



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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

1863 February

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American Jewish Archives website.

My Head Quarters 120th U.S.
Youngs Point La Feb 2/63

My dear dear little Wife!

Your very good and encouraging favours of 24th & 25th mailed in same envelope with your letter came at noon and I found them this Evening. They gave me undividable happiness, I feel gay happy and I would if I had an appreciative Audience out up to night like in days of yore. I am hale and hearty everybody is complimenting me on my returning good hearty look and with it the buoyancy of Spirit for I was like many somewhat reduced by the awful Exposure and indisposition but unlike most of men in the Army I always keep cheerful and the consequence is that I do not get down very low and soon all right with a little rest. But as I have no one in my little lonely Tent but except Abraham Puhman who is sick and I nurse him, I can not

ent up much. Abraham Rubman
I had about a week ago got him
a very nice position as Clerk at
General Osterhanses Head Quarters, but
he took sick two days after he was
there and three days ago I had
him brought to my tent and since
that he (of course being at my quarters)
gets regular medical attendance and
is improving, he is allways been so
good and kind to me and being an
old acquaintance I could not see
him among strangers while sick. Is
that not right my dear? He is doing
well & I think in the course of a
week can return to duty. I think I
have written to you that Johnny took
sick at Arkansas Post and one or
two days after the fight I had to
send him to Memphis Hospital, I
do not know how he is doing. We have
a colored man who cooks for our
mess, he is a good Cook & we live
well such as we can get and yet
our boarding does not cost us
\$10 pr month each, while at the
boats it cost \$10⁵⁰ pr week &
then we had very poor board

You wanted to know how I got the
new horse why my boys captured 68 horses
and I took one of them it was after night
and I did not get as handsome a one
as I would in day time, he is a mate
to Bancrofts horse very gentle & a splendid
goer, Charley I told you has been very
much under the weather but is getting
all right, he is the Horse of the Army
as good as Peacock and as safe
as an old Family Horse and I can
ride him right into the Canons mouth.

I also took a very good colored boy
with me from Cuba about 15 years old
to wait on me but he is sick, I
have a great big fellow named Hiram
attending my horse and blacking my
boots and I do the bat. of my chores.

Many of the boys are getting better
but it seems that those who have
been very sick many of them are
difficultly dying, we buried 12 within
the last three days, we have now
nearly 500 men for duty and yet
300 sick. Since the 10 of January
we lost in killed, died and discharged
62 add to that the losses of the month
before in which the battle of Vicksburg

occurred and you will find our
Supt. suffered very much within
the last 60 days, but I am our
hopes we are getting better

There is one item of news I
must give you but you need not say
anything in your letter to me about
that is you need not mention of
the part concerning Col French.

You know I told you in Mansfield
if I could only succeed in keeping
from creating any Jealousy I was
all right I have succeeded admirably
I have often kept Officers from
sending letters to Papers in which
they would insist in praising
me very highly and have done
all I could to prevent any feeling
of that kind and I must truly
say that Col French used me
as well as ever I was used by
any body in the world. Now to
my Story. You know we have
a German General commanding
our Division consisting of three
Brigades of Infantry, three
Battalions of Artillery & a Squadron
of Cavalry

Dud Sheet

That is General Osterhaus and you also know that generally I am not very much prepossessed in favor of any high Officials because they are Germans, as I invariably look upon them as impracticable or big Prussians, but contrary to my Expectations in Genl. Osterhaus I found a man free from any of those prejudices usual almost with German Officers and besides all this a Gentleman and an Officer who from the very first had treated me with much cordiality and Preference. French often said to me "you are the General's man" "I am nowhere" &c &c & I thought I could see something that we did not like it much and I really avoided Osterhaus as much as I could.

The day Genl. Morgan (of whom I spoke to you) left us, Col French went to see him and thus met Genl. Osterhaus. When he came home, he told me he would resign, he was sick of the war &c &c

As we had both frequently spoke that way, I thought it was only

talk and would blow over, but it seemed
he insisted and told me I could as-
sist him in getting it through, by
talking to General Stephens. I told
him I could do him no good
with the General, he says "yes you
can I know it now, he thinks you
are all the man in this Regiment &
Brigade or Division" I told him
I thought the General had treated me
as he did every Officer, but French
said he knew better. He said
"as soon as I met him, he asked
"about you, said he knew the first
"time he met you at the Field before
"the ^{3rd} Fort at Arkansas, you were a
"splendid Officer, in fact says he any
"man that sees you, would know at
"once you were a man of military
"Education and General Morgan
"said, yes indeed I have noticed
"Col. Spiegel often on the Field &
"he is a gallant and noble Officer
"and Stephens talked all the
"time about you &c &c.

Will you see I was and am yet
very sorry to see the Col resign but
he would insist and I wrote this

Resignation for him I saw the
Gen. spoke to him about it and
he said " My mind likes being at Sab
it mind gang safe, paper like, but fat
mind my mind yefallen mind yefallen
mind yefallen my mind. Now his resignation
is in wether it will pass or not I
can not say, but one thing I do know
Deterhaus will approve it, yet I doubt
very much that it will pass as it
is not easy to get out of the service
I am pretty well satisfied it will
not be accepted. The Col was in
about a half an hour ago and
he is sorry now that it is in and
I am really sorry to, he has been
so very kind to me I would hate
to lose him but I am pretty
sure we will not. I want you
to stay in Chicago untill Spring
say 1st of April or untill after
Pesach and then you go home
I hope in this and and pretty
sure Uncle Sam will have paid
us some money, so that I can
furnish you, if I can come all
right, if not you go home &

And fit everything build our arbor
to fit the Grape vine, have a Sup-
porter build in Arbor Style for the
Grapes & fit things just as you
want them so that when I come
home everything looks well, when
the old weather beaten Warrior returns
to his friendly home. I am just
of your Opinion that if it furn
now on does not pay me I will
leave it as I have done my duty
fully. It pays me now clear of
Expense \$160 to 170 for months and
that is not so bad

I have written you my views in
regard to getting out. It is now
nearly midnight and I must
start on my rounds to the Pickets
wish you were here to take a ride
with me if it were not so awfull
Stormy to night. Two of our
Rams ran the Blockade at
Vicksburg to day, they fired 76
shots at one with their heavy
guns, hit one of them Eleven
times but hurt nothing nor
no one
& all

My love to my Children, mother
Ever your true and loving
husband
Marceus

Head Quarters 120th O.V.I.

