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.}

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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

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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 got 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.

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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

Composithe 13 Begt of Mich Byll Cear Will & Preceived your letter of the ghe about to have ago and now I hastern to answer at dam roell and in the best of spirits your letters encourage me and & anciously look for every mail hofsening that it brings news from choice Pam sorry that you are so love some, you must not give who the dain of seeing home again but keep up your spirite and the think that I am only doing my duty to my country and donthe but a government we never could live in hapined so you must never give up

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