

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter April 22nd 1862.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{The year of the letter is not specified, but since it refers to the death of President Lincoln it must have been 1865 or later. The fact that April 22 is a Saturday in 1865 makes it probable that 1865 is the correct year, the comment about mourning until after the funeral notwithstanding. The writer is probably a sister of Susan M. (Reading) Keeler.}

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East Saginaw, Mich.
Saturday Apr 22 *{1865}*

Dear Sister

I received cousin Belle's letter last evening and was happy to hear of your safe arrival. The night Wednesday after you left we got the boarding house and are moved in it and have got six boarders and as soon as the mill begins to run regular we will have twenty. We get along first rate. The most trouble ma has is the old cow. She is so afraid she will get away and go back to our old place. It is real pleasant here and we like it first rate. Johnny Byon? is no more. He died yesterday morning. I got a letter from cousin Wall the Saturday after you left and one also for you from Deck and ?? did not speak about it in her letter and I was a afraid you did

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not get it. Cousin Will said that he might have stayed a week longer ??? for he did not get in ??? until a week after. I shall write to Deck tomorrow. There was the greatest excitement about President Lincoln's death in Saginaw there ever was. Every thing were trimmed in deepest of mourning until after his funeral. I think that ??? might stay another week as not and being Uncle ??? home with him if he possibly can. I wish I was there to visit with you. I can imagine just what comfort your are taking. Tell Bill that I believe if I were there I would talk as fast as she can. Give my love to aunt and uncle ??? ??? soon and tell me all of the news. ??? sends her love to all and hope you will enjoy yourself. Your father Keeler was up here the next day, day after you left and was astonished to think you had gone??? without ???

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from your dear sister
Sarah Lester

East Saginaw Mich

Saturday ~~Sept 22~~

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excitement about President Seward's death
in Saginaw there ever was every thing
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if he possibly can I wish I was there
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tell hell that I believe if I were there
I could talk as fast as she can give
my love to aunt and uncle and write
soon and tell me all the news
Mama sends her love to all and hope
you will enjoy your self your father
heeler was up here the next
day day after you left and
was astonished to think you had
gone north with out - Bye

from your dear sister

Sarah Lester