and all the mary lotter an thing & she anal like at the presentation gave the one had the 5 appreciations I god at new own for someony fam same. the set all for some to Manual hopen . Cang vais the destinging is some himself . There Se. nor los the Confer the Terrenter god their going to have anything to say to going this acce lete me source some to Charles - Source playing in fac

May 9th 1856. Claime a section and some maps broke forth get Dear Brother, Thas that more bleed the result of your rides on Charlie, or your harmon searcon upset & break down at Hallowell? I hope those polish traditionary superstitions don't operate on you because you are in love as love sickness produces bleding at The mose, faintrep at the heart. Se. Monday I was riding Malack in the Street where Henry Wingate - passed me with as lind a looking team as an old hurse, ald harrup, old gig I (with his wife's consent) an old Ever could make. I trothed my horse along by his And I talked myself mho Itallowell and so accompanied tim home. I did sof learn any thing new excepting that linche Stationen had sead and that her Peace thefer thying to get of Unel Those Safer Demands" that there polds in his hunds, Stinehfield sugs that Searce cannot from partnership because Unche has given no joint. note I is inadaed any as Endorser. I



an going to side down to Gelloacel This seconing. and see unde. M' Delton has left this Property above here valant, and I want to practure lows on a portion. Inceday I went with Ges. Williams a trouting out time miles broke both though shafts of the old wagon , caught there bout y got home in safety the sume night completely tired out. Mesterday I mounted Malach & Sharted off in scarch of your picture. Left leagueta at half flast ten and got back at one after a pleasant rich of from 11 to 16 miles. Mor Hender's description served as my quide, asked Geo. Williams to find out the secone & place of a shout, thick set spectateled. Genins of reddy completion. He asked a big bull hunded Jellow in about ten minutes after may request. May says the fellow , about you know Jake Willer of Manchester? Off I will in souch of Jake Willer. No was soon france. Pheed straight an the first branch of that now wood that encircles the hill that we stick ist try going to Luck but this returning. go about a mile your find the Willer in question, Mr says he dident fick up the Micture, but his nighter Goram Hurgeh and. Sand Garcom lived a mile or how further off- I found

This house. Govern was goon another mon there. Govering miles was at home. The picture was identified. and recovered, lover or lase smashed. Morean woold " fake Morry. looked as though she would like to be personaded. gave her one dollar to give her hasband. Man said is she your wife! yes. Wal, you have got a plagny good broking waran ye, which of evena heightern Lizzis color an repetition. I got a new case for seventy five cents. We as I shall you down to Brownick hopen lung and I will bring the ficture & the book of Fosters. May be I will send it. all well, Juy has got over the vaccination without blinking. I have gat over being broke. Had to hear from home through you. I work how yesterday about Dalton Se. Five low to Caster. Cha Therew has got hame, is at Luds, I hear. Hemember me to all prinds. Has Stantin been recound ! Lizgie says first the aint going to have anything to say to you . Then addes I would like to get acquainted with Ella. Says its Mo way to be talking about me to her. for the word lite me " sends love to Charlie .. Juy is playing in the erade - Lizzi is combing hair I talking to tim. your aff. Bro Otis

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me May 9th, 1856

Dear Brother,

Was that nose bleed the result of your rides on 'Charlie', or your harem-scarem upset & break-down at Hallowell? I hope those foolish traditionary superstitions don't operate on you because you are in love, "as love-sickness produces bleeding at the nose," faintness at the heart &c.

Monday I was riding Malach in the street where Henry Wingate passed me with as bad a looking team as an old horse, old harness, old gig & (with his wife's consent) an old coat could make. I trotted my horse along by his side & talked myself into Hallowell and so accompanied him home. I did'nt learn anything new excepting that Uncle Stillman had <sued> and that Mr. Pease keeps trying to get of Uncle those "Paper Demands" that uncle holds in his hands. Stinchfield says that Pease cannot prove partnership because Uncle has given no joint-note & is involved only as Endorser. I am going to ride down to Hallowell this morning, and see Uncle. Mr. Dalton has left this Property above here vacant, and I want to pasture cows on a portion.

