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

1863 June

For more information on this collection, please see the catalog record on the American Jewish Archives website.

He grs 120th O.V. I in the field hear Big 13lack Mis June 3/63 Iny dead good Wife! I have fust heard that a mail was to leave here at Rived and from there worth. In a falf an hom we are acdered to have Brigade Ossa Huetran of and La lyon will Much I have but little time to Write. Jet if I merely lay to you that I am at the sum place I write you from last and that I am well and Rypionsly Waiting for biells long to face in thet I want thome, day that diget aux as chearty as Ever, Day to you that O love you more than Ene. and Day to you that I am longing for the time to see after Embrace you acced fee my beloved Children I think it will at least be some Patisfaction. le au funt near Euron to Read the Cerrific Caucin Osetheny day and might. dough from that some

et We do not know how Jour WE may Effect Some from hew of one brond inamuch as gent Johnston is this afternoon positively reported to com Ithis way to all we can only prevent win foremen Jat Vicksburg WE con take the troop wit all is yampan. This Carry has had the most brilliant Chain of tuckepes of any Chryle Dince the beginning If the Many got the duming Wieton would only their tuken of ticksthere is heard Joseph was in The him for over two months Alfen Jonn tim Herring Rif the clear Children my love to Elizabeth an. Hd. qrs  $120^{\text{th}}$  O.V.I. in the field near Big Black Mis. June 3/63

My dear good wife!

I have just heard that a mail was to leave here at 6 o'clock this Evening for the River and from there North.

In a half an hour we are ordered to have Brigade

Inspection of Arms so you will know I have but little

time to write. Yet if I merely say to you that I am at the

same place I wrote you from last and that I am well and

anxiously waiting for Vicksburg to fall in order that I can

start home, say that as yet II am as hearty as ever, say

to you that I love you more than ever and say to you

that I am longing for the time to see and embrace you

and see my beloved Children, I think it will at least

be some satisfaction.

We are just near enough to hear the terrific cannonading of our folks at Vicksburg day and night without being in any danger from that source. Yet we do not know how soon we may expect some fun here of our own inasmuch as Genl Johnston is this afternoon positively reported to come this way. If we can only prevent reinforcements from reaching the Rebels at Vicksburg, we can take the town with all its Garrison. This Army has had the most brilliant chain of Successes of any Army

since the beginning of the War, yet the crowning Victory would only then be won if Vicksburg is taken. I have to day heard Joseph was in St. Louis, I have not seen him for over two months; hope to see him soon.

The assembly sounds.

Adjeu

Your true & loving husband

Marcus

Kiss the dear children.

My love to Elizabeth and all friends.

Hel gro 120th O.D. I June 6/63 My dear dear Wife! Il have been oved on a Visit to year Osterhamo, where with theer Genner Gintlemed who frost came from It Louis we had a pleasant land happy time by a glass of Wine. Val any aminal house I found your Wind letter the Omeclest one yand Ever worke fund by It loss and also the one willen the 25th Gad bless you any love, you do not know how good it malle. me feel to read your letters, I am De your in Every sentence, just you fust as you are and feet as de love your. I am well and in wall friends as yet our have not lablen Vicksburg werther have we been attackleb by Jos Johnston yet for both Events to take The

Of is now Conceeded that Wickshing carrenly be tablen by regular appropriates, we are Most en then 15 yands of wine of their forts, eve an glining On thein daily and pouring that, thell of tape alway their Juno day and night. Wiellshing is as slowing as Sebastopol but it sunt full be if it fulls beat grant I Gent Grunt that shown. In his take Campayne un Strately There has been theren in this War. Os soon as viels have of above and feel Ine hand a big time? hey? WE are still at the dune place I wrote to you from last. Dan werving about twenty fine letters Every mais Every body congratulates one and seems to be proud to call me freend

