

SC-11848b: Colonel Marcus M. Spiegel Collection, 1861-1865.

Jas B. Taylor to Caroline Spiegel, 1864 June 28.

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Head quaiters 120th this bolo 3 Morganzia La Sumi 28th 164) Mrs Caroline Spiegel Dear Madam Under piculiarly. painful circumstances, I am called upon to officially aniounce to you the Death of your noble Husband, leolonel Marcus M Spingel who fill mortally wounded by the murderous hands of a cruel enerry May 3 1864. - You will please pardon the apparent delay of the officers of this Regiment in expreping their profound sympathy for you in your bereavenunt. Forced, as were we who escaped, to immediately retreat from the scene of the disaster, our information concerning the fate of the bedouch was necessarily magne, Hince we have

awaited the arrival of the surgeone, who remained with the wounded, and whom we know would soon be permitted to return to us. Doctors Stanton and Fill arrived at the Regiment a few days, ago, De Stanton designed writing you but has been prevented from so doing because of ellerep. drow him I have that the bolonce was mortally wounded by a minie ball striking him in the abdomen. After the surrender of the Steamer he, with the other wounded, were removed to rahouse mean by, Am he remained till the afternoon of the sext day, when at 4 J. M., he yielded up ra life which for three years had been devoted to the service of his Country. It is a consolation that he was in full popipion of his mental faculties from the time he received his mortal wound till within a few minutes of the time of his death. and that he fully realized the impopibility of his recovery. He talked much of his family. His wife and buildren were the burden

of his conversation, Immidiately after he fell he remarked:" I am gove this time, God be with my poor l'amily and regiment, -His Drother doseph, who received a flich hound in the left arm, was with him, at the time of his death, - She body of the led, was interred on the bank of the river on the morning of May 5 %. On the retreat of the Anny from alexandria, we left the wer a few miles above the came of the disaster, But led. Slocum, led Worthington of the 22 Ky + . rode down to the point where the wiching of the disaster over intered. The 2 Illo bavalry being in advance that day, arrived in time to disinter the body of led mudd of that Regt who had been instanty killed aboard the steamer, By The time we arrived , the fleet was in line and it was impossible to disinter the remains of led Sprigel, and prepare them for removal in time for the movement of the fleet, but that we might satisfy our own curiosity

as to whether he was really dead or not, (Having heard nothing mon than a numor of the fact.) as well as to relieve your mind from , any doubt, we opened the gran and recognized the body. I also take this privilege to assure you of the untruthfulnep of the extensively circulated Camp rumon that the remains of the bolonet had actually been discuterred and placed in a Coffin, which had been brought to the Atchafalaya, when it was discovered that the coffin had been opened and the body taken out, His remains rest in peace on Wilson's Mantation on the bank of Red River think miles below Alexandria - take pleasure an forwarding to you the accompanying Resolutions unancimonsky adopted by the Officers and Roldiers of this regument. It is perhaps unnecepary hadd more. Seven van to attempt a Enlogy on the Character of our lamented bedond as an

Officer and Loldin, His Francy & Heroism on many Fields of Battle bear ample evidence of his honorable service. Entiring the service of decoud Societinant, of his own merit he received enceptive promotion till he had altained to the leolonday of this Regt, No Officer could tak more interest in the welfare of his men, than did he; nor could any be more esteened. His name is meeperably connected with the History of this Regement. He led it into, differentingagiments in each of which it was his misfortum to receive a wound of some Kind evour or slight, Skrough and storm he was with us, In The Camp, on the march or on the Battle field, the leolonet was ever amonghis men and had a word of chur for all. - Nor was a knowledge of his Character and efficiency as an officer

limited to his own Reg -. No Regimental Commander in the Corps was more generally Known - and he only Known, to be respected , At different times he has elicited the highest en comines from Amigade, Division and leops Commanders, and it is doubtly as well known to you as to any other, that he had been highly recommended by prominent Generals in the field for promotion to the rank of Brigadin mural of bolunturs, the honorable mention which had been made of his services was euch as to create a belief that his promotion were not far distant. But, afflicted wife & fatherly Children, be of good cheen. Mown not without Consolation. Irue, his remains rest in an Energy's learnity, But if there be one apot more than another where the grap will grow greener when the returning spring comes and where the ranterno leave will fall more lighty, it is

upon the grave of the Satriot Idia who has eacrificed his life in the service of his Country, for -If these be on this earthy sphere A boon, - an offring heaven holds, dear, Tis the last libation Liberty draws drow the heart that blieds & breaks in her cause " In conclusion permit me again in behalf of the Officers and men of this Regt to tender you their most profound and heartfelt eympathy in your bersavement, I am Dear Madam Most Respectfully yourt Olt Lewant leapt 120 this Volo. To Mors barolin Spriget Millers burget

