Keeler Civil War Letters

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}.

{Page 1:}

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

Dear Wife.

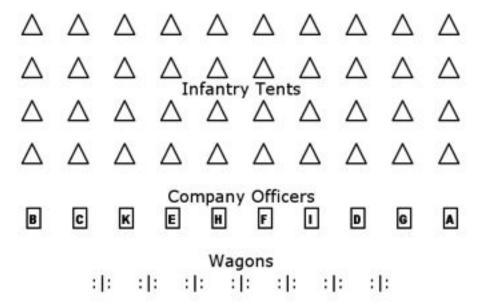
I received yours of the 11th tonight and I was glad to hear that you and the rest of the folks were well and I hasten to answer it for the letter you wrote does me more good than a little and I want more of them, so you must keep writing for they cheer a soldier on to his duty and makes this duty easy. 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 [MI]. All the rain that

{Page 2:}

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 guite 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 guite 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

{Page 3:}

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.

{Page 4:}

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 Camposthe 23 Regt Much Wol Smit Bowling Freen Hy Dear Mife Preceived yours of the 11th to night and Twas good to hear that you and the rest of the folks were well and naster to answer it for the letter you wate down me more good than a little and I want more of them do you on to his lute and makes this luty say well I am well and am able to eat these in weight every day to might we had pan cakes for dupper and you on ght to see them go down you would thought that we lived tipe top well we do live pletty well considering We don't have any mor Hard Bread and Bacon and in their place we have Tresh Defand Soll Bread which is a luxuary after liveing on Hard Break and Bacon solling and we have a chance now to get some other little but evarys contionly, you day that you would like to Know wetter Pahr under Sheller when it rains, well Gusan Dam Dam in a good tent and last might and to day is about the first rain pile have seen bonal the night before we left daginant all the rain what

we have had since we have seen in Hentischer till last might and to day would searcely lay the dust we have had very perant wether all of the time and it is so warm to night we We have had some throsty nights some of the tink 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 there companys, of our Right to do Provost duty in town and the Balance of us are to Guard the Cail Wood and Bridge for which we are camped close to the Bridge just in the out skirts of the lower and the Officero are going to build log Heouses for winter so I greed that sit is a sure thing that we will go no farther before spring! Of suppose you would like to know how we look just at Present we I can't hardly tell you I will do the best of can at present Weare Camped on a dry peace of ground just rolling enough to let the water run In but not quite of level close by the side of the Ruil Hoad about 20 rods from the Bahren River with side our camp is laid out acording to the army Regulations lack Dompanys tents in strait

rows a easywal distance apart the company Officers lent on a line with ito company so that bettwen the tents each company has a street of its own which they have to kleep cleen and meat and the Staff Officers are in another row a few rods in the rear of the Companys making another Street at right angles with the company streets Provil mark the one marked to is the one that Proth De Blog form DD DE But Show the Sunt Bould Bright DE BE BOUNDER Show the But Built and Level Lewis Cociety At B Blog forcero tents Level Harith and Level Lewis Cacify it is a square wall tent and youte comfortable the company occupy the three cornered one on the same line where they are now fixing to go to bed or talking while someware writing and reading In our tent is Lieut Smith afficut Lowis . please look" in a few munutes and sel how we are and how we are secuping our selves at this present moment The Hurmture consists of one small table standing at one side and a bed of straw and Blankets in one corner which Luist Lewis has just this moment made of in another corner is our melo chest which serves as a seal and one or two small boxes in another corner and seated at the table as one stool that comprises all of the Furniture excepting our aroking retensels which Deke to forgot and seated at the table is drient I mith and myself writing Lieut Lewis is foir to bed Than just come in from Roll call and now of will finish writing so you see just how we look and hive

The enjoy our selves as well as we can and have very good thinks of it and enjoyour selves first rate and if every thing goes or as it does now we are all right We have had a Migger to cook for us till a few dups ago when the got so I lagy that we told him to leave so we got another cook hone of the company cooks now he can do more than any Henbuckey A Regger that I ever saw yet These Wentucky miggere are poor property ground not have a dollen around me for the Sest Farm in the State that I have seen yet you must tell Wip to send me some Good chewing Tofaceo and drink a glass of Beer for me of wrote before to you to send me some things among them - And direct it to Bowling Green Centuckey Oold in Care of Capt Modry of Delle Life the must write and you must tell Leothe to be a good wirl and I will write to her when of get Lond postage Stamps don't let George get to ugly of 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 of have wrote to Stather about Mube and the Bill of Bratts and that will beall right when I get my landwill send you some money to wee to get you some clothing and for the children so the hip good courage land we will meet a gain velore long for the war willnot last long a good bright hand happy dreams and Beleave me your Offectionate Husband To Susan Weiler O. O. Duler .