



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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

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

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American Jewish Archives website.

Head Quarters 120th Ohio Vols }
Morgantia 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 W Spiegel, who fell mortally
wounded by the murderous hands of a 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 meagre. Hence we have

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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 Minié 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 after³
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 5th. 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 22^d Ky & I, rode down to the point
where the victims of the disaster were
interred. The 3^d Ills Cavalry being in advance
that day, arrived in time to disinter the body
of Col Mudd of that Regt 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 to the Colonelcy of this Regt. 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 ~~or~~ 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 Reg^t. 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 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 & fatherly 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 offering 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 Obedt Servant

Geo B Taylor

Capt 120th Ohio Vols.

To

Mrs Caroline Spiegel

Millersburg

Ohio

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 5th. 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 22^d Ky & I rode down to the point where the victims of the disaster were interred. The 2^d 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

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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 he 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 120th Ohio Vols.

To

Mrs. Caroline Spiegel

Millersburg

Ohio