Of to emp planes for the falure I have how alle than to line for your make you happy & Vrain am beloand Children as We anght to I can I am now Jeving my beloved Country I will live for my family and are bay named Frank "and and dark Foul called Wete & the two points. Charley and the poures devill bring horne, the man fore is first the thing for your to side, the will have a Colf which we will raise then your may give it to Charley in Il most feet, on my life as De do non when I thenthey going home it flems that Every July and Shark of life Com contrates to that one faler Well Cohn Dwill coupe hind a long letter toming it along, I real his letter weed was Had of his foul advice

Of is awful hot here for and two wells of do not believe the Theunomda has been under 90 degrees in the Shade, I have and right in front of my link brule a heartiful Shade true Well my beloved Children that they will soon se their Pa Pa & tell them I love Them more than any la in the world & tell them tole Very Very food Chi Chen My love to Elizabeth & Cohn of anyly specials Quemain as Ever your time clooning Marcus for the first time in my line dist Jou your arturs on a letter bully continue toda ser

My dear dear Wife!

I have been over on a visit to Genl Osterhaus, where with three German Gentlemen who first came from St Louis we had a pleasant and happy time by a glass of wine. In my arrival home I found your kind letter the sweetest one you ever wrote send by Lt Voris and also the one written the 25<sup>th</sup>.

God bless you my love, you do not know how good it makes me feel to read your letters, I can see you in every sentence, just as you are and feel, I can see you first as you are and just as I love you.

I am well and in good spirits. As yet we have not taken Vicksburg, neither have we been attacked by Jos. Johnston, yet we are alternativly looking for both Events to take place daily. It is now conceeded that Vicksburg can only be taken by regular approaches, we are now within 15 yards of some of their forts, we are gaining on them daily and pouring shot, shell & Grape [illegible] from more than two hundred Guns day and night.

Vicksburg is as strong as Sebastopol but it must fall & if it falls Genl Grant will be the greatest General of the Age. If it falls or not Genl Grant has shown in his late Campayne war strategy than has been shown in this War. As soon as Vicksburg falls I will try for a leave of absence and feel sure of getting one & then would we have a big time? hey?

We are still at the same place I wrote to you from last. I am receiving about twenty five letters every mail Everybody congratulated me and seems to be proud to call me friend.

As to my plans for the future I have none other than to live for you make you happy & raise our beloved Children as we ought to & can, I am now serving my beloved Country & as soon as that is done I will live for my family only.

I have now my Charley one boy named "Frank" and one dark Sorrel called Pete & two ponies. Charley and the ponies I will bring home, the mare pony is just the thing for you to ride, she will have a Colt which we will raise & then you may give it to Charley in Chicago.

I never felt in my life as I do now when I think of going home it seems that every joy and spark of life concentrates to that one Idea.

Tell Cohn I will write him long letter & bring it along, I recd his letter and was glad of his good advice. It is awful hot here for over two weeks I do not believe the Thermometer has been under 90 degrees in the Shade, I have one right in front of my tent under a beautiful shade tree. Tell my beloved Children that they will soon see their PaPa & tell them I love them more than any Pa in the world & tell them to be very very good Children.

My love to Elizabeth & Cohn & family & friends.

I remain as ever

Your true & loving

Marcus

for the first time in my live did I see your address on a letter bully continue to do so



sear Big. Black Illies June 7/63 My dear dear Wije! Of is nearly one year pines I was called upon to witness the fourth birth of our heloved and I blooming offering. Well do I remem ber your enfferings, as if it were but a moment age, do de punushe, the heroic and womenly like de meanor and the loving and con fiding looks & received from you down all your labour the Jay We both felt when the lively and pretty Hattie was presented by my dear mother who at once I pronounced her the plough Bind das die woch geschen hat" allow me to congratulate you on her first, birth day mare God on heavenly Father grant that we may live to see many many of them in prace, low and happines. May it please God to give us many happy day with our Children, so that we

may paine their and Ornament to Him and an Emblation to His teachnigs. Of world love to be with you to might, I know and feel you are just now thinking of me, but we will hank to wait awhile thusting that Weekshing will soon fall. Your well for and that of our beloved Children 10 remain, to the best and lovelrist thise in the warld Il time and looning prospand Maccellon Tout don't How how homeh o Brother Joseph is in It Louis have not yet seen him

Hd qrs 120<sup>th</sup> O.V.I. In the field

Near Big Black Miss June 7/63

My dear dear Wife!

