

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter July 19th 1863.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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On Board Steamer Caroline at
Portsmouth, Ohio, Sunday
July 19th 1863

Dear Wife,

I received yours of the 2nd and 10th last night and I was glad to hear that you were back to Saginaw *{M}* again and are in such good health. I am glad Frankie grows so fast and is learning to talk. Our mail came up to us on a boat yesterday and it was the first we had had in a long time and it came very acceptable you may believe. The two I got last night were the first I have received since I left Tompkinsville, KY, the place we marched from the 4th of July. Now we are most four hundred miles from there

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so you see we have traveled some lately. We have been at this place three days now and we have fared pretty well since we have been here. The people here are very hospitable and feed us well and there is none of us that wants to go back into Kentucky again after enjoying the luxury and hospitality an American town in a free state. Yesterday we went ashore and had a battalion drill and we went through several movements that surprised the militia which assembled in great numbers to see us maneuver. We went through each movement without a single mistake and that we can do every time. The people here said they did not see what we wanted drilling for. Every man was in his place, stepped with the music,

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and in the manual of arms every motion was as though it was done by one man. The report now is that we go down the river this afternoon and that *{General John Hunt}* Morgan has got back across the river. I do not hardly believe it, but still it may be so and if it is so we may as well go back for we never can overtake him by land. What we will go at next is more than I can tell. I suppose we will go back into Kentucky again and skirmish around there again. I suppose you have go all of my letters lately that I wrote with a pencil. Before you get this we will be at some other place and to keep you posted of my whereabouts I have had to write often and will have to keep doing so. I received two newspapers from Saginaw that I forgot to mention before. One of them was

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dated July 9th. Captain *{Henry Heber}* Woodruff received a letter from Heber and says that Frank is safe and sound. The news is good from all quarters and looks

as though the war would not last a great while longer, so have patience and I will again be home to once more enjoy ourselves in peace without being troubled with war. Give yourself no uneasiness on my account for we are safe if the boat does not blow up and as we never shall have a fight we stand a good chance of all of us getting back. Write me more such letters as you wrote this time and I will heed your advice. Direct your letters as before and I will get them. Kiss Frankey for me and believe me.

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw, Michigan

On Board Steamer Caroline at
Portsmouth Ohio, Sunday
July 12th 1863

Dear Wife

I received yours
of the 2nd and 10th last night and
I was glad to hear that you were
back to Cincinnati again and were
in such good health I am glad
Frankie grows so fast and is
learning to talk. Our mail
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day and it was the first we had
had in a long time and it
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were the first I have received
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The place we marched from the 1st
of July, now we are most four
hundred miles from there.

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so I received two news papers
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dated July 4th, Capt Woodruff
received a letter from Keiser and
says that Frank is safe and sound
& the news is good from all quarters
and looks as though the war would
not last a great while longer so
have patience and I will again
be home to once more enjoy our
elves in peace, without being
troubled with war. give yourself
no uneasiness on my account
for we are safe if the Boat does not
blow up and as we never shall have
a fight we stand a good chance of all
of us getting back write me now such
letters as you wrote this time and I will
send you advise Direct your letters to
beard and I will get them Kip Hunter for
me and believe me your affectionate
Brother and

D D Keiser

Susan M Keiser
O'Connell Mich