

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Oct. 18th 1862.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Frankfort, Kentucky, October 18th 1862, 23 Regiment Michigan Infantry

Dear Wife,

I suppose that you are looking for a letter from me as often as I can write, and every opportunity that I have I improve it in writing letters and a good share of them I write to you. I have received three from you, one from Sarah, one from Sant in which I received bad news, news that I little expected so soon. I have seen my mother for the last time. What will I do for a mother when I come home? She not there to welcome me back nor come to our assistance when needed. She was always ready and willing to lend a helping hand to every call. She will be missed very much by us all and every one of her acquaintances where she had many. She was too good for this earth and God has taken her home with Him and left us to follow in time where we will go if we follow her examples and precepts. Susan, try and do the same and you will find it better for to die happy than otherwise. I wrote to Sarah the other day and to you the day before. We are still here at Frankfort, the capital of Kentucky, encamped on a dry knoll

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the south side of the city in a valley surrounded every side by high hills, in some places rocks so steep as to be impossible to climb. On these hills are encamped several regiments so that it is impossible for the enemy to approach without letting us know it, and also there is scouts and cavalry scouring the country and bringing in the butternuts or rebels every day. We have got our tents now and are very comfortable now to what we have been. We have a plenty to eat and have to drill about 8 hours a day; from four in the morning until six, from 10 to 12 company drill, from 1 to 4 battalion drill, at 5 p.m. dress parade. Today I am not out to drill. I am Officer of the Guard for the first time. I have to see that the guards are regularly relieved every two hours and have charge of the whole guard for 24 hours. While I was Orderly Sergeant I had no guard duty to do, but since I act as Lieutenant I have to do guard duty; that is I have to see that the guards do their duty. I have charge of the company a good part of the time on company and battalion drill. Yesterday I had command of a division on battalion drill, which is two companies. I can do it as well as any of them. We are progressing finely with our drill and if we keep on we will be able to go through with all the moves in the

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school of the battalion without any trouble in a few days. Yesterday we were drilled in the charge bayonet, lay down, and get up yelling. The weather is very

fine, warm days, cool nights. We have not had but very little rain and everything is very dry. All of the small streams are dried up and water is a scarce article in some places, so we found it on our march to this place. I did not suffer any for I took good care to have a supply on hand and made good use of it. With soldiering it is of no use to find fault, it don't make it any easier for them. For my part I like it as well as I expected and I find the less fault I find the better. We have it pretty hard some of the time, but it cannot be helped as I see the hardest part of the job is the marching and carrying a knapsack. I no do not have to carry my knapsack now so I can't complain much. It is carried with the officer's baggage now and I hope it always will. Day before yesterday I visited the cemetery of this city. It a ornament to the place. It is well shaded with trees and contains the resting place of many noted men, among them is the grave of Daniel Boone, the first settler of Kentucky. They have paid a handsome tribute to his memory by erecting a large and beautiful monument of granite

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and marble. Here also is the grave of many of heroes of the Mexican War, all buried in one large circle. The state have erected in the center of that circle a large marble monument about 6 feet high with their names engraved on the column. It is the most beautiful monument that I ever saw. It is worth going a great ways to see and there are many other smaller ones too numerous to mention. Among is one for Colonel *{Vice President Richard Mentor}* Johnson, the man that killed Tecumseh the Indian chief. I could have spent all day there, but I had not time. I feel satisfied for climbing a high steep hill to see a little. If I had time and space I would write more. If I wrote it all I would nothing to talk about when I come home, which I don't think will be as long as I enlisted for. You can tell as much of it as I can. I don't know half as much about what is going on as I did when I were at home. We don't get the news. You must write as often as you can and tell George to be a good boy. Kiss them both for me and take good care of them and of yourself. For my part I am all right. Answer soon. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends.
From Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

Frankfort Kentucky, Oct 18th 1862 23 Regt Mich Inf

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every two hours and have charge of the whole
Guard for 24 hours while it was orderly sergeant
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I have to do Guard duty that is I have to see
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when I am home which I dont think will be so
as long as I enlisted for you can tell as much about
as I can I dont know half as much about what
is going on as I did when I were at home we dont
get the news. You must write as often as you
can and tell George to be a good Boy keep them
both for me and take good care of them and
of your self for my part I am all right answer
soon give my best respects to all inquiring Friends
From your affectionate Husband
D. O Keller

PS Direct the same as before

Mr David