



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

SC-11848: Colonel Marcus M. Spiegel Collection, 1861-1864.

1862 May

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American Jewish Archives website.

My dear
Head Quarters by the River
Near Woodstock 9th May 1862

My dear good lovely sweet Wife
My dear Children, dear Mother
My beloved Brothers!

The chief Engineer
is just now forming the Assembly
(it being 3 o'clock P.M.) which
means take your Company out for
afternoon drill, the afternoon is
warm but pleasant and I must
how I do not feel as though I
could do another thing ere I had
written a long long letter to you.

Therefore I shall take out the
Company and I repeat am unfit
for duty.

I am not sick, yet am
not well. There is nothing in the
world wrong with me physically,
yet I have seen many, many days
since I have been in the Army, that
I felt much better, My appetite
is good, my Victuals are better

quality than I have been wont
to have, for the last 3 mo's
yet they taste not as relishing
to me as heretofore, I am
not homesick yet I never never
in my life felt as much like
seeing you all as I do now,
I do not think I am at all
troubled about you, yet for
the last week day and night
your lovely pictures have been
constantly before me and frequently
I have my light slumbers
been disturbed by dreams about
the children, you and Uncle
Joseph not as pleasant and
agreeable as I like, I really
can not say that anything
ails me therefore I can not
find a Remedy, yet if you
will say nothing about it
I will tell you my private
opinion and that is

A quart of Home would just
now do me more good than
5 gallon abroad.

Now it is out, and in Brit

To relieve my troubled mind.
I will attempt to write you
a long, long good letter, such
as I have been used to write and
such as I have only ceased
writing from the fact that I
thought a great many things
I would tell you and for
the last 3 weeks I expected
to start home every day, but
my leave of absence is so soon
coming.

Since I have written the above
I have been on Miss Parady's table
my supper, of "smashed up Eggs" my
own cooking, listened to the King's
Retreat and as he expected they for
them was 5 of them "smashed," Setton
thought the quite, bright, pleasant
May Eve, I felt a monotonous creep
over me as I sat in solitude before
my little Canvas house, which took
me home, I could see you, the sweet
children, Uncle Joseph, Elizabeth
sitting together and feeling as though
you would like to see me and
the Picture was a pleasant one.

and I was aroused by from
my sweet solitude which I enjoyed
for full 1/2 hour, by the lively
sound of the Bugle sounding
"Tops" which means, blow out
"the lights" but I have made
up my mind not to sleep, but
got up, from my rough home
made board, told Henry, light
up, came in my little lonely
kitchen to tell you of it

I do think if I had never
attempted to get leave of absence
as if our Regiment was
marching on to a successful
assault upon the Enemy, I
should not feel quite as un-
easy, as if I would get
letters from you as often as
I used to it would relieve
my mind, but our mail is
very irregular, and we had
two mails come in without
a word from my sweet one
at home, nor anything at all
since the 13th last nor what
is hard

No. 2.

I once told you I would send a letter to Estill giving you a minute description of our last March & Summer at Mount Jackson & the New Market but I have never done it therefore I will now give you a little History, but it is so motine and I may not be so accurate as I should have been some time hence, however as that was in all human probability the last one our Regt. will be engaged in, in this War and as I had given you pretty impartial Catalogues of our movement, when our Regt. has been engaged and as I am anxious to preserve the Record of my Campaign in my family I will now undertake it.

The Morning Mr Dobbins from Millersburg, who had been with us for quite a time left us, we expected the Paymaster in the afternoon, but at 3 P.M.

no Paymaster but a Messenger
came, instructing our Col to have
3 Comp^{ts} ready with 3 d^l d^l Nations
to move at 6 P. M and Report
at Head Quarters of Col. Carroll
of the 8th Ohio, Col Carroll being
Ebrights Col, I immediately started
for Ebright's quarters to find out
what was in the wind, Doctor
told me, there was fun ahead, that
it meant "lagging" some Rebels &
that he was going along, I swiftly
returned to Camp, asking Col Voss
to permit me & my Company to be
one of the three Companies, but Col Voss
told me it was not my turn,
he had already detailed Companies
A. F. & D. and besides all that
we would probably have some fun
of our own before another day.
and he wanted me and my
Company with him.

