
729 4/1/1857

From: Lizzie Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0670

Leeds Centre. Me.

Ft Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Centre. Me. April 1. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

I received this afternoon a letter from you, and it was remailed from Auburn. You will soon know that I wish them sent to Leeds. You wrote it on the 18th of March, fourteen days since. If I could not write to you, and receive dear kind letters, I know not what would make the separation endurable.

I am thinking of you constantly while I work, and when my dear little Guy comes to 'ma-ma' to make known his little wants. I take him up and always give him one kiss for dear 'pa-pa', (he speaks it very plain now.) And I think how dear he is, and wish we were all together so he would not forget you, or think you were no dearer than all 'Uncles' as he calls every gentleman. I cannot think he will out grow all recollection of you. Now he understands so well everything I tell him. He went to the cellar door and called for an 'apper' (apple) which pleased his grandmother Gilmore. He likes apples very well and eats one or more every day. Grand-pa takes great pleasure in showing Guy the eggs when he comes from the barn. He will say 'egg' and run about to find his china egg. He gave Guy a cent out the safe one day and since then every time he sees Grand pa there he says "money". I might tell of enough to fill ten sheets all about Guy, but I wont be quite so foolish. I presume it would please you more than a great many things I do write.

When I was reading your letter to-day someone asked if you wrote any news. I said no you did'nt seem to write anything interesting this time or much. Brother Rowland began to tease me immediately. Said I better tell you not to write twice a week if he had nothing interesting to say. I did'nt care for his teasing for he knew I meant when I said so, that the letter was full of interest to myself but no general news of great importance.

Mr & Mrs S and children are now here, came last Monday. We are having a very pleasant visit from them. Mrs S. said when we were at their house, that there had been a great change in Henry. Uncle Ensign's health is very poor. Mr S and Rowland were up there this afternoon and came home by the way of the Post Office. Went in a wagon.

I think my rides are nearly all passed for this spring. I fear to get into a high carriage while the roads are in such a bad condition. Yesterday morning was very pleasant. Rowland carrying Guy, Mrs S, myself went down to see Mrs Turner. She was much pleased to see Guy, and he much pleased to see the dog. She is quite feeble but does not look worse than when well. Mrs Berry still carries the marks of her sickness last summer but it will pass away in time. I must go to see Mrs Turner often, and carry her some little nicety. I know how sick people appreciate attention. I will open a can of pineapple and send her some. Mrs S thinks my ketchup "very nice". I have written fast this evening and nearly covered this sheet in a short time. Now I will leave it till to-morrow.

Thursday afternoon. I have been so busy to-day that I have not thought to finish my letter to my dearest Otis, till Roscoe comes to know if I have any letters to mail.

By the way of Mrs Strickland I learn that Mr Sargent has so much recovered that he some expects to get back to New York in May. I am very glad for him. I will send this time a short letter but you must fill it out with love and best affection and think me a good little wife.

Lizzie Howard

[Written in a different hand - probably Otis]

Recd Ft Brooke Fla

dated Apr 1st 1857

Mrs O. O. Howard

728 4/1/1857

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0669

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla.
April 1st 1857

My dearest wife,

I didn't get a letter Saturday and now Wednesday has come round. Tonight I will get a letter if there is a mail, but it is time for the mail to fail and I expect about sunset Mr Mack will meet me and say the stage is in but, no mail! I hope not, however, for it is'nt always pleasant to wait till next time.

Colonel & Mrs Waite are still here waiting for a chance to go to Fort Myers. He says his family settled in Connecticut. Originally there came from England four brothers, the places where three of them settled is known but the fourth has not been fixed anywhere. One brother settled in Connecticut & two I think in Massachusetts. Now the family has increased beyond all bounds & we could'nt determine whether you belonged to the lost brother or to one of the others. Colonel Waite is quite an old man, a perfect gentleman, and pleasing in his manners. His wife looks a little thin & care-worn but is sprightly & talkative. Now, with this data your mother can talk this matter over with the friends & relatives & perhaps settle the question whether Colonel Carlos A Waite & myself are relations or not.

Lt Breck of the next class after me now of the First Artillery has been spending the winter at Key West for his health. He came here last night via steamer & is on his way to join his company at Charleston S.C. He says he did have a bad cough & thought his lungs were affected, but he is now completely recovered. Lieut. Day talks of leaving here tomorrow for New Orleans on his way to his home in Tennessee. I shall be sorry to have him go for he has been one of my reliable companions. We have spent a good many hours together since I have been here & I know I shall miss him. I wish indeed he could get well; for he is one of the best of men, a true hearted gentleman.

I spent the evening at Mr. Hazard's yesterday, & found his sister quite a lovely young woman. Mr. H's little family arrangements remind me of mine, when we first went to housekeeping at Watervliet. They talk about the same things are troubled about servants, converse earnestly about their management, &c.

Major Morris has returned from inspecting Volunteers at Forts Kissimme & Capron. He invited me to live with him & keep house for him while he was away after his wife leaves for the north as she intends to do before long. He wants me to sleep down there & thus protect Mrs. M while he is out inspecting also. I don't like to say no, and I would as lief as not, not go. I am quite comfortable here. I have my room all to myself & nobody to disturb me when I choose to be alone, I can read or write or smoke or think to suit my convenience and nobody to constrain me or say boo. You know, my darling, I would readily forego all these bachelor enjoyments if I could go home, but when down here & you are not with me I rather like to live alone.

My dear little Guy. I expect to hear from him to-night - how he has behaved himself at Leeds & how he has been. Whether he loves grandmother G or not. It must seem queer to me to find a little boy in jacket and trousers, after I have been thinking of a little dumpling in short dresses all the time, who looks precisely like the Guy I left at Watervliet. I fear you think too much & maybe wish too much for your health. I want you too, if possible, to be ever so fresh & rosy & healthy, when I come back. Perhaps you will demand the like of me. Oh! I will be tall less than 6 feet & exceedingly portly. You perceive, this climate must have agreed with me, for I have'nt been sick a day since I have been here. We are needing rain more & more every day. I have not seen a drop since I planted my garden & yet my corn is up & some of the other seeds.

You will notice this is the first day of April & perhaps you will be afraid to open this. Lest you should be "made a fool of".

Day was in here this morning with Mr Brock and told a story about a lady whose husband was in California. The Gentleman or man as the case might be, received a letter from his wife, a sentence of which read like this.

"we often hear it said, that absence conquers love. I don't believe it, for the longer you are away, the better I like you." He, foolish man, had it published. Of course his wife meant that time & distance would not diminish her love for her husband. Now if you find any sentence of such double & doubtful meaning as the above quoted you must remember it is April 1st.

I bought some cloth a few days ago & this morning I asked a woman to make me four pillow cases. I have had Magilton's all the time & they have got so many holes in them that they show the ticking below & a feather occasionally scratches. I am in somewhat of a quandary. Magilton's cases had a nice latice work border & how can I get one on the new ones & if I do, it wont have the associations connected with the old (for I suppose nobody would be unwise enough to make such pillow cases except for the honeymoon).

My best love to those at home. I trust you are all well & happy. No Indian news & not likely to be any. My darling wife, I want to see you very much - a thousand kisses - & ever so much love. Tell Guy papa don't want to be forgotten.

Your own husband & true
Otis

730 4/3/1857

From: O.O. Howard

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0671

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla
Apr 3d 1857.

My dear Mother,

I will write you a few lines this morning, as tomorrow is mail day and I do not always have as much time to spare as I anticipate a day before hand. I received a letter from Dellie a week ago, but have not answered it yet, for Rowland wrote me that his vacation occurred very soon. I wrote him a short time since but he had not received my letter, when he wrote his.

The mail failed last Wednesday as I feared, so I have'nt heard from any of you since Lizzie left Lewiston for Leeds. I expect she is with you now and I hope will remain & be as happy as can be till I join her there.

Captain Harcy of the 5th Infantry paid me a visit last night. He said I seemed very comfortably situated. He wished he could be quarantined as good a little cottage as my office, while in Florida. He is on his way to join his company in the Big Cypress Swamp, after having been detached on a General Court Martial in Texas. Several Officers of the same regiment were on this Court & have recently passed through Tampa. Cols Chapman & Waite & Capt Sibley. He said I seemed very comfortably situated. He wished he could be guaranteed as good a little cottage as my office while in Florida. He is on his way to join his company n the Big Cypress Swamp, after having been detached on a General Court Martial in Texas. Several Officers of the same regiment were on this Court & have recently passed through Tampa. Cols. Chapman & Waite & Capt Sibley. We have not heard any very stirring news from the troops in the field of late. These officers who are on the way to their companies are experienced men and will probably put a little life into their troops.

I spend a good deal of my leisure time in improving my grounds & garden. I have had my office white washed and part of the fence. Everything wears a different aspect from what it did when I came.

The most interesting time with us here is mail day. When no letters come we wait for the next time. I wish you would write when you can and tell me how you & little Guy get along and if it makes you too much work to have my little family with you.

I don't believe I will be kept here more than six or seven months. The Campaign will result just like every other in a comparative failure & General Harney will be removed. Then I expect I will be sent elsewhere, as soon as there is nothing else to do here. The only way is to wait patiently & do my duty faithfully.

My health has been excellent. The climate agrees with me. I am never troubled with Dyspepsy or head aches, but am hearty & relish all kinds of food. You can tell Lizzie I have quit chewing, and if she was here perhaps would quit smoking - but I can smoke when I am lonely & she can play with Little Boy. Being so completely my own master down here I fear will render me entirely disinclined to domestic discipline, however wholesome.

I went to two parties in one night, but I did not go before and have not been since. I wanted to show the people, who are a little suspicious of our high feelings, that I could associate with them. I did, thereby, cultivate a friendly feeling in the town, for I made there more acquaintances than I have since. I was introduced to a resident Colonel, like father, a doctor, a Lawyer, and Editor & to nearly all the ladies in town.

I stopped writing to go to dinner. Mr Duke the proprietor of the Hotel where I board is a hardy old man, who drinks a goodly quantity of whiskey every day. He has a round head & a keen eye & is slightly stubborn in his ways & in his knowledge, but is withal & in his own way a kind man. He declares all officers of the army are gentlemen. He likes me because I pay promptly & don't grumble at the food. His wife is a good deal like Aunt Fanny. She looks about as old and has ways like her. Both Mr & Mrs Duke take a good deal of pains to set a fine table, so boarders say. They have everything - venison, wild-turkey, ducks, chickens, eggs, beef, pork,

sweet potatoes & what I like especially syrup or as I am fond of calling it molasses to eat on cakes, bread &c.

It is too dark to see.

(Saturday night, Apr 4 / 57) I received six private letters, from Lizzie two, from Capt Whiteley New York one, from Charlie one, from Little Closson at Fort Dallas Florida one, & from Simon Murphy at Augusta Arsenal one. And besides I received seven public letters - all came by tonight's Mail. Lizzie seems more comfortable & contented with you than she has been before, since she left Troy. I hope you will be very happy together, I shall feel more cheerful & bear my separation better, when I know my little wife is in so good hands. I shall try & answer her letters tomorrow.

Guy seems to run about as if at home and has more play fellows than he did at Troy, viz: cat & kitten, a lamb & Grandfather & Grandmother. Don't you all kill him with kindness, but teach him to be kind & good. I cant help thinking about his eyes. Dellie had first rate eyes when he was little. I know Lizzie will be careful with him, but I hope he will strengthen his eyes without getting near-sighted. But we must do the best we can & trust the rest with Kind Providence.

The musketoes begin to thicken round my head and I must get inside of my musketo bar, for protection.

I went fishing with Major Morris today, but didn't have a bite. I exercise in my Garden for pleasure & for strength. I don't think I ever enjoyed better health than now.

Remember me kindly to the neighbors, when they enquire. You cant well call my place vacant when I have sent you a daughter & a Grandson. I have no Indian news of importance, a large scout is to commence on the 10th inst.

God bless you all. Your affectionate Son
O.O. Howard

When "the mail fails" no mail comes from any place beyond Palatka. It is occasioned by the failure of the Savannah Steamers to reach Palatka in season.

731 4/5/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0672

Leeds Centre. Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Centre. Me. Apr. 5. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

I received two letters from you last week, as well as the week before. I hope it will be so you can continue to write to me as often all the time you are absent from us. I now tell them I am going to Tampa this fall. All the authority I have for saying so is that you will not come home on a leave unless you get a long one and could take us back with you. And this is just no authority at all, although you may be in Florida long enough to ask for a leave, and if the prospect then should be, that you would be detained there a year longer, I should wish much to return with you. Do not think I have made up my mind that all this will take place, for I have not made up my mind to anything, but to be contented to stay here this summer later than that time I seldom think of.

I seem to get your letters here just as soon as I did at Watervliet, very seldom one is over twelve days on the way, and I have received a few the tenth day after date.

Warren Lothrop was expected home last week - he came last evening. He had at last received his commission dated Mar 3 and expected to go to Florida as his regiment is stationed there - the 4th Artillery. I want to send you something by him - what can I? What do you need? We do not know whether he has received his orders yet or not. I shall see him as soon as possible.

I wrote the above this afternoon as I could find time while Guy was playing. Now it is evening. He is sleeping and I can finish this and have it ready to mail to-morrow morning. I love to write to you, my darling Otis. I sometimes feel when I sit down to write, that I wont write an interesting letter and then I think you of course like to learn any thing about myself and Guy and I know you will be happy to get the letter if it does not seem very interesting to myself. I have as yet mailed two letters to you every week; how I wish you could get them as regularly as I do your dear letters.

You have told me of your new quarters enough but I cannot locate it. In looking at the sketch you sent me of Fort Brooke, I see enclosed a piece of ground that you have named "Ordnance ground"; it contains a magazine, store-house, work shop, and guard box in the south west corner; as you say a sentinal walk past in your yard. I imagine you near there. You must explain to me so I can add so important a building to the drawing.

