



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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

1863 March

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American Jewish Archives website.

Head Quarters 120th O. I.
Millikens Bend La March 18/63

My dear dear good Wife!

This I am satisfied is the longest interval of my writing to you since I am a Soldier and if you will only forgive me and listen to my excuse I will agree never to do so again.

On the 27th I recd. a letter from you and uncle Jossy stating (dated the 17th) that you Jossy would start in a few days. I had then written you three long letters for three successive days and according to that letter I looked for Jossy in a few days, waiting with patience on the ~~27th~~ 28th just I received orders to change my Camp and after being surrounded by water and when moved spiked I had two of the most severe boils coming on one that I have had for years. One on my left one in front right on the Adam's apple & one on my seat and for one whole week I was laid up, not even able to get off of my cot.

they were so severe that they threw
me into a fever, then I lay almost
most I weaning & sweating with anxi-
ety & fever about forty & just a day
after my boils opened and I was
able to go round I received Orders
to move my Regiment to this
Place called Millikens Bend
15 miles above Youngs Point

The day before we moved the
Regt was paid up to the last day
of October but I did not get
any pay but we are promised
to get paid off to the last of
December and then I will get
pay for three Months. You can
easy imagine that I did not feel
very gay when our Regt. was paid
and Joseph was not here

Well we moved up here and
Every day did I look for Joe &
postponed writing to you inasmuch
as I heard that Joseph was seen in
Memphis. finally on the 14th he
arrived at Youngs Point and
I had a Lieutenant stationed
there for three days Examining

Boat that arrived. The Lieutenant brought him up on the first Dec. 1st 75. thought God I saw him and heard such loving news from you and the dear Children & Mother and all the friends. Night before last he opened yesterday and today he had opened in the two days he took in thirteen hundred Dollars in Cash and sold two hundred Dollars for Credit as good as Cash in a few days. such a week you never saw three of my Lieutenants sold for him all day, the seven hands were as busy as they could be at night they had to work opening and fixing up. Joseph & Jimmies & Jim did not get their breakfast yesterday till three o'clock in the afternoon.

I am in the tent all I can but you know of course it would not do for me to sell anything, yet I think I am doing him a little good anyhow. He sold every Hat & every pair of shoes he had and at a good profit if he had known as much as he knows now what was

and brought down the Goods
he could have taken \$1000 a
day for the next two weeks
You have no Idea how popular
he is already Everybody likes
him except the other Gentles
He has the Grade of four Regiments
in a few days he will go after a new
Stock. Quinter said to me to
night "when one has such a Brother
as an Officer with such a reputation,
the Intership is a pleasure"

I am as happy as an off
Soldier in the Army can be, if
the Boys only keep their health &
have no bad luck they cant help
making lots of money and to me it
is a great comfort to have Josey
with me. I will now commence writing
about other matters. Uncle Josey
cant tell enough about the dear
Children one and all of them
and my little Hattie more es-
pecially, more more particularly
more more emphatically & continually
more specifically. He brings me gladdening
my tidings indeed

I must tell you now but you must not feel
jealous that I had calls from 5 very
nice Jewish Ladies. And they were all
very much taken with me, you may
ask how comes that, well while at
Youngs Point my Regiment was
the first Regt. to the Pietet lines
and all who came inside the lines
were conducted to my Head Qrs, many
Jewish Ladies came inside the lines
to see about their runaway stizzen
among them were 5 who came just
at dinner times which of course I
invited and they accepted. Since then
they send me nice bouquets &c

When we came up here we came
within four miles of one a Widdow
Lady Mrs Stutt as soon as she
heard it she came to give a pressing
invitation for me to come and see
her, a few days ago I took the
Quarter Master with me and went
out to we were princely entertained
She has 3 grown daughters, is very
Aristocratic & lives in a very Aristoc-
ratic Style. Since then she send me
a very nice lot of Sausage, three large
Rolls of Butter and a lot of Peaches

you may give to all with the same to them

and better than all a nice feet
Cow and Calf all with the Compliments
What do you think I now? Aint
your old man popular with the
Ladies? And dont you suppose
I enjoy my glass feet with an
Bread just about right?

It is now 11 o'clock and
at 7 to morrow I have battalions
Drill & having been up last night
late to help Joney I must close.

Will write now often again to
give you all the news. Joney intends
starting up the River in a few
days. Dont forget the picture.

Ever your true
loving husband

Gird you to Robert? Marcus
Spirit claimed Jimmy its fine
& says father has \$1300.00 straight
forward. Haver Cash and money
and about all his and quite a
forward. The Josephly like and
you in your. Huffer Rain 3 Hants
yapflapan fat and say to fast
is will if you miss aufen
it you and Pumbafin
Luffad. Jim Luffad
Marcus

Head Quarters 120th O.V.I.

