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

1863 January

For more information on this collection, please see the catalog record on the American Jewish Archives website.

efilliten Bund La pan 3/63 My dear dear good life! at least us dayfy a tumble happen as God un his infinite mercy may beston en anner to the finacro and warm prayer face by your time devoted thurband. 14 the dispusations of hand providence d'and again gremiter to git in my little Otake Rhom and write to you my good Wife and speak of my dear Children and Haid Triends Erler after going through ships and finations sure fear Jull than I Ever det heffen

Year where death danger thatenden razed at a ferrious Rate, good lad grennitted one to come out with ant a jarabah and with and greater loss than the medformsoff my Boot, my Rubber Over Coas my Pants & boat the to pieces in the Woods the Rabbiel advance and Excitement I would simply say if your destris Paper Per & South Do seace that your can write du gent letters to Iv very what and to me & think you had better or to Ohin for to night and Keyment receased 1100 letters and but an from you to me and that walter an half sheet and holf of that short sowert get d'ans selfich I want lander ance and more of it I have written that ane the times & will won shop ercal it again I have done so the syon et is gird but I want more afeit get a feel happy whereas had a not was the

I would to night feel miserable Before & comme evict a dissently Juy I am happy & glad to Geory for Hamilia being Inch a Jugal Chearty I Thope by the time & come hound the can read the newspaper for this to in Jerman and English I heard to day liggie dit not freak ant very land in school, she must speak and well and he a Very good young Lady so der Pa can feel queged of der dans fled Money takes his Hair Cilde Juants, of lit it worth de my Soul good to see little Hattie sit an the How. Sacato shock detten de me muel pleasur I hape she will continue. Why don't Michael Wich. We Caladale as soon as a & are settled again to Elect though Juseph as Julle of our Regionent Has he fone in the Cartes Business for food?

While I ain writing, the Ladie Cabin is accupied by the the hoat Officers playing Pather by and Officers reading the Paper of the Loud in which we got the news of Burnides Said, mobaly but me clellan can had that ling and Every ather general will get whiffeel. a Heavy Themeler flower is raging autside, the shoots of Thunder fairly shake the Earth land more Expecially ambous and the rain is furious, ah how I fully the from hays who chave to stand pricket While I write I can hear the mouning of the siall whiel queines me much We have about so on my boak & about Loo in the whole Regiment 3 av 4 av my boat are dangures 15 very with & the ballance unfit for duty, but tuck is Saldreining + such is the contract us heren Entered with, wor for the fight

Quel Thech I havalleady given you a short thetal of telat happened Fuday the 26th and if & am not mistaken of think of said in that letter that the conduct of the boys of the 120th Would do to bet on & I can won Day Ob was quefectly right & their Conduct Gos a new Meghnest was never Impassed. How my dear of in this show direction the all important Comes gregnent and as also what I doke, you must not think me Egolistical for A know that that ward farticular fact of it is as much interiest to you then any thing Elec done and as it is not considered you publication it can matter but little Ho arechody Else. War were ordered to found close Column of Division and ad vauce through a thicket, after thereins out Minishers to Core our front flanks 118 done so and addanced. I I should here say, that in my last I have total you that I had seen the Plany halle and that it was a gegentic morement

in that plan it was intential that not much of any thing would be done before some Kind of a punction with Hanks and grant could be gente to nearly made but in the meantime et is reported that the news came that General elle Clemand of tell was coming here to take Command, when General Theman shall have said the Would go to He Cor bionsburg how Me Olemand Came" wether this he so or not that much & do Know in less than HI homes from the time the frist gland of operation was thown a second one was ordered Chauging into and commediate attack by ohr all allow the line from James Bluffs a high fort a distante I think of y miles) Very Well as I said we advanced Through the thicket and while there to low right and domewhat in advance Canonading was hilly Joing and, We Steadily advanced untill us adranced Emerged into an open field when ene duloged from Close Column to

Lattle line. 184 this time Jeghlung an our right of both effuskety x. Utilling was briskly and leady progressing, but only accasional la Chay Skell or wandering musket hall would whigh cepaston line, WE Were Ordered to chall & lay Hat an the gound, Ufter laying thus got about in to 3/4 9 test how our golls (Ginday Bugade) of Morgans Dionston | Succeeded to dive the Every and well we had to gollow as as reserve to Lindsay Thisade, auction rand was made Trighting Commenced livelier then before. One Continued contill about an hour beard night when it ceased gov a short time they and their any dit do anything that I would not repeat now not nevarter. O united diversal brother Of sices to go up with we and see the Fattle Gulil, two of them accepted and we started to feethdead and warmled. When we came to the left of and lines We one micel for the dead and wortested, and banual they had

they had all been carried to a cohite house beyond the Line, soon to get there you ive had to cross a high Lever or Hoad along Side (that is behind its ught Hand lay and Doldier with their Mustless and the Lever and the life of it was a kind of a harrow Stones and Opposite the struck brush and dat Threst full of Belet Waldiers and if any bady that an Olden that going along a Road which is probably as long as Grown Henry Lichenstein Hore to the Theunan Haune and Each side loaded Munkels though the Kehels your contel not see) now if any hody thinks there is any fund in the let I dit not want to back ant I tip to my hat gave Charley the full depth of my Spines and galloped Theory , ran the Samuelet dage though a many honesty meant bullet Came whigging hast me and my quiedles who came along away behind as they could not catch up with charley, after Telleg and learning and loss was about back and anivel safely with an bays

3 of Sheet I allmost wished I had I ayed out, for when I came out a gound out that I was detailed as Brigade Officer of the day. It took a morning fumped on my house to grost my Rickets a for which took me untill after 11 oclock tentell to first them teany th Counterseen to them, When & returned Ch took my Islanket wasped myself up and laid myself besides my horse and sleft like a frame untill 30 alock a. M. when WE were called up and thand to any at about 5 1. M the fall opened by heavy Untilley fire where was the night before looking at the Wounded as Well as to our left (by Offsels Division on and right by A. of Smith Div. and and our Extreme right by Morgan I. Smith Division. Of might as well stof here and gove you a disseritta of our imfortunate Field of Coperation Marting from the Kiner as us dit and marshing an a Hend of a . with Eastern directions us come after about 2 miles marching toa longon which mus or lather winds

Remember Delan To convence and the Tunday Morning fight, The mail AMERICAN HOISH
ARCH IGNER

ARC

Theet of I have allready hard to your by day break damday morning we all Stood to ans and as the day al. Canaed & the Tim reemed planing its way throng a decise gag which greedented anyone of seeing his perches two feet grown think which of come led me to the Conclusion that the amfull and length Course ading and Muskely not gar give dealing it returdent the the jeg chair away we could planty see the fuch. of the Eurona leaves the Hill Tide and account to tobeyou playing away with a papiledy las though the meant to anhibite us halt core as Vigorously acusto by am one. All forces on on sight storety a drawerd distance the Eveny by ench who in beter Centested Every with of ground with a valor worth of a better Ourse, which from the advantage of their position made it hot?

