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

Ben Jones to Caroline Spiegel, 1865 January 2.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the American Jewish Archives website.

How Shrand Oher Saw 2 aroffles. - Mrs O. J. Spiegel. - Van 1tt Your letter just pacced to hand Without a moment's delay I am sealed to give your all the information & prosess concerning the death of your laweted husband, and the incorrection of his boother doseph.

Had I mot heen informed that your were much at Willers burgh. I would have tild yours after my new approve to write you this bien trad I mot necessed you letter -I exceedingly ngrit that I am not mon fully ac= granted with the panticulars of the demise of him with whow I was as well againsted with while living. Perhaps on other officer in the required know as little about that unfortunate circuistance as d. - My company was stationed on the lower deck and and the places most most proud where the Col's duty demanded his presence. - About our half hour before we were find upon he aprobe to me for the last time - Her gave me orders what to do we case of an attack I left him to obey and never apoke to him

ugain- Ofter the boat and was surrendered I learned from Capil Fraunfeller that the Cal was mortally wounded .- Immediately I row up stains to see him but now approaching his body and seeing him we as dying condition. I would go near and speak to him. The officers were their ordered of the boat by the Confederates. Ofter we were taken ashore a Cono federale officer went- about the boat and ordered to wounded to be taken of instantly for the boat was to be soon find - Provate In Smith of my Co, who was holding lot's head. Rays. this order gave him great uneasyness, and cause duto withon his boys to got him aff the boat immediately lest he would be burned, for the boys - but a few we number had to wade in water to the depth of four feel to the boat. - Ho was much pleased when taken our chan. Both he are Joe, was was wounded through the arm. the left on I think near the shoulder, and the not of the wounded went taken to as log house near by-accompanied by Drs Stanton & Billy and several nursest Dr was in this house. That he died which mourne for event took place about too aslock on the following day. May It, - doe was with him to last also wer Dr Stanton. Gorow Dushimen his family - I believe he and but little about his relatives. - The pipe presented to have by Capto Miller

transfelter and myself he dersined should be kept of Hamilies. - Hor neognised all who apoke "him after his would was not aged know very well that it was mut possible for him line. Like a true soldier he complained mut of his fate. but cooly awaited the hour which was to detrucate his sogown ow earth. I shall never forget the last intervere. Unat took place between her and myself, on the evening prededing that unfortunate day, - Oke had just necessed of letter from your containing the intellegence of Hamlins ministerns. In talked for over on hour and the tenor of all his conversation was of the gloomerst nature. Her remarked that you were giving your grat trouble about his absence and will de I mnember when he said Bew I am not doing justice to my family-I aught to be at horre, but I cannot leave the boys. - I fear this request will be the death of more yet." - I had knows him acternately for nearly two years and for the frist ture I saw huis good way to despondency - I had seen him cheerful under the most trying aircumstances but that night the grief of his heart was noticeable, -The aupression left-ow my mind by that intervaid will never be effaced - und I have thought of it al thomsaid his case is much better than you supposed. -. His would was many a flish own-auch soon

healed up. - after the death of his brother, he was sent to others audrico - Etimuepont and firmally to dyler, the place when the bedance of the 120 are - arrowing then on the 3th of Joely. - In consequence of howing had to mathe without I never aaw aughody whose feet were in as bad corretition as his. - a few days passed and he gat all all night again. and whew I left no priginer in the stockade was gitting along any better than Jos. - The mess to which he belongs had plent of money-and good comfortable granters, agron Quesheuner and Lewis Berger are with him. - all have comfortable clathing. They brand enough to cat an getting along as well as could be expected. Do is very popular among the prisoners- Everybody likes him There I left he was enjoying to privilege of parale within the limits of one mile fram the prison - I fear it will be a long tune before their exchange can be effected - TherRebelo said they would hoold over outless until our government delivened their Blockade rummers to thew which caund be done. - Nothing cannot be done by us to ameleorate their condition. Sunt Cul Rutus houser of the 58 dls. a nordent of Chicago, was takers with us, and was mas-male of fais in prison.
He was exchanged when I was and can downtless be found in the city toggand him a letter to brown to his mother, Has A named?

and deserves of processing a large, he had taken in New York. - I have on photo of his but don't thuck it is as good as some d'have peur. - devant a lorge brown them please many the price and I will send it They brother is going to your city in a few days He will call now your city Deogt Galshinas well pass through, on the train to day, to his regiment by the way of Chicago. I will have call upon you. tomorrow. - The 1216 has been merged into the 114th Ohis. and the surplus officers of both ngements are thrown out of service. Those of the 120" are Cul blocum. Capt daylor. Copt Harvey, Lapt- all. Leuts Van Ottern. - Tixler and Houghes, - and myself - all the abon round and mustend out of service but mor- Lunt Baco, is at Columbing, He was neenth expanged and avon n's turns to duty - I wal asks Dr Stanton to moto your, -1 much so but I am corriers that dight

. For the present dwill close - Bear we mind that while you moun the loss of an affectionate husband, your children or kind father. that we his convades is arms, shaw your group, and lawent the death a brave and gallant leader, as mule and generoust companion, and the country one of her permest patriols please mode me and I will most cheerfully Cumpoly with any nignest- you may make Imly your Somes Caph 120 chil

## Shreve Ohio

Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 1865

## Mrs. C. F. Spiegel

Your letter just came to hand. Without a moment's delay I am seated to give you all the information I possess concerning the death of your lamented husband, and the incarceration of his brother Joseph.

