

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Undated #2.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

*{The date of the letter is not very legible. However, he refers to receiving her letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> and of sending \$40.00 via Mrs. Woodruff. In his letter of Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 1863 he also refers to sending \$40.00 via Mrs. Woodruff. So I am assuming that this letter was written Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 1863.}*

*{Page 1:}*

Camp of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Michigan Infantry  
Bowling Green, KY, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> *{1863}*

Dear Wife,

I received your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> about one-half hour ago and now I hasten to answer it. I am well and in the best of spirits. Your letters encourage me and I anxiously look for every mail, hoping that it brings news from you. I am sorry that you are so lonesome. You must not give up the idea of seeing me again, but keep up your spirits and think that I am only doing my duty to my country. And without a government we never could live in happiness, so you must never give up

*{Page 2:}*

to dejection and loneliness. I have not forgotten you, and I never shall. My only thoughts are that the war may soon be successfully ended and that I may return to you as a man that has done his duty to his country, and no one can say that I was afraid to go to my country's rescue when hostile rebels are investing ~~the~~ and trying to strip our flag of some of its bright stars. That must never be. We can whip the villains and we must. It will never do to let a band of rebels overthrow the liberties that our forefathers fought so hard to sustain and leave for us. The stars and stripes must float in triumph over every state in the Union, and then the honor of the once happy Republic one that was honored and respected

*{Page 3:}*

by every nation on the globe shall be again more than ever. I have sent you \$40.00 by express. You will find it at Mrs. *{Abigail (Hall)}* Woodruff's *{wife of Captain Henry Heber Woodruff}*. Give her a receipt for it when you get it. I wrote you before as soon as I got it and how I sent it so I need not say any more about it now. Every man since we were paid feels better and Company B is in the best of spirits. One of the boys bought a violin and everyone is on his taps. I never saw a fiddle make make so much music before. This afternoon I got the boys out in the street and we had one of the greatest balls that ever Kentucky soil felt. The way we stamped the ground beats all dances I ever saw. Well, we danced until time for Dress Parade and adjourned until evening.

*{Page 4}*

I just saw the Sergeant Major and he promised to detail some more fiddlers and the officers are going in with us and I expect that it will put every other ball in the shade. As women are scarce we get along without them entirely. I have not spoken to a lady in a long time and I would not know how to address one now. There has two more offices resigned so now I am the ranking Orderly and next in line of promotion. There is three grades higher before I can get a commission, that is, Commissary Sergeant, Quartermaster Sergeant, and Sergeant Major. I think that there will be a chance for me before two months. The next promotion I get will take me out of the Company B and in the non-commissioned staff. Write soon to

Your affectionate husband,  
D. D. Keeler

Camp of the 2<sup>o</sup> Regt of Mice & Bull  
Bowling Green to York 23<sup>rd</sup>

Dear Wife

I received your letter  
of the 9<sup>th</sup> about 40 hours ago  
and now I hasten to answer  
it I am well and in the  
best of spirits your letters  
encourage me and I anxiously  
look for every mail hoping  
that it brings news from you  
I am sorry that you are so lone  
some, you must not give up  
the idea of seeing me again  
but keep up your spirits and  
I think that I am only doing  
my duty to my country and  
with out a government we  
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may soon be successfully ended  
and that I may return to you as  
a man that has done his duty  
to his country and no one can  
say that I was afraid to go to  
my countrys rescue when hostile  
Rebels are investing ~~the~~ and trying  
to strip our flag of some of its  
bright stars that must never be  
we can whip the villains and we  
must. It will never do to let  
a band of Rebels overthrow  
the Liberties that our forefathers  
fought so hard to sustain and  
leave for us ~~The Stars~~ <sup>the</sup> Stars ~~must~~ and  
stripes must float in triumph  
over every state in the Union  
and then the Honor of the once  
Happy Republic one that  
was Honored and respected

by every nation on the globe  
shall be again more than ever  
I have sent Yours &c by  
Express You will find it at  
Mrs Woodruffs, Give her a receipt  
for it when you get it I wrote  
you before as soon as I got it  
and how I sent it so I need not  
say any more about it now.

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felt better and Co P is in the  
best of spirits One of the Boys  
Bought a Violin and everyone  
is on his taps I never saw  
a Child make make so much  
music before This After noon  
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street and we had one of the  
greatest Balls that ever Kentucky  
soil felt the way we stamped  
the ground beats all dances  
I ever saw well we danced till  
time for Drefs Parade and journeyed  
till evening.

I just saw the Sergeant Major  
and he promised to detail some  
more Litters and the Officers  
are going in with us and  
I expect that it will put  
ever other Ball in the shade  
As Women are scarce we get along  
with out them entirely  
I havenot spoke to a Lady  
in a long time and I would  
not know how to address one  
one now There has two more  
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am the ranking Orderly and  
next in line of promotion  
There is three Grades higher before  
I can get a commission that is  
commissary Serj Lieut Serjt and  
Serjt Major I think that there  
will be a chance for me before  
two months the next promotion  
I get will take me out of C B and  
in the non commissoned Staff  
Write Soon to Your Affectionate Husband  
D D Wheeler