



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

**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.

---

Howe  
Shrewsbury  
Jan 9<sup>th</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 Millersburgh, I would <sup>have</sup> visited you and family very soon after my return, and it was my purpose to write you this <sup>day</sup>, even had I not received your letter.

I exceedingly regret that I am not more fully acquainted with the particulars of the decease of him with whom I was so well acquainted while living. Perhaps no other officer in the regiment knows 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~~ was surrendered I learned  
from Capt Fraunfelter that the Col was mortally  
wounded. - Immediately I ran up stairs to see him  
but upon approaching his body and seeing him  
in a dying condition, I could <sup>not</sup> go near and speak  
to him. - The officers were then ordered off the boat  
by the Confederates. - After we were taken ashore a Con-  
federate officer went aboard the boat, and ordered  
the wounded to be taken off instantly for the boat was  
to be soon fired. - Private Dr Smith of my Co, who  
was holding Col's head, says, this order gave him great  
uneasiness, and caused <sup>him</sup> to inform 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 ashore. - Both he and  
Doc, 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, ~~that~~ he died, which mourn-  
ful event took place, about two o'clock on the  
following day, May 4<sup>th</sup>. - Doc was with him to  
last - also were Dr Stanton, Marrow, Bushner  
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 Capt Miller

Fraunfelter and myself. he desired should be kept by Kaaulii. - He recognised all who spoke<sup>d</sup> to him. after his wound was red. and knew very well that it was not possible for him live. Like a true soldier he complained not of his fate. but coolly 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 preceding that unfortunate day. - He had just received a letter from you. containing the intelligence of Kaaulii's misfortune. He talked for over an hour. and the tenor of all his conversation was of the gloomiest nature. - He remarked that you were giving your<sup>e</sup> great trouble about his absence. and will as I remember when he said "But I am not doing justice to my family. I ought to be at home. but I cannot 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 under the most trying circumstances but that night the grief of his heart was noticable. - The impression left on my mind. by this interview will never be effaced. - and I have thought of it a thousand times since. -

As for Joseph I am glad to say that his case is much better than you suppose. - His wound was merely a flesh one. - and soon

healed up. - After the death of his brother, he was sent to Alexandria - Stumpsport and finally to Tyler, the place where the balance of the 120 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 ~~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 Sushner and Louis 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 cutlers until our Government delivered their blockade runners to them, which cannot be done. - Nothing can be done by us to ameliorate their condition. - Lieut Col Rutherford of the 58<sup>th</sup> Ill. a resident of Chicago, was taken with us, and was mas-male of Joe's in prison. - He was exchanged when I was, and can doubtless be found in the city. - I gave him a letter to bring to his mother. - Has it reached?

I am desirous of procuring a large  
size photograph of the Cols. 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 large  
one to frame. - If you can let me  
have them please name the price and  
I will send it.

My brother is going to your city  
in a few days. He will call on you. -  
Sergeant Galshonae 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 125<sup>th</sup> has been merged into  
the 114<sup>th</sup> Ohio, and the surplus officers of both  
regiments are thrown out of service. - Those  
of the 125<sup>th</sup> are Col Bloem, Capt Taylor, Capt  
Harvey, Capt. A. Lunt Van Osten, Bixler  
and Hughes, - and myself - All the above  
named are mustered out of service but  
not - Lieut Barr. is at Columbus. He  
was recently exchanged and soon re-  
turns 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 <sup>letter</sup> 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, show your grief, and  
lament the death 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  
Brew Jones  
Capt 120<sup>th</sup> Inf

Home

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 demise 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 4<sup>th</sup>. - 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 coolly 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 Joseph 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 120<sup>th</sup> has been merged into the 114<sup>th</sup> Ohio and the surplus officers of both regiments are thrown out of service. - Those of the 120<sup>th</sup> 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