ar fellowed being the 2nd Brigade your the reserve and when by gode we were just a front of a Gafor coming from the Hills where the Enemies the played fenicenty We were todered four Mequinal to return file left along the langer table a resilion and the Jud Stongt your which general Morgani Suit & Efuet a plant attack hold that position at all home motell relieved or peinforced. We started and as it's come out of Planer of the Theles & ont of emmeliate danger dem notas Mund to only it a feet ferthe time reluced. He made our point de the Ground fust their acer hoys came with a deiner of which we heartily participated not having had any breakfast We had seasonly done dinen where and did gallufied eif order us to the right where the ground had been stubbanly contestert

and the fight seconely paging The Trugle bounded the assemble and my boys carrie in Us the Sol there into close Column by Congo and marched to Teen of exchor Of We came near the roaning of Canon and the crackling of Small ams was finious year terrifice, The Thell's brested all acotom est and many times the cause Within a very near space of Charley I my self hend Morgan ordered us to advance to the Buttery and when Ordered to advance clash funously jeman Us we came to our Buttery it was freezeetly anignet, there were 20 of one Canons playing with all the viler they could & at the same time drawn all the Untillery fire of the incend place, and for a new Regiment behaved little Veterano and just then I became perfectly Emplued I could talk to Every time, Heren the dance, but the fear of death had frespectly left me, adarbert he cell forward felt proud and

was admined and applaceded. Inst then Yend Morgan Carne the had talked to let French x Cance shoot hands with me I said, Ool speigel & are y freel doubly front of so gallent 11 an Officer One more change for the Good ald Ollay and the clas , is land by that time he told the shortly to go back a lette piece cross the Bayou & get up the Hill in the Woods & charge are the Rebel Halley , while DE Comey Brigade should charge to the ight. We started troken we got across the Bayon we had to so up a straight Bank weny thigh which Charley made thoudsomely mill the got account up the Bank to where the top bended ontraced the coned not mathe it, I printed of got a root swang imprely around it, talkning Charley be the elign de made a leap x cleaved the Thicket

Wheat 5 When on lop and as soon as one they leached up we formed in Line advanced one Illminishen & Cantionsly felt and way not Knowing Low down WE Were to meet the horde of the Ourney, the 498 Ond. had in the meautime Comean the med on our tight after advance dome For yands 118 haltel Hal Funce The advanced by ander to ascertain Their position using my glassin notably ency Crept 100, Gards aken We described the takel plays fromthy Warring and their amparety We when and advanced and Commond. When and pleinmister & come to the growing been they dan the Mehels I comenced going the Whels auntinu with Visor, we then momitly ced me an whole him as also the 49th ded the otracy Bullets then came thick und as soon as we feet the Hullets We called in the Stan + Vent at There, Ohy the word that youring & recember as long

as I live, Our boys Hood bully VI Alexa law the Rebs Were shooting to high, WE freed & coaded freet I yelled untill We drove them into their Kiple pets + left them then thursday Every hummete Decourey would charge form he land ter & would done to fever about but thank God be det not chan and We det hot have to after en fine of two hours + a half los were relieved by but Frank Mais this theyade In & retired week the loss of 1 Officer + 11 men Welled of 61 Wohnster in the 2 Kegto nothing parientar dunny the night any cold & withing to Eat & very wed then Euro du lay Manday Morning opened little Tunday with heavy Canonading the Rebels Chaving Ilauted unany non Batteries diving the night thelled us Vikemently of it became herefor to come very worker, lit go clock a. m. we were ordered to a drawer our Hegi to the main Bayon & duje, out and folls laying a Pontrail Budge actor the Bayan

Our Hoyo advanced steadily though combe afeaifull fine I a many shell ar with as Ballet who ged want me that day. We there that by a signal fear and Division which was the Juing of 12 grows a rapid snacepind a Crowning at attack thould be made along our whole line. The Confiel was Two and all the Ballenis agreend I such such a fining of never before heard itwas arrfull, terrifice grand Afraifull Afrons where we was Engaged las could see DE Comego Prigade mall. the Charge they were to make the day before, assisted by Woland Bregade ential were to do the day began but in vain, such were the paper rations that in less there are fores but were repulled with a loss of Hilled trouveled & mirrary one les than 2500 men. We were Heft muder fine entill 9 of the at 4 P. m. it commenced raining in Courseques of the Leany artillery fine When as g P. mi all but 100 men of and they' even relieved We found and cest Belo about key more in the leave

The bay, had seared, baid an horar when the Mebels commenced shelling as sharing the Many of and Cump we had to change Quarters a thing we had to do trosce after that Larry thee men considered by two shell , the paint promed down all might at about 3 oclock P. m & took siell and was very siell all night Inerday withing of importance, the Hebells gave us proveloge to come over to their line and bury or take out and dead, I vent over to & donly wished I had not the truck hound rights, they had stripfeed all aur dead of Everything but their Shirt & Drawyers. Tuesday night We were ordered to take posession of the riple like in front sprotest a sacting by theoring I compo in the Theartorthe which and menthedow up during the night, very telle foring Wednesday occasional shelling but Every bady asked how can we Ever de anything with our force against their Gebrallan, as Every morning thornel us new satteties which they had been planting

Theet Defore I Close I must whate a little exceedent. that happened to me on Wednesday, I was retting quarue my Books which through the band smud dad get stiff, I sat an a log where I slept the night before when a Shell Care y bernied itself Within three gest of me but fortimalet det not Eplode had et Eploched I would have made had worth of me. Wednesday hight of Comp were our Regt ordered as advance Problet our Problets was ont & et was about & o clock when en received didees to Exacuate then of mind was arrefull. On Regel was to be the last regiment to kune and our Prekets the last of all I was fearfull that if the Kebels would hear one artillery more they would make an anfull attack on as by Shell talkendese, & then eve to be the last. But they were not wide awake and weeken relating the whole, let it he enough to Kenn that when

delachment of A Compo of Picket Unived Japel on the other dide of the Stough my heart Effander It my praises went flew Ently to the Everling Gad WE Were the last to leave the field but are hed sope at our Igras On Exceditions in a grand exaction, it is said us are now going up the and Brew of eve do & pape era an more decerepale you much be Latinged with this imprespect dissaripleme Our Reg & & leve Heenah and myself Earned a chaine of which we & our children can be princed I have dead a back filor a to to follow you Hurshed 18 Maceus Whaley is mot being well

Str. J.K. Bell opposite
Millikens Bend La. Jan. 3/63

My dear dear good Wife!

May the year 63 be of at least as happy a turn to you as 62 and as much happier as God in his infinite mercy may bestow in answer to the sincere and warm prayers to Him offered for your welfare by your true and devoted Husband. M. M.

By the dispensations of kind providence I am again permitted to sit in my little State Room and write to you my good Wife and speak of my dear Children and kind friends even after going through a week of fearful dangers, hardships and privations more fearful than I ever dit before. Yea where death, danger & destruction raged at a furious Rate, good God permitted me to come out with out a scratch and with none greater loss than the one Spur off my Boot, my Rubber overcoat, my Pants & Coat tore to pieces in the Woods & by the Rabbid advance and excitement.