Tuesday I went with Geo Williams a trouting out nine miles, broke both shafts of the old wagon, caught three trout & got home in safety the same night, completely tired out. Yesterday I mounted Malach & started off in search of your picture. Left Augusta at half past ten and got back at one after a pleasant ride of from 14 to 16 miles. Mr. Hendric's description served as my guide, asked George Williams to find out the name & place of a short, thick set spectacle genius of ruddy complexion. He asked a big bull-headed fellow in about 10 min. after my request. 'Why', says the fellow, 'don't you know Jake Miller of Manchester?' Off I rode in search of Jake Miller. He was soon found. Proceed straight on the first branch of that new road that encircles the hill, that we didn't try going to Leeds but did returning, go about a mile, you find the Miller in question. He says he did'nt pick up the picture, but his neighbor Goram Burgess did. Said Goram lived a mile or two further off. I found his house. Goram was gone, another man there. Goram's wife was at home. The picture was identified, and recovered, cover or case smashed. Moreover would not take money, looked as though she would like to be persuaded, gave her one dollar to give her husband. Then said is she your wife? Yes. "Wal, you have got a 'plagny good-looking woman &c.," which of course heightened Lizzie's color on repetition. I got a new case for seventy-five cents.

We or I shall go down to Brunswick before long and I will bring the picture & the book of Foster's. May be I will send it. All well. Guy has got over the vaccination without blinking. I have got over being cross. Glad to hear from home through you. I wrote home yesterday about Dalton &c. give love to Charlie. Chas Turner has got home, is at Leeds, I hear. Remember me to all friends. Has Stanton been recovered? Lizzie says first she isn't going to have anything to say to you. Then adds, I would like to get acquainted with Ella, says "it's no way to be talking about me to her, for she wont like me." Sends love to Charlie. Guy is playing in the cradle. Lizzie is combing hair & talking to him.

Your aff. Bro. Otis

Makinep. Tell Charbie not to work too hard over What aution. Twe our love to him in abundance arns your glad I got your prietine? Stewellyn Draw Staid with as friday night He said it was a year to a day since he milted us at Water lies. my has gone to slack after his naked was dance. Jizza will explain. Mile soon & the mos - Haw carn of the trag training ? It'd you hald your elbour down & terre in your toes ! .. I think the will been to late a trefe down his Butte ... Ann 1-ffretin at Brother the state of the series and and the series of the series o that in a south the the and a state the second reveter the traffer. The faire of high face and and the strand is got she the termine and and and the sounder time . My serve god ripgar refer and doute me an other same stay a got on an old far house there I dente y denter haven from the provel for an heardle finition enough the talks and the booking of the tragen . I he good some his good tim. Ily say the will go to homeonet much This work the day get his formals to marke any for hereil and and in for goy - I's landing detered and part of Non literAllersteller, the the call be in

By some inadventiner l curried your letter in my prochet instead of mailing of - for one day after it inight have gone . Itersiday Jone noon I what to Hallowell and had a talk with Uncle. He suit Falter might & ought to secure by Mostgege the money he had received from mother. He said That since all the property an this side of the Hermitic is open to attachment, it would be better for this & for you to so secure it the suice that the mostgage would certainly hold if he had it running to som & I fait it in Mathen honds. He throught I had better go to Luch at once and get father to do so at least to so secure the \$ 2500 on (his one) notes. Talle afternoon I went to Jude and work Liggie along, leaving my at home. His found all well there, Synthia & baby were quite well. Holand had famber his finger very budly, Father sumed unvilling to accud to my perspessal, fearing



Rail Road as som as the cectitors saw a mortgage of this property on Record. Uncle says mother is as much a criditar as any body else since 1844 & that any sound tear a perfect right to give the proference to are creditor over another. but he does not ful certain that a direct lonveyoner to his wife would stand fire in law. I think father would & will mortgage the property on this and of the Treancher to secure under notes in part as soon as I send him a description of this deads of the other two tots : for he has only that of the Dollar farm. He is in hopes lende will sell the latter som me deately. But immediate operations are not among uncles Virtues as his Janto? There is a heavy note coming due with Juthis enclosement next north, before that time father says soil a cost of his real as personal property shall be in change. I begin to think the \$ 5000 are in no way secare to mother or her heirs. Mothin in core of falting death would beau her Third's. on his real setate and care have a good support. We boys must look out for anrealous & for her. Uneles John & Ensign are fathers boudesmen for himself as Georchion for Churles. Things book a little dubious done

