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AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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

1863 July

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American Jewish Archives website.

Ad no 120th O.V. I near
Big Black Miss July 1/63

My dear dear Wife.

I have written you a
letter a few days ago which you will
perhaps receive with this one inas-
much as this goes north with some
of my discharged boys.

Of news I know but little
I am still hale and hearty and
so is Brother Joseph Spenser
the latter will start for St Louis
in a few days. Joseph will go next
time when, he says, he will pay
you a visit at Millersburg.

Our situation is as it was
when last I wrote, we are forti-
fying and expecting the Rebels, to at-
tack us, which may happen in
a few days, the latest reports
say, that Johnston's Advance

is within five miles of us. His
Army is reported fifty thousand
strong, yet I feel confident if
he attacks us ~~we~~ we can
whip him. Vicksburg is not yet
taken, very little firing to day
if we whip Johnston, Vicksburg
will surrender, the only hope
Pemberton has, is to be relieved
by Johnston. We have St Louis
and Chicago Papers of the 26th and
I must confess everything looks gloomy
in Pennsylvania, it seems Lee is bound
to go to Philadelphia, my God what
is our Potomac Army doing. Would
to God, President Lincoln would
call McClellan, he would make
Lee pay dearly for his impudence
McClellan is the only man in
America that can do it, so
says Grant, Sherman and
nearly every General here and
I, though a much, much lesser
light, would bet my life upon it

I am still saying if Vicksburg
falls I shall come home, and
am still in great hopes that it will
soon fall, and I might then say
even that event transpires don't
look for me home at once, for
it take some time to get a
leave of absence through and now
particularly will it be a little
more trouble for me now, since
General McClernand, who was
a friend of mine, has been re-
moved. Our new General I do
not as yet know, he is said to
be a very strict disciplinarian
his name is Ord. For the
last three weeks we are having
Peaches and Cream, Peach Pie
Blackberries and Cream, three
times a day, Oh how often have
I wished for you and the
children. Two weeks ago I saw
an Orchard of two hundred and
fifty acres, nothing in but

Each tree of a dwarf nature
I put as full as they could
hang, it does my Eyes good
to see such a sight, the trees
were loaded with the golden
fruit. Blackberries are few
by the million, you can ride
for miles at a time and the
Bushes look perfectly black.

Joseph boards with us, though
he has a cross skin he
often comes riding almost
starved to get a good meal.

To day we settled our Bill
for the month of June and
living as we do & paying \$18 per
month to our two Cooks our
Bill was only Six Dollars
for month, for Each. Aint
that cheap? I have not
heard from you since the 9th
but hope to get 2 or 3 to morrow
I have not seen a Paper
from Holmes County

Since the 28th of December
I am sorry to I would like to read
the local news, I do wish you would
put up one of each every week
just two, one cent "Stamps on
the Bundle and send them
to me. Oh by the way De Silva
showed me to day, a slip out of
the Holmes Co Rep. of the 18th
with part of a letter from me
to you, how did that come in
the Paper? I am sorry to see
it, not that I take back one
word I said in it, only that
part, which Leo said to me
se looks to much like
Pragadveia when in print
and repeated by ones self.

To you my love, you know I can
say anything that happened to
me, metho complimentary or
otherwise, for if bad, you would

Sympathize and if good enjoy
it Equally with me, but never
mind it is done & let her up.
How do you live? I hope good.
Don't live starchy, Don't be
hankering for anything and
to "getting" to buy it, I want
you and the dear ones to live
as well as anybody, for if
I come home and find out you
have lived starching along, I shall
not be pleased. My friend Deen
told me to night that he
wrote to his Wife two weeks
ago to go to Millerbury and
make your acquaintance, perhaps
she has been there and perhaps
she may soon come, we hear
well and let me hear your
opinion of her. These very pretty
moonlight nights I sit before
my tent most every night and
look at the moon wondering
whether you think of me

what you might be doing and
really I do sometimes forget
myself and feel at home, I think
sometimes our spirits (thoughts)
in their wanderings meet. Don't
you think so dear? After I
get through I get up go in my
tent take a long long look at
the "dear faces" then go to sleep
and often dream of you. I will
look at the pictures now and
see how you all look.