At 6 o'clock that same after-
noon another messenger came and
ordered Col Voss, to have the
remainder of his Command
ready with 3 d^l d^l Nations, to

fall in at 11 o'clock that night
as quietly as possible, some of
the boys were glad while others
Almost I would and would probably
have sworn right out, if it
were not that they dare not
do so, for fear of hurting the
moral feelings of their religious
Capt., because they had been
disappointed in getting their
pay, yet after all, most of
them got ready with pleasure
at that time and it was the
first time since I am in the
service that I came near putting
any of my men in Iron, if they
had not changed their notions
just in time and told me they
would go anywhere I went, though
they did not think the Gov.
used them fairly.

At Eleven o'clock just as
the moon shed forth its brightest
ray over as beautiful Valley
as the World ever saw, we
fell in, no one speaking above
a whisper, the Command being

by the Officers was given, in
"Samuel's Ghost style" hollow
"As from the glances, we were
in as easy a trot as we could
through the woods, over the
P. P. through the meadow, over
a cloverfield, passed a wheat
field on the Pike our way went
untill we got to the Bridge at
Edinburg lately burned by the
Rebels but rebuilt by the daring
Union boys under the constant
fire of the Rebels, and as
we neared the Bridge, we
came to the Buggy & body
guard of the noble old Hero Child
who although severely suffering
from his shattered arm was
an hand to give instructions,
We halted there untill, Col
Mason of the 4th Ohio, who
received his instructions from
the old Genl. & then we crossed
the Bridge & after marching for
about 800 paces, we halted
again.

Jefyoff gaff ind Sally gulf Kluff
Morgan so into Appona

Sheet 3

I am glad I stopped last Evng for
 the old Adage "Kümmert jeders
 seinen halben Huf" & has this time
 not proved true for this A. M. the
 Provost Marshall sent us a mail
 and among it was a great big &
 good letter from home of the 24th
 which you intented to send through Lt
 Fabron and indeed I am happy
 and feel good, Lt Fabron was
 very sorry he did not meet Bro
 Joseph at Henderson as expected as
 for Friend Ames he frequently does
 not see, more especially if any
 Officers are at stake.

All for Dobb's Report concerning Lt
 Fabron, Mr Dobb's is certainly in
 Error as I do scarcely believe, Mr
 Dobb ever saw the Lt Fabron is
 as good as Lt of Co D and as good
 an Officer and as fine a Gentleman
 as in the 67th Regt. I was happy
 to learn of the good health of all of
 you, inasmuch as I see in many
 letters from Millersburg, that there is a
 great deal of sickness about

Now to my narrative. I then & something else
when halted across Stony Creek. I was
w^{as} known within the day limits, from
where we had seen the Enemy
withdraw in the afternoon and
within two miles from where we
saw the Enemy throw shells &
Cannon Balls one night, we felt
them was close at hand and
really I never experienced a more
sublime spectacle of human bravery
and military grandeur, the glimmer-
ing of the hundreds of bayonets by
the light of the moon, the anxious
hearts and the expectation of a
bloody midnight battle, something
so romantic, really inspired me
I believe with true heroism.

The 4th Ohio (rather part of it, part
of it having gone at dusk with
the so called bagging expedition)
was the only Regt. in an advance
& they were divided to the right
and left of the spike except the broad
field as skirmishers, for a short
distance in advance of us, who
were marching by the flank in

the pits, slowly but steadily we advanced
untill we reached the top of the first
Emmence from whence the Rebel
Cannon had been belching forth its
harmless fire upon our Pickets
but 6 hours previous but nothing
was heard, we descended down to
meet almost on the foot of the
Hill when all of a sudden & when
least expected, the report of many
rifles right in front of us & whizzing
of as many Bullets about our Ears
and of all Emotions I ever felt
the one felt then was the strangest
It was unexpected and sounded
as clear through the still night air
that it involuntarily produced a
strange effect, the first I did was
to drop my Company, told them to
stand up &c and also told them
that the first man to leave his Post
I would shoot down at the same time
telling Lt Childs to do the same if he saw
any of the boys leaving ranks to pass
them over, Lt Chapman was not
with us on that trip, our
Stimmins having advanced on the

