

Camp Drannen
Key West, Fla March 2. 1862

Dear Friends

My heart was again gladdened by the reception of your favours 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 & New Orleans expedition.

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

I have had Lafayette Landan discharged
on account of Herma. 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
of 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
Emerick. I should have liked to have
been a Spectator. We had a Ball here on
Monday night last. Some of the girls here,
and didn't we give them a regular old
Pennsylvania dance. I got tired and
went to bed about 12 M, but the rest
kept it up until near morning.

I am sorry
to see in the Gazette the difficulty between
Bayer and Rohrbach. I am sorry for Soker
Heer is a good officer and should be in the
service. I wish he was here. Bayer &
have no doubt will make an efficient
officer. I know very few of his men by the
muster roll published in the Gazette. Very
few of them appear to be from
Switzerland.

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 I af gives me. I am 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 M. 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 just now, and can drink a glass of rain water with as much gusto as though it were drawn first from the well in the yard at home. Oranges I have become tired of, and for consequence I eat little for them. Sweet potatoes, pies, Cocoa pies, 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 have the pleasure of taking my lady there. She is a beauty & a pure, young

Who is the Miss Plinie who was with you to Muncy. 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 visit as a newspaper of 1850 would be. Ed writes as if he had but 2 minutes to spare, just as the mail is closing. Oh yes, ~~how~~ a young man with so much business on hand can attend to many sleighing parties I can't imagine.

A man from our Regiment George B. died and will be buried to-day. Poor fellow.

Remember me to Grand Mother, Mrs. Grogg, Mrs. Davis, and all friends. Write soon.

Your Son

Wm. H. Davis

A few shells in the box are our others whose names are on them pasted 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.