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

Jas B. Taylor to Caroline Spiegel, 1865 January 21.

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Fredericksburg Ohio }
Jan 21st 1865. }

Mrs C. J. Spiegel

Dear Madam

Yours of the
13th received, to which I with
pleasure reply. Had expected
to see you on my return, not
having previously heard of your
leaving Millersburg. Dr. Stanton
was absent from the Regt since
July - I wrote to him specially
requesting him to write you, & my
letter I received no reply.

I will answer your questions
in the order in which they are
asked:

Col Mudd's remains were
interred in the same grave with
Col. S's. - The 2^d Ill Cav, led M's

Regt, being in advance, arrived in time to disinter his remains. At that time Our Regt was five Miles in the rear with the Infantry which was on another road. In company with Col Worthington of the 22^d Ky, I rode forward. The men of the 2^d Ills informed us that Col Slocum had been there & had gone to the Hospital Steamer for a coffin. Being on Staff duty at the time I could not await his return, but afterward learned from the Col, that the Fleet was in line before it was possible to disinter the body. Had we reached the scene of the disaster an hour sooner, all would have been right. It was proposed to afterward disinter the body and haul the same in an ambulance to the Ship, but it is fortunate that the attempt was not then made as the distance and the necessary delay

would have rendered it impossible to transport the body to the river, and then it would have been interred in the interior. -

The body had not been placed in a coffin nor had it been removed from the grave in which it was first placed. He had been rolled in his Blanket. I removed the blanket from his head & plainly recognized the Col's countenance and features. The body was then not much decayed, it could now be removed in safety, provided the enemy would permit a party under a "flag of truce" to proceed to that point. I don't think I could describe the place so that a stranger could easily find it. The bodies were interred near the scene of disaster, which was above Snaggy Point about 5 to 10 miles and near Grinn's Plantation, but on the opposite side

of the River. A small house then
used as a Hospital stands across
the levee from the Graves. There
was but one other Grave on that
side of the river; - this one runs
North & South, while the Col's head is
to the west - the grave dug parallel
to the river. The graves were not
marked. None of the Memorials of which
you write have been published - at
least I have seen none, -

I realize the extent of your anxiety
and would be pleased to give you
any information or assistance in
my power, which might result in
your obtaining the remains of your
noble Husband. I am now out
of the service. Do not expect to
return to the army - at least not
till an exigency requires. Capt Jones
& I will leave for Washington on
Monday next. - Will be at home after
the first week of February. Remember
me kindly to your family.

Truly Yours
Jas O Taylor

Fredericksburg, Ohio

Jan 21st 1865.

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