

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

1863 April

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Head Quarter 120th O.D. J Holmes Plantation Modison Darish La april 6 1863 My dearest Caroline, my Direct wifet Decieved you very kind and encomaging letter of the 25th and your blue one of 31th and can asked you that I am happy indeed to Know all is right among mine orow " Uncle Josed has imquestionably in this told you everything about my petnotion at Millikens Bend to that I need only pay to you how I am fited an what happened since as left the Bead Dus days after Uncle Josey left in, I received marching brdees, where for we fulled af states and put for fishmould march of 15 miles, really the first march my Regiment made since in the server and they preformed it as they do complime the B that is very well "

We halted close by a town called Richmond the County or Parish seat of Madipon Sanch on formedanay How Bonyo, fitched tents made on selves comportable, the afternoon after we handed there General Voterhaus with 4 Companies of the 6th Mo Caselergan the 69th And. Inf left to advance on Bundell Bongod peft morning at sime he ordered General Jerand on Minjadin to advance 1 Open, of Ant. and one Company of Carley near the preter of Andell'& Houndarray Bongon and if possible let the 120th all be the Inf. Sont you and for a gel friend when the order came? I was asked by the General Gerard how soon & could start I told him in a half how O called my Officer lagetter and told them that in 30 Manutes th Fints must be shotle & Every thing hacked Vayous loaded and the men with Knapracks and accontrements The Yuns in time for march

And to it was in thirty minutes care Started. Us Jrehmound the Caveley "ported to me and we advanced in The usual precantionary manner. We heard and the Goad the Rebe were near the place. When within I wiles of the destination & placed the Mag to in Command of the Major and dashed and and don't your puppon I felt important when at the head of my Cavelery Escort & omegitaly the Boad, encouraged by the ment weather & most magnificent Country I ever san I pelt as though death do anything. When we came near the Hele landed out the other side the Bongoo, I toold posession of Holmes plantation one of the meet Grandest most tasty plantations I wer sand I wish & could disorthe it to you, My boys anned andace time; I fint and my pretters to then the boys pileted 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, Inthey yeer duchs, Pitchens, Sheep. Cattle Sugar, Morlafoes, Sait Camo I in short wery thing you Could think of My house line in Bover, they all cat of of China Vinter gild striped and have their tento Carpetert. I vecupy a Partor H. Sedwoor funito in Sa averne Style, have my Office in the Library Allaff spill Officers all have very nice quarters " I am in command of the Past, The Cavelery that I have with me belongs to the 2nd Illinois, they me find fellows Abrauc. Us soon is we arrived here and I sent a Comies to year Ortechans and inconcel the fact, he sendback a sougratulatary buded to the Heg.

Jud Sheet This morning he was here and stayed all foreword he was anythe well pleased and after cononlation he Concluded that in the morning I Will have to move again taking along Lamphered for your Battery of Artillery & and point to have to leave to mice a place but glad to take the advance the back feel so good when they can have Everything they beel friend of their portion gettingthe advance more Expecially since the 16th Oping their own Heighton to stay lehind. and will and hearty and feel as though of I could only see your the Ch. When and mother listen +> Brothers and their Children I would he situated as well as any body need to.

Us to busines for will tell your all. Insteined is back at the Bud they will have to get a leave now We will be haid in Thee days When I will send The money home for your. Send your some abstracts of Wayne to Papero. This my love to all all tell to remember that I will come to see you as soon as possible god bless your, Jour Ever time storing 120tt U.U. Ulines : of a Division 13 " Chang Corps lidon Victoring Miss Charley Hamlins Pany are improved 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 Cavelery 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 Cavelery 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 Cavelery 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 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.

Perkin Plantation Le April 27/03 My dear dear Wife Thank you I am restanded after along and continual waiting with anticty to get a letter from your, and that lovely Ficture which books so well, the my fullet done me good to see your faces I feel proud of that lovely group There is not a Major General in this thing that can show to noble boolding a formily your dear White look margings' cents you never had half se good a proton taken before in reprices fille to loose at hind, he is truly a perfect Pietne, Liggie looks as sober as macher yet with all the Contil scarcely cantain her impulance. Mosey desor bout look, as round plumb & lovely as I neved Known him hefer

I want Matty dean. I hope the Lord may unt Judge me vand as I regard my helood family for I amplin of them in love your all for me, is my constant proujen. I have not seen Brother Joseph yet he stapped & unles back here at my our Camp at posithe Plantation and They say be is belling at the rate of two thousand Dollers per day, & how wothing of your design there art when you are but shall send this letter to Millersburg . I send their hundred Inllans to Euro Brown Ma to Thee hundred & Sitty Walland left with pusheined 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 gudge under any Cucumstances, I can not dome home in timo and I understand they are against the Man

Can not go, if the Democrats and not on favor of inhipping they consider they are who put I am not with the dimerals and I will fust want emtill they get night again, I will Day nothing but Keep Thomking your need not day any thing The now I see of them, The more I get conside that the tanly way we can Even hans by fighting them with the whip them, I am glad to learn that Marther is to patriotic and of come you the wohl also, pust speak and to them dont be apaid while you and right. General Otterhains is the best most active yourals I get met in america he is also a tive & warm fiend, he is with me as I with kim every day, we vide Tyether heis

he is about 45 years ally has a family in It Lowis He is a good man, intelligent and a splendid Schollan De flanton is our Singeon he is from Jalem Ohir, a lan by ald Dy flanton a Cousin to the becretary of war. Belling is It Cal, Alacum Major Any little friend theman is my adjutand le allmen Trather the thru field officers Adjutand, Quarter Master and and the three Queton, it does not cost us \$ 2 a eneck and we live in good Ityle. Inter hack to Sely 18/1863 and I have now, no doubt but what & can alian my pay from that date I am to anyims tree Joseph shear from you you you Can't mogine the sead me the

As for my coming home, I know you can not possibly be as any wins to He me as I am to see all of you yet the time for any coming is very concitorion as no one can get off during this time of active operations man fuid liters you Ence your loving How hishand Mains adress Col M. M. Maigel - 120th OU.D 9th Div. 13 thang Corps Mis My tore to bohu ofamily Will Capit why hi don't write ·C · C N

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 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 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 Adjutand. We all mess together, the three field officers, Adjutand, 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.