



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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

1862 December

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American Jewish Archives website.

Head Quarters (left wing) 12 Oct 60
Board Steamer Fort Wayne off Port
Island at: 10 December 5/60

My dear dear Wife and Children!

It is just now 10 o'clock in the Evening
and I have only a few minutes ago
dismissed the Officers School which by the
way is getting very interesting and our
Steamers have just landed for the
night and the Officer of the day
has reported the Pickets out through
the woods (a precaution necessary
in these parts to prevent being surprised
by Simillas) and as I slept about
3 hours to day I thought best
to go to Work and give you a
little history of our journey.

In doing this I might as well tell
you at once that as far as Scenery
and Landscapes are concerned
I can say but little, having spent

but very little time on deck

We left Cornington Banquets the 21st and Cornington Thow the 24th ult. and have ever since with but very little exception been confined to the narrow limits of a Steamboat crowded with 475 living "men" with all their "Ephemera" of impure and foul air, 31 of that number sick, twelve of the thirty one very sick. You know that I never feel very well while traveling either on the Cars or Steamer and on this long and tedious journey I have not enjoyed as much comfort as usual.

The continuous noise of the Steamboat Machinery, with the yells, the disputes, the songs, the coughs & the gruntings and even some muzzling of the Soldiers, the Ho Ho's of the crew and gay and jessive little laughs and otherwise produced merriment of the Officers and the diarrhea which has run me pretty well, all these together have made me wish frequently

that we were at Memphis.

When we left Covington the water was very low but a rise was expected to come from Pittsburg, which however did not reach us until after we were four days and during the four days struck on numerous sandbanks while striking one of these sandbanks our Captain who I have been working hard all night - came to the Cabin in the morning about 5 A.M. out of humor on account of his slow progress in getting his vessel "off the ground" tried to "vent his path" over the many boys who on account of being drunk were laying on the floor in the Cabin, he came to my room and commenced swearing and cursing about the crew and men falling up the Cabin &c & he was not going to ~~lay~~ live like a log etc. I rubbed my eyes and did not feel very kind to him for so unceremoniously waking me, besides many of the boys gathered around and by their countenances I perceived, that

they expected me to say something, not
to kind to my friend the Captain,
I therefore told him, "the boys in the Cabin
are sick boys and must lay in these
nights and if you do not like it I am
sorry for it, and just let me caution
you, never to come so early again and
making such an infernal mess &
noise, if you do I think I shall find
boys enough on board this boat, to
throw you over board about as quiet as
any double quick manoeuvre was
ever performed" and from the "that per
Cul" just give the word "A" and the
gestures of the boys I believe he con-
cluded to let well enough alone and
from that day to this he has never tried
to interfere with my own domestic af-
fairs on board the boat, and I have
to day no better friend than old
Captain Bob Whitney of the Fort
Wayne.

In our way here we stopped at Madison, Evansville and Sandletown Ind, the latter place has a very large Cotton Factory which however at present is working only at half time, we also stopped at Louisville Ky at Cairo Ill and at Columbus Ky at these latter places we have to report to the comd^g Generals at the first Genl Poyle the next Genl Tuttle at the latter Genl Davies commands of the three Genl Tuttle I visited one best him and I got quite familiar. I made the acquaintance of Capt David Keener who fought & beat the Rebel Ram Arkansas he was wounded seven times, is an old Cuss & quite an original Character, is an awfull Democrat and can drink as much Whiskey as most any other man, without getting "heastly drunk" besides him I made the acquaintance of many Genl boat fellows who have been in all the fights

on the Mississippi, but they expect
Vicksburg will beat them all and if
I mistake not I think to be able
to give you a description of that
as an Eye Witness and participator.

We had some fears of being ordered off
from Columbus and take the Cars but
we are now permitted to go on to Memphis
for which I am glad as that will give
us an opportunity to take our Land trans-
portation with us. We have with us 16 six
hundred Teams, and Mules in good order
and 9 two horse Ambulances, which
makes quite a respectable transportation
for one Regiment if we will only be permitted
to keep it we will be as well fixed and Equipped
as most any Regt. that ever took the field.

You had frequently asked me what became
of our Woman, well the youngest one of the
two went home the oldest one the "matrons"
is an Col French's Post, she left the Hospital
and takes of Cooking for some of the Officers.
I do not know what they will do.
She does not speak to me because I said

that whenever there is warant in the field
she generally does not amount to much
and her husband is not worth a d-
for the service. We have two Women on board
of our boat one in Conyers Company is
Mrs Steel and looks for all the world like
Mary Lawson and the other is Mrs
Haggard in Braytons Company who
Every body would swear her to be the sister
of Mrs Weaver of Minintown if one did not
know that, that Sister was married a hair
at the old Forge. They are however both
of them I think very kind and good women
and are going to Cook, the Mary Lawson
looking one was very kind to me when I
was sick and had it not been for the Idea
that she looked so very much like my old
friend I could have enjoyed the little
dainties & Tea she evoked but as it was
I really did not. Coffin Egan had not had
his discharge when I left but was
promised it & if he has not got it
yet will get it as I mean to write
to the Col & Lt Col this evening yet.

Oh this eve rec^d. your dear letter from the
27th with Hamlin & Henriette which gave
me much comfort & happiness I did not
think I could write as well I will
write to her & Hamlin when I get time at
Memphis. I hope to get about 20 letters
when I get to Memphis Oh but I will cut
a dash. I hope that mother has reached
you in this. Why dont Uncle Jerry write
& he is a pretty boy wonder how much he
would take for himself? Cant he write a little
in every letter? Wish you would send me
the Times daily after you get through with
how how they say it is the best
Paper in America. Cant Ariel & Sarah
Henry & Theresa write I want like
lots of letters. I must now stop &
only hope that I will have a chance
of mailing this letter to morrow.

With my love to Hamlin, Lizzie Morsey
& Mattie & all the rest I remain

Your ever true & loving
Marcus

Head Quarters (left wing) 120th O.V.

Board Steamer Fort Wayne off Port

Island No. 10, December 5/62

My dear dear Wife and Children!

It is just now 10 o'clock in the Evening and I have only a few minutes ago dismissed the Officers School which by the way is getting very interesting and our Steamers have just landed for the night and the Officer of the day has reported the Pickets out through the woods (a precaution necessary in these parts to prevent being surprised by "Guirillas") and as I slept about 3 hours to day I thought best to go to work and give you a little history of our journey.

In doing this I might as well tell you at once that as far as Sceneries and Landscapes are concerned I can say but little, having spent but very little time on deck.

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The continuous noise of the Steamboat Machinery, with the yells, the disputes, the songs, the coughs & the gruntings, and even some moaning of the Soldiers, the Ho Eh oh of the crew and gay and festive little laughs and otherwise produced merriment of the Officers and the diarehea which has run me pretty well, all these together have made me wish frequently that we were at Memphis.

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friend the Captain. I therefore told him, "the boys in the Cabin are sick boys and must lay in there nights and if you do not like it I am sorry for it, and just let me caution you, never to come so early again and making such an infernal mess & noise, if you do I think I shall find boys enough on board this boat, to throw you over board about as quick as any double quick maneuver was ever performed" and from the "thats so Col," "Just give the word" &c and the gestures of the boys, I believe he concluded to let well enough alone and from that day to this he has never tried to interfere with my own domestic affairs on board the boat, and I have to day no better friend than old Captain Bob Whitney of the Fort Wayne.

On our way here we stopped at Matison [Madison], Evansville and Candletown [Cannelton], Ind., the latter place has a very large Cotton Factory which however at present is working only at half time, we also stopped at Louisville Ky at Cairo Ill and at Columbus Ky at all these latter places we have to report to the comdg Generals at the first Genl Boyle the next Genl Tuttle at the latter Genl Davies commands of the three Genl Tuttle suited me best him and I got quite familiar. I made the acquaintance of Capt David Heiner who fought & beat the Rebel Ram Arkansas he was wounded seven times, is an old cuss & quite an original Character, is an

awfull Democrat and can drink as much Whiskey as most any other man, without getting "beastly drunk" besides him I made the acquaintance of many Gunboat fellows who have been in all the fights on the Mississippi, but they expect Vicksburg will beat them all and if I mistake not, I think to be able to give you a discription of that as an Eye Witness and participater.

We had some fears of being ordered off from Columbus and take the Cars but we are now permitted to go on to Memphis for which I am glad as that will give us an opportunity to take our Land transportation with us. We have with us 16 Six mule teams, our Mules in good order, and 2 two horse Ambulances, which makes quite a respectable transportation for one Regiment if we will only be permitted to keep it we will be as well fixed and equipped as most any Regt. that ever took the field.