Millikens Bend La

March 18/63

My dear dear good Wife!

This I am satisfied is the longest interval of my writing to you since I am a Soldier and if you will only forgive me and listen to my excuse, I will agree never to do so again.

On the 27th [of February] I received a letter from you and Uncle Josey stating (dated the 17th) that Josey would start in a few days. I had then written you three long letters for three successive days and according to that letter I looked for Josey in a few days, waiting with patience. On the first [of March], I received orders to change my camp on account of being surrounded by water and when moved & fixed, I had two of the most severe boils coming on me that I have had for years, one awful one in front right on the abdomen & one on my seat, and for one whole week I was laid up, not even able to get off of my cot. They were so severe that they threw me into a fever; there I lay almost swearing & sweating with anxiety & fever about Josey & just a day after my boils opened and I was able to go round, I received Orders to move my Regiment to this place called Millikens Bend, 15 miles above Youngs Point.

The day before we moved the Regt was paid up to the last day of October but I dit not get any pay but we are promised to get paid off to the last of December and then I will get pay for three months. You can easy imagine that I dit not feel very gay when our Regt was paid and Joseph was not here.

Well, we moved up here and every day dit I look for Jo & postponed writing to you inasmuch as I heard that Joseph was seen in Memphis. Finally on the 14th he arrived at Youngs Point and I had a Lieutenant stationed there for three days, examining boats that arrived. The Lieutenant brought him up on the first Dispatch & thank God I saw him and heard such loving news from you and the dear Children & Mother and all the friends. Night before last he opened; Yesterday and to day he had opened. In the two days he took in thirteen hundred Dollars in Cash and sold two hundred Dollars for Credit as good as cash in a few days. Such a rush you never saw. Three of my Lieutenants sold for him all day; the seven hands were as busy as they could be. At night they had to work opening and fixing up. Joseph & Sinsheimer & Jim dit not get their breakfast yesterday till three o'clock in the afternoon. I am in their tent all I can but you know of course it would not do for me to sell anything; yet I think I am doing him a little good anyhow. He sold every Hat & every pair of Shoes he had and at a good profit. If he had known as much as he

knows now what was and brought down the Goods, he could have taken \$1000 a day for the next two weeks.

You have no Idea how popular he is already. Everybody likes him except the other Sutlers.

He has the Trade of four Regiments. In a few days he will go after a new Stock. Sinsheimer said to me to night "when one has such a Brother as an Officer with such a reputation, the Sutlership is a pleasure."

I am as happy as any Soldier in the Army can be. If the Boys only keep their health & have no bad luck, they cant help making lots of money and to me it is a great comfort to have Josey with me. I will now commence writing about other matters. Uncle Josey cant tell enough about the dear children, one and all of them and my little Hattie more especially, Mosey more particularly, Mosey [Lizzie?] more emphatically & Hamlin more specifically. He brings me gladdening tidings indeed.

I must tell you now but you must not feel jealous that I had calls from 5 very nice Sesesh Ladies, and they were all very much taken with me. You may ask how comes that; well, while at Youngs Point my Regiment was the first Regt to the Picket lines and all who came inside the lines were conducted to my Head Qrs. Many Sesesh Ladies came inside the lines to see about their runaway Niggers; among them were 5 who came

just at dinner times which of course I invited and they accepted. Since then they send me nice bouquets &c.

When we came up here we came within four miles of one, a Widow Lady Mrs. Nutt. As soon as she heard it, she came & give a pressing invitation for me to come and see her. A few days ago I took the Quarter Master with me and went out & we were princely entertained. She has 3 grown daughters, is very aristocratic & lives in a very aristocratic Style. Since then she send me a very nice lot of Sausage, three large Rolls of Butter and a lot of Peaches and better than all a nice fresh Cow and Calf, all with her compliments. What do you think now? Aint your old man popular with the Ladies? And dont you suppose I enjoy my glass fresh milk and Bread just about right?

It is now 11 o'clock and at 7 to morrow I have battalion Drill & having been up last night late to help Josey, I must close.

Will write now often again and give you all the news. Josey intents starting up the River in a few days. Dont forget the picture.

Ever ever your true & loving husband

Marcus

[On side]: Give my love to all and tell them to [illegible] this time

[untranslated German text]



my Hd qrs 120th V.I.S.
Mills River Bend La
Feb 18/63

My dear Wife.

I have written to you last evening and have nothing new to say, only that this is a very hot day, the weather here is awful hot of late.

I had a very good Patrol this morning the Boys begin to feel young again.

Emmerich seems can not stand the hot work as well as Joney, he was nearly worn out last night I left him sleep in my Bed, he is very lame this morning, I think that he will probably start North to search for new goods instead of Joney.