Youngs Point La. Feby 2/63

My dear dear little Wife!

Your very good and encouraging favors of 24 & 25 mailed in same envelope with Joseph's letter came at noon and I found them this evening. They gave me undescribable happiness; I feel gay & happy and I would if I had an appreciative audience cut up to night like in days of yore. I am hale and hearty; everybody is complimenting me on my returning good hearty look and with it the buoyancy of Spirit, for I was like many somewhat reduced by the awful exposure and indisposition but unlike most of men in the Army I always keep cheerful and the consequence is that I do not get down very low and [am] soon all right with a little rest. But as I have no one in my little lonely Tent except Abraham Ruhman who is sick and I nurse him, I can not cut up much. Abraham Ruhman, I had about a week ago got him a very nice position as Clerk at General Osterhauses Head Quarters, but he took sick two days after he was there and three days ago I had him brought to my tent and since that he (of course being at my quarters) gets regular medical attendance and is improving. He has always been so good and kind to me and being an old acquaintance I could not see him among strangers while sick.

Is that not right my dear? He is doing well & I think in the course of a week can return to duty. I think I have written to you that Johnny took sick at Arkansas Post and one or two days after the fight I had to send him to Memphis Hospital, I do not know how he is doing. We have a colored man who cooks for our mess; he is a good cook & we live well, such as we can get, and yet our boarding does not cost us \$10 per month each, while at the boats it cost \$10.50 per week & then we had very poor board.

You wanted to know how I got the new horse. Why my boys captured 68 horses and I took one of them. It was after night and I did not get as handsome a one as I would in day time. He is a mate to Barcrofts horse, very gentle & a splendid goer. Charley I told you has been very much under the weather but is getting all right. He is the Horse of the Army, as proud as Peacock and as safe as an old Family Horse, and I can ride him right into the cannons mouth.

I also took a very good colored boy with me from Arkansas, about 15 years old, to wait on me but he is sick. I have a great big fellow named Hiram attending my horses and blacking my boots and I do the bal[ance] of my chores.

Many of the boys are getting better but it seems that those who have been very weak, many of them are dying; we buried 12 within the last three days. We have now nearly 500

men for duty and yet 300 sick. Since the 1st of January we lost in killed, died and discharged 62, add to that the losses of the month before in which the battle of Vicksburg occurred and you will find our Regt suffered very much within the last 60 days, but I am in hopes we are getting better.

There is one Item of news I must give you but you need not say anything in your letter to me about; that is you need not mention of the part concerning Col French.

You know I told you in Mansfield if I could only succeed in keeping from creating any jealousy I was all right. I have succeeded admirably. I have often kept Officers from sending letters to Papers in which they would insist in praising me very highly and have done all I could to prevent any feeling of that kind and I must truly say that Col French used me as well as ever I was used by any body in the world. Now to my Story. You know we have a German General commanding our Division consisting of three Brigades of Infantry, three Batteries of Artillery & a Squadron of Cavelery. That is General Osterhaus and you also know that generally I am not very much prepossessed in favor of any high Officials because they are Germans as I invariably look upon them as impracticable or big Reshoim [wicked ones] but contrary to my expectations in Genl Osterhaus I found a man free from any of those prejudices

usual almost with German Officers and besides all this a Gentleman & an Officer who from the very first had treated me with much cordiality and Preferment. French often said to me "you are the Generals man"; "I am nowhere" &c &c & I thought I could see something that he dit not like it much and I really avoided Osterhaus as much as I could.

The day Genl Morgan (of whom I spoke to you) left us, Col French went to see him and there met Genl Osterhaus. When he came home, he told me he would resign, he was sick of the war &c &c.

As we had both frequently spoke that way, I thought it was only talk and would blow over, but it seemed he insisted and told me I could assist him in getting it through, by talking to General Osterhaus. I told him I could do him no good with the General, he says "yes, you can I know it now; he thinks you are all the man in this Regiment, Brigade or Division". I told him I thought the General had treated me as he dit every Officer, but French said he knew better. He said: "As soon as I met him, he asked about you, said he knew the first time he met you at the Field before the Fort at Arkansas, you were a splendid Officer. In fact, says he, any man that sees you, would know at once you were a man of military education and General Morgan said, yes indeed I have noticed Col Spiegel often on the Field and he is a gallant

and noble Officer and Osterhaus talked all the time about you &c &c."

Well, you see I was and am yet very sorry to see the Col resign but he would insist and I wrote his Resignation for him. I saw the Genl and spoke to him about it and he said, [translated from German] "Oh my dear Spiegel, that pleases me, very much. I never liked him and still don't like him." Now his resignation is in wether it will pass or not I can not say, but one thing I do know; Osterhaus will approve it; yet I doubt very much that it will pass as it is not easy to get out of the service. I am pretty well satisfied it will not be accepted. The Col was in about a half hour ago and he is sorry now that it is in and I am really sorry too. He has been so very kind to me, I would hate to loose [sic] him but I am pretty sure we will not. I want you to stay in Chicago untill Spring, say 1st of April or until after Pesach [Passover], and then you go home. I hope ere this and am pretty sure Uncle Sam will have paid us some money, so that I can furnish you. If I can come all right; if not you go home & fix everything. Build our arbor &c; fix the Grape vine, have a supporter build in Arbor Style for the Grapes & fix things, just as you want them so that when I come home everything looks well, when the old weather beaten Warrior returns to his friendly home. I am just of your Opinion

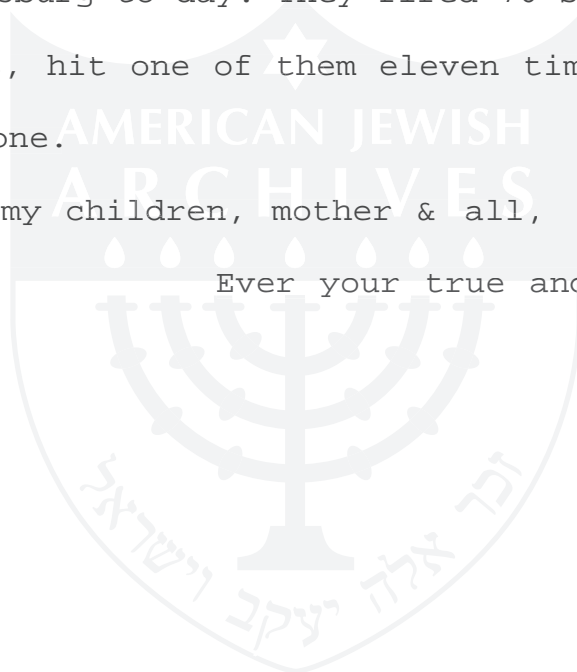
that if it from now on does not pay me I will leave it, as I have done my duty fully. It pays me now clear of expense \$160 to 170 per month and that is not so bad.