You have frequently asked me what became of our women, well the youngest one of the two went home the oldest one the "matron" is on Col French's Boat, she left the Hospital and talks of cooking for some of the officers I do not know what they will do. She does not speak to me because I said that wherever there is woman in the field she generally does not amount to much and her husband is not worth a d-n for the service. We have two Women on board of our boat one in Conyers Company, a Mrs. Steel and looks for all the world

like Mary Lawson, and the other a Mrs. Haggard in Braytons Company who everybody would swear her to be the sister of Mrs. Weaver of Uniontown if one dit not know that, that sister was married & lived at the "old forge". They are however both of them I think very kind and good women and are going to cook, the Mary Lawson looking one was very kind to me when I was sick and had it not been for the Idea that she looked so very much like my old friend I could have enjoyed the little dainties & Tea she cooked but as it was I really dit not. Ezra had not had his discharge when I left but was promised it & if he has not got it yet will get it as I mean to write to the Col & Lt Col this evening yet.

I this eve recd your dear letter from the 27th with Hamlin's & Henriette which gave me such comfort & happiness. I dit not think Yettche could write as well I will write to her & Hamlin when I get time at Memphis. I hope to get about 20 letters when I get time to Memphis oh but I will cut a dash. I hope that mother has reached you ere this. Why dont Oncle Josey write? he is a pretty boy wonder how much he would take for himself? Can't he write a little in every letter? Wish you woud send me the "Times" dayly after you get through with down here they say it is the best Paper in America. Cant Mich & Sarah Henry & Theresa write I would like lots of letters. I must now stop to only hope that I will

have a chance of mailing this letter to morrow.

With my love to Hamlin, Lizzie Mosey & Hattie & all the
rest I remain

Your ever true & loving

Marcus



Dear Friend
Dear Friend

U.S. Camp
Oliver near Memphis Tenn Dec 14/62

Dear Friend your Brother!

Your very kind and congenial letter caught up here I found here Monday the 8th after arriving on the 7th. You may ask then why not answered it immediately? answer, for the first time since I have been in the service I have been taken with the diarrhoea on Board the Boat & did not get entirely over it until a few days ago it run me down in flesh & spirit so much so that I did not feel like writing and with all this I did not dare to report unfit for duty on day of dis-embarking for the first time with a new and green Regt, when one does not wish to have it appear green requires the united complaining and unceasing efforts of every officer in it that had any Experience, more especially when there are but two who can boast of any thing in that line. Disembarkation, joining the conjoint Wagons, unloading Mules Horses, Stoves & Subsistence, Men and Officers

fix everything in order so as to move through
a City like Memphis. After a weary journey
of two weeks on government Transports
over two Rivers in a low stage of water
and selecting Camp, lay it out
pitch Tent, see to the ditching
cleaning, wood, watering and feeding a
Regt of 950 men takes labor and
^{when} ^{where} one has to do a full share of that
sick wear and weary at that is
truly not a trifling affair and a little
rest is like a precious jewel.

Such was my lot yet I stood it and am
happy to announce to you my true and
trusty friend I am to day hale and
 hearty and only a little the worse
in flesh say 12 lbs.

We were two weeks and one day coming
you, I commanded the left wing of
the Regiment ^{On the} Fort Wayne a large and
spacious Transport Steamer and
Col French commanded the right
wing on St. "Felder Wave" a boat
of same size. Though both were
boats of good size yet when loaded
with 475 men Mules, Horses Wagons
&c, they were well crowded. Our
progress on the River was slow and

tedious, owing to the low water, we
had to lay by nights and did
not travel overy fast in day time
When about 30 miles above Cairo we
the Steamer Silver Wave ran a
rock and sank, we took off men
& stock and landed them on
the beach proceeded to Cairo where
I procured another boat the
J. P. Pringle and upon these boats
without any further accidents
we arrived safely at Memphis
the 7th inst. Memphis is a beauti-
ful City full at present of
trading, Yehundim, Women and
Contrabands, the Cotton buying
attracts many men here and often
large fortunes are made in a
short time. Men from St Louis,
Cincinnati, Baltimore &c are
here with large stocks of Goods
making money fast.

We were assigned to Genl Smith's Div.
but when we arrived here, Genl Morgan
of Ohio (of Cumberland Gap notoriety)
ascertained that Col French was
Commanding the Division Regt and
Col French having been a Lieutenant

under him in Mexico, insisted upon
having me transferred to his Division
to which Gen. Sherman consented.

We are now in Moeyano Division
and yesterday in the reorganization
the General gave us the position of
honour as the 1st Regt. in the 1st
(advance) Brigade. We had two
Brigade Drills and I am proud
to say our Regt. done splendid
and certainly feel good since I
done nearly all the Battalion
Drilling and Regt. had.

I find myself very well known
among our other Officers and have
already many good friends, the noble
animal presented to my me in Chicago
and beauty full rigging & mounting
from you are attracting attention
and I am as well mounted as
any Officer in this Army no
General Excepted. Our Brigade
Consists of 120th O.S. 118th & 119th Regts
and 22nd Ky our Brigade Command
is Col. Sheldon of the 42nd Ohio
(Garfield's Regiment) a very amiable
gentleman & represented as a fine
Officer, he called on me this morning

and

Washington
19th Dec 1862
The following is
the letter from
General Morgan

and we had a very pleasant talk. General
Morgan is from Mt Vernon West Co Ohio
a good man and feels very much inter-
ested in our good opinion of him as he comes
so near our neighborhood. I must say myself
We are ordered to be ready for land or water
by the very latest at the 1st inst 3 days yet
cutting us down in tents & transportation which
means I think an expedition on the 1st inst
will we are ready for it, our boys are keen
for a fight as for myself I don't care if it
comes I am ready if not I shant make a
guns about it. A Rehman is well he
sleeps in my tent every night, he is doing
duty regular, makes a good soldier, but
he will "nicht fechten" he says, "if you miss
him "Nicht zu fein ist er, if you miss
you fechten" when the time comes I shall
manage to have him out of the fight
I will fit it so as to send him
honorably to the rear on an escort
for me, that is, if really any fight
appears eminent if only prospective
I will let him sweet a little he
is a very good boy

The relation between me and my fellow officers
is most happy Col French is a Gentleman
of the first Water, a true and trusty friend
and a splendid officer. Major Parsons
a very close fellow, the Adjutant Gay
and happy & the Quarter Master who
is already promoted to Brigade S. M. W.
like a brother to me. All the Company
Officers are ^{viewing} ~~viewing~~ with each other
to please me and the men I could
not wish any better. I would very much
like to see Esther and her little daughter.
Give them my love. I am expecting to come
to Ohio in May if I live and then I
will see you all and if we want have
a gay time its because we dont know
how. Give my love to Uncle & Aunt, to your
dear Wife and Children Josephs
Wife and Children. Mart Wife and Children
tell Mart that the time is still evening
close when according to my oath I
dare play Solo again & then I will
take him. My love to Simon Wife and
Children. Also Michael Wife and Children.
Uncle Hahn Wife Yette & Herman tell
Herman to write. My respects to Mr. Jewell
and tell him his letter made me feel like frankford
again & my love to all. Ever Ever Yours
Maecus

My love to the old mother & the old father & the old brother & the old sister & the old friends

19/1/21

[upside down at top of page]

Col. French & Major Beekman send their best regards

Hd. Qtrs. 120th O.V.I Camp

Oliver near Memphis Ten. Dec. 14/1862

Dear Friend yea Brother!

Your very kind and congenial Letter english & German I found here Monday the 8th after arriving on the 7th. You may ask then why not answer it immediately? Answer: for the first time since I have been in the service I have been taken with the diarehea on Board the Boat & dit not get entirely over it untill a few days ago it run me down in flesh & spirit so much so that I dit not feel like writing and with all this I dit not dare to report unfit for duty on ac of disembarking for the first time with a new and green Regt, when one does not wish to have it appear green requires the united unflinching and unceasing efforts of every officer in it that had any experience, more especially when there are but two who can boast of any thing in that line. Disembarkation, joining the unjointed Wagons, unloading Mules & horses, Stores & Subsistance, Men and Officers fix everything in order so as to move through a City like Memphis. After a weary journey of two weeks on Government Transports over two Rivers in a low stage of water and selecting Camp, lay it out pitch Tent, see to the ditching cleaning, wood, watering and feeding a Regt

of 950 men takes labor and when one has to do a full share of that sick weak and weary at that [it] is truly not a trifling affair and a little rest is like a precious Jewel. Such was my fix, yet I stood it and am happy to announce to you my true and trusty friend I am to day hale and hearty and only a little the worse in flesh say 12 lbs.

We were two weeks and one day coming here, I commanded the left wing of the Regiment on the Fort Wayne a large and spacious Transport Steamer and Col French commanded the right wing on St. "Silver Wave", a boat of same Size. Though both were boats of good size, yet when loaded with 475 men Mules, Horses Wagons &c, they were well crowded. Our progress on the River was slow and tedious, owing to the low water, we had to lay by nights and dit not travel overly fast in day time. When about 30 miles above Cairo the Steamer Silver Wave ran a rock and sank, we took off men & stock and landed them on the beach proceeded to Cairo where I procured another boat the J. L. Prinkle and upon these boats without any further accidents we arrived safely at Memphis the 7th inst. Memphis is a beautyfull City, full at the present of trading Yehudim [Jews], Women and Contrabands [escaped slaves], the Cotton buying attracts many men here and often large fortunes are made in a short time. Men from St. Louis, Cincinatti, Baltimore &c are here with large Stocks of

Goods & making money fast.

