote. I arrived here this afternoon from Raleigh *{NC}* after a march of 82 miles in 4 1/2 days. I expect orders by tomorrow to go with the trains to Salisbury *{NC}*, 52 miles southwest from here at which place the 2nd Division is to remain for the present and perhaps the balance of our time. We all expected to go home right away, but we find out different, but I do expect that we will be sent home in time to muster out when our time is out.

This is the place where *{General Joseph E.}* Johnson surrendered the rebel army and now it is dispersed and gone

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to their homes. Only a few are remaining here now. The ordnance officer told me today that we only got 8,000 muskets and 107 pieces of artillery and that the balance of their arms had been scattered all over the country and some broken and destroyed.

I have delayed writing several days and the delay was occasioned by my being on the march and for the reason that I do not get any letters, only at intervals of two and three weeks lately. I do not think it is your fault for I know that you write often enough and that it is somewhere in the fault of the mail. When I was at Raleigh I used to write you most every day and still I have only had but two letters from you in over on month and I got tired of writing and getting no letters.

I always answer all of the letters I get from everone, but they are very slow to answer every time. I have but one correspondent that is prompt to answer letters besides you. Now, dear Susan, do not think that I mean to censure you one bit for the non-arrival of my letters for I do not, and I know that you are very prompt to answer all my letters and to write often and that you fail to hear

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from me regularly.

Well, it did not surprise me any to hear of you in Illinois for I expected you was there and I am glad that you had a pleasant journey and I hope you will pass your time there to your satisfaction. You must not get lonesome and get homesick for that will not pay. Make yourself agreeable to your friends and enjoy your visit. I would be glad to be with you but I am not permitted to now, but four months from now I hope to be with you. You spoke of the 23rd of April as the day of our marriage 9 years ago. I well remember it and I wrote you a letter that very night and mentioned it and you will see that I have not forgotten the happy hour that you was mine. Two years have now passed since I last saw you, two long years of peril, hardships and privations in the field and on active duty without the loss of one day. Now that the war is over I hope to pass the remainder of my time more at my ease and without the danger that is unavoidable in war. Hostilities have now ceased and you need not have any fears of my getting killed or wounded in battle and captured to die in rebel prison; that time has now passed. Four Corps of *{General William Tecumseh}* Sherman's army have gone north and the 23rd Army Corps and 10th Army Corps, the Army of the Ohio remain for the present in North Carolina. You want some money and I am very sorry that I am

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unable to send you some now as I have only fourteen dollars and that would not do much good. I wish I had more for it grieves me to think that you are in need of money. Have you got enough to get home with when you want to go? If not I will borrow until payday and send you some, so let me know at once. The fact is that everyone is out of money here at present and need the services of a paymaster very much. I am told by the Assistant Adjutant General that one has been ordered here to pay off the troops, but he has not arrived and I do not know when he will. Tell Frankie to be a good girl for me. Give my best regards to your friends and write soon to

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

P.S. The last grapevine news is that no more rations will be sent south than will last the army until the first of July if they could ~~eat~~ possibly get the men home by that time. I do not know how true it is, but hope it will be so. I think it is like a thousand other reports I hear every day about going home.

D. D. Keeler
Captain and Acting Assistant Quartermaster

Office of A. A. M. Supply Train 2nd Div 23rd AC
Greensborough N.C. May 7th 1865

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