I have written you my views in regard to getting out. It is now nearly midnight and I must start on my rounds to the Pickets. Wish you were here to take a ride with me if it were not too awful stormy to night. Two of our Rams ran the Blockade at Vicksburg to day. They fired 76 shots at one with their heavy guns, hit one of them eleven times but hurt nothing nor no one.

My love to my children, mother & all,

Ever your true and loving husband,

Marcus



Youngs Point La. Feb 9/63

My dear dear Wife!

I Am in good Spirits, good health and good hopes. I can not thank kind providence enough for the preservation of my health and if only I would get more frequent assurances of your good health and that of my dear good children I would feel perfectly happy untill I could feel happier and that is at home with my little family. The water drove us out of our nasty swampy place when we were camped before and we had to move a half mile up the river and fortunately got a much nicer and dryer Camp. Ground

We are still in "Status quo" before Vicksburg the running of the blockade occasionally by a Gunboat ~~is all~~ and the heavy Canonading during the performance is all that changes the daily routine of a dull Camp life. News I can say but little, only that my little darlie Jimmy died last night, he has been sick a week and I had him well nursed which is different from what is generally

done in this Army, when a nigger
takes sick he is turned out to die
and they do die by scores and in
all corners. I am all in 4th Army
with the idea of seeing Brother Joseph
and can scarcely wait for him
he will make it pay like it.

If he has not left send me some
white shirts and Paper Collars to
stand up. Did you ever receive the
\$5 I send you? I think the Paymaster
will be here in a few days and then
I will send you some money.

I sent a nice double Barrel
Shot gun for Hamlin to Millbury
send it to Coker, when Hamlin
gets big he can go hunting.

Give my love to mother
Michael, Sarah, the Children, Henry
Theresa & the Children and all the
friends & Kiss all my beloved
Children Ever your true loving
husband Marcus

To day I build me a nice fireplace in
my tent & it draws splendid, it looks
so much like ones home to see a
fire place. Weather warm, no rain for
two day.

Youngs Point La. Feby 9/63

My dear dear Wife!

I am in good Spirits, good health and good hopes. I can not thank kind providence enough for the preservation of my health and if only I would get more frequent assurances of your good health and that of my dear good children I would feel perfectly happy untill I could feel happier and that is at home with my little family. The water drove us out of our nasty swampy place where we were camped before and we had to move a half mile up the river and fortunately got a much nicer and dryer Camp Ground.

We are still in "Status quo" before Vicksburg; the running of the blockade occasionally by a Gunboat and the heavy cannonading during the performance is all that changes the daily routine of a dull camplife. News I can say but little; only that my little darkie Jimmy died last night. He has been sick a week and I had him well nursed which is different from what is generally done in this Army; when a nigger takes sick he is turned out to die and they do die by scores and in all corners. I am all in ecstasy with the Idea of seeing Brother Joseph and can scarcely wait for him; he will make it pay and like it.

If he has not left send me some white Shirts and Paper Collars to stand up. Did you ever receive the \$5 I sent you? I

think the Paymaster will be here in a few days and then I will send you some money.

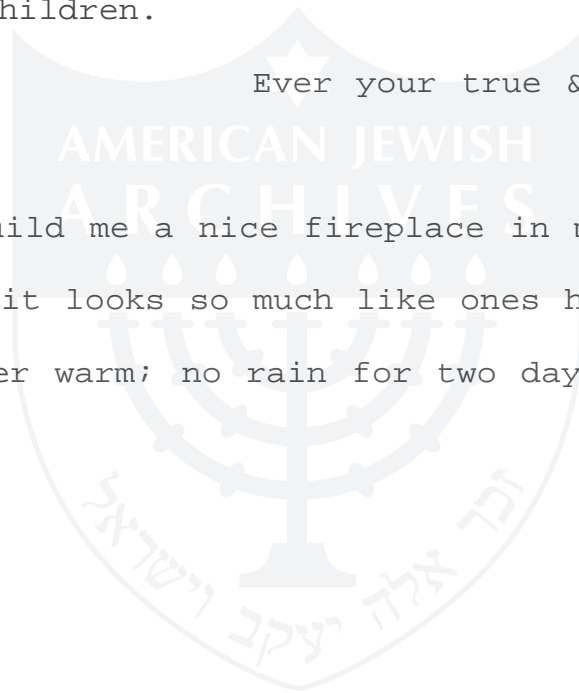
I sent a nice double Barrel Shot Gun for Hamlin to Millersburg, sent it to Cohn. When Hamlin gets big he can go hunting.

Give my love to mother, Michael, Sarah, the children, Henry, Theresa & the children and all the friends & kiss all my beloved children.

Ever your true & loving husband,

Marcus

To day I build me a nice fireplace in my tent & it draws splendid: it looks so much like ones home to see a fireplace. Weather warm; no rain for two days.



Head Quarters 120th Regt. Ills
Youngs Point La Feb 17/63

My dear dear good Wife!

Yesterdays mail brought me your kind and rather in an offendedly mind written letter in answer to one I received wrote to Charles Jossey sometime ago complaining of you not writing enough.

If ever ever I said anything unpleasant or offensive to you my kind wife, I do most humbly ask your forgiveness and pardon.

It does make me feel so bad and so uneasy and cross when the mail comes and brings everybody letters but me that I may sometimes say very unkind but you know I can not mean anything unkind or unpleasant to you my good wife. After the battle of Arkansas Post when I felt in the highest degree despaired these mails in one week and not one word or letter did I get.


