

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original files: “Letter Nov. 2nd 1862.tif” & “Letter Continued Pg. 5 (star-spangled banner).tif”

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

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New Market *{KY}*

{Sunday} November 2nd 1862

Company B, 23rd Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry

Dear Wife,

Sunday has come again and I most always write to you so I will write today for I know that you look for a letter every week. So I will not disappoint you any more than I can help. I suppose the first thing you want to know is how I stand soldiering. Well, Susan, I stand it first rate and I never was in better health than I am at present. I have not been off duty one day yet since

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I left home. I find it no harder than I expected. If I did I should not complain. It is enough to hear others complain; some of them are pretty homesick, but it does them no good for they cannot get there. We have got to stay until the war is ended or some other time. When I enlisted I knew that was *{the}* way of it, so I don't let it bother me a bit. I find it the best way to get along. We are now at New Market and have been here one week tomorrow. When I wrote last Sunday to you I was at Bradfordsville *{KY}*, 16 miles distant. We are to march again, perhaps tomorrow, farther south. I do not know our destination. It is to join our brigade, wherever that may be. We would have joined

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if before, but we had to have more teams and some other necessary traps before we were well provided for, among the rest new guns. If we can get them our old ones are condemned, not fit for service. We now are well provided with tents and wagons to carry them, and most of our knapsacks. I do not dread a march at all now for I can march *{without}* any trouble now. We expected to get our pay before we left here, but I am afraid we won't get it until we reach our brigade. We were mustered for pay Friday last. When I get it I will send you home some. The 2nd Michigan Cavalry are here with us so we enjoy ourselves first-rate. I have seen all of Captain Godley's company. Lieutenants Carter and Blackmer are well and so is Royal Loomis. Our two ??? went to church

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together today over in the woods. One thing I like to have forgotten; it is the sham battle we had the other day with blank cartridges. The cavalry charged on us when we were out drilling. We formed a line of battle and let them have the blanks and back they went again. Then we laid down on the ground and back

they come for us again. Up we all jumped, let them have some more, then a bit finely we formed a hollow square and they charged on that a few times and used up the afternoon, which was a good lesson for us and also for some of their new horses. It was the first sham fight we have had or any other ??? either, while they have had plenty of real ones. One thing which makes it bad for us is we don't get our mail

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very regular when we are marching so much. We have had none since we left Frankfort *{KY}*. I hope that we will get some soon for I want to hear from home as often as I can. When we do get a mail it makes ~~ever~~ most every *{one}* jump with joy. Letters do a great deal of good to a soldier away from home. Write as often as you can and tell me how George & Frankey get along. Kiss them both for me and take good care of them. Don't let them get sick. Give my love to your father and mother, also to Tip and Sarah and all of the rest of the folks. Direct your letters as before to Louisville *{KY}* and I will get them sometime. Be sure and direct them plain so no mistake can be made. Please send me some postage stamps. They are not to be had here.

From Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler



New Market
Nov 20th 1862
Co B 23rd Regt Ark
Volunteer Infy

Dear Wife

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 Throm Your Affectionate Husband
 C. D. Keller



The Star-Spangled Banner.

O! say, can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming;
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there!
O! say, does that Star-Spangled Banner still wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

On the shore, dimly seen through the mist of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream;
'Tis the Star-Spangled Banner, O! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is the band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country would leave us no more;
Their blood has wiped out their foul footsteps' pollution,
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave;
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

O! thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and war's desolation;
Bless'd with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation;
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto—"In God is our trust!"
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!