Mr Strickland left here for Boston last Friday morning. Mrs S. and children are yet here. She is anxious for me to go to Hallowell with her and children. Brother Rowland is to accompany them. I would like much to go, for the sake of going to Augusta. Yesterday we almost concluded to go Monday, but since then Lizzie has come down with the mumps and I don't know when she will be able to go. I wrote a note to Mrs Mulliken Saturday, saying, I might be at her house next week. Guy and I will probably catch the mumps of Lizzie. Carrie had them one week before they left home. I do hope you have not had the measles, and will not either whild away from such a good nurse as I am.

Last week I wrote a letter to Mrs Daniel Williams. I presume you are a little surprised, but I wrote asking her if she would see Mrs Clark for me, and learn if she would come out here and take care of me this summer during the months of June and July. I did not know Mrs Clark's whole, or other name and preferred to writing to Mrs Williams, than anyone else there. I have not yet received an answer. I should prefer her to nurse me than Mrs Hinckley who is so old I should dislike calling on her to do so many things.

I must confess I get a little anxious, when I allow myself to think of my approaching illness in detail, but my courage is good now, and I shall endeavor to continue brave till all is over don't you fear, darling, nor give yourself any uneasyness. I am satisfied in the end, all will be well.

Now I write good night to you, my dear Otis. I may write more in the morning, but that will depend upon the time I mail this. I may go up to Mrs Lothrop's with Rowland to-morrow. It is not very good traveling - the snow is nearly all gone, and the frost just beginning to come out the ground.

From your faithful little wife,
Lizzie Howard

732 4/5/1857

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0673

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla.
Apr 5th 1857.

My dearest Wife,

Last night I received two letters from you mailed on the 17th & 22nd ult., and first rate letters they were. You are at Leeds and comparatively happy. Guy, though he has sore eyes, is doing nicely, playing with the cat & kitten and lamb & learning something new every day. You have a room to yourself and a fire to dream over. I have no place here for a fire and I don't think you would need one if you were in this office.

I am somewhat in a perspiration, for I have been working out the most expeditious method of supplying Forts Capron, Drum, Vinton & Kissimmee with Ordnance Stores. I have written to For Myers, Fort Capron & Fort Myers and assisted in making out a Requisition this morning. Now you will think this is fine work for Sunday. But we will have to bring it all home to the Indians. I am sure I would like to rest today & go to Church with you, mais c'est impossible. I don't think I have much to do but work comes, nobody knows when.

I am sorry to say Day has gone home. He left Friday for New Orleans on his way to Tennessee. He is a very excellent young man and was a good companion for me. I was sorry to see him go. Mr Hazzard asked if I got letters from you yesterday and so did Mrs Morris. Your husband seems to stand pretty well with the garrison & with the officers generally. His rank is'nt high enough to put on airs & swell. I trust it never will be. Young men are apt to be a little important, when they fancy themselves in an important position, but I try not to show it if I feel so. The officers of the line generally are very different from those, who were stationed at West Point when I was there. I have found them very pleasant gentlemen, almost without exception. They are kept in the field & on the frontiers most of the time, which makes them perhaps a little peculiar in their ways, but there is a good deal of refinement amongst them.

I received a letter from Little Closson last night. He is now at Fort Dallas on the South Eastern coast of Florida. He says, "I have almost despaired of ever being allowed by contact with the refined pleasures of society, to fashion my tastes into shapes becoming a Gentleman. After floundering all day through the bottomless pits of Slime, with which this country abounds, I find a ravenous appetite is appeased by the hardest of hard bread & the fattest of fat pork, vulgar though the confession be. I am obliged to cover my nakedness or attempt to do so with non-descript garments no beggar would wear, tattered, faded, dirty remnants of past dandyism. Face, hands & all are dyed with a dingy black that even tinges my paternity with the brownest of doubt. My daily tramps have flattened out my feet into dimensions that even crowd no 9 Soldier's shoes &c. Again: "In my prayers my tongue wanders from "Deliver us from evil" to "deliver us from the Seminoles". Between the Commandments & the mosquitoes I am kept in a state of mental anathema. Dishes of Mule Steak & Horse hash are continually before me. I go furtively stealing through the steaming thickets as though I was an escaped member of Congress with a corruption committee after me. My hand is continually straying from my scalp to my Revolver to see if both are "thar" - " again he said in the face of all this how am I to be a gentleman?"

Mankind are not only Gregarious but apinidarions. Confine a man in a mad house & he will become a maniac - confine him in Florida and he will become a cross between an alligator, a pack-mule and a rattle-snake with a touch of the sand fly & musketo to impart airiness to the monstrous mixture. I am now as ugly as the first & as meek & patently obstinate as the second &c" but I must look out or I will give you Closson's letter instead of my own. He winds up with the conclusion that he must get married now that the pay is increased, in order to "de-Hottentotize" himself. He says "remember me to your wife & brother".

I have got my path sodded on the sides & am having it filled up on the interior with pretty little shells, would'nt Guy have fun playing with them? I don't believe Closson takes the changes of Fortune as coolly as I do. He is in joke & got more than half in earnest. His mother & sister would form all sorts of horrible ideas about his personal appearance & think these hardships unendurable. But the truth is, he don't have to work any harder than I do, and his exercise makes him eat & sleep in good style, but Closson is a "funny" boy & likes to enlarge.

As soon as Major Lennard comes home from paying the troops I shall send you another check for 100 dollars. You havent acknowledged the receipt of the last sent March 15th i.e. I have not got the letter acknowledging it yet.

Simon Murphy writes to inquire after his boy James. I don't think he is in Florida now. John Murphy has a stiff arm according to Simon. Colonel Munroe came in to see me this morning and said as soon as he came in, "I wont visit you if you don't have a spit-box, in fun of course.

I am glad to see my darling little wife appreciate husband so much. I will be home one of these days to love you & yours, if you don't think I can do so properly so far off. I expect you will think of Kennebec very often during the next "twelve weeks". I don't like to have quite so much work cut out. Don't make your back ache. Who said you were growing old? You must have got up the notion yourself. I am going to ask Rowland.

Give my love to all hands, all you can spare. You will all be farming when this gets to Leeds. Guy mus learn to build stone-wall. Tell Laura I wrote her name in your letter & of course remember her very kindly. Who told you the good news about Mrs Sargent. Why didn't they tell me when I was there. There is no comprehending Ladies. Mrs McKinstry is so proud that all her children are boys - that she never says "my children", but "my boys" and I wouldn't wonder if my mother was proud of the same thing, and I know that yours is that her children are all girls. Now I have a bit of philosophy to decline from those observations.

Whatever may be the antecedent wish - her Mother's heart is easily reconciled to boys or girls or a mixture of the two. Good night. God protect, my love.

Yr affectionate husband
Otis

733 4/7/1857

From: Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0674

At home [Leeds]

Source: Bowdoin

At home April 7th 1857

My dear Brother

Yesterday was a pouring Rain storm & all last night too the rain fell in torrents as it only does in April. This morning it has cleared up with a cool north west wind & there is but little snow in sight in this vicinity except a patch of an old drift now & then by the fences. I went to Lewiston & back in the rain yesterday to transact some business for Uncle Henry & Father. I sent a large amt. of R.R. Bonds, coupons & a note for \$3000.00 to Portland. I got quite wet thro' coming home but as it was a warm day I don't think I experience any inconvenience from my wetting. Warren met at the Leeds Depot looking out for his "orders" which he now expects every day. He rode down with me thro' the mud & over the Snow-drifts. He said Old Leeds never looked so mean to him before. I thought it would look quite homelike to you even now in its worst aspect. Warren bears his new honors very modestly. He expects to join his Regiment in Florida & is in haste to be gone O fortunate mile! He has no wife & children to leave behind. In another sense he is unfortunate. He can carry no love with him.

Laura Howard said to me the other day. O I wish I had some cures! Sometimes I feel so alone. How true that remark of Bacon - "He who has wife & children has given hostages to fortune". They are golden links of a chain which binds him to humanity. Without them he would be more free, but that freedom would be apt as it often does, to degenerate into license. A wife is so essentially a part of ones self that she is always present in his inner consciousness. Earth has no places so distant, but the human soul easily overleaps them all, whether mountain, ocean & plain - gives & receives influences almost the same as it would if there were no such thing as space. How will it be when both time & space are annihilated? Will the abolition of things so inferior to the Soul sensibly affect its high attributes? Will human affection be ranked among those grosser things which will end with Firma? Or will our Earthy loves take a lower place, but still, a place among our Religious affections - our moral character - & be perpetuated with that thro' eternity? Will husband, wife, father, daughter, Son, mother be names of significance in Heaven? These questions seem to me now less abstract & more practical than they once did & sometimes they come home to me with great force. Some things in the teachings of Christ seem to answer them (the two last) in the negative. On the other hand some analogies & the desire of that "blind guide", the human heart would say - yes.

I have been out splitting logs with Father this morning and succeeded pretty well till I lost a great piece of skin from one of my hands & so I changed my employment for a while.

Aunt Martha Jane & Lizzie Strickland were both taken with the "mumps", Sunday, & so we have given up going to Hallowell & Augusta with them as we proposed. They are not very sick. Guy will have a fat cheek in a fortnight, probably & your Lizzie about the same time. I only fear that Lizzie will get cheated out of her visit to Augusta by these circumstances. Mr E Jones has returned to his family & Mrs Jones says she "feels better." I took Dinner there yesterday. Father is going to meet Uncle Henry in Hallowell tomorrow.

Uncle Johns Estate was priced at \$3500.00 only. The "trust" property is all involved in the same loss, but his bondsmen are liable to pay. They are Charles Vaughan & Mr Spaulding. Aunt M.J has \$6000 & Aunt Ann the same amt. in the "trust". Then Henry has private notes of Uncle's to the am't of 4 or 5000\$. Mother \$2500. Of course the latter will get little or nothing. And the Bondsmen are the only hope of the former (I mean by "former" our Aunts, by "latter" - Henry & Mother). My reason for writing you this as well as what I wrote above - Fathers embarrassment in my letter but one before this - is only to tell "news" & also that you can the better understand any future conversations or explanations about these matters.

The R.R. affairs look a little brighter just now. The Co. are disposing of a new set of Bonds quite favorably for these hard times. If they can sell enough, they will buy iron & lay track to Farmington this Summer. The track once down, Father thinks his securities will be good & if so he will be "independent" again. On any other hypothesis, "I seek not to penetrate the veil"! My impression is that Father & Mother had better each make a will. This would <> Mothers mind & secure to all, their just dues. It will be much easier for them to agree than

for their heirs. I shall try to have something arranged before I leave home again to stay away a long time.

Guy is well, bright & roguish. He has got to that point where our common human nature teaches us all, to do just what we think will not be approved of. There never was a child but that loved what he considered mischief. Guy is no exception. He knows much more "entre nous" than he gets credit for. His ideas are by no means limited by his conversation which is rather circumscribed. If you want a complete account of Guy you must get Mrs Waite to write you.

Dellie is out "peddling" still. He spent the Sabbath in Hallowell & wrote us Sunday (yesterday). He proposes going to Brunswick & Topsham now. I own my "pride" is a little alarmed by his striking into those localities, but I suppose it is foolish to feel so. He is rather sick of the business here in Maine where the labor is harder & the returns less than in Mass. We shall expect him home to prepare to go to Andover by the middle or last of this week.

Charles does not write very often but seems to be as well as usual. Ella writes me every other day. She was to be "examined as a candidate for admission into the Church" Thursday Evening last. I have not heard this week yet, but I presume she was admitted Sunday. At first it was a little hard for me to think of it - it seemed like separation - but I said, "go on & never mind me". God keep me from standing in any path of duty. God will always have to be her chief dependence - I am a poor weak miserable creature, who are unable of my own strength to walk alone. Where could I better commit her whom I love best on Earth than into the arms of her Savior.

Aunt Martha Jane has had a letter from cousin Wm Otis recently. It was a good letter hearty a cheerful, hopeful thankful spirit. He says he feels in better heart & hope than ever before. Aunt Ellen has generously assisted him with money & he seems anxious that his brothers should not grow up as he has done, in ignorance & improvidence. He speaks of his Father affectionately & I know would be glad to hear from you. He is at "Austin", "Texas".

Roscoe Gilman & I tapped 13 trees & have made quite a lot of Sap Syrup. It is nice & Guy don't object to a taste - should you? Mother was very glad to receive her letter from you & will answer it as soon as her multiplied cares will permit. She sends her best love. Also Aunt & your cousins "Lizzie" & "Carrie". They are fine little girls & both loveable if not lovely. They play much with your hopeful Son, Guy. Father has hired George Longley for the season & he is now engaged on the wood pile.

Uncle Ensign has been quite sick for the last ten days but he now seems better & I hope he will be "out" the last of the week. He has a bad cough. I spent Friday with him & we discussed among other things Judge Taney's decision in the Dred Scott case. I can now see no time when there will not be a necessity for a Republican Party. The policy indicated by that decision must be reversed & that will be the work of many years. It wont do for this country to make these unconscious advances against natural liberty. John & his family were well yesterday.

Your aff. Brother
Rowland

I received a good long letter of 6 pages from Jimmy Thorn the other day.

Warren Lothrope's commission was dated March 3d & was, of course, by Pierce & Davis at last.

734 4/7/1857

From: Lizzie A. Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0675

Leeds. Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. April 7. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

I received another dear letter from you this afternoon, dated Mar 25th, and as I have finished all the work I wished to do today, and Guy is now asleep, I will write to you till my sleepy time. In my last letter to you I asked for a sketch of your new quarters, and when I opened your letter to-day, I was glad I had not to wait three or four weeks before I would see them, as you had anticipated my wishes and enclosed a sketch to me. Your quarters look snug and cozy, but I really don't see where you would put us if we were to make you a visit, and troublesome visitors you would find us. I would of course bring two trunks, and Guy would like to take 'pa-pa' papers that look so pretty up high. I don't see any place, or room for my work-table or rocking-chair and on the whole I think we would quarrel and I would be put in the "six feet well" as that is the nearest like the cooler you used to threaten me with. I should think Lt Mack would have to visit you often rather than you him, to keep him from being lonesome. You seem the most alone away off in that corner far from all the other Officers. (I guess you will take us along next time won't you?)