Rebel supports just by us
formed a raking fire into the
Enemy whereupon they fled and
we pressed after them, but after
we had followed them for
about 2 miles we were halted
and then ordered to move
cautiously and only one half
mile after that time we were
again fired into with some
considerable vehemence when we
were ordered to wheel to the right
& give them a "Broad Side"
which we did admirably & as
usual they "scattered" they
however had the advantage
of being at home and knowing the
Country so as to take cover
lets & it being dark could
not see to follow, it was just
shortly before day break
& as we cautiously moved
along we almost once saw
a Column of Smoke rise from
a Valley about 1 mile a
head of us & presently the sky
was getting red. as far as

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one could see, day was dawning & we
were permitted to see the sunrise on
as pretty, rich and fertile a valley as
the Sun ever shone on & just as the
first rays of day were visible on the Eastern
Horizon we, that is part of our Regt,
just saw the Blazes light up on a
covered Bridge & the Rebels under
Col. Mason checking Proq. Genl
of our Brigade told Col. Davis to
dispatch his 2 best Companies
on double quick after them,
Whom of course Capt. Sprigg &
Capt. Dentler were dispatched.
I pulled of my Overcoat (that
is Chapman's) threw it away told
the Proq. let us give us of our
Brethren yell & after them, it
would have done you good, the
Bridge was all in flame, we
turned to the right forded the
Creek & just crossed in time to
give them a Volley of our
Muskets, we must have killed
& wounded some of them

as we saw them sent some in
Ambulances & soon saw after
them when our aid the Camp came
& halted us until we could see
the Cavalry supporting us to
our left and the Pike by that
time the other Division had
crossed the Creek to our left &
the remainder of our Regt & 2
Comp were winding their way
to our right through the woods
We saw the Cavalry advance
& as we advanced 400 paces
their Artillery threw shells & Caps
Among us wounding one of our
Boys by a Cannon shot thru
the "kist" from which he subsequently
lost his hand. We advanced
& I commanded the Division &
no one gave me any Orders so
I thought of showing advancing
within fair Musket range &
then go double quick with fixed
Bayonets & take their old gun
or get whipped, a fence before us
about 100 paces I ordered the
Division to form in a platoon

And as we were about starting
for Old de Camp to Gen K... that
came galloping up like - having
lost his hat shouted Capt
where in hell are you going
to I answered him to close
out the d-d institution
"Yes say he" you look like it
with a hand full of men
Cover yourselves quick & just
then the Rebels discovered us
and the way the poured it into
is it was a caution.

Then here we were laying our
own Case not able to do any
thing not permitted to advance
& thinking that probably our
other Companies to our right
in the Woods might have some
fun & need our Assistance
we covered our Division on our
own Responsibilities to the
Woods the Rebels shelling us
all this time I was dodging
their shells. My Boys got on
by this time they can dodge
most any of the Rebel shells

We reached our Companies
A soon was ordered to unite
I advanced, when shortly we
came through the Camp the
rebels had occupied and
probably 20 min. before, their
breakfast got cooking in
their mess kettles which they
left we advanced had several
other skirmishes that day
awful hot weather and
had to march until 2 hours
after night until we got a
chance to stop, just about
a march from 11 o'clock
at night until 10 o'clock
next night it was hard
I tell you, when we stopped
my boys soon had plenty
of straw when I laid down
the night was warm & I
soon slept, about 12 o'clock
some of my boys called
me, telling me they had a
big supper, and getting up they

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told me that they had brought "a Goose
a Duck & a Chicken, they had skinned
them all & put all of them together in
one big Kettle which they "browned"
& then they got some "potatoes &
some Red Beets, peeled them and
put them in the same Mef & then
pepper & salt & boiled it & I tell you
it made a splendid Mef. I ate
heartily laid down again & slept bully
untill the Sun shone to hot in my
face which woked me up.

