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Correspondence

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1-23-1857

### Gilmore, Eliza OH (Mother), 01/23/1857

O.O. Howard Collection

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Indians murdered a whole family & burned their house  
to the ground at New Myrna on the Indian River. Prior to this  
He had sent out white flags of truce & endeavored to  
get a talk with the Indians, and Government proposed  
to send a Delegation of this same tribe of Seminoles  
who have moved to the West to assist General Kamey's  
negotiations. This delegation has not arrived &  
the General has withdrawn his White flags and declar-  
ed a war of extermination against the Indians of  
Florida. Troops are now in motion scouring the  
whole country. The General himself left here a  
week ago today to visit all the different stations  
& troops in the field. My duties have been to supply  
the Volunteers with arms, accoutrements & ammunition  
and the Regulars with commissariat &c as required.

The past week has therefore been pretty busy, but  
now there is not much going on here. An occasional  
Requisition for Supplies comes in, and a train of  
Wheeled teams or a Steamboat leaves to carry provisions  
& forage to different parts of the State. We have  
here a Quartermaster & his clerks, a Commissary, a  
Commanding officer of the Post & Adjutant, an Assistant  
Adjutant General, a paymaster & a young officer  
of the Dragoons on a sick leave. The weather  
has been quite cold for this region but generally  
pleasant. One or two nights the ice in my room has  
been a quarter of an inch in thickness. Our house is  
so open that the cold is not interdicted at all. We have  
a large fireplace in one of the rooms, and keep a larger

fire than you do at home. Lieut Mack of Company "I"  
4th Regiment of Artillery lives with me. He is a very  
fine young man a little older than I. He left his  
wife at Boston & she proceeded at once to her  
parents in Oswego New York. We have very pleasant  
times together, studying, reading and writing. There  
are a few ladies on the post. Mrs Major Morris &  
Mrs Heggard a young married lady. Lieut. Heggard  
is stationed here for the present & she has just joined him.  
We have also Mrs Major Page & sister, & the Quartermaster  
wife Mrs Major McHenry. Maj Leonard the pay-  
master, married a French lady in California &  
lives in town. I called upon them night before last  
and spent a social, pleasant evening. She is very  
young & quite handsome. We had some apples  
during the evening, that reminded me of a winter  
evening at home. We seldom see Apples here. Oranges  
take the place of them. Mrs Leonard speaks English very  
prettily, but with a slight accent. She says she  
lost a little child here, about a year ago; the child  
was nearly two years old. Turnip is said to be  
very healthy generally. Snowbirds come here  
from the north in the winter, but they don't  
find very warm weather thus far, though I saw  
a garden full of Green Cabbages the other day.  
They must have covered them at night.  
Don't you think these cabbages rather early?  
I presume the snow is deep enough now with  
you, I was in hopes the last Mail would have

brought a letter from you. I got two from Lizzie, one was a week older than the other. She says she will be ready to go to Maine as soon as Rowland's lectures close - say, the twenty fifth or sixth of February.

Little Guy is bright & happy, & all well. I would like to see them, but nobody knows how soon that will be. It all depends on the turn of this Campaign.

Florida is covered with forests, hummocks, swamps & Everglades - places so densely wooded with underbrush & small shrubs, of hundreds of acres in extent, that it is possible for the Red skins to hide & hold their ground for years. Still some rare good fortune may bring them forth this time. Our preparations are equal to an Army of 3000 men & there are now over 200 warriors among the Indians of Florida.

Be not uneasy about me. My health never was better than it is here, I have a good appetite & sleep admirably. I am a little in fear of the Muskatoes here when the weather gets warm, but I guess they won't eat me up. Give my love to all our friends - to Roland, wife, Child, Uncle Ensign & family when you see them. Is Laura at Lewiston? I suppose she will imagine me in the thickest of some Indian fight. General Horsey wouldn't let me go into the field if I was willing. Somebody must have a supply in rear. I am not selfish enough to regret the sending of me here, for I am pleasantly & comfortably situated, compared with many a desiring young officer, who has left a wife & family at the North, and who is now sleeping