

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: “Letter Oct. 11th 1862.tif”
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Camp at Frankfort, October 11th, 1862
23rd Michigan Infantry

Dear Father,

I received the sad news yesterday that my mother *{is}* gone. It came unexpected to me. Little did I think that I bid her the last goodbye when I left Saginaw *{M}*. I cannot realize that she is dead. It is a sad blow to us all, but it is God's will that she should be taken anyway. One so good as she was to us will never be forgotten. To you, dear Father, I would like to speak words of encouragement but I am away and can only pen a few

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lines to you and let you know that I would do more if I were home. I cannot find words to express my feeling over the news that I little thought of hearing from home. I thought that when Frank and I came home she would be there to welcome back again. Now she is gone and I will never see her again on earth; makes me feel bad. It's the will of the Almighty and we must submit and bear up under the circumstances as it is all for the best. Now is our duty to try and follow her examples and meet her in Heaven where she is gone and be with her again. Our regiment is here at the capital of Kentucky holding the place until we have order to go farther, which may be soon.

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There is some sick in the regiment, but nothing very serious. I have some bad news to write from Company E, which is very bad. Lieutenant John Earl died last night here in the city. His death was a sudden blow to his company, now being left with only one officer. He was well liked by all officers and men of the regiment. He discharged his duty to the satisfaction of all and won the esteem of everyone. His body will, if possible, be sent home today. His disease was the bloody dysentery. Our sutler C. M. Curtis leaves today for Saginaw and he can tell you how I get along and also the whole regiment. I received two letters from Susan, one from Sant, one from Frank, one from Sarah Lester yesterday

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and the day before. It was the first mail that I have received since we left Saginaw. I hope we will get now more regularly after this. Tell Susan to take good care of the children and herself. Tell Sarah to be a good girl and remember the teachings of her mother. Answer soon. Direct your letters to Sergeant D. D. Keeler, Company B, 23rd Regiment, Michigan Infantry, Louisville, KY. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends from

Your Affectionate Son,
D. D. Keeler

Camp at ^{by} Frankfurt Oct 11th 1862
I B. Regt Mich Inf

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