I have nothing new this morning Capt. Eason & Capt. Emmerich who have resigned on ac of ill health they are both very warm friends of mine and I am satisfied that they will

do me honor wherever they go.

I am fearfull my friend Capt
Bonyer is dead before this, he was
on a Hospital Boat and last Evening
I heard he was dying I am very
sorry I could not have seen him
he wanted to see me very bad, poor
man how I pity his good Wife and
5 handsome and good Children
I wanted him to resign a good
while ago but he would not do
it.

This morning I send recom mend
ations for 16 Sergeants to be Com-
missioned Officers in my Regiments
among them I recom mended
my friends Serg^t. Major Sherman
and Ben Jones as first Lieuten-
ants. If I get them all Com-
missioned I will have as good
a set of Line Officers as are in the
field. I recom mended the Major
to be Lieut Col & the Adj^t to
be Major and that Lieutenant
Taylor that was so clever to you
at Orville as Adjutant, so
you see I remembered your friends

As soon as I get my Commission
as Col I will inform you, though
I get all my A.B. from the
different Hd qrs addressed to me
at Col Giegel

The men are leaving
grad by
Ever Green
Misses



Hd qrs 120th O.V.I.

Millikens Bend La

M[ar]ch 18/63

My dear Wife

I have written to you last evening and have nothing new to say, only that this is a very hot day; the weather here is awful hot of late.

I had a very good Battalion Drill this morning; the Boys begin to feel young again.

Sinsheimer [it] seems can not stand the hart work as well as Josey; he was nearly worn out last night. I left him sleep in my bed; he is very lame this morning. I think that he will probably start North to morrow for new Goods instead of Josey.

I have nothing new this morning. Capt Eason & Capt Emmerich who have resigned on a/c of ill health, they are both very warm friends of mine and I am satisfied that they will do me honor wherever they go.

I am fearful my friend Capt Conyer is dead before this. He was on a hospital Boat and last Evening I heard he was dying. I am very sorry I could not have seen him; he wanted to see me very bad. Poor man, how I pity his good Wife and 5 handsome and good children. I wanted him to resign a good while ago but he would not do it.

This morning I send recommendations for 16 Sergeants to be commissioned Officers in my Regiment. Among them I recommended my friends Sergt Major Sherman and Ben Jones as first Lieutenants. If I get them all commissioned, I will have as good a set of Line Officers as are in the field. I recommend the Major to be Lieut Col & the Adjutand to be Major and that Lieutenant Taylor that was so clever to you at Orrville as Adjutand, so you see I remember your friends. As soon as I get my Commission as Colonel I will inform you, though I get all my O.B. [Official Business] from the different Hd. qrs addressed to me as Col Spiegel.

The men are leaving.

Good bye
ever your
Marcus



A Voice from the Grave

Simon Wolf Submits Letter Written by Colonel Spiegel

Patriotism of the Jew

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 10th, 1908.
To the Editor *B'nai B'rith News*.

In looking over my papers I found among others, a letter from Marcus M. Spiegel, who at the time of the writing of the letter was colonel of the 120th Ohio Volunteers, and who in the campaign about which he speaks to be at hand, lost his life, a martyr to the Union cause. The letter speaks for itself, full of that enthusiasm and fearlessness which characterize the man and the soldier; and when he says, "The next time, we will take Vicksburg," he prophesied accurately, for three months after, the Stars and Stripes did float over the battlements of Vicksburg.

I deem it a great legacy to transmit to future generations the feelings that actuated an American citizen of Jewish faith, who left his dear ones at the call of his country, and died in defense of it. Many of the relatives of Col. Spiegel, notably (of them) his brother Joseph, resides in Chicago, and will no doubt be pleased to hear this voice from the grave.

The Order of B'nai B'rith, which stands for all that means patriotism, can do no better work than to endorse the lofty and loyal sentiments of the writer. And the young men in American Israel ought to be stimulated to the highest degree by knowing that one of their own co-religionists is inscribed on the deathless roll of fame, in aid of the preservation and perpetuation of American institutions.

Very sincerely,

SIMON WOLF.

Headquarters 120th O. V. S., Camp McClemand, Millikens Bend.

March 20, 1863.

My Dear Cousin Simon:

I have just returned from a very pleasant battalion drill in which I put my regiment through the different evolutions of the field and having opened my tent in order to give the wind an opportunity to cool my little home and make the oppressive heat more congenial, I conclude to do what I should have done long ago, write to one of my best friends.

A week ago I received a letter from our mutual friend, Moses, with your address. Since that time I have been wanting to write daily.

You see I am still a soldier and I must say I like my profession. If it were not for my dear little family I should not ask for a nicer or more agreeable situation; and why not? My colonel has resigned a month, and for more than two months prior to his resignation he was unable, from sickness, to command the regiment,

which placed me in the command of nearly 900, as good a set of men as ever lived, whose very life and cares are freely given to please and obey me. This may seem like boasting, but you know me and I can talk plain to you.

