

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: “Letter Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> 1863b.tif”  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

*{The year is not specified, but he refers to his mother being sick. Since she died October 5, 1862, the year of the letter was probably 1862 and he probably had not yet heard of her death.}*

*{Page 1:}*

Camp at Frankfort, KY  
23 Regt. Mich. ??? Oct. 11 *{1862}*

Dear Wife,

I have just received two letters from you and one from Frank, the first that I have received since I left Saginaw. You better believe that I was glad to hear you and the children and I am sorry to hear that mother is so sick. I hope she will get well for I would like to see her again. Tell her that I am well and send my best wishes hoping she will soon be better. Since I wrote before we have seen some pretty hard marching. We are now in the middle of the rebels at the capital of Kentucky.

*{Page 2:}*

We arrived here after 16 hours forced march with only two hours rest on the way. We came into the city about 4 o'clock in the morning and were welcomed by the citizens who were glad to see us. We were 4 hours too late to take a part in the fight which happened here that night and resulted in the rout of the rebels with the loss of 1 killed, 4 wounded on our side and seven killed on the rebels and some wounded. They were fixing to burn the town and bridge but did not ????. They were on the hills around the town all the day before and some of the Union boys mounted some barrels on some stumps on an opposite hill and the rebels took it for a battery and dared not enter the city. Might by that means the city

*{Page 3:}*

was saved. We have been here two days and are now under marching orders. The Brigade that we belong to has all left but our regiment which some are on picket. Two companies are on provost guard duty in the city and our company are now on guard at our camp. Where we will go to next I cannot tell. We will join our brigade somewhere under Col. Chafin when we are relieved. I can stand the marches first rate, better than two thirds of the regiment. The only thing I have to complain of is carrying my knapsack, which is pretty heavy. I had to throw away some of my unnecessary traps to lighten it. Some of them threw away most everything they had. We are in good spirits and feel

*{Page 4:}*

pretty well. The weather has been very warm but it is cold enough today. I am now acting as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant of our company now and shall for some time. Some of time I have full command of the company which I do to the satisfaction of the Field Officers. We have to be up early in the morning and drill all daylight. Some of our company are sick. Among them is Overton. We left him in Louisville where he now is. Our n----- that we confiscated has got dinner most ready so I must bring this to a close. Answer soon and ??? your letters as before. Take good care of George and ??? and also mother. Write how your father and mother are. Tell them tha I am well and sstand it first rate. I will write again soon. From your  
Affectionate Husband  
D. D. Keeler

Camp at Frankfort K.Y.  
23 Regt Mich Infy Oct 11

Dear Wife

I have just received  
two letters from you and one from  
Frank the first that I have  
received since I left Saginaw  
You better believe that I was  
glad to hear you and the  
children and I am sorry to  
hear that mother is so sick  
I hope she will get well for  
I would like to see her again  
tell her that I am well and  
send my best wishes hoping she  
will soon be better since I wrote  
before we have seen some pretty  
hard marching we are now in  
the midst of of the Rebels  
at the Capital of Kentucky

we arrived here after 16 hours forced  
march with only two hours rest  
on the way we came into the city  
about 4 o'clock in the morning  
and were welcomed by the citizens  
who were glad to see us we were 4 hours  
too late to take a part in the fight  
which happened here that night  
and resulted in the rout of the  
Rebels with the loss of 7 killed  
4 wounded on our side and seven  
killed on the Rebels and some  
wounded they were fixing to  
burn the town and bridge but  
did not come at they were on the  
hills around the town all the day  
before and some of the Union  
Boys mounted some Barrels  
on ~~two~~ some stumps on an  
opposite hill and the Rebels  
took it for a Battery and  
least not enter the city might  
by that means the city was

saved we have been here two days  
and are now under marching  
orders the Brigad that we  
belong to has all left but our  
Regt which some are on Picket  
two companies are on Provost  
Guard duty in the city and  
our company are now on guard  
at our camp where we will  
go to next I cant tell we will  
join our Brigad some where  
under Col Chapin when we  
are relieved I can stand the  
marches first rate better than  
two thirds of the Regiment  
the only thing I have to complain  
of is carrying my Knapsack  
which is pretty heavy I had  
to throw away some of my  
unnecessary traps to lighten  
it some of them throwed away  
most every thing they had  
we are in good spirits and feel

pretty well the weather has been  
very warm but it is cold enough  
today. I am now acting as  
2nd Lieut of our company now  
and shall for some time, some  
of time I have full command of  
the company which I do to  
the satisfaction of the Guild  
Officers we have to be up early  
in the morning and drill till  
day light. Some of our company  
are sick among them is Overton  
we left him in Souxville where he  
now is. our Nigger that we bought  
outed has got dinner most ready  
some bring this to a close answer  
son and send your letters as before  
Take good care of George and Miss  
and also Mother. Write how  
your Father and mother are  
tell them that I am well and  
stand it first rate I will write  
again soon from your

Affectionate Husband

J. P. Keller