We stayed there that day when our
Boys discovered a Salt Peter mine
which I intended to describe to you
from the peculiar situation & romantic
aspect. I have no doubt it might prove
interesting but I don't do a right off, but
now I have forgotten a good deal, the
scenes & movement of the Battle & I
generally take a minute up, as soon as we
stop. Next day we were ordered back
to Woodstock to get our pay & take charge
of the Post untill relieved.

Some of the Boys liked it, while others I was

about marching back 25 miles from any
chance of fighting except Guerrillas
as far myself I believe I was not a bit
displeased I felt as though a few weeks
rest would not hurt me. Here we are
our own situation to Woodstock is that of
Me Kees to Milledburg only a little nearer.
Woodstock is the County Seat of Shenandoah
County composed mostly of "Secessionists" yet
there is but few of the first families here
The town is 150 years old, they have a church
here of 110 years old, I have been acting Provost
Marshal of the town for several days & must
most likely take charge of the Provost Marshal
Ship altogether to morrow, I was to New Market
yesterday and made arrangements for a
daily mail here which will be the most pleasing
feature in the whole thing. I have not given up
the idea of coming home, I am draining every
nerve to get a leave of absence and think I
shall accomplish it. I have had lots of fun
since I am in the Service & more especially
in Virginia with Yehudim, I generally know
them by the name as well as position & then
I go in & take Chapinawo Childs along, talk
about buying & then say a loshaw halodesh
word & you ought to see them jump & ask

Yehudal? Yes Sir & then I can assure you
they are "pif mehanah" & do me all the
"Covert" in the World, this is Sunday
afternoon & was invited down town by
troop of them for Dinner with all my Lieutenants
I accepted the invitation of Mr Rosenbom
who has a splendid American Woman for
a "paw" & a daughter 14 years & Son 10 y
"And such a Dinner would do honor
to a King, Mr Rosenbom as well as
Mr Heller have invited me to come to
town aboard with them free of charge
but I prefer my own boarding.

While I talk about boarding, I must
say to you, the farmers through here
who are mostly like the "Amish"
of Holmes Co or like Mr Wise & John
Keplar of Greentownship bring daily every
thing to Camp in the line of Butter, Eggs,
Bread & Pie & you could wish we could
often get 3 doz of Eggs for a pint of
Salt, they used to pay seven Dollars
for a basket of Salt and then con-
sidered themselves lucky in getting it
Coffee they paid \$1.50 per lb Sugar 50¢
Cullico 50¢ per Yard & everything else in
proportion

Most of the Country folks would like
to see the war over dont care mind
which Side wins. They have not
seen any Silver or gold for a year
Everything Skinpleaser & I tell you
they love us a little the best, because
we have occasionally a quarter in silver.
Enclosed find 1/2 of their money, such
they have in 5⁰⁰ + 3⁰⁰ 10⁰⁰ &c

We have drenched up Eggs, poached
Eggs, fried Bread, Cartoffel Salad, & every
thing such as I like and if I only
could go home for 3 weeks I think
I could make it all right

My love to the Children, I will
write a letter for the Special Edification
of family use to morrow & will be
after write after even if I expect to
go home to morrow I will write
to day. God bless you, Remember
Your true loving & affectionate
Marcus

Head Quarters 67th Regt

Near Woodstock Va May 2/62

My dear good lovely & sweet Wife

My dear Children, dearer than ever

My beloved Brother!

The chief Bugler is just now sounding the Assembly (it being 3 o'clock P.M.) which means take your Company out for afternoon drill, The afternoon is warm but pleasant and somehow I do not feel as though I could do another thing ere I had written a long letter to you.

Therefore Lt. Childs take out the Company and Report me unfit for duty.

I am not sick, yet am not well. There is nothing in the world wrong with me physically, yet I have seen many, many days since I have been in the Army, that I felt much better. My appetite is good, my Victuals of better quality than I have been wont to have for the last 3 months. Yet they taste not as relishing to me, as heretefore. I am not homesick yet I never in my life felt as much like seeing you all as I do now. I do not think I am at all troubled about you. Yet for the last week day and night your lovely pictures have been constantly before me and frequently have my light slumbers been disturbed by dreams about the children, you and Uncle Joseph, not as pleasant and agreeable as I like.

