



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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

1863 May

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American Jewish Archives website.

My dear dear Wife

Hd qrs 120th O.D. I. in the field
near Black River Miss. May 5/63

Well well my dear I have passed
through another fight, a fearful terrific fight
and helped to gain a glorious Victory.

You must not expect a detail of my
this morning as I am sitting on a Boat &
writing on a Deck and feel tired & weary,
with a Heaving in my ear & a Boil on my —

We were put on board of transports the 29th
and with the Gunboats ran ^{down} to Grand Gulf, the
Gunboats attacked their Batteries and the plan
of battle was for the Gunboats to silence the
Rebel Batteries & for the Infantry to land & take

them & the 120th Ohio & 7th Kentucky was to have
the advance, a dangerous but glorious po-
sition & ditto I fell proud & But after
an awful fight between the Gunboats & the
Reb Battery for 6 hours the most sublime
and grandest sight man ever beheld, the
Gunboats gave up not able to silence them.
Whereupon we were disembarked and
marched overland passed the Batteries &
as soon as Evening set in the Gunboats and
I saw & saw the Blue Star & I tell
you that was grand noble & a ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~thing~~ ^{thing} ~~they~~ ^{they}
succeeded. Next morning we were
put on board again steamed about 4 miles
Grand Gulf on the Mississippi River.

As soon as landed we marched on, towards
Post Gibson over a rough & hilly Country
different from any I had seen yet, which
is called, "the up land of Miss", we marched on
steadily untill about 12 o'clock that night when
our Advance met the advance of the Rebs
and I can assure to a Soldier it was a grand
midnight scene, while our & the Reb artillery
were booming at each other from hill top
to hill top the Infantry descended slowly &
drove the Rebs back at about 2 o'clock
the morning of the first we gained the Hill
the Rebs had occupied and were ordered to lay
down and soon we all slept soundly & only about
50 rods from the enemy. At four o'clock
after two hours rest we were poured & ordered
line of Battle and by 4 past four my Regt
was out & under fire from that time on we
still advanced. I will send you a copy
of my report of the action, when you can
see what we done. But suffice it to say
I was the first one that charged on the Rebs
on the left & drove them 500 yards & fell
them up ~~to~~ untill I was over three
hundred yards in advance of any of
our troops took a position in front
of the enemys left wing & kept

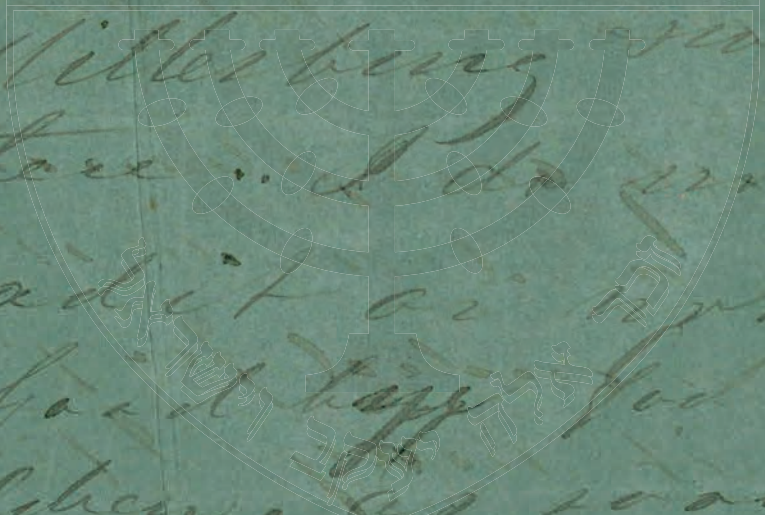
it until my ammunition gave out when
I asked to be relieved I took eight prisoners
when we charged on them, so you can
think we came pretty close to them.

The fight was terrific, the Bullets &
Ball flew thick & fast and I have the
satisfaction of saying of leading my
men that day & by the Gods they followed
I stood up to the danger never thinking of
it, all I felt that day was the responsibility
of leading a Regt & dear I won a reputation
on that day which will give me at least
a name in my Country's history of which
my dear Children can feel proud of.

I am highly complimented by all
the Generals and understand that I
am recommended for promotion, but
be that as it may I feel proud & I
know that you and my dear children
for whom I am fighting feel proud.
The day after the fight I was
laid out & sick but we marched on
the weather is awful hot as hot as it
is any time in August with us, yesterday
I was very sick, to day I am better & as soon
as the hail in my ear & below breaks I
shall be half well. The victory at

Warriors that is the greatest work in
this war & will have the severest effect
on the rebellion any how I began to
think the rebellion is about played
out the soldiers are getting sea
sick. I lost 22 of my gallant boys
the best & bravest, I tell you they
behaved splendidly. Genl. Sherman has
golden laurels that day, he is a splendid
man. Oh my dear I would give anything
in the world for you & your little with
you now. I have not seen you
yet since he has come back. I expect
you are in Millersburg will send
this letter there. I do not know whether
you can read it or not but will
wish it. God bless you &
the dear children, as soon as this paper
is over I will come home
God bless you & your dear ones
Your true loving
Marion

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES



My respects to your family all the rest
I left it with your friends which I did not
know when to send and did not think when

My dear dear Wife

Hd qrs 120th O.V.I. in the field

Near Black River Mis. May 5/63

Well well my dear I have passed through another fight, a fearful terrific fight and helped to gain a glorious Victory.

You must not expect a detail a/c of me this morning as I am sitting on a Book & writing on a Drum and feel tired & weary, with a Bealing in my Ear & a Boil on my ---

We were put on board of trains first, the 29th and with the Gunboats ran down to Grand Gulph, the Gunboats attacked their Batteries and the plan of Battle was for the Gunboat to silence the Rebel Batteries & for the Infantry to land & take them & the 120th Ohio & 7th Kentucky was to have the advance, a dangerous but glorious position & ditnt I feel proud? But after an awfull fight between the Gunboats & the Reb Battery for 6 hours the most sublime and grandest sight man ever beheld, the Gun boats gave up not able to silence them.

