

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Sept. 26th 1863.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Headquarters 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Near Loudon, Tennessee, Sept. 26th 1863

Dear Wife,

Another opportunity is at hand to send a mail and I will improve it for I know you are anxious to hear from me. Well, Susan, I am well and have not been off duty a day yet since I wrote you before, which was over a week ago or 2 weeks. We have done some very hard marching and no fighting. We marched to Knoxville *{TN}* and forty miles beyond and back to Loudon again and down to Sweet Water *{TN}* and back and are now camped on the south side of the river inside of some rebel fortifications. We came in yesterday and everyone is at work to make himself comfortable. I have a considerable to do when in camp, but on the march I have

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a horse to ride, and a good horse, too, and a man to take care of him for me. I have not received a letter from you by mail in a long time, not since we have been in Tennessee. Captain *{Henry Heber}* Woodruff brought me a letter with the ambrotypes of you and Frankey and the towels and handkerchief, for which I returned my sincere thanks to you for your kindness. The pictures come in good order and are the most welcome. I wish I could see the originals and see if they look as the pictures do. I wish I could return some favor in place of them, but I cannot at present, for I am out of money and if I had there is no way of sending anything from here now, hardly a letter. Money is a scarce article here with both officers and men at present and no prospects of getting paid very soon. I am sorry that I cannot send you any for I think you must

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be in need of money very much now since they stopped paying you there. You had ought to get money there until I am mustered for I am no better off now than I was before I got a commission, for my wages are the same. I am acting as adjutant and I heard the colonel say that he was going to keep me so until the adjutant returned to the regiment, which I do not think will be as long as there is a brigade in the 2nd Division. We have not have any news from the north or any other part of the world in a long time. We do not know how the war progresses, only where we are ourselves. Outside of our own observation we know nothing. We have had good success here so far and feel confident that we can hold our position if attacked, which we have no fear of that, for the rebels have run so far and it will cost them more to

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drive us out than it would to kept us from getting here in the first place. I hope the war will not last much longer, for I do not want to be away from you and home any longer than necessary. I think of you and sis every day and would like to see you worse more than ever before. I will come you may bet as soon as I can and do it honorably, so do not worry about me for I am well and safe as anyone can be in the army. If communication were so we could get our mail it would seem better, but here we are and not a letter in over a month and no telling when we will get a mail. I will write again as soon as the mail goes out again. Give my respects to all inquiring friends and write often to

Your Affectionate Husband,

D. D. Keeler

W^d Tro 2^d Mich R
Near Loudon Tenn Sept 26/63

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D. J. Keller