We were assigned to Genl Smith's Div but when we arrived here, Genl Morgan of Ohio (of Cumberland Gap notoriety) ascertained that Col French was commanding the Regt and Col French having been a Lieutenant under him in Mexico, insisted upon having us transferred to his Division, to which Genl Sherman consented. We are now in Morgans Division and yesterday in the reorganization the General gave us the position of honor as the 1st Regt in the 1st (advance) Brigade. We had two Brigade Drills and I am proud to say our Regt done splendit and certainly feel good since I done nearly all the Battalion Drilling our Regt had.

I find myself very well known among our Ohio Officers and have allready many good friends, the noble animal presented to me in Chicago and beautyfull rigging & mounting from you are attracting attention and I am as well mounted as any officer in this Army no General excepted. Our Brigade consists of 120th O.V. 118th Ill 69th Ind, and 22nd Ky our Brigade Commander is Col Sheldon of the 42nd Ohio (Garfield's Regiment), a very amiable Gentleman & represented as a fine officer, he called on me this morning and we had a very pleasant talk. General Morgan is from Mt Vernon Knox Co Ohio a good man and feels very

much interested in our good opinion of him as he comes so near our neighborhood. [German translates to "It doesn't hurt"] We are ordered to be ready for land or water by the very latest at the 17th inst 3 days yet cutting us down in tents & transportation which means I think an expedition on Vicksburg well, we are ready for it, our boys are keen for a fight as for myself I don't care if it comes I am ready if not I shant make a fuss about it. A. Ruhman is well he sleeps in my tent every night, he is doing duty regular, makes a good soldier, but he will [German translates to "not fight"] he says [German translates to "I don't mind being a soldier but I don't want to fight"] When the time comes I shall manage to have him out of the fight. I will fix it so as to send him honorably to the rear on an errant for me, that is, if really any fight appears Emminent if only prospective I will let him swet a little he is a very good boy.

The relation between me and my fellow officers is most happy. Col French is a Gentleman of the first Water, a true and trusty friend and a splendit officer. Major Beekman a very clever fellow, the Adjutand gay and happy & the Quarter Master who is allready promoted to Brigade Q. Mstr like a Brother to me. All the Company officers are vying with each

other to please me and the men I could not wish any better. I would very much like to see Esther and her little daughter give them my love. I am expecting to come to Ohio in May if I live and then will see you all and if we wont have a gay time its because we dont know how. Give my love to Oncle & Aunt, to your dear Wife and Children Joseph & his Wife and Children Marx Wife and Children tell Marx that the time is still coming closer when according to my oath I dare play Solo again & then I will take him. My love to Simon Wife and Children. Also Michael Wife and Children Oncle Hahn Wife Yette & Herman tell Herman to write. My respects to Mr. Jesselson and tell him his letter made me feel like Frankfort again & my love to all.

Ever Ever Your

Marcus

[upside down at the top of page 5]

Write soon direct your letter

120th O.V.I. Memphis Ten

Morgans Division

To follow the Regt

[side of page 6]

My love to Geo Thank Rabos & Balendes & old Muhler I saw Jerry

Head Quarters 120th Ill Camp
Ohio near Columbus Pa Dec 15, 62

My dear Good Wife & Children!

I can not say that it is with a cheafull heart that I write to night not but what I am bodily well enough, for I am again as hearty as I ever was, but simply I can not hear anything from you the last letter I had was dated Nov 23 and here we have Dec 15 to day 22 days without any news that is to long altogether to make me feel happy; oh but for a reiteration of thow little tales of Hambers going to school & Lizzies playing Mosey's deauty eating & Hatties playing with her dandys & growing big & I would be a happy happy boy.

Here my dear wife I have nothing so far to meur my happiness, a good position a good military reputation, well mounted in a good Regiment, a good Brigade, in a favourite Division with a fair prospect of promotion & plenty of friends as a Soldier what in the World do I need else to make me happy, then a good

Letter from my dear Wife assuring me
of the health of my dear and beloved
ones at home. from Suffolk I
recd. a letter of Girty which I en-
close you with all its contents.
I am sure you will enjoy it, also
a letter from Moses Joseph.

We belong now to General Morgan
Division the 1st Brigade, our
Brigade the 1st is commanded by
Col L. A. Sheldon. the 2nd Brig
is Commanded by Col Lindsay
and the 3rd Brigade by Col De
Coney besides this Posters Battery
also belongs to our Division
We are ordered to Embark by the
17th so is also Genl O. J. Smith
& Genl Morgan Smith Division
is all about 25000 men & from
all reports and appearances
we will go to Vicksburg. We have
the Advance in arm (Morgans)
Division and who knows but
what we may be the fortunate
party to replant the first Union
colors upon the Hooks of
Vicksburg I trust it may be
so

And I hope soon to be able
to give you a history of another
Expedition, in my opinion there
will not be a fight there, I
think the Rebels are so ~~sat~~
saturated that they will evac-
uate Vicksburg ere we get
there. I find many friends
here among the Ohio troops &
like it very much. The weather
is warm folks are making
gardens & the forest trees are
in blossom, for two days we
had the awfulest warm rains
& storms you ever saw or heard
of. I feared last night my
tent would fly away with
me. I have written you such
along letters last time that
I will not tire you much
longer. My love to all

Even Yours true loving
husband who is all in's
Marion

Her mother
returned? How is
she? Dit Please
Ever get the money
I send kind &

Brother Joseph!

I want you to keep yourself in readiness to come down here shortly I think I see a big sight to make money enough here so as to quit the service or I am much mistaken

Write in a few days when some of it

Ever yours
Alfred

Head Quarters 120th O.V.I. Camp

Oliver near Memphis Ten., Dec 15/62

My dear Good Wife & Children!

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Here my dear wife I have nothing so far to mar my happiness, a good position a good military reputation, well mounted in a good Regiment, a good Brigade, in a favorite Divission, with a fair prospect of promotion & plenty of friends as a Soldier what in the World do I need else to make me happy, than a good letter from my dear Wife assuring me of the health of my dear and beloved ones at home from Suffolk I recd a letter of Girty which I enclose you with all its contents. I am sure you will enjoy it, also a letter from Moses Joseph.

We belong now to General Morgan Divission the 1st Brigade, our Brigade the 1st is commanded by Col L. A Sheldon the 2nd Brigade is commanded by Col Linday and the 3rd Brigade by Col De

Courey besides this Fosters Battery also belongs to our
Divission. We are ordered to embark by the 17th so is also Genls
A.J. Smith & Genl Morgan Smith Division in all about 25000 men &
from all reports and appearances we will go to Vicksburg. We
have the advance in our (Morgans) Divission and who knows but
what we may be the fortunate party to replant the first Union
colors upon the Forts of Vicksburg I trust it may be so, and I
hope soon to be able to give you a history of another
expedition, in my opinion there will not be a fight there, I
think the Rebels are so situated that they will evacuate
Vicksburg ere we get there. I find many friends here among the
Ohio troops & like it very much. The weather is warm folks are
making Garden & the locust trees are in blossom, for two days we
had the awfulest warm rains & storms you ever saw or heard of.
I feared last night my tent would fly away with me. I have
written you such a long letter last time that I will not tire
you much longer.

My love to all

Ever your true & loving
husband who is all in
anxiety about you all

Marcus

Has mother returned? Dit Reese ever get the money I sent him?

Brother Joseph!

I want you to keep yourself in readiness to come down here
shortly I think I see a big sight to make money enough here so
as to quit the service or I am much mistaken

More in a few days when sure of it

Ever yours

Marcus



Head Quarters 12th U.S.
Camp Ohio near Memphis Tenn
Dec 19/62

My dear dear wife

I just returned with
my Regiment from the Brigade Drill
ground a beautiful cool piece of
ground and one of the most lovely
of days, the sunrays just warm enough
to make one feel comfortable without
even a Coat on and in short one
felt like, the tropical climate, was just
the climate for one to be happy. Everything
went off so pleasantly, my boys performed
so beautifully, Col French who is
a very kind to me, has now for the
last three days given me the chance
to take out the Regiment, an opportunity
for which I would not take a great
deal, from the fact that I can
take my boys right among 5 or 6
old Regiments among them the
bully 16th Ohio, who drilled for the
last 15 months under the great

English Drillmaster Col De Conroy
and my boys say, "with Col Greig to drill
us we don't care a damn for any of
them," and really I don't, my boys are
doing better and I think when mounted
on my "English Grayson" and every body
says "Charley" is full blooded, I am
getting an "mow that air", well well
when everything went so nice, I told the
Adjutant (the only one who assisted
me to day and drill) now if I can find
a letter from home when we return and
find all well, I shall be gay and happy
and as expected so I found it
your sweet good letter of the 14th was waiting
for me, after interval of 21 days, the one
last before that was dated Nov 23.

Although your letter was not quite as
cheerful as many a and that I have received
from you, yet it was you out and out
the care, the love, the uneasiness, the
scolding, the Comforter, the hot daeklin
and last but not least, the reassurance that
I have a woman who is best, kindest
and most loving of all women living
God bless you.

