



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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

1863 April

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American Jewish Archives website.

Head Quarters 120th U. S.
Holmes Plantation Madison
Parish La. April 6 1863

My dearest Caroline, my sweet wife!

I received your very kind
and encouraging letter of the 25th and
your "blue one" of 31st and saw as you
said that I am happy indeed to know
"all is right among mine own".

Uncle Josey has unquestionably as this
told you everything about my situation
at Milliken's Bend so that I need
only say to you how I am fixed and
what happened since we left the Bend.

Two days after Uncle Josey left us, I
received marching orders, whereupon we pulled
up stakes and put for Richmond a
march of 15 miles, really the first march
my Regiment made since in the service
and they performed it as they do everything
else that is "very well".

We halted close by a town called
Richmond the County or Parish seat
of Madison Parish on Roundaway
~~Bonyo~~ Bonyo, pitched tents & made our
selves comfortable, the afternoon after
we landed there General Osterhaus with
4 Companies of the 6th Mo Cavalry and
the 69th Inf. left to advance on
Burdell Bonyo next morning at nine
he ordered General Grant our Brigadier
to advance 1 Regt. of Inf. and one
Company of Cavalry near the junction
of Burdell & Roundaway Bonyo
and if possible let the 120th W. be the
Inf. Don't you suppose I felt second
when the order came? I was asked
by the General Grant how soon I
could start I told him in a half
hour. I called my Officers together
and told them that in 30 Minutes the
Tents must be struck & Everything
packed & Wagons loaded and the men
with knapsacks and accoutrements
to Guns in line for march

And so it was in thirty minutes we started. At Richmond the Cavalry reported to me and we advanced in the usual precautionary manner.

We heard on the Road the Reb. were near the place. When within 2 miles of the destination I placed the Regt. in Command of the Major and dashed on and don't you suppose I felt important when at the head of my Cavalry Escort I swept along the Road, encouraged by the nicest weather & most magnificent Country I ever saw. I felt as though I could do anything. When we came near the Reb. landed on the other side the Bongoo, I took possession of Holmes plantation one of the nicest grandest & most tasty plantations I ever saw, I wish I could describe it to you. My boys arrived in due time, I sent out my pickets & then the boys pitched in

The plantation is deserted by
the white owned and a good
many of the slaves, but it was &
is still yet full of Chickens, Turkeys
geese ducks, Pheasants, Sheep
Cattle, Sugar, Molasses, Salt
Hams & in short Everything you
could think of! My boys live in
Cloves, they all eat off of China
Dishes gold striped and have
their tents Carpeted.

I occupy a Parlor & Bed room furnished
in 5th Avenue Style, have my Office
in the Library Staff & Aid Officers
all have very nice quarters. I am
in command of the Post, the
Cavalry that I have with me
belong to the 2nd Illinois, they
are fine fellows & brave. As soon
as we arrived here ~~at~~ I sent
a Courier to Genl. Catehans and
announced the fact, he send back
a congratulatory Order to the Regt.

2nd Sheet

This morning he was here and stayed all forenoon he was awful well pleased and after consultation he concluded that in the morning I will have to move again taking along Lampspheres four Gun & Battery of Artillery I am sorry to have to leave so nice a place but glad to take the advance the boys feel so good when they can have everything & they feel proud of their position getting the advance now especially since the 16th Reg^t of their own Neighbor^hood that blowed so much has to stay behind.

I am well and hearty and feel as though if I could only see you the Children and Mother Sisters & Brothers and their Children I would be situated as well as any body need to.

As to business I will tell you
all. Hunsheimer is back at the
Bend they will have to get a team
now. We will be paid in three
days. When I will send the
money home for you.

Send you some abstracts of Wayne
Co Papers. Give my love to all all
to remember that I will come
to see you as soon as possible.
God bless you.

Your Ever true Loving
Marion

Address

120th St.

4th Division 13th Army Corps

Belton Virginia

Miss

Charley & Hamlin's Party are improving
much every day.

Head Quarters 120th O.V.I.

Holmes Plantation Madison

Parish La. April 6 1863

My Dearest Caroline, my sweet wife!

I received your very kind and encouraging letter of the 25th and your "blue one" of the 21st and can assure you that I am happy indeed to know "all is right among mine own."

Uncle Josey has unquestionably ere this told you everything about my situation at Millikens Bend so that I need only say to you how I am fixed and what happened since we left the "Bend".