I really can not say that anything ails me, therefore I can not find a Remedy; yet if you will say nothing about it, I will tell you my private opinion and that is:

A quart of Home would just now do me more good than 5 gallons abroad.

Now it is out, and in Order to relieve my troubled mind I will attempt to write you a long, long, good letter, such as I have been used to write and such as I have only ceased writing from the fact that I thought a great many things I would tell you and for the last 3 weeks I expected to start home every day, but my leave of absence is so slow coming.

Since I have written the above I have been on Dress Parade, took my supper "of smashed up Eggs", my own cooking, listened to the Buglers Retreat and as he or rather they, for there were 5 of them, Sounded "Tattoo" through the quiet, bright, pleasant May Eve, I felt a monotony creep over me as I sat in solitude before my little canvas house, which took one home. I could see you, the sweet children, Uncle Joseph, Elizabeth sitting together and feeling as though you would like to see me and the Picture was a pleasant one and I was aroused from my sweet solitude which I enjoyed for full 1/2 hour, by the lively sound of the Bugle sounding "Taps" which means "blow

out the lights" but I have made up my mind not to obey, but got up, from my rough home made bench, told Henry, light up, came in my little lonely House to tell you of it.

I do think if I had never attempted to get leave of absence or if our Regiment was marching on to a Successful assault upon the Enemy, I should not feel quite as uneasy, or if I would get Letters from you as often as I used to, it would relieve my mind, but our mail is very irregular, and we had two mails come in without a word from my sweet ones at home, nor anything at all since the 13th last month and that is hard.

No. 2

I once told you I would send a letter to Estill giving you a minute description of our last March and Skirmish at Mount Jackson and New Market but I have never done it. Therefore I will now give you a little History, but it is sometime and I may not be so accurate as I should have been some time hence. However as that was in all human probability the last one our Regiment will be engaged in, in this War, and as I have given you pretty impartial catalogues of every movement, where our Regiment has been engaged and as I am anxious to preserve the Record of my Campayne in my family, I will now under take it.

The Morning Mr. Dobbs from Millersburg, who had been with us for quite a time left us, we expected the Paymaster in the afternoon, but at 3 P.M. no Paymaster but a messenger came, instructing our Colonel to have 3 Companies ready with 3 days Rations to move at 6 P.M. and Report at Head Quarters of Colonel Carrols of the 8th Ohio. Colonel Carrol being Ebrights Colonel, I immediately started for Ebrights quarters to find out what was in the wind. Doctor told me, there was fun ahead, that it meant "baging" some Rebels and that he was agoing along. I swiftly returned to Camp, asking Colonel Voris to permit me and my Company to be one of the three Companies but Colonel Voris told me it was not my turn and he had already detailed Companies A, F, and D and, besides all that, we would probably have some fun of our own before another day and he wanted me and my Company with him.

At 6 o'clock that same afternoon another Messenger came and ordered Colonel Voris to have the remainder of his Command ready with 3 days Rations, to fall in at 11 o'clock that night as quietly as possible. Some of the boys were glad while others almost swore and would probably have sworn right out, if it were not that they dare not do so, for fear of hurting the moral feelings of their religious Captain, because they had been disappointed in getting their pay. Yet after all, most of them got ready with pleasure, all but

three, and it was the first time since I am in the service that I came near putting any of my Men in Irons, if they had not changed their notion just in time and told me they would go any wheres I went, though they dit not think the Government used them fairly.

At eleven O'clock just as the moon shed forth its brightest ray over as beautiful Valley as the World ever saw, we fell in, no one speaking above a whisper; the Commands by the Officers was given in "Hamlet's Ghost style", hollow as from the graves. We moved in as easy a tread as we could through the woods, over the Railroad, through Meddow, over a Cloverfield, passed a Wheat field on the Pike. On we went until we got to the Bridge at Edenburg lately burned by the Rebels but rebuilt by the daring Union boys under the constant fire of the Rebels, and as we neared the Bridge, we came to the Buggy and body Guard of the noble old Hero Shields who although severely suffering from his shattered Arm was on hand to give instructions. We halted there until Colonel [John Sanford] Mason of the 4th Ohio, who received his instructions from the old General and then we crossed the Bridge and after marching for about 800 paces, we halted again.