As to your questions. When at Cairo
I would gladly have come home but could

not, without running the risk of being
left behind and that I did not dare
to visit as I was in Command of the left
Wing of the Regt. - Now it came that I
had the diarrhoea I can only explain by the
fact that I am a great water drinker and
not being used to the River Water I had to
get used to it. As to my State of Health
now I am better than ever, feel just well
and can eat like a horse the only trouble
is that we have not got anything very good
and not a very good Cook even if we have
anything. As for coming home before I get
real quiet I intend to do by all means
whenever necessary. Your advice to quit
soldiering I know you do not mean, as
I never before had half so good a chance
and I do really mean to rise to some
distinction in this Campaign if I
spare my health and there is nobody
in this world who would feel pained of
it, than my own dear Wife.

I am extremely sorry to know you all
have suffered with bad Colds as it is very
unpleasant in the Winter and I am uneasy
until I hear you are recovered all well again
inasmuch as cold always sits so hard
on you, you must take the best of care of yourself

How is dear Mosey now? Hope he is better

I know there was something wrong when I had to wait so long for a letter, poor boy he must have suffered much, I am glad you give him Codliver Oil, as it is the best thing a child can take how does he like to take it? Mattie is commencing early with her teeth she must be a fine child, God bless her.

I am glad to hear Hamlin & Lizzie are God Children, I know they would be as you always say "they took after me" unbespreea". I am happy to hear you are satisfied, take things easy and I do not want you to work very hard of course I know Sarah don't want you to, yet I know your dis-
position. Goodman wrote to me he gave you a standing invitation to go to the Lectures this winter and you had accepted like a good old friend, I want you to go and also to the Theatre at least once a week so that when I come home I talk war & its incidents and your Theatre selectness and then both of us about the Children I think it as little as an all journey can do to take you to Theatre every

Dear Sheet

once a week, he ought to feel yourself to
take a Lieutenant Col Wife and if he
can not afford it He knows I will
cheerfully refund, I want Elizabeth to go
once in a while if she is a good girl and
I know she is I want her to see something
to. I hope my dear Mother has seen this yet?
She will be a good deal of Company, give
her my love and kiss her for me. I also
had a very kind letter from Chapman to
day. He and the boys are well, but
unhappily down on Sgt Davis as you see
out of the letter of Girty I send you.

Col Burch is as true and kind to
me as any man can be, he does not do
the least thing without consultation, if
all Officers would feel that way to each
other the War would soon be at an
End. Major Pickman is the kindest
of men. He would kiss my big toe if I
would let him at least three times a
day it almost makes me sick of
him, Quarter Master Dear is now
Injude L. Mastey I have no better friend
in the World. You must not get tired
of my long long letters, when I come

I can scarcely quit. I could write
you almost a quire of complimentary aeds
and notices our Regiment, myself
& Horse and Col. received since we
came here in doing this I might have
ever appear a little on the "haze-
dozia Order" and I would rather
wait until I see you but suffice it
to say it is unexpected as it is
agreeable. Only one thing I must say
when General Morgan & Major Gen
Sherman reviewed our Division
General Morgan said to "Trust on
myself" gentlemen I heard more Com-
pliments our Regiment to day
than on any other in the Division
and General Sherman said before
all this staff & Officers "this 12th
Regiment is the best new Regiment, I
have yet seen in the field in regard
to appearance, drill and discipline.

After several interruptions I
quit there last night, my tent
is as usual the place to come to
ask questions. Advice I sit down
the consequence is this morning
that I did not get my letter finished
last night and in all probability

it will have to be cut short.

Why? As usual and as it used to be on the peninsula & all through my Campaign that whenever I get a letter from you after I had gone for several days or quite a while, that the arrival of such a letter is indicative of something will happen. So this time I thought we had been ordered to leave on the 17th for the Embarkation of an Expedition for the Capture of Pickens for the 17th past & we thought perhaps we go & perhaps we don't but with your letter came the Order to move this morning and now while I write the Battle of Spitting turks Mackinac & Huron generally at this time is a clock at 11 would no longer commence any passage by that a busy day is expected. Now my dear Wife as to my going to Pickens the Order of Genl Morgan & C. I will describe in a letter which I commenced & intend to finish at board the boat to Henry Greenbush but I mean

Simply to say, feel Easy
this trip will do me good and
good will come from it
The Tent comes down over
my head I must close

God Bless you & the Children
Remember that I am engaged
in an undertaking that if suc-
cessfull will do more to close
the war than any thing
yet done

Ever yours
Wm. Loring
Marion

Head Quarters 120th O.V.I.

Camp Oliver near Memphis Ten.

Dec 17/62

My dear dear Wife!

I just returned with my Regiment from the Brigade Drill Ground, a beautyfull level piece of ground and one of the most loveliest of days, the sunrays just warm enough to make one feel comfortable without even a Coat on and in short one felt like, the tropical clime was just the clime for one to be happy. Everything went off so pleasantly, my boys performed so beautyfull, Col French who is so very kind to me, has now for the last three days given me the chance to take out the Regiment, an opportunity for which I would not take a great deal, from the fact that I can take my boys right among 5 or 6 old Regiments among them the bully 16th Ohio, who drilled for the last 15 months under the great English Drillmaster Colonel De Courcy and my boys say, "with Col Spiegel to drill us we dont care a d-m for any of them" and really I don't, my boys are doing bully and I think when mounted on my "English Grayson" and everybody says "Charley" is full blooded, I am putting on "more than airs", well well when everything went so nice, I told the Adjutant (the only one who assisted me today on drill) now if I can find a letter from home when we return and find all well, I

shall be gay and happy, and as expected so I found it. Your sweet good letter of the 14th was waiting for me, after interval of 21 days, the one last before that was dated Nov 23.

Although your letter was not quite as cheerfull as many a one that I have received from you, yet it was you out and out the care, the love, the uneasiness, the scolder, the Comforter, the [illegible] and last but [not] least, the reassurance that I have a woman who is best, kindest and most loving of all women living. God bless you.

Now to your questions. When at Cairo I would gladly have come home but could not, without running the risk of being left behind and that I dit not dare to risk as I was in Command of the left Wing of the Regt. How it came that I had the diareah I can only explain by the fact that I am a great water drinker and not being used to the River Water I had to get used to it. As to my state of health now I am better than ever, feel real well and can eat like a Horse the only trouble is that we have not got anything very good and not a very good Cook even if we have anything. As for coming home before I get real sick I intend to do by all means whenever necessary. Your advice to quit soldiering I know you do not mean, as I never before had half so good a chance and I do really mean to rise to some distinction in this Campayne if

God spares my health and there is nobody in this World who would feel prouder of it, than my own dear Wife.

I am extremely sorry to know you all have suffered with bad Colds as it is very unpleasant in the winter and I am uneasy untill I hear you announced all well again inasmuch as cold allways sits so hard on you. You must take the best of care of yourself. How is dear Mosey now? Hope he is better. I knew there was something wrong when I had to wait so long for a letter. Poor boy, he must have suffered much, I am glad you give him Codliver Oil, as it is the best thing a child can take how does he like to take it? Hattie is comencing early with her teeth she must be a fine child, God bless her.

I am glad to hear Hamlin & Lizzie are good Children, I knew they would be as you allways say, "they took after me" "umbeshreea" [knock on wood]. I am happy to learn you are satisfied, take things easy and I do not want you to work very hard of course. I know Sarah dont want you to, yet I know your disposition. Goodman wrote to me he gave you a standing invitation to go to the Lectures this winter and you had accepted like a good old friend. I want you to go and also to the Theatre at least once a week so that when I come home I talk war & its incidents and you Theatre & Lectures and then both of us about the children. I think

it as little as Oncle Josey can do to take you to theatre every once a week; he ought to feel proud to take a Lieutenant Col's Wife and if he can not afford it he knows I will cheerfully refund. I want Elizabeth to go once in a while if she is a good girl and I know she is I want her to see something to. I hope my dear mother has ere this ret'd. She will be a good deal of company, give her my love and kiss her for me. I also had a very kind letter from Chapman to day he and the boys are well, but awfully down on Col Voris as you see out of the letter of Girty I send you.

Col French is as true and kind to me as any man can be, he does not do the least thing without consultation, if all Officers would feel that way to each other the War would soon be at an End. Major Beekman is the kindest of men he would kiss my big toe if I would let him at least three times a day it allmost makes me sick of him, Quarter Master Dean is now Brigade Q. Master I have no better friend in the World. You must not get tired of my long long letters, when I comence I can scarcely quit. I could write you allmost a quire of complimentary acts and notices our Regiment, myself & Horse and Col received since we came here in doing this I might however appear a little on the "bragerdocia Order" and I would rather wait untill I see you but suffice it to say it is as unexpected as it is agreable. Only one thing I must

say when General Morgan & Major Genl Sherman reviewed our Divission, General Morgan said to French and myself "Gentlemen I heard more compliments on your Regiment to day than on any other in the Divission" and General Sherman said before all his staff & Officers "this 120th Regiment is the best new Regiment, I have yet seen in the field in regard to appearance, drill and discipline."