It is nearly one year since I was called upon to witness the fourth birth of our beloved and blooming offspring. Well do I remember your sufferings, as if it were but a moment ago, do I remember the heroic and womanly like demeanor and the loving and confiding looks I received from you, during all your labor & the joy we both felt when the lovely and pretty Hattie was presented by my dear mother, who at once pronounced her the "schönste Kind, das Sie noch gesehen hat" [German translates to the "prettiest child that she has ever seen"].

Allow me to congratulate you on her first "birth day" may God our heavenly Father grant that we may live to see many many of them in peace, love and happiness. May it please God to give us many happy days with our Children, so that we may raise them an ornament to Him and an Emulation to His teachings.

I would love to be with you to night, I know and feel you are just now thinking of me, but we will have to wait awhile, trusting that Vicksburg will soon fall.

With hearty prayers for Your wellfar and that of our beloved Children I remain, to the best and loveliest Wife in the world

A true and loving husband

Marcus

You don't know how much I love you.

Brother Joseph is in St Louis have not yet seen him



min Hally 1205 Que for My dear dear Phys Moved about line miles petinte Carping lead of Black Cook W very fretty place to the words hear Clour Crouple is you will ache Magandent but the 130th is the but a uniter tacent town out other and to come here aire & aunto gets come and of the This with. Thos on will borne for from and thought best to wisher for the to your there is nothing hen twhile to want the Caroling thundering from ful and I wall hope that we will get to tom men of they for days of and wastl and fearly for three wights hast night and Leneral Comes dans Elek might charm apen Bulle line, but tomal and and inter apoll Hubble & Continue parties I Cartan Mayer of my begg Martest for him to day he lines man wordle ; is a very mice tentlemen And of my warment friends, he a visit as soon as he came house with the large, bexer & in well for

my take, you will little thing I am as from as the dethy is to come home and colonate to thent as happe a time god willing, with my dear wife and Children, as day My health is very grant though I do not like the hot weather how gente as well as I wight The heat is never under 88 dances and often as high as 92 in the trade, to day we had a very good sand. Your most remember I that I have to come home on a sick & bower and of comed a do not - geel quite la well. De hand a goot deat of trouble with those beits and about Every too tout and some theres Every wall The Out Capt Moffet with tell you all the more De april 20 any ions to see you that I can securely to inte any thing it reems like the years der you book like a your July your by you all your time and I saw It Horizo he knew worthway want four

My dear dear Wife!

We have again moved about two miles from our camping place at Black Creek [to] a very pretty place in the woods near Clear Creek. As yet no other Regiment but the 120th is there but I understand several others are to come here and I am to get command of the Brigade.

Thomas Orr will leave for home and I thought best to write a few lines to you. There is nothing new; while I write to you the cannons at Vicksburg, 5 miles from here, are thundering powerful and I still hope that we will get the town in a very few days. I am well and hearty. For three nights past our Regt lay on its Arms every night and several times during each night drawn up in Battle line, but turned out only small Rebel scouting parties.

Captain Moffit of my Regt started for home to day; he lives near Orrville, is a very nice Gentleman, one of my warmest friends. He promised me he would pay you a visit as soon as he came home with his wife; use him well for my sake. You will like him I am sure; he will tell you all about me.

I still intend to come home as soon as Vicksburg is taken and calculate to spend as happy a time, God willing, with my

dear wife and children as any man could have.

My health is very good though I do not like this hot weather here quite as well as I might. The heat is never under 88 degrees and often as high as 92 in the shade; to day we had a very good rain. You must remember that I have to come on a sick leave and of course I do not feel quite as well. I have a great deal of trouble with those boils, one about every two weeks and some times every week.

Thomas Orr & Captain Moffitt will tell you all the news.

AMERICAN JEWISH

I am so anxious to see you that I can scarcely write anything; it seems like ten years since I saw you. I expect to see you look like a young girl. Good bye. God bless you all.

Your true and loving husband,

Marcus

I saw Lt. Voris, he knew nothing about you.