they! Macunied out quite a number of plants to inother with which the was much pleased. The " Jurice and his wife accompanied as to laqueste friday afternoon. Charles has got a great quantity of flesh alrard and has the appearance of a man that can consume considerable liquor & duce undoubtedly. It's sife is appearently a fine lette source with good sense & good lansersational powers . It rain? , pourany, hepore we got to Augusta and I have the goud fortim to break down in the midet The wheel on the attar side and immediately the shaft snapped. Old Ben was excited. Lizzie was under the buffalo. The finally hopefeed out into the mose & got who the turning wagan and well and to the newsyet house. We soon got rigged MI and with an in the rain. Lizza got an an ald Jastrioned toward & eloak & formally hice horself in an humble position under the tobe on The bottom of the wagon. The got learn in good tim. The says she will go to Beanswick week. This week the hes got not bounds to make one for herelf and one for Guy - I a binding round own part of her new Blackslick, then the will be in

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me May 11th, 1856

Dear Brother,

By some inadvertence I carried your letter in my pocket (instead of mailing it) - for one day after it might have gone. Thursday forenoon I went to Hallowell and had a talk with Uncle. He said father might & ought to secure by mortgage the money he had received from mother. He said that since all the property on this side of the Kennebec is open to attachment, it would be better for him & for you to so secure it. He said that the mortgage would certainly hold if he had it running to me & I put it in mother's hands. He thought I had better go to Leeds at once and get father to do so, at least to so secure the \$2500 on his own (Uncle's) notes.

In the afternoon I went to Leeds and took Lizzie along, leaving guy at home. We found all well there, Cynthia & baby were quite well. Roland had jammed his finger very badly.

Father seemed unwilling to accede to my proposal, fearing that it would cause an immediate breakup in the Rail Road as soon as the Creditors saw a mortgage of his property on Record. Uncle says mother is as much a creditor as any body else since 1844 & that any man has a perfect right to give the preference to one creditor over another, but he does not feel certain that a direct conveyance to his wife would stand fire in law. I think father would & will mortgage the property on this side of the Kennebec to secure Uncle's notes in part as soon as I send him a description of the deeds of the other two lots, for he has only that of the Dalton farm. He is in hopes Uncle will sell the latter immediately. But immediate operations are not among uncle's virtues or his faults.

There is a heavy note coming due with father's endorsement next month, before that time father says not a cent of his real or personal property shall be in danger. I begin to think the \$5000 are in no way secure to mother or her heirs. Mother in case of father's death would have her thirds on his real estate and can have a good support. We boys must look out for ourselves & for her. Uncles John & Ensign are father's bondsmen for himself as Guardian for Charles. Things look a little dubious, don't they?

We carried out quite a number of plants to mother with which she was much pleased. Chas Turner and his wife accompanied us to Augusta Friday afternoon. Charles has got a great quantity of flesh aboard and has the appearance of a man that can consume considerable liquor, & does undoubtedly. His wife is apparently a fine little woman, with good sense & good conversational powers.

It rained, pouring, before we got to Augusta and I had the good fortune to break down in the midst thereof. A bolt (that attaches one of the shafts to the axle tree) worked out and let the step get between the wheel on the other side and immediately the shaft snapped. Old Ben was excited. Lizzie was under the Buffalo. She finally hopped out into the mud & got into Chas Turner's wagon and rode on to the nearest house. We soon got rigged up and rode on in the rain.

Lizzie got on an old fashioned hood & cloak & proudly hid herself in a humble position under the robe on the bottom of the wagon. She got home in good time. She says she will go to Brunswick next week. This week she has got two bonnets to make, one for herself and one for Guy, & a binding round some part of her new black silk, then she will be in readiness. Tell Charlie not to work too hard over that Oration. Give our love to him in abundance. Aren't you glad I got your picture? Llewelyn Dean staid with us Friday night. He said it was a year to a day since he visited us at Watervliet.

Guy has gone to sleep after his naked war dance. Lizzie will explain. Write soon & the news. How came off the May training? Did you hold your elbows down & turn in your toes?

I think we will have to take a trip down to Bath.