Mr Shunk sent me a long message by Mr Lee, but as it is in Brother Rowland's letter, I will let him tell you of it. It is very like him. Rowland says he don't believe I write you much that is going on here about us; that if I don't his letters - some of them - will be perfectly blind, as he has merely hinted at many things thinking I have probably told you all about them.

I presume he is half right, for you say, I did not tell you whether Mother was at Leeds with me. You must know she is, for your helpless little wife (some doubt about the little) can scarcely take care of herself much less take care of Guy. Mother has got him to sleep when he is to have his nap during the day for some time, and I have not undressed him for three nights passed. I assure you it is a great sacrifice to give up the care of him to any one else, but as long as he is well, and spared to be such a great comfort as he is, I must not complain.

I am a little bit naughty to-night and have dropped a tear on my letter. I don't do so often, and wont any more. I could'nt help just a little, darling. Now you must'nt be sad, for I have all nicely brightened up and would give you a good kiss if I could; as it is I will give it to Guy, as I do all 'pa-pa' kisses. He has changed his 'ma-ma' to 'mum', and likes so well to go out doors that I shall be very glad when it is dry and warm enough for him to go out every day. Yesterday commenced a dismal rain storm but I have no doubt it will hasten to make good travelling. George goes to the P.O. on horse back. (Rosco went home and George Longley takes his place.) Very little snow to be seen as I look over the hills from my window.

I have received an answer to my letter to Mrs Williams. Mrs Clarke will stay with me this summer. I am really very glad, for she will know just what to do for me. I feel better settled since I have got her engaged, and I know you will be glad to have her with me. I have given up going to Augusta, and shall write to Mrs Mulliken saying so. I shall urge her to come to Leeds later in the summer.

I must go to sleep now, dearest, but first ask our Father in Heaven to bless us, and keep us from harm.

Yours,
Lizzie

Wednesday afternoon. I have written a note to Mrs Mulliken saying I was not going to Augusta. I came to the conclusion that home was the best place for me. I hope she will come to see me.

Dellie came home this morning. He has been gone all his vacation peddling stationery. He is I think very different from the rest of you, thinks much of more money making.

Warren Lothrop has not received orders yet. He may be home a long time. I think I shall go to Tampa in company with him. Would you not be glad to see us? I guess so, if every thing was arranged for our comfort.

It is much better you are alone now, you can be more comfortable than if you have us to care for. Guy has had his sleep and is now playing on the floor in my room, busy as can be. Every time he goes into the parlor he has to see 'pa-pa' (the Daguerreotype you had taken before we were married and brought home to your Mother.)

I have not felt as lonely as I did last evening for a long time. I asked Guy if he was going to send a kiss to pa-pa. He gave it without getting up. Mrs L is much better of the mumps and <Laura is> quite well, expects to go to Hallowell Saturday. Col Gilmore went this morning to meet Mr Strickland <to-morrow>. Mrs Turner is getting better. I don't feel that this is an interesting letter or that there is much in it, but I must send it, and have not time to add more. So think of me as your affectionate wife who loves you very much.

Lizzie A. Howard

735 4/8/1857

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0676

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Check \$100.00

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla.
Apr 8, 1857

My dearest wife,

Here it is ten minutes after five P.M. and I have'nt written you a word. I set apart this afternoon for writing, and lo! the Sergeant brings me a set of papers to examine, and then I have to go with one of my men to the Paymaster to witness his payment, and before I am half aware of it the afternoon has slipped away, but I have an hour and that now a days is time enough to complete a courtship and marriage.

Major Morris left here Monday for Manatee to inspect volunteers and I have, by his invitation, slept in his house to protect Mrs Morris. Night before last she did not give me clothes enough, but last night she asked me if I was comfortable. I told her yes, only I was a little cold toward morning. She was very sorry, and and gave me an extra coverlid, so that I was quite as comfortable as I am here, though I rather prefer spending the night in my own house. To night, she has invited me to tea.

You cant think what a fine looking place I am getting here. I have got the fence, this office & the magazine white-washed. A little ways off every thing looks as if it was painted, it is so clean and white. My diagonal path, sodded on each side & raised above the <surrounding> level, I have paved with large oyster shells, & then covered with a layer of broken ones & afterwards covered with small & beautiful shells. From being the filthiest & worst looking place on the post it has grown to be the neatest & prettiest. I have one or two little trees planted and they are doing well.

My Quarterly papers are not off yet, but I have till the twentieth to get them ready & this is only the eighth. We will have them ready in season. The Sergeant says he never had to make out so many papers before, but he sticks to his work well.

I drew my pay for March yesterday and hence enclose you a check for \$100. in this letter. You must follow the same rule as before, take what you want and send the ballance to be invested for me or to be deposited in a savings bank. I think I have rather more than averaged my fifty dollars per month thus far. I am economical in my expenditures and can send you a pretty good sum. I mean to invest some money in some paper with lines that I can see for it is impossible to follow them on this sheet and this is the best I have.

I am expecting a letter from you tonight, but I was so very fortunate Saturday I ought not to feel very certain of getting a letter. A short time since an Indian Camp of women & children was surprised in the Big Cypress, but all escaped & hid themselves like partridges, none were taken.

It has been very warm today, but occasionally we get a good puff of wind to relieve the temperature. There is a Circuit Court now in session at the Court House in Tampa and we have the Judge & several lawyers at Mr Dukes.

I hope to hear that you are all well in the letter <thats> coming. I am thinking a good deal about you all at home. I have no doubt my name is mentioned often & I am somewhat missed. I know it is hardest for you but you have some comforts that I do not. Oh! how I would like to be with you for the next three months, but perhaps I would tease you & you would cry and then I would run out of doors as I have done. I mean if I had never been called to leave you, now if I should come back everything will be different, we have both found how hard it is to be away from each other and could'nt help striving in all things great & small for each other's good. God knows what is good for us and perhaps this separation is.

Rare comforts are highly valued. I told Mr Mack, that you said you would like to know him & send your

Regards. He seemed pleased. He said one day that Mrs Mack wrote him that I must be a first rate man, whence I inferred that he had given good accounts of me.

I wish now that you had come on with me. There is one objection, almost everybody has had the measles & many have died. It ended in the pneumonia. But all cases have now disappeared. At one time I thought I was going to have the disease (ie the measles) but I could'nt make out to be sick. I have had I think fewer pains & aches since I have been here than ever before in the length of time. All that I had at all was a little of the Old Rheumatism, during the cold & damp weather the last part of January & first of February, but not enough to trouble me any nor so much as I have often had at the north.

A lawyer, by the name of Hart, who has recently come here from Key West, I find a very fine gentleman, upwards of forty yrs of age & I have become quite intimate with him. He lends me books to read.

Well my darling I have scribbled over my sheet, & been thinking of Guy often. What shall I say to him? Has Uncle Dellie got home? Kiss Guy for me & give my love to all.

Hoping you are in the best of health & spirits. I remain your faithful & loving husband,

Otis

I have not received yet the acknowledgment of the last check for 100. dolls. I sent.

736 4/10/1857 *From:* [Lizzie Howard]

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0677

Leeds. Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. April 10. 1857

My dearest Husband

I have received my second letter this week. You cannot know how much I do appreciate these letters, and when one reaches me sooner than I anticipate I am always more than happy. I should not be impatient, did I not hear from you but once every week. You frequently do not hear from me oftener than that, but I cannot remedy it, although I should be very glad to do so. I shall endeavor to have two letters mailed to you every week during the summer if I am not able to write them all. I am very happy to learn dearest, that you have come to a decided resolution to have us with you hereafter. There may be times when we may be obliged to be separated, but when such is not the case, I feel that we should be near each other as much as possible. I should not fear change of climate as a general thing for any of us. Every day we are separated I feel it to be a day of happiness lost. I have no doubt that this separation is for our future good - will prove to be so in a number of ways. I don't want you, my dearest, to think I am not now contented here, or wish immediately to go to you. You know I do not think of it for a moment.

Col Gilmore came home from Hallowell this afternoon, called at Mrs Lothrop's to see Warren. He does not think you will have a summer campaign. Of course, it is only his opinion. He has not as yet received orders, possibly he may have a long furlough. I have not seen him.

The travel is very bad - mud feet deep. I would not be tempted to get into a carriage to ride just now merely for pleasure or to visit. Mrs Strickland, the girls and brother Rowland went to Hallowell today in the cars by the way of Yarmouth. She felt as if she must go, she had been here so much longer than she intended. It rained some when they started and has continued to rain steadily all day.

The house seems very quiet to have so many leave at the same time. I have again resumed my sewing post in the retired north room, which I have been relieved from during their stay here.

Time wears away my Otis. It is already near the middle of April, two months later the middle of June will come, and then comes 4th of July. Summer will be all over before we are hardly aware of it. I don't begin to think of the time later than Summer, but hope then will be the "good time coming". I did not know what to do this evening as I did not feel like working. I concluded to scratch a little with my pen, and when I come to write my next letter on Sunday if I think it worth sending I shall enclose what I have been writing this evening.

Now my fire has burnt low, Mother and Guy both in bed, and I will leave my writing, trusting you are well and comfortable to night, and go to sleep.

Saturday evening. I will send this to you, dearest Otis, for I think you like to read whatever I may write. I have accomplished a great deal of my sewing this week, and feel that I am getting it all done in good season. Thursday morning I took some work and went down and sat with Mrs Turner two hours. She seemed much pleased to have me do so. She sits up the greater part of the day.

I think I mentioned to you in a previous letter that Uncle Ensign was sick. We heard to-day that he was better by Dr Loring, whom we saw going past our house this afternoon.

Mother will go to Turner on a visit when the traveling is good enough to ride there, and I have been thinking to myself that I would ask Laura to come and stay with me, while she was gone, and I would let her sew for me. Then I would make her a little present afterwards. I laid down to-day after dinner, and had a short nap. This is the first day I have felt the necessity of doing so. I am quite well as a general thing, but do not feel as able to stand or walk about as I did before the birth of Guy. I was not over strong then as you know. Aunt Martha Jane says, I shall find every child I have that I shall feel less strong during the months. Don't you hope I may not have great experience for the sake of finding out if such is truly the case?

I do nothing but sew, help take care of Guy, and half take of our room. Mother gets up first always and kindles the fire (has every thing ready over night). Guy and I get up at the same time and Mother dresses him while I am dressing, then we all go to breakfast. Guy sits at the corner from Mother G left hand, I on the side next to him, and my Mother next to me. She has nothing to do about the washing and ironing. Sometimes my Mother irons when Rosa is getting dinner. She is an excellent girl and I do hope will be willing to stay here as long as I am here at least. I don't believe Mother could possibly find one of better disposition, or more willing to do everything. This has been the case so far and I have no doubt will continue to do the same. Guy likes her very much - calls her "Obtie", which pleases her.

Ask Guy how Grand-pa chops wood, and he will straighten his arms and bring them down together regularly about three times. He watched him a long time from the window this morning, and when Grand-pa came in told him. I can hear Gol G walking about and guess it is about nine o'clock, so I will not write more to-night but endeavor to fill another sheet tomorrow.

[No closing]

Recd Ft Brooke Fla.
Dated Apr 10
Mrs O. O. Howard

737 4/12/1857 *From:* Mrs O O Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0678

Leeds. Me.

Fort Brooke

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, Me. April. 12. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

This is a very pleasant spring day. It really looks inviting to take a walk, but it is too wet for me or Guy. Mother carried him out before breakfast, and let him walk a few steps on the dry stones towards the barn. He does enjoy going out very much, and when it is warmer weather and the ground dry, I intend to have him out a great deal.

I heard a robin singing this morning for the first time. It begins to seem like spring. Some of Mothers plants are springing up and look glad to unfold themselves. She has some crocus' in a box that have blossomed already. I remember those were the first flowers from our garden at Augusta. Katie brought them in to me after I had moved down stairs, and was getting better of the fever. I frequently think of something that took place when we were at Augusta that I had not thought of since then - little incidents that my present circumstances causes me to recall. I love to dwell on those days for they were happy ones to us both.

I wrote to Mrs Mulliken in my first note that I was quite happy at the idea of seeing her, and in my second that I was provoked with myself for telling her I was coming to see her, as I had now given up all thought of going. I was greatly disappointed for I wished to see her so much, but was not at all particular about her seeing me, because I knew she would laugh at me and tell me I had forgotten the resolutions made at Augusta, but I would'nt laugh with her, for I did'nt think it so funny. I told her this was the latest time I would be able to go to Augusta before Fall, and I urged her to visit me here sometime this Summer. I reckon she will have a good laugh and tell Charlie. I shall expect a letter from her soon.

It does not tire me to write to you, dearest, for I write a little and rest when I don't feel well enough to write steadily and I do not try to have my letters look neatly, that would be the most tiresome - to write slowly and carefully. I write as often as I have and as much as I can every letter, and taking my own way about it I do pretty well, do I not?

You spoke of seeing Col Waite. As he is from New York I think we are from the same family and I have heard Grandmother say the family of "Waite's" in New York were relatives. I shall ask her when I see her to give me the genealogy of our family. I hope she will be able to visit here this summer.

I wonder when we will have any tomatoes. Would'nt you like some from your vines. I forget how early we can buy them, but presume as early as they can get here from the south.

