

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original files: “Letter Nov. 19th 1862 pg. 1-2.tif” and “Letter Nov. 19th 1862 pg. 3-4.tif”

Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Camp of the 23 Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Bowling Gree, KY
Nov 19th 1862

Dear Wife,

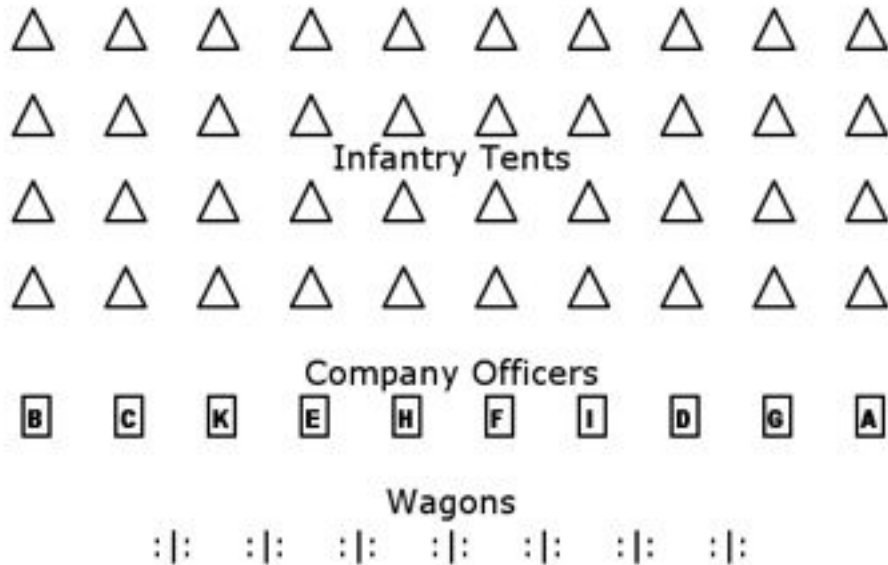
I received yours of the 11th tonight and I was glad to hear that you and the rest of the folks were well and I hasten to answer it for the letter you wrote does me more good than a little and I want more of them, so you must keep writing for they cheer a soldier on to his duty and makes this duty easy. Well, I am well and am able to eat twice my weight every day. Tonight we had pancakes for supper and you ought to see them go down. You would thought that we lived tip top. Well, we do live pretty well considering we don't have any more hard bread and bacon and in their place we have fresh beef and soft bread, which is a luxury after living on hard bread and bacon so long and we have a chance now to get some other little luxuries occasionally. You say that you would like to know whether I am under shelter when it rains. Well, Susan, I am. I am in a good tent and last night and today is about the first rain we have seen since the night before we left Saginaw *{M}*. All the rain that

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we have had since we have been in Kentucky until last night and today would scarcely lay the dust. We have had very pleasant weather all of the time and it is so warm tonight we do not have to have any fires before our tents. We have had some frosty nights some of the time and one little snow storm, otherwise we could not ask any better weather. What the weather will after this is more than I can tell. We are fixing for winter and if we stay here we will be quite comfortable. There is no doubt but what we will stay here for they have taken the companies of our regiment to do provost duty in town and the balance of us are to guard the railroad and bridge for which we are camped close to the bridge just in the outskirts of the town and the officers are going to build log houses for winter, so I guess that it is a sure thing that we will go no farther before spring. I suppose you would like to know how we look just at present. Well I can't hardly tell you. I will do the best I can at present. We are camped on a dry piece of ground just rolling enough to let the water run off, but not quite flood, close by the side of the railroad about 20 rods from the Barren River with the town about the same distance on the other side. Our camp is laid out according to the army regulations. Each company's tents in straight

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rows on a line with its company so that between the tents each company has a street of its own which they have to keep clean and neat. And the staff officers are in another row a few rods in the rear of the companies, making another street at right angles with the company streets. I will mark it out so you can see how it looks.



The one marked B is the one that I I with Lieutenant Smith and Lieutenant Lewis occupy. It is a square wall tent and quite comfortable. The company occupy the three cornered one on the same line where they are now fixing to go to bed or talking while some are writing and reading. In our tent is Lieutenant Smith and Lieutenant Lewis. Please look in a few minutes and see how we are and how we are occupying ourselves at this present moment. The furniture consists of one small table standing at one side and a bed of straw and blankets in one corner which which Lieutenant Lewis has just this moment made up. In another corner is our mess chest which serves as a seat and one or two small boxes. In another corner and seated at the table is one stool. That comprises all of the furniture excepting our cooking utensils which I like to forgot, and seated at the table is Lieutenant Smith and myself writing. Lieutenant Lewis is going to bed. I have just come in from roll call and now I will finish writing, so you see just how we look and live.