Two days after Uncle Josey left us, I received marching Orders, whereupon we pulled up stakes and put for Richmond, a march of 15 miles; really the first march my Regiment made since in the service and they performed it as they do everything else and that is "very well". We halted close by a town called Richmond, the County or Parish seat of Madison Parish on Roundaway Bouyou, pitched tents and made ourselves comfortable. The afternoon after we landed there, General Osterhaus with 4 Companies of the 6th Missouri Cavelery and the 69th Indiana Infantry left to advance on Burdell [Vidal] Bouyou. Next morning at nine he ordered General Gerard [Garrard] our Brigadier to advance 1 Regt of Inf[antry] and one Company of Cavelery near the junction of Burdell and

Roundaway Bouyou and if possible let the 120th Ohio Volunteers be the Inf[antry]. Dont you suppose I felt proud when the Order came? I was asked by the General Gerard how soon I could start; I told him in a half hour. I called my Officers together and told them that in 30 minutes the Tents must be stroke & everything packed & Wagons loaded and the men with knapsacks and accoutrements and guns in line for march.

And so it was in thirty minutes we started. At Richmond the Cavelry reported to me and we advanced in the usual precautionary manner. We heard on the Road the Rebs. were near the place. When within 2 miles of the destination I placed the Regt in command of the Major and dashed on and dont you suppose I felt important when at the head of my Cavelry Escort I swept along the Road, encouraged by the nicest weather & most magnificent country I ever saw? I felt as though I could do anything. When we came near the Rebs. landed on the other side the Bouyou, I took possession of Holmes Plantation, one of the nicest, grandest & most tasty plantations I ever saw. I wish I could describe it to you. My boys arrived in due time; I put out my pickets & then the boys pitched in.

The plantation is deserted by the white owner and a good many of the slaves, but it was & is still yet full of Chickens, Turkeys, Geese, ducks, Pitchens, Sheep, Cattle,

Sugar, Molasses, Salt Hams & in short, everything you could think of. My boys live in clover; they all eat off of china dishes, gild striped, and have their tents carpeted.

I occupy a Parlor & Bedroom furnished in 5th Avenue style, have my office in the Library & Staff & field Officers all have very nice quarters. I am in command of the Post. The Cavellery that I have with me belongs to the 2nd Illinois; they are fine fellows & brave. As soon as we arrived here I sent a courier to General Osterhaus and announced the fact; he sent back a congratulatory Order to the Regt. This morning he was here and stayed all forenoon. He was awful well pleased and after consultation he concluded that in the morning I will have to move again, taking along Lanpheres four Gun battery of Artillery. I am sorry to have to leave so nice a place but glad to take the advance; the boys feel so good when they can have everything and they feel proud of their position, getting the advance, more especially since the 16th Regt of their own Neighborhood that blowed so much has to stay behind.

I am well and hearty and feel as though if I could only see you, the children, and mother, sisters, & Brothers and their children, I would be situated as well as any body need to.

As to business, Jo will tell you all. Sinsheimer is

back at the Bend. They will have to get a team now. We will be paid in three days, when I will send the money home for you.

Send you some abstracts of Wayne County Papers. Give my love to all all all and remember that I will come to see you as soon as possible.

God bless you.

Your ever true & loving

Marcus

Adress

120th O.V.

9th Division 13th Army Corps

Below Vicksburg Miss

Charley & Hamlin's Pony are improving much every day.



Box 915 120th St. N. W.
Petkin Plantation La. April 27/63

My dear dear Wife!

Thank God I am
rewarded after a long and continual
waiting with anxiety to get a letter
from you, and that lovely picture
which looks so well, Oh my God it
does me good to see your faces

I feel proud of that lovely group

There is not a Major General
in this Army that can show
so noble looking a family

Your dear Wife look insignificant
until you never had half so
good a picture taken before in
your life, Hamlin my heart

rejoices ~~to~~ to look at him, he is truly
a perfect picture, Lizzie looks
as sober as a preacher yet with
all she could scarcely contain
her impudence. Mossey dear boy
looks as rosy, plump & lovely
as I never known him before

I want Hatter Dear.

I hope the Lord may not judge me vain as I request my beloved family, for I am pious of them in love. God bless you all and preserve you all for me, is my constant prayer.

I have not seen Brother Joseph yet, he stopped 8 miles back here at my old Camp at Smiths Plantation and they say he is selling at the rate of two thousand Dollars per day, I know nothing of your design know not when you are but shall send this letter to Millersburg.

