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**Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.**

U S Steamer Keystone State  
The 26<sup>th</sup>  
off Wilmington P C In

Dear Thomas I Recived ever  
Welcome lttter to day and  
I Was glad to hear that you  
are all Well your lttter foun  
me Well at presant but  
not in verey good heart  
I am sorey that Joney is not  
Well for i know that it is hard  
for one to be sick away from  
a good home but i hope to god  
that he Will get lttter soon  
We have had a hard time  
sins We come out this time  
it has bin verey cold and  
rough and seas runing  
mountons hi it mkes the  
old Keystone trimble at

U S Steamer Keystone State  
the 26th

Off Wilmington [illegible N.C. ?]

Dear Thomas I Recived ever Welcome lttter to day  
and I Was glad to hear that you ar all Well your  
litter foun me Well at presant but not in verey good  
heart I am sorey that Joney is not Well for i know  
that it is hard for one to be sick away from a good  
home but i hope to god that he Will get btter soon  
We have had a hard time sins We Come out this  
tine it has bin very Cold and rough and seas runing  
mountons hi it mkes the old Keystone trimble at

every sea it is an ofel place  
to be in bad Weather but  
must grin and bear it a little  
While longer I ofen think this  
War Will never be over it  
seems to mee as if it fou  
nothing onley but to get poor  
men killed I hope to god thay  
Will draft some of them  
dome lofers about that town  
They have pretty good time  
of it they destroyed a macy  
a peasful and happy home  
if could have my way  
i Would put them at head  
of the battli Kill them off  
like dogs We had a great time  
the other nite there Was larg  
stamer hove in site We  
got up ashore after her  
but she Would not stop for  
us we fired several shote at  
her and sot her on fier

every sea it is an ofel place to be in bad Weather but must grin and bear it a little While longer I ofen think this War Will never be over it seems to mee as if it for nothing onley but to get poor men killed I hope to god thay Will draft some of them dome lofers about that town They have pretty good time of it thay destroyed a macy a peasful and happy home if Could have my Way i Would put them at head of the battle Kill them off like dogs We had a great time the other nite thear Was larg stemer hove in site We got up anchor after her but she Would not stop for us we fired severl shote at her and set her on fier

They run her on the beach she  
bernd up that nit so that one  
more out of the Way I have  
to month's and half yet to  
stay then i hope to god i  
Will a free man again  
I hope to god i <sup>have</sup> luck to get of  
saf and sound We ar boning  
to norfolk in a fews days  
i think We Will lay thir to ou  
thre Weeks i think i Will try  
to get my discharge for  
Will onley a short time  
to stop i think they Will  
let me go but dont let on  
aney thing about it aney  
one i Will get off if i can  
suse is still at Work at the  
same yet here and mee  
had a good bot of trouble  
i Will do as lib told me to  
do to find out my self  
sus told don rong in one  
way

they run her on the beach she berned up that nit  
so that one mor out of the Way I have to months  
and half yet to stay then i hope to god i Will a free  
man again I hop to god i have luck to get of saf  
and sound We ar Coming to norfolk in a few days  
i thnk We Will lay thir to or thre Weeks i think i will  
try to get my discharge for Will onley a short time  
to stop i think thay Will let me go but dont let on  
aney thing about it aney one i Will get off if i Can  
suse is still at Work at the same yet her and mee  
had a good bit of trouble i Will do as lib told me  
to do to find out my self sus told done rong in one  
[illegible]

but she denies being  
with any men  
she says she sores she  
doe that but she say  
that hopes if takes <sup>one</sup> drop  
of any thing again that god  
will take her life from  
her i am nevery sores  
any turned up with us  
you know Thomas a  
person must not  
believe all that they  
hear but i will see for  
my self if all is rite  
i will go hous keeping I  
will a good start I send  
love to all of you I still  
yours truly John Rudolph  
Direct your lettre  
norfolk v g

but she denies being With any men she says she  
sorey she don that but she say that hopes if takes  
one drop of aey thing again that god Will take her  
life from her i am very sorey any turned up With  
us You know Thomas a person must not beleave  
all that thay hear but i Will see for my self if all is  
rite i Will go hous keeping I Will a good start I send  
love to all of you I still yours truley John Rudolph  
Direct your lettr norfolk V g