Whereupon we were disembarked and marched overland passed the Batteries & as so on as Enemy sat in the Gunboats and Transports ran the Blockade & I tell you that was grand noble & all of them ran successfully. Next morning we were put on board again & landed about 7 miles below Grand Gulph on to Mississippi Side. As soon as landed we marched on, towards Port Gibson over a rough & hilly country different from any I had seen yet, which

is called "the up land of Miss", we marched on steadily until about 12 o'clock that night when an Advance met the advance of the Rebs And I can assure to a Soldier it was a grand midnight scene, while our & the Reb artillery were booming at each other from hill top to hill top the Infantry descended slowly & drove the Rebs back at about 2 o'clock the morning of the first we gained the Hill the Rebs had occupied and were ordered to lay down and soon we all slept soundly & only about 80 rods from the Enemy. At four o'clock after two hours rest we were roused & formed line of Battle and by 1/2 past four my Rgt was out & under fire from that time on we still advanced. I will send you a copy of my report of the action, when you can see what we done. But suffice it to say I was the first one that charged on the Rebs on the left & drove them 600 yards & followed them up until I was over three hundred yards in advance of any of our troops took a position in front of the Enemies right wing & kept it until my ammunition gave out when I asked to be relieved I took eight prisoners when we charged on them, so you can think we came pretty close to them.

The fight was terrific, the Bullets & shell flew thick & fast and I have the satisfaction of saying of leading my men that day & by the Gods they followed. I stood up to the danger never thinking it, all I feel that day was the responsibility of leading a Regt & dear I won a reputation on that day which will

give me at least a name in my country's history of which my dear Children can feel proud of.

I am highly complimented by all the Generals and understand that I am recommended for promotion, but be that as it may I feel proud & I know that you and my dear children for whom I am fighting feel proud.

The day after the fight I was [illegible] out & sick but we marched on the weather is awful hot as hot as it is any time in August with us, yesterday I felt very sick to day I am better & as such as the boil in my Ear & below break I think I shall feel well. The Victory at Thompsons Hill is the greatest win in this war & will have the severest effect on Rebeldom anyhow I begin to think the Rebellion is about played out, their Soldiers are getting sick of it. I lost 22 of my gallant boys in killed & wounded, I tell you they behaved splendidly. Genl Osterhaus [illegible] golden laurels that day, he is a splendid man. Oh my dear I would give anything in the world for an hours talk with you now. I have not seen Joseph yet since he has come back. I expect you are in Millersburg & will send this letter there. I do not know wether you can read it or not but is all with it. Good bye God bless you & the dear Children, as soon as this Campayne is over I will come home.

Good bye my loves, my dear, God

bless you Your true & loving

Marcus

My respects to Cohn & family & all the rest.

I left \$50 with Sinsheimer which I dit not know where to send
and dit not know where you



Love / not / very / much / from
Mey / had / blood / on / one / side
Red gas 9th Div near Big Sandy
May 7/63

My dear dear & sweet Wife!

I have but little Paper in my Pen now, but
enough to say to you that I am still alive again
well & love you more than ever. You must
not feel uneasy if you do not get letters very
frequent for we are working every day and
have no chance to send you a letter. We have
a mail for nearly two weeks. Yet I am in hopes
that as soon as it comes it will bring me
a long good & sweet letter from you.

I have send you a letter written on Coloured
Paper about the Battle & I am satisfied you

will feel happy I am a little proud of your
"brave man" when you see my report & hear
"how fearlessly I stood up. How many speaks
of me in the highest praise & my boys most
all worship me and you ought to hear, how
proudly they speak of their "brave Colonel"

God bless you & my dear children. As soon
as I have some opportunity I will come
to see you and all your such a sweet happy
times I anticipate in seeing you and the dear

children you can't imagine. We may have a
Battle to morrow, if so I will with the help of
God do my duty. Kiss the children God bless you

In the last Battle I had only ^{you} 4
3 Killed 3 mortally, 8 severely & 8 slightly wounded Marsens

[Upside down text]: May God bless you my love

Hd qrs 9th Div Near Big Sandy

May 7/63

My dear dear and sweet wife!

I have but little Paper, no Pen nor Ink, but enough to say to you that I am still alive, again well & love you more than ever. You must not feel uneasy if you do not get letters very frequent, for we are moving every day; no paper, no chance to send, neither have we received a mail for nearly two weeks. Yet I am in hopes that as soon as it comes it will bring me a long, good & sweet letter from you.

I have sent you a letter written on Coloured Paper about the Battle & I am satisfied you will feel happy & not a little proud of your "homely man" when you see my report & learn how fearlessly I stood up. Here many speak of me in the highest praise & my boys most all worship me and you ought to hear how proudly they speak of their "brave Colonel".

God bless you & my sweet Children. As soon as I have an opportunity I will come to see you and, Oh God, such a sweet & happy time I anticipate in seeing you and the dear children, you cant imagine. We may have a Battle to morrow; if so I will with the help of God do my duty. Kiss the children. God bless you.

Your

Marcus

In the last Battle I had only 3 killed, 3 mortally, 8 severely & 6 slightly wounded.



Had got 120th in the field
near Big Black River Mis. May 9/63

My dear Wife, my lovely Cora!

Here I am laying crowded
under a little Rail hut covered
with green Branches to shield us
from the burning Sun and I have
just heard that there was an
opportunity of sending of a letter &
so I have been successful in getting
a little paper of one the Boys Ink &
Pen of another and by these means
I can say to you "that Richard
is himself again". Since the Peeling
in my Ear & my Boil behind bustled
I feel all well again. It is now
about three weeks since I have
not seen or heard anything from
you except that lovely Picture
for which I would not take \$10000

I have written you two notes since
the Battle which if you can read
will give you an outline of the fear-
ful but gloriously Victorious Battle

^{3rd} For eleven days past we have
had continual marching &
Pivocading, I have not seen
my tent for 13 days, neither
have I slept anywhere but out-
doors nor had my Cloths off
since that time. Some nights
we marched till one and
two o'clock, yet I feel all right
and in excellent Spirits.

We are to day stopping & resting
and I therefore took off my
Drawers, Undershirt & Shirt
and have my negro Boy washing
it, I sit in the Shade untill
it dries. I have not seen Joseph
yet, I think it is real mean
in him, not even to come after
the Battle, how did he know

but what I am wounded, yet I hear
of him often, he is doing a splendid
Business, I suppose he has cleared
two thousand Dollars since he is
back and perhaps they have made four
thousand Dollars since they came to
the Regt and all in Cash. You need
not be alarmed I mean to get my
share in due time. Carry my love
just feel perfectly easy about me
I am doing well. I am Establishing
myself a reputation which will stand
for life and I know you feel proud
of it besides my Expenses now are
not \$10 per month, I live very saving
and if God spare me I mean to
have ~~three~~ four thousand Dollars
in money in hand before I leave the
Army so that whatever I start I
can start without having so much
worrying of mind, so that I can
sit still & rest to you, honour
and love you undisturbed every

involved & treat you my angelic
and heroic wife in a manner
you deserve. Caroline I know &
appreciate the Heroism it requires
for you to lead the life you have
been compelled to live, since
I am in the Army and many
times since I first took you
from your quite happy and
girlish Home, a many
pany I feel when I think of
all, but rest assured my love
that if kind providence spares
me my life shall it shall
be my object to atone for
all, being as I do you, I feel
that I shall be able to do it.

