



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

SC-11848b: Colonel Marcus M. Spiegel Collection, 1861-1908.

Colonel Marcus Spiegel's address to the 120th Ohio, 1863
February 22.

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

FROM THE 120th OHIO.

THE HIGH STANDING OF THE REGIMENT.

All the late letters from the gallant and brave 120th Ohio, speak in the most decided terms of the improved health, spirits, and general welfare of the Regiment. New officers have taken the place of those who resigned, renewed health has returned to the soldiers generally, so that there is scarcely a new Regiment in Grant's Army which answers so fully at roll call as the 120th.

Colonel Spiegle has infused renewed energy and determination throughout the ranks of his Regiment, and from all that we can learn, he has the fullest confidence of his men, and when the hour of battle arrives, (if it has not already come,) the ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH OHIO will meet the foe as gallantly and bravely, as any, even of the oldest Regiments.

The resignation of Colonel French, and the promotion of Colonel Spiegle to the command of the Regiment, seem to have been fortunate circumstances; for whatever may be said of Col. French as a man, as an officer he lacked the energy, industry, pluck and ambition now so freely accorded to Col. Spiegle. Besides, Col. French was an easy, plastic individual in the hands of such characters as E. V. Dean, and whose Democracy allowed Dean to circulate Vallandigham's infamous speech in the Regiment, and to read the Cincinnati Enquirer, the Chicago Times, Medary's Crisis, and other treasonable publications, to the unsuspecting soldiers, at a time when general gloom pervaded their ranks, and sickness and death were everywhere present. And we here desire to say that whatever remarks we have at any time made, reflecting on Col. Spiegle, were caused by the belief that, by his presence and alliance and without reproach, he allowed Dean and his assistants to circulate these treasonable documents which were denounced and prohibited by other loyal Commanders. We are now most glad to know that a different policy was adopted by Col. Spiegle, as soon as he was in Chief Command of the Regiment, and that among his first acts, as acting Colonel, was the issuing of the following address to the Regiment:

Address of Colonel Spiegle.

COLONEL SPIEGLE'S ADDRESS TO THE 120th REG.

I have to day been informed that some soldiers of this Regiment, have, at different times, expressed sentiments disloyal and unbecoming a soldier of the Union Army, when about the Sutler shop of the 96th Indiana; saying that if this Regiment should ever have to go into another engagement, not half of the men would fire a gun for this d-d abolition war, &c. When I heard it I thought it almost impossible, that any soldier of the gallant 120th Regiment, which so nobly stood up at the battles of Vicksburg and Post Arkansas, to defend the good old flag, where every heart swelled with pride; when they saw the stars and stripes first planted by the 120th, wave so proudly, succeeding the traitorous rag on the stubborn ramparts of Post Arkansas, could make use of language disgraceful to the Regiment, disloyal to the country, and productive of evil only to the good cause, for which we are enlisted. If there is one man in the Regiment who would refuse to shoot at a rebel, in an engagement, let him step three paces to the front in order that he can be marked as a coward and receive the reward of a traitor. Such talk will only strengthen the rebels, disgrace the Regiment, and further defer that, for which we are all longing, an honorable Peace. If any of us differ with the acts and doings of parties at home, and policy of the administration, let us hope that those at home, who have nothing to do, will see to that. Whatever is wrong will in time, by the American people, be righted. Ours is the proud position of maintaining the world-wide and noble reputation of the American Volunteer Soldier, who stands classed with the most intelligent and brave in the known world—our's is the patriotic position of restoring the grand and sublime American Union—tranquillity, peace and happiness to our bleeding country—knowing and appreciating our position none but the most loyal and high-minded thoughts and expressions can emanate from our hearts and lips.—Men! for God's, your country's, your friends at home, your own and my sake, do not, either by thoughts, expressions, or willful actions, disgrace yourselves. Stand by the Government right or wrong. You may now do an unsoldier-like act, which, by excited men at home may be approved, but rest assured it will ere long come sweeping like an avalanche, your own good name and leave you in shame and disgust over your own acts of violating your soldier's oath. While you are in the service, be soldiers in every sense of the word, so that when in private life, you can ever be respected and honorable citizens.

Delivered on Dreis Parade, Monday, Feb. 23, 1863.

This patriotic address of Col. Spiegle has been followed by others of a like character, and the 120th Ohio now have the commendations of their Division Commander, Gen. Austerhouse, as one of the best disciplined and most soldier-like Regiments in his Division.—For intelligence and bravery, the soldiers of the 120th have ever stood as high as any Regiment in the army, and we have always had the most unbounded confidence in their patriotism, integrity, gallantry and heroism. Sad and dark days have they seen, but we believe a bright and brilliant future is before them.