Col Gilmore just passed my window to take some parsnips out the ground for dinner. They are very nice just commenced to use them. He shows in his conversation and treatment of children that he is growing old, and he says so himself - that he cant do business as he could. I heard him talking with Mr Strickland. Henry was to be trustee for his wife, and have Henry Wingate and Col Gilmore his bonds men, but the Judge told Mr. S it seemed entirely against the spirit of the Will to do so, and afterwards told Col G. that he did not want him to petition for Mr S to be trustee. Mrs S wished every thing with regard to her property settled before she left the State, but she left here in the morning and did not see Col. Gilmore who came in the afternoon, as she ought, so we do not know what will be done. Ada Strickland is to be married on their way to Illinois. Mr Skiles will meet them in Buffalo. When they were here, their intention was to make no stay after they left Maine before going west, with the exception of one week in Boston. He is already interested in trade there in company with Mr Skiles and another gentleman. I sincerely hope they will prosper and that he is a better man, as she says he is.

I have now nine shares of "Casco Bank Stock." The interest is now due some interest and will amount \$36.00. I shall have it sent to me (Uncle Edward will send it) and I shall keep it till I have more interest from my property and then add it together for another deposit. If you are willing I should not use it but take for my present use from the money you send me.

Guy is having his second nap today. He got tired playing about and could not keep awake, so I am finishing my letter in the afternoon about five o'clock. Mother G and my Mother have been to see Mrs Turner. She says she is much better. Cynthia and Roland and Jonnie are spending the day at her father's. Dellie returns to his school this week Tuesday, and Charlie comes home the same day. They will miss seeing each other unless Dellie delays one day which he may do. Rowland will go to Bath before his return to Leeds. I do not know that he has decided where to study as yet.

Mr and Mrs Lee answered Rowland's letter to them and among other news told of the birth of Mrs Boggs' little son and Mr Boggs' health is much better. I forget whether I had told you. Alice Sands was married last week to Mr Wing I heard by letter to Rowland from Brunswick, and Miss Hannah Child of Augusta, to Mr Lawrence. Since I have been to Leeds I have told all the news I can think of. So and as my sheet is filled will not write more.

Your affectionate little wife
Lizzie A. Howard

[written in another hand, possibly Otis']
Recd Fort Brooke
dated Apr 12/57
Mrs O O Howard

738 4/12/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0679

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke, Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke, Fla
April 12th 1857

My dearest Wife,

It is Sunday afternoon. Mr Mack came in with me to have an after dinner smoke & chat, and has just gone home to write to his wife. I invited him to write here, and he said he had'nt the proper references.

I have just read over the two letters I received last Wednesday. Yesterday's mail came but brought me no letters. I received a Catalogue from Charlie and that was all. One of your dear, kind letters enclosed a list of things for Mrs Lee & the other acknowledged the receipt of a draft I sent you. Before I got this letter on Wednesday evening I sent you another draft or check of \$100.00. I think we are doing pretty well to get seven hundred & sixty dollars ahead already don't you.

I should like to test Guy's idea of 'papa' very much. I think he would know me now, but I don't think he will remember me, when I get away from Florida, unless some unexpected good fortune would turn up to help me out.

Your room must be very cheerful as you describe it. I seem to have left my mark there. That book-case is a fair sample of your husband's work, rough & homey in the extreme, but useful I hope. There are more specimens of the same incompleteness on the wall frames. I will have left my mark here also.

I don't believe General Harney would recognize the place now. He will look up here and say, what new buildings are those surrounded by that handsome white fence? Whose Garden is that, who made that long path & that well and repaired that old building in the corner?

You sit in the rocking chair and rest and think! I have got one, too - a cane seat & high back with arms, round uprights & oval top thus: "[a hand-drawn picture of a chair]" on the table at the left there is something of this kind [a hand-drawn picture of a small table with very long pipes] and what think it is? Why don't you suppose I keep a pipe for Lt Mack & Colonel Munroe! I would be inhospitable if I did'nt.

Mrs Lee seems to have taken a good many things of you. I don't know that you ever told me how the Auction succeeded, either how much you sold or how much you realized from it.

I called at Major Morris' house yesterday evening, after the mail came in. The Major & his wife both asked if I had heard from you & that boy. I told them no. The major asked about him, Guy; supposed he must be smart. I told him his mother thought him something more than ordinary, then I told what he said about the 'nuts' with his hammer and blocks. Major asks how old, I told him after reflection. "He must be smart" if he can talk at that age says the Major. Thus you see little boy's reputation has already extended to the southern limit. Nobody knows how long before it may extended to the western limit. I can leave Guy's little sister with Mama & take him along next time. When the good tidings come, darling, I want Rowland to write them to me first. I hope with you with all my heart, you wont be sick long and I know you will have good care, for every body about you is a good friend.

Yes what you say about the officers in the swamps & everglades is true. The most of them have wives, who are watching the mails with all anxiety. I pity the wives more than I do the officers, for their hardships are physical & don't amount to much. I would'nt mind them. All these things seem of much more importance and harder to bear from the paper accounts than they are in reality. I could make myself comparatively comfortable with a company or detachment of men almost anywhere. They generally have good food & clothing and have lost fewer in number by actual death in battle than this little town has lost by the measles. It is bad enough & no very desirable duty, but the hardship, privation & danger are highly exaggerated, even in the rumors & accounts that I rehearse. The Indians are now a good deal disturbed - a scout is now in full operation, by all the troops in

Florida at the same time.

I will get my quarterly papers ready by next Wednesday. We have till the 20th inst to prepare them, but I don't like to be behind hand in these things. My Sergeant isn't a fast man, but he does his work neatly and is generally quite accurate.

I have an invitation to room & mess at the house of Major Morris when his wife goes to the north as she will do in a short time. I think I shall sleep up here though for I don't have half the mosquitoes here that I find down at the Major's quarters already. Mrs Morris is a woman about your height. She doesn't look so old as your mother, but she has a daughter, with two or three grandchildren in New York. She is expecting another & of course is obliged to go to her daughter, Estelle, whom she calls Puss. Major Morris has a bald head, looks as old as father. His wife calls him Willie. She used to call him Birdie. Gen Twiggs heard of it, says, "Pooh! Birdie! Bald Eagle!" These are regimental stories. They talk about each other & fight in regiments as the same kind of human beings do elsewhere.

Kiss little Guy for me & say, love "papa" to him. Give my love to all & take good care of Lizzie for me. It looks a little like rain. I wish we could have a little to lay this sand down for the wind has kept the air full of it all day & it makes the eyes smart. The ground is very dry.

Believe me your own loving husband.
Otis

739 4/15/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0680

Leeds. Me.

Ft Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. April. 15. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

It is Wednesday evening now, and I will begin a letter to you hoping to finish it to-morrow. We did not send to the P.O. this afternoon and I am very glad for I would have had no letter ready to mail. I did not feel quite well enough last evening to write, and all day I have been busy making Guy's first drawers. He will be Mother's little man as soon as he begins to wear them.

I sent a letter to the P.O. Monday afternoon by Dellie. He went on horseback up to Uncle Ensign's. He was in the woods - quite well, and Laura was on the "big hill" taking a walk. Do you not remember the first time I went up there - when I ate so many strawberries? I had some boxberry plums the other day, and want some spruce gum.

Yesterday it rained all day very hard, but Col G. went to Lewiston on business, and Charlie came home in the same afternoon train with him. The night before he stayed with Rowland at Bath. He is looking very well but rather thin. I gave him to-day your black figured vest, and brown coat. They were just a fit and he was in need of them. He has just made me a call in my room and made me a present of "Longfellow's poems" in two volumes, a very pretty present and I shall enjoy reading them very much this summer. I have never read only "Evangeline" and "Hiawatha".

I have been to see Mrs Turner this afternoon and Cynthia. Charlie went with me. I carried her a few figs. (Col Gilmore brought me a box from Uncle Hicks yesterday.) and opened my can of pine-apple Monday and sent her some by Florence. She looked much better to-day, and was sewing a little.

I don't go down the hill as often as I would, for it tires me too much to come back again. I take good care of myself, dearest Otis, and presume I shall be very well and healthy when you return to us, but don't tell me Guy will be wearing jacket and trousers when you return. I cant let you stay away so very long as that it would be. I should take my "six children" and go to Florida.

Why does Mrs Morris come North? Does she not dare to stay there during the hot weather? I know you will miss Lieut Day very much if he leaves Tampa. I feel interested in all your friends there and like to hear of them, and the changes that take place.

I will leave my writing now for Mother G has come in and Col G too. Guy is asleep, and I must tell you how he went to sleep. I laid down after tea, and Mother put him on the bed with me. He soon got down and told her he wanted his milk. She went out with him, he drank it and soon wanted to lie down with me again. He talked with me about every thing he could think of and fell asleep when I was talking to him. Then Mother undressed him and he went to bed & did not wake. He is sleeping as sweetly as can be.

Thursday afternoon. I have not time to add more to my letter for Charlie is nearly ready to go to the P.O. I was going to write while little Guy was asleep, but Warren Lothrop came in just then and as I had not seen him, I wished to spend some time with him. We talked about the Army and about going to Florida &c. He has not yet received orders. Then came dinner and I have no more time to write to my dearest Otis. He is going to ride with Charlie to the P.O. from his Mother's. His brother Francis walked up from Greene and was here to dinner also. They have both gone along afoot. Last night it snowed and the ground was white all the morning, but the sun this afternoon has made it disappear fast, since then.

Guy has behaved charmingly all day. He is a dear little boy, writes to "pa pa" nearly every time 'ma-ma' does, with his pencil and paper on the floor. I will mail this if it is not a full letter. All send love to you.

And believe me very affectionately your
Own little wife

Lizzie Howard

[written in another hand, possibly Otis']

Recd Ft Brooke Fla

dated Apr 15 1857

Mrs OO Howard

740 4/15/1857 *From:* S. H. Mulliken

To: My dear Mrs Howard

OOH-0681

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

Augusta April 15th 1857

My dear Mrs Howard

I am very much disappointed in not seeing you, for I had fully made up my mind to and had promised Mrs Gorgas, that we would pass the day with her and they were to take tea with me. I have not seen her since I received your note. I presume she will be very sorry for she can sympathize with you. I do not imagine she is more than two or three months yet every one knows it, for she speaks of it freely. She is so sick, that she hardly dares go out. I pity her very much.

People get caught sometimes in spite of resolutions, they are not to be trusted. Perhaps you are no worse off than I was for Henry was only 22 months when Jonnie was born, But I dont care for that now. I am in hopes I have learned a lesson and shall profit by it.

How hard it is for you to be separated from your husband now. I am glad you are looking forward to meeting him in the fall, and instead of going to Tampa, I hope you will come to Augusta. I think Capt Gorgas will be very glad to go South although they seem to like here yet it is not their home.

I thank you very much for your kind invitation to visit you. I shall be most happy to do so, and if Charley goes to Leeds this Summer, you will certainly see me. The children are well - Jonnie has eight teeth, talks a little but does not go alone. He is a delicate child, and I have not urged him to walk.

I could write a great deal more if the children would keep still. My girl has gone to Church, consequently, I have the whole care of them. Charley hears occasionally from your Husband. Hoping I may hear from you again, and with much love to your Mother, and yourself,

I am yours, truly,
S. H. Mulliken

741 4/15/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0682

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla
April 15th 1857

My dearest Wife,

The day for writing you has come and I wish I had more recent letters to answer, but, it being Wednesday, I cannot get any till night and must write this today.

We are having rather monotonous times here now. We had a right smart shower Sunday night which gave our gardens a little water that they needed very much. Monday I made a vain attempt to deepen my well in the quick-sand, spent the evening at Major Leonard's and last evening I went with one of the quartermaster's clerks to Mr. Kennedy's. Mrs K has a baby nine months, that is fat & handsome with seven teeth, never cries and is so smart. Well Mrs Kennedy is a nice lady & has reason to be proud of this boy. Mr K says the name was fixed, Amelia something, when lo! they had to change it to Henry. I have not been to see Mrs Page's baby yet, but I kissed Mrs Kennedy's. Wont that do as well? The boy was asleep & I came near waking him. I expect it was because his father don't wear beard.

This morning I have been examining Sergeant Flynn's Return & vouchers. I found a good many mistakes yesterday & some today. I am afraid the 20th will be upon us before we get the papers off.

I have told Major Morris that I will mess with him after Mrs Morris leaves for the North but I had rather live here, that is, I will go to his house to meals & keep my bed &c where it is. He said that would be all right if I would sleep in his house while he is away. Mr Mack has a very poor room, where I lived before I came here, and I am in hopes Major Morris will offer him his spare room. Mack is a very fine man, very even-tempered, always pleasant but rather uncommunicative before strangers. I think sometimes he wishes he had a little boy at home while I wish I had mine & them here. I could then brag over Mrs Kennedy or Mrs Page or Mrs McKinstry.

You say if I am lonely I must visit more. I think I visit altogether too much. I don't read much & I fear this sojourn is getting me far behind the world in common matters. Just think of my surprise & Well! Well! over news that you had forgotten ten days before.

We are expecting Capt Van Vliet, successor to Major McKinstry by the Fashion (Steamer) on her return from New Orleans. She is due already. Major McKinstry will start for the North very soon after he is relieved & Mrs Maj Morris will accompany them. I went in yesterday with Lt Hazzard for a lunch. Mrs Hazzard turned out a pound cake, her first attempt. It was first rate & didn't taste like the cotton wool they keep at Confectionary's. It was a good substantial cake like yours at Watervliet.

I left off writing to go to my dinner. After I came back I went into a store and bought me a pair of every day pants - price four dollars. The other day I was obliged to buy a pair of shoes. The dry weather & sand are death on leather. It cracks & breaks and one soon feels gritty between the toes.

I am afraid you are too economical with yourself to deposit so much money. I approve of the savings bank at Lewiston as a place of deposit. I didnt know there was one there before you wrote. In one of my letters I asked you to deposit what you did not use in some Savings Bank. Do they pay interest Annually or Semi Annually in Lewiston?

