

Head Quarters Judicial Dept. Key West

Key West,

March 30, 1862

Dear friends,

We received two mails yesterday, and by them I received Ed's letter of the 28th. Jan. directed to Annapolis, and the letters from home of the 4th and 17th inst. the news were welcome. I was pleased to hear that Lafayette got home safe. Tell him I received his letter this morning and will see the Colonel as I cannot understand his matters at all. I am inclined to think something is wrong. I was sorry to see him go home as there was no more danger for him than others I have. But the Surgeon thought differently.

I sent another box of shells by a friend on board the *Magnolia*, or rather, some of the boys packed one up and I sent it off for them. I have quite a number more of shells and will send some to Annie G. next chance. Tell Uncle Sam I have some splendid specimens of scorpions preserved in alcohol that I will send him on first opportunity. Also, some articles for Uncle G. M.

If Grandmother needs any money give it to her but why will she not live with you. Tell her I want her to take my place until I get home and then I will get married (if I can find a girl to have me) and she must live with me or, perhaps to make the matter sure, I will bring one along from Key West with me. There are some nice ones here, sure as you live and I have found out where they live.

Why I am inclined to think Master Ed is rushing things in the lady line. Gone to Lewisburg to see his girl, eh! Rather immense that the young man must be improving. Well, Ed, when you go there again give my kind regards to Maggie Y. and tell her nothing I know of but a fight with the Rebels would give me more pleasure than to have another flirtation in that direction. But I begin to think that day is over. The fact is, I am getting old, at least I feel so. Twenty-five years and

still single. [Unreadable] Capt. Woodruff, aged about 37, made some ladies the other night, believe I was as old as he.

Why did you not find out the name of the Cousins we have at Key West. I would hunt them up. The Miss Campbell that attended school at Burlington is married and living in the North somewhere.

We live well here. We get fresh beef twice a week. Ham is abundant at 18 cents a pound. Eggs are 75 cents a dozen, or six bits as they style it. They sell a mixture of lard and salt and oil that they call butter at 30 cents a pound. The only cheap articles here are fish and oranges. These can either be caught or bought, one is about as cheap as the other. Turtles, too, are abundant and large ones, too. You can buy them weighing from 50 to 500 pounds. Turtle steaks are very nice I assure you. I bought one for the Company and it made 2 meals for the entire party.

Henry W. Wolf has been very sick but is almost well again. He had the Typhoid fever. The fever is broke but he is weak yet. He will go on duty in a day or two. Theodore Kiehl is the only sick man I have now that is at all bad and he is not dangerous. Sam Miller was in the Hospital but he came back this morning. The weather is very warm. The quarantine on time commences on Tuesday after which all vessels will be searched before allowed to come in. By this means we will keep off the Yellow fever which is the only thing dangerous. One of my men (Whistler) was bit by a scorpion yesterday but took precautionary measures instantly and no danger is apprehended. But my sheet is full.

Remember me to all friends. Write soon. God bless you all.

Yours,  
J. P. Shindel Gobin

Rees has been commissioned as 1st Lieutenant and Sam appt. as 2nd Lieut. They are acting in this capacity. Bill felt bad but his friends know who are to blame.