EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Oct. 12th 1864.tif" Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

(Envelope:)
Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

{Page 1:}

Dear Friends Mrs. Keeler and Mrs. Mead,

I am a going to pen you a few lines this afternoon to inform you that we are alive and well and hope this will find you the same. I don't suppose the last time I saw you that you thought perhaps it would be the last. I felt very bad and disappointed to come away without seeing you again, but I was so busy after we sold that I could not come to see you, but I sent word for you to come down, but I expect you did not get it so instead of going up to the brick yard. I am about seven hundred miles west of you and I wish you was here. When I think of the good old visit we used to have together and then think perhaps I shall never see them times again it makes my heart ache, and then I think we can converse through the medium of the pen no matter how far apart. We had a very pleasant journey here. We arrived here the ??? day of September and have been keeping house about a month. I don't see anybody only once a week and some time that is a horse or a cow, so I know you won't blame me if I am homesick so you must write both of you as often as you can for

{Page 2:}

I am very anxious to hear all the news and know how you get along and if your husbands are both alive and well. Our little Emma was taken with sore eyes the next day after we got here and I was taken with them the next week. They felt very bad for some time but they are nearly well again now. I have no news to write because I don't have any myself so must write me all the news about everything. I would like to know if Mrs. Mead ever found the lost money that she lost to the milliner shop. Give my respects to Mrs. Deliness if she is to home and write if anything has happened to Mrs. Merril's yet and if Mrs. Valentine's baby got well and all the news in particular. You will please excuse me this time for it is most night and I must quit. But I will write more next time and don't delay writing for I shall look for a letter from you in about two weeks. Give my love to all inquiring friends and keep a share yourselves and receive this as a token that true friendship cannot be broken.

Yours truly, Henrietta E. Hall

{Page 3:}}
direct your letter to
Port Allen, Louisa County, Iowa

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