

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Nov. 6th 1864.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

*{Envelope:}*

*{Postmark:}* CHATTANOOGA TEN 8 NOV '64

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler  
East Saginaw  
Michigan

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Quartermasters Office Supply Train, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps  
Chattanooga, Tennessee, *{Sunday}* November 6<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Wife,

I now use the first opportunity I have had in some time to answer your kind and welcome letters that I have received lately. I am glad that you received the draft of three hundred dollars. I am well and have been since I last wrote. I am now at Chattanooga, Tennessee, and tomorrow I start with my train for Nashville *{TN}* in company with the other wagon trains belonging to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps for the purpose, I am told, of refitting our trains. The troops of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps are ordered to Pulaski, Tennessee, and are now on the way there by railroad. Pulaski is somewhere south of Nashville near the southern part of the state. I do not know how long we will stop with the trains at Nashville. We may be there a week and perhaps longer. I cannot even guess how long we will stay there.

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The last letter I wrote I was in Cedar Bluff, Alabama, but I did not get a chance to mail it until yesterday, so it must be near a month since you have heard from me. I am sorry that it has been so long, but I could not do better, for I have been on the road every day except three days for over one month and when I stopped nights it would be late and by the time I could, my supper and tent up, it would be time for me to go to sleep for we have to be up early mornings and on the road by daylight and so my time has been occupied during this whole campaign. I believe that the troops have done more marching since we left Atlanta *{GA}* than they did last summer. We have had the finest kind of weather all the while until within the last four days, which has made up for all the fine weather and it is blowing and raining now. The roads are muddy but our trains are nearly empty and we can go through most any mud that the mules can wade. I drew new clothing for my men yesterday and now they are warmly clothed. I have got enough to last me through to Nashville where I intend

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to get me some clothes. I got a pair of boots yesterday. They cost me eighteen dollars, the price of three or four pair before the war. I am sorry that you expect me home so much, but I am to blame for writing such encouraging news when I was at Decatur *{GA}*. However, I wrote what I thought and I did expect to get a leave but the late campaign stopped all leaves of absence very suddenly. I think that the campaign came on rather unexpectedly to all, so you see how I was caught. I do not know what will be done next, but one thing, I cannot possibly get away as long as there is anything for the supply trains to do. I want to come home as bad as you want me to and you must not think it my fault for not coming. I do not want to lose my place with the train and go to marching with the regiment for I am not used to walking. I have been mounted for more than a year and to march on foot would not suit me I think. And as my time is now reckoned by months instead of by years I have the best of hope of soon going home to stay. I have less than ten months now to serve and that is growing beautifully less every day, so you must be patient and keep up good spirits

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and I will do the same. I will get a leave of absence if I possibly can, but I do not rely much on my chance now. I am very sorry that I have disappointed you but I was so sure of going home that I could not help but let you know it.

When I get to Nashville I will write again and let you know how I get along and what I can learn about my staying there. You must buy little Frankie a new dress and shoes for me and I will see what I can bring when I come.

I intended to go up on Lookout Mountain *{TN}* today but the weather is too stormy so I guess I will stay in camp and write letters if I can keep my fingers warm. I have been a good boy, dear Susan, and I am for Mr. Lincoln for President day after tomorrow. Thank God the soldiers can vote and he is the next President. Give my best respects to all. I am as ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,

D. D. Keeler

Lieutenant & Acting Assistant Quartermaster

P.S. Direct your letters as before and I shall get them.

BW Office Supply Train 2<sup>nd</sup> Div 23<sup>d</sup> AC  
Chattanooga Tenn. Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 1864

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