Can you wonder at me being uneasy? I got so down in spirits that I was almost mad that I was so much disappointed and my behavior & success. but as soon as I heard from you

I feel proud of it. Now my sweet wife you must forgive me and think that if I do say anything at all not just right, it is in consequence of my jealous and envying love for you and my dear family. I am well and hearty and not for three years have I had so bulky an appetite as for three weeks past.

The health of our Regiment is not improving any. I am sorry to say, we have only 350 men for duty, many of the "unfit for duty" would soon be all right if they only had a change of diet. Many die every day in this Army, the levee for three miles is almost one continual graveyard of new graves.

Last night Captain Phelan of our Regiment died, poor man, leaves a wife and seven small children. He as well as many other ones die simply because as soon as they get sick a little, they give way become despondent and soon to die. Poor Phelan was one of my most ardent and warmest friends, he was a devout Irish Catholic.

My
For the last 4 days it rained here
continually day and night and it
makes it very disagreeable but I have
a new ribbed Overcoat and leggins pre-
sented to me by Captain Myles of my
Regiment who resigned and gone
home, so that I can go out in the
rain. I thank God no com-
plaint at present neither Rheumatism
nor Phthisis. I never was better.
I have a very pleasant little house
and here I describe it.

I have two tents one a Wall Tent
and in the Rear closed on it a com-
mon or Wedge tent and having opened
the Centre Seam in the Rear wall of
my Tent it answers for folding door
to my Common Tent. As you enter
my tent in the Corner stands a large
table made out of Stone Pot, by taking
out 3 sides and leaving three  then
nailing a board right under the top
which make a Shelf on that table
I am now writing to you. After passing
the table on the right hand ~~right~~ side
you would see a very nice big fire
place which I helped to build, I
just took out one breadth of my

Tent about a yard wide and a
yard and a quarter high, in which
I keep a very good fire, although
it is not cold yet the incipient
pains make every thing damp
After passing the fire place is a
Corner in which stands a Pot
containing my Clothing and on which
Abraham Phuman is sitting, who
is well again but still stops with
me and in a manner waits on
me, he is a very good boy I am
trying to get him discharged. Then comes
the opening in my common tent.

On the left hand side stands
my Cot, on which I rest my weary
and vitious body. Lately an old
friend of mine and a warm one
at that, Charles B. Flood the former
Editor of the "National Democrat"
came down with a Steamer load
of sanitary Goods for the sick
As soon as he found out I was
here, he sent me, a nice bed
Trest, which I have filled with
hay, two sheets, pillow slips,
a pair Mittens, 2 woollen Shirts,
Pur Cushion, dried Apples and Peaches

and Codfish and many other little things with his Compliments also a "Schlafrock" and since that he is continually trying to do me good by everybody, the same man you know that was so untiring I should be Censor Agent.

I also have in my tent a nice Am. chair and cane bottom chair and camp stool which make a very comfortable little Tent, I wish to God you could see it I know you would enjoy it. In my little tent we have a keg of Ale, hot by our mess, my saddle water bucket &c.

This week Capt Gordon Genl. Osterhaus Adjutant General, called on me and with Col. Garard Commanding 1st Brigade & his Aid de Camp also Col. W. Schwarz Inspector General of the 13th U.S. Army Corps Lieut Caldwell Aid de Camp & they spend quite a nice time at my quarters. This Col. Schwarz is a splendid Officer and a Son of General Schwarz of Baden.

That same day Major General
McClelland rode through our
Camp for inspection I made
his acquaintance asked him to
alight which he did and came
in and stopped with me quite
a while, so you see I have my
important visitor. Now you must
not think that I am going round
enjoying myself & acting fancy, but
on the other hand if my conduct as
an Officer and Gentleman suits
these men and they feel like seeking
my acquaintance and use me very
kind I know you would not
want me to refuse it. I forgot to
say that I have a ~~floor~~ floor in
my tent. I am daily waiting for
Josie and everybody else is waiting
We will make it pay with the
help of God and as soon as it has
paid pretty well we will "leave
the service". Now my dear girl I
do not want you to worry yourself
about me any more than you can
help, our sweet baby will soon be
a big girl and then you can go
round with Col. Speer you know

You know you always was as handsome as
any of them you must try and keep so
keep up for my sake you know how happy
and proud it makes me feel to see
my wife the mother of my dear four
children look well, if you could only
set on the saddle in my little tent &
hear me tell the folks of my dear wife
I know you would smile if not laugh
out hearty. There never was a man as
proud of his wife and four children
as Col. Spigel in the world.

Hambin's letter pleased me very much, I
hope he can talk General well when I come
home, I will write to him soon. My Lizzie
ought soon to be able to write to her per
a few lines. I would very much like to
see Moses in his new pants, he must
not forget his pa. Little Fattie must
be quite an institution with her
two teeth Oh but I would like to see
her. Elizabeth must not feel discouraged.
There are just as good a Mac arella in
the sea as ever have been caught and
if it isn't this Mac it will be another
one even if I have to throw out
the bait to catch ~~them~~ one.

I have no time to day to write to
Michael or Sarah or any of the
dear friends but will soon. Give
my love to all of them and the dear
children, I am so happy to know
that our children get along so
well together. Liebt Mutter & Kinder
Aufbewahrt ab und anicht mehr für
Lange Samst. bis ein und ein in
in einem Einmühen können und
sich für die in der Welt und die in
nicht für die Abwesenheit für Mutter und
Kraft Lebewohl ist, in der Welt, in der
Kraft der Welt & Kraft.

Write soon & often to your loving
dear and admiring and
Ever the affectionate
Marcus

I presume Jerry started out
this

I received a splendid letter from Henry Hayes
I sent it to you let Sarah read it
for you. also from Moses, Mary &
Gerty.

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

Youngs Point La. Feb. 17/63

My dear dear good Wife!

Yesterday's mail brought me your kind and rather in an offensively rude [?] written letter in answer to one I wrote to Uncle Josey sometime ago complaining of you not writing enough.

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It does make me feel so bad and so uneasy and cross, when the mail comes and brings everybody letters but me, that I say something very unkind but you know I can not mean anything unkind or unpleasant to you my good wife. After the battle of Arkansas Post when I felt in the highest glee we received three mails in one week and not one word or letter dit I get. Can you wonder at me being uneasy? I got so down in spirits that I was almost mad that I was so much complimented on my behavior & success but as soon as I heard from you I felt proud of it. Now my sweet wife you must forgive me and think that if I say anything at all not just right, it is in consequence of my jealous and undying love for you and my dear family. I am well and hearty and not for three years have I had so bully an appetite as for three

weeks past.

