

Fort Taylor, Key West Fla  
Feb 13, 1864

Dear friends

Your letter of the 8th ult arrived today and as a mail leaves tomorrow I answer it immediately. But really writing is becoming quite a task. Everything moves along here so evenly and quietly that we have nothing to write about.

Leuis Apter and the men have returned from the Main Land. They had quite a nice time of it, although compelled to work hard. The Indians come to see them every day, but as they could not talk to them, their visits were not very interesting. Corp Keeper was along and much pleased.

Haupt and the men have not arrived yet, although we are expecting them every day. Green, one of the party, came several days ago. I suppose the people can now see why Freeman Haupt & Shipman were Court Martialed. To keep such as they were in good order without punishment is simply impossible. However, I think I can manage them or any one else, twice as bad.

The weather here is very pleasant  
Just Cool enough to prevent you  
from wearing linen clothes. Oranges  
bananas, guavas, & other fruits are  
abundant. If it were not for the  
notices I see in the papers and receive  
from you I would scarcely know  
it was winter. Be sure, do not  
feel it here.

Today the Col took his  
wife and some other ladies out  
sailing in the Gulf, so I am in  
Command of the Fort. As everything  
is quiet the duties are not very  
onerous, save being bothered con-  
tinually for papers to go to town.

This being Saturday night the boys  
all want to go & see their girls.

Abbie I wrote to you a few  
days ago personally, but my letters  
are for all of you and not  
merely for one. To write to each  
one would just be to copy letters  
and so the more trouble.

I am in  
excellent health as are all my  
men. Love to all, Write soon

Yours,

Shindler