Aleas freed Wis June 19/3 My dear dear Wife! Your Very Kind and good letter of the y to Quind yesterday and Il was happy in deed to learn all was well at Uny home " ! Whenever I hear that I am happy. I have nothing new, Vectobury is not talled yet, but we are Upproaching neared Every day. and they are doonned, too days ago devas in growt and also vent over our old field ever fought again, he furt came from Chicago. he is well. I been a double Bancel Thot Gmil, if you think her to Cohn man. It but Builman

by gones home an frats lefere, Er hat sich caput gesoffen" I am fearfull he will never fain as as gain, I buly hope he ma get horne stone. Ever Ever

Hd qrs 120th O.V.I.

Clear Creek Mis. June 19/63

My dear dear Wife!

Your very kind and good letter of the  $7^{\rm th}$  came yesterday and I was happy indeed to learn all was well at my home! Whenever I hear that I am happy.

I have nothing new. Vicksburg is not taken yet, but we are approaching nearer every day, and they are doomed, two days ago I was in front and also went over our old field we fought.

Uncle Josey is with us again, he just came from Chicago. He is well. I send a double Barrel Shot Gun, if you think best you may give it to Cohn.

I have a chance to send this letter by a man. Lt. Col

Beekmanis going home on sick leave <u>er hat sich caput gesoffen</u>

[he got very drunk] I am fearful he will never join us again, I only hope he may get home alive.

Ever Ever

Your

Marcus

Hel One 120th O. B. D Ding Black Miss frame 29/13 My dear dear Wife! Jose very good letter of the 9 th inst & rece three days hence and the pleasure of hearing of Jose the dead Children health and of recurring smeet lettle Hallie frieline, it indiscribable, the is loody indeed, and of come your will surt deem me want in daying So, more Esherially when I tell you that gind Osterhan Vereny bady Else that les ful says that she is the anty To Pa child I have Do you to, Christ, the Larks like one? God bless der & am forward of kei les I am of all my family bour hady that know my due the prolines and wood unto him, that - small not in individual and praise of all

The reason why of have not written for Several days, was simply owing to the fact that I had Expected Vicksbury to fall and go home but yesterday I was to the feart I lasked at all the position and I must confer that the place looks no neared taken then it dit when me left 5 weeks a guy allthough our falls are newer the any advantage I see is that we and gifel to hold them Eary and can use most of and force against Johnston, Thunds. go attack up. Energthing here loute at least Dates factionly for the Government, not so Ofcar for the the Eastern Minny and the people at home boking to briginged, where ene bear dates to the 23d of fear Lee is to much for Hooker, all on Generals Difficers and men feel so. Who bletan should have

that lung, Major General Theman, and any Officer and freshals the most accomplished Teneral in this dumy, told me a well ago , Mobilean is the only most that can meegyful cope with Lee " he knows cheep both from West Somt-auch understands their Calibre. Nat only that it lacks bad in that theny, but fundy negtron the Kennes of Holmes Co in the Papers (and also other places) their Jums to be a first to iesist the yourment and brung and a Coly ion, resulting In Wirit War at home I trebuy when I think of it, though of fear nothing from Camp etapoleon as it is dailed, yet the signs and had and I wish you men but of the County, If you can Lett the hound for \$ 1200 de To and I will agree to clear

of all Mortgages and when I come home you can home away They may have diffice in Willershney and Dounted mit bear the Idea of you having in a town where you would be in danger of Inffermy the breaks of War. Your need not Day any thing about me Daying that yet shill I do and care. 1 It is a chame, I can somely thinks of any thing else . I thought if lowing to Ament Octogons in the layal States for covil Offences and try then by Comt Martials but it is ten tours as had to resist the laws of the forement Inne I wrote to your last, en moved again, we are again near Jorg Black Bridge Close to the Wife Sits, We are donly lasting for Johnston to attach and if de does de will get a wann reception