It was my design to give you
a description of the beautiful
engagement between our
Gambats & the Lambatties
at Grand Gulf by day &
night but I think I will

2nd sheet -

I will have to defer it untill I come home, when I
can tell you more than I ever did before, for I
do think that in the last 6 months of my life I
saw more of life than I ever did before and trust
I may have benefited thereby. A few days ago
a man was here from Woodstock & I gave him
two hundred & fifty Dollars to send to you.
Sometime ago I got \$800 I sent \$300 to Lewis
Brown & Co & paid debts with some & had \$400
which I wanted to send to you but I knew not
where you was as Joseph had not yet ret'd so
as soon as I found we had to move I sent
my money to Joseph or rather furnished. The
next day while on march I took in over
\$200 belonging to the Regt, which I had
in my pocket so I thought I would send

My love to
Leah
of family

it to you I do not know whether Joseph send you
any or not, neither do I know whether
you are at Chicago or Muller's my, but hope
soon to be able to find out. As soon as this
active Campaign is over which will
have to be in the course of a month or
less I will come home & stay at home
a month at least - then we will talk
it all over. My love & respect to Hamlin
Lizzie Money & Hattie. I will bring two nice
Bay Ponies for Hamlin & 1 for Lizzie &
Money, I shall also bring my Charley horse
along & leave him at home till fall, he looks
very thin & good. I must now close. Last night I was
on a reconnoitering Expedition with General
Osterhaus & we had a bloody time, with my
Rebs. Charley although thin is full of life
Your true loving Niece

Hd qrs 120th in the field

near Big Black River Mis. May 9/63

My dear Wife, my lovely Cary!

Here I am laying crowded under a little Rail hut covered with green brushes to shield us from the burning Sun and I have just heard that there was an opportunity of sending of a letter & so I have been successful in getting a little paper of one [of] the Boys, Ink & pen of another, and by these means I can say to you "that Richard is himself again." Since the Bealing in my Ear & my Boil behinded busted, I feel all well again. It is now about three weeks since I have not seen or heard anything from you except that lovely picture for which I would not take \$1000. I have written you two notes since the Battle which if you can read [them] will give you an outline of the fearful but gloriously Victorious Battle.

For eleven days past we have had continual marching & Bivouacing. I have not seen my tent for 13 days, neither have I slept any wheres but out doors nor had my clothes off since that time. Some nights we marched till one and two o'clock, yet I feel all right and in excellent Spirits.

We are to day stopping & resting and I therefore took off my Drawyers, Undershirt & shirt and have my negro Boy washing it; I sit in the Shade until it tries [dries]. I have

not seen Joseph yet; I think it is real mean. in him, not even to come after the Battle. How dit he know but what I am wounded, yet I hear of him often; he is doing a Splendid Business. I suppose he has cleared two thousand Dollars since he is back and perhaps they have made four thousand Dollars since they came to the Regt and all in cash. You need not be alarmed; I mean to get my share in due time. Cary my love, just feel perfectly easy about me; I am doing well. I am establishing myself a reputation which will stand for life and I know you feel proud of it. Besides my expenses are not \$10 per month, I live very saving, and if God spares me I mean to have three or four thousand Dollars in Money in hand before I leave the Army, so that whatever I start I can start without having so much uneasiness of mind, so that I can sit and talk to you, honour and love you undisturbed & unmolested & treat you, my angelic and heroic wife, in a manner you deserve. Caroline, I know & appreciate the Heroism it requires for you to lead the life you have been compelled to live, since I am in the Army and many times since I first took you from your quite happy and girlish Home; a many pang I feel when I think of all, but rest assured, my love, that if kind providence spares me my life and health, it shall be my object to atone for all. Loving as I do you, I feel that I shall be able to do it.

It was my design to give you a description of the beautiful engagement between our Gunboats & the Landbatteries at Grand Gulf by day & night but I think I will have to defer it untill I come home, when I can tell you more than I ever dit before, for I do think that in the last 6 months of my life I saw more of life than I ever did before and trust I may have benefited thereby. A few days ago a man was here from Wooster & I gave him two hundred & fifty Dollars to send to you. Sometime ago I got \$800; I send \$300 to Enos Brown and Company & paid Debts with some & had \$400 which I wanted to send to you but I knew not where you was, as Joseph had not yet returned. So as soon as I found we had to move I sent my money to Joseph or rather Sinsheimer. The next day while on march I took in over \$200 belonging to the Regt which I had in my Pocket & so I thought I would send it to you. I do not know whether Joseph sent you any or not; neither do I know whether you are at Chicago or Millersburg, but hope soon to be able to find out. As soon as this active campaign is over which will have to be in the course of a month or less, I will come home & stay home a Month at least & then we will talk it all over. My love & Respect to Hamlin, Lizzie, Mosey & Hattie. I will bring two nice Bay Ponies, 1 for Hamlin & 1 for Lizzie & Mosey. I shall also bring my

Charley Horse along & leave him at home till fall; -he
looks so very thin & poor. I must now close. Last night
I was on a recognoitering expedition with General
Osterhaus & we had a lively time with the Rebs. Charley
although thin is full of life.

Your true & loving

Marcus

My love to Cohn & Family



In the Field before Vicksburg
May 23/63

My dear dear good wife

After five days of the
hottest kind of fighting
in the front we were about
a half an hour ago re-
lined to fall back here
about a mile to the rear
& rest. The fighting so far
has been terrific and as
yet we have not taken
Vicksburg, we have taken
two forts and we drove
and of them again.

My Regiment made
two charges, the first was
perfectly terrific and
I never saw shot, shell
or grape & bullets fly thicker
in my life & yet I had
but four men wounded
& my man I had & kept
them alive as on dress parade

while on the charge & during
the hottest Brig. Genl Lee
(who had taken charge of
our Brig in the morning)
Came up to me & said
"Sprigel by God you are
a man after my own
heart you are doing bully
& your men are the best
I ever saw" The Regt was
at least 20 yards in front of
any of the 10 charging Regts

The loss so far had been
in my Regt miraculously
light only 8 wounded & I am
struck by a piece of shell on
my left knee which knocked
the skin off, bruised it some
& makes it a little painful
I did not suffer it to be
published for fear you
would see it & be uneasy.