Good good all lost so pleasant
Except Lizzies appears a kind
crop to night. Would to God
you were here as I there to night.
Oh that this accursed Rebellion
might be crushed, peace restored
to our unhappy Country, so
that the many good and
true men & noble women, husbands
wives. Parents and Children
might be united again & live in
peace. I do not believe that ever

a greater Sin was perpetrated
in the Eyes of the Lord, than
was by those, who brought
about this State of affairs.

I hope the Holmes County
War is successfully ended &
no lives lost, though there
might have been serious Results
followed from so crazy undu-
tubings. I hope that when I
come home you will have some
good "Handcasse" for me.

I think I could enjoy some.

My love to my Hamlin, Lizzie,
Mozey & Hattie, I want all of them
to give you a good kiss for me
and promise to be good Children
till Papa comes home, when they
may all cut up and Papa will
cut up with them. My love
to Elizabeth, when will she be Mrs
Mc? My love to Cohns family, I &
Ebright & all. Did Ebright get my
letter? Ever ever your true
Marion

Hd qrs 120th O.V.I. near
Big Black Miss. July 1/63

My dear dear Wife.

I have written you a letter a few days ago which you will perhaps receive with this one inasmuch as this goes north with some of my discharged boys.

Of news I have little I am still hale and hearty and so is Brother Joseph & Sinsheimer the latter will start for St. Louis in a few days. Joseph will go next time when, he says, he will pay you a visit in Millersburg.

Our situation is as it was when last I wrote; we are fortifying and expecting the Rebels to attack us, which may happen in a few days; the latest reports say, that Johnstons Advance is within five miles of us. His Army is reported fifty thousand strong, yet I feel confident if he attacks us we can whip him. Vicksburg is not yet taken, very little firing to day. If we whip Johnston, Vicksburg will surrender; the only hope Pemberton has, is to be relieved by Johnston. We have St. Louis and Chicago Papers of the 26th and I must confess everything looks gloomy in Pennsylvania; it seems Lee is bound to go to Philadelphia, My God, what is our Potomac Army doing. Would to God, President Lincoln would recall McClellan; he would make Lee pay dearly for his impudence. McClellan is the only man in America that can do it, so says

Grant, Sherman and nearly every General here and I, though a much, much lesser light, would bet my life upon it.

I am still saying if Vicksburg falls I shall come home, and am still in great hopes that it will soon fall, and I might here say even if that event transpires, dont look for me home at once, for it takes some time to get a leave of absence through and more particularly will it be a little more trouble for me now, since General McClernand, who was a friend of mine, had been removed. Our new General I do not as yet know; he is said to be a very strict disciplinarian; his name is Ord. For the last three weeks we are having Peaches and Cream, Peach Pie, Blackberries and Cream, three times a day; Oh how often have I wished for you and the children. Two weeks ago I saw an Orchard of two hundred and fifty acres, nothing in but Peach trees of a dwarf nature & just as full as they could hang. It done my Eyes good to see such a sight; the trees were loaded with the golden fruit. Blackberries are here by the million; you can ride for miles at a time and the Bushes look perfectly black.

Joseph boards with us, though he has a cook & Sinsheimer often comes riding allmost starved to get a good meal. To day we settled our Bill for the months of June and living as we do & paying \$18 per month to our two cooks, our Bill was only Six Dollars per month for each. Aint that

cheap? I have not heard from you since the 9th but hope to get 2 or 3 tomorrow. I have not seen a Paper from Holmes County since the 28th of December. I am sorry too; I would like to read the local news. I do wish you would put up one of each every week, put two "one cent" Stamps on the Bundle and send them to me. Oh by the way, DeSilva showed me to day a slip out of the Holmes Co Rep of the 18th with part of a letter from me to you; how dit that come in the Paper? I am sorry to see it; not that I take back one word I said in it, only that part which Lee said to me &c looks too much like Bragadocia, when in print and repeated by ones self. To you my love, you know I can say anything that happened to me, whether complimentary or otherwise for if bad, you would sympathize and if good enjoy it equally with me, but never mind it is done & let her up.