Having the confidence and love of my officers and men and the respect and good will of my superior officers, and being engaged in the noble cause of saving the glorious land of my adoption from the vile aspirations of traitors and worse than that; and holding an honorable position, what more my dear friend, could I desire? Is there a prouder legacy that I might leave my children, than having been a faithful soldier in the army of the Union. Yet I wish this war were over, and I could retire to my beloved family and quiet home, but at the same time much as I desire this, I do not want the war to close until the supremacy of our good government is fully established, the Union preserved, and the rebels made to acknowledge that we have a noble and magnificent government to live under in peace, but too powerful to rebel against; neither do I want to hear of peace until those who have so maliciously attacked the Stars and Stripes, first declare their willingness to retrace their steps, lay down their arms, acknowledge the supremacy of the government.

You know undoubtedly that my regiment was both in the battle of Vicksburg, and at Arkansas Post, and acquitted itself with honor in either, in the latter we are highly complimented by Gen. McClemand by making the charge on the Fort, and first planting the Stars and Stripes on the rebel battlement.

The officers of the regiment have forwarded a petition to the Governor of Ohio, to have me promoted Colonel, which was endorsed in the most complimentary terms by Brig. Gen. Van Dever and Osterhouse, and by Maj. Gen. McClemand, which, if you ever come to Columbus, I want you to see. I know it will do you good, it is not every day officers get such recommendations. We expect active operations soon, we are now ordered to keep ourselves in readiness to march at a moments notice, I think it means up to Yazoo. The health and spirit of the troops are daily improving, they begin to show signs of eagerness for another chance at old Vicksburg, the next time we will take it.

Very sincerely,

M. M. SPIEGEL,

Lt. Col. 120th Ohio.

9th Div. 18th Army Corps, Dept. of Tenn.,
before Vicksburg.

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A week ago I received a letter from our mutual friends, Moses, with your address. Since that time I have been wanting to write daily.

You see I am still a soldier and I must say I like my profession. If it were not for my dear little family I should not ask for a nicer or more agreeable situation; and why not? My colonel has resigned a month, and for more than two months prior to his resignation he was unable, from sickness, to command the regiment, which placed me in the command of nearly 900, as good a set of men as ever lived, whose very life and cares are freely given to please and obey me. This may seem like boasting, but you know me and I can talk plain to you.

Having the confidence and love of my officers and men and the respect and good will of my superior officers, and being engaged in the noble cause of saving the glorious land of my adoption from the vile aspirations of traitors and worse than that; and holding an honorable position, what more my dear friend, could I desire? Is there a prouder legacy that I might leave my children, than having been a faithful soldier in the army of the Union. Yet I wish this was were over, and I could retire to my beloved family and quiet home, but at the same time much as I desire this, I do not want the war to close until the supremacy of our good government is fully established, the

Union preserved, and the rebels made to acknowledge that we have a noble and magnificent government to live under in peace, but too powerful to rebel against; neither do I want to hear of peace until those who have so maliciously attacked the Stars and Stripes, first declare their willingness to retrace their steps, lay down their arms, acknowledge the supremacy of the government.

You know undoubtedly that my regiment was both in the battle of Vicksburg, and at Arkansas Post, and acquitted itself with honor in either, in the latter we are highly complimented by Gen McClemand by making the charge on the Fort, and first planting the Stars and Stripes on the rebel battlement.

The officers of the regiment have forwarded a petition to the Governor of Ohio, to have me promoted Colonel, which was endorsed in the most complimentary terms by Brig. Gen. Van Dever and Osterhouse, and by Maj. Gen. McClemand, which, if you ever come to Columbus, I want you to see. I know it will do you good, it is not every day officers get such recommendations. We expect active operations soon, we are now ordered to keep ourselves in readiness to march at a moments notice, I think it means up to Yazoo. The health and spirit of the troops are daily improving, they begin to show signs of eagerness for another chance at old Vicksburg, the next time we will take it.

Very Sincerely,

M. M. Spiegel,

Lt. Col. 120th Ohio.

9th Div. 18th Army Corps, Dept. of Tenn., before Vicksburg.



Hd qrs 120th N.S
Millskens Bend March 22/63

My dear dear good Wife!

One year ago to day about this time ~~at~~ (4 P.M.) as we were fixing for Dress Parade and just when the boys bro't a good Soup, we were ordered to report ~~at the~~ ~~front~~ South of Winchester to Gen. Shields on the field, well do I remember how much I deplored when we had go on double quick through the mud knee deep, the loss of my soup, well do I remember the first shell that whizzed through my company in the rear of that little Ladyboy Corporal LeRoy Osbourn well do I remember the consternation depicted on his countenance, as though it were but an hour ago. The anxiety I felt in deploying my company as skirmishers for the first time under fire, is still vividly and lively before me. That night, the getting up next morning, the commencement of the se-

~~and~~ remaining in the morning by
the heavy artillery is all plain to
me and the events of the day
it seems to me as though it
were but shortly and that I
could yet hear the whizz of that
shell that took of the head of
the Canonier to my right, but
the time from noon till night
is still to me as it allways
was a terrible dream, every part
of which I know after I awake.