Your affectionate Brother

Otis

Tiennelice Arunal de May 312 1856

Sear Brothure,

Father and mother came here tureday night with Dellie, were going back the next day but fortunally it wind, and Although father had to go an account of a Directors Inching for the next day, mother stand lite themeday afterioren and & Sent her top with these Marth I Thicked wher have not yot actioned - Father sold me this two farms an this with of the Rive for a noti of Sixtun hundred stalls which he immuchicity indersed over to mother & took Whe that note by giving Monthin our unning to her for the same comments the healf hore in Corbin & hum already sold for glos, tach & gover a Gred The other is still on my hunds . Father . has montgaged all his wal notate. The home firm I that heyond the Whippoorvill to you to seem youry & Others notes, all hand I'the wet to Roland g to seeane & note given by father to thether quartien I believe Jothin whis; Churlie You com in that way I bilier

On the day preceding the one I went to Judes to get farther to Montgage his property 1.9. Sichen had math an attactment of 1000 dollars - Father is ering had endorsed a note to take the place of another them du - And as I uniterstand the Sincola look the second note as collateral security without any authority I atta such that not . Father undunter by would correct this statement, but it is substantially correct. At any rate Sincola has succe a now of tons with patters endorsements on it -Unch Insign's financing - such as filling blank dates I giving them wrong for father to book These trong has this to passe. but it has bed father To choop anchor which he was barnet not to de Will he saw the weles. Night before last & received Ing Orders. To go to Wateroliet when relieved by Capt Gorgan - Capt G. by came lerder waits to be relieved by another Officer. As are all well hope you are will & doing well - Shall not leave the State hefor July if then . Remember us to Martinels family worth Votter formeds. affectionately Games O.V.Honan > Howland & Charles

143 5/31/1856 From: O. O. Howard

To: Rowland & Charles Howard

RBH-108

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal &c. May 31st, 1856

Dear Brothers,

Father and Mother came here Tuesday night with Dellie, were going back the next day but fortunately it rained, and although father had to go on account of a Director's meeting for the next day, mother stayed till Thursday afternoon and I sent her up with Mrs. Waite & Michael who have not yet returned. Father sold me those two farms on this side of the River for a note of sixteen hundred dolls, which he immediately endorsed over to Mother. I took up that note by giving mother one running to her for the same amount. The half-acre in Chelsea I have already sold for \$100 cash & given a Deed. The other is still on my hands. Father has mortgaged all his real estate. The home farm & that beyond the Whippoorwill to you Rowland to secure your & other notes, all named & the rest to Roland G to secure a note given by father to father-Guardian I believe & other notes. Charlie you come in that way I believe.

On the day preceding the one I went to Leeds to get father to mortgage his property, R. G. Lincoln had made an attachment of 1000 dollars. Father it seems had endorsed a note to take the place of another then due.. And as I understand Mr. Lincoln took the second note as collateral security without any authority & sued that note. Father undoubtedly would correct this statement, but it is substantially correct. At any rate Lincoln has sued a note of 1000 with father's endorsement on it. Uncle Ensign's financiering such as filling blank dates & giving them wrong for father to book has brought this to pass, but it has led father to drop anchor which he was barred not to do till he saw the rocks.

Night before last I received my orders, to go to Watervliet when relieved by Capt. Gorgas. Capt. G by same order waits to be relieved by another Officer.

We are all well. Hope you are well & doing well. Shall not leave the state before July, if then. Remember us to Mr. Sands family, Everett & other friends.

Affectionately yours O. O. Howard

To: Rowland & Charles

then he would an the 19th ration . I flower have Trennebæ Arunal Augusta Me. July 12 18 56 - - - -Dear Buillion, I received your letter but week and ought to have answered it immediated but & part it off a letter to so if & could not hear from Gorgas, and last Saturday I ment some to Montrille with and Fanny had a pleasant wint & returned Gesterday, Tell Charlie I can appreciate what he said about mele frathin's quarters. I had a grand good time got wet through in a shower looday enering while taking our evusions to rice. I went to Liberty South Thoutville and The Tringdom - Charles will explain - Lizque has slight tutidations about the matter, but is very angeous to su Ella and I want to su more of her so that all formally may be got vid of and we may know each other. Vizzi jains me in sending her a heavy mortahan to visit us with you - non not not fear Azzeis devenient for the is fast getting over such things, getting every day more independent. I have heard from Jorgas. The thinks he will be here by the 10 of they

but his succeptor hard not arrived as Metberna when he work on the 19th uthme. A. Jehman hus come up him from Thomaston to buy Malack and I think I shall sell him. I would us if Malach was bough fint he is not and is getting on prelly well in years. If he goes I shall get good for him. give my how to thankin. All allo house would and low she in abundance but they are at the move I'd at the office. Has they memoreged his spuch yet. There is a lim, when you can come up I bring alla from Bath. The cover not heretate to come if the could know what a good time she would how, which alkaning place it is, and what a where we down the will get - May first ugande to her to day your Examination ? Muchandly yours ad Monany comment for the is part getting own dich though getting le,