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I am glad I stopped last Eve, for the old Adage _____

has this time not prove true for this A.M. the Provost Marshall sent us a mail and among it was a great big & good letter from home of the 24th which you intended to send through Lt. Fahrion and indeed I am happy and feel good, Lt. Fahrion was very sorry he did not meet Bro. Joseph at Hudson as expected as for Friend Ames, he frequently does not see more especially if any oysters are at stake.

As for Dobbs Report concerning Lt. Fahrion, Mr. Dobbs is certainly in Error as I do scarcely believe Mr. Dobbs ever saw the Lt. Fahrion is as ever 2nd Lt. of Co. D and as good an officer as fine a Gentleman as in the 67th Regt. I was happy to learn of the good health of all of you inasmuch as I see in many letters from Millersburg that there is a great deal of sickness about. Now to my narrative & then something else. When halted across Stony Creek and we knew within the very limits from where we had seen the Enemy numerous in the afternoon and within 200 paces from where we saw the Enemy throw Shells and Cannon Balls ere night, we felt fun was close at hand and really I never Experienced a more Sublime Spectacle of human bravery and military grandeur. The glistening of the hundreds of Bayonets by the light of the moon, the anxious hearts and the Expectation of a Bloody midnight Battle, something so romantic, really inspired me I believe with true heroism.

The 4th Ohio (rather part of it; part of it having gone at dusk with the so called bagging Expedition) was the only Regiment in our advance and they were divided to the right and left of the pike across the broad field as skirmishers, for a short distance in advance of us, who were marching by the flank in the pike. Slowly but steadily we advanced until we reached the top of the first Eminence from whence the Rebel Cannon had been belching forth its harmless Fire upon our Pickets but 6 hours previous, but nothing was heard. We descended down and were almost on the foot of the Hill when, all of a certain and when least expected, the Report of many rifles right in front of us and whizzing of as many Bullets apast our ears, and of all Emotions I ever felt the one felt then was the strangest. It was so unexpected and sounded as clear through the still night air that it involuntarily produced a strange effect. The first I dit was to address my company, told them to stand up and so forth, and also told them that the first man to leave his Post I would shoot down; at the same time telling Lieutenant Childs to do the same if he saw any of the Boys leaving Ranks, to pop them over. Lieutenant Chapman was not with us on that trip. Our skirmishers having advanced on the Rebel outposts just by us, poured a raking fire into the Enemy whereupon they fled and we pressed after

them, but after we had followed them for about 2 miles, we were halted and then Ordered to move cautiously and only one half mile after that time we were again fired into with some considerable vehemence, when we were ordered to wheel to the right and give them a "Broad Side" which we dit admirably and as usual they "scatatted". They however had the advantage of being at home and knowing the Country so as to take cross lots and it being dark [we] could not see to follow. It was just shortly before day break and as we cautiously moved along we all at once saw a Volume of Smoke rise from a Valley about 1 mile a head of us and presently the sky was getting red. As far as

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one could see, day was dawning and we were permitted to see the Sunrise on as pretty, rich and furtile a Valley as the Sun Ever shone on and just as the first Rays of day were visible on the Eastern Horizon we, that is part of our Regiment, just saw the Blazes light up on a covered Bridge and the Rebels move. Colonel Mason, Acting Brigadier General of our Brigade, told Colonel Voris to dispatch his 2 best Companies on double quick after them. When of course Captain Spiegel and Captain Buttler were dispatched, I pulled off my Overcoat (that is Chapmans), threw it away, told the Boys, let us give one of our Buckeye yells and after them; it