I remain perfectly well. The climate on the whole is delightful. It wont do to get up too early in the morning (this would suit you) for the dews are heavy & there is a vapor in the atmosphere. I got up one morning early & went & took a bath in the salt water, but I didnt feel so well for it during the day. I have been up early many times besides and have bathed often but not in the salt water.

Mr Kennedy who is lame, has but one leg, says he should think I might come to see him often. He cannot go

out evenings with his crutches & says he is often lonesome. Deformed & lame as he is he seems to be very happy with his family - two little boys & a little girl of eight or nine years. He calls his wife Ada and they both seem like children with children.

General Harney is expected here every day. I think after the present scout is over we can form some idea of what will be done. The General is an impulsive & changeable man. If the Indians are taken the war will end. If a few are taken it will serve to spur him on to a summer campaign. If none are taken, he will be discouraged and probably give over operations for the present. These are my prognostications. If the General himself leaves the country I could get a month's leave with the privilege of getting it extended. Officers who get away in this manner seldom are allowed to return south till late in the fall. Que pensez vous? There so many ifs & ands that I will not make any decision. I should like to be ordered elsewhere. Then, as soon as possible I should have you with me.

Give my love to all. I hope you are all in the best of health & spirits. Are you as well as when we left Watervliet for Augusta, one year ago last November? I see the sun is getting low.

I have just been to see a kitchen that Wallace is building out of doors. Kitchens here are very often disconnected with the dwelling, particularly where a person has Negro servants.

May Heaven watch over & protect my darling little wife. Just as I was writing the last word Mr Hutton, one of the Qr. Masters Clerks brought me two letters from you - All well. When I read the news that Warren had got a Commission in the 4th Artillery, I jumped up & exclaimed good! good! I am truly glad of it and hope to see him here as soon as possible. He could'nt find a better regiment in the Army. Col Monroe, Major Scott, Major Morris, Lt Mack & Dana all of the 4th Artillery. Warren & I will be close together as our houses are. Who would have thought it.

I wont answer your letters particularly now. Did you go to Augusta.

Your own loving husband
Otis

Why didnt you let Warren bring you out?

742 4/16/1857 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

To: Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-0683

Andover

Tampa
Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Andover April 16th 57

My Dear Brother Otis

I returned today from my vacation and as I received your letter here about ten minutes before I went to the depot to go home I concluded I would answer that now. It is fast day here and there is no school so I don't have anything to do unless I wish to. I have just returned from the club where I had a hard chance to get in as the club was most full and there were but two places left and as the President has not yet come he will occupy one and the Vice President will occupy the other so I guess I must go to another club.

I came in the boat to Boston last night and came from that place here. It was very stormy there all night and as there was head wind most all the time, we did not get into Boston until 20 minutes past 7 this morning, whereas they usually get there about 4 o'clock. I left the folks all well at home. Guy is smart and active. He is the principal man in the house. George Longley who works for us made him a cart a few days ago, and he has any quantity of play things to play with all the time. He still sucks his thumb when he is hungry.

Warren Lothrop feels finely since he received his commission. Mary J. Lane, she that was Mary Jane Lothrop has got a fine baby Mother says, also Warren Mitchell's wife who lives with his father. Thomas Bridgham has sold his farm to Rollin Jennings who is engaged to Harriet Frost. Uncle Henry Strickland was at our house some time with his family, but they have gone to Hallowell now from whence they expect to go to Summerville & Boston and then to Richmond Ill, where he talks of going into farming business quite extensively. Father's prospects in the Rail Road look a great deal more promising than they did some time ago. Uncle Henry got \$327.00 dollars for him as interest money and I got \$237.00 for him yesterday in Portland for interest on the bonds which looks pretty well. He is going to pay the debt he owes Benjamin Richmond as soon as possible.

They have graded the Rail Road all the way to Farmington Falls a distance of 20 miles and have bought the iron to lay the track with and it is nearly all paid for. They are going to commence laying the track by the first of May and expect to lay 1 1/4 miles per week so that they will have it done in a short time. They expect to have the cars going to Farmington Hill by the first of August and then it will pay well as they will not have to buy any more running materials.

Rowland is now down to Bath. Ella has been sick some time though not very sick, but so unwell that Rowland is quite worried about her which is a necessary consequence.

Charles is going to study some this vacation, he say,. Though I guess he will find it rather hard work, as I believe you did.

I was away from home one week and three days last vacation selling Stationery. I made about \$2.00 per day while I was out. I don't like to be away from home so much in vacation.

I have no chum now and I am in hopes that I can go through the whole term without one, but I don't think I can as the commons are pretty near full now and if there are many more I shall have to take one and I don't know but I shall as it is. I shall not sell any papers this term, but am going to study all the harder for it. I shall stand pretty well up in my class <this> term. I guess as most of the best schollars have not come back. Mr Merrill the young man I roomed with last Autumn term has come back here. Charles boarded at their house last winter while he taught school in Falmouth. A young man by the name of <Carl> rooms with him. He went to school to Charles last winter. He said he liked Charles very much as a teacher much better than any other he ever went to. I wish I could have as good a chum again as Merrill was.

Write me all about your business there and all about the Indians, Soldiers &c because I have not yet learned all about it as I did not have chance to do much in such things while I was at home.

Guy has been exposed to catch the mumps but I guess he won't have them hard as little children hardly ever do mother says. Mrs Turner is quite sick but she is much better than she was when I went home.

I am little home sick tonight for the first time in my life but I am in hopes that it will not last long. My room is cold and I have not any wood sawed so I must go without until I can saw up a little. As it is fast day today I cant get into any of the stores and I must go with out light this evening. You may think this is a funny letter to write to a brother 2000 miles off but I am not in the right mood to write good letters. I have not yet looked at one of my lessons. I am going to study this term hard, so that I can stand among the best in the class. I am going to write you letters often this term if you will answer them. I wish I could hear from you as often as the folks at home do but I suppose you write as often as you wish to write to them.

Good bye and remember your affectionate Brother
R.H. Gilmore
Andover

[To] Lieut O.O. Howard
Tampa Fla

743 4/19/1857 *From:* Lizzie H[oward]

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0684

Leeds Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Me April 19 1857

My dearest Husband

Charlie and Col Gilmore only have gone to Church from here today. This is the last Sabbath that Mr Snyder is engaged here, but the traveling is not good yet. The heavy rains we have had lately have left the roads in a very dangerous condition. They will not be good till they have been mended, and I don't think I would feel safe to ride before they are.

The past week has seemed very short to me. I generally have work to employ my attention and do not have to think of the time only. I do not work too much, but I have so few interruptions here, that I can accomplish a great deal in a short time.

I continue very well, and am as happy as I can be separated from you. Sometimes I want to tell my aches and little troubles to somebody, but have to keep them all to myself and when I get to wishing too earnestly for what cannot be granted, I go to playing with little Guy and forget everything else while giving him so much pleasure. Grandpa gave him four round blocks. He sawed off the legs of the wash-bench and Guy thinks they are as pretty as can be. He will stand them up and put a spool on each, then ask "mum" to look at them. He was not long in getting acquainted with Uncle Charlie. Rowland has been gone over a week - went to Bath, then to Hallowell. He is probably looking for a good place to read law. I know he will not stay at Lewiston and I would not advise him to.

Evening. I wrote this about eleven o'clock this morning and have let it remain all day without writing more till now. I have not felt like writing this afternoon. I was quite lazy and restless. Now I feel very well and will like to finish this. Perhaps you are now thinking of and writing to me.

I received my two welcome letters from you this week, and happy am I always to get them. I generally let Guy see them a little while before I open them, and at the same time tell him it is pa-pa's letter, then "let Ma-ma read pa-pa's letter". I open it and take the letter and give him the envelope.

I didn't know Closson was in Florida till I received your last letter. I presume you have no hope of seeing him. I won't care if you do't. When you wish to see any body you must come see me. I fancy we would be the most pleased to see you of any one.

My Mother expects to go to Portland to-morrow, will be gone may be all the week, intends to have some rail-road shares transferred to me. She proposed it herself, and I shall be glad to have it done so. Her health has been remarkably good ever since her sickness just before we left Watervliet.

I would like to hear from Mrs Lee, to know if her back hurts as it did before I came away. I received a very pleasant letter from Mrs Mulliken last week. She says she is very much disappointed in not seeing me for she had made up her mind to, and had promised Mrs Gorgas that we would pass one day with her, and they were to take tea at Mrs M's. Mrs G is in family way - only two or three months, yet she speaks of it freely, is quite sick nearly all the time. I was thinking Henry was older when Jonnie was born, but he was only 22 months. She says, "the children are well. Jonnie has eight teeth, talks a little, but does not go alone. He is a delicate child and I have not urged him to walk. If Charlie goes to Leeds this summer you will certainly see me." I hope to see her here.

Guy had six teeth when we came here and is now cutting the seventh. It is longer getting through the gum than any of the others, but he does not seem to notice it or play the less. I hope we shall this time escape the mumps. I see no sign of them.

Charlie says there were but few at Church to day. Laura he did not see. John and Hellen are at Uncle Ensign's. Three bridges over 'Dead River' were destroyed by the ice week before last; the Rail-Road bridge

only started four inches. I am trying to think how I shall tell you about the Rail-Road running through Leeds. I do not know the whole story, but will tell what I hear Col Gilmore say: the Directors have made arrangements to have the coupons payed. (what that is is more than I know) and he has received two hundred and fifty dollars or about that, at two different times within three weeks. This is all I heard, and I did not like to ask more, fearing they might think I was too much interested.

This will go to the P.O. in the morning so I must finish and close it to-night and help Mother get ready in the morning. I will send paper by the same mail, containing news of Florida. Please tell me about it and also Gen Harney's orders to Kansas. Will you be likey to leave Florida any the sooner by the change? Any prospect of your being ordered to Kansas? Guy is sweetly sleeping, and I guess all have gone to bed early . I can hear Col G snoring. Mother has slept with Rossa in the little bed room this week. Guy and I do not leave room for her in our bed.

God bless you, my dearest Husband, and in good time may you return to your little wife.
Lizzie H.

[Written in another hand, possibly Otis']
Recd Ft. Brooke Fla - dated Apr 17 1857
Mrs. O. O. Howard

744 4/19/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0685

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla
April 19 1857

My dearest wife,

Sunday has again returned and I have seated myself at my desk in my little sanctum to have a chat with you. It may not be possible to write "interesting" letters twice each week, but writing often is no detriment to a correspondence. It is in fact its chief beauty, between near and dear friends such as husband & wife, father & son, brother & brother. You get familiar with the position & employment of the writer from day to day. You get at his inmost thoughts & feelings, if he has any. You find out all that interests him. There is less studied manner about his writing than when he shows his happiest and brightest moods, when he deceives you by assuring that all is sunshine & thus shuts out your heart from the proper sympathy which is the well spring of attention & interest in this interchange of letters. We love everything that is new & entertaining because it is new, but this is not all. A letter from my darling wife that contains only news is not satisfactory, but let the words read as they may, if the warm heart appears to dictate, the reciprocal love & sympathy awakened gives more than an ordinary gist & interest to the recipient. It may not be easy to portray the whole cause & effect of these loved messengers philosophically, but heart answers to heart, and a feeling of quiet happiness succeeds the receipt of each letter, when there is no startling news to disturb one's equanimity.

I fancy you skimming over this lengthy disquisition in search of what is new & unusual. But you look for even bad news with the same instinctive quickness as I have seen you seek for a bug in the bed-stead, but it don't follow that you are not pleased with a disappointment in the one case as in the other. You are glad when you are through & find that there is no bad item of intelligence.

As I meant to say, good news is always welcome. So may be what I will now tell you may be. General Harney is ordered to Fort Leavenworth, and the papers predict a cessation of active operations against the Indians in this quarter. As soon as such operations are completely over your humble servant expects the necessity of his services in the Department of Florida will cease, and the probability is in favor of his being ordered elsewhere: but echo answers, Where! But don't expect me till after l'evenement, for if my hypothesis prove true & my position tenable or untenable, there is much to be done here first. Volunteers to be mustered out, arms & c to be taken care of: returns to be made out for turning over & c & c. I shall then become a candidate for Leavenworth, California, Salt-Lake, St Louis, Washington, Pittsburg & c. Then my going to Leeds, Maine will depend on the wording of the order that relieves me.

I fortify myself thus by considering all the contingencies against any possible disappointment. Let us be prepared for anything, enjoy good fortune with moderation & bear the ill with a good grace. I did want a change at Watervliet though not just then, nor just that. I weary with monotony, and dislike inertness & the retrograde and so do you. We have had change and experience even in this short time, and if we live we will have more of it, but we are every day getting better prepared for it.

Captain Van Vliet came here from New York by the way of New Orleans. He brought his wife & a little boy between three & four years old. Mrs Van Vliet is quite handsome and so is her boy; but he has the whooping cough quite badly. Elle est enceinte aussi quelle une annè,(n'est ce pas) pour notré génération!

Mrs Hazzard too looks forward hopefully. I went in the other day to see Mrs Page's girl baby & gave it a kiss for myself & one for you. Mrs Page said send a kiss to Mrs Howard, Kate. Now Kate being a baby and fortified by your commission I blushingly kissed the young girl. I still cant think girl babies are any better, handsomer or sweeter than their counterparts. But you perceive I prejudice as I never have had any of that sort of my own and in my early days was not even blessed with a sister. You know I like to regard my little wife as the only girl, & the all & in all, of the family.

I didn't get any letters last night and I had'nt any right to expect one from you as I got one in nine days by the last mail. They (the two last) were dated April 3d & Apr 6 respectively. In that of the 6th you said you could not locate my retreat in your sketch of Fort Brooke. I have made another of the yard and enclosed to you. You have probably received this before now. It is the building in the North East corner of the yard.

You may have made a visit to Augusta before this or have got a reply from Mrs Williams. You say in the end all will be well. I think so too my Darling, but I am sorry to be away from you during this trial.