144 7/1/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-109

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me. July 1st 1856.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter last week, and ought to have answered it immediately, but I put it off a little to see if I could not hear from Gorgas. And last Saturday I went down to Montville with Aunt Fanny, and had a pleasant visit & returned yesterday.

Tell Charlie I can appreciate what he said about Uncle Jonathan's quarters. I had a grand good time, got wet through in a shower Sunday evening, while taking our cousins to ride. I went to Liberty, South Montville and the Kingdom. Charles will explain. Lizzie has slight trepidations about the matter, but is very anxious to see Ella and I want to see more of her, so that all formality may be got rid of and we may know each other. Lizzie joins me in sending her a hearty invitation to visit us with you. You need not fear Lizzie's aversionial for she is fast getting over such things, getting everyday more independent.

I have heard from Gorgas. He thinks he will be here by the 10th of July but his successor had not arrived at Mt. Vernon when he wrote on the 19th ultimo. Lt. Gilman has come up here from Thomaston to buy Malach and I think I shall sell him. I would'nt if Malach was tough but he is not and is getting on pretty well in years. If he goes I shall get \$200 for him.

Give my love to Charlie. All at the house would send love &c in abundance, but they are at the house & I at the office. Has Chas memorized his speech yet. Drop us a line, telling when you can come up & bring Ella from Bath. She could not hesitate to come if she could know what a good time she would have, what a charming place it is, and what a warm welcome she will get. My best regards to her. To day your Examination?

Affectionately yours O. O. Howard

Tiennelice Arenal Augusta, Man, Ing 17th 1856 ..

DEnr Brother.

I received your letter in good time I haster to upg - I am sorry to hear of the Small pop at shads and as mar' trame - I was going to and higgin, going I mother Warte out them as soon as I could After Googer' correct. The two not made his up/waran yet. I am lowking por this an every train in every bout is it says for mybony whose succonchan has never taken to go to Sids - Haw'nt they ran back & forth. with The refection in their elother - endangering The whole community I have cous educable any set an accumit of and falks at hame - Three army lifficions Came here batanday from Montreal - had Three horas (french) I bought am. a smart ane - who will take you over the hills in may as part as your will want to go - We are all well, will with as soon as anything new hiras wh Som is Charlie - Mr loffeetmate borther

Been Broken I heater to aspit - I am doors to have of the Sought hop it sheds and as man' him - I are going it down sugger going I shouth theat and them as some as I seen a loat be it she for any have what and and that never pathes to go to Thids . Hear's this same back I for the halt the projection in this station I andarg I fought one & opeast and the well late me sou the hill

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal, Augusta, Me., July 17th, 1856.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter in good time & hasten to reply. I'm sorry to hear of the Small pox at Leeds and so near home. I was going to send Lizzie, Guy & mother Waite out there, as soon as I could after Gorgas's arrival. He has not made his appearance yet. I am looking for him on every train in every boat.

Is it safe for anybody whose vaccination has never taken to go to Leeds. Haven't they run back and forth with the infection in their clothes, endangering the whole community. I have considerable anxiety, on account of our folks at home.

Three army officers came here Saturday from Montréal, had three horses (French). I bought one, a smart one, who will take you over the hills in May as fast as you will want to go.

We are all well, will write as soon as anything new turns up. Love to Charlie.

Yr affectionate brother Otis

Tiennelue Arsenal Augusta, Man, July 23- 185%.

