

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Jan. 22nd 1864.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Steamer Miami, Ohio River
January 22nd 1864

Dear Wife,

As I promised to write again soon I will be as good as my word once and let you know where I am now, but I cannot say where I shall be when you receive this. I mailed a letter to you last night at Louisville, Kentucky, and I will have this ready to mail on my arrival at Cincinnati, Ohio. I expected to have stopped at Louisville a few days, but on my arrival I found that the troops which had proceeded us had gone on and left orders for us to follow on at once to Cincinnati, which we are doing now. I am told that we stop there a short time, a day or two, and then to proceed to Alexandria, Virginia, instead of Annapolis *{MD}*. We will go up the Ohio River several hundred miles yet probably to Pittsburg *{PA}*. I will write again as soon as we get stopped and let you know

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all that I know about our destination and so on. I think that we are to operate with General *{William Tecumseh}* Sherman on the Atlantic coast. I hope so for we do not want to go into the Potomac Army. Well, does not make much difference to me for I have not but a few more months to serve and if we have to help take Richmond *{VA}* it won't be so bad. I am further north now than I have been since the *{General}* John *{Hunt}* Morgan raid and it looks like winter more than anything I have seen in some time. The shores on both sides are white with snow, but the weather is not so cold as I have seen further south. However, I am as comfortable as can be on the boat. Our cabin is as warm and as can be and finished as nice as any parlor. I have a stateroom to myself and as there are no ladies aboard the quartermaster occupy the ladies cabin. I have been so long aboard the boat that I get tired and I often wish I was ashore with my horse to ride ten or fifteen miles to rest myself. I believe that I can sit in the saddle all day and not get as tired as I do on this boat and yet the boat is a

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floating palace with all the luxuries agoing. I have only to pay for my meals which are seventy-five cents each or two dollars twenty-five cents a day, which is half of my wages. I hope to get paid at Cincinnati as I need some money about now. I can't say as I am sure of getting it for I fear that my pay is stopped on account of being behind with my returns, which is not my fault. If it is stopped I shall have to take time to make them out and forward them. I have but little more to do to complete four months returns and I am waiting for papers that have been delayed at corps headquarters since last September. I am not the only one

whose pay has been stopped for the same thing. I shall get it sometime if it is stopped and all of it, so I shall not lose it or one cent. Only it puts me to the inconvenience of being without money and when I do get it I get more to ????. They cannot stop my pay for anything else and as soon as I can get a receipt from the quartermaster general of my papers I can get it whether they are examined or not.

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I would have sent for you to have come to Louisville to see me if I had known of this trip in time to let you know it and you could have come aboard the boat with me and you could get off again at Cincinnati and ~~went~~ return home from there, but it is too late now and I have not the least chance to get away to see you. Well, we must wait a little longer and I can go home to stay, so keep up good spirits and I will. Some of my men passed right by their homes and could not stop. One poor fellow saw his mother and sister standing in their door and knew them, but could not make himself known on account of the crowd on the boat. Lieutenant Mullins AAM is at home in Louisville. He stopped there as we passed and will join us at Cincinnati by railroad. I wished that I could have the same chance, but I have the good luck to live in Michigan and armies do not pass that way. My love to all and the best share to you. I am as ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

Steamer Miami Ohio River
July 22nd 1864

Dear Wife

As I promised to write again soon
It will be as good as my word once and
let you know where I am now but I can
not say where I shall be when you receive
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Army. Well does not make much difference to me
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anything I have seen in some time the shores
on both sides are white with snow but the weather
is not so cold as I have seen further south
however I am as comfortable as can be on this
Boat Our Cabin is as warm and as can be
and furnished as nice as any parlor I have a
State Room to my self and as there are no
Ladies aboard the 3rd we occupy the Ladies Cabin
I have been so long aboard the Boat that
I get tired and I often wish I was
ashore with my horse to ride ten or fifteen
miles to rest myself. I believe that I can
sit in the saddle all day and not get as tired
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share to you. Dear as ever

Your Affectionate Husband
W. C. Wheeler