

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Nov. 12th 1862.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

*{Page 1:}*

Bowling Green, Kentucky, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> 1862  
23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Michigan Infantry

Dear Wife,

As I have not had a letter from you in a month or somewhere about that time I will as usual keep writing and see if I can't get one once in a while. I have wrote to you every week a long letter. The mail is so uncertain I do not know whether you get them. I got a letter from Frank *{his brother, Francis Duane Keeler}* the other day. He was well. I must answer it today or tomorrow. The last time I wrote you was a week ago last Sunday at New Market *{KY}*. Well, we left that place on Sunday and marched 80 miles by Saturday at 2 o'clock. The last 40 miles was done in one and one-half days that brought us here with our brigade. We expect to stay here all winter and guard the place. Our camping ground for that purpose was picked out this forenoon. If we stay here all winter we will be better off than to be marching all the time as we have been since we arrived in this lazy indolent country. What makes me say that is because that

*{Page 2:}*

I have *{not}* seen a good and industrious farmer since I came into this state. They make their negroes do what work is done and they receive the benefit of it. They never replace anything, not hardly a fence nor even a house or anything they have in the shape of farmers implements. They leave it where they get done using it and there it lays. And another thing, I have not seen a good barn yet among the best of them. As for cooks, I don't believe there is one on the whole route that knows how to cook anything but bacon and corn bread. Some of them make what they call pies which they sell to the soldiers for ten cents a piece. I have not seen one fit to eat yet, nor have I heard anyone else say that they had. When I get home I will know how to appreciate well-cooked rations, although some of our boys cook very well under the circumstances. We draw fresh beef today. It will be a rarity to us for we have had none in 4 weeks. Perhaps we will get soft bread tomorrow. We are to have it now three times a week if we stop here, which I hope we will. Then we can get our mail regularly. I have had three letters from you, one from Sarah, one from Sant *{his brother, Sanford Keeler}*, and

*{Page 3:}*

two from Frank. That comprises all that I have received since I left home and I have wrote more than 25 letters to Saginaw *{MI}*. If I could get an answer from half I write I would be satisfied, for there is nothing that does a fellow more good than to get good letters and plenty of them. I wrote for some stamps before. If

you have sent them be sure and write it in three or four letters. If you have not sent them yet please send me two or three in each letter for a few times. Then I shall get the most of them. Be sure and direct your letters ??? so there can be no mistake. I will send you an envelope with the directions on. Be sure and answer soon and tell me how you and children get along. You wrote last that Frankie *{his daughter, Francis D. Keeler}* got burned and did not say how bad. I would like to see the little thing run around the house. Perhaps I shall by spring, for it seems with the efforts that is being made ought crush the rebellion by that time. There has troops enough gone south to crush anything if they are only property generated. That seems to be the only reason why *{General Braxton}* Bragg was not captured. *{General Don Carlos}* Buell would not do anything nor let his men. He is out now and I hope a better man in his place.

*{Page 4:}*

Our company has just been ordered to go and guard the railroad bridge across the river at this place. How long we shall be there I do not know. It is the Nashville and Louisville Railroad. I must stop writing now and get this ready for mailing while I have time, so excuse me for not filling the sheet. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends. Kiss the children for me and I will kiss you when I get home. Give my love to Sant, Lucy *{his brother Sanford's wife, Lucy M. (Nelson) Keeler}*, and Sarah *{his sister, Sarah Edwene Keeler}*, also ??? and Sarah, Father and Mother.

From Your Affectionate Husband, D. D. Keeler



Bowling Green Kentucky Nov 12th 1862  
23<sup>d</sup> Regiment Mich Infy

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Cup and Sarah Father and Mother

From your Affectionate Husband J. D. Huber