Headquarters 120th Ohio Vols

Morganzia La June 28th 1864

## Mrs. Caroline Spiegel

## Dear Madam

Under peculiarly painful circumstances, I am called upon to officially announce to you the Death of your noble Husband, Colonel Marcus M. Spiegel, who fell mortally wounded by the murderous hands of the cruel enemy, May 3rd 1864. - You will please pardon the apparent delay of the officers of this Regiment in expressing their profound sympathy for you in your bereavement. Forced, as were we who escaped, to immediately retreat from the scene of the disaster, our information concerning the fate of the Colonel was necessarily meager. Hence we have awaited the arrival of the surgeons, who remained with the wounded, and whom we knew would soon be permitted to return to us. Doctors Stanton and Gill arrived at the Regiment a few days ago. Dr. Stanton designed writing you but has been prevented from so doing because of illness. From him I learn that the Colonel was mortally wounded by a minie ball striking him in the abdomen. After the surrender of the Steamer he, with the other wounded, were removed to a house near by. Here he remained till the afternoon of the next day, when at 4 P.M. he yielded up a life which for Three Years had been devoted to the service of his Country.

It is a consolation that he was in full possession of his

mental faculties from the time he received his mortal wound till within a few minutes of the time of his death, and that he fully realized the impossibility of his recovery. He talked much of his family. His wife and children were the burden of his conversation. Immediately after he fell he remarked: "I am gone this time, God be with my poor Family and Regiment." - His Brother Joseph, who received a flesh wound in the left arm, was with him at the time of his death. - The body of the Col. was interred on the bank of the river on the morning of May 5<sup>th</sup>. On the retreat of the Army from Alexandria, we left the river a few miles above the scene of the disaster, But Col Slocum, Col Worthington of the 22d Ky & I rode down to the point where the victims of the disaster were interred. The 2<sup>d</sup> Ills [Illinois] Cavalry being in advance that day, arrived in time to disinter the body of Col Mudd of that Regt [Regiment] who had been instantly killed aboard the steamer. By the time we arrived, the fleet was in line and it was impossible to disinter the remains of Col Spiegel and prepare them for removal in time for the movement of the fleet. Yet, that we might satisfy our own curiosity as to whether he was really dead or not, (Having heard nothing more than a rumor of the fact.) as well as to relieve your mind from any doubt, we opened the grave and recognized the body. I also take this privilege to assure you of the untruthfulness of the extensively circulated camp rumor that "the remains of the Colonel had actually been disinterred and

placed in a Coffin, which had been brought to the Atchafalaya, when it was discovered that the coffin had been opened and the body taken out." His remains rest in peace on Wilson's Plantation on the bank of Red River Thirty miles below Alexandria. - I take pleasure in forwarding to you the accompanying Resolutions unanimously adopted by the Officers and soldiers of this Regiment. It is perhaps unnecessary to add more. 'Twere vain to attempt a Eulogy on the Character of our lamented Colonel as an Officer and Soldier. His Bravery & Heroism on many Fields of Battle bear ample evidence of his honorable service. Entering the service a Second Lieutenant, of his own merit he received successive promotion till he had attained the Colonelcy of this Regt [Regiment].

No Officer could take more interest in the welfare of his men, than did he; nor could any be more esteemed. His name is inseparably connected with the History of this Regiment. He led it into different engagements in each of which it was his misfortune to receive a wound of some kind severe or slight.

Through sunshine and storm he was with us. In the Camp, on the march or on the Battle Field, the Colonel was ever among his men and had a word of cheer for all. \_ Nor was a knowledge of his character and efficiency as an officer limited to his own Regt [Regiment]. No Regimental Commander in the Corps was more generally known \_ and <u>he</u> only known, to be respected. At different times he has elicited the highest encomiums from Brigade, Division, and Corps Commanders, and it is doubtless as well known to you as to any other that he had been highly recommended by prominent Generals in the field for promotion to the rank of Brigadier General of Volunteers. The honorable mention which had been made of his services was such as to create a belief that his promotion were not far distant.

But, Afflicted wife & fatherless children, be of good cheer. Mourn not without Consolation. True, his remains rest in an Enemy's Country. But if there be one spot more than another where the grass will grow greener when the returning spring comes and where the autumn leaves will fall more lightly, it is upon the grave of the Patriot Soldier who has sacrificed his life in the service of his Country. For \_ "If there be on this earthly sphere A boon, an off'ring heaven holds dear, 'Tis the last libation Liberty draws From the heart that bleeds & breaks in her cause."

In conclusion permit me again in behalf of the Officers and men of this Regt to tender you their most profound and heartfelt sympathy in your bereavement.

> I am Dear Madam Most Respectfully Your Ob't [Obedient] Servant Jas B Taylor

Capt 120<sup>th</sup> Ohio Vols.

Mrs. Caroline Spiegel

## Millersburg

Ohio



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