The health of our Regiment is not improving any I am sorry to say. We have only 350 men for duty; many of the "unfit for duty" would soon be all right if they only had a change of diet. Many die every day in this Army. The levee for three miles is almost one continual Graveyard of new Graves. Last night Captain Phelan of our Regiment died, a poor man, leaves a Wife and seven small children. He as well as many other ones die simply because as soon as they get sick a little, they give way, become despondent and sure to die. Poor Phelan was one of my most ardent and warmest friends; he was a devout Irish Catholic.

For the last 4 days it rained here continually day and night and it makes it very disagreeable but I have a new rubber overcoat and leggins presented to me by Captain Myers of our Regiment who resigned and gone home, so that I can go out in the rain. I have thank God no complaint at present, neither Rhumatism nor Phthysic [throat or lung infection]. I never was better.

I have a very pleasant little house and here I describe it. I have two tents; one a Wall Tent and in the Rear closed on it a common or Wedge tent and, having opened the centre seam in the Rear wall of my Tent, it answers for folding doors to my common Tent. As you enter my tent, in the Corner

stands a large table made out of Store Box, by taking out 3 sides and leaving three, then nailing a board right under the top which makes a shelve. On that table I am now writing to you. After passing the table on the right hand side, you would see a very nice big fireplace which I helped to build, I just took out one breadth of my Tent, about a yard wide and a yard and a quarter high, in which I keep a very good fire; although it is not cold, yet the inceassant rains make everything damp. After passing the fire place is a corner in which stands a Box containing my clothing and so forth and on which Abraham Ruhman is sitting, who is well again but still stops with me and in a manner waits on me. He is a very good boy; I am trying to get him discharged. Then, comes the opening in my common tent. On the left hand side stands my cot, on which I rest my weary and virtuous body. Lately an old friend of mine and a warm one at that, Charles B. Flood the former editor of the "national Democrat" came down with a Steamer load of Sanitary Goods for the sick. As soon as he found out I was here, he sent me a nice bed tick which I have filled with hay, two sheets, pillow slips, 1 pair Mittins, 2 woolen Shirts, Pin cushion, dried Apples and Peaches and Codfish and mariy other little things with his compliments, also a "schlafrock" [dressing gown], and since that he is continually trying to do me good by everybody; the same man

you know that was so anxious I should be Census Agent.

I also have in my tent a nice arm chair and cane bottom chair and camp stool which make a very comfortable little Tent. I wish to God you could see it; I know you would enjoy it. In my little tent we have a keg of ale bought by our mess, my saddles, water bucket &c.

This week Capt Gordon, Genl Osterhaus's Adjutant General, called on me and brot Col Garrard commanding 1st Brigade & his Aid de Camp, also Col A. Schwarz, Inspector General of 13th U.S. Army Corps, Lieut Caldwell Aid de Camp & they spend quite a nice time at my quarters. This Col Schwarz is a splendid officer and a Son of General Schwarz in Baden.

That same day Major General McClernand rode through our Camp for inspection. I made his acquaintance, asked him to alight which he did and came in and stopped with me quite a while, so you see I have very important visitors. Now you must not think that I am going round enjoying myself & acting fancy, but on the other hand if my conduct as an Officer and Gentlemen suits these men and they feel like seeking my acquaintance and use me very kind, I know you would not want me to refuse it. I forgot to say that I have a floor in my tent. I am daily waiting for Josey and everybody else is waiting. We will make it pay with the help of God and as soon as it has paid pretty well we will "leave the service". Now

my dear girl I do not want you to worry yourself about me any more than you can help; our sweet baby will soon be a big Girl and then you can go round with Col Spiegel, you know.

You know you always was as handsome as any of them; you must try and keep so, keep up for my sake. You know how happy and proud it makes me feel to see my wife, the mother of my dear four children, look well. If you could only set on the saddle in my little tent and hear me tell the folks of my dear wife, I know you would smile if not laugh out hearty. There never was a man as proud of his wife and four children as Col Spiegel, in the world.

Hamlin's letter pleased me very much. I hope he can talk German well when I come home; I will write to him soon. My Lizzie ought soon to be able to write to her pa a few lines. I would very much like to see Moses in his new pants; he must not forget his pa. Little Hattie must be quite an institution with her two teeth. Oh but I would like to see her. Elizabeth must not feel discouraged. There are just as good a Mac arells in the sea as ever have been caught and if it isnt this Mac it will be another one, even if I have to throw out the bait to catch one. I have no time to day to write to Michael or Sarah or any of the dear friends but will soon. Give my love to all of them and the dear children, I am so happy to know that our children get along

so well together.

[Untranslated German text]...

Write soon and often to your loving, doting and
admiring and

Ever true & affectionate

Marcus

I presume Josey started ere this.

I received a splendid letter from Henry Herzer I sent
it to you let Sarah read it for you, also from Moses, Mary
and Girty.



Head Quarters. 120 Reg. 010.
Young's Point Va. Feb. 19/63.

My dear dear wife

So much excitement
in camp this morning that I scarcely
know what to say. Col. French & some
Other Officers & a number of men
leaving for their happy homes, though
I would be a happy man indeed
were I permitted to leave for my
Home yet to leave as soon do I
would rather wait awhile

My lovely wife Abraham Pugh
who I got discharged will call
on you and tell you all all that
I could write, he is a good boy
indeed & can give you much of
interest. God bless you, my love
& stand by you I am here &
Harty & will soon see
You

Your loving and
true husband
Marcus

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

Young's Point La. Feb. 19/63.

My dear dear Wife,

So much excitement in camp this morning that I scarcely know what to say. Col French & four other Officers and a number of men leaving for their happy homes. Though I would be a happy man indeed were I permitted to leave for my Home, yet to leave as some do I would rather wait awhile.

My lovely wife, Abraham Ruhman who I got discharged will call on you and tell you all all that I could write. He is a good boy indeed & can give you much of interest. God Bless you, my love & stand by you. I am hale & hearty & will soon see you.

Your loving and true husband

Marcus.