Of consider Gratis Detuntion frederthe dad as against all the forces the · Oryederates Can hing in this heten of Country against him I Oth is anfully, hot herd, but we Mand it wie Rave not undeto do Jecht Standing Ficketsauch - that is much Earied in the former thad in Winter. We are at present more Exclude about Knowing Comy and the Aliens into Manyland and Pensylvania than WE are about bickshing, because the latters where to fall while Hooked feems in at meaning forition, let us trust to God for the best les for myself I am have and hang more was better, In Eating like a good fellow, though tering to talle it to cool les temphony dans My boys are tolerably well off

and fever Joseph has the tent at General Osterhamses Helen about 300 yards from her. Finhermed has a Vent about two miles from herd with the Jud Brigade of on Division, they are doing bully business. They have tatten in Seven thomand Dalles Since govery came with his new Stock they tell Every day from fine humbred to a thousand Dollar, for Cash, they will clear form thousand, Dollar on the last Glock if Johnston Stays array three days longer The Paymaster is here and will had us two mouth pay wafer days and then I will send you about three hundred Dollars again if he pays no 4 months of will then You Deven hundred. If God andy Djeans my health I think I begin to see bottom

I do hope my love that we every som so the time that we can line as people like us thould and wine and beloved Children becoming to their and in who love their as WE do . I have about made up my him never to commend hapines without Infricient means to carn, on whatever I do evilhant a deale weight hanging around my near if I can mort do it big, I will do it Ismall, but on my own Capital. Josey hopes to mothe a bont twenty thomand Dollar for him and finherine and their Shart a fine Dry Good bussing pil Chicago & Love one go in as Purher at these prospects ? Humbirt humb he a good Son & only wind he had his posices at home. I will give one to Charles yet dealentake to bring the two lefter

bage home They will made in My liggie must learn to will Househack you must make her a more long skirt and riding Hat What do you day Inggit? Or the a good Sint ? My Mosey hinst also leaves to toffe side to that he can side out with this paper. His Pa is very antivers to see hour big a bay he has got to her Unele Josey Speaks a great deal about Sim my little finest Hattie; a faretty and sweet child & Can hardly Quait autill Down take her in my aims their her Do Eliqueth on lane auch batty but not least by any means I never never yet did any and long to kear & see any one as deer West pumble Servant dering to see his dearest sweet thise

Big Black Miss June 29/63

My dear dear Wife!

Your very good letter of the 9th inst[ant] I recd three days hence and the pleasure of hearing of your & the dear Childrens health and of receiving sweet little Hattie's picture is indescribable. She is lovely indeed, and of course you will not deem me vain in saying so, more especially when I tell you that Genl Osterhaus & everybody else that sees her says that she is the only "Pa Pa Child" I have. Do you too think she looks like me? God bless her, I am proud of her as I am of all my family; everybody that knows me sees the picture and woe unto him, that speaks not in inspiration and praise of all. The reason why I have not written for several days was simply owing to the fact that I had expected "Vicksburg to fall" and go home, but yesterday I was to the front & looked at all the positions and I must confess that the place looks no nearer taken than it dit when we left 5 weeks ago allthough our folks are nearer, the only advantage I see is that we are fixed to hold them easy and can use most of our force against Johnston, should he attack us. Everything here looks at least satisfactorily for the Government; not so I fear with the Eastern Army and the people at home.

Looking to Virginia, where we have dates to the 23rd, I fear Lee is to[o] much for Hooker; all our Generals, Officers and men feel so. McClellan should have that Army. Major General Sherman, an Army Officer and perhaps the most accomplished General in this Army, told me a week ago, "McClellan is the only man that can successfully cope with Lee" he knows them both from West Point and understands their Calibre.

Not only that it looks bad in that Army, but judging from the Reports of Holmes Co in the Papers (and also other places), there seems to be a spirit to resist the Government and bring on a Collision, resulting in Civil War at home; I tremble when I think of it. Though I fear nothing from "Camp Napoleon" as it is called, yet the signs are bad and I wish you were out of the County. If you can sell the house for \$1200, do so and I will agree to clear off all Mortgages and when I come home you can move away. They may have difficulty in Millersburg and I could not bear the Idea of you living in a town where you would be in danger of suffering the trials of War. You need not say anything about me saying that, yet still I do not care. It is a shame. I can scarcely think of anything else. I think it wrong to arrest Citizens in the loyal States for Civil offences and try them by Court Martials but it

is ten times as bad to resist the laws of the Government.