The loss I sustained of my
noble Company, the gallant boys
that fell by my side are still
as then warmly lamented & ever
will be cherished ~~off~~ green in my
memory until life ceases.

Since that time my love, I have
seen and learned much, I have
seen men dying of disease, mangled
by the weapons of death, I have
seen them wounded & seen their
wounds being dressed, limbs amputated
and bullets & extracted. I have
seen and experienced hunger, hard-
ships and privations, & have

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with delight and honor welcomed
the deafening roar of the Cannon by
Land and water as a signal of
the commencement of hostilities.

I have witnessed hostile Armies
engaged against each other, the
charge of Infantry at the death
outpouring Artillery, the Bayonet
charge and repulse, Cavalry hurrying
men down like beasts, forts fall
and towns refuse. The procuring
of Gunboats and the sturdy resistance
of Forts. I have learned to see
all of it coolly and with ready
presence of mind and yet through
all this the Grand Architect of
the Universe has preserved me, the
good father and God of Israel
has favored me with his gracious
kindness of being a loving husband
to a good wife and a kind father
to my beloved children and a
trusty son & Brother to the best mother
and kindest of Sisters. & Brothers
and an appreciative recipient
of the many acts of kindness
by my host of truest of friends

Have we my dear not all reasons
to be ever thankful to that all-
wise and kind providence.

While seeing all this I have been
steadily gaining in friends, in-
fluence and position thank
God I can leave my Children
a legacy which will inspire
them to hold up their heads &
walk uprightly through the world
and that is "a reputation as
a Soldier and Patriot."

I have always done my duty
and if God spares my health I
always will and I know my
love you will feel satisfied with
me! It is only within the last
day or two that I have an op-
portunity to get any chance to
talk to Jersey about you and I
must confess the news he brings
from all of you is such as will
only inspire the heart of a Soldier
to good, he tells me you look
as well and hearty as you did
10 years ago and says that you
are in good spirits thank God
for that, I was afraid you would

trouble yourself about me so much as to leave
 symptoms on your countenance or your
 lovely features but he assures me that you
 indeed look well and hearty and pretty.
 Harklin my dear Son, Uncle Josey tells
 me that you are a fine and good boy
 that you behave yourself like a young
 gentleman, my dear Son you would only
 know how good it makes me feel to hear
 such good news from you, you would be
 the best boy in the world, now I will
 tell you some good news, this afternoon
 I got a nice little bay pony mare
 for you, she is a very smart little
 pony mare, she has a nice little white
 spot on her forehead and very nice little
 legs, I think she will have a little
 wea colty in the Spring if so you must
 give the little Colty to your little
 Brother Mosey, I am not sure
 whether she will have a coat but
 she looks very much like it, and
 everybody says so, Sam French
 brought the pony from the Count
 for you and Tom Ous gave me
 a nice little Saddle for you, one
 that he captured at Arkansas
 Post, I send out Sporting pants

Twice before, to bring in a Pony
for you but they failed, now I
got it, but you must give it a
name, when I come home in May
I will bring it, what shall I call
it?

Now my dear Lizzy Uncle Josey also tells
me very good news of you, he says that
you are a regular little Lady and
behave very well, that you are growing
fine and doing well, that is right my
dear of course you know that I will
bring you something handsome when
I come home, be a good child and
mind your mamma and all will be
right. — My dear Mosey, Uncle
Josey says that you are a very good
boy and that you look so well and
like a little man in your party,
you must be pa's good boy so
that pa can put you on the little
pony and kiss you, you are pa's
good boy. My dear little Fattie
I would very much like to see her
indeed she must be a sweet one
from the picture Josey gives of
her, oh how much I long to
see them all

I think now I have treated over all the subjects as to the family and now I must talk about business.

In the first place I would like to have you return to Stillersburg after Pesach by way of Lima and Uniontown. enjoy yourself and see your friends with the whole Mishpacha, I will send you money as soon as we get our pay which I think will be shortly, I do not exactly know when Pesach is but expect to find out, I have sent home a double Barrel Shot Gun for ^{Samson} and a Marble slab for a nice little stand which some of the boys gave me, the Shotgun I send to Cohen and the Marble in care of Bet of Wooster, the marble is not of so much intrinsic value as it is for a relic I will have a little stand made for it.

