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 [MI] 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

In Board Stamer Carstine un Porto mouth Opio, Chanda July 19th 1863 Dear Wife Precewed your of the 2 mound 10th last might and Of was glad to hear that free were Jack to Daguant again and wer im duch good health I am gad Dirankie grows so just and is learning to talk. Our Mail Came up to us on a boat yester day and it was the first the had Had in a long time and it came very be ceptable you may believe the two Pgot-last quight. since I lest Tompoknowille Ky to place in marched from the the of July, now we are most our Heindred miles from there

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