However before I go any further I would simply say if your duties in Chicago are so important or Paper, Pen & Ink so scarce that you can write so few letters & so very short ones to me, I think you had better go to Ohio, for to night our Regiment received 1100 letters and but one from

you to me and that written on half sheet, and half of that only from you. Although it was short and sweet, yet I am selfish; I want longer ones and more of it. I have written [i.e., read] that one three times & will now stop and read it again. I have done so & God bless you; it is good but I want more of it. Yet I feel happy, whereas had I not received that I would to night feel miserable.

Before I commence with a description of the Siege of Vicksburg, I will say I am happy & glad to hear of my Hamlin being such a good Son and learning so well & looking so hearty. I hope by the time I come home he can read the newspaper for his Pa in German and English. I heard to day Lizzie dit not speak out very loud in school; she must speak out well and be a very good young Lady so her Pa can feel proud of her. I am glad Mosey takes his Hair [sic] Oil so good, that is just the thing he wants. Oh but it would do my soul good to see little Hattie sit on the floor. Sarah's short Letters do me much pleasure; I hope she will continue. Why dont Michael write?

We calculate as soon as we are settled again to elect
Brother Joseph as Sutler of our Regiment. Has he gone in the
Oyster Business for good? While I am writing, the Ladies
Cabin is occupied by the Steamboat Officers playing Poker,
by our Officers reading the Papers of the 22nd in which we

got the news of Burnsides defeat; just as I always said, nobody but McClellan can lead that Army and every other General will get whipped. A Heavy Thunder Storm is raging outside, the shocks of Thunder fairly shake the earth and more especially our boat and the rain is furious. Oh how I pity the poor boys who have to stand picket. While I write I can hear the moaning of the sick which grieves me much. We have about 50 on my boat & about 200 in the whole regiment; 3 or 4 on my boat are dangerous, 15 very sick & the balance unfit for duty, but such is soldiering & such is the contract we entered into. Now for the fight. I have already given you a short sketch of what happened Friday the 26th and if I am not mistaken I think I said in that letter that the conduct of the boys of the 120th would do to bet on & I can now say I was perfectly right & their conduct for a new Regiment was never surpassed. Now my dear, if in this short description the all important I comes frequent and as also what I done, you must not think me egotistical for I know that that very particular part of it is as much interest to you than anything else done and as it is not considered for publication it can matter but little to anybody else.

Saturday [December 27] at 10 o'clock A.M. we were ordered to form close Column of Division and advance through a thicket. After throwing out skirmishers to cover our front and

flanks, we done so and advanced. (I should here say, that in my last I have told you that I had seen the Plan of Battle and that it was a gigantic movement. In that plan it was intended that not much of anything would be done before some kind of a junction with Banks and Grant could be quite or nearly made but in the meantime it is reported that the news came that General McClernand of Illinois was coming here to take Command, when General Sherman shall have said, "he would go to h--l or Vicksburg before McClernand came." Whether this be so or not, that much I do know; in less than 48 hours from the time the first plan of operation was shown, a second one was ordered changing into an immediate attack by our Army all along the line from Gaines [Haynes] Bluffs, a high fort on the Yazoo River, to Vicksburg, a distance I think of 7 miles.) Very well, as I said we advanced through the thicket and, while there to our right and somewhat in advance cannonading was briskly going on. We steadily advanced until we emerged into an open field when we deployed from close Column to battle line. By this time fighting on our right of both Musketry & Artillery was briskly and lively progressing, but only occasionally a stray shell or wandering musket ball would whizz apast our lines. We were ordered to halt & lay flat on the ground. After laying thus for about 1/2 to 3/4 of an hour our folks (Lindsays Brigade of Morgans Division)

succeeded to drive the Enemy and we had to follow up as reserve to Lindsays Brigade. Another stand was made and fighting commenced livelier than before. This continued until about an hour before night when it ceased for a short time. Then and then only dit I do anything that I would not repeat now nor hereafter. I invited several brother Officers to go up with me and see the battle field. Two of them accepted and we started to see the dead and wounded. When we came to the left of our lines we inquired for the dead and wounded, and learned they had all been carried to a white house beyond the Line. Now to get there we had to cross a high Levee or Road. Along side, (that is) behind its right Bank, lay our Soldiers with their Muskets on the Levee; on the left of it was a kind of narrow Sloughs and opposite the slough, brush and that brush full of Rebel Soldiers and if anybody has an idea that going along a Road which is probably as long as from Henry Liebensteins Store to the Sherman House, on each side loaded Muskets (though the Rebels you could not see), now if anybody thinks there is any fun in this let him try it. As I gave the invitation I dit not want to back out. I tipped my hat, gave Charley the full depth of my spurs and galloped through, ran the Gauntlet safe though a many honestly meant bullet came whizzing past me and my friends, who came along way behind as they could not catch up with

Charley. After seeing and learning our loss was about 60 in killed and wounded, we galloped back and arrived safely with our boys. I almost wished I had stayed out, for when I came out I found out that I was detailed as Brigade Officer of the day. I took a piece of cold meat & bread, all I had since morning, jumped on my horse to post my pickets; a job which took me until after 11 o'clock to post them & carry the countersign to them. When I returned I took my Blanket, wrapped myself up and laid myself besides my horse and slept like a prince until 3 o'clock A.M. on December 28] when we were called up and stand to Arms. At about 5 A.M. the ball opened by heavy Artillery fire, where I was the night before looking at the wounded, as well as to our left (by Steele's Division), on our right by A. J. Smiths Division, and on our extreme right by Morgan L. Smith Division. I might as well stop here and give you a description of our unfortunate field of operations.

Starting from the River as we dit and marching in a kind of north Eastern direction we come after about 2 miles marching to a Bayou which runs or rather winds.

Remember I have to commence on the Sunday morning fight, the mail is going.

God bless you

I have allready said to you by day break Sunday morning we all stood to Arms and as the day advanced & the Sun seemed plowing its way through a dense fog which prevented anyone of seeing his neighbor two feet from him which of course led me to the conclusion that the awful and terrific Cannonading and Musketry not far from us on our right must be a great deal of it at random. As the fog cleared away we could plainly see the smoke of the Enemies Cannons along the Hill Side and across the Bayou, playing away with a rapidity as though they meant to annihilate us but were as vigorously answered by our own. Our forces on our right slowly advanced, driving the Enemy by inches who in turn contested every inch of ground with a valor worthy of a better cause, which from the advantage of their position made it hot work for us. As our advance slowly gained Ground we followed, being the 2nd Brigade from the reserve, and when by 9 o'clock we were just in front of a Gap coming from the Hills where the Enemies Guns played furiously, we were Ordered (our Regiment) to return and file left along the bayou, take a position on the 2nd Slough from which General Morgan said, I expect a flank attack; hold that position at all hazard until relieved or reinforced. We started and as we came out of Range of the Shells & out of immediate danger, I am not ashamed to own it,

I felt for the time relieved. We made our point, deployed the Regt & laid down on the ground. Just then our boys came with a dinner of which we heartily participated, not having had any breakfast.

We had scarcely done dinner when an Aid galloped up, ordering us to the right where the ground had been stubbornly contested and the fight severely raging.