I intend to go home in May and stay 30 days providing there are no active operations going on here and I can get away. I think I can for I have a great many friends above

but to day I lost one of
my best friends Lt Col Schwarz
Inspector General and Chief
of Staff had to go home on
account of his wounds, they
were healed up but commenced
putrefaction on the bone and
he had to go home and have
it opened again, he was a warm
friend of mine and of great In-
fluence, but still I still got
General Osterhaus and he is
a warm friend of mine indeed
I was invited to dinner at
his place yesterday and I tell
you we had a fine German
Dinner indeed. As to other business
I can only say to you that
if God spares my health I intend
to stay in the Army until the
Rebs are brought to terms, I am
as good a democrat as ever
I was but no paper Democrat
When I see you in May, I will
say more for and "to you, God
"night, God bless and preserve you
Ever your true slaving
Marcus

Hd qrs 120th O.V.I.

Millikens Bend March 22/63

My dear dear good Wife!

One year ago to day about this time (4 P.M.) as we were fixing for Dress Parade and just when the boys brot a good Soup, we were ordered to report South of Winchester to Genl. Shields on the field. Well do I remember how much I deplored, when we had [to] go on double quick through the mud knee deep, the loss of my soup; well do I remember the first shell that whizzed through my company in the Rear of that little Ladyboy Corporal LeRoy Osborn; well do I remember the consternation depicted on his countenance, as though it were but an hour ago. The anxiety I felt in deploying my company as skirmishers for the first time under fire, is still vividly and lively before me.

That night, the getting up next morning, the commencement of the serenading in the morning by the heavy artillery is all plain to me and the events of the day; it seems to me as though it were but shortly and that I could yet hear the whizz of that Shell that took off the head of the Cannonier to my right, but the time from noon till night is still to me as it allways was a terrible dream, every part of which I knew after I awoke.

The loss I sustained of my noble Company, the gallant boys that fell by my side are still as then warmly lamented & ever will be cherished green in my memory untill life ceases.

Since that time my love, I have seen and learned much. I have seen men dying of disease & mangled by the weapons of death; I have seen them wounded & seen their wounds being dressed, limbs amputated and bullets extracted. I have seen and experienced hunger, hardships and privations; I have with delight and honor welcomed the deafening roar of the Cannons by Land and Water as a signal of the commencement of hostilities. I have witnessed hostile Armies arraigned again each other, the charge of Infantry at the death-outpouring Artillery, the Bayonet charge and repel, Cavelery hunting men down like beasts, forts fall and towns refuse. The ferociousness of Gunboats and the sturdy resistance of Forts I have learned to see all of it coolly and with ready presence of mind and yet through all this the Grand Architeckt of the Universe has preserved me, the good father and God of Israel has favored me with his gracious kindness of being a loving husband to a good wife and a kind father to my beloved children and a trusty Son & Brother to the best mother

and kindest of Sisters & Brothers and an appreciative recipient of the many acts of kindness by my host of truest of friends. Have we, my dear, not all reasons to be ever thankful to that allwise and kind providence.

While seeing all this I have been steadily gaining in friends, influence and position. Thank God I can leave my children a legacy which will inspire them to hold up their heads & walk uprightly through the world and that is "a reputation as a Soldier and Patriot". I have always done my duty and if God spares my health I allways will and I know my love you will feel satisfied with me. It is only within the last day or two that I have an opportunity to get any chances to talk to Josey about you and I must confess the news he brings from all of you is such as will only inspire the heart of a Soldier to good. He tells me you look as well and hearty as you dit 10 years ago and says that you are in good Spirits, thank God for that. I was afeard you would trouble yourself about me so much as to leave symptoms on your countenance or your lovely features but he assures me that you indeed look well and hearty and pretty. Hamlin, my dear Son, Uncle Josey tells me that you are a fine and good boy, that you behave yourself like a young Gentleman. My dear Son, if you would only know how good it makes me feel to hear such good news from you, you would be the best boy in the world.

Now I will tell you some good news; this afternoon I got a nice little bay pony mare for you. She is a very smart little pony mare; she has a nice little white spot on her forehead and very nice little legs. I think she will have a little new Colty in the Spring; if so you must give the little Colty to your little Brother Mosey. I am not sure whether she will have a Colt but she looks very much like it, and everybody says so. Sam [?] French brought the pony from the Country for you and Tom Orr gave me a nice little Saddle for you, one that he captured at Arkansas Post. I send out Skouting Parties twice before, to bring in a Pony for you but they failed; now I got it, but you must give it a name. When I come home in May I will bring it; what shall I call it?