How do you live? I hope good. Don't live stinchy. Don't be hankering for any thing and too "geitzig" [stingy] to buy it. I want you and the dear ones to live as well as anybody, for if I come home and find out you have lived stinching along, I shall not be pleased. My friend Dean told me to night that he wrote to his Wife two weeks ago to go to Millersburg and make your acquaintance; perhaps she has been there and perhaps she may soon come; use her well and let me hear your

opinion of her. These very pretty moonlight nights I sit before my tent most every night and look at the moon wondering whether you think of me, what you might be doing and really I do sometimes forget myself and feel at home, I think sometimes our Spirits (Thoughts) in their wanderings meet. Dont you think so dear? After I get through I get up, go in my tent, take a long long look at the "dear faces", then go to sleep and often dream of you. I will look at the pictures now and see how you all look. —

Good, good, all look so pleasant except Lizzies appears a kind [of] cross to night. Would to God you were here or I there to night. Oh that this accursed Rebellion might be crushed, peace restored to our unhappy Country so that the many good and true men & noble woman, husbands & wives, Parents and Children might be united again & live in peace. I do not believe that ever a greater sin was perpetrated in the Eyes of the Lord, than was by those, who brought about this State of affairs.

I hope the Holmes County War is successfully ended & no lives lost, though there might have been serious Results followed from so crazy undertakings. I hope that when I come home you will have some good "H[L?]andcaese" [cottage or pot cheese?] for me. I think I could enjoy some. My

love to my Hamlin, Lizzie, Mosey & Hattie. I want all of them to give you a good kiss for me and promise to be good children till Papa comes home, when they may all cut up and Papa will cut up with them. My love to Elizabeth, when will she be Mrs. Mc? My love to Cohn & family, Dr. Ebright and all. Dit Ebright get my letter?

Ever Ever your true,

Marcus



And you 120th V.I. I
Boy Black Miss July 4/63

My dear dear Wife!

This is a glorious day for
our noble boys here, all of us feel
wild with enthusiasm, our
forces entered Vicksburg this
A.M. We took 27,000 prisoners
and 227 pieces of Artillery.

The greatest Victory of modern
history, We raised a Liberty
Pole in my Regiment made
speeches & honor a

My God such a happy set
of boys, this splits the Confederacy.
I am only sorry we
have to go further right up
it seems Jackson is our next
place, Grant is determined
to follow up his Victories

He is the greatest Chieflain
of the Age, the boys worship
him. I will have to post-
pone my going home untill
we get to some place where
we stop awhile.

Such a fourth of July
I never saw, without
anything to drink and
yet everybody wild.

God bless you
Your loving
Mason

Hd qrs 120th O.V.I.

Big Black Miss. July 4/63

My dear dear Wife!

This is a glorious day for our noble boys here; all of us feel wild with enthusiasm; our forces entered Vicksburg this A.M. We took 27,000 prisoners and 227 pieces of Artillery. The grandest Victory of modern history. We raised a Liberty Pole in my Regiment, made Speeches & hurrah &c.

My God, such a happy set of boys; this splits the Confederacy. I am only sorry we have to go further right off; it seems Jackson is our next place, Grant is determined to follow up his Victory. He is the greatest Chieftain of the Age; the boys worship him. I will have to postpone my going home until we get to some place where we stop awhile.

Such a fourth of July I never saw, without anything to drink and yet everybody wild.

God bless you

Your loving

Marcus

Wd Geo Simpson, Hospital
in the Rear of Jackson Miss
Sunday 19th 63

My dear dear wife

[July 12, 1863]

This morning I was very severely
but not in the least dangerously
wounded in my left leg, by a shell
a large flesh wound, in the groin
Don't be scared by reports, I
am doing as well, as I could, I
send for Brother Jossey and you
start home as soon, as he
comes & I am satisfied that
under your kind care I will be

able for duty in two months.

