

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: “Letter Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> 1862.tif”  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Jeffersonville *{IN}*, Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Parents,

I suppose you would like to hear from me. Well, as I have a few minutes to spare I will write you a few lines to let you know that I am well yet. We are now in Jeffersonville, Indiana, on guard duty at the ferry between here and Louisville, Kentucky, which is just across the Ohio River. We, that is Company B, have been guarding the ferry to prevent citizens using the ferry while government wants it. The ferry consists of two large boats, large enough

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to carry a whole regiment at one load. While I am writing there is now more than fifty government wagons waiting to cross on this side and as many on the other side, and it is so all the while, and will be so for two or four weeks. Last night 10,000 men crossed over into Kentucky, all ready to go into battle. Among them was our regiment. While we are left here until we are relieved, which we expect every hour; then we will join them. Our journey here was more pleasant than I expected. We arrived here last Sunday morning, coming by the way of Cleveland *{OH}* and Cincinnati *{OH}*. If I had time I would give you a detail of

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our journey, so I will have to do that some other time. It is all excitement here night and day, for there is congregating at Louisville a large army to defeat the rebel General *{Braxton}* Bragg, who is marching on Louisville with his army; and our General *{Don Carlos}* Buell is in his rear with his forces to prevent his retreat and General *{William “Bull”}* Nelson in front at Louisville. So you see how it is here; a battle expected any day now; women and children coming to the ferry to get out of harm. General Nelson issued an order for them to leave Louisville or suffer the consequences. They are allowed to cross the river on foot, but not with wagons. Our camp is close to the

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ferry on the cobblestones which line the beach of the river. We lay down on the stones to sleep without any trouble with nothing over us but our blankets. I have not slept in a tent or anything else since we got here. Captain *{Henry Heber}* Woodruff is acting Major of the regiment, Captain *{Benjamin F.}* Fisher as Colonel, our colonel is Brigadier General, so that brings me to Orderly for the present. I am writing on a box of mule harness with a pencil, so excuse bad writing. I wrote to Susan Sunday, to Frank yesterday. Let Susan see this and tell her I am well. Answer soon. Tell me how Susan and the children are. Direct

your letters to me, Company B, 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Michigan Infantry, Louisville,  
Kentucky.  
From Your Affectionate Son,  
D. D. Keeler

Jeffersonville Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 1862

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