After several interruptions I quit there last night, my tent is as usual the place to come, to ask questions, advise & sit down the consequence is this morning that I dit not get my letter finished last night and in all probability it will have to be cut short. Why? As usual and as it used to be on the peninsula & all through my Campayne that whenever I get a letter from you after I had none for several days or quite a while, that the arrival of such a letter is indicative of something will happen. So this time.

Though we had been ordered to leave on the 17th for the Embarcation of an Expedition for the Capture of Vicksburg yet the 17th past & we thought perhaps we go & perhaps we dont but with your letter came the Order to move this morning and now while I write, the Bustle of striking tents packing & hurrah generally at this time 6 o clock A.M. would at once convince any passer by that a bussy day is expected. Now my dear Wife as to my going to Vicksburg,

the Order of Genl Morgan &c, I will discribe in a letter which I comenced & intend to finish on board the boat to Henry Greenebaum, but I mean simply to say, feel easy this trip will do me good and good will come from it. The Tent comes down over my head I must close.

God bless you & the children. Remember that I am Engaged in an undertaking that if successfull will do more to close the War than any thing yet done.

Ever your
Loving
Marcus



Head Quarters left Wang 120th U.S.
on Board U.S.S. Key West No. 2 about
at the Mis. River betw. Helena & same Landing
Dec 24/1862.

My dear Brother Moses!

I had ^{just} returned from the
American Desert where I witnessed the get-
ting loose from the shore at Helena and
superintended, the falling in the Columns
of the Fleet, at Regular Order of my
gay little steamed Key West No. 2 which
with five Compt. of the gallant 120th con-
fidently quartered on her, I have the
honor to command. When I arrived
in my State Room and commenced taking
off my boots I looked at my watch
and found it to be only half past
eight P.M. too early to go to sleep
so I concluded to put on my slippers
and enjoy my hour between this
and bed time by writing to you my
love and truly genuine, thinking that
perhaps, this being Sunday Evening and
out of business you might perhaps be
sitting in your happy family circle to

forward talk about me and if to
our thoughts might meet and ever
trace each other a comfort which
we may perhaps be deprived of, for
some time to come, but let us trust
in our Heavenly Father & hope for the
best. While I write the boat has been
full but if we do not get a shell or two
through our Ladies Cabin I think my
writing may be with a little care in-
telligible, but if that little accident
should happen it might make me rather
nervous and spoil my handwriting.

I have if my memory serves me right
in my last letter from Memphis given
you a graphic description of my situation
which if I have told you at all, I am
satisfied that have said, so far
as Col. Brigadier & Division General
is concerned I could not be situated
better. They are truly all my friends
and any of them will go as far
to please me as any Superior
Officer ever did for an inferior, in-
deed it seems to be their constant
study to do something that
I would like. Col Fremont is
in command of the right wing

on board steamed Jesse H. Bell
and our Brigadier with his staff
are on board of her, they send you
me this afternoon while we lay
coasting and I had to take supper
and amid music singing, dancing
guitar playing, smoking and dancing
joking and laughing we whited
away a merry time until the sig-
nal gun rang through the air, which
reminded us that the "Day Ship"
was leaving & we were to follow.
and then they coaxed me the hardest
kind to stay overnight & join my com-
mand in the morning, what for father
with you and I had my own mind
Major for tomorrow and for the day after
that that at your command I was
my mind and I am a simple Commandant
of your own mind and your own. After my
myself looked Major for and he if
for himself if, he is in your spirit
Wisserspit looked for some words
d. i. la la pulitane just now you
felling you that that if, the mind was
and the day tomorrow your own
Wisserspit mind of if G. P. G. P.
your mind

As for this Department I must
say that I am not much impressed
with its order, discipline, nor soldierly
bearing of the Soldier, I am sorry to
say we find many Regiments and
these utterly demoralized, who instead
of being able to guide themselves of being
Soldiers in the great & glorious cause of
the Union & for the Constitution, are least
of being a debauched set of ruffians &
many of them might be termed a per-
fectly lawless set of robbers & thieves
My God what will become of such
men after the War is over, Oh for
a McClellan in every Department that
could go on undisturbed by a jealous
set of abolitionists and while he
would save the Union & the war we would
after it is over boast of having had
a civilized mode of warfare.

Speaking of McClellan reminds me of
the fact that the last news we had was
that Burnside was going to have a
fight and Sumner I do not know
why, but knowing as I think I do
that part of the Army I am ever
since apprehensive, I am almost

Ind Sheet

appear to say it, but it just seems to me that Burnside or any other General in Command of that Army would get whipped. Except McClellan. May be you will laugh at me, but I think I have sufficient knowledge of military to justify me in saying that McClellan is the only man for that Army & ere this War is over I think the whole Country will have to acknowledge it in spite of all evil and malignant opposition of a jealous and rotten hearted abolition crew, who are using all their efforts to influence the President who I really think is an honest man if let alone. Enough of this dark picture & let us hope Burnside may be successful & may ere this have driven the Rebels from the Rappahannock to Massaponic & every other Arm and may ere this have Richmond, he made a good General under McClellan. Now Wray you must allow me to run a little to night as I am all alone in the Ladies Cabin & nothing but the regular snuffs of

of the Steam out of the Pipe & the
regular working up and down
boast force of the Machinery
of the boat is all I have for
Company Officers & men are in
the Arms of Morphis & I feel little
letting my thoughts run as they will
knowing they go to a friend, where
the foolish part will be overlooked.

By the way they may be the last
I ever will have an opportunity
to send to you, I trust and pray
they may not, but the fortunes
of War are as of the outside world
very uncertain only a little more so.
But let us hope, pray and trust
that God in his infinite Mercy may
as He has often before protected &
delivered me from all harms, for
I have really much to live for
yet I mean to do my duty and
my whole duty and if my poor
life will be any benefit and as-
sistance to in ending this long
and unfortunate struggle in favor
of our glorious Union God knows
I will gladly give it. Oh my
dear Moses it would do your soul

Good to see a fleet of over 100
Vessels besides the Gunboats on
the Father of Waters. The Vessels
filled with Men & Cannon
gay happy and cheery, all ready
to meet danger and to battle
for the good old Flag. Oh
yes by the way I have not yet
told you what I think where we are
going to & what for, but I enclose
you a Copy of General Order 131
signed by our brave Division
General which will explain itself
By the heading you will see where
we belong & by reading you will
see where we are going and what
we mean to do. and I will only
say that the 120th of your humble
servant mean to do their full
share if we get a chance, it will
no doubt be hot & bloody work
the Expedition consists of about
- 40000 men under General Sherman
(a Brother to Senator John Sherman
& also Col Sherman of Maryland)
and a fleet of Gunboats in Command
of Rear Admiral Porter, I think
that you should take Pickens

and hear the Mississippi River
to New Orleans and I think
they will. About an hour before
I left Memphis I made the
acquaintance of a Son of Loth
Herrshorn a brother to the one
that married Oberley son Gundersen
and also Charley Schloss they as
~~well~~ a brother in law to Ester
they as well as myself felt most
at sorry that we did not meet
before. We met under singular
Circumstances. All of us in Santa
and Loth felt pained of an other hand
received Yehuda with kind and joyful
greetings, if I might say as Yehuda
myself with me. Kopft zu Wiltung zu
geben. So ~~was~~ all meant Freundesinn
Sinn unser Herren, gute ist, gut Yehuda
mein herbe Santa, unser der Freund
und wunderlich der Sinn gute unser
guten Yehuda gute zu bringen, und
mein Mann in Unwissen mit Yehuda
Yehuda etc etc if gute und mein hoffen
Wiltung essen haben könnte, der Freund gute
und if könnte mit ihm gute, und
zu Freund Levy welcher judischer Lehrer
gute gute, if gute zu Levy Freund ist

F 12th Street
Messrs. Garrison
to Mrs. Garrison
New York

und ergriffen so fehrhaft als ich
konnte ob ich mich durch Chamberlains
Wittwe offen haben konnte (wenn ich
auch nicht mehr als ein Chamberlain)
aber all die andern Dinge welche mich sehr
unruhig ansetzten, ich meine die
Gefahr die mich betrafte & all die
andern meine Thun und Lassen welche
ich nicht haben wollte und die
Wittwe von Chamberlain und Leut. Col
ich nicht verstehen konnte und die
andern die mich sehr sehr sehr
ich, Carl Schless ist sehr sehr
zu sehr sehr, und sehr sehr
was sehr sehr sehr sehr sehr
Chamberlain mich zu kommen und ich
nicht zu bleiben aber nicht nicht
das Signal zum Abfahren von mir
habe gegeben & ich auch die mich
Wittwe sehr sehr sehr sehr sehr
genossen sehr sehr sehr sehr sehr
sehr sehr sehr sehr sehr sehr
just now the Signal of danger
I wanted I must go and see
what it meant!

Supposed Guinillas in the Woods
on Shore & the whole fleet
unanchored it is awfull dark &
I do not believe we will make
any demonstrations to night, the
Gumboats are plying up and down
& I think they can attend to any
thing ordinary for to night.