This includes every Officer at present
in the Regt except Lt Rogers who is
sick in Hospital. *Head Quarters 120th O. I. I.*
Youngs Point La Feb 20/63

My dear dear lovely Wife. Most likely as this
reaches you Abraham Rhuman who
left here to day has been to see you &
told you many things concerning me
which I am satisfied have interested you.
Yet though he has only left this morning
with many verbal messages of love to
you from yet I feel so happy and rather
lonesome that I can not go to sleep
without conversing with you by means
of paper &c. I miss Col French
this Evening he has always been very
kind to me in fact extremely so.

I have this day issued three long
General Orders in relation to matters
in the Regiment and two Special
Orders, I am determined to renovate
and regenerate the Regiment, I can
not stand to see men die from
sheer inactivity and neglect. We
had this morning 315 sick men
reported and I am willing almost

to let my Distress that in one week from to day there will not be 200 reported.

This Evening the Officers forwarded to the Governor a recommendation for my promotion endorsed by the Brigade Commanded, General Osterhaus, Genl McChernand and Col Schwarz the Inspector General of this Army.

I send you a Copy of it, I feel proud of such a document - it will be a fine piece of Literature for our family. I want you to show it to all my friends in Chicago. Every one of my friends who had an Interest in the fine Horse they presented me I would more particularly like to see it. Oh old girl dont you feel proud of your Soldier Husband.

God bless you and the dear Children & mother and all my dear relatives & friends.

Good night. Write soon
Ever your loving slave
Marcus

Jones who advised this is the one that used to tease Mosey and make him cry at Mansfield and in the Court Can you forgive him?

I can scarcely sleep for anxiety to see Josey, he just comes in the right time. The Paymaster will come here soon & then he will get all Cash

This includes every officer at present in the Regt except Lt Taylor who is sick in Hospital.

Head Quarters 120th O.V.I.

Youngs Point La Feby.20/63

My dear dear lovely Wife!

Most likely ere this reaches you Abraham Ruhman, who left here to day has been to see you & told you many things concerning me which I am satisfied have interested you. Yet though he has only left this morning with many verbal messages of love to you from [me], yet I feel so happy and rather lonesome that I can not go to sleep without conversing with you by means of paper & c. I miss Col French this Evening he has always been very kind to me, in fact extremely so.

I have this day issued three long General Orders in relation to matters in the Regiment and two Special Orders. I am determined to renovate and regenerate the Regiment; I can not stand to see men die from sheer inactivity and neglect. We had this morning 315 sick men reported and I am willing almost to bet my existence that in one week from to day there will not be 200 reported.

This Evening the Officers forwarded to the Governor a recommendation for my promotion endorsed by the Brigade Commander, General Osterhaus, Genl McClernand and Col

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God bless you and the dear children & mother and all my dear relatives & friends.

Good night. Write soon. Ever your loving & true

Marcus

Jones who copies this is the one that used to tease Mosey and make him cry at Mansfield and in the Cars. Can you forgive him?

I can scarcely sleep for anxiety to see Josey, he just came in the right time. The Paymaster will come here soon & then he will get all cash.

My Head Quarters 120th Regt. Ill.
Youngs Point La Feb 22/63

My dear kind and lovely wife!

Though I had written to only last night and Rhuman only left here two days ago with intention and promise to see you yet I feel to good and happy to night and must write to you if even only a short letter.

Your good and kind letter of the 13th made me the proudest and gayest husband in the Army, a husband who felt that he had a woman at home who knew just how to write to make her husband feel good. that was one and the main reason why I felt so happy the next reason is that my Regiment is doing well, now life and energy displayed there has been in two months. the sick list reduced by 32 in two days and I had the nicest Dress Parade had since we left Memphis.

The Regiment was careless, duty long to sick.

Left on my hands with three hundred & fifteen sick men in Camp and One hundred and seventy nine sick away in hospitals is now very great pleasure. Col. French of late sick and discouraged (and really in his best never had the required energy to control & conduct a Regt) left everything go, Officers got down men indolent & careless & sick.

As soon as the Regt. three days ago fell in my hands I issued the most stringent Order, for meals diet, Cleanliness &c that could be and I gave notice to the Officers that whatever Company was out by the 1st day of March perfectly free of loquyness & filth, the Sergeants arms & accoutrements in good condition such Company Officers, I should report to the Head quarters of this Army to be dismissed the Service for incompetency and I assure you, Every one can see the effect, Everything looks encouraging live and cheerfulness is returning and I am satisfied in less than one month a decided improvement will be visible

Many of the Officers have re-
signed in our Regiment and I
hope about 8 more will resign
they are good men but just as fit for
military Officers as I am fit for
a "Hebarnme" Jabunnud"
with good young and energetic Officers
such as I will select I will soon have
a regiment second to none in the
service in discipline as we now already
are second to none in fighting.

I could almost see Hamlin open his
large blue eyes and straighten himself
when he told you about his puff the
received from his teacher, &c. He is all
right you know you always said he was
a Spigal all over. Dont you think the Spigals
all right? My Lizzie cant take good care
while she has the Chicken pox so she wont
catch cold and so that she can go to school
soon and learn in order that she will
be smart enough to wear that pretty dress
I bring for her she is perfectly right, it
will be a Union Dress. Money & Blue Boy
will be forthcoming whenever he gets big
enough. I would very much like to see
the two pretty little teeth of my sweet little
Hattie, as to her having black Eyes and

being able to say Pa, I do not feel
like discouraging you, but ones
wishes are frequently father to ones
thoughts and beliefs.

My Hoses and Hose fittings are all
right, my Cloths with the exception
of ~~Hats~~ are all right and I am
all right. God bless you & all
write often to your true and loving
I am awaiting Joey with the Marion
greatest anxiety.

Liebe Frau Mutter

Ich wünsche dir nicht weniger als ein
Mit Gottesfurcht und reinem Herzen wird alles
was du machst, geschehen wie ich Ich weiß nicht
wird Sonntag am Sonntag glücklich. Ich hoffe
aber und wünsche dir ein glückliches Leben
du dich gut nicht zu kümmern und
kannst die Sünden sind in der kleinen
Gasse nicht mehr als zu sein und wenn es
gotteswillig ist wird es in kurzer Zeit
Geld gewinnen werden so daß es dir nicht bald
minder besorgen kann. Sei gesund. Ich und dein
Liebe von einem Lieben Bruder
Walden und an der Jagd Familie. Deiner Marion
Liebe von einem & besten Vater.