Genl Lee was wounded
by the same shell badly, he
had to leave the field. I am
sorry he is a brave & gallant
Officer & a gentleman

We have Vicksburg nearly
surrounded & if we can fall
from our position we
can see the Church steeple
but they have a heavy
line of fortification clear
around.

The greatest accumulation
have during the last two
weeks of exceptional fighting
marching & hardships, is
that lovely picture of your
and the dear children. I am
one of my own 34 miles to
the place for it where I had
left it in my trunk. I am
looking at it about 5 times
a day & I fear that some
times I am talking to it.

As soon as Vicksburg
falls I will come home
& stay at least one month

My Adjutant Sherman
is one of the gayest and
bravest young men that
ever lived he sticks to
me through thick & thin

always by my side
no matter how much
the danger.
I think I Vicksburg
will fall within a
week - but we pray to
God that I may get
out as safe as I have
so far & then I will come
home & tell you more news
than you can hear.

I mean to buy wool in June
have a really true lamb.
I must show as the
man who agrees to carry
this to Helena Arkansas
morning. God bless you &
the children all present.
Aunt
Marion

In the field before Vicksburg

May 23/63

My dear dear good wife

After five days of the hardest kind of fighting in the front we were about a half an hour ago relieved to fall back here about a mile to the Rear & rest. The fighting so far has been terrific and as yet we have not taken Vicksburg; we have taken two forts and were driven out of them again.

My Regiment made two charges, the first one perfectly terrific awful; I never saw shot, shell, crape [grape] & Bullets fly thicker in my life & yet I had but four men wounded & my men stood & kept their line as on dress parade while on the charge & during the hottest Brig[adier] Genl Lee (who had taken charge of our Brig[ade] in the morning) came up to me & said, "Spiegel by God you are a man after my own heart; you are doing bully & your men are the bravest I ever saw." The Regt was at least 20 yards in front of any of the 10 charging Regiments.

The loss so far has been in my Regt miraculously light, only 8 wounded & I am struck by a piece of shell on my left knee which knocked the skin off, bruised it some and makes it a little painful. I did not suffer it to be published for fear you would see it & be uneasy.

Genl Lee was wounded by the same shell badly; he had to leave the field. I am sorry; he is a brave & gallant Officer & a Gentleman.

We have Vicksburg already surrounded & it must fall. From our position we can see the Church steeples but they have a heavy line of fortifications clear around.

The greatest consolation I have during the last two weeks of continual fighting, marching and hardship, is that lovely picture of you and the dear children. I sent one of my men 34 miles to the Rear for it where I had left it in my trunk. I am looking at it about 5 times an hour & I fear that some times I am talking to it. As soon as Vicksburg falls I will come home and stay at least one month.

My Adjutant Sherman is one of the gayest and bravest young men that ever lived. He sticks to me through thick & thin, allways by my side no matter how much the danger.

I think Vicksburg will fall within a week and let us pray to God that I may get out as safe as I have so far and then I will come home & tell you more news than you ever heard.

I mean to buy wool in June and have a bully time [illegible].

I must close as the man who agrees to carry this to Helena, Arkansas, is leaving. God bless you & the children

& all friends.

Your
Marcus



In the field before
Richmond May 23/63

Dear Michael

With great pleasure I have
received your letter of the 18th
and am glad to hear that you
are well.

I am writing to you from
Richmond and hope you are
well.

I have just received your
letter of the 18th and am
glad to hear that you are
well.

I am writing to you from
Richmond and hope you are
well.

I have just received your
letter of the 18th and am
glad to hear that you are
well.

Spring, via Land at
A month or more ago morning
before, when I of your journal
was told that the German
view of the war against the
South was different from
that of the North. I have
now in Chicago seen a very
nice paper, for it is the
Frankfort & Ambrosian.

Major Wagner has been
in the last few days
56000 Cartridges in the
whole of the field
of the war. I have
seen the paper that
shows the war, in all the
moral affairs.
Narcis

In the field before
Vicksburg May 23/63

[letter from Marcus to Michael in German]:



My
100
Ad Gen 120th in the Field near
W. R. Bridge Big Black River Miss
May 25/63

My dear good & kind Wife!

You will see by the above that the whereabouts and plans of a soldier are frequently as uncertain as his life is insecure. When last (two days ago) I wrote to you a few hasty penciled lines from the front in the Battleground of Vicksburg, I surely thought that my next one would more apt to be written in Vicksburg, then 15 miles back here to the river. But I was wrong. Now for the facts.

After fighting for five days and nights with but two days' rations before Vicksburg, after skirmishing, charging, displaying in line and again in mass, standing picket, supporting batteries, building breastworks for ourselves and charging a thousand of the Enemy, in short after five days of the most laborious, hazardous & terrible hardships and privations when we expected relief we received an Order to get ready to march in an hour

How is that? Well Stephens who
is known as a careful, brave and
discreet General who is always sent
with his fighting Division to the
most difficult places was Ordered
here in consequence of news being re-
ceived that the Rebel General Joe
Johnston was advancing on our
Rear with a force of fifteen thou-
sand. Well here we are eleven miles from
the Battle field and in fact I feel
relieved, I was almost tired of
hearing the incessant roar of the
hundreds of Cannons & Mortars, the
rattling of musketry which latter
never ceased for a minute the five
days and the fumes never stop.
I feel angry for the last five days
or night. You are perhaps anxious
to know how it stands with Dick-
son. Well we have it perfectly sur-
rounded we are close up to their
works on every side, but their
works are almost impregnable
besides being so situated that
you can not approach one of
their numerous forts without
going over ravines, abattis, fallen
timber & every hindrance possible.

We have charged every fort and were repulsed with fearful losses every time we had possession of two forts but could not hold them. The Idea of charging flesh and blood against all the immolated obstacles and heaps of dirt and a concealed Enemy is about played out and in fact as needless as it is unprofitable.