With this interruption it is
getting late & I must bring my long
Epistle to a Close. Now Moses let me tell
you write often & do not wait for me
for many times weeks may pass in
a Campaign like this that I may
not have a chance to write to
you, but at any time will it give me
undiscribable Happiness to hear from
you my more than Brother. Give
my love to your dear Wife & boys, to
Cath & Sarah, Esther & Child, Mary
& Family, Michael & Family, Joseph & Family,
Simon & Family & all the friends don't
forget Ruthman & Aunt Mable
& Deborah & Rahab & more especially
my old friend Mrs. Wise and tell her what
Civillian might done wrong but might
will make right do not be afraid old Bill
my horse, saddle, sword & scabbard are all right
Ever your true
Moses

Head Quarters left Wing 120th O.V.I.
on Board U.S.S. Key West No. 2 afloat
on the Mis. River betw. Helena & Gaines Landing

Dec. 21/1862

My dear Brother Moses!

I have just returned from the Hurricane Deck where I witnessed the getting loose from the Shore at Helena [Arkansas], and superintended, the falling in the Column of the Fleet at Regular Order of my gay little Steamer Key West No. 2 which with five Comps. of the gallant 120th comfortably quartered on her, I have the honor to command. When I arrived in my State Room and commenced taking off my boots I looked at my watch and found it to be only half past eight P.M., to early to go to sleep so I concluded to put on my slippers and enjoy my hour between this and bed time by writing to you, my true and trusty friend, thinking that perhaps this being Sunday Evening and out of business you might perchance be sitting in your happy family circle & forsooth talk about me and if so our thoughts might meet and embrace each other a comfort which we may perhaps be deprived of, for some time to come, but let us trust in our heavenly father & hope for the best. While I write the boat shakes awfull but if we do not get a shell or two through our Ladies Cabin

I think my writing may be with a little care intelligible, but if that little accident should happen it might make me rather nervous and spoil my handsome stenography.

I have, if my memory serves me right, in my last letter from Memphis given you a graphic discription of my situation which if I have told you at all, I am satisfied that [I] have said, so far as Col. Brigadier & Divission General is concerned I could not be situated better. They are truly all my friends and any of them will go as far to please me as any superior officer ever dit for an inferior, in fact it seems to be their constant studdey to do something that I would like. Col. French is in command of the right wing on board Steamer Jesse K. Bell and our Brigadier with his staff are on board of her, they send for me this afternoon while we lay coaling and I had to take supper and amid negro singing, & dancing Guitar playing, Smoking and dancing joking and laughing we whiled away a merry time untill the Signal gun rang through the air, which reminded us that the Flagship was leaving & we were to follow and then they coaxed me the hardest kind to stay over night & join my command in the morning. [German translate to "But they didn't know that I left my Major behind very

drunk, and he was totally incompetent to issue even the simplest order; a serious problem of our dear Major which is very harmful to him since he unfortunately understands very little in his most beautiful sobriety, "a la militaire", but he is a pleasant, nice fellow who would kiss my big toe three times a day if I gave him the opportunity."]

As for this Department I must say that I am not much impressed with its order, discipline, nor soldiery bearing of the Soldier, I am sorry to say we find many Regiments out here utterly demoralized, who instead of being able to pride themselves of being Soldiers in the Great & glorious cause of the Union & for the Constitution, can boast of being a debauched set of ruffians & many of them might be termed a perfectly lawless set of robbers & thieftes. My God what will become of such men after the War is over, oh for a McClellan in every Department that could go on undisturbed by a jealous set of abolitionists and while he would soon end the war we could after it is over boast of having had a civilized mode of warfare.

Speaking of McClellan reminds me of the facts that the last news we had was that Burnside was agoing to have a fight and somehow I do not know why, but knowing as I think I do that part of the army I am ever since apprehensive, I am almost

appeared to say it, but it just seems to me that Burnside or any other General in Command of that Army would get whipped except McClellan. May be you will laugh at me, but Moses I think I have sufficient knowledge of military to justify me in saying that McClellan is the only man for that Army & ere this War is over I think the whole Country will have to acknowledge it in spite of all evil and malignant opposition of a jealous and rodden hearted abolition crew, who are using all their efforts to influence the President who I really think is an honest man if let alone. Enough of this dark picture & let us hope Burnside may be successfull or may ere this have driven the Rebels from the Rappahannock & Mattaponie & every other Anie and may ere this have Richmond, he made a good General under McClellan.

Now Mosey you must allow me to run a little to night as I am all alone in the Ladies Cabin & nothing but the regular puffs of of the steam out of the pipe & the regular working up and down & back & forth of the Machinery of the boat is all I have for Company. Officers & men are in the Arms of Morphis & I feel like letting my thoughts run as they will knowing they go to a friend, where the foolish part will be overlooked.

By the way, they may be the last I ever will have an opportunity to send to you. I trust and pray they may not, but the fortunes of War are as of the outside world, very uncertain only a little more so but let us hope, pray and

trust that God in his infinite Mercy may as He has often before protect & deliver me from all harm, for I have really much to live for. Yet I mean to do my duty and my whole duty and if my poor life will be any benefit and assistance in ending this long and unfortunate Struggle in favor of our glorious Union God knows I will gladly give it. Oh my dear Moses it would do your Soul good to see a fleet of over 100 Vessels besides the Gunboats on the father of waters. The Vessels filled with Uncle Sams boys gay happy and cheerfull, all ready to meet danger and do battle for the good old Flag. Oh yes by the way I have not yet told you where we are going to & what for, but I enclose you a copy of General Order 131 issued by our brave Divission General which will explain itself. By the heading you will see where we belong & by reading you will see where we are going and what we mean to do and I will only say that the 120th & your humble servant mean to do their full share if we get a chance, it will no doubt be hot & bloody work the expedition consists of about 40,000 men under General Sherman (a Brother to Senator John Sherman & also Col Sherman of Mansfield) and a fleet of Gunboats in command of Rear Admiral Porter, I think that force should take Vicksburg and clear the Mississippi River to New Orleans and I think they will. About an hour before I left Memphis I made the acquaintance of a Son of Loeb

Herrnsheim a brother to the one that married "Cheuley" von Gundersheim and also Charley Schloss they as a brother in law to Esther they as well as myself felt most d--m sorry that we dit not meet before. We met under singular circumstances.

[German and Yiddish translates to "After I had my people in the boat, I walked along the riverbank and saw a Yehudah and his wife. I remembered the Sabbath and decided to have a kosher lunch. So, as my friend and his wife came closer, I said, "Happy Sabbath, dear people," frightening the gentleman and probably his wife, being offered "Happy Sabbath" by a man in uniform with sword, spurs, and so forth and so forth. I asked where one could eat a kosher lunch. The gentleman said I could go with him, or to Mr. Levy who was holding a Jewish Boarding house. I went to Levy and found him and about 30 Jews very surprised when I asked if I could have a Chanukah lunch (my friend at the river bank told me Sabbath Chanukah). But when I sat at the table and Levy took a good look at me he said, "I think the face looks familiar" and when I told him my name he said, "Dear God, a son of Rabbi Mosche of Abenheim, a Lieutenant Colonel." I was surprised and discovered soon that he was a son of Loeb Herrnsheim. Carl Schloss is married to Levy's niece. We went to visit him and he was very busy and I promised to return in the evening and stay overnight but unfortunately the departure signal was given an hour

earlier and I had to miss a pleasure I would have very much enjoyed and I am convinced it would have been very stimulating for both of us.]

Just now the Signal of danger sounded. I must go and see what it meant. Supposed Guirillas in the Woods on shore & the whole fleet anchored it is awfull dark & I do not believe we will make any demonstrations to night, the Gunboats are plying up and down & I think they can attend to any thing ordinary for to night.

With this interruption it is getting late & I must bring my long Epistle to a close. Now Moses let me tell you write often & do not wait for me for many times weeks may pass in a Campayne like this that I may not have a chance to write to you, but at any time will it give me undiscripable happiness to hear from you my more than Brother. Give my love to your dear Wife & boys, to Onkel & Aunts, Esther & child, Marx & family, Michael & family, Joseph & family, Simon & family, & all the friends don't forget Ruhman Frank Muhler Bolender & Raban & more Especially my old friend Wm. Wise and tell him what Civillian Spiegel done wrong Col Spiegel will make right do not be afraid old Bill my horse, Saddle, Sword Sash &c are all right.

Ever your true

Marcus

Head Quarters left Viny 130th 08³
On board U. S. S. Key West at 2 o'clock
between Helena & Vicksburg Dec 29/62

My dear dear Wife and Children.

I just finished inspection
of Arms Accoutrements Knapsacks, Blankets,
Canteens & Haversacks and the general
Appearance of my Command upon
the Trenches deck and found them
nearly all in fighting trim after which
I concluded to come down in the
Ladies Cabin room in the absence of
the Ladies appropriated for the use
of the Commissioned Officers and see
whether or not I could get something
or other together that might be of
interest to my dear Wife. You will
questionably have my letter in which I
announced to you that we were to
sail. I have since written a letter to
Henry Greenbaum on board the Boat
and mailed at Helena which he
probably has ere this and acquainted
you with its contents.