The Bugle sounded the Assembly and my boys came in. We threw them into close column by Companies and marched to Scene of Action. AMERICAN JEWISH

As we came near, the roaring of cannon and the crackling of small Arms was furious yea terrific. The Shells busted all around us and many times they came within a very near space of Charley & myself.

General Morgan ordered us to advance to the Battery and when ordered to advance, dash furiously forward. As we came to our Battery it was perfectly awful; there were 20 of our Cannons playing with all the velocity they could & at the same time drawing all the artillery fire of the Enemy.

Our Regiment was in an awful place, and for a new Regiment behaved like Veterans and just then I became perfectly enraptured. I could talk to every one, knew the danger, but the fear of death had perfectly left me. I dashed back & forward, felt proud and was admired and applauded. Just then General

Morgan came; he had talked to Col French & came and shook hands with me & said, "Col Spiegel, I am proud of you as an Ohioan; I feel doubly proud of so gallant an officer. One more charge for the good Flag and the day is ours." By that time he told me shortly to go back a little piece, cross the Bayou & get up the Hill in the Woods & charge on the Rebel Battery, while De Courcys Brigade should charge to the right. We started and when we got across the Bayou we had to go up a straight Bank, very high, which Charley made handsomely until he got almost up the Bank to where the top bended outward & he could not make it. I jumped off, got a root, swang myself around it, taking Charley by the rein; he made a leap & cleared the Thicket when on top and as soon as our Regt reached up we formed in line, advanced our Skirmishers & cautiously felt our way, not knowing how soon we were to meet the hordes of the Enemy. The 49th Indiana had in the meantime come up & formed on our right. After advancing some 300 yards we halted & Col French & I advanced by ourself to ascertain their position using my glass. We probably only crept 100 yards when we discovered the Rebel flag, proudly waving on their rampart; we returned and advanced our Command. When our skirmishers came to the point probably where Col & I had previously been, they saw the Rebels & commenced firing; the Rebels answered with vigor. We then promptly advanced our whole line as also the 49th Indiana. The stray Bullets then

came thick and as soon as we felt the Bullets we called in the Skirmishers & went at them, Oh the noise [of] that firing I remember as long as I live. Our boys stood bully & I soon saw the Rebs were shooting too high. We fired & loaded & fired & yelled until we drove them into their Rifle pits & kept them there, thinking every minute DeCourcy would charge from below & we would have to from above but thank God he dit not charge and we dit not have to. After a fire of two hours & a half, we were relieved by Genl Frank Blair and his Brigade & we retired with the loss of 1 Officer & 11 men killed & 61 wounded in the 2 Regts. Nothing particular during the night, only cold & nothing to eat & very tired. Thus ends Sunday.

Monday Morning [December 29] opened like Sunday with heavy Cannonading; the Rebels having planted many new Batteries during the night shelled us vehemently & it became necessary to change our position. At 9 O'clock A.M. we were ordered to advance our Regt to the main Bayou & support our folks laying a Pontoon Bridge across the Bayou. Our Boys advanced steadily though under a fearful fire & a many shell as well as Bullet whizzed apast me that day. We knew that, by a signal from our Division which was the firing of 12 Guns in rapid succession, a crossing or attack should be made along our whole line. The Signal was given and all the Batteries opened. Such a firing I never before heard; it was awful,

terrific, grand & fearful & from where we was engaged we could see DeCourcy's Brigade make the charge they were to make the day before, assisted by Blairs brigade which were to do the day before, but in vain. Such were the preparations that in less than an hour both were repulsed with a loss of killed wounded and missing of no less than 2500 men. We were kept under fire until 9 P.M. At 4 P.M. it commenced raining in consequence of the heavy artillery fire; when at 9 P.M. all but 100 men of our Regiment were relieved, we found our wet Beds about half mile in the rear. The boys had scarcely laid an hour when the Rebels commenced shelling us and having the Range of our Camp, we had to change Quarters; a thing we had to do twice after that, having three men wounded by two shells. The rain poured down all night; at about 3 o'clock A.M. I took sick and was very sick all night.

Tuesday [December 30], nothing of importance. The Rebels gave us privilege to come over to their line and bury or take out our dead. I went over too & I only wished I had not. Oh such horrid sights; they had stripped all our dead of everything but their Shirt & Drawyers. Tuesday night we were ordered to take possession of the rifle Pits in front and protect a Battery by throwing 5 Companies in the Breastworks which our men threw up during the night; very little firing. Wednesday occasional shelling but everybody asked, how can we

ever do anything with our force against their Gibraltar, as every morning showed us new Batteries which they had been planting. Before I close I must relate a little incident that happened to me on Wednesday [December 31]. I was sitting greasing my Boots which through the rain & mud had got stiff. I sat on a log where I slept the night before, when a shell came & buried itself within three feet of me but fortunately did not explode; had it exploded I [sic] would have made bad work of me. Wednesday night 4 Comp were of our Regt ordered as advance Picket. Our Pickets was out & it was about 8 o'clock when we received Orders to "evacuate". Then came the tug of War, the Anxiety of mind was awful. Our Regt was to be the last Regiment to leave and our Pickets the last of all. I was fearful that if the Rebels would hear our Artillery move, they would make an awful attack on us by shell & otherwise & then we to be the last. But they were not wide awake and without relating the whole, let it be enough to know that when [our] detachment of 4 Comps of Picket arrived safely on the other Side of the slough my heart expanded & my praises went fleuently to the Everliving God. We were the last to leave the field but arrived safe at our Boat.

Our Expedition is a grand failure. It is said we are now going up the Arkansas River; if we do I hope we are more successful.

You must be satisfied with this imperfect description.

Our Regt & Col French and myself earned a name of which we & our children can be proud.

I have such a bad place to write.

God bless you, Your loving & ever true

Marcus

Finished

Jany 6/63

Charley is not very well.



coplant property Manie Rey West at 8 20 January 8,1863 Sanded of the mouth of ethole Miner Clash Tily dias dea thirt Chelden and encemain, Letter of the 27 th the will fine of other Enclosed Came to hard ast sught and I Atally think of the me me good than all the medizine on the Total could have done, it was a good old gotter to glace me minch Comfort & Garitarille your a war letter Grown con a saleas history of the Jeg to as head stones, beer a to any all torrigin but I Improve that is this con have it in the Paperty it may be that the war well be Vive accepted about it but abouter The Jay it was an unfield elepeate and with broth Worndred Bulled Word moderne I don't met our that to de the Source Stor mon less for day than to day is left till mythis in Helpin, the only because full part

next of the operation was the Exacuation of the general and wether the Inveres care be attributed to the shirt of our Truesale or the neglect of the Heles er a made to be decided by the historian nowayle & govert to say to con that Charles in consequence of Hard Willing and Epperson best ex for, that in the norming after the ? Vaccintain, the Webels left their feets and the weath come much ing ding on we and I sterd in the Pelot Home of the brut weed mint vay as they ad-Varied trately and eleterment they wolled well, the skingisher in ad lance who as an Ofice on a Horse passed his divide all find but flat on the geomet, their Celani advanced within 100 garde of our bouts and field our boys just, the buttet cume as threet us hail amound me as I walker tobathe transcare deck making my boys by acres and fire, the Entered the Cheenen just by my head, but they get the webs of the baigain for our gentions quiles west up the Rever a prece and get to the Hear of their and queed a exchange

[upside down text]: Adress 120th O.V.