From the 120th Ohio.

The High Standing of the Regiment.

All the late letters from the gallant and brave 120th Ohio speak in the most decided terms of the improved health, spirits, and general welfare of the Regiment. New officers have taken the place of those who resigned, renewed health has returned to the soldiers generally, so that there is scarcely a new Regiment in Grant's Army which answers so fully at roll call as the 120th.

Colonel Spiegle has infused renewed energy and determination throughout the ranks of his Regiment, and from all that we can learn, he has the fullest confidence of his men, and when the hour of battle arrives, (if it has not already come,) the ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH OHIO will meet the foe as gallantly and bravely, as any, even of the oldest Regiments.

The resignation of Colonel French, and the promotion of Colonel Spiegle to the command of the Regiment, seem to have been fortunate circumstances; for whatever may be said of Col. French as a man, as an officer he lacked the energy, industry, pluck and ambition now so freely accorded to Col. Spiegle. Besides, Col French was an easy, plastic individual in the hands of such characters as E. V. Dean, and whose Democracy allowed Dean to circulate Vallandigham's infamous speech in the Regiment, and to read the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, the Chicago

Times, Madary's Crisis, and other treasonable publications, to the unsuspecting soldiers, at a time when general gloom pervaded their ranks, and sickness and death were everywhere present. And we here desire to say that whatever remarks we have at any time made, reflecting Col. Spiegle, were caused by the belief that, by his presence and silence *without reproof*, he allowed Dean and his assistants to circulate these treasonable documents which were denounced and prohibited by other loyal Commanders. We are now most glad to know that a different policy was adopted by Col. Spiegle, as soon as he was in Chief of Command of the Regiment, and that among his first acts, as *acting Colonel*, was the issuing of the following address to the Regiment:

Colonel Spiegle's Address to the 120th Reg.

I have to day been informed that some soldiers of this Regiment have, at different times, expressed sentiments disloyal and unbecoming a soldier of the Union Army, when about the Sutler shop of the 96th Indiana; saying that if this Regiment should ever have to go into another engagement, not half of the men would fire a gun for this d-d abolition war, &c. When I heard it I thought it almost impossible, that any soldier of the gallant 120th Regiment, which so nobly stood up at the battles of Vicksburg and Post Arkansas, to defend the good old *flag*, where

every heart swelled with pride; when they saw the stars and stripes first planted by the 120th, wave so proudly, succeeding the traitorous rag on the stubborn ramparts of Post Arkansas, could make use of language disgraceful to the Regiment, disloyal to the country, and productive of evil only to the good cause, for which we are enlisted. If there is one man in the Regiment who would refuse to shoot at a rebel, in an engagement, let him step three paces to the front in order that he can be *marked as a coward and receive the reward of a traitor*. Such talk will only strengthen the rebels, disgrace the Regiments, and further defer that, for which we are all longing, an honorable Peace. If any of us differ with the acts and doings of parties at home, and policy of the administration, let us hope that those at home, who have nothing to do, will see to that. Whatever is wrong will in time, by the American people, be righted. Ours is the proud position of maintaining the world-wide and noble reputation of the American Volunteer Soldier, who stands classed with the most intelligent and brave in the known world - our's is the patriotic position of restoring the grand and sublime American Union - tranquility, peace and happiness to our bleeding country - knowing and appreciating our position none but the most loyal and high-minded thoughts and expressions can emanate from our hearts and lips. - Men! For God's, your country's, your friends at home, your own and my sake, do not,

either by thoughts, expressions, or willful actions, disgrace yourselves. Stand by the Government right or wrong. You may now do an unsoldier-like act, which, by *excited men at home may be approved*, but rest assured it will ere long come sweeping like an avalanche, your own good name and leave you in shame and disgust over your own acts of violating your soldier's oath. While you are in the service, be soldiers in every sense of the word, so that when in private life, you can ever be respected and honorable citizens.

Delivered on Dress Parade, Monday, Feb. 22, 1863.

This patriotic address of Col. Spiegle has been followed by others of a like character, and the 120th Ohio now have the commendations of their Division Commander, Gen. Austerhouse, as one of the best disciplined and most soldier-like Regiments in his Division. - For intelligence and bravery, the soldiers of the 120th have ever stood as high as any Regiment in the army, and we have always had the most unbounded confidence in their patriotism, integrity, gallantry and heroism. Sad and dark days have they seen, but we believe a bright and brilliant future is before them.