Sear Brother We have had such compression have for the past fin days that I have at her able to think straight. My arrangements now are a little cleaver. The Capt, this wife & two Prabies with a Nurse arrive lost thursday winning I have now got everything timmed over ni good shafe and got my releipts. Mi will finish packing today and Mother Wash & myself go to Lads I think This evening. Lizzi and guy will stop with how Mulliken yor a few days I The well go to Lucks if everything them is straight. The has been gut sek from vaccination, I shall start from Argusta, some time night week I think with my fright - horse ye -) Mr Whent writes that he is Mady to play lish for the farm. Som to Charten & don't here from Leds. Mr more heard that his lister. Very Truly yours was better-10 Howan

Hennelsee Anounal Augusta; Then July 232 185% Star Broken It's therew heard south confinence for the past fin day that I have at him all In think attraction . My coverageound and an little dearer, the Joseph this sight & find making and a Soma amine loved thursetting training I heren now god loverything transac came in good shafe and got my surged. Mitwell famile parting today and mother that I myself go to share I think This form thegenetic on tome must weeks I think unthe they foreight - house ye -) Mh What anis that he is that them poor date. Mor more heard that his dester . and futter

RBH-108b

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal, Augusta, Me, July 23d, 1856.

Dear Brother,

We never had such confusion here for the past few days that I haven't been able to think straight. My arrangements now are a little clearer. The Capt., his wife & two Babies with a nurse arrived last Thursday evening. I have now got everything turned over in good shape and got my receipts.

We will finish packing today and Mother Waite and myself go to Leeds, I think, this evening. Lizzie and Guy will stop with Mrs. Mulliken for a few days & then will go to Leeds if everything there is straight. She has been quite sick from vaccination. I shall start from Augusta sometime next week I think with my freight (horse etc.).

Mr. Gilbert writes that he is ready to pay cash for the farm.

Love to Charlie. I don't hear from Leeds. Mr. Turner heard that his sister was better.

Very truly yours OO Howard

The distribution of his officials the The Major, goes to the General. The general suges and by 4 by apologies. So it goes on. I have got on admirally with May the finishing for I never deal with him except officially & then in working The have a few other officers who reduce there. They bege is the aft. belgatant general. He is a man that attends to his duties and through out of health with a couringhing lough he has mushed a all these reductions & I have not sure him crops once, Some of this fellows would they the patience of gob, Anould amore you to stand by & su them Mustered. Eachow vides what is called a marsh-prony - 14e sides up tis ordered to dismount. Is that your horse Sir. Yes Sir. Where the you come from Some where about any ustine. Did you rede that hower all the way down here? Hes all the wayyou will the look at the horse. you can see every bone in his body - His spin is particularly prominent. But is soon as the rignation questions are asked and answered. The pellow will Josep and and off go the sand fed set of boms at a right energetic gallop. Maj Jage toto me those poor way would stand a harder & longer transf than on your hundsome & slick northurn horses. I couldn't doubt him after my nice Through from Palatter to Tampa by stage. Iget that Onder of Liggins coshed have. I will sond her Some soon as boon as Your her from trashington. I should answer my's letter immediately bet I don't think he Could understand my litter quite as well as I doit his. I till you what it is Howland D. felt proud of this Infantine labors. Think Tonis Mapoleon's boy could with on dietate such a letter ? I should be delighted to get a little form Ella and Inill ausure our by writing first the my I have seen or Indian or flog sime Than been him excepting the Stars and Stripes. I shall write

the sup hand of the matter of the matter of the second of for a set hundres inheritant , without get & get I harposed writing you before but the time I set afcart has heretigen been interripted Bby business and muil day has come and gone without my intention being pulpilled. This time however I take time by the persock , commencing the day before hand. I am now well settled here in Tampa. I have gitted I and seven companies of Havide mounted velocations with arms, amunition & accontrements, Each company being sight five string. made out duplicate invoices & Triplicate receipts to each, sappled nearly all the regulars Which have been filled up to light six made my Is reports & Sent requisitions to Washington tet. De. all in one week. Now General Harriey bear gone, The post has become I in a measure quiet and I have a breathing spell . I was much pleased to get your letter by the tast mail by tryether with Lizzier & Longes. you all told me just So what I nicked to know? That you were all well I and getting an finely. I am indud glad that your Alecture passed off so satisfactorily to all parties. I I had confidence that such would be the case. I don't think much of Florida, and my opinion is within in the retrograde. The entire State is nor worth " S'are half the expense the Jovernment has here tis tent to on his accounty. It is a dead level covered with sand