We are now sailing down to Dixie and
the weather is truly admirable and
most congenial, I spent an hour
on deck in my shirt sleeves and
found it as warm as a blanket
for comfort, the Sun is darting forth
a refreshing warmth & the heat is just
strong to prevent oppressive heat &
then I just think of the Idea of so
far, a day of seeing a fleet of at
least one hundred Steamers besides
the gunboats drawn up in line and
sailing at proper distances to "take
the Lord in his dew". There is no use
of concealing the fact that I appreciate
a serious and bloody struggle as the
taking of the stubborn Rebel Port of
Vicksburg is the object of this Expedition
I only hope that the authorities in
charge of this important task are suf-
ficiently familiar with the Territory,
know the fortifications of the Enemy so as
to be sure of having an adequate force
to be victorious. For a defeat in a
Case like this I would look upon as
ruinous. The force as near as I
can find out is about 2000 men
and a fleet of Gunboats.

a force which would almost seem suf-
ficient to take any place and I
feel sure we will take Vicksburg.
When I close as mail this letter
I know not but I shall continue
to write and if a chance of mailing
it presents itself I will close it at
once and ship it. — I have nothing
very particular to write. The Press
does not present anything very striking
to me neither have I spent a great
deal of my time looking. I have
written long letters to Mrs Joseph,
John, Greenbroom, Chapman &c &
read the Spectator I feel as well
as ever real hearty & I only trust
I may get the same assurance from
you and all my beloved ones at
home, I feel somewhat troubled about
my little Wesley but hope he is all
right. Helena is not proud of a
lover but a strong body of Soldiers
are laying there many of whom
will accompany an Expedition
The most of the small towns
have been burned by our forces
in consequence of Smith's firing

I met yesterday Captain Henry
Anthony a Son of old General
Anthony who is as strong a Demo-
-rat as the old man is Republican
and the nicest man I ever saw
of that name. he belongs to the
13^d Iowa Regt. He is also going
with us. Col French is in Command
of the light wing and Steamer Jesse
H. Bell and sails immediately
in front of us our Brigadier has
his Head Quarters on board of the
Jesse H. Bell, he is an excellent
man, kind and I am yours.

Our boarding for which we pay
\$1.50 per day is not near as good
as it was on the Fort Wayne
and scarcely any better than I can
work myself. John & Charley are
well, Charley is as gay as ever I
had him shot a little while ago
& he was a very little lame, which
troubled me a great deal but I
think he is quite over it. I mean
to try and get a cheaper Horse
to take into Battle if I need
one I dare to take Charley in, though
I had him right alongside of when the
Cannons were fired 50 times & he never looked

Head Quarters left Wing 120th O.V.I.
On board U.S.S. Key West No. 2 afloat
between Helena & Vicksburg Dec 22/62

My dear dear Wife and Children!

I just finished Inspection of arms Acoutrements Knapsacks, Blankets Canteens Havresacks and the general appearance of my Command upon the hurricane deck and found them nearly all in fighting trim after which I concluded to come down in the Ladies Cabin now in the absence of the Ladies appropriated for the use of the Commissioned Offcra and see wether or not I could put something or other together that might be of interest to my dear Wife. You unquestionably have my letter in which I anounced to you that we were to sail I have since written a Letter to Henry Greenebaum on board the Boat and mailed at Helena which he probably has ere this and aquainted you with its contents.

We are now sailing down to Dixie and the weather is truly admirable and most congenial, I spend an hour on deck in my Shirtsleeves and found it as warm as necessary for comfort, the Sun is darting forth a refreshing warmth & the breath is just strong to prevent oppressive heat & then just think of the Idea at so fair a day of seeing a Fleet of at least one hundred Steamers besides the Gunboats drawn up in Line and sailing at proper distances to "take the Lion in his den". There is no use

of concealing the fact that I apprehend a serious and bloody struggle as the taking of the stubborn Rebel Fort of Vicksburg is the object of this Expedition I only hope that the authorities in charge of this important task are sufficiently familiar with the Territory, force & fortifications of the Enemy so as to be sure of having an adequate force to be victorious for a defeat in a case like this I would look upon as ruinous. The forces as near as I can find out is about 42,000 men and a fleet of Gunboats a force which would almost deem sufficient to take any place and I feel sure we will take Vicksburg.

When I close or mail this letter I know not but I shall continue to write and if a chance of mailing it presents itself I will close it at once and ship it. I have nothing very particular to write The River does not present anything very striking to me neither have I spent a great deal of my time looking. I have written long letters to Moses Joseph, Cohn, Greenebaum, Chapman & c & read the Tactics I feel as well as ever real hearty & I only trust I may get the same assurance from you and all my beloved ones at home, I feel somewhat troubled about my little Mosey, but hope he is all right. Helena is not much of a town but a strong body of Soldiers are laying there many of whom will accompany our Expedition.

The most of the small towns have been burned by our forces in consequence of Guirilla firing. I met yesterday Captain Henry

Ankeny a Son of old General Ankeny who is as strong a democrat as the old man is Republican and the nicest man I ever saw of that Name. he belongs to the 3^d Iowa Regt. he is also going with us. Col. French is in Command of the right wing on Steamer Jesse K. Bell and sails imediately in front of us our Brigadier has his Head Quarters on board of the Jesse K. Bell, he is an excellent man, him and I are friends.

Our boarding for which we pay \$1⁵⁰/100 per day is not near as good as it was on the Fort Wayne and scarcely any better than I could cook myself. John & Charley are well, Charley is as gay as ever, I had him shod a little while ago & he was a very little lame which troubled me a great deal but I think he is quite over it. I mean to try and get a cheaper Horse to take into Battle if I need one I hate to take Charley in, though I had him right alongside of where the canons were fired 50 times & he never looked.

Walden Sunday 1204 A.M. I am here
W. S. Key West about 320 miles below
Memphis Dec 23/62

My dear dear good wife & children!

I find that I have been a day
late & consequently the sheet sent to you
this Morn. was written on the 22nd
& given to the Chaplain to read to-
day. Whether he had any measure
of opportunity or not I dont know.
Since I have closed that sheet
nothing of any importance has
occurred, except the burning of 2
plantations which is a daily oc-
currence. Whenever any boat is
driven into from shore by Smillas
they land take what they find
fit to use and burn the
neighborhood. This is my Order
& should you be fired into by any
person at shore, land clear
out all opposition, take such
property as you think of any

value to the Government of the
U.S. and from the neighboring
houses & lands &c. Now this may
be necessary and may be just
but I declare I can not see
it, for instance many good
and true Union men may
live along the River and some
malicious Geniuses happening
to know of the Flat Country
may Congregate and this and
that takes property of fire into
the boat, the man, the widow
and the Orphans who may per-
chance live in that neighborhood
will have to suffer, while the
Gentry Geniuses loom before the
poor lands will be safe and
of vast prices away and their
Houses standing at the mischief
they have done. Such is the
justice of War and such may
be necessary but such would
surely not be my mode of war-
fare, yet if I get fired into
I shall do as time bet.

But my opinion is that such
acts of violence in my humble

Whison, have a great tendency
of demoralizing the Army and
creating an unbecomable spirit of
violence, while on the other
hand it scarcely if ever strikes
"the guilty."

We are hailed by darkies
in the most cheering spirit
and great manifestations of joy
the poor devils frequently by
signs gesture to & imploringly
ask to be taken out of bondage
that seems hard to see and not
to comply, yet if all the agitation
had never been and those poor
and unfortunate men been
left in their ^{one} happy state of
carelessness there is no question
but they would have been
more benefit to humanity
in a social, philanthropic
& human course but as
it is it seems hard to deny
a privilege to be free yet when
on the other hand you see
thousands of the Courtshandy
hulled away in the same manner
and from their masters,

in a miserable and starving
filthy condition it then
in a spirit of philanthropy
you will say better he is
slavery than such freedom
as I can give you.

The noise and the creak of the
shaking of the boat prevents
me almost from writing
and really I do not know
whether you can read it after
I have written I am very
well and feel as hearty and
cheerful as need be. If I could
only get a letter from you
telling me of your welfare
I would feel as well as I am
at.

Hd. Q Left Wing 120th O.V.I. on board
U.S.S. Key West afloat 220 miles below
Memphis Dec 23/62

My dear dear good wife & children!

I find that I have been 1 day late, consequently the Sheet send to you this A.M. was written on the 22nd & given to the Chaplain to mail to day wether he had any mailing opportunity or not I dont know.

Since I last closed that last Sheet nothing of any importance has occurred, except the burning of 2 plantations which is a daily occurrence. Whenever any boat is fired into from Shore by Gurillas they land take what they find fit to use and burn the neighborhood. This is my Order "Should you be fired into by any person on Shore, land, clean out all opposition, take such property as you think of any value to the Government of the U.S. and burn the neighboring houses, barns &c." Now this may be necessary and may be just but I declare I can not see it, for instance many good and true Union men may live along the River and some malicious Guirillas happening to know of the Fleet coming may congregate on this or that ones property & fire into the boat, the man, the widow or the Orphans who may perchance live in that neighborhood will have to suffer, while the guilty Gurillas long before the boat lands will be safe out of reach

miles away on their Horses laughing at the mischief they have done. Such is the justice of War and such may be necessary but such would surely not be my mode of warfare, yet if I get fired into I shall do as directed. But my opinion is that such acts of violence in my humble opinion, have a great tendency of demoralizing the Army and creating an ungovernable spirit of violence, while on the other hand it scarcely if ever strikes "the guilty".