We are so situated that Vicksburg must fall shortly with all the force therein contained, provided our Government will keep its forces elsewhere engaging the Enemy in such a shape that he can not take away one of his Armies from the front of Rosecrans, Hooker, Hunter or otherwise, Vicksburg and its powerful Army captured and held in the South West is gone up. General Grant has shown in this Campaign more time, gay, daring, bold and strategic military skill than has been displayed by all the Generals combined since the Rebellion broke out. He deceived the Enemy all the time, they as well as many of the Generals in his Army knew not

not what he was a going to do
untill he whipped the enemy at
five dif. points and had his
whole Army surrounding Vick-
burg and if no unforeseen event
Vic. Kirby will soon be ours.

It seems like Sunday to
us, to be without the continual
whizzing of bullets & bursting of
shells but how long we may be
permitted to enjoy this pleasant
quietude God only knows, if
Johnston advances as he has for
two days past, he will be on us by
to morrow noon. My Regiment
has been extremely fortunate
thank God. Since we landed
on the Mis. shore and in all
the fights I have only lost
33 in killed and wounded and
perhaps 10 or prisoners, among
the latter two of my best officers,
Capt. Eberhart & Lieut Wallace

As for myself I feel in good spirits
I have already wrote to you that I
was struck by a piece of shell on my
knee cap it knocked the skin and
bruised the flesh and bone a little
but I never left the field and have
not been off duty on account in a
few days I will be all right, I can
feel it in walking now.

My Regt. was in two charges, in
the first our General Lee had es-
caped kept on my immediate
right, it was a fearful charge and
never in my life did I see shell
crash & fly thicked, but I was
in front of my Regt. ^{and the flight} and the
whole charging column, General
Lee on the field and in the hottest
came to me and said, by God
"I will give you a man after
"my own heart and your Regt.
"stands like a rock, Ay the
"line is as straight as an
"parade, take a drink with me.
"Don't you think I felt bully?
My boys will follow me anywhere

I have it so now that I can go in
as cool as on Battalion Drill, every
thing must be learned and I really
think I had a good School!

It is no science in my estimation
to send a lot of men in a hot
place where they will get wiped up
and frequently slaughtered and then
have a big list of killed and wounded
and make a big fuss while the
Commander is admiring the bravery
of his men at a distance, but
it is a pretty and difficult study
to lead your men carefully into
dangerous places and do the
most damage to the Enemy and
least to yourself, the latter I am
endeavoring to study and I
believe that at last I am
favored with a little consolation
in knowing that in this Army
I have the reputation of being some-
what of an apt Scholar!

My Sgt. Major, a very nice
young man by the name of
McCoy had his shoulder badly
shattered by a shell, Sgt
Waters of Co D a splendid young
man had the socket of his

his shoulder knocked & afterwards
taken out by the Surgeon.

By the way Dr Pomereoy of
our County is our Medical Director
and by the way with the exception
of Wright the best man I ever saw
for the place, he is a great friend of
mine. My three Surgeons are Excel-
lent men, the Surgeons name is
Stanton a Son of old Doctor Stanton
of Salem, he is a splendid man
he is one of the Division Operating
Surgeons. The two Assistants

Hammond & Stuffed are very good
men. As soon as Chickabong falls
I mean to go home and I do
not believe you can imagine
how much I long to see you all
if it were not for your business
I do not know what to do.

As for resigning dear Caroline I
do not feel that I can as long
as our Country needs my services
for the suppression of this un-
happy and wicked rebellion, I am
not in favor of settling this until
the miserable cursed that would
ruin our beloved Country are
thoroughly convinced of their error

and completely whipped, it makes
but little difference to me whether
the Holmes County Republican or
democratic party give me Credit
for anything, you can feel perfectly
easy as that score for I do also,
one thing is certain, that my fighting
in this War, will leave an inheritance
to my beloved Children, of more
value than all the Gold in India.
I hope to live to see the day when
my boys will point with pride
to their fathers history during his
Country's Trouble. If this War
should come to a close soon and the
Reb. whipped, God knows I would
love it, for I long for home with
all its blessings and I think I
ought to be at home & assist in raising
my Children. If they consolidate Regts
into Companies in charge of the Lt
Col as per Order of the War Department
then they will muster Col out of
service, then I could go home
honorable for my Country would
not need my service, any longer
I understand that will be done.

and I think it would be a good plan and would save the Gov^t a great deal of money. For many of the Regts have not over four Companies in it & there is no use of having so many Officers and paying them.

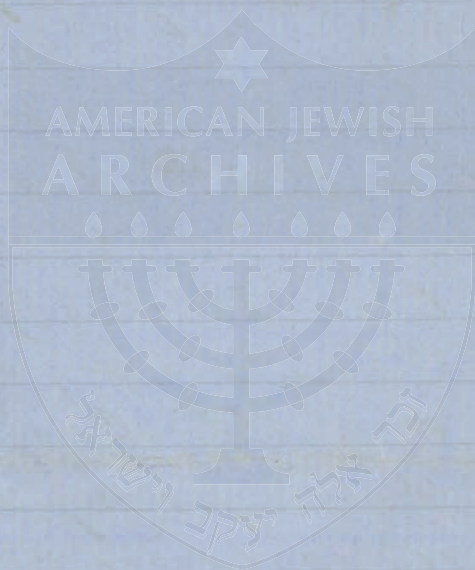
Give my love to all my friends
Tell Hamlin that I still have the two ponies for him, yet I may perhaps give the mare pony to Charley in Chicago, the mare pony will have a little Colt soon, but "Billy" the Horn pony is the prettiest

I will also bring something for my Lizzie, Mosey and Katy.

I must hurry the mail goes out. I have not seen Uncle Jerry yet and know not where he is!

God bless you and preserve you
is the prayer of your true loving
(over) husband
my love to Elizabeth & M Marcus

My boys alone, have fired off in
the five days before Vicksburg
(48000) forty eight thousand
cartridges, so you can think
the whole Army must make a
great deal of noise



Hd. Qrs. 120th in the field near
R.R. Bridge Big Black River Mis.

May 25/63

My dear good & kind Wife!

You will see by the above that the whereabouts and plans of a soldier are frequently as uncertain as his life is insecure. When last (two days ago) I wrote to you a few hasty penciled lines from the front in the Battlefield of Vicksburg, I surely thought that my next one would more apt to be written in Vicksburg, than 15 mile back here to the rear. But such is war. Now for the facts.

After fighting for five days and nights with but two days rations before Vicksburg; after skirmishing, charging, deploying in line and again in mass, standing picket, supporting batteries, building Breastworks for ourselves and charging at those of the enemy; in short after five days of the most laborious, hazardous & terrible hardship and privations, when we expected relieve, we received an Order to get ready to march in an hour.