You still give excellent accounts of Guy. He calls all gentlemen "Uncles" and says "papa" quite plainly. Mrs Page discoursed upon the proper conduct towards children before hers. Little Frank's eyes & ears were wide open. It made me think of you and Guy. I hope and trust you have all quit talking about Guy before him. I know it is a hard thing to do, especially for mother, but as she says, make ready for a rainy day. We want him to be an excellent boy, but he need'nt know that we think him the best boy in the world.

I am glad to have you go to see Mrs Turner & carry her things. She is one of my old friends, and she will appreciate such little kindnesses. I shall be glad to see Warren, glad he has got a commission. I should like to present him in full uniform to "Old Rum" Jones. I have knocked some ink over this sheet, but I hav'nt time to copy.

Give my love to all the family. You may see me before many months. May God bless my little family & all the inhabitants of my old home. We are soon to have a shower. I hear it thunder. My corn, potatoes & tomatoes are flourishing but a little rain wont hurt them. Warren must hurry if he would assist in getting the Indians out of Florida. The new Administration are going to get the Indians out by negotiation, while Harney goes to Kansas to keep in check the Black Republicans, so say the papers.

Major McKinstry leaves for N. Orleans in two or three days by the Fashion. Mrs Major Morris goes with them. Again my love to all & especially to Lizzie Howard & her son Guy.

Very affectionately, your husband
Otis

745 4/21/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0686

Leeds. Me.

Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. April. 21. 1857

My dearest Husband

Col Gilmore was not intending to send to the Post Office this afternoon as he was there this morning on business (railroad business) but when Rowland came down to tea he said he wanted to see the "Advertiser" and I told him I rather thought I had one letter there. Consequently he put on his hat and over-coat, went out to the barn, got the horse and started - then after six o'clock. At half past seven Guy wanted his milk and I got it ready, undressed him. He drank it and I put him into bed. He was ready to go to sleep. I then gathered up his play things, looked out the window and saw Rowland returning. I knew he would not come directly into the house, so I folded away my work (which I shall not tell you was a tiny frock, so pretty) put another stick of wood on the fire. (I had lighted my light.) then went out, asked if I had a letter. Rowland said, yes, one. I said that was enough, as soon as I saw it was from Tampa, and in your hand-writing.

I hastened back to read it, as I did not like to leave Guy alone, although he was asleep. It is a kind, very affectionate welcome letter. The check enclosed I shall deposit with the other at Lewiston reserving none this time for my own use, as I shall not need more than I had on hand for the next two months. I took my letter out to read to the rest of the family, but Rowland and Charlie were both in their chamber. Col G. very much engaged at his safe, and Mother G engaged reading a letter from Dellie, who returned to his school one week since.

I mentioned the check, the improvement you had made in your grounds, Indian women and children hiding themselves, and said I must go to writing, for it was then quarter past eight. Here I am in the north room, Guy sleeping in the bed, and not a large fire in the hearth because it is not very cold.

Mother went to Portland yesterday (Monday) morning - may be home by Thursday. I am eating boxberry plumbs, while writing. Flora brought me nearly a quart this morning, gathered them in "our pasture" she said. I do love them as well as I once loved Ellen McCarthy's apple pies.

Rowland came home yesterday by way of Winthrop from Augusta, saw 'Charlie', as Mrs Mulliken says, on the street. I have not heard him say much about his visit. He is not quite well. I presume wants rest. He was at Topsham with Ella Thursday. She is now quite well. Her little brother sent Guy ever so many 'pea-nuts', what Mrs Lee calls ground nuts. Came to Hallowell Saturday, and thinks of reading this summer in G. Stinchfields office, who, by the way, has just purchased himself a saddle-horse but does not dare to ride him. I told them about his riding 'Mallach.'" Do you not remember one day you were at Hallowell on horse back?

Charlie asked Laura to come down here this week, but she could not, because Uncle Ensign was to be from home. She is making Charlie a pair of shirts, and is to make some for Rowland.

The morning after you left home, I found a pair of stockings and two shirts that I intended you should have taken. Have you enough, and are they good yet? Both shirts and stockings? Mother G has given me a nice lot of yarn, and when I think you may come home, I will have both ready for you.

Rowland has been in here to inquire after you, and we have been talking over the affairs of Government. Gen Harney's orders to Kansas, the probability of there not deeming it necessary to keep an Ordnance Officer in Florida if the troops should be withdrawn and there is to no active service there during the summer.

I give myself no uneasiness, only would like to know when I am to live with my own husband, and where. I fancy if I was in Mrs Morris' place. I should not go North.

I am quite well to-night, dearest, have written this very rapidly so it is not late, but I will keep good hours and go to sleep with little Guy.

Wednesday morn. I can send this to the P.O. this morning by Rowland, who goes to attend the funeral of she that was Martha Jane Brewster.

Cynthia has come in and I will go to speak with her before I finish. She wished to leave Jonnie here while she went to the funeral, but I told her I thought Guy and I both had got the mumps. He will be all well by the time this reaches you. Mother will be back to-morrow afternoon.

Hoping this will find you perfectly well and happy. I remain your affectionate wife.
Lizzie Howard

[Written in another hand- possibly OOHoward]
Recd Fort Brooke
Fla dated Apr 21 1857
Mrs OO Howard

746 4/22/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0687

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla.
Apr 22nd 1857

My dearest wife,

The prospect brightens. Major McKinstry's order is countermanded and in the Order the word Department is erased & the word Peninsula inserted, which indicates the breaking up of the Department of Florida. White flags are beginning to be sent out to solicit a consultation. General Harney will be here in a few days, on his way to Kansas. Colonel Loomis the next in command had gone on a leave of absence & had reached Key West. The Steamer, Fashion, has gone after him to bring him back to take the command.

Mrs Van Vliet feels badly to take another journey with her boy sick with the whooping cough to Leavenworth. Mrs McKinstry feels sadly disappointed, not to be able to go North, to join her two boys. Now you may ask how I auger good out of these things. If the Department of Florida is broken up & merged in the Department of the East, the Headquarters will be Troy New York. Active operations will cease, and the necessity for an Ordnance Officer here will be obviated, but we will wait for the result of all these changes.

I have now so much property here, and the volunteers have so much in their hands that I don't think I can settle up & get away very soon, but I do anticipate that I will not be here many months longer at the utmost.

General Scott is now in command in reality & will have every thing in his own way. General Jefferson Davis was the actual commander in chief until the fourth of March. I don't think either the new administration or General Scott care much for the prosecution of this war. They believe Floridians make more ado than there is any need of. But we cannot count upon any policy till it begins to develop itself. The new Administration may desire to concentrate as many troops as possible in the vicinity of Kansas. Major Morris is ordered to repair a road between here and Fort Capron, and he is to have Captain Clark with his company of Artillery to assist him.

The Steamer Gray Cloud, which arrived from Fort Myers this morning will proceed to Manatee for this company, and all the officers propose to go down on an excursion. I shall go at any rate unless something happens to prevent. We leave at eight o'clock tomorrow morning. I think Mrs Morris will start for the North in company with Captain Van Vliet & perhaps Mrs McKinstry will go too.

I should'nt wonder if Warren made his appearance tonight & I am strongly expecting letters from you as I did'nt get any by Saturday's mail. At any rate you will write when I may expect to see Warren with my presents, which will be most acceptable, if it is no more than a piece of cake. I suspect you have begun farming at Leeds, putting up fences & ploughing. Guy must drive the team. You know he can ride the horse to furrow when you get ready to plant corn & potatoes.

I have been moving my blacksmith shop & kitchen (one building) from the place where I put it up. Col Munroe said he wished I would, for he did'nt think it in a good place. Now I am estimating for an extension of the Magazine for my present one will not hold all the ammuniton I have on hand.

I had to fit up a sentry box of large size and make it as tight as possible & put the over-plus of a large quantity just received frm New Orleans therein. But it will be in a "pretty box" when the rainy season comes on. I am afraid I am making myself too useful in this direction to get away easily, but never mind there are worse places to live in than Tampa.

Have you got all that work done that you cut out a month & more ago? Do you sew much in the North room while you are thinking?

Last night I called into Mr McKay's in town. Mr McKay is one of the men of Tampa. He has a store here & another at Fort Myers, owns a steamboat sawmill, several dwelling houses & much land and three sons & a

pretty daughter. When I went in last night there was a young gentleman there who evidently came on a preliminary court visit. He brightened up considerably when I entered and said he was glad I came in for he never could talk with ladies. But I could'nt see why he should have any difficulty, in talking with one alone. Soon Mrs McKay came in (a lady of English extraction) & afterwards her son George. The evening was passed very sociably & I returned to my quarters in quite a cheerful trim, to wait for Wednesday (mail day).

Give papa's love to Guy & tell him papa talks of coming to see him soon. I didnt think of it, but Warren might have brought him along. My bed is big enough. He could play in the dirt all day with the shells. I would give him a cat & a dog. I reckon I should have to bring him his dinner. Who would stay with him while I was gone! Oh! I would build a tent, have a boy to cook for Guy & me & look after him while I was busy. But I suspect Warren has come off without him.

My love to all. I hope you are all in the best of health & Spirits -

Very affectionately your husband
Otis

747 4/23/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0688

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Apr 23d 1857

My dear Brother

For a number of days the desire to write you has been very strong within me, but it has not seemed convenient till now. This letter will much of it be about myself.

I feel in my heart, my dear Brother, that I love my Savior. He wouldn't give me up tho' I was sunk in such a depth of fire & pollution, but continued calling after me. I will not use words of general meaning that may be interpreted various ways but I will tell you a few simple things. I am happier than ever before in my life. I love to read the Bible. I love to pray. I feel kindly & more charitably towards all men. Christians seem like brothers. The words of Christ, Paul, James & Peter all apply to me.

When I ask myself on going to bed - If you should die where would you be found? I can find no fear in my heart. Jesus is in my thoughts most of the time. My heart is full of involuntary prayer. God may do with me as may best glorify Him - "Sweet peace thy promises afford". My heart overflows with gratitude to Christ - verily. He is the way the truth & the light. O my cup runneth over.

If I could see you I know I could tell you how simple & sweet all this is & just how to find this "peace in believing & joy in the Holy Ghost". Stop right shut off believe you are. Don't try to feel or say or do another good thing. Bring all your wickedness to the feet of the Savior. Say to Him - Here, I give it up. Save me, or I am lost. Don't wait for feeling. Don't wait for conviction of Sin. Don't wait for a single emotion or thought that you have thought necessary. Nothing is necessary but simple trust. O God, I knew thou carest. O Father, thou hast promised. Thy power is infinite & thy mercy too. Jesus is ready & willing. Remember the thief on the Cross, the woman taken in Adultery. Christ is not less compassionate than while he lived on the Earth.

If you want religion, Otis, you can have it. If you don't, God have mercy upon you. I can only pray. You have no Sketicism. Your education furnishes your mind with an answer to every honest doubt. O I do hope & pray that ere this, Christ has accepted you. O you, like me, have so often "been almost persuaded to be a Christian".

Forgive me if I seem too zealous. But how I do long to see you truly "happy". It isn't like any other happiness. It is rather a constant peace & contentment. It is the first thing in the morning & the last at night. It arises involuntarily in the mind during the ordinary business of the day. It is like some sweet memory or some joyful anticipation, but it is better than either.

You would like to have me tell you the whole process, how I was translated from Natures darkness into this marvelous light. There was nothing great, nothing powerful. I had for some time been diligent in my prayer, but I was as wicked as at any time, in my life. There was the same pride, ambition, vanity, self-conceit, double-mindedness & lust. And the first thought was, "hadn't I better hope"? "No", replied consciousness. "you are too bad. You have no right to". But Jesus has promised He is worthy. Ought I not to have faith, never doubting that "He is & that He is a reminder of them that diligently seek him"? Then it came in little by little, until if I am not changed, everything else in existence is. The same sins tempt me now, but Christ is my helper. "Has He not laid help on one who is mighty & able to save"?

O, my dear Brother, come to Jesus & taste & see if he isn't good. Look not to any Christian you ever knew. Look to Christ only. His virtues, his life, his sufferings & endurance. His doctrines & death. All are perfect. Read what he says. Pray before, & after & while you read, for help from Above to understand & apply the Truth. Hear Him say "Come & learn of me". O his yoke is easy & his burden is light. It is Sin & temptation that is heavy even to the redeemed Soul. If you hold on to one single reason why you shouldn't be a Christian, you won't be.

May God forgive me that I was a hindrance in your way while we were at Troy. I knew it all the time but Satan & my own proud wicked heart kept me so. I shall not write in this letter on any general subjects, for as you

perceive it has one purpose - to tell you that I hope God has accepted me well as I am and to beseech you fervently to do far better than I in my weakness have done. O the world seems joyous & Eternity beautiful to me. The only bad thing is Sin.

I will write you again soon & tell you "the news". I haven't spoken of these things so often as I ought, nor as I mean to, but I have talked & prayed with Charles & Mother & Ella & I told Mrs Turner this morning how I felt. The tears of joy came in her eyes. O the Brotherhood & Sisterhood of Christians. To Mrs Waite & Lizzie I have said nothing. I believe that the Spirit has striven with Lizzie & O how I hope she will come to her Savior. But her delay is no excuse for you, my Brother. You know all this as well as I, but God knows better than us all.

Good Bye.

Your aff. Brother
Rowland

Sat. morn. Good morning Dear Otis. I got up at five this morning & Charles & I have been at work in the Garden. We are to work till 9 o'clock. Mother has quite a lot of flowering plants, but as usual in the Country, the "beet bed" rather impinges. If I were going to be at home, I would have a real pretty "front yard".

I had a letter from Otis last night. He says nothing yet about coming home, but he has not heard the "news" which we saw in the papers of Gen Harney's removal. I still hope we shall see him this Summer, tho I fear not till July.

