

Camp Brannen

Key West, Fl

March 2, 1862

Dear Friends,

My heart was again gladdened by the reception of your favors of the 19th inst. The Steamer came in on Friday night but we did not get the mail until yesterday. Nearly all my men received one and those that did not were very cross about it. The friends at home should write often as a letter is a God send in this region. I have been very fortunate thus far having received one at almost each arrival. I hope this will continue.

The weather still continues warm. We had a hard storm last week. It blew some small schooners clear up on the shore. Other than this there is nothing especially new with the exception of the continued arrival of Gun and Mortar Boats. They are evidently intended for the Mobile and New Orleans expedition.

The news from the West are indeed glorious. The shouts of the boys here astonished the natives while the guns of Ft. Taylor belched forth their joy with loud mouthed thunder. We had a gay night of it in the lead of the news.

I have had Lafayette Landun discharged on account of Hernia. Hunter could have been but he is so much better that he refused and would not consent. Lafayette will, in all probability, return by the steamer *Oriental* which is here again having brought a load of ammunition and the mail down. I send with it a box of shells for Abbie that I have gathered in walking along the beach and that others of my men have given me. Take care of them Abbie and I will try to send you more.

You must have had a good time out at Emeniks. I should have liked to have been a Spectator. We had a Ball here on Monday night last. Some 89 girls here and didn't

we give them a regular old Pennsylvania dance. I got tired and went to quarters about 12 p.m. but the rest kept it up until near morning.

I am sorry to see in the Gazette the difficulty between Bayers and Rohrbact. I am sorry for Jake Hess for he is a good officer and should be in the service. I wish he was here. Bayers, I have no doubt, will make an efficient officer. I know very few of his men by the muster roll published in the Gazette but a few of them appear to be from Sunbury.

That drum for Michael Young was sent from Washington by Express the day we left there. It must be on the road some place or lying in the office at Washington.

I feel very bad about the news Pop gives me. I am very sorry to learn that I am run off but I think I can bear it. I have no idea of committing suicide yet anyhow - on account of it.

I have made a number of friends in town. They come to see me often. On Tuesday next the Rev. Mr. Herrick and wife are going to take tea with me in my tent. Also, several young ladies.

I was unwell a couple days last week with diarrhea but am all right again. My men are all well with the exception of Henry W. Wolf who has the Typhoid fever. He has been very sick but is now out of danger again. This is the most healthy place I ever saw. I begin to like it first rate and can drink a glass of rain water with as much gusto as though it were drawn fresh from the well in the yard at home. Oranges, I have become tired of and per consequence I care little for the sweet potato fries. Cocoa fries are about the only luxuries I indulge in.

I intended going to church this morning but it is too late now. I hear the bells ringing. So I will not go until night when I will save the pleasure of taking my lady there. She is a beauty I assure you.

Who is the Miss [unreadable] who was with you to [unreadable]. I do not think I ever saw her. I am glad you had a good time but your letters are about as interesting in regard to the [unreadable] as a newspaper from 1850 would be. Ed writes as if he had but 2 minutes to spare just as the mail is closing always. How a young man with so much business in hand can attend so many sleighing parties I can't imagine.

A man from our Regiment, [unreadable] B. dies and will be buried today. Poor fellow.

Remember me to Grandmother, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Davis and old friends. Write soon.

Your Son,

J. P. Shindel Gobin

A few shells in the box are other's whose names are on their paper on the outside. Please deliver them. These were all picked up on the beach. Next time I will send you a box of oranges. It will come from New York by Express. The Capt. of the *Oriental* takes it there for me.