The enemy charged on me
yesterday but I drove them splen-
didly & fearfully. Day before yesterday
I opened the Ball. My wound is
doing well, but from our own
shell I lost 2000 here 4 Officers
wounded & 14 men.

God bless my love, I will
see you soon, God willing. God
bless you and the children
Ever from
Mason

Hd. qrs. Division Hospital
in the Rear of Jackson Miss.

Sunday 12th 63

[July 12 1863]

My dear dear Wife,

This morning I was very severely but not in the least dangerously wounded in my left leg, by a shell, a large flesh wound, in the groin. Dont be scared by reports; I am doing as well as I could. I sent for Brother Josey and will start home as soon as he comes & I am satisfied that under your kind care I will be able for duty in two months.

The enemy charged on me yesterday but I drove them splendidly and fearfully. Day before yesterday I opened the Ball. My wound is doing well, but from our own shell. I lost so far here 4 officers wounded & 14 men.

Good bye my love; I will see you soon, God willing.
God bless you and the children.

Ever yours

Marcus

My dear Mrs. Driscoll Hos-
pital before Jackson Miss
May 15/63

My dear dear good wife!

This is the fourth day
of my wound and thank
God I am doing exceedingly
well, I expect to be able
to be moved in an ambu-
lance to the Station in the course
of two weeks and when at
the River I can easily get
home. You must feel easy my
good wife, don't be discour-
aged, if I only were at
home and had you attend
to me I am satisfied I
would be well shortly.

With Gods help I shall
to be home soon and with
love much, must to tell
you

I think I had better
have a bed in the big
Room below, don't you?

The worst thing is that
I am compelled to lay
on my back all the time
& can not move, it
makes me very tired.

Birther Joseph is with
Dr. Pommer, Stanton, Ben
Stenson & Bitter are with me
most all day, besides the Med
Director of the Corps comes
every day. I am satisfied
no man could be taken
care better under the cir-
cumstances than I.

God bless you & the children
hope soon to see you
Am to try to write you
Ever your true W. Adams

Hd qrs Division Hospital

before Jackson Miss.

May [July] 15/63

My dear dear Wife!

This is the fourth day of my wound and thank God I am doing exceedingly well. I expect to be able to be moved in an ambulance to the River in the course of two weeks and when at the River I can easy get home. You must feel easy my good wife, dont be discouraged; if I only were at home and had you attend to me I am satisfied I would be well shortly.

With Gods help I mean to be home soon and will have much, much to tell you. I think I had better have a bed in the big Room below, dont you?

The worst thing is that I am compelled to lay on my back all the time & can not move; it makes me very tired.

Brother Joseph is with me. Drs. Pomerine, Stanton, Bern, Steveson & Ritter are with me most all day, besides the Medical Director of the Corps comes every day. I am satisfied no man could be taken care [of] better under the circumstances than I.

God bless you & the children; hope soon to see you.

Am to[o] tired to write much.

Ever your true

Marcus

Vicksburg July 24/53

Here I am lying since morning
at the R. R. Depot, suffering
mental agony. I cannot
get any word from my
papers. I want to go home.

Home, oh sweet word, oh
lovely sounding word.

Home, where I know my
dear wife & children are awaiting
me with terrible anxiety & throbbing
hearts. Home with all its
blessings, there will I soon
recover from my fearful
wound, the kind caresses of a
loving wife, the sympathizing smiles
and the pleasing words of my
lovely Cary will help me more

then all medical assistance
then your General &
Why in the Name of
God do you not hurry
up my Paper



Vicksburg July 24/63

Here I am lying since arriving at the R.R. Depot, suffering mental agony. I can not get any word from my papers. I want to go home. Home oh, sweet word, oh lovely sounding word.

Home, where I know my dear wife & children are awaiting me with terrible anxiety & throbbing hearts. Home with all its blessings; there will I soon recover from my fearful wound. The kind caresses of a loving wife, the sympathizing smile and the pleasing words of my lovely Cary will help me more than all medical assistance.

Then you Generals & c, why in the name of God do you not hurry up my paper?