Army Mississippi

Left Wing

Steamer Key West No. 2

January 8/1863

Landed at the mouth of White River Ark.

My dear dear Wife & Children!

Your very kind, loving and encouraging Letter of the 27th Dec with several others enclosed came to hand last night and I really think it done me more good than all the medicine on the Boat could have done; it was a good old letter & gave me much comfort. I have written you a long letter giving you a partial history of the fights at Vicksburg. They were awful terrific but I suppose that ere this you have it in the Papers. It may be that the Papers will be very careful about it but whatever they say it was an awful defeat and with sick, wounded, killed and missing, I doubt not but that to day we have 8000 men less for duty than the day we left Memphis & Helena, the only successful part of the operation was the evacuation of our forces and whether the success can be attributed to the skill of our Generals or the neglect of the Rebels is a matter to be decided by the historian hereafter. I forgot to say to you that Charley in consequence of hard riding and exposure [was sick] but is

better now. I also forgot to say to you, that in the morning after the evacuation, the Rebels left their forts and in mass came marching down on us and I stood in the Pilot House of the boat and must say as they advanced stately and determined they looked well; their skirmishers in advance who, as an Officer on a Horse raised his sword, all fired & fell flat on the ground. Their Column advanced within 150 yards of our boats and fired; our boys fired [back]. The bullets came as thick as hail around me as I walked over the hurricane deck making my boys lay down and fire; one entered the Chimney just by my head, but they got the worst of the bargain, for our Gunboats quietly went up the River a piece and got to the Rear of them and opened a destructive

Sanded on the ardansas Shows James on the ardansas Shows Jammay 9/03 my dead dead good wife thilleren! No & witered to keep your ported and the military movements of the anny of the Mississippi of which member, & will again write to you or gen lines. We left the Mis. Kines This morning about 10.0, clock planted up White River untill We came up to what is called the Cut off as bent & miles up, we left white Triver came from that into the ackamas Miner, traveled up lik. Thise some Do from the month where we landed for the might. Il finte miles from alkansas Fost peronned as one of the oldert dardian traduce Post in the Minn also a guat

for Emmeson Ogemette Har Hunting" Stories. Coming at the Arried We received more ficially demonstrations from achandan Gals & Comen then WE received dince We left Coveryton. At one place there had about 10 file ans quegated on Elecubach with High Dago and Hands with their Maring their ked and white bldgs and pereaming, hund for the fantles from this appearances near as could Indge there as they Mod and the River bank, I think they Were out hunting; about an hour ago de was shown the plan of operation for to money in talling the Rebel Good, & think the plan is a good bno, but I and very plightly thursting the Rebels share a plan of affections also and it may in many in stances not precisely agree with that of our bammanding General. below as dallways little to be an received wind you whant there matter tow about to monows operations

In the first place let me pay to your that allthough of there but little of the new Commander of their Unny Hen. Me Clomand, & Lane nevertheless most implicit confiden in him, while for and all Rommans I had prthing best Contempt and de testation and broked upon china atterly unfet to lead an amy. How Our folks grodys the Rebel Jusce at arkanoas Part 8000 men pully will fortified with many bene anny them two of 120th balikes and the plan is to personal them prost any, assurant is that if the Rels have but woo men they will not men with a fleet of Suntoah to the front of them best they will Evacuate to night, and of they stand fight it is Evident to me that am General Harben Wirngly informed and he will not forward them as Easy as the thought he would, but We will find another bietsly but at the same time I fell allowet Certain WE latte the froing

to far as d'ans concerned I feel gay and cheerfull to night and am really for another fight, but for the falle of the 250 fiell troamuled hays & dail increasing & Crowded on the your of the Cabins of and two Boats I would wish the Expedition would food fettle down some where and let the from horself of Exposino of a fight is not a Very Enrable ditualis Elaborate history of and operations at alk. Past. To might it sains the climate is not mear as wan greshing But of and 860 men aga we can not take over 350 in the fight to money, yet enest of their eventel be all right in a few days or dry Land to gathe Thursth. My love to the Children and it God bless you all,

Steamer Key West No. 2
Landed on the Arkansas Shore
January 9/63

My dear dear good wife & children!

As I intend to keep you posted on the military movements of the "Army of the Mississippi" of which your "Liedge Lord" is an humble member I will again write to you a few lines. We left the Mississippi River this morning about 10 o'clock, started up White River until we came up to what is called the "Cut off" about 8 miles up. We left White River, turned into the "Cut off" and came from that into the Arkansas River, traveled up Ark. River some 50 [miles] from the mouth where we landed for the night. A few miles from here is a Rebel fort called Arkansas Post, renowned as one of the oldest Indian trading Posts in the Union, also a great [place] for Emmerson Bennetts "Bar [Bear] Hunting" Stories. Coming up the River we received more friendly demonstrations from Arkansan Gals & Women than we received since we left Covington. At one place, there had about 10 Girls congregated on Horseback with Huge Dogs and Hounds with them, waving their Red and White Hankerchiefs and screaming "hurrah for the Yankees". From their appearance as near as [I] could judge them as they stood on the River bank, I think they were out hunting.

About one hour ago I was shown the "plan of operation"

for to morrow in taking the Rebel fort. I think the plan is a good one, but I am very slightly thinking the Rebels have a "plan of operations" also and it may in many instances not precisely agree with that of our commanding General.

Now as I always like to be on record with you about these matters, I would now like to give you my opinion about to morrows operations. In the first place let me say to you that although I know but little of the new Commander of this Army, General McClernand, I have nevertheless most implicit confidence in him, while for our old Commander [Sherman] I had nothing but contempt and detestation and looked upon him as utterly unfit to lead an Army. Now our folks judge the Rebel force at Arkansas Post 8000 men, pretty well fortified with many guns, among them two of 120 pounds Caliber, and the plan is to surround them. Now my opinion is that if the Rebs have but 8000 men, they will not stand fight to 25,000 or 30,000 men with a fleet of Gunboats to the front of them but they will evacuate to night and if they stand fight it is evident to me that our General has been wrongly informed and he will not surround them as easy as he thought he would, but we will find another Vicksburg but at the same time I feel almost certain we take this point. So far as I am concerned, I feel gay and cheerful to night and am ready for another fight, but

for the sake of the 250 sick & wounded boys & daily increasing & crowded on the floor of the Cabins of our two Boats, I would wish this Expedition would soon settle down somewhere and let the poor boys off.

This thing of being crowded up on a boat for 3 weeks and only being taking off for the purpose of exposure of a fight is not a very enviable situation.

I expect to give you a long & elaborate history of our operations at Ark. Post. To night it rains; the climate is not near as warm as Vicksburg; the air more refreshing. Out of our 860 men we took from Memphis 3 weeks ago, we can not take over 350 in the fight tomorrow; yet most of them would be all right in a few days on "dry Land" to gather strength. My love to the children and all. God bless you all.