Ich habe mich nicht mehr geglaubt zu haben
Gut zu sein so daß es dir nicht einmal sein
als Obacht sind Regimente. Ich hoffe
kannst gute Nacht. Dein Marion

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

Youngs Point La. Feby. 22/63

My dear kind and lovely Wife!

Though I have written to [you] only last night and Ruhman only left here two days ago with intention and promise to see you, yet I feel too good and happy to night and must write to you if even only a short letter.

Your good and kind letter of the 13th made me the proudest and gayest husband in the Army, a husband who felt that he had a woman at home who knew just how to write to make her husband feel good. That was one and the main reason why I felt and feel so happy; the next reason is that my Regiment is doing well, more life and energy displayed than has been in two months, the sick list reduced by 32 in two days and I had the nicest Dress Parade had since we left Memphis.

The Regiment was careless, dirty, lousy & sick. Left on my hands with three hundred & fifteen sick men in Camp and one hundred and seventy-nine sick away in hospitals is no very great pleasure. Col French of late sick and discouraged (and really in his best never had the required energy to control & conduct a Regt) left everything go. Officers got down; men indolent & careless & sick.

As soon as the Regt three days ago fell in my hands, I

issued the most stringent Order for meals, diet, cleanliness &c that could be and I gave notice to the Officers that whatever Company was not by the 1st day of March perfectly free of lousyness & filth, the Tents, arms & accoutrements in good condition, such Company Officers I should report to the Head quarters of the Army to be dismissed the service for incompetency and I assure you, every one can see the effect; everything looks encouraging, live, and cheerfulness is returning and I am satisfied in less than one month a decided improvement will be visible.

Many of the Officers have resigned in our Regiment and I hope about 8 more will resign; they are good men but just as fit for military Officers as I am fit for a "Hebamme [Mid- wife] Fabermann". With good young and energetic Officers such as I will select, I will soon have a regiment second to none in the service in discipline as we now already are second to none in fighting.

I could almost see Hamlin open his large blue eyes and straighten himself when he told you about his puff he received from his teacher. He is all right; you know you always said he was Spiegel all over. Dont you think the Spiegels all right? My Lizzie must take good care while she has the chickenpocks so she wont catch cold and so that she can go to School soon and learn in order that she will be

smart enough to wear that pretty dress I bring for her. She is perfectly right, it will be a Union Dress. Mosey's blue Pony will be forthcoming whenever he gets big enough. I would very much like to see the two pretty little teeth of my sweet little Hattie. As to her having black eyes and being able to say Pa, I do not feel like discouraging you, but ones wishes are frequently father to ones thoughts and believes.

My Horses and Horse fixings are all right, clothes with the exception of Handkerchiefs are all right, and I am all right. God bless you & all. Write often to your true and loving

Marcus

I am awaiting Josey with the greatest anxiety.

[translated from German]:

Dear esteemed Mother:

Don't worry about me. With God's help and your blessing everything will be alright. I hope your Jewish son [illegible] will give you much much joy and you don't have to worry about Brother Joseph when he comes. The Sutlers are in no danger at all, not more than if they were at home, and if it is God's will he will soon make enough money to visit you again very soon.

With greetings and kisses from your ever-loving son,
Marcus.

Dear Brother-in-Law and Sister-

Today I was wishing from the bottom of my heart that Mich.
were here so he could see his brother-in-law command his
regiment as a colonel.

Good night, your Marcus.



FROM THE 120th OHIO.

THE HIGH STANDING OF THE REGIMENT.

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

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

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

Address of Colonel Spiegle.

COLONEL SPIEGLE'S ADDRESS TO THE 120th REG.

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

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

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

From the 120th Ohio.

The High Standing of the Regiment.

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

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

Colonel Spiegle's Address to the 120th Reg.

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

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

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

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

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

Head Quarters Young Point
La July 24/63

My dear good wife!

Your very kind and lovely letter of the 17th came to night & that it was congenial & as the pleasant ^{as the} "Sun of a lovely day in June" need not to be said, to hear that you are well, a description of my good & lovely Children & the assurance of the well being of my dear Mother & friends is all it needs to make me feel a gay bold and happy "Sage boy"

I am really disappointed at the failure of being able to obtain the groups of the faces of you & the Children, I had secretly flattered myself to be surprised with just that very pleasure and I feel regret and chagrined to give it up, the conduct of little Hattie, so very unlady like however convinces me that I ought to be at home, for it is really

"shocking" for people of our standing
you an expectant Col. Wife spending
the winter by enjoying the pleasures
and amusements of a large City
and I an Officer in the U. S. Army to
have a daughter not nine months
old that acts so very unlike a "Young
Lady" of Education and Accomplishment
the only consolation left me is that
when I come home I must take Fannie
especially in my care. Yet aside from
all that I feel very much annoyed for
I had made all calculations to have it.

I have written so much of late that
there is scarcely anything left for me to
say, for besides digging on the Canal
Breakfast Dinner & Supper, Drill
Inspection and dress parade there is
nothing left now, with the exception
of my unceasing efforts to reduce the
sick list by encouraging the boys and
making them clean & wash & I am
happy to say I am succeeding very
well, I have it down from 315 to 255

in five days, of the worst cases
about 4 are dying in our Regiment
Every day, the Doctors think to night
the ballance will most all get well

I would just like if you could see the
General and Special Orders I issued since
taking Command. I have to be strict in
order to save the Regiment. I discharged
all my darkies they stole more from
us then they earned. There is not a regu
in our Regiment though thousands are
edling about here none of the Soldiers will
have anything to do with them any
more. Do you remember a bright little
drummed boy by the name of Lewis
at Camp Mansfield? If you dont I
bet Hamlin does. Well he is a very handsome
boy a very genteel & smart boy
and looks & talks for all the world like
Hamlin will at his age (12 years) he
was always a great favorite of mine &
I kept my eye on him, some two weeks
ago he took sick and looked bad and
belonging to a Company where 16 had died

I was afraid my little pet would die
I had him bro^{ught} to my quarters & saw
to him, attended & encouraged him & as soon
as he got better had him a good bed made
in my cook tent and I have now the pleasure
of seeing him hale and hearty his red cheeks
and bright Eyes returning. He now tends to
drumming all the calls 15 a day and is
assisting our white coat. He is as happy and
gay and good looking that I know you would
love him if you would see him. My expenses since
we are in the field are about 20 Dollars
per month and for that I live fine