and fim trees. If you would extend the fine harrens of Hoursailet over the entire state and intersperse them with make worder with emperatively decent soil some ten miles asunder, you would have Horida. Jumps is a place of five or six hundred inhabitants. with your shruts East & week and about the same number north & couth at right angles -The sand is deep as it is on our Day from and of a finer quality. It never hardens in the strutes except on the surface after a sein. Ites lake waching in a light more just fallen to walk from the Montetary reserve to the hotel where I later my mices. On the public Grounds the feaths are made of shells and covered on the surface with faw-dust. When I arrived from Fart Myers with General Harney, there was one Company of the 4th arbilling here commanded by Bak. Maj J. B. Scott. The latter had been and to Florida from Fort Independence Buston. His Sientonants are Hagane, Muck & Dana. En. Harney ardund the major his company to the sine alligive about 22 miles distant. I was promised quarters as even as he left. After two or three days deley he started off on sunday morning with his command Second Starts. Hagand & mark behind and a guard of ment. men Magard is the adjutant of the commanding officer may Morris and mack is on special duly at the Intristener Isport at this place. A soon as this scott had vacated this Quarters Sent. Houck & myself took possipion. My sleeping soon is a small unfinished woon, you can su through the Cracks between the bounds that even it I the rafters are visible above. Mut fortunately the weather has been cald enough to

that to out here discovered. Min a

freeze up all the little animals that hide themselves in such places. Mr Mack is a pleasant, gentlemany fellow and g think we shall agree admirably. There is too a fellone fuling between us for he also leaves a wife behind. you know a bachelor would in he likely to have any sympathy in such cases. General Harney has gone on a tour writing all the different posts & Stations under his command. I am glad he is your. He middles with everything, upsets everything, but without the ability to rearganize, or exptendinge, I never Saw just such another man. Impatient as he can be : he curses and Awears all the time, now a poor mule driver has to Take it, now a seargent, a soldier, or the wind, the news. but more especially his own back. He has a pour memory is as thougeable is the wind, gives an order to countermand it and plays the fool generally. Though he is wilfule imprahent and heir strong. fortunately for him and his Compaign. he seldow has his own way. Them are a good many thread heads out here to hole hom in Sheek. The is almost as large as General Scott & I wanted say you couldn't find a better man to lead a regiment in . an open field fight But there who think him a man glatant of high mental endowments, are mistaken. for he is groß & Whiterate &, I would judge, a man who had give pull ewing to his passions. HE have another specimen of an officer here In the hurtermaster, who is much disliked. He is a man about porty lerge & well made. He sams to delight a anothers discomforture, is erasty disobliging headstrong & impatients. He and the general are always fighting. Jeneral A.

interfores With they Ministry's plans, with his leaves with

Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla. January 20, 1857.

Dear Brother,

I purposed writing you before but the time I set apart has heretofore been interrupted by business and mail day has come and gone without my intention being fulfilled. This time however I take time by the forelock, commencing the day before hand.

I am now well settled here in Tampa. I have fitted out seven companies of Florida mounted volunteers with arms, ammunition & accoutrements. Each company being eighty-five strong, made out duplicate invoices & triplicate receipts to each, supplied nearly all the regulars which have been filled up to eighty-six, made my reports & sent requisitions to Washington &c. &c., all in one week. Now General Harney has gone, the post has become in a measure quiet and I have a breathing spell.

I was much pleased to get your letter by the last mail together with Lizzie's and Guys. You all told me just what I wished to know: that you are all well and getting on finely. I am indeed glad that your lecture passed off so satisfactorily to all parties. I had confidence that such would be the case.

I don't think much of Florida, and my opinion is rather in the retrograde. The entire State is not worth one half the expense the Government has been & is put to on her account. It is a dead level covered with sand and pine trees. If you would extend the Pine barrens of Brunswick over the entire state and intersperse them with an occasional thickly wooded hillock with comparatively decent soil some 10 miles asunder, you would have Florida. Tampa is a place of five or six hundred inhabitants, with four Streets East & West and about the same number North & South at right angles. The sand is deep as it is on our Day farm and of a finer quality it never hardens in the Streets except on the surface after a rain. It is like wading in a light snow just fallen to walk from the Military reserve to the hotel where I take my meals. On the public grounds the paths are made of shells and covered on the surface with saw-dust. When I arrived from Fort Myers with General Harney, there was one Company of the 4th Artillery here commanded by Bvt. Maj. J.B. Scott. The latter had been sent to Florida from Fort Independence Boston. His Lieutenants are Hazard, Mack & Dana. Gen. Harney ordered the Maj. & his company to the river Allifire about 22 miles distant.