Now my dear Lizzy, Uncle Josey also tells me very good news of you. He says that you are a regular little Lady and behave very well, that you are growing fine and doing well; that is right my dear. Of course you know that I will bring you something handsome when I come home; be a good child and mind your ma and all will be right. - My dear Mosey, Uncle Josey says that you are a very good boy and that you look so well and like a little man in your pantys; you must be pa's good sonny so that pa can put you on the little pony and kiss you; you are pa's good sonny. My dear little Hattie, I would very much like to see her indeed; she must be a sweet one

from the picture Josey gives of her. Oh how much I long to see them all.

I think now I have treated on all the subjects as to the family and now I must talk about business. In the first place I would like to have you return to Millersburg after Pesach Passover] by way of Lima[ville] and Uniontown, enjoy yourself and see your friends with the whole Mishpacha [clan]. I will send you money as soon as we get our pay which I think will be shortly. I do not exactly know when Pesach is but expect to find out. I have sent home a double Barrel Shot Gun for Hamlin and a marble slab for a nice little stand which some of the boys gave me; the Shotgun I sent to Cohn and the Marble in Care of Rex of Wooster. The marble is not of so much intrinsic value as it is for a relic; I will have a little stand made for it.

I intend to go home in May and stay 30 days, providing there are no active operations going on here and I can get away. I think I can for I have a great many friends above but to day I lost one of my best friends. Lt Col Schwarz, Inspector General and Chief of Staff, had to go home on account of his wounds; they were healed up but commenced putrification on the bone and he had to go home and have it opened again. He was a warm friend of mine and of great Influence, but still I still got General

Osterhaus and he is a warm friend of mine indeed. I was invited to dinner at his place yesterday and I tell you we had a fine German Dinner indeed. As to other business I can only say to you that if God spares my health I intend to stay in the Army until the Rebs are brought to terms; I am as good a democrat as ever I was, but no peace Democrat.

When I see you in May, I will [translated from German]: "open up my heart" to you. Good night, God bless and preserve you.

Ever your true & loving

Marcus



Please hand the enclosed to Gutting
in his house not in his office
Ever yours

Wm. Geo. 120th U.S. Militia Band La
March 24/63

My dear good wife:

I have only yesterday mailed
a great big long letter for you, which is
one in hand for mother yet as some of the
boys who are discharged are going home
I thought would send a short letter to
you & perhaps if they would mail it at
Camp it might reach you in Camp ad-
vance of the one sent yesterday by mail.

Yesterday I received your very kind
letter of the 14th in which you in consequence
of A. R. M. not coming to see you
I could see a little of the "blues" sticking
out, but what of that I am satisfied
to receive one or two letters from you
every month in which you have a little
the blues and urge me to resign; that
is quite natural and then it shows
me that you have not changed any
that you are the same plain & honest
woman as you feel so you say.

Then I know that on the other
hand that when you think that I am
bold and hearty and just in the act
of rising by staying in the Army, while
coming home without an earthly expense
for forsaking my post in the face
of the enemy would be disgrace, I know
then by thinking over it your error to the
conclusion, I want him whole, I
want him honorable I want praise

so that his children, I, or him can readily ~~say~~ answer when asked how long did your father a husband stay in the Army. Untill his Country had no further use for his services, or untill he had performed his whole duty.

What could I say now? Nothing that would clear me from a stain! Should God refuse to commiserate me or should I receive any indignity from any other source or should my health demand it, or the condition of my family imperatively demand it then I would leave the service at once. But while I am honored & fairly used from everybody, in the best of health thank God, my dear little ones in charge of the best woman in the world and in face of an Enemy I can not now would you have me resign.

I send you \$50 a few days ago as soon as we get paid will send the balance it may be that I will get 5 months pay in a few days the pay of Lt Col is 167 Dollars per month the pay of Col is 193 Dollars per month and forage for three horses my Expense now is not over twenty Dollars per month, while in the field Expense are small, while in a City they are large

You need have no fears as to the Government,
going Bankrupt, she will pay and
her pay will pay debts.

How would you like to buy the lot
next to our House where Atkinsons live.

This Idea has been so prominent
in my mind within the last three
months that I could scarcely get
it away for an hour. I think it
would make us a magnificent home.
What do you think? I will try and
get a leave of Absence in May to come
home for thirty days and if we are not
in active engagements I think I will
have no trouble in getting it, Osterhaus
will help me and then wont you be
glad with us because I have to go
again? I think you will a little.

Josey is doing a very nice thing
though for two days it rained in-
cessantly and he is out of a great
many things yet he still takes
in from 150 to 200 Dollars Cash
per day, he is looking for Friskins
He will be in Chicago before you
go home and then he will tell you
everything. I have no particular
plan for the future, any more than
to live for you my love and the
children only, to live so as to make
you happy and be a good boy.

God will not I feel it forsake
us, for He has ever been kind and
gracious to us

In Abraham Pinkman I am disappointed
I thought him more of a man, but you
know I never feel troubled over people's
ingratitude, I got him discharged, with
out Et Ammination or any thing, he
never knew any thing of it untill I
handed him his Papers, he is very ungrateful.