How is that? Well, Osterhaus who is known as a careful, brave and discreed General who is always sent with his fighting Division to the most dificult places, was Ordered out here in consequence of news being received that the Rebel General Joe Johnston was advancing on our Rear with a force of

fifteen thousand. Well, here we are eleven miles from the Battle field and in fact I feel relieved; I was almost tired of hearing the incessant roar of the hundreds of Canons & Mortars, the rattling of musketry, which latter never ceased for a minute the five days and the former never stopped any for the last five days or nights. You are perhaps anxious to know how it stands with Vicksburg. Well we have it perfectly surrounded; we are close up to their works on every side, but their works are almost impregnable besides being so situated that you can not approach one of their numerous forts without going over ravines, abattis, fallen timber & every hindrance possible.

We have charged every fort and were repulsed with fearful losses every time; we had possession of two forts but could not hold them. The Idea of charging flesh and blood against all the enumerated obstacles and heaps of dirt and a concealed enemy is about played out and in fact as needless as it is unpropitious.

We are so situated that Vicksburg must fall shortly with all the force therein contained, providing our Government will keep its forces elsewhere engaging the Enemy in such shape that he can not take away one of his Armies from the front of Rosencranz, Hooker, Hunter or otherwise. Vicksburg and its powerful Army captured and Secessia in the South West is gone

up. General Grant has shown in this campaign more true, gay, dashing, bold and strategic military skill than has been displayed by all the Generals combined since the Rebellion broke out. He deceived the Enemy all the time; they as well as many of the Generals in his Army knew not what he was going to do until he whipped the Enemy at five different points and had his whole Army surrounding Vicksburg and, if no unforeseen event Vicksburg will soon be ours.

It seems like Sunday to us, to be without the continual whizzing of bullets & bursting of shells but how long we may be permitted to enjoy this pleasant quietude, God only knows. If Johnston advances as he has for two days past, he will be on us by tomorrow noon. My Regiment has been extremely fortunate thank God. Since we landed on the Mis[sissippi] Shore and in all the fights, I have only lost 33 in killed and wounded and perhaps 10 as prisoners, among the latter two of my best Officers, Capt Eberhart & Lieut Wallace.

As for myself I feel in good spirits. I have already wrote to you that I was struck by a piece of shell on my kneecap. It knocked the skin and bruised the flesh and bone a little but I never left the field and have not been off duty on [its] account. In a few days I will be all right, scarcely feel it in walking now.

My Regt was in two charges. In the first one General

Lee lead us and kept on my immediate right; it was a fearful charge and never in my life did I see shell, crape [grape] & fly thicker but I was in front of my Regt and the Regt [was in front of] the whole charging column. General Lee on the field and in the hottest came to me and said, "by G-d Spiegel, you are a man after my own heart and your Regt stands like a Rock; Aye the line is as straight as on Dress parade; take a drink with me."

Dont you think I felt bully? My boys will follow me anywheres. I have it so now that I can go in as cool as on Battalion Drill; everything must be learned and I really think I had a good School!

It is no Science in my estimation to send a lot of men in a hot place where they will get mixed up and frequently slaughtered and then have a big list of killed and wounded and make a big fuss while the Commander is admiring the bravery of his men at a distance, but it is a pretty and dificult study to lead your men carefully into dangerous places and do the most damage to the Enemy and least to yourself; the latter I am endeavoring to study and I believe that at least I am favored with a little consolation in knowing that in this Army I have the reputation of being somewhat of an apt Scholar.

My Sergt. Major, a very nice young man by the name of

McCay, had his shoulder badly shattered by a shell; Sergt Waters of Co D, a splendid young man, had the socket of his shoulder knocked & afterwards taken out by the Surgeon.

By the way Dr. Pomerene of our County is our Medical Director and by the way with the exception of Ebright the best man I ever saw for the place; he is a great friend of mine. My three Surgeons are excellent men; the Surgeons name is Stanton, a Son of old Doctor Stanton of Salem; he is a splendid man; he is one of the Division operating Surgeons. The two assistants, Hammond & Stouffer, are very good men. As soon as Vicksburg falls I mean to go home and I do not believe you can imagine how much I long to see you all; if it were not for your likenesses I do not know what to do.

As for resigning dear Caroline, I do not feel that I can as long as my Country needs my services for the suppression of this unholy and wicked rebellion. I am not in favor of settling this untill the miserable cusses that would ruin our beloved Country are thoroughly convinced of their error and completely whipped. It makes but little difference to me whether the Holmes County Republican or democratic party give me credit for anything; you can feel perfectly easy on that score, for I do also. One thing is certain, that my fighting in this War will leave an inheritance to my beloved children of more value then all the Gold in India. I hope to live to

see the day when my boys will point with pride to their father's history during his country's trouble. If this War should come to a close soon and the Rebs whipped, God knows I would love it, for I long for home with all its blessings and I think I ought to be at home & assist in raising my children. If they consolidate Regts into companies in charge of the Lt Col as per Order of the War Department, then they will muster Cols out of service. Then I could go home honorable, for my Country would not need my services any longer. I understand that will be done and I think it would be a good plan and would save the Govt a great deal of money. For many of the Regts have not over four Companies in it & there is no use of having so many Officers and paying them.

Give my love to all my friends. Tell Hamlin that I still have the two ponies for him, yet I may perhaps give the mare pony to Charley in Chicago, the mare ponies for him, yet I may perhaps give the mare poney to Charley in Chicago, the mare pony will have a little colt soon, but "Billy" the horse pony is the prettiest.

I will also bring something for my Lizzie, Mosey and Hatty.

I must hurry the mall goes out. I have not seen Uncle Josey yet and know not where he is.

God bless from you and preserve you is the prayer of your true & loving husband

Marcus

My love to Elizabeth & M

My boys alone have fired off in the five days before
Vicksburg (48,000) forty-eight thousand cartridges, so you
can think the whole Army must make a great deal of noise.



^{my} Hd qrs 1200th O.D. S near R. R
Bridge Big Black River Miss
May 25/63

My dear dear wife

This morning I was expected
by yet never the less with great joy re-
ceived your kind letter of May 9th
which I will first answer in detail
though I have but this morning
written to you. In the first place
you say you have not rec^d a letter
from me since April 6th & that I
write to everybody else & except to
you. Now my dear let me tell you
that I have written regular to
you & except in the week when I ex-
pected uncle Joesy home daily
and learn from him whether you left
Chicago, whether he gave you money
whether he paid Guthman &c
but without seeing him we were
ordered to march and I addressed
your letters to Chicago.