would have done you good. The Bridge was all in flames. We turned to the right, forded the Creek and just crossed in time to give them a Volley of our Muskets. We must have killed and wounded some of them as we saw them put some in Ambulances and run and we after them, when an aid de Camp came and halted us until we could see the Cavelery supporting us to our left on the Pike. By that time the other skirmishers had crossed the Creek to our left and the remainder of our Regiment and 2 Companies were winding their way to our right through the woods. We saw the Cavelery and advanced and as we advanced 400 paces their Artillery threw shells and crape [grapeshot] among us, wounding one of our Boys by a Canister Shot threw the "Rist" from which he subsequently lost his hand. We advanced; I commanded the Division and no one gave me any Orders, so I thought of slowly advancing within fair Musket range and then go double quick with fixed Bayonets and take their old Gun or get whipped. At a fence before us about 100 paces, I ordered the Division to form in 4 platoons and as we were about starting an Aid de Camp to General Kimball came galloping up like---, having lost his hat, shouted, Captain, where in hell are you going to? I answered him, to close out the d---d institution. Yes, says he, "You look like it with a hand full of men; cover yourselves quick," and just then the Rebels discovered us and the way they poured it into us, it was a caution.

Then here we were laying on our Oars, not able to do any thing; not permitted to advance and thinking that probably our other Companies to our right in the Woods might have some fun and need our Assistance, we moved our Division on our own Responsibilities to the Woods, the Rebels shelling us all this time and we dodging their shells. My Boys got so by this time, they can dodge most any of the Rebel shells.

We reached our Companies and soon were ordered to unite and advance, when shortly we came through the Camp the Rebels had occupied only probably 20 minutes before; their breakfast yet cooking in their messkittles which they left. We advanced, had several other skirmishes that day, awfull hot weather, and had to march until 2 hours after night until we got a chance to stop. Just think of a march from 11 o'clock at night until 10 o'clock next night; it was hard I tell you. When we stopped, my boys soon had plenty of straw where I laid down. The night was warm and I soon slept. About 12 o'clock some of my Boys called me, telling they had a big Supper. On getting up, they

Sheet 5

told me that they had "bought" a Goose, a Duck and a Chicken; they had cleaned them all and put all of them together in one big kettle which they "borrowed", and then they got some potatoes and some Red Beets, peeled them and

put them in the same mess, and then pepper and salt and boiled it, and I tell you it made a splendid mess. I ate hearty, laid down again and slept bully until the Sun shone too hot in my face, which waked me up.

We stayed there that day, when our Boys discovered a Salt Peter mine which I intended to describe to you. From the peculiar situation and romantic aspects, I have no doubt it might prove interesting had I done so right off, but now I have forgotten a good deal. The scenes and movement of the Battle and so forth, I generally take a minute of, as soon as we stop. Next day we were ordered back to Woodstock to get our pay and take charge of the Post until relieved.

Some of the Boys liked it, while others swore about marching back 25 miles from any chance of fighting except Guerillas. As for myself I believe I was not a bit displeased. I felt as though a few weeks rest would not hurt me. Here we are now; our Situation to Woodstock is that of McKees to Millersburg only a little nearer. Woodstock is the County Seat of Shenandoah County, composed mostly of "Secession-ists", yet there is but few of the first families here. The town is 150 years old; they have a Church here of 110 years old. I have been acting Provost Marshal of the town for several days and must most likely take charge of the Provost Marshalship altogether to morrow. I was to New Market

yesterday and made arrangements for a daily mail here which will be the most pleasing feature in the whole thing. I have not give up the Idea of coming home. I am straining every nerve to get a leave of absence and think I shall accomplish it. I have had lots of fun since I am in the Service and more Especially in Virginia with Yehudim [Jews]. I generally know them by the name as well as ponim [face] and then I go in and take Chapman or Childs along, talk about buying and then say a "loshon hakodesh [Hebrew] word" and you ought to see them jump and ask Yehudah? Yes Sir and then I can assure you they are "[illegible word] Mehanah" [Mekane =envy] and do me all the "covet" [Koved-respect?] in the World. This is Sunday afternoon and [I] was invited down town by two of them for Dinner with all my Lieutenants. I accepted the invitation of Mr. Rosenbaum who has a splendid American Women for a "frau" [wife] and a daughter 14 years and Son 10 years. And such a Dinner would do honor to a King. Mr. Rosenbaum as well as Mr. Heller have invited me to come to town and board with them free of charge but I prefer my own boarding.