My little friend Henry the Sergeant
Major was promoted a Lieutenant for his
bravery in the field and is now on his
Uncle Major General Sherman's Staff
He comes to see me once or twice a
week. The weather is very warm & since
it ceased raining incessantly the health
of the men is improving and they are
getting more cheerfull. My horses
are doing tolerably well, not as well
as they would if they could be covered

Dear

I have not shaved since I left Memphis. The Major has been very sick for the last month past, but is now about fit for duty. The Adjutant is very well. The Quarter Master has also been very much under the weather but he too has recovered. He is a great friend of mine. Dr Stanton our new Surgeon is very much of a Gentleman and a warm friend of mine. Drs Hammon and Stouffer are Capt Surgeons you saw on the Case, the former is very much of a Gentleman & so is the latter only I do not have much faith in him as a Dr. I believe I can truly say all the Officers in the Regiment are my friends. Several of the old Officers have resigned and gone home and I am caught to do, as they are too old and sickly to stand service, it takes young energetic and active men who have always been used to hardship and hard labor, like me for instance, to be able to stand Campaigning. I believe I answered all your questions. I am daily looking for Josey to come, am anxious to see him and hear what he has to say about my Hamlin, Lizzie, Mosey & that bad girl Fattie. Ever your true loving
My love to Elizabeth. W. Lewis

Head Quarters Youngs Point

La. Feby 24/63

My dear good wife!

Your very kind and lovely letter of the 17th came to night and that it was congenial & as the pleasant as the "Sun of a lovely day in June" need not to be said. To hear that you are well, a description of my good & lovely children & the assurance of the well being of my dear Mother & friends is all it needs to make me feel a gay, bold and happy "Sodger boy".

I am really disappointed at the failure of being able to obtain the group of the faces of you & the children. I had secretly flattered myself to be surprised with just that very pleasure and I feel reluctant and chagrined to give it up. The conduct of little Hattie, so very unlady like, however convinces me that I ought to be at home, for it is really "shocking" for people of our standing: you an expectant Col's Wife spending the Winter by enjoying the pleasures and amusements of a large City and I an Officer in the United States Army, to have a daughter most nine months old that acts so very unlike a "Young Lady" of Education and Accomplishment. The only consolation left me is that when I come home I must take Hattie especially in my care. Yet aside from all sport, I feel very much annoyed for I

had made all calculations to have it.

I have written so much of late that there is scarcely anything left for me to say, for besides digging on the Canal, Breakfast, Dinner & Supper, Drill, Inspection and dress parade, there is nothing new, with the exception of my unceasing efforts to reduce the sicklist by encouraging the boys and making them clean & wash, & I am happy to say I am succeeding very well. I have it down from 315 to 255 in five days, of the worst cases about 4 are dying in our Regiment every day; the Doctors think to night the ballance will most all get well.

I would just like if you could see the General and Special Orders I issued since taking command. I have to be strict in order to save the Regiment. I discharged all my darkies; they stole more from us than they earned. There is not a negro in our Regiment. Though thousands are idling about here, none of the Soldiers will have anything to do with them any more. Do you remember a bright little drummer boy by the name of Lewis at Camp Mansfield? If you dont, I bet Hamlin does. Well, he is a very handsome boy, a very genteel & smart boy, and looks and talks for all the world like Hamlin will at his age (12 years). He was allways a great favorite of mine & I kept my eye on him. Some two weeks ago he took sick and looked bad and, belonging to a

Company where 16 had died, I was afeard my little pet would die. I had him brot to my quarters & saw to him, attended & encouraged him and as soon as he got better, had him a good bed made in my cook tent and I have now the pleasure of seeing him hale and hearty; his red cheeks and bright eyes returning. He now tends to drumming all the calls, 15 a day, and is assisting our white cook. He is as happy and gay and good looking that I know you would love him if you would see him. My expenses since we are in the field are about 20 Dollars per month and for that I live fine.

My little friend Henry the Sergeant Major was promoted a Lieutenant for his bravery on the field and is now on his Uncle Major General Sherman's Staff; he comes to see me once or twice a week. The weather is very warm & since it ceased raining incessantly, the health of the men is improving and they are getting more cheerfull. My horses are doing tolerably well, but not as well as they would if they could be covered.

I have not shaved since I left Memphis. The Major [John W. Beekman] has been very sick for the last month past, but is now about fit for duty. The Adjutand is very well. The Quarter Master [Ezra V. Dean] has also been very much under the weather but he too has recovered. He is a great friend of mine. Dr. Stanton our new Surgeon is very

much of a Gentleman and a warm friend of mine. Drs. Hammon and Stouffer, our assistant Surgeons, you saw on the Cars; the former is very much of a Gentleman & so is the latter, only I do not have much faith in him as a Doctor. I believe I can truly say all the Officers in the Regiment are my friends. Eleven of the old Officers have resigned and gone home and 6 more ought to do so, as they are too old and sickly to stand service. It takes young, energetic and active men who have always been used to hardships and hard labor, like me, for instance, to be able to stand campaigning. I believe I answered all your questions. I am daily looking for Josey to come, am anxious to see him and hear what he has to say about my Hamlin, Lizzie, Mosey & that bad girl Hattie. Ever your true & loving

Marcus

My love to Elizabeth.

You must try and keep well and hearty and good looking; dont trouble yourself so as to get old looking. I want you to be as lovely and handsome as ever, to enjoy a many many happy year in each others "Youthful Company".

[translated from German]:

Dear Mother:

Although I wrote to you just yesterday, I cannot let

this letter leave without assuring you, dear Mother, of the child-like love and devotion of a loving son for the best mother who has yet lived. I am well and healthy, thank God and if I had a piece of stuffed stomach or about 10 yard fresh lungsausage, which you prepared, I could then, if you were here, offer you a hearty snack.

I long very very much to embrace you, dear Mother and I hope to have that pleasure very soon.

I am expecting brother Joseph daily and believe that, if he comes, he can sell five hundred dollars worth a day. I am convinced.

Many regards to the dear sisters, brothers-in-law, brother and friends, your devoted Marcus