Marcus

The flag of the Hot put the fait-flanted and the hebel Florit day, we met the Energy and heantifully, some your of them with racy thing They Regt was the first to Charge tor Charged up to the their facilities the fact an how and hay. I presum I have no 2 inches and my whole budy where the Bullest dit not whigh a pass me, at my had such perfect Shells, Camer halls teaming at the ground big Energle to un the wholes for graces It it is perfectly and impring terifice yet most delightfully glacions to get aut emperate dear Wife let me say to you I believe of and a foldier, Every and, er fear perfectly eval, get snap Enough to entering my me

July Jag Dhaw a perfect match to Harosofts Horse) Dead him Sirmy have ta gand saddle built bridle and bridle and a splendid Which We turned one of the Am have sir Adia of the Amt, of Wayour houses - and Rifles an facilities - It is decidedly the most - Clarians and Camplele aut should lass. as planed by few effects full to fact for his Knick full to full four four land Southors is 6 Hiller 27 monne Ed and 9 minaring My love to my dear Chilir tall The flag of the 120th was the first planted on the Rebel Fort.

My dear dear Wife!

Yesterday was a glorious day. We met the enemy and fought them terribly & took them beautifully; some 7000 of them with every thing.

I am too excited to say much. Our Regt was the first to charge & we charged up to the ditch of the powerful fort & then fought them under the most terrific fire for an hour and half.

I presume I have no 2 inches on my whole body where the bullets dit not whizz apass me; Oh, my God, such perfect hailing of bullets and busting of shells, Cannon balls tearing up the ground big enough to use the holes for graves of its unfortunate Victims. Oh it is perfectly awe inspiring, terrific, yet most delightfully glorious to get out unhurt.

For the first time my dear Wife let me say to you I believe I am a Soldier, every inch; no fear, perfectly cool, yet snap enough to encourage my men. I will only say, I have a good Horse (a perfect match to Barcrofts Horse); I call him Linny. Have a good saddle and bridle and a splendid Colts Revolver.

Our boys had 68 horses which we turned over.

You have no Idea of the amount of wagons, horses, mules, ammunition, clothing, commissary stores, cannons and rifles our folks took.

It is decidedly the most glorious and complete victory of the War, with out much loss.

Everything came out perfectly as planned by Genl McClernand.

We can not be too thankful to God for his kind preservation; my heart is too full.

Ever your true & loving husband,

Marcus

Our loss is 6 killed, 27 wounded and 9 missing My love to my dear children & all.

Hd. In 120th Rept. 0.0.1 all. Post gang 15/63 my dear dear elige! To day I had felapart for doing some tall cours anticipation, on share marching Order. On the 13" we intehed with send leaverly were they up when it to horned like fing untill Brand Jess 16 Bell Jan 16/63 Jesterday in all the Trom We then to otribe tents & get on board the boars We are much more crossed then We have sow been firm the fact that we had to table all the short de of the Res as well as themselves tyet there will probably be \$ 200,000 worthey Lando our falests our not taste. Whenever a mail comes Every bode gets letters yout I and I after Could shed lears that & get 20

Hd. Qrs 120th Regt O.V.I

Ark. Post Jany 15/63

My dear dear Wife!

Today I had set apart for doing some tall corresponding, but alas for the ruined anticipations, we have marching Orders. On the 13th we pitched tents and scarcely were they up when it commenced raining and rained & stormed like fury untill



Hd. In 120th Rept. 0.0.1 all. Post gang 15/63 my dear dear elige! To day I had felapart for doing some tall cours anticipation, on share marching Order. On the 13" we intehed with send leaverly were they up when it to horned like fing untill Brand Jess 16 Bell Jan 16/63 Jesterday in all the Trom We then to otribe tents & get on board the boars We are much more crossed then We have sow been firm the fact that we had to table all the short de of the Res as well as themselves tyet there will probably be \$ 200,000 worthey Lando our falests our not taste. Whenever a mail comes Every bode gets letters yout I and I after Could shed lears that & get 20

fin letters from you, hat I have I will day me more liestshing agains. The mail banes of and I must close better than a have for two weeks past and if it were both for a throndering his bile one long by a could bell bully. letter Every weeth? Ever from him brief levery hundered I Effect Joseph There down

Yesterday in all the Storm we had to strike tents & get on board the boats. We are much more crowded than we have ever been from the fact that we had to take all the stuff &c of the Rebs as well as themselves & yet there will probably be \$200,000.00 worth of Goods our folks can not take.

Whenever a mail comes, everybody gets letters except \underline{I} and \underline{I} often could shed tears that \underline{I} get so few letters from you, but \underline{I} have said so much about it that \underline{I} will say no more.

I expect we go to Vicksburg again. The mail leaves and I must close.

My love to all. I feel much better than I have for two weeks past and if it were not for a thundering big bile on my leg I would feel bully.

Could you not write, say one letter every week?

Ever, ever your true

& sincerely loving husband,

Marcus

I expect Joseph here soon.

Horney lomit La Jany 25% my dear dear much beloved and think Wife, never, I think , dit man low and increased in love towards the good and wind Wife more than I do To day I received your letter of the I've int which you trembled in Impend and Jean to learn of my fate. but thank Gad En this you have learned of my wellfast fines that day I have passed through danger, penils, privation and hardships and yet with the help of Kind fromdence I am still hale, whole and hearty and though I have been man of my Compades deposited in the poil. of Mis. all I La , many action down with raging fearful deceaded, many of then meets lated and amputated fet the allanighty than Kindly freezewo me and let us pray that he may bless

and preserve me for that I can after I am through with war, live in halfines and peace and commate the definices and peace for those whom I love her much may Gad been and freeen your for mo and grant mo the Rappiness to assist you my lovely Wife in raining and dead Children in the fear of God and Est ination of the world, I do want to see you all my dear and the am piett of the war and I do want to get ant, I do not fight or want to fight for Lincoln Megro proclamation an day longer their I can hely, yet & do not after Laoning undergand all the hardalife danger and frivation of 15 months campayin and the leave it in disgrace, as food as de can get and honorable divill and that may be in the Ging or before as not untill after The quat brouble is to get a resignation allegited, I can not get the Doctor certificate of disability for I am to Well and Inch a Certificale is the

only thing that disalarges a man I must adain a garrable of perturity and do not Effects to get out much before omninge, Cal Thenell Laving the bloody Orlay is mattery freparations to get ant of the period and if do I think I will have to be that a little white before I get out heep up Comage, trust in lad and all will be right I think very much of getting and hefen the Work Deason yet & ain mit centin wether it will do me any good. Wed of feel good and and ingood Lines, thought Campel ent a smelly Confieled a half mile from the great min River which is raining I feet Every 24 home and allmost up to the love yet & feel gay and well for & got a letter from home alsuning me all is well at forme and that is all I need to make Inde feel well. My diareheat is all Could and I can Eat little a forme

