



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 7.

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

Howell
Shraga
Jan 7th 1865

Mrs C F Spiegel,

Yours of the 4th Inst just received -
I sincerely hope you will not consider it any trouble
for me to answer all the inquiries you are fit to make
concerning your husband and my friend, the late
Cpl Marcus M Spiegel. I would think myself guilty
of ingratitude in the worst degree, were I to neglect or
hesitate to do all in power to alleviate the mental
sufferings of those who were most near and dear
to him, while living -

I am rejoiced to know that the pipe, presented to him
by Capts Miller, Traunfelter, and myself is in your possession
for it was ~~his~~ not only his living, but also, his
dying request; that it should descend to his "dear
little Haunli" - After the terrible missile had done
its work and while in the prospect of an early death
he inquired for the pipe and enjoined his friend
Dr Stanton to have it sent to his son, whom he
knew would ever preserve and value it dearly -
As to the report that ^{his} remains were exhumed and
taken to Baton Rouge, I am sorry to say it is not true -
I am informed that while our forces were returning
from Alexandria, efforts were made to disinter his

body, were made but in consequence of a misunderstanding the project was defeated. - They had his body taken out of its grave, an ambulance with a coffin was taken to the place where the body lay, a hearse placed in the grave on account of the delay of the coffin. Afterwards the ambulance returned, had the coffin taken on the ambulance, as he supposed with the corpse inside of it. - The mistake was not known until several days afterwards, although this ambulance was turned out of the baggage train and placed in the rear, on account of the supposed offensive smell of its contents. - The officers and men of the regiment bitterly regretted this arrangement and blamed themselves for entrusting the business to a certain officer of the 120th Ohio, who, though he did occupy a prominent position; never could or would do anything right. I will ^{from} Capt Taylor give you all the particulars of that affair.

I am well acquainted with Madame Bear. She is the proprietress of a boarding house, at Baton Rouge and is a very intelligent and clever lady. I know not her first name, but by addressing her, as Madame Bear, Baton Rouge La. ^{you} will hear from her.

The place of his burial is within the enemy's lines, and at present would be almost an impossibility to procure his remains. Were they within our lines I would tender my services for the accomplishment of that object, but under the present circumstances

and effort ~~to~~ that effect would be fruitless. - In some future time our lines will be extended to that place and then it will be no difficult matter to carry out your wishes. - I will write to Dr Stanton to give you the information you desire. I know ~~he~~ ^{will} comply with your request for when I visited him last month, he was trying to find out where you were. -

A letter will probably reach Joseph, by addressing him at Camp Ford, near Tyler Texas. (I will enclosed his address on a slip of paper.) I do not think a special exchange can be effected for him, although I would be greatly rejoiced to have it done. - If any of his friends want to make an effort, they can find out by addressing Col. C. C. Dwight, Care of Exchange, Military Division of West Miss - New Orleans.

Our old Regt. is no more. It has been merged into another regiment, and now forms five companies of the 114th Ohio. - By this arrangement we lost ~~our~~ ^{our} name and colors. - There were eight officers of our regiment thrown out on this account, namely, Col. Slocum, Capts A. W. Taylor, Harvey, Jones, Lieuts Van Osten, Hughes and Baxter. I was mustered out and the 4th inst at Columbus. - The mustered out officers presented our colors to the State of Ohio on Wednesday last. The regt. was at Morganza Louisiana. - was last heard from, McKinley was made Lieut Col of the 114th Ohio

Capt Taylor, myself and others proposed to have
a photograph of taken off a card photo of
the Cols - which he got in New York. -

I will feel very thankful for the one you
proposed to give me. -

Concerning Joseph's business, I cannot give you much
information - They lost several thousands dollars
worth at the time of our disaster, but I am under
the impression, that they still have some goods
in New Orleans. I have sent a letter to this person
who attends to his business there, when I came through.
I will ~~know~~ find out if I can and let you know more than when I
write again. -

Mrs Sprigle let me beg of you not to blame
yourself for leaving Ohio, nor fear that it would have
been contrary to the wishes of your dear deceased husband
to do so. He often told me that he purposed leaving
Millersburgh, and I knew him too well, to
think for a moment, that would ^{have} raised the least
objection, when dying, to any measure you would think
best, ^{to do so} for yourself and his much loved children

Write to me when you see fit and I will
always answer promptly
Truly yours
Ben Jones

Home

Shreve O[hio]

Jan 7 1865

Mrs. C. F. Spiegel,

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I am rejoiced to know that the pipe, presented to him by Capts Miller, Fraunfelter and myself is in your possession for it was not only his living, but also his dying request; that it should descend to his "dear little Hamlin." After the terrible missile had done its work and while in the prospect of an early death he inquired for the pipe and enjoined his friend Dr. Stanton to have it sent to his son whom he knew would ever preserve and value it dearly. As to the report that his remains were exhumed and taken to Baton Rouge, I am sorry to say it is not true. I am informed that while our forces were returning from Alexandria, efforts were made to disinter his body were made but in consequence of a misunderstanding the project was defeated. They had his body taken out of its grave, an ambulance

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I am well acquainted with Madam Bear. She is proprietress of a boarding house at Baton Rouge and is a very intelligent and clever lady. I know not her first name but by addressing her as Madam Bear, Baton Rouge, La. you will hear from her.

The place of his burial is within enemy lines and at present [it] would be almost an impossibility to procure his remains. Were they within our lines I would tender my services to the accomplishment of that object, but under the present circumstances an effort to the effect would be fruitless. In some future time our lines will be extended to that place and then it will be no difficult matter to carry out your wishes. I

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- Write to me when you see fit and I will always answer promptly.

Truly yours

Ben Jones