I was promised quarters as soon as he left. After two or three days delay he started off on Sunday morning with his command leaving Lieuts Hazard & Mack behind and a guard of 20 men. Hazard is the adjutant of the commanding officer Maj. Morris and Mack is on special duty at the Subsistence Depot at this place. As soon as Maj. Scott had vacated these quarters Lieut. Mack & myself took possession. My sleeping room is a small unfinished room. You can see through the cracks between the boards that cover it & the rafters are visible above. But fortunately the weather has been cold enough to freeze up all the little animals that hide themselves in such places.

Mr. Mack is a pleasant, gentlemanly fellow, and I think we shall agree admirably. There is too a fellow feeling between us for he also leaves a wife behind. You know a bachelor wouldn't be likely to have any sympathy in such cases.

Gen. Harney has gone on a tour, visiting all the different posts & stations under his command. I am glad he is gone. He meddles with everything, upsets everything, but without the ability to reorganize, or systematize, I never saw just such another man. Impatient as he can be, he curses and swears all the time. How a poor mule driver has to take it, how a sergeant, a soldier, or the wind, the <>, but more especially his own luck. He has a poor memory, is as changeable as the wind, gives an order to countermand it and plays the fool generally. Though he is willful impatient and headstrong, fortunately for him and his campaign, he seldom has his own way. There are a good many shrewd heads out here to hold him in check. He is almost as large as Gen. Scott & I would say you couldn't find a better man to lead a Regiment in an open field fight. But those who think him a man of talent of high mental endowments, are mistaken, for he is gross & illiterate &, I would judge, a man who

had given full swing to his passions.

We have another specimen of an officer here in the Quartermaster, who is much disliked. He is a man about 40, large & well-made. He seems to delight in another's discomfiture, is crusty, disobliging, headstrong & impatient. He and the General are always fighting. General H. interferes with Maj. McKinstry's plans, with his teams, with the distribution of his officials etc. The Major goes to the General, the General rages and by & by apologizes, so it goes on. I have got on admirably with Maj. McKinstry for I never deal with him except officially & then in writing.

We have a few other officers who redeem these. Maj Page is the Apt. Adjutant General. He is a man that attends to his duties and, though out of health with a consumptive cough, he has mustered in all these volunteers & I have not seen him cross once. Some of these fellows would try the patience of Job. It would amuse you to stand by & see them mustered. Each one rides what is called a marsh-pony. He rides up & is ordered to dismount. Is that your horse, Sir. Yes sir. Where did you come from? Somewhere about Augustine. Did you ride that horse all the way down here? Yes all the way. You will then look at the horse. You can see every bone in his body. His spine is particularly prominent. But as soon as the requisite questions are asked and answered, the fellow will jump on and off go the sand-fed set of bones at a right energetic gallop. Maj. Page told me those poor horses would stand a harder & longer tramp than one of our handsome & sleek northern horses. I couldn't doubt him after my ride through from Palatka to Tampa by stage.

I got that order of Lizzie's cashed here. I will send her some soon as soon as I can hear from Washington. I should answer Guy's letter immediately but I don't think he could understand my letter quite as well as I did his. I tell you what it is Rowland. I felt proud of his Infantine labors. Think Louis Napoleon's boy could write or dictate such a letter? I should be delighted to get a letter from Ella and I will ensure one by writing first. Tell Guy I haven't seen an Indian or flag since I have been here, excepting the Stars & Stripes. I shall write Lizzie by this mail, so that I needn't put love &c in here. I wish Dellie had a more satisfactory room-mate. What do you think of his agency project. Do you hear from Charlie often? I shall expect a letter from mother by the next mail if she got mine in time to reply & I was keen enough to tell her to direct to Tampa. I think this trip will be in no way detrimental to my health. I have an excellent appetite & tell Mrs. Lee they cook here just as they do at Watervliet.

My love & regards to all.

Yr affectionate brother Otis