I send thee hundred Dollars to Eros Brown & Co & three hundred & fifty Dollars I left with Finckheim to send to you as soon as we found out where you are. Please tell Cohn that I can not be a Candidate for Probate Judge under any circumstances, I can not come home in time and I understand they are against the War

for hasty peace and that I
can not go, if the Democrats
are not in favor of whipping
these Aristocratic Rebels untill
they consider they are whipped
I am not with the Democrats
and I will just wait untill
they get right again, I will
say nothing but keep thinking
you need not say anything
the more I see of them, the
more I get convinced that the
only way we can ever have
a peaceful & happy Country, is
by fighting them untill we
whip them, I am glad to learn
that Martha is so patriotic
and of course you the noble
wife of a (full) Colonel see
also, just speak out to them,
dont be afraid while you are
right. General Osterhaus is
one of nations nobleman and
the best & most active General
I yet met in America, he is also
a true & warm friend, he is
with me as I with him every
day, we ride together, he is

he is about 45 years old, has
a family in St Louis.

He is a good man, intelligent
and a splendid scholar.

Dr Stanton is our Surgeon
he is from Galen Ohio, a son
of old Dr Stanton a Cousin
to the Secretary of war. Beckman
is Lt Col, Slocum Major
& my little friend Sherman
is my Adjutant. We all mess
together. The three field officers
& Adjutant, Quarter Master and
and the three Doctors, it
does not cost us \$2 a week
and we live in good style.

I wrote to you my Cousin from
dated back to Feb'y 18/1863
and I have now, no doubt

but what I can draw
my pay from that date.

I am so anxious to see
Joseph & hear from you, you
cant imagine, he send me the
return

As for my coming home, I know
you can not possibly be as anxious to
see me as I am to see all of you
yet the time for my coming is very
uncertain as no one can get off
during this time of active operations.
We are ordered to move at
once. God bless you.

Ever Your loving
True husband
Marcus

Address
Col M. M. Spigel
120th C.S.D.
9th Div. 13th Army Corps
Mis.

My love to both families
& to Henry's family

Ask Cubu why he don't write
to me

N C C

Hd qrs 120th O.V.I.

Perkins Plantation La. April 27/63

My dear dear Wife!

Thank God I am rewarded after a long and continual waiting with anxiety to get a letter from you, and that lovely Picture which looks so well. Oh my girl it done me good to see your faces; I feel proud of that lovely Group.

There is not a Major General in this Army that can show so noble looking a family.

You, dear Wife, look magnificent; you never had half so good a picture taken before in your life; Hamlin, my heart rejoices to look at him; he is truly a perfect Picture. Lizzie looks as sober as Preacher, yet with all she could scarcely contain her imputance. Mosey, dear soul, looks as round, plumb & lovely as I never known him before. I want Hatty dear.

I hope the Lord may not judge me vain as I regard my beloved family, for I am proud of them in love. God bless you all and preserve you all for me, is my constant prayer.

I have not seen Brother Joseph yet; he stopped 8 miles back here at my old Camp at Smiths Plantation and they say he is selling at the rate of two thousand Dollars per day. I know nothing of your design, know not where you are, but shall send this letter to Millersburg.

I send three hundred Dollars to Enos Brown & Co & three hundred & Sixty Dollars I left with Sinsheimer to send to you as soon as we found out where you are. Please tell Cohn that I can not be a Candidate for Probate Judge under any circumstances. I can not come home in time and I understand they are against the War, for hasty peace and that I can not go. If the Democrats are not in favor of whipping these Aristocratic Rebels until they consider they are whipped, I am not with the democrats and I will just wait until they get right again. I will say nothing but keep thinking; you need not say anything. The more I see of them, the more I get convinced that the only way we can ever have a peaceful & happy country is by fighting them until we whip them. I am glad to learn that Martha is so patriotic and of course you, the noble wife of a (full) Colonel are also. Just speak out to them; dont be afraid while you are right. General Osterhaus is one of natures Noblemen and the best & most active Generals I yet met in America; he is also a true & warm friend. He is with me or I with him every day; we ride together. He is about 45 years old, has a family in St. Louis.

He is a good man, intelligent and a splendid Scholar.

Dr. Stanton is our Surgeon; he is from Salem, Ohio, a son of old Dr. Stanton, a Cousin to the Secretary of War.

Beekman is the Lt Col, Slocum Major & my little friend
Sherman is my Adjutant. We all mess together, the three
field officers, Adjutant, Quarter Master and the three
Doctors. It does not cost us \$2 a week and we live in good
style.

I wrote to you my commission dated back to Feby 18/1863 and
I have now, no doubt but what I can draw my pay from that
date.

I am so anxious to see Joseph and hear from you, you
can't imagine; he sent me the Picture.

As for my coming home, I know you can not possibly be as
anxious to see me as I am to see all of you, yet the time for
my coming is very uncertain as no one can get off during this
time of active operation.

We are ordered to move at once. God bless you.

Ever your loving & true husband

Marcus

Adress

Col. M.M. Spiegel

120th O.V.I.

9th Division 13th Army Corps

Mis.

My love to Cohn & family & to Henry & family

Ask Cohn why he dont write to me.