I shall take this to the Office myself. O must I be a happy boy tonight, when that letter comes. My heart will be especially near yours tonight & tomorrow I fear we shall have no meeting as our minister preached his farewell Sermon last Sunday.

You will see Otis that I have made a mistake, and taken your letter for Ella's which lay beside it but you will excuse me, & not wish me to "copy". I know I received your letter last night and will answer it very soon. Lizzie had one at the same time dated the 12th. She and Guy are nicely this morning.

[Written in another hand - probably Otis']
Rowland
Dated April 23d 1857
The Letter

748 4/26/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0689

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke, Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke, Fla.
April 26 1857

My dearest Wife,

I received a nice long letter from you last evening consisting of two sheets well filled. You seemed pretty contented & happy though I fancy, by the way your mind reverts to those days of hopes & fears and comforts, before our little Guy was born, that you sort of long for your husband's presence and support and if I could, consistent with my duty, I would soon appear by your side. Your courage seems good and I am sorry your strength is not as good as it was when you were able to take a journey from Troy to Leeds & thence to Augusta, and after all that, work every day putting down carpets & fixing up the quarters. You are a good wife and deserve every thing at my hands.

Mrs Mulliken knows that rash resolutions are easily broken and they are sometimes too easily made. We must bear as lightly & cheerfully as possible. The burdens that Nature and Providence deem it right to impose, and as I have often said and firmly believe, a rich blessing will in time grow out of what seems most unfavorable for any such fruit. As an instance, my being sent to Augusta at such a time. We had kind friends, a good physician and you had every care & attention you desired. Then again I go to Florida, to get experience, become known in the Army at large, to make valuable accessions to my acquaintance & friendships and gain the confidence of my Colonel & other old & influential officers, by doing an important duty faithfully. You too gain experience, find a pleasure in self-denial even, have got away from Watervliet & many annoyances, will have the proud pleasure of presenting your husband with children in the good old native State. You have something ever before you to hope for, and say to yourself, then I shall be very happy. Whatever other people may think or say, we can bear separation & learn many a useful lesson of the heart therefrom.

On Thursday I went to Manatee in the Grey Cloud (Steamer in U.S. Service). Our party consisted of Major McKinstry, Capt Van Vliet, Mr Hazzard wife & wife's sister, Miss Elden, Mr Clements (chief Qr. Master's Clerk) & Miss Duvall. I went into Kennedy & Darling's store just before I left & Mr K asked me if I would take charge of his wife and children consisting of two, Jenny & baby Henry. He said I had a young wife & little boy way up in Maine, who would like to have somebody take care of them; he was sick & lame & couldn't go, &c. I told him certainly, I would take a fatherly care of them with the greatest pleasure. We left about nine had a pleasant ride down the bay, arrived at the mouth of the Manatee river by noon. We had the Regimental Band of the 4th Artillery along, we went up the Manatee the Band playing. We anchored opposite the little town & went ashore in boats. The ladies staid on board. Captain Clarke got his company ready as quickly as possible & embarked there. He & Lt Solomon accompanied the portion leaving and Lt Follet remained behind with a small detachment. We got ready to start about sunset. The water was very low, it being ebb tide, and I had to wade out to the boats, some ten or twelve rods. I didnt take off my shoes & got my feet pretty wet, but the Steamer Captain's brother on board gave me some dry socks & shoes, so that I did not take cold. We started immediately after the company was on board and reached our wharf about one o'clock that night, but I had gone to sleep and did'nt wake till day light, at six. I accompanied Mrs Kennedy & family to their house in town & then came to my room & slept till nearly eight. Mrs Morris said I looked much better after my trip to Manatee. It is a miserable little town, all the country is covered with the saw palmetto, and nothing is growing. The houses are a great way apart & not more than eight or ten of them. I would as lief live in Botany Bay. After the company of Clarke got up here, Colonel Munroe found that he had been ordered to build a bridge or rather a wharf at Manatee. So Solomon & twenty men were detached to accompany Major Morris to the Kissimmee & Capt Clarke went back this morning to Manatee with the rest of the command. General Harney has'nt arrived yet from Fort Meyers, so I have'nt commenced building a magazine. I shall not be able to draw my month's pay this month. I don't think, for our pay master will have to go to New Orleans to renew his Bonds, & says he cannot pay any till he gets back.

I called at Major Leonard's yesterday evening. I must write to Boggs & congratulate him on his good fortune. This is the first time I have got a word of the news. Is Boggs with his wife or she with him. Did they say? I am

surprised that Warren has'nt been to see you. I wont speak to him if he does'nt go & see you before he leaves for Florida.

There isnt now the least danger of a Summer Campaign &I expect to hear that we shall begin to close up business, by the last of May. However, I am not going to speculate any more but wait for results & orders to settle all questions.

Has Dellie grown much? I shall write Rowland & mother before long but not today. I hope that Rail Road will do well by itself this summer, for I should like to see father clear of every embarrassment as age is drawing gradually upon him. I presume you did'nt go out today, but may be writing to me.

You must'nt cry over your own letters, that is'nt the right way. May Heaven bless you, Darling. Guy has not figured much in this letter. I hope he continues to be a good boy & joy to his mother.

Love to Grandmothers, Grandpa & Uncles & all - and remember that you wont have to wait long before you will see your own husband.

Otis

It is a good idea of yours to have Laura come & stay with you while your mother goes to Turner. May & June will soon pass away & I suspect you wish they had already.

I am going to mess with Major Morris as soon as Mrs M leaves. I expect she will go in the Fashion with Genl Harney to New Orleans. I shall still live alone, while the Major is away on duty. Major Morris is about as old as father & looks some like him - only he wears thick grey whiskers & father don't or did'nt when I last saw him.

A sweet kiss to Guy for papa.

749 4/26/1857 *From:* Lizzie A Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0690

Leeds. Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. April. 26. 1857.

My dearest Husband.

I mentioned in my last letter that I thought I had the "mumps". Ever since that day I have suffered intensely with them - had them on both sides of my face - my face is considerably swollen now, but is passing away. Guy had them on one side (the right). He had them quite light - children usually do - and seems to have now gotten over them. I think it is too bad for me to have any extra aches and pains, for I think I have quite enough to bear every day.

Mother came home Thursday as I expected, and I was glad because Guy wanted to be taken care of, and no one else seems to know how, or has time to take care of him as well. She had a very pleasant visit - stayed at Uncle Edward's the most of the time. Lizzie and her husband are there yet. He wants a vessel built that he can go master. She dined one day at Aunt Bonney's. Cousin Callie has got the "dropsy", does not think she can get cured, but is as ever in good spirits. We had never heard of the death of her brother Augustus, which occurred last fall, soon after our return to Watervliet.

Mother did some shopping for me and mine, and had thirty-one shares of the "Atlantic and St Lawrence" Rail Road shares transferred to me while at Portland. She stoped at Lewiston on her way home, brought me some Oysters and smelts (little fish about as large as sardines). It will be very convenient if I want anything this summer to eat that cannot be got here to send to Uncle Hicks, and he will get things for me with pleasure.

The check you sent me last I shall have deposited this week, before the first of next month, that it may begin to draw interest at that time. I think we are fast getting rich and independent. Uncle Edward sent me \$36.00 - interest in bank stock, but I intend to keep it till July, then add it with more Interest to make another deposit.

I have reread the two letters I received from you last week. I frequently give them each more than a second reading, if I do get them often they are none the less appreciated.

Laura came down here last Friday and stayed till Saturday noon. I expect she caught the mumps of me, as she does not know of ever having them. Hellen and the two youngest children came up with John last Saturday week, and went home when Mother went to Portland last Monday. Now "Oli" [Oliver Otis, the son of John Harrison Otis and Hellen Worthing] is at his Grandfather's to stay some time. I did not see any of them. I have not been to ride yet. My visiting ends in going to see Cynthia or Mrs Turner. I sent the later a dozen of my little fishes. I saw her ride past today. I guess it was the first time she had been out to ride since she was sick. I would ride if I thought I needed to, but I feel that I am as well off without, for I would be fearfull and anxious all the time I would be in the carriage. You know it would not be like riding with you to drive, or like our easy carriage. If the weather is very pleasant one day before Charlie goes away, I would take Guy and have a ride. Guy is out whenever it is pleasant and warm enough. He will be able to walk as far as Mrs Turners when we both get entirely over the mumps - so that there will be no danger of our getting cold.

Col Gilmore had some wheat sowed yesterday, the first farming he has done this spring. Rowland and Charlie worked in the flower garden the same day. We have had no very spring-like days yet, but very soon I presume the weather will be as pleasant as we could wish. I don't intend to work much then, but stay out of doors as much as I want to with Guy. My work cut out is all finished now. I do not feel much behind hand now, and it is a very comfortable feeling, not to have work hurrying you.

I am now writing in the evening. Guy is very busy playing, got Grandma to help him, but he is fast getting sleepy. He says or tries to say every thing he hears the rest say.

Mother and Rossa went to walk before dinner and I got him to sleep. He had to tell me every thing he knew before going to sleep after I took him up. I did so much more for him while Mother was away that he thinks it very nice, and continues to ask "Mum" to wait on him. He never has got impatient with his playthings till this

week, and this may be because he has not been as well as usual. I do not think he will have a bad disposition. Whenever I tell him "mama cannot let him have that", he is satisfied, or if he is doing something I rather he would not. I have as yet only had to say, "no, no, naughty to do so." Sometimes I have to repeat it and shake my head but that is enough. He is a good little boy, and I guess I am a good little wife

Lizzie Howard

Monday Morning, April. 27

My dearest Husband

I will add a few lines more to the letter I wrote yesterday. Guy and I are quite well this morning, and presume the mumps will trouble us no more. Rowland goes to Lewiston to-day and I shall send my check to deposit by him. I will not make a drawing of my rocking chair and workbox for fear you would laugh as I did at your drawing. I did not know what could induce Mrs Morris to leave for the north till I received your last letter.

Mother will mail a letter to Mrs Lee this morning. I should presume that Mrs Boggs would be at Baton Rouge by this time. I should like to hear from her, but I do not feel able to open a correspondance with anyone at present.

Charlie has gone with the horse to get Roland's wagon so I must close my letter and have it ready by the time they wish to go to the Depot.

All send love to you and believe me ever your own trusting and affectionate wife.

Lizzie A Howard

750 4/28/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0691

Leeds

Fort Myers, Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds April 28 1857 Tuesday Evening

My dearest Husband,

It is very seldom that the mail fails to bring me a letter every Tuesday. I received one this afternoon written on the fifteenth of the present month. You mentioned Warren's promotion. You probably learned it from my letters. I expect to find, in every letter I open from you after this, something relating to Gen Harney's orders to leave Florida and proceed to Kansas, but as yet you have said nothing about it. You know of his having received orders I presume by this time, and if he does leave the country you could get a leave you tell me. I don't know whether I wish you to or not. I want to see you and would like to have you here after the middle of June, but I should desire above all and everything else to return with you, wherever you would go - to Tampa even, and I don't know as you could remain north late enough in the season to have it prudent for us all to make a change of climate, and then the troubles there might be nearly ended and, we would have the journey for nothing. May be it would please us better to have you get a leave when you will be ordered elsewhere.

I think there are many ifs and ands on the subject and the more I try to tell what I would like best, the less I am decided. I can be contented here, and will continually make up my mind to be as long as you remain away situated as you now are. I thought I would just say a little in answer to your "Que pensez vous", but you my darling Otis, must do just as you most wish, and I shall think it is right. I did not write much last evening as I left to reckon up Mother's expenses and what she payed out for me while at Portland. It was half past nine before we were aware of it and, then we went to bed immediately. She purchased for me goods to the amount of \$8.16. I have left in my purse one five dollar bill, but that is more than I shall wish to spend for a long time, so do not think it too little to have on hand.

Rowland deposited the check you sent of \$100.00 in the letter written April 8. He explained to me yesterday when he returned that the previous check was given on the Treasury at Washington and that it cost them (the savings bank) 1/4 per cent to get it cashed - what they called exchange. I will get Rowland to explain to you if has time. I presume you thought of it before you sent the last one as this one was right - payable at the office in Boston.

Rowland and Charlie got up very early this morning and have gone to catch some smelts. Mr Warren Moyer was here yesterday and told them he would come down. He would go with them. The brook is three miles below his house. It is now eleven o'clock and they have not yet returned.

Charlie returns to Brunswick this week Friday, and Rowland goes to Hallowell the same time or the first of next week. I shall miss him very much and so will Guy. He thinks Uncle one of his best friends. Rowland said he saw a letter for Warren L. at the P.O. yesterday and thought it might have been from you. He is yet at home waiting orders. Francis Lothrop and family are at Saco. He has recently purchased him a house there and are at house-keeping. Mrs L's father has moved there. I do not know how recently.

We are all quite well here now, except Guy has a slight cold. I do not think that his eyes are naturally weak. It is only when he has a bad cold and at the same time looks out the window when the sun shines brightly. He is now having his nap. He was out in the dining- room with Mother and came in said he wanted Ma-ma to rock him - went up to my chair and patted it and called "Mum". I don't know as I ought to rock him or lift him as I do some times, but I cant help it if I don't feel quite well. He is such a treasure and "ma-ma" loves him so much.

I don't think I am quite as well as when we left Watervliet for Augusta, but I remember I was not as well before we started, as I was after we had made the journey, and I hope in one or two weeks I may feel strong. My face hurts me, and I ache more.

Col Gilmore has commenced his farming, to-day he is ploughing. Cynthia was here the other day looking rather sober for she was weaning Jonnie. Lucia called to see how I was yesterday. I had not seen her since I had the mumps. She and Betsey Bates was in the evening I was the worse, and I did not go out to see them. Every

time I see Mrs Berry I cannot help looking at her and thinking how much like an old maid she does look. I do believe I had rather have three children than none at all. I took up an old paper this afternoon and saw that Miss Hannah Child was married to Mr Henry Severance the seventeenth of last month. Mrs M. did not mention them when she wrote to me.