We are hailed by darkies in the most cheering spirit and great manifestation of joy the poor devils frequently by signs gestures &c imploringly ask to be taken out of bondage that seems hard to see and not to comply, yet if all the agitation had never been and those poor and unfortunate men been left in their once happy state of carelessness their is no question but they would have been more benefit to humanity in a social, philanthropic & humane Auspice but as it is, it seems hard to deny a privilege to be free. Yet when on the other hand you see thousands of the Contrabands pulled away in the same manner from their masters, in a miserable and starving & filthy condition then in a spirit of philanthropy you will say, better be in slavery than such freedom as I can give you.

The noise on the dock & the shaking of the boat prevents me allmost from writing and really I do not know wether you can

read it often. I have written I am very well and feel as hearty
and Cheerfull as need be. If I could only get a letter from you
asuring me of your wellfare I would feel as well as I ever dit.



With the Steam boat, Wooding
At Millikens Landing
20 miles from Vicksburg on
Christmas Morning

My dear
This Day we had a few
moments time to finish a letter
and mail it I would say
to you that I am getting
better & healthier every day I
never felt better. The weather
is splendid, I enclose you
a flower plucked in the
Wards this morning, every
thing is growing nicely.

I was this morning shown the
plan of operations I will give
it to you in short. We are
to land somewhere near
the Yazgooliver, reduced fast
flames in the Yazgool, Grant
will join us somewhere bet-
ween the Yazgool & black river

General Banks will come
We from New Orleans with
his Expedition and Grant
Sherman, Banks & Admiral
Porter with the gunboats
will jointly operate together
I saw the maps & everything
& think there can be no
doubt of success, it is a
gigantic movement of & if
only the junctions are pro-
perly and successfully made
we must be victorious
Can't say nothing about
this. In 32 days I had
one letter from you. How do
you think I am to state
it? Are you all well?

I wish I knew it.

The weather is like June
I'm at home everything
growing delightfully
God bless
you and the children and all
the friends
Yours true friend
Marcus

On the same, boat, wooding
At Millikens Landing
20 miles from Vicksburg on
Christmas Morning

My dear!

They say we have a few moments time to finish a letter and mail it. I would say to you that I am getting better & heartier every day, I never felt better. The weather is splendit, I enclose you a flower plucked in the woods this morning, every thing is growing nicely.

I was this morning shown the plan of operation I will give it to you in short. We are to land somewheres near the Yazoo River, reduce Fort Haines in the Yazoo, Grant will join us somewhere between the Yazoo & black River. General Banks will come up from New Orleans with his expedition and Grant, Sherman, Banks & Admiral Porter with the Gunboats will jointly opperate together.

I saw the maps & everything & think their can be no doubt of success, it is a gigantic movement & if only the junctions are properly and successfully made, we must be victorious. Dont say nothing about this. In 32 days I had one letter from you. How do you think I am to stand it? Are you all well?

I wish I knew it.

The weather is like June & July at home everything
growing delightfully.

Good Bye. God bless You and the Children and all the
friends.

Your true & loving,

Marcus



Wd. Am. left. Wm 120th O.S
St. Key West W. of Dec 26/62
9 miles up Yagoo River
Miss.

My dear dear Wife!
It is with some
pleasure and gratification that
I again sit in my Cabin after
a day of unusual excitement
and have the pleasure of writing
to you my love. This morning
we left the Miss. Ford right at the
mouth of the Yagoo and
slowly & cautiously made our
way up this River for 9 miles
We are now I believe some 10 miles
from Vicksburg. To day after
we landed a small Rebel force
attempted to trouble us and
we were ordered out & if ever
I felt proud in my life I do
this night. Everything turned out
during the excitement just to
please me.

When I received the Order to get
out the Regt. & form a line on
Bulle right in front of a piece
of woods where the enemy firing was
going on, I thought I would let
Col French who was quite unwell
and in bed, have all the rest
I could and get the Regiment
out before I would call them

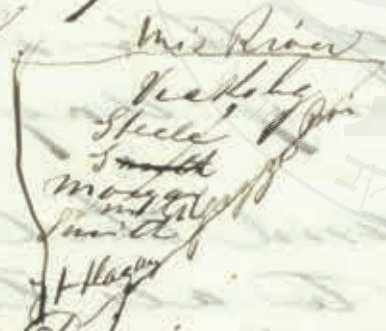
While I told the adjutant
to have the Captains bring out
the Companies, I told Johnny
to bring Charley from the boat
and I wish you could have
seen ^{them} come up the Bank

Swinging dancing & spurring
a fair representation of a "War
Horse" and as soon as I
had him out & got on him
I felt as easy and safe as
I never did before at times
of battle. By this time the Comp
came & the Grenado also & Batten's
commenced playing furiously
Infantry was going it at a very
rapid rate in front of us and
the Boys came out & formed
like Veterans not a bit of

Collect every man to this place
perfectly cool. Well Well the
rebels retired and our Regt
did not get a shot, enough is
known to everybody that the
12th will do to let an

Col Munch is just what
I expected as cool when the
Bullets whistle as he is in
a parlor he can not be
scared nor excited

But to morrow is the great
day, to morrow Vicksburg is to
be taken and we are to perform
a great feat I just saw the
plan



Steel's Division is to march directly
on Vicksburg, our Division to his
immediate Right to engage the forces
yours, Smith's to our Right,
White et. of Smith's as a flank
is to try and reduce Fort Hayes
about 5 miles from here and
the Yazoo River

The Original Plan was for
us to wait untill Bunko comes
from New Orleans & grant given
Grenada, but Sherman wants
the glory alone, I hope to
God we may be successfull.
Whatever my part may be
I am satisfied it will perform
that neither you nor any of
my Children will ever have
to be ashamed off, (it is to
hot in here to write) and I trust
and pray to my heavenly father
that in his infinite mercy
he may grant me the privilege
in telling you of this important
event for many days to
years to come.

God bless you and the Children
Remember me to all the
friends and since to morrow
birds pair to be a busy day
let me go to bed & have sweet
dreams of my dear ones at
home and I feel that all
will be right with me, in
fact I know it. Your ever
true loving husband
Mauers

Hd. Qrs. left Wing 120th O.V.I.

Str. Key West No. 2 Dec 26/62

9 miles up Yazzoo River

Mis.

My dear dear Wife!

It is with much pleasure and gratification that I again sit in my Cabin after a day of unusual Excitement and have the pleasure of writing to you my love. This morning we left the Mis. River right at the mouth of the Yazzoo and slowly & cautiously made our way up this River for 9 miles We are now I believe some 10 miles from Vicksburg. To day after we landed a small Rebel force attempted to trouble us and we were ordered out & if ever I felt proud in my life I do this night. Everything turned out during the Excitement just to please me. When I received the Order to get out the Regt. & form a line-o-Battle right in front of a piece of Woods where heavy firing was going on, I thought I would let Col French who was quite unwell and in bed, have all the rest I could and get the Regiment out before I would call him.

While I told the Adjutant to have the Captains bring out the Companies, I told Johny to bring Charley from the boat and I wish you could have seen him come up the Bank Snorting dancing & pawing a fair representative of a "War

Horse" and as soon as I had him out & got on him I felt as easy and safe as I never dit before at times of battle. By this time the Comp came & the Gunboats & Batteries comenced playing furiously Infantry was going it at a very rapid rate in front of us and the Boys came out & formed like Veterans not a bit Excited Every man to his place & perfectly cool. Well well the Rebels retired and our Regt dit not get a shot, Enough is known to Everybody that the 120th will do to bet on.

Col French is just what I Expected as cool where the Bullets whistle as he is in a parlor he can not be scared nor excited

But to morrow is the great day, to morrow Vicksburg is to be taken and we are to perform a great part I just saw the plan.

Mis River

Vicksbg

Steele

Morgan

Smith

Smith

Ft. Haynes

Steele's Divission is to march directly on Vicksburg, our Divission to his imediate Right to engage the forces &

forts, Smiths to our Right, while A. J. Smiths as a faint
is to try and reduce Fort Haynes about 5 miles from here
on the Yazzoo River. The Original Plan was for us to wait
untill Banks comes from New Orleans & Grant from Grenada
[Mississippi], but Sherman wants the Glory alone, I hope
to God we may be successfull. Whatever my part may be I am
satisfied it will [be] performed that neither you nor any
of my Children will ever have to be ashamed off (it is to
hot in here to write) and I trust and pray to my heavenly
father that in his infinite mercy he may grant me the
privilege in telling you of this important event for many
days & Years to come.

God bless you and the Children. Remember me to all the
friends and since to morrow bids fair to be a bussy day let
me go to Bed have sweet dreams of my dear once at home and I
feel that all will be right with me, in fact I know it. Your
ever true & loving husband

Marcus