

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Undated.tif"

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

{There is no date on the letter. However, it probably was written before he knew of the death May 29, 1863, of his son George C. Keeler, leaving only one child living, since near the end he mentions "the little ones", using the plural. He also mentions that he hopes he will be paid in January, so it was probably written in December 1862. He also says that he wrote "last Friday or some other day last week" that they expected an attack, and that was in his letter of Sunday Dec. 20th 1862. So I'm assuming that this letter was written Sunday Dec. 28th 1862 at Bowling Green, KY.}

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Camp of the 23 Regt. of Mich. Vol. Inf.

Dear Wife,

It is Sunday night in camp and I have been busy all day and I was up all night Saturday on picket at the railroad bridge, and as its not quite time to call the roll for tatoo I will improve the time in writing to you. And I do not know how we could improve it better than to sit down at my desk where pens, ink, and paper is plenty furnished by our Quarter Master O*{scar}* S. Davis and appropriated a sheet in writing to you as I have used a great deal of my own for company purposes. I have got to use some to keep even. Well Susan, I am well yet and by taking good care of myself and with the use of a little of Dr. *{Andrew B.}* Spinney's medicine that I brought with me I think that I can keep well. I wrote to you last Friday or some other day last week, I forget which, that we expected an attack. Well we were not attacked that night and have not been yet, and it would not be very safe for them to come now unless they

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come with a larger force than we have any reason to believe they have this side of Nashville. We were reinforced today by a whole brigade or a large regiment, I do not know which. How long they will stay I don't know, probably as long as there is any danger here. We have been entrenching our camp so as to give them fits if they should come and we have got our camp so we have had to dig a little which was a relief to our men who have had to drill every day and other work was hailed with delight with most of them who were glad to get relieved of drilling which Major *{Benjamin F.}* Fisher is obliged to do every day and we are getting to very well drilled now and have commenced Skirmish Drill which is a very nice drill. You wrote that I might look for a box of things or some money. I wrote once for you not to send them for we expected to march before this time but I guess we are to stay here for some time and you had better send them for we are all of us out of money and we can get nothing that we want unless we run in debt at

the sutler and he charges an enormous price for everything and I do not like to patronize him too much or I won't have much money to send home

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when payday comes. I have run in debt but very little yet, just three dollars, and I don't want to get in his debt much more if I can help it. I have over three months pay due me now and if we are not paid until January we will get four months pay to get the and I can send you home near fifty dollars. I have drawn a few clothes since I left home and two pair of shoes which will come out of my pay and I am going to draw a pair of pants for I shall need them soon. Our company have suffered some from sickness and six have died but no one that you know. Only one died in camp. The company are now improving in health and we will, I hope will, soon have full ranks. The complaints now are mostly colds and coughs, which seem to be a prevailing complaint throughout the camp, but they are now improving. We have some absent which were not able to march and were consequently left behind and have not all of them joined us yet. A great deal of sickness in the army is through neglect of the men in taking no care of their selves, eating everything they can get hold of, and many other ways by unnecessary exposure, and consequently they have to suffer for. And a great many of them never ought to have

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enlisted, for they are suffering from some old complaint that they would not own to have had when they enlisted, so they are an expense to the government and are a burden to the companies or regiments to which they belong. I would like to write every day, but stamps too scarce to write every day and I take large sheets and write more at a time and it is just as cheap. It is now time that lights were out so I must hurry and finish this. So you must not worry on my account and I will be a good boy. Give my love to all of the folks and reserve a good share to yourself and little ones. Tell Tip that he never writes and I have not got a letter from Sarah in a long time. I am getting sleepy and must stop, so good night.

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

Camp of the 23rd Regt of Mich Vol Infy

Dear Wife

It is Sunday Night in camp and I have been busy all day and I was up all night Saturday in Picket at the Rail Road Bridge and as it not quite time to call the roll for tattoo I will improve the time in writing to you and I do not know how could improve it better than to sit down at my desk where pens ink and paper is plenty. I furnished for our Quarter Master O. S. Davis and appropriate a sheet in writing to you as I have used a grate deal of my own for company purposes I have got to use some to keep even Well Susan I am well yet and by taking good care of myself and with the use of a little of Dr. Spenner's medicine that I brought with me I think that I can keep well I wrote to y last Friday or some other day last week I forget which that we expected an attack well we were not attacked that night and have not been yet and it would not be very safe for them to come now unless they

come with a larger force than we have any reason
to believe they have this side of Washville
we were reinforced to day by a whole Brigade
or a large regimente I do not know which
how long they will stay I dont know probably
as long as there is any danger here we have
been entrenching our camp so as to give them
fits if they ~~should~~ should come and we have got
a six pounder planted to protect the Bridge and
our camp so we have ~~to~~ had to dig a little
which was a relief to our men who have had
to drill every day and other work was hailed
with delight with the most of them who were
glad to get relieved of Drilling which Major
Disher is obliged to do every day and we are
getting to verry well drilled now and have
commenced a firmisk Drill which is a verry
nice drill You wrote that I might look
for a Box of things or some money. I wrote
once for you not to send them for we expected
to march before this time but I guess we
are to stay here for some time and you
had better send them for we are all of us
out of money and we can get nothing that
we want unless we run in debt at the Sutter
and he charges a enormous price for every thing
and I do not like to patronise him to much
or I wont have much money to send home

when pay day comes I have run in debt
but very little yet just three Dollars and
I don't want to get in his debt much more if
I can help it I have over three months pay due
me now and if we are not payed till January
we will get four months pay to get them and
I can send you home near fifty Dollars
I have drawn a few cloths since I left home
an two pair of shoes which will come out of
my pay and I am a going to draw a pair
of pants for I shall need them soon

Our company have suffered some from
sickness and six have died but no one that
you know only one died in camp The company
are now improving in health and we will
I hope will soon have full ranks the complaints
now are mostly coughs and colds which seem
to be a prevailing complaint througout the camp
but they are now improving we have some
absent which were not able to march and were
consequently left behind and have not all of
them joined us yet. A great deal of sickness
in the army is through neglect of the men
in taking no care of their selves eating
every thing they can get hold off and many
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enlisted for they are suffering from some old
complaint that they would not soon to have
had when they enlisted so they are an expence
to the government and are a burthen to the
company or Regiments, to which they belong
I would like to write every day but Stamps
are so scarce to write every day and I take
large sheets and write more at a time and
it is just a cleap it is now time that lights
were out so I must hurry and finish this
So you must not worry on my account
and I will be a good boy Give my love to
all of the folks and reserve a good share to
your self and little ones I'll tip that
he never writes and I have not got a letter
from ~~Shirah~~ Shirah in a long time I am getting
sleepy and must stop so good night

From your affectionate Husband
D. D. Hulse