About the sending of the money to
inos, is simply like this: I rec^d
some money from the boys to

to send to Ews, Ews knew then we
rec^d. 4 months pay and not knowing
where you was and whether you had
received any money from Josey or
not, I could not send money to
Mr Ews without paying him that
old debt. I then send him \$300
I had nearly \$375 left which I gave
to Jim Skinner when we were ordered
to march expecting shortly to hear from
you through Josey, not knowing where you
was. Since then I have not seen
Josey in the meantime some one
paid me \$250 belonging to the
Regt and in time when we were
daily in battle, a gentleman from
Wayne Co came here and I sent
the \$250 to Regt to give to you
without a letter or any thing
else, expecting to refund the money
to the Regt as soon as I much
Jim Skinner or Jo. You may give it
to Cohn or anybody else you
please. The Govt now owes me
\$575 most of which I expect soon
as for me making much. I am now
getting \$192 pr month my expense
are not twelve Dollars pr mo

I can assure you that I am living as
saving as I possibly can, any doubts
expressed by you to the contrary not
withstanding. I am spending no money
for anything. While on the River and
in Covington & Memphis our expenses
were heavy, but for the last 4 months
I do not believe I spend \$75 altogether.

As for Uncle Jozey I expect they have
cleared over four thousand Dollars
in cash since they commenced
I think that is almost as well
as he might have done at home.

I mean to make Uncle Jozey and
his partners pay the \$500 to Henry
& the \$500 to Wm. & Steinbacher.

As for my coming home, as I told
you this morning as soon as Vicksburg
falls I will apply for a leave and now
man in God Almighty's world can
be more anxious to see his dear family
than I. Even if you do scold me every
time you have the blues. During all
the hardships we are living well, our
mess fares better I think than any
mess in this Corps, it consists of
Lt Col. Major. Adjutant. Quarter
Master. Surgeon and two Assistant
Surgeons and myself.

We have two of the best boys to work
and forage for us in the whole
Army and driving a Battle
now matter how dangerous our
position one of them will hunt
us at meal time and bring us
something to eat.

I am really glad you have a fresh
cow for of late I am nearly
crazy for Bread & milk, we
still have one good cow, but too
many in the mess to get much
milk. I send you an abstract
of a paper that (the only paper)
used to pitch into me. Don't you
think he comes under nice?

I do not see what produced the
change. Every thing is quite to
day. We have a large tent in
which we all stop. The boys have
a lot of tents we got from the
rebs that we drove out.

Ever your true & loving Marcus
My love to Hamlin, Lizzie, Morsey
& Mattie & Elizabeth.

Hd qrs 120th O.V.I. near R.R.

Bridge Big Black River Mis.

May 25/63

My dear dear Wife

This morning I unexpectedly yet nevertheless with great joy received your kind letter of May 9th which I will first answer in detail, though I have but this morning written to you. In the first place you say you have not recd a letter from me since April 6th & that I write to everybody else except to you. Now my dear, let me tell you that I have written regular to you except in the week when I expected Uncle Josey home daily and [to] learn from him whether you left Chicago, whether he gave you money, whether he paid Guthman &c, but without seeing him we were ordered to march and I addressed your letters to Chicago.

About the sending of the money to Enos, is simply like this: I received some money from the boys to send to Enos; Enos knew then we recd 4 months pay and not knowing where you was and whether you had received any money from Josey or not, I could not send money to Mr. Enos without paying him that old debt. I then sent him \$300. I had nearly \$375 left which I gave to Sinsheimer when we were ordered to march, expecting shortly to hear from you through Josey, not knowing where you was. Since then I have not seen Josey. In the

meantime some one paid me \$250 belonging to the Regt and in time when we were daily in battle, a Gentleman from Wayne Co[unty] came here and I sent the \$250 to Rex to give to you without a letter or anything else, expecting to refund the money to the Regt as soon as I meet Sinsheimer or Jo. You may give it to Cohn or anybody else you please. The Govt now owes me \$575, most of which I expect soon. As for me making much, I am now getting \$192 per month; my expenses are now twelve Dollars per month. I can assure you that I am living as saving as I possibly can, any doubts expressed by you to the contrary notwithstanding. I am spending no money for anything. While on the River and in Covington & Memphis our expenses were heavy, but for the last 4 months I do not believe I spent \$75 altogether.

As for Uncle Josey, I expect they have cleared four thousand Dollars in Cash since they commenced. I think that is almost as well as he might have done at home.

I mean to make Uncle Josey and his partner pay the \$500 to Henry Liebenstein & the \$500 to Weimer & Steinbacher.

As for my coming home, as I told you this morning, as soon as Vicksburg falls I will apply for a leave and no man in God Allmighty's world can be more anxious to see his dear family than I, even if you do scold me every time you have the blues. During all the hardships we are living

well; our mess fares better I think than any mess in this Corps. It consists of Lt Col. Major. Adjutant. Quarter Master. Surgeon and two Assistant Surgeons, and myself. We have two of the best boys to cook and forage for us in the whole Army and during a Battle, no matter how dangerous our position, one of them will hunt us at meal time and bring us something to eat.

I am really glad you have a fresh cow, for of late I am nearly crazy for Bread & milk; we still have one good cow, but too many in the mess to get much milk. I send you an abstract of a paper that (the only paper) used to pitch into me. Dont you think he comes under nice? I do not see what produced the change. Every thing is quiet to day. We have a large tent in which we all stop. The boys have a lot of Tents we got from the Rebs that we drove out.

Ever your true & loving

Marcus

My love to Hamlin, Lizzie, Mosey & Hattie & Elizabeth

Mr. Ad. G. No. 420th O. V. I. In the field
Big. Black. Bridge Min. May 31/63

My dear dear Wife.

To days mail brought me
24 letters from diff sources all very
agreeable but none so relishingly pleasing
as your sweet letter of the 17th, I also
received one from you to day send by
Mr Lemmon. — We are still in the
same place as when I last wrote to you
a very quiet place where we hear the
the cannonading of our folks at Vicksburg
Day and night. I am hale and hearty
and in excellent spirits, have nothing
to wish for if it were not that I feel
as though I must some times just
run off see you & the dear Children
& then I get that dear picture &
feel as well as I can. You may feel
perfectly easy as far as my dear little
Hattie is concerned as I feel just
as well towards her as I do towards
any of them, I often picture her sweet
face before my imagination & I do
really wish I had her profile

I would very much wish, if you would write me a little more encouraging as to my military career, but I know you write as you feel at the time you write. & although you say in every letter resign &c I am nevertheless satisfied that you feel as proud in my achievements and as I do and I am satisfied that in your heart you do not now want me to resign, when you know that resignation is "disgrace" unless a man is sick; which thank God I am not.