, let me funt Explaint to your, what a fine Supper we had the Evening and you will agree with me, that for men Hoo miles from home and clead buts we fare fine Bill of fare Coffee and Tea. Buildmile and soft Bread, Christen Sat Pictouther Leavy find Porth, Dint Potatoes beiled and sweet Ortabues laster Upple fie, Shewed Upples and carine Teacher &C is that not grant? W Ychodal from Memphis whose names I do not know, send me yesterday by Caft. Carrier a last feell of things and we live fine. how about the priheration. We are situated on the Louisiana side of the Min Ring 3 miles above Wietlohong and forces Extending down about Jacko and Endearding to fund the Course which fent Buttle conveneed last frommer in lules to change the direction

of the Min. Trued so as to leave Viellshory in the chy, wether they ducced as not de and unable to Jay but of thirts that for the great there will be no immediate fight how over it commerces & Thurst not. Our Regiment which left Memphis with about 850 men to 38 Offices 5 weeks ago Theo nost about \$50 ment & 110 free for duty & they distended discouraged in fact the whole anny is discominged a very unich dissetesfiel in consequence of Lineolus Perclamation which fell like a themderbolt arrow the troops, I am dong the old man forget himself and tools Inch had advice. Michael I wish you contil be here and In the workings and head the Soldiers tall

my new Horse is improving the is not as gay as charley which is all right again, but the is I think he will make a Meleculial house for family use, if God ofaces my health Ol mean to bing Charley and Timal home with me and they will make us a gay leave. dend let us trust that many may be the chappy sides you and I will take with my gay and finions War Typerses and they are so gentle that you can handle Ether. Of that a very good letter to day Girm Mores Joseph, one Stem of hono is that Thead Wettach bought the Union Jonn twen and will in the Spring commence hotel Heefing, Ih what a Lundloud and Landlady, Joseph is still cluthing for Stoffman & Mosa

The very first chance & get & will buy or capture a nice little Pony gor my Oon Hambir and of the continues to be such a good And I will dead it to him My Ligged is at find young Lady and & would very much like to see her and bee for hig she is and down many yands it tales of that very fine shoff that Of any going to buy ser a dress of. Money well get something very fretty from his fu for whom I am fear but the will freight, but your must not let dint forget me and also learn Hattie to say for as soon as the ust dity from though I am not with them at Juescut, my mond, my lout, my all is with you all the time & let see pear that God in his infinite mercy will soon bring we to your all and allow us for many years to live together & peace and happiness

Olo Michael Harah down mot be to thankfull for the many acts of Kindness showed daily to my dear Farmily, may last bless them. To day I got A Wuhman a place as Clerk an General Osterhauses Staff. Le feels bully. I am looking daily for Joseph as a letter from thing of hape the will come, it he does it will pay if the has not started yet and entends to come tell think not to being four \$1000 worth of Hoek and efter that is sold the well have monde Emough to buy from The profit. My love to all the friends of we stay Lew and Lave a little time I will wish to all. Good might God bless and preserve your sind for Ine foul time to loving hunhaml

Hd Qrs 120th Regt. O.V.I. Youngs Point La Jany 25/63

My dear dear much beloved and kind Wife, never, I think, dit man love and increase in love towards his good and kind wife more than I do.

To day I received your letter of the 8th instant in which you trembled in suspense and fear to learn of my fate but thank God ere this you have learned of my welfare. Since that day I have passed through dangers, perils, privations and hardships, and yet with the help of kind Providence I am still hale, whole and hearty and though I have seen many of my comrades deposited in the soil of Mis[sissippi], Ark[ansas] & La, many others down with raging & fearful diseases, many of them mutilated and amputated, yet the Almighty has kindly preserved me and let us pray that he may bless and preserve me so that I can after I am through with war, live in happiness and peace and consumate the happiness and peace for those whom I love so much. May God bless and preserve you for me and grant me the happiness to assist you, my lovely wife, in raising our dear Children in the fear of God and estimation of the world. I do want to see you all, my dear, and I am sick of the war and I do want to get out; I do not fight or want to fight for Lincoln's Negro proclamation one day longer than I can help, yet I do not [wish] after

having undergone all the hardship, danger and privation of 15 months campayne and then leave it in disgrace. As soon as I can get out honorable I will and that may be in the Spring or before or not until after. The great trouble is to get a resignation accepted. I can not get the Doctors certificate of disability, for I am too well, and such a certificate is the only thing that discharges a man. I must await a favorable opportunity and do not expect to get out much before summer. Colonel French having the bloody Flux [dysentery] is making preparations to get out of the service and if so I think I will have to be Colonel a little while before I get out. Keep up courage, trust in God and all will be right. I think very much of getting out before the wool season, yet I am not certain whether it will do me any good.

Well, I feel good and am in good spirits, though camped in a muddy cornfield a half mile from the great Mis[sissippi] River which is raising 3 feet every 24 hours and almost up to the levee; yet I feel gay and well for I got a letter from home assuring me all is well at home and that is all I need to make me feel well. My diareheah is all cured and I can eat like a horse. Let me first explain to you, what a fine Supper we had this evening and you will agree with me, that for men 1600 miles from home and dead broke we fare fine. Bill of

fare: Coffee and Tea. Buiskuits and soft Bread; Chicken Pot Pie (rather heavy), fried Pork, Irish Potatoes boiled and sweet Potatoes baked, Apple pie, stewed Apples and canned Peaches &c; is that not grand? A Yehudah from Memphis whose name I do not know sent me yesterday by Capt Conyer a Box full of things and we live fine. Now about the situation. We are situated on the Louisiana side of the Mis[sissippi] River, 3 miles above Vicksburg; our forces extending down about 2 miles below Vicksburg. Our folks are endeavoring to finish the Canal which Genl Butler commenced last summer in order to change the direction of the Mis[sissippi] River so as to leave Vicksburg in the dry. Whether they succeed or not I am unable to say, but I think that for the present there will be no immediate fight; how soon it commences I know not. Our Regiment, which left Memphis with about 850 men & 33 officers 5 weeks ago, has now about 350 men & 11 officers for duty & they disheartened & discouraged in fact the whole Army is discouraged and very much dissatisfied in consequence of Lincoln's Proclamation which fell like a thunderbolt among the troops. I am sorry the old man forgot himself and took such bad advice.

Michael, I wish you could be here and see the workings and hear the Soldiers talk.

My new Horse is improving; he is not as gay as Charley

which is all right again, but he is a very good & stout horse and I think he will make a splendid horse for family use. If God spares my health I mean to bring Charley and Linnah home with me and they will make us a gay team and let us trust that many may be the happy rides you and I will take with my gay and furious War Horses and they are so gentle that you can handle either.

I had a very good letter today from Moses Joseph, one stern of news is that Fred Wettach bought the Union Town and will in the spring commence hotel keeping. Oh what a landlord and landlady. Joseph is still clerking for Hoffman & Moss.

The very first chance I get I will buy or capture a nice little Pony for my son Hamlin and if he continues to be such a good Son I will send it to him. My Lizzie is a fine young Lady and I would very much like to see her and see how big she is and how many yards it takes of that very fine stuff that I am going to buy her a dress of. Mosey will get something very pretty from his papa whom I am fearful he will forget, but you must not let him forget me and also learn Hattie to say Pa as soon as the rest dit, for though I am not with them at present, my mind, my soul, my all is with you all the time & let us pray that God in his infinite mercy will soon bring me to you and allow us for many years to live together & peace and happiness.