Had I not been informed that you were not at Millersburg I would have visited yourself and family very soon after my return and it was my purpose to write you this day even had I not received your letter. -

I exceedingly regret that I am not more fully acquainted with the particulars of the <u>demise</u> of him with whom I was so well acquainted with while living. Perhaps no other officer in the regiment knew as little about that unfortunate circumstance as I. - My company was stationed on the lower deck and on the place most remote from where the Col's duty demanded his presence. - About one half hour before we were fired upon he spoke to me for the last time. - He gave me orders what to do in case of an attack. I left him to obey and never spoke to him again. - After the boat was surrendered I learned from Capt Fraunfelter that the Col was mortally wounded. - Immediately I ran upstairs to see him but upon approaching his body and seeing

him in a dying condition I could not go near and speak to him. -The officers were then ordered off the boat by Confederates. -After we were taken ashore a Confederate officer went aboard the boat and ordered the wounded to be taken off instantly for the boat was to be soon fired. - Private Jim Smith of my Co. who was holding the Col's head says this order gave him great uneasiness and caused him to implore his boys to get him off the boat immediately lest he would be burned. - It was with great difficulty that he was taken ashore for the boys - but a few in number had to wade in water to the depth of four feet to the boat. - He was much pleased when taken on shore. Both he and Joe, was was wounded through the arm, the left one I think, near the shoulder, and the rest of the wounded were taken to a log house near by - accompanied by Drs Stanton & Gill and several nurses. It was in this house he died which mournful event took place about two o'clock on the following day May 4th. - Joe was with him to last also were Dr. Stanton, Aaron Sinsheimer, Dr. Gill - and others. - I requested Joseph to take care of his family. - I believe he said but little about his relatives. -The pipe presented to him by Capts Miller, Fraunfelter and myself he desired should be kept by Hamlin. - He recognized all who spoke to him after his wound was rec'd and knew very well that it was not possible for him to live. Like a true soldier he complained not of his fate, but cooly awaited the hour which was to terminate his sojourn on earth. I shall never forget the last interview that took place between him and myself, on the evening proceeding that unfortunate day. - He had just received a letter from you containing the intelligence of Hamlin's misfortune. We talked for over an hour and the tenor of all his conversation was of the gloomiest nature. - He remarked that you were giving your great trouble about his absence and well do I remember when he said "Ben, I am not doing justice to my family - I ought to be at home but I can not leave the boys. - I fear this Regiment will be the death of me yet." - I had known him intimately for nearly two years and for the first time I saw him give way to despondency. - I had seen him cheerful in the most trying of circumstances but that night the grief of his heart was noticeable. - The impression left on my mind by that interview will never be effaced. - and I have thought of it a thousand times since. -

As for <u>Joseph</u> I am glad to say that his case is much better than you supposed. His wound was mainly a flesh one. - and soon healed up. - After the death of his brother he was sent to Alexandria Shreveport and finally to Tyler the place where the balance of the 120<sup>th</sup> are. - arriving there on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July. - In consequence of having had to march without boots, he suffered awfully from soreness of his feet. - In fact I never saw anybody whose feet were in as bad condition as his. - A few days passed

and he got all right again and when I left no prisoner in the stockade was getting along any better than Joe. - The mess to which he belongs had plenty of money and good comfortable quarters. - Aaron Sinsheimer and Lewis Berger are with him. -All have comfortable clothing. They have enough to eat and [are] getting along as well as could be expected. - Joe is very popular among the prisoners. Everybody likes him. When I left he was enjoying the privilege of parole within the limits of one mile from the prison. - I fear it will be a long time before their exchange can be effected. - The Rebels said they would hold our sutlers until our government delivered their blockade runners to them which cannot be done. - Nothing cannot be done by us to ameliorate their condition. - Lieut Col Rutushouser of the 58th Ills [Illinois], a resident of Chicago, was taken with us and was mess-mate of Joe's in prison. He was exchanged when I was and can doubtless be found in the city. - Joe gave him a letter to bring to his mother. Was it received?

I am desirous of procuring a large size photograph of the Col's, also one of those he had taken in New York. - I have one photo of his but don't think it is as good as some I have seen. - I want a larger one to frame. - If you can let me have them please name the price and I will send it.

My brother is going to the city in a few days. He will call on you. - George Galehouse will pass through on the train to day

to his Regiment by the way of Chicago. I will have call upon you. Capt Taylor and Dr. Stanton will visit me tomorrow. — The 120th has been merged into the 114th Ohio and the surplus officers of both regiments are thrown out of service. — Those of the 120th are Col Slocum, Capt Taylor, Capt Harvey, Capt All, Lieuts Van Ostern, — Bixler and Hughes, — and myself. — All the above named are mustered out of service but me. — Lieut Baco is at Columbus. He was recently exchanged and soon returns to duty. I will ask Dr Stanton to write you. —

I have written very hurriedly, too much so, but I am anxious that I get my letter off on this afternoon's train. -

For the present I will close. - Bear in mind that while you mourn the loss of an affectionate husband, your children a kind father, that we his comrades in arms, share your grief and lament the death of a brave and gallant leader, a noble and generous companion, and the country one of her purest patriots.

Should you desire further information please write me and I will most cheerfully comply with any request you may make.

Truly yours,

Ben Jones

Capt 120<sup>th</sup> Ohio