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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 *{TN}*. 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 if 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

Camp of the 23rd Regt Mich Vol Infy
Bowling Green Kentucky Nov 8th 1862

Dear Wife

To day is Sunday I as usual write to you every Sunday so I will to day. Standing in camp is very near to any other day in camp only we dont have to drill but we have company inspection or Regimental inspection to go through with which takes from 9 till 11 o'clock in the forenoon then the rest of the day is devoted to writing letters and some other duties such as Drap 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 Aunt of the same date with some stamps in it which some 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 regular if we get letter from Virginia in 3 or 4 days now so we cant 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 when

Our Brigade is all split up and marched of
in different places and we are expecting marching
orders every day which we probably will get
this week to go towards Nashvill we were getting
fixed up for winter so we would be comfortable
and now we will have to leave it for some other
Regt. Major Fisher and one or two other Officers
have went to the expence 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 I then things that I wrote for you
to send me if you had not send them at present
till I know where we will Quater this winter
we may be sent to Cincinnati this winter if we
are it will a little nearer to Mich 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 with out asking questions
I told Paul he was up to see you and you
was getting better of the Rheumatism which
Paul 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
clothe with and any thing else you want

and some more cloths for George and Franky
for if she grows as you tell for she must have
out grown all of hers Enclosed you will find
three little lockets one for George one for Franky
and one for Melley Lester I got them in some
writing paper that I bought Capt Woodruff
is coming back to the company tomorrow and
David 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 Captain
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you are getting better and that George and Franky are so well,
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You must not worry about me for I am safe 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
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and I try to be a good one I find that is the best way to get
along I have ~~no~~ had no trouble yet in doing my part
so I do every thing 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 if 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 come 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 \$17 dollars a month without any chance of
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and besides I have the satisfaction to know that I am
serving my country If I was home I should not feel
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it 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
thing till I find out where we go to stay any
length of time We have been here three weeks and
I have not been down town once yet them that
has been there say there is nothing to be seen and
as I have had nothing to do for I have stayed
in camp I find enough to busy my self with
to keepe my self 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
be good night and kiss the children for me
Thon Your affectionate Husband
Sergt J. J. Wheeler.