

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Sept. 28th.tif"

Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{The year is not specified, but was probably 1862 as he was in Louisville, KY, as of October 1, 1862. Also, he mentions his son George who died March 29, 1863.}

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Camp at Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 28

Dear Wife,

I am well and as I have just got a few minutes of leisure. I will improve it by writing to you as I know a letter will come acceptable when I am away. Well, I suppose you would like to know what we are doing. Well, since I wrote before, which was last Sunday, we have been very busy and have not done much. We left the railroad depot at Jeffersonville *{IN}* last Sunday and went into Camp Gilbert, about two miles above Jeffersonville. Stayed there overnight. Next day our company were detailed for guard at the ferry between Jeffersonville and

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Louisville *{KY}*. We were there on guard three days & nights when we were relieved. We came across into Kentucky where there is congregating one of the largest armies that has been raised in the west. There is no end to soldiers here. General *{Don Carlos}* Buell's army came in day before yesterday all covered with dust from eleven days hard march. While we were at the ferry we had a good chance to see the magnitude of the affair created by an order from General *{William "Bull"}* Nelson for all the women & children to leave the city Louisville for fear of a battle there with the rebel *{General Braxton}* Bragg. We were put there to prevent citizens using the ferry with wagons, but not foot men for Government had use for it for its own use to remove government stores across the river while there. We see a lot of secesh prisoners going to the penitentiary.

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They were a ragged looking lot I tell you as ever I saw in my life. They were surrounded by cavalry with drawn swords and loaded revolvers and carbines so there was no chance for them to escape. Last Wednesday I got a pass to go and visit the 2nd Michigan Cavalry which are now encamped about two miles from us. I saw most all of the men that went from Saginaw. I saw Captain Godley, Lieutenant George Carter, & Blackmore, *{Captain}* Royal *{Houghton}* Loomis, Truman Hawley and several others. There were surprised to see me there and glad enough to see us besides. I stopped with them about 2 hours and as it was most night I started for our camp. We have camped three times in as many places since we arrived here, or rather bivouacked or something else. I do not know what you would call it. It is done in this way as we

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have no tents. We sling knapsacks, fall in, and are marched for an hour or two when we are halted in the middle of the road, stand there a while, start again, go a little farther, halt again in the road. Stand a while, finally stack arms washing knapsacks, lay down in the road on the stones, go to sleep. Then at 3 o'clock a.m. roused out, fall in line of battle, stand there until daylight, then we are ready for breakfast, receive orders to be ready to march at a moment's notice. So you see what we have to go through every day. Today is Sunday, but it does not seem like it here among so many soldiers as there is here a line of battle seven miles long around the city of Louisville. There has been some changes since we left Saginaw {MI}. Our ??? is a Brigadier General, Capt. *{Benjamin F.}* Fisher is acting colonel of our regiment, Captain *{Henry Heber}* Woodruff is acting major. That brings all our company officers up one notch. I am Orderly Sergeant now. How long I will be so I do not know. Take good care of George and the Baby, also yourself. Answer soon. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends. As soon as I get more time I will write again.

From Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

P.S. Direct your letters to D. D. Keeler, Company B, 23rd Regiment, Michigan Infantry, Louisville, Kentucky

Camp at Louisville Kentucky Sept 28

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