Carry my love, my heart and soul are in the cause, though I make no blow, though I write no letters for popularity, though I say it but to you, yet I am as satisfied as I am that "God liveth" that our cause is just and that as an honorable man I must stay in the service as long as my Country needs me and while I can send my dear family on by an honest and honorable name, then by being a stain on my name in forsaking my Country and her flag just then when she needs me and when by my Experience and influence I can do her some service.

There is a balance due me by Erns
Brown & Co of forty six Dollars & forty three
cts \$46 43/100 which I ordered them to
pay over to you whenever you call for
it. I sent you \$250 by a Mr Conyman
of Wooster without a letter expect you
have received it. I have not yet seen
Joseph and do not know where he is
but expect he is doing bully business
along the river. I received a letter
from Henry Herzog & Col French they
would like to go into business here!

~~As soon as~~ as Vicksburg falls, I expect
to start for home & expect to stay
with you quite awhile. go to Union
town Lima &c with you. My Charley
is quite sick he has the "scowens"
if he lives till I go home I will bring
him along and leave him till fall!

I send you a copy of my reports
of the late Battles which is a very
correct history of my doings, hope
you will find them interesting enough
to get read them, let John & Ebricht
read them and if Edill will not pub-
lish them, tell Ebricht to have them
published in the Republican

I hope and trust to God that you will all feel well when I come home for I have made up my mind to enjoy myself so well and entirely within my dear family circle so I do not intend mixing with public affairs. Tell my big son Hamlin that his little Billy looks very well and that I have a very nice little saddle for him. Tell my daughter Lizzie that I will bring her something nice and tell my daughter-in-law Morsey that I bring him something very pretty & tell my sweet little Hattie she must learn to say "Pa" before I come and get her used to my picture. Give my respects to Elizabeth & to all the friends.

Ever yours true & loving

12th Oct 1862
9th Division, 13th Army Corps
near Nicksbury
W. A. R. C.

Hd. qrs 120th O.V.I. In the field

Big Black Bridge Mis.

May 31/63

My dear dear Wife.

To days mail brought me 24 letters from different sources all very agreeable but none so refreshingly pleasing as your sweet letter of the 17th I also received one from you to day sent by Mr. Lemmon._____ We are still in the same place as when I last wrote to you, a very quiet place where we hear the cannonading of our folks at Vicksburg Day and night. I am hale and hearty and in Excellent spirits, have nothing to wish for if it were not that I feel as though I must some times just run off [to] see you & the dear children & then I get [out] that dear picture & feel as well as I can. You may feel perfectly easy as far as my dear little Hattie is concerned, as I feel just as well towards her as I do towards any of them; I often picture her sweet face before my imagination & I do really wish I had her profile.

I would very much wish, if you would write me a little more incoraging as to my military career, but I know you write as you feel at the time you write & allthough you say in every letter resign &c I am nevertheless satisfied that you feel as proud in my achievements and as I do and I am

satisfied that in your heart you do not now want me to resign, when you know that resignation is "disgrace" unless a man is sick, which thank God I am not.

Cary my love, my heart and soul are in the cause, though I make no blow, though I write no letters for popularity, though I say it but to you, yet I am satisfied as I am that "God liveth" that our cause is just and that as an honorable man I must stay in the service as long as my Country needs me and while I can serve my dear family more by an honest and honorable name then by leaving a stain on my name in forsaking my Country and her flag, just then when she needs me and when by my experience and influence I can do her some service.

There is a balance due me by Enos Brown & Co of forty Six Dollars & forty three cts, \$46 43/100, which I ordered them to pay over to you whenever you call for it. I send you \$250 by a Mr. Caufman of Wooster without a letter, expect you have received it. I have not yet seen Joseph and do not know where he is but expect he is doing bully business along the river. I received a letter from Henry Herzer and Col French; they would like to go into business here.

As soon as Vicksburg falls, I expect to start for home & expect to stay with you quite awhile, go to Uniontown, Lima

&c with you. My Charley is quite sick; he has the "scowess" [scours]. If he lives till I go home I will bring him along and leave him till fall.

I sent you a Copy of my reports of the late Battles which is a very correct history of my doings; hope you will find them interesting enough to read them. Let Cohn & Ebright read them and if Estill will not publish them, tell Ebright to have them published in the Republican.

I hope and trust to God that you will all feel well when I come home for I have made up my mind to enjoy myself so well and entirely within my dear family circle as I do not intend mixing with public affairs. Tell my big son Hamlin that his little Billy looks very well and that I have a very nice little saddle for him. Tell my daughter Lizzie that I will bring her something nice and tell my big son Mosey that I bring him something very pretty & tell my sweet little Hattie she must learn to say "pa" before I come and get her used to my pictures.

Give my respects to Elizabeth & to all the friends

Ever you true & loving

Marcus

120th O.V.I.

9th Division 13th Army Corps

Near Vicksburg

Pirah.

(3)

My dear dear Cary!

When you see Ems & talk about the money tell him if he wants to read part of my letter he may, you know it would please him. I really did not think of writing for anybody's eye but yours. I just now looked over it & am satisfied that I'd bet would do Ems a great deal of good. Tell him he need not say much about as I do not want you troubled though I mean to come out public when I come home. Also show him Bank's General Order No. 23.

I love you my dear my sweet wife and have a chance to show it some time I hope

Ever yours
Walter

I send this letter by one of my men. The Copy of the military history of the Officers of the 120th I want you to preserve for me, take good care of it.

Private!

My dear dear Cary!

When you see Enos & talk about the money tell him if he wants to read part of my letter he may, you know it would please him. I really dit not think of writing for anybody's eyes but yours. I just now looked over it & am satisfied that 2nd sheet would do Dr. Enos a great deal of good. Tell him he need not say much about as I do not want you troubled through I mean to come out public when I come home. I also how him Banks General Order No. 23.

I love my dear my sweet Wife and have a chance to show it some time I hope.

Ever yours

Marcus

I send this letter by one of my men. The copy of the military history of the officers of the 120th I want you to preserve for me, take good care of it.