While I talk about boarding, I must say to you, the farmers through here, who are mostly like the "Amish" of Holmes County or like William Wise and John Keplar of Greentownship, bring daily everything to camp in the line of

Butter, Eggs, Bread and Pie and so forth you could wish. We can often get 3 dozen of Eggs for a pint of Salt. They used to pay Seven Dollars for a bushel of Salt and then considered themselves lucky in getting it. Coffee they paid \$1 50/100 per lb, Sugar 50¢, calico 50¢ per Yard and Everything else in proportion.

Most of the Country folks would like to see the War over; dont care much which side wins. They have not seen any silver or gold for a year. Everything Shinplaster and I tell you they love us a little the best, because we have occasionally a quarter in Silver. Enclosed find [fractional currency] of their money, such they have in 5¢ and 3¢ and 10¢ and so forth.

We have smashed up eggs, poached Eggs, fried Bred, Cartoffel [potato] Salat, and every thing such as I like and if I only could go home for 3 weeks I think I could make it all right.

My love to the children. I will write a letter for the Special Edification of family use to morrow and will here after write often. Even if I Expect to go home to morrow, I will write to day. God bless you. Remember your true, loving and affectionate

Marcus.

Strictly private

Woodstock V May 8/1861

My good, lovely and abused Wife!

I have no doubt you think that I speak truly when I say "abused Wife" a Woman as good & lovely, as strong & industrious, as kind a wife and good mother as you are should be left alone ~~hundreds~~ hundreds of miles from her husband who loves her more & with more fervent zeal & devotion than any other man can love just at this time in your situation, with 3 small children and one coming, or that he should leave her at all, that I went to this War I never yet regretted, I think it helped me in my health reputation & pecuniary and if just now I were permitted to go home and stay 30 days I would gladly stay until Fall in the Service, but it does not make me very kind to military authorities if I do

not get a head of absence for
some 20 or 30 days pretty soon.

if I should not succeed in getting
permission to go, I ask of you
if you love me, to be as easy as
you possibly can be and spend the
fifty Dollars which it would cost
me to come home for your own
benefit and comfort, get that Woman
from Akron to stay with you
during that time and if you should
bring us a Boy give the "Gefattuskoff"
to Brother Joseph & mother call the
Boy "George McCallan Spigel" Buy
everything you want to be happy
& just console yourself, yet it seems
to me as though such a thing could
not be possible without me being there.
I would gladly walk 600 miles to see
you if they would only say go
God bless you my love, my sweet
my all, may the blessings of heaven
rest upon you. Ever your true loving
Mother to the Child
Joseph & Elizabeth
Moses

Strictly private

Woodstock V May 8/1861 [1862]

My good, lovely and abused Wife!

I have no doubt you think that I speak truly when I say "abused Wife"; [that] a Woman as good and lovely, as saving and industrious, as kind a wife and good mother as you are should be left alone hundreds of miles from her husband who loves her more and with more fervor, zeal and devotion than any other man can love, just at this time in your situation, with 3 small children and one coming, or that he should leave her at all. That I went to this War I never yet regretted. I think it helped me in my health, reputation and pecuniary [matters], and if just now I were permitted to go home and stay 30 days, I would gladly stay until Fall in the Service. But it does not make me very kind to military authorities if I do not get a leave of absence for some 20 or 30 days pretty soon. If I should not succeed in getting permission to go, I ask of you if you love me, to be as easy as you possibly can be and spend the fifty Dollars which it would cost me to come home for your own benefit and comfort. Get that Woman from Akron to stay with you during that time and if you should bring us a Son give the "Gefattershopt" [godparentage] to Brother Joseph and mother. Call the Boy "George McClellan Spiegel". Buy everything you want to be

happy and just console yourself. Yet it seems to me as though such a thing could not be possible without me being there. I would gladly walk 600 miles to see you if they would only say go.

God bless you my love, my sweet, my all; may the blessings of heaven rest upon you.

Ever your true and loving

Marcus

My love to the children, Joseph and Elizabeth