Yours with best love.

Lizzie.

[Written in another hand, probably Otis']

Recd Ft Myers Fla
dated Apr 28 & 29 1857
Mrs OO Howard

751 4/29/1857 *From:* W.L. Lothrop

To: Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0692

Leeds Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Me
April 29th /57

Dear Otis

I have just received your note of the 15th inst & was happy to hear from you. Thank you sincerely for your kind congratulations - hope I shall soon see you. I have been here since April 4th, daily expecting orders, but have received none yet. I am in readiness for a start at any moment, & should not much regret to leave, as I am anxious to enter my new field of service, become acquainted with my Co. Officers &c.

I have no news to communicate - of course you receive all through your family. Our friends are all well - saw your wife & child last week. You may well be proud of your boy; he speaks well for the abilities of his father.

If not too much trouble will you please inform me what kind of underclothing is worn in that country - cotton or woolen - can I get a Colts revolver there - what is the prospect of a summer campaign &c &c.

I leave in a few moments for Lewiston.

In haste &
Truly Yours
W.L. Lothrop

To: Lieut. O. O. Howard
Ordnance Corps
Tampa Bay
Florida

752 4/29/1857 *From:* Lizzie A. Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0693

Leeds. Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. April. 29, 1857.

My dearest Husband,

We did not get any mail this afternoon, and no letters were sent, and as I don't wish to work I will add more to the letter I had thought finished, but what shall I say to my dearest Otis. I don't think of any thing of importance. Sometimes when I commence to write and have no interesting news to tell I will say to myself, I guess I better not write two letters a week. I cant make them interesting, and don't wish to only say. "I am well, Guy is well, and hope you are well." in a letter to go so far.

I came to the conclusion though that I must write as often as I have for it gives me a great deal of pleasure to write to you, and I know you will permit me to write just a little foolishly if I want to do so. I fancy you are pretty good to let me have my own way when I am with you. I wonder if I shall be naughty when I am with you after this separation. I guess I shall have as much as I can do to keep all my children out of mischief, and my house in good order, and wont have any idle time to quarrel. Is'nt that the only time I quarrel and scold when I am not employed? It would be hard to tell when. I wonder what I would say if you were here to-night. I should be tired, sick all over, or some other ache or pain to complain of.

Mother and Rossa have been to see Mrs Turner, carried her some fish (suckers). They will have a nice breakfast, and we will also.

Rowland and Charlie got home about one o'clock with their fish (smelts and suckers). Warren Lothrop said when he was here he would not wish to be at a better place than Tampa - plenty of hunting and fishing there.

I want your next letter very much. You will answer my questions about your shirts and stockings. If you should come home you must have some ready for you. I shall be out of sewing before a great while, and want some work on hand. Guy is sleeping as sweetly as need be. I put him to bed while Mother was gone.

I must go to sleep to in order to be up in season for breakfast, a la Mrs Lee, going to have something I like.

Your affectionate Wife
Lizzie A. Howard

753 4/29/1857 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0694

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla
April 29th 1857

My dearest Wife,

The month of April/57 is on the wane - only one day after this. It is to day excessively warm & sultry. I shall expect a letter from you tonight and hope it will come in, in season for me to acknowledge its receipt.

General Harney came in the Fashion early Monday morning from Key West, accompanied by Colonel Loomis. He turned over the Command to the latter and left in the afternoon of the same day for New Orleans. Capt Albert of the Topographical Engineers, Major Leonard & wife of the pay department and Mrs Major Morris left with him; also Capt VanVliet, wife & child. The Fashion was anchored out in the bay. The small Government Steamer Ranger happening to be here, the Officers to depart & those to remain with the band went on board the latter. After putting the General on board the Fashion, the Ranger went round & round the Steamer, the band playing & Guns firing from both sides. We cheered right heartily. General Harney seemed much pleased with the compliments paid him, and we had a very pleasant impromptu excursion. Major Morris left the same afternoon for the Kissimmee and I stepped into his shoes. I found the house in good order, floors carpeted, bedroom nicely fixed up, plenty of eatibles & table furnishing, and a good servant woman. So I am now living quite alone in the western house of that row of four on your sketch, near the shore of the Bay. I shall take care of the Major's things till his return in about three weeks. It is all very nice and there is now room enough for you, provided that Guy would sleep in the Office & take charge there. This morning we heard that Captain Johnson of the Florida Mounted Volunteers had killed three Indians & taken five more in the vicinity of Istopoga Lake, which is some thirty miles to the North of Lake Okee-cho-bee. Capt Sparkman has discovered about a dozen still farther to the North, but we have'nt yet learned what has been his success.

We are expecting by tonight's mail something more definite with regard to operations here. Colonel Loomis is very old, in his dotage really, and totally unfit to have the direction of an active campaign. He is, however, a very good man & pleasant gentleman. I shall commence building a magazine as soon as I can get the lumber together. I shall have to wait till the Paymaster comes back before I transmit any more money. I may however take a different method, if he is'nt here by the close of May. Nous verrons. Mrs Morris has gone to her daughter in New York, the one she calls Estelle. She married a physician, Dr Cormagan, (I believe that's the name). She took down your address & very likely means to write you a letter, telling you secrets about your husband. You musn't give full credit to all she says till you have asked me. I don't mean she would wilfully misrepresent, but you know ladies are full of queer prejudices & eccentric notions. If, for instance, she should tell you I was a very nice young man, ever so good, &c, you must account for it all by my misfortune to resemble her dear son, Will, who is reputed to be a hard case, but by his mother considered a piece of perfection.

Look out how you bring up Guy. Boys & girls in the Army are generally spoiled. I expect their mothers love them too much. After I get my magazine under head way & after Major Morris gets back I expect to visit Fort Myers & Dulany, Key West, & Fort Dallas. During my absence you may not get letters quite so often. I shall not, however, be gone more than two weeks & can mail a letter at Key West, which will go direct by a Mail Steamer to New York.

Does time move slowly with you, darling. You know there is no use in crying. I expect now to see you in the Fall, how early or how late I cannot tell. I am in hopes to do so by means of an order. This is as pleasant a place as need be (if we cannot get away), for us to spend next winter. I could meet you at Key West and stay there till we got a chance to come up. It seems perhaps a hard journey for you, but it would'nt be much after you got to New York. Nous verrons, as I said before. I find it folly to begin too soon to make arrangements.

I don't think Warren will be suffered to remain long at home, unless it is by accident. If it was July instead of May, he would not be likely to be sent here until November. He had better not be in haste about leaving, for if he don't find a worse place in Florida than Leeds, I am mistaken. Mexico must have been a paradise compared

with the greater part of this country.

Wednesday afternoon. I wrote the foregoing this morning, it is now nearly five o'clock and the mail has'nt arrived yet. I guess you wont get an answer to the letter I am to receive tonight till Saturday, for it takes our lazy post master about two hours to open the mail and by that time I must have this in.

The servant woman calls herself Eliza. She insists on my telling what I want for breakfast, dinner & supper and that you know is a hard case. I had some very good soup & beef steak for dinner. We have plenty of vegetables from the post gardens, potatoes, beans, squash &c. It is so hot & sultry I do hope it will rain. My garden needs the rain very much. I shall have lots of mellons by & by. Don't you wish you could have some? I believe you don't like the musk, as much as I do. I used to be the principal eater of them, I think, at Watervliet. Neither C. C. Lee or Jackson have answered my letters yet. I don't like to write quite so well when it is so warm, do you?

Kiss Guy for papa. Perhaps I shall find a way to send him his shell. I wonder if he will have any idea who sent it. What can he be doing now? Give my love to all. Tell Charlie he must write.

your affectionate husband.

O. O. Howard

754 4/30/1857 *From:* [RB Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0695

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Apr. 30th 1857

My dear Brother

This is one of those old fashioned April mornings that you well remember. The surface of the ground being stiffened a little with the frost - the wind blowing fresh & bracing from the North West & the Sun at last compelling the frost & wind to give way to the power of his rays.

Lizzie & Guy were sound asleep when we took our Breakfast at 6 ½ o'clock. But I was down just now & found them enjoying their Breakfast together nicely.

Charles & I got up at half past three yesterday morning and went a fishing way down to Sabatis Pond on our old road to Brunswick. We got five or six quarts of smelts and as many Suckers as we chose. This is the "first run" of the latter and they are very nice. We caught them with our hands under the rocks & logs. It was fun - Mother cooked them nicely & we all remarked how much you would have enjoyed our breakfast with us this morning.

Lizzie wrote you about my going to Lewiston. I had a pay out on that first deposit - including my draft & Lizzies - \$3.56. They were drawn on Washington, & when they were sent to Boston, the Assistant Treasurer there would not accept them. So the Lewiston Bank had to pay "Exchange on Washington" amounting to a little less than one per cent. A draft like your last on Boston is cash, as would one be also on N.Y. in which cities this Bank does business. On \$474.00, I paid \$3.56.

I found John & his family nicely. John says he wants I should tell you that if you could find time among the other calls on your pen to write him - he would be glad to hear from you. I think John knows what it is to be a Christian. He has been kept back from religious duties & from joining the church by a fancied or real opposition on the part of his wife. I had religious conversation with both. I tried to be in the fear of God, faithful to John. I told him to set about it with a bold & resolute heart & all would be well.

O, my Brother, if we do our duty, no unhappiness can result. All we have to do is to set about that with "full purpose of heart", "looking unto Jesus" and God will take care of us, wife, children - all will be happier & in Gods time holier. "He that loveth Father or Mother more than me is not worthy of me". O let us have faith, let us believe, let us relie fully & fairly on the promises, let us take God at his word. O let us "come to Jesus".

I have been reading the life of Capt Vicars of the English Army, who was killed in the trenches before Savastopol. He was a Christian Soldier. The book was given me by a pious friend (Frank Gilman) and you can't conceive in my then state of mind what a help it was to me. I have ordered a copy which I propose sending to you. Read it attentively & prayerfully, my dear Brother, with your bible by your side & a part of the time before your eyes. Examine yourself by it, & I believe God will bless its instruction to your heart as He did to mine.

There are some circumstances in which you can more fully even sympathize than I. You have something of a Soldiers temptations & there will be revealed also his power to do good. When it seems strange to you, Otis, how Vicars could do so much, think "Christ was his Helper". That will explain it, and it is to Him that we must flee. The book has been one of deep interest to me. It has cost me tears but often they were tears of joy. I have marked my copy a good deal. You know I have another close friend who is trying to run the Christian race & it is for her eye & her help & for her sympathy that I have marked it. I read it with a pencil in my hand & stopped often to think & examine myself to read my Bible & to pray.

Perhaps my course would be a good one for you. I couldn't help smiling at your fear that I would "prep" Father. (Excuse the blot) Don't you know me better than that. Things look better now. He has got off those Strickland notes \$6000 & some others. He has got \$600 interest & is paying up his "honest debts". If he can get his dues & the Rail Road is "good". His income must be \$1500 a year and with that he could soon pay his debts, live

comfortably & help us all that we need or Mother desires. His death however would put mother in the most unhappy state. I do wish he would write his will - but I hardly don't mention it to him. Warren has no "orders" yet.

Charles goes to Brunswick tomorrow. He will spend Friday night at Bath, same as I used to Portland you know. I am going to send a very pretty locket to Ella by him. I have decided to go to Hallowell and remain till about Commencement time with Stinchfield. I shall board with Laura Ann, at her request. He (S-) seemed quite desirous to have me come and I can get along cheap there & be near Bath. I propose to return to Albany, when Law School commences the first of Sep & remain two terms [See Note 1] and graduate next Spring & then Westward Ho! If I can find a place where an Covert Christian Lawyer can succeed, I shall settle & come for Ella just as soon as I feel sure of a permanent income.

What you say about "Brothers" was after my own heart. I often think that they are too much like other men to each other. The Pattens are beautiful specimens of real brotherly love & confidence - George & John, Lincoln & David. Their property was never divided. They trust each other perfectly. They are Partners in heart as well as in business & with each other they stand or fall. Isn't it beautiful? Old men as they are, they are real boys with each other.

We shall be in hopes that your duties will render it proper for you to see us all about the middle of June. If Harney goes west then, I should think there would be some great change of the troops in Fla by that time. If the force is much reduced you will not be needed & will be sent elsewhere & then a "furlough" would be very "proper" as well as delightful to us all. I wish those old Sioux Indians would keep quiet, so the Sec. of War could plead no "necessities of the Service". You probably know by this time whether Harneys removal indicates any change of policy or any new dispositions of the troops in the Florida service. We shall expect your opinions soon.

I should very much like to see your "Ordnance Depot" & Garden. We have only begun to work ours now. The frogs singing at night & the birds in the morning are almost our only indications of Summer. The fields still keep their barren November look. But Father has done a portion of his sowing in spite of the frosty nights and an occasional snow squall.

Mrs Turner seems more comfortable & rides out a little. The rest of the neighbors are well. Uncle Ensign & Aunt Martha & Laura ditto. Aunt Martha says she must write you "whether Lewiston has changed her any". O you cant think how happy it seems to make them all - that I have some hope in my Redeemer. I can't get strength to speak with Lizzie yet. It is so hard to get near to her.

Guy has been out to see the horse & colt &c at the farm with his Grandmother this morning. Charles has ridden over to Mr Brewsters. If it isn't too cold I will take Lizzie to ride when he returns. I feel quite easy about leaving her now Mrs Clarke is coming. I spent Sabbath before last in Hallowell. All our friends except Henry Wingate are well. I will write more particularly when I get there. You may direct your next letter to H. Our Father be with you, my dear brother & show you the "love with which Christ has love us".

Mother is well & sends love - ditto Mrs Waite & all the rest.

Your Brother
Rowland

[Note 1: From this point to the end of the letter was one page (2 sides) that had been sewn to the last page of OOH_0661, dated 3/25/1857, but moved here.]