Since I wrote to you last, we moved again; we are again near Big Black Bridge, close to the Rifle Pits. We are daily looking for Johnston to attack and if he does he will get a warm reception. I consider Grant's situation perfectly safe as against all the forces the Confederates can bring in this Section of Country against him.

It is awfully hot here, but we stand it; we have not much to do except standing Pickets and that is much easier in the Summer than in Winter. We are at present more excited about Hookers Army and the Raids into Maryland and Pensylvania than we are about Vicksburg, because the latter is sure to fall, while Hooker seems in a precarious position. Let us trust to God for the best.

As for myself I am hale and hearty, never was better, sweating like a good fellow, though trying to take it as cool as anybody dare.

My boys are tolerably well off, yet over fifty are having chills and fever. Joseph has his tent at General Osterhauses Hd qrs about 300 yards from here.

Sinsheimer has a Tent about two miles from here with the 2nd Brigade of our Division; they are doing bully business. They have taken in seven thousand Dollars since Josey came with his new Stock; they sell every day from

five hundred to a thousand Dollars for Cash; they will clear four thousand Dollars on this last Stock if Johnston stays away three days longer.

The Paymaster is here and will pay us two months pay in a few days and then I will send you about three hundred Dollars again; if he pays us 4 months I will send you seven hundred.

If God only spares my health I think I begin to see bottom. I do hope my love that we may soon see the time that we can live as people like us should and raise our beloved Children, becoming to them and us who love them as we do. I have about made up my mind never to commence business without sufficient means to carry on whatever I do without a dead weight hanging around my neck; if I can not do it big, I will do it small, but on my own Capital. Josey hopes to make about twenty thousand Dollars for him and Sinsheimer and then start a fine Dry Goods business in Chicago & have me go in as Partner.

How would you like to live in Chicago at these prospects?

Hamlin must be a good Son, I only wish he had his ponies at home. I will give one to Charley yet I calculate to bring the two little boys home. They will make a nice buggey team.

My Lizzie must learn to ride Horseback you must make her a nice long shirt and riding Hat. What do you say Lizzie? Is she a good Girl?

My Mosey must also learn to ride so that he can ride out with his papa. His Pa is very anxious to see how big a boy he has got to be. Uncle Josey speaks a great deal about him. My little sweet Hattie is a pretty and sweet Child, I can hardly await untill I can take her in my arms & kiss her. To Elizabeth my love and lastly but not least by any means I never never yet did any one long to hear & see any one as does your humble servant desire to see his dearest sweet Wife.

by your ever loving
Marcus

un les as e by dear, dear, good trips! I thought it would plane. you to fay a few woods to your private, though of really piron of nothing but the world sony know, every body may Know that I have the hest Evife in the world, long bady ought to there that The deserves and that I do love more every minute of my live, every body may Muson that our past-life has been and of imiles inpled Comfort and pleasure, though frequently have I had my have I forgot that I have the best wife in the carell

und endeasoned to use her as inch. I now willingly the Scibe to your doction that the more a man gets of certain things, the mod he wants, and and the other Ham if he has more and feels sakes the head thing in that whisty every linger on the to them the the diverses and that I do hor more avery month The said for the first the Jegmenty have I had any tordles get jurie & think have the horse the hard white in the world

Maria Ams An [Undated note without heading]

My dear, dear good Wife!

I thought it would please you to say a few words to you private, though I really know of nothing but the world may know. Every body may know that I have the best wife in the world; every body ought to know that she deserves to be and that I do love [her] more every minute of my live; every body may know that our past life has been one of uninterrupted comfort and pleasure; though frequently have I had my troubles, yet never I think have I forgot that I have the best Wife in the world, and endeavored to use her as such.

I now willingly subscribe to your doctrine that the more a man gets of certain things, the more he wants, and on the other hand if he has none and feels satisfied.

Private to

Mrs Spiegel