EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Nov. 30th 1862.tif" Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Camp of the 23rd Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry Bowling Green, Kentucky, Nov. 30th 1862

Dear Wife,

As today is Sunday, I as usual write to you every Sunday, so I will today. Sunday in camp is very much like any other day in camp only we don't have to drill, but we have company inspection or regimental inspection to go through, with which takes time, 9 until 11 o'clock in the forenoon, then the rest of the day is devoted to writing letters and some other duties such as dress parade, drawing rations, and eating them. I received one letter from you this week and it was a back letter that you wrote a month ago and one from Sant of the same date with some stamps in it which come acceptable. Last night I got one from Father. I believe that I have now got all of my back letters and now our mail comes quite regularly. We get letters from Saginaw [M]] in 3 or 4 days now, so we can't complain much now. I wrote to you that we were going to winter here in Bowling Green. But things look different from what they did then.

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Our brigade is all split up and marched off in different places and we are expecting marching orders every day, which we probably will get this week to go towards Nashville \(77N \right). We were getting fixed up for winter so we would be comfortable and now we will have to leave it for some other regiment. Major {Benjamin F.} Fisher and one or two other officers have went to the expense of building a log house to live in and by the time it is done he will undoubtedly have to leave it. It may be such a thing that we shall stay here yet, but no one knows so we keep on to work as though we were a going to stay. Them things that I wrote for you to send me you need not sent them at present until I know where we will quarter this winter. We may be sent to Cincinnati (OH) to winter. If we are it will *{be}* a little nearer to Michigan than we are now and where we can get things that are not to be had here. But as long as we don't know where we will be sent it is no use of talking for we have to obey without asking questions. Father said he was up to see you and you was getting better of the rhuematism which I am glad to hear and that George had got some new boots and a cap and he had to show them to him, and as soon as we get paid off I will send you some money to get you some clothes with and anything else you want

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and some more clothes for George and Frankey for if she grows as you tell for she must have outgrown all of hers. Enclosed you will find three little lockets, one for George, one for Frankey, and one for Nelley Lester. I got them in some writing paper that I bought. Captain *{Henry Heber}* Woodruff is coming back to the company tomorrow and O*{scar}* S. Davis whose place I occupy is coming back to the company again, so I will have to take my place that I had when I left Saginaw, Quartermaster. Little has reported himself back again so Davis will have to come in to the company again. The cause of it is the breaking up of the brigade that we belonged to. So we will have to go in another brigade. As the mail train has just arrived I will not finish this until evening for I may get a letter and if I do get one from you I want to acknowledge the receipt of it. Four hours later. Just as I expected I received a letter from you dated Nov. 23rd with some stamps and I was glad to hear from you and the children and am glad that you are getting better and that George and Frankey are so well. Well, I am well and getting fat and never felt better in my life. You must not worry about me for I am safe and comfortable and you must keep up good courage until the war is over which won't last always. I would like to see you all if I could, but I can't do it now for I am a soldier

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and I try to be a good one. I find that is the best way to get along. I have had no trouble yet in doing my part, so I do everything cheerfully for I may as well do it that way as any other, for complaining here does no good. You need not send me any money for you need it more than I do. For it I had it I should spend it for what I might get along without, so make good use of it yourself and if you have any to spare take care of it for it will com handy some other time to finish our house with or something else. If I was home I could not work at my trade this time of year so I am as well off earning 7 dollars a month without any chance of spending it as I would be at home doing nothing, and besides I have the satisfaction to know that I am serving my country. If I was home I should not feel easy while the war lasted without having a hand in putting down this rebellion. When the war is over and I get home I will know that I was one that done my duty to my country, so you must be contented for a while and not give up because I am away for a while. When I get home you will not be sorry that I went. We must keep writing to each other and we can stand it for a while yet. Tell Mother that I am glad that she is raising a cow for us and I am glad that Father is getting such a good price for his wood. He ought to make something out of it. You need not send them things until I find out where we go to stay any length of time. We have been here three weeks and I have not been downtown once yet. Them that has been there say there is nothing to be seen and as I have had nothing to go for I have stayed in camp. I find enough to busy myself with to keep myself from getting lazy. Answer soon and give my love to Father & Mother and the rest of the folks. I will write often and you must. So good night and kiss the children for me.

From Your Affectionate Husband, Sergeant D. D. Keeler

How ling free Hentuckey No 30th 1862 Star This Co to day is anday & as usual write to you every Junday so of an To day I control in Jana is were mear with any other day an one of only me dont have to dred out we have complany Inspection or Organista Conspication to go Farm gh with which takes from 9 til Hocket in the fore moon when the total day is devoted to writing letter and some other dutys such as Drep Parade drawing rations and eating them Il received one letter from you this work and it was a back after that you wrote amouth ago and one from ant atthe same date with some stamps in it which some acceptable Last might of get one from Hather Of beleave that I have now got all of my back letters and mow our mail comes enute regular y we get letter from & haginaw. in 3 or 4 days now so we can't combelain much mow of worde to you that we were going to winter here sin Brailing green. But things look dilbrent from what they did then

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land Some more clathe for George and Frankey for if she grows as you tell for she must have out grained all of her Enclosed you will find three hittle lockets one for George lane for Frankey and one for helley Lester of got them in dome writing paper that I Sought Capt Woodeuf is coming lack to the company to morrow and Of Davis whose place Poccupiy is coming back to the company again soon will have to take my place What I had when West Jaginais Quarter Master Little Las reported winself back again so I avio will have to come in Breaking whoof the Briggade that we hearged to Obeve will have to go in another Briggade as the mail Fram has just arived of will not finish this till evening for I may get a letter, and if I do get one from your hount to acknowledge The receipt of it. Four Hours later, Just as Deffee ted I received a letter from you Dated Nos 23 with some stamps and I was glad to hear from you and the shildren and I am glat that you are geting better and that George and Frankey are so well, well I am well and geting fat and never felt better in my life you must not worry about me for Pam Sale and comfortable and you must keep up good courage till the war is over which wont last always I would like to see you all if I could but I can't do it now for I am a Soldier

and I by to be a good one I find that is the best way to get along Thave me had no trouble yet in doing my fast so Is do every thing cherfuly for may as well do it that way as any other for bomplaming here does no good more than Ado for if I had it I should spend it for what I might get along without so make good use of it your self and if you have any to speare take care of it for it will come handy some other time to finish our house with or something else of Dwas home Deould not work at my trade this time, of year so I am as well offearning In Sollars amonth withy out any chance of Spending it as I would be at home doing nothing and besides I have the satisfaction to know that Main serveing my country of Iwas home I should not feel easy while the week lasted with out haveing a hand in thuting down this rebellion, when the war is over and Palt home A will know that I was one that done my duty to my country so you must be contented for a while and not give up begans & Dam away for a while when Reep write my to each other, and not be an stand it for a while yet Hell mother that I am glad that she, is geting such be good Price for his wood he ought to make some thing out of it you need not send them things till Defind out where we gots to stay any length of time Me have been here there welfer and has been there say there is nothing to be seen and as I have had mothing to go for I have stayed in camp of find enough to busy my self with in keepe my self from geting largy answer soon and give my love to Father & Mother and the restof the folks of will write after and you must along good might and his the children for me From your affectionale Husband Sorgt Of Heeler