To Michael and Sarah I can not be too thankful for the many acts of kindness shown daily to my dear family, may God bless them. To day I got A. Ruhman a place as Clerk on General Osterhauses Staff; he feels bully. I am looking daily for Joseph or a letter from him. I hope he will come; if he does it will pay. If he has not started yet and intends to come, tell him not to bring over \$1000 worth of stock and after that is sold, he will have made enough to buy from the profit. My love to all the friends. If we stay here and have a little time I will write to all. Good night, God bless and preserve you.

Ever your true & loving husband

Marcus

I luften die slacket heben this stange Head Granten 120 theyt 1.05 Jumps First La January 29, 63 my dear Kind and good wife! Letter of the 19th was received yesterday and since that time read andrewad with much feleasine and comfort and aux happy to be able to fromounce it and le No! Letter after ony own heart. I should have and ? wered yesterday but had no time and to day I have been busy this foremore and Ohis afternoon & had Visitures and it is only mon go alock f. In that Lint I Esilva of the 16th Ohio, who came from Columber Jes. leday left about 20 Minutes ago. four Kind letters allways give me new life and it all ways feems to me shortly after I get a letter from your, soldiering is not so hart after all". We are still camped at the dame place discribed to you in any letter a gest days ago, but a great change has tarted place since, the rainy and disagrees weather changed day before yesterday in a cold afternow I a clear cold night

and yesterday mont the from came out hight and clear and we had a plantip day and to day likewise, most magnificent weather, delightful ended, the mid is fact drying off and the boy's are beginning to Efect better and many of those who have not been to far gone and beginning to feel the herificent recholeson influence of a warm douthern on in gamay. Dhe greatest Energy we have at fresent to content with is the This River, it er vering gast and in many places is over gloring its banks, should it continue to to vine and soften or break any part of the Love we would have to skedadle or som, The Canal birthe for the form, filling up but not washing very gast & I doubt very much wether it will Ever Change the course of the , Valher of Waters There have been Several changes of lake in our any, our Brigade is now comaine by Bong, Gent landered of dona in place of tel Theldon petieved, our new Bugadin deems a very clever fellow, & and not much accounted with him yet and old thing Cel Theldon was a very clevel jellow, would do anything and Everything for ma

but in a fight the was the Very man to select as an ascociate, for you would be for of being out of reach of the ballets a man bolder and mondaring before and after a fight, than and all Brigadies. Ho has gene hask in from to the all Regiment the 42nd Ohiv. Out Division is commended by Bry Sen! Of g. Oderhous, a Seman who is a doldier and a fentleman and treats me with marked Kindness and respect. Our Corps was untill to day Comanded by acting Major General 4.11. Morgary of Kedop. Co. Cher, a Mended man Abraco Oldier, he was a want friend of mine and I am tink down he asked to be relieved from Comand which was done to day and Voris, Sent A. J. Smith Inecede this in the Command. Morgan is quite un well, but I think it is General Dremman fanit that he leaves, he never could get mand Bry hen! a f. Smith es said to be a good Officer and a very clear Jellow, but to me the loss of morgan is more impleasant then anything of

I had dine in the dervice, he was a how friend to me and the whole Hegment and O could have had Called an him, he showed me as unen Hindreis as a brother to matter when was with him, he would take hold of Of and under many obligations to Beatles acts of Kindness shown you. How can de Ever repay them? find them my heat winter and tell the Inspersed of will with to mind in a few days. O's Meshael Waral & all the Children my love as well as to Henry Offeresa the Children of bird for Jung das di litt gil Willed miter girib ife, gott fall fir mis mis grand laffait for lat for one many limper and fraid Obay to Landament falled him figured. Main good and Contact of surper yamalis. alle Greenstorme Sadies Secould Mayer Jambe, Shoenena Host British father Hamby & all all Hast not but beast Hambir Loggie, Mony, Hattie & Eligabeth from Jones Ever him Hoving Jather thershamb

[upside down text]: I suppose I've started before this, though I have not heard from him yet

Head Quarters 120th Regt. O.V.I.

Youngs Point La January 29/63

My dear kind and good wife!

Your very kind and affectionate Letter of the 19th inst was received yesterday and since that time read and reread with much pleasure and comfort and I am happy to be able to pronounce it an A. No. 1 Letter after my own heart. I should have answered yesterday but had no time and to day I have been busy this forenoon and this afternoon I had visitors and it is only now 9 O'clock P.M. that Lieut. DeSilva of the 16th Ohio, who came from Columbus yesterday left about 20 minutes ago.

Your kind letters always give me new life and it always seems to me shortly after I get a letter from you "soldiering is not so hart after all". We are still camped at the same place described to you in my letter a few days ago, but a great change has taken place since; the rainy and disagreeable weather changed day before yesterday in a cold afternoon & a clear cold night and yesterday morn the sun came out bright and clear and we had a splendit day and to day likewise, most magnificent weather, delightful indeed. The mud is fast drying off and the boys are

beginning to feel better and many of those who have not been too far gone are beginning to feel the benificent & wholesome influence of a warm Southern Sun in January.

The greatest enemy we have at present to content with is the Mis[sissippi] River. It is rising fast and in many places is overflowing its banks; should it continue to rise and soften or break any part of the Levee, we would have to skedadle or swim. The Canal built for the purpose of changing the Mississippi River is filling up but not washing very fast & I doubt very much it will ever change the course of the "Father of Waters".

There have been several changes of late in our Army.

Our Brigade is now commanded by Brig. Genl Vandever of Iowa in place of Col Sheldon relieved. Our new Brigadier seems a very clever fellow; I am not much acquainted with him yet.

Our old Brig. Col Sheldon, was a very clever fellow, would do anything and everything for me but in a fight he was the very man to select as an associate, for you would be sure of being out of reach of the bullets, and yet not in all the Army could you find a man bolder and more daring before and after a fight, than our old Brigadier. He has gone back in honor to his old Regiment the 42nd Ohio.

Our division is commanded by Brig. Genl P. J.

Osterhaus, a German who is a Soldier and a Gentleman and

treats me with marked kindness and respect. Our Corps was untill to day commanded by acting Major General G. W. Morgan of Knox Co. Ohio, a splendid man and brave Soldier. He was a warm friend of mine and I am truly sorry he asked to be relieved from command which was done to day and Brig. Genl A. J. Smith succeeds him in the command. Morgan is quite unwell, but I think it is General Sherman's fault that he leaves; he never could get justice either for himself or his command. Brig. Genl A. J. Smith is said to be a good Officer and a very clever fellow, but to me the loss of Morgan is more unpleasant than anything I had since in the service; he was a true friend to me and the whole Regiment and I could have had him do anything for me. When I called on him, he showed me as much kindness as a brother & no matter who was with him, he would take hold of me.

I am under many obligations to Brother Goodman and his dear wife for the many acts of kindness shown you. How can I ever repay them? Give them my best wishes and tell the Professor I will write to him in a few days. To Michael & Sarah & all the children my love as well as to Henry Theresa & the children. [text in German]...

Onkle Grumpel & familie, Alls Greenebaum & Ladies, Leopold Mayer & family, Hoeneman & Hart Brothers, Gatzler & family & all all &

last not but least Hamlin, Lizzie, Mosey, Hattie & Elizabeth from your ever true loving father & husband

Marcus