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We enjoy ourselves as well as we can and have very good times of it and enjoy ourselves first rate and if everything goes on as it does now we are all right. We have had a n----- to cook for us until a few days ago when he got so lazy that we told him to leave so we got another cook. One of the company cooks now. He can do more than any Kentucky n----- that I ever saw yet. These Kentucky n----- are poor property. I would not have a dozen around me for the best farm in the state that I have seen yet. You must tell Tip to send me some good chewing tobacco and drink a glass of beer for me. I wrote before to you to send me some

things, among them be sure to put in the tobacco, as it is a dearer article and direct it to Bowling Green, Kentucky, Company B, in care of Captain Woodruff. Tell Tip the he must write and you must tell Lottie to be a good girl and I will write to her when I get some postage stamps. Don't let George get too ugly or he will lick me when I get home. So you must correct him a little. How are you off for money? Do you get any from the supervisor? I have wrote to Father about Rube and the bill of Pratts and that will be all right when I get my pay. I will send you some money to use to get you some clothing and for the children, so keep up good courage and we will meet again before long, for the war will not last long. Good night and happy dreams and believe me.

Your Affectionate Husband,

D. D. Keeler


To Susan Keeler
East Saginaw, Michigan

Camp of the 23^d Regt Mich Vol Infy Bowling Green Ky
No 19th 1862

Dear Wife

Received Yours of the 11th to night
and I was glad to hear that you and the rest
of the folks were well and I hasten to answer
it for the letter you wrote does me more good
than a little and I want more of them so you
must keep writing for they cheer a Soldier
on to his duty and makes his duties easy
well I am well and am able to eat these
my weight everyday to night we had
pan cakes for supper and you ought to see
them go down you would thought that we
lived life life well we do live pretty well considering
we dont have any more Hard Bread and Bacon
and in their place we have Fresh Beef and
Soft Bread which is a luxury after living
on Hard Bread and Bacon so long and we have
a chance now to get some other little luxuries
occasionally, you say that you would like to
know whether I am under shelter when it
rains, well Susan I am I am in a good
tent and last night and to day is about
the first rain we have seen since the night
before we left Saginaw All the rain that

we have had since we have been in Kentucky
till last night and to day would scarcely lay
the dust we have had very pesant wether all
of the time and it is so warm to night we
do not have to have any Fires before our tents
We have had some Frosty nights some of the time
and one little snow storm other ways we could
not ask any better wether. What the wether will
after this is more than I can tell We are fixing
for winter and if we stay here we will be quite
comfortable there is no doubt but what we will
stay here for they have taken three companies
of our Regt to do Provost duty in town and the
Balance of us are to Guard the Rail Road and
Bridge for which we are camped close to the
Bridge just in the out skirts of the town and the
Officers are going to build log Houses for winter so
I guess that it is a sure thing that we will
go no farther before Spring. I suppose you
would like to know how we look just at present
we I cant hardly tell you I will do the best I
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rows a equal distance apart the Company Officers
tent on a line with its company so that between
the tents each company has a street of its own
which they have to keep clean and neat. And the
Staff Officers are in another row a few rods in
the rear of the Companies making another street
at right angles with the company streets. I will mark
it out so you can see how it looks. 
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Lieut Smith and Lieut Lewis occupy
it is a square wall tent and quite
comfortable. The company occupy the
three cornered one on the same line where they are now fixing
to go to bed or talking while some are writing and reading.
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in a few minutes and see how we are and how we
are occupying our selves at this present moment.
The Furniture consists of one small table standing
at one side and a bed of straw and Blankets in one
corner which Lieut Lewis has just this moment made
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seat and one or two small boxes in another corner
and seated at the table is one stool that comprises
all of the Furniture excepting our cooking utensels which
I like to forget and seated at the table is Lieut Smith
and myself writing. Lieut Lewis is going to bed. I have
just come in from roll call and now I will finish
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We enjoy our selves as well as we can and have very
good things of it and enjoy our selves first rate and if
every thing goes on as it does now we are all right
We have had aigger to cook for us till a few days ago
when he got so lazy that we told him to leave so we
got another cook one of the company cooks now he
can do more than any Kentucky Digger that I
ever saw yet These Kentucky Diggers are poor
property I would not have a dozen around me for
the best Harm in the State that I have seen yet
You must tell Tip to send me some good Chewing
Tobacco and drink a glass of Beer for me I wrote
before to you to send me some things among them
be sure to put in the Tobacco as it is a deper article
And direct it to Bowling Green Kentucky Co B
in Care of Capt Woodruff Tell Tip he must write
and you must tell Leatha to be good girls and I will
write to her when I get some postage Stamps
dont let George get to ugly or he will lick me
when I get home so you must correct him a little
How are you off for money do you get any from
the Supervisors I have wrote to Father about
Rube and the Bill of Pratts and that will be all
right when I get my Pay I will send you some
money to use to get you some clothing and for the
children so be up good courage and we will
meet again before long for the war will not last
long Good Night and happy dreams and
Believe me your Affectionate Husband

D. O. Keller

To Susan Keller
East Squaw Mich