The little drummer boy is still under
my care & doing well, his father came
here to take him home but he would
not go. Many of the Ohio folks come
here after the bodies of the deceased
soldiers and looking after the sick
they bring plenty of fruit & every thing
else, Yesterday I was presented with
16 Cans of all kind of fruit a lot
of Apple butter, Peaches dried, Onions
& every thing else. Whenever the boys get
any thing from home they bring me a
good share. We have now a Chicken coop
right by my tent with 20 Chickens in
in day time I let them out, they lay
Eggs enough for Custard, Spoon skin
pies which are Cool cakes & with
our two Milk Cows we live as good
as any family in Ohio. I never
lived as well and half as cheap in
Camp, they boys never disturb the
Chickens nor Cows since they belong
to me. My love to the Children Mother
Miss Sarah Elizabeth Uncle Gumpel
& all.
Ever your true Loving
Marcus

Please hand the enclosed to Guttman in his house not in his office

Every your

M

Hd Qrs 120th O.V.I. Millikens Bend La.

March 24/63

My dear good wife!

I have only yesterday mailed a great big long letter for you, Michael and one in German for mother; yet as some of the boys who are discharged are going home, I thought [I] would send a short letter to you & perhaps if they would mail it at Cairo it might reach you in advance of the one sent yesterday by mail.

Yesterday I received your very kind letter of the 14th in which you in consequence of A. Ruhman's not coming to see you, I could see a little of the "blues" sticking out, but what of that? I am satisfied to receive one or two letters from you every month in which you have a little the blues and urge me to "resign"; that is quite natural and then it shows me that you have not changed any, that you are the same plain & honest woman, "as you feel so you say."

Then I know that on the other hand that when you think that I am hale and hearty and just in the act of rising by staying in the Army, while coming home without an earthly

excuse for forsaking my post in the face of the enemy would be disgrace, I know then by thinking over it you come to the conclusion, I want him whole, I want him honorable, I want him so that his children, I, or him can readily answer when asked, how long dit your father or husband stay in the Army "Untill his country had no further use for his services," or Untill he had performed his whole duty.

What could I say now? Nothing that would clear me from a stain!

Should Governor Tod refuse to commission me or should I receive any indignity from any other source or should my health demand it, or the condition of my family imperatively demand it, then I would leave the service at once. But while I am honored & fairly used from everybody, in the best of health thank God, my dear little ones in charge of the best woman in the world, and in face of an enemy, I can not nor would you have me resign.

I sent you \$50 a few days ago; as soon as we get paid will send the balance. It may be that I will get 5 months pay in a few days. The pay of a Lt Col is 167 Dollars per month, the pay of Col is 193 Dollars per month and forage for three horses. My expense now is not over twenty Dollars per month; while in the field expenses are small, while in a City they are large. You need have no fears as to the Government going

Bankrupt; she will pay and her pay will pay debts.

How would you like to buy the lot next to our House where Atkins now lives. This Idea has been so prominent in my mind within the last three months that I could scarcely get it away for an hour. I think it would make us a magnificent home. What do you think? I will try and get a leave of Absence in May to come home for thirty days and if we are not in active engagements, I think I will have no trouble in getting it; Osterhaus will help me and then wont you be glad with me because I have to go again? I think you will a little.

Josey is doing very nice trade, though for two days it rained incessantly and he is out of a great many things, yet he still takes in from 150 to 200 Dollars Cash per day. He is looking for Sinsheimer. He will be in Chicago before you go home and then he will tell you everything. I have no particular plan for the future, anymore than to live for you, my love and the children only, to live so as to make you happy and be a good boy.

God will not, I feel it, forsake us, for He has ever been kind and gracious to us.

In Abraham Ruhman I am disappointed. I thought him more of a man, but you know I never feel troubled over people's ingratitude. I got him discharged, without examination or anything; he never knew anything of it untill I handed him his

Papers; he is very ungratified.

The little drummer boy is still under my care & doing well; his father came here to take him home but he would not go. Many of the Ohio folks come here after bodies of the deceased Soldiers and looking after the sick; they bring plenty of fruit & every thing else. Yesterday I was presented with 16 cans of all kind of fruit, a lot of Apple butter, Peaches dried, onions & everything else. Whenever the boys get anything from home they bring me in a good share. We have now a Chicken coop right by my tent with 20 chickens in; in day time I let them out. They lay eggs enough for Custard and pumpkin pies which our Cook backs & with our two Milch Cows we live as good as any family in Ohio. I never lived as well and half as cheap in camp; they (boys) never disturb the Chickens or Cows since they belong to me. My love to the children, Mother, Mich, Sarah, Elizabeth, oncle Gumpel & all.

Ever your true & loving

Marcus