



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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

1864 February

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

my head quarters 120th S. D. D
Flaquemine La Feby 12/64

My dear good friend Mary!

Yesterday I received your very good loving letter of the 22nd ult and I have been joyous ever since, I say like you this is the first real good and lovely letter I rec^d since I left home the others all seem as blue that they made everything look black to me, but thank God, Richard is himself again.

The weather here is as lovely since as any climate could possibly be we can walk around for week. past year for the last five weeks with our coats off feel pretty comfortable.

I will first try and answer your every question you ask in yours and then give you the news which is very short. Of course the time will come when we will have a fine Horse Carriage & high & shine by ourselves & enjoy it and let me assure you my love that time is not very far distant.

As for moving and leaving
Millersburg I am perfectly willing
if you can sell the house you
own it ought to bring \$1400
or at least \$1300 with the new
stable. The New Orleans business is a
failure for various reasons yet I
think there will not be anything
lost. I think and of course you
will let the children continue
at Mrs Lowman's more especially
if they made any progress
I have not received your letter
relating to the warehouse matter
but I rec^d the one you referred
to. I suppose your business
letter is the one Charley lost.
Well we are looking for the Pay-
master every day yet if he does
not soon come I am thinking
he may stay away until the
10th of March when I will
receive eight (\$8) months pay
and if so will send you
(\$1500) fifteen hundred Dollars
if Charley comes home before I
send any money he can let you
have \$4 or five hundred Dollars

it seems to me you ought to be able to manage that with friend Cohn, for a little while.

Mrs. Josey is well and hearty. Business has not been very profitable for some time.

Taking his sickness, their journey in New York, their stay in New Orleans and the late business into consideration. I doubt whether they are worth as much to day as they were on the 4th of July last. I wish Mr. Benjamin much joy, he certainly married a fine looking female and I think his bridal tour amply repaid him for the extraordinary trouble and inconvenience he had in obtaining the necessary "Youtvolicks". I sincerely hope he stood it well. As for our "Affair" you may rest perfectly easy. I will be home if God spare my health whenever it comes off and long enough before hand so as to be sure of not missing it, though really in your last you do not seem very certain whether

is again to be an "Affair" at
all or whether it is all, ^{and}
I suppose though ere long the
matter will be positively de-
cided & you must not omit
to inform me as I think I
have a very large share
of interest in the matter.

Your "kindbett" present shall
not be very slowly you
may bet, it must be O.K.
I much regret the loss of
our good neighbor Geegin, my
warmest sympathies are with
his family. The death of
Mr Houston is a sad affair
indeed though I knew the
lady not yet it must be
terrible for the Captain.

I hope Mrs Noyes has recovered
by this time, am really uneasy
to hear of so much sickness in
town

We have but very little news, two of
 my Companies A. & S. are stationed
 18 miles down the river on the op-
 posite side superintending the
 building of a broken levee, Joesy
 and Mr. Clerk Louis Burger of
 Chicago a son of the Widdow
 Burger are down there and
 two nights ago they came near
 being captured by the Rebels
 their out-post picket of 15
 men of Cavalry 4th Wisconsin
 Regiment were surrounded
 at 12 o'clock at night and
 all captured but one who
 was fortunate enough to get
 away and inform & alarm
 Captain A. commanding the
 two Companies of my Regt who
 got them out in time, to prevent being
 captured. it was a pretty narrow chance
 they say Joesy behaved like a true
 Soldier, he came up to day with
 his stock I think though he
 rather prefers staying with the
 big crowd.

I have been to see several very large Planters and find them very hospitable, they live like princes are proud and aristocratic, but especially pleasant & agreeable to the Federal Officer. Slavery has been abolished in Louisiana and they are just as keen to get the negro to work for pay as they used to for white slaves and I am satisfied in twenty five years from now, the negro will be an educated well to do labourer and the white man none the worse, this you know I see from my own experience, I am not a strong abolitionist but I want laws and regulations by which the negro must be made to work and educated and the present Master be compelled to do it, Slavery is gone up whether the war ends to day or in a year and there is no one crying over it, it has been an awful institution, I will send you the "Black Code" of Louisiana some of these days and I am satisfied it will make you shudder. Now understand me when I say I am a strong abolitionist.

mean that I am not so far party pur-
poses but for humanity sake only, out
of my own conviction, for the best interest
of the white man in the south and the
black man anywhere. I find some few
large slaveholders concern in my opinion
of course the major part of them would
prefer the old system. The poor white
man, the mechanic laborer in this
Country however find that a new era is
dawning for them in this Country (South) he
therefore they were almost worse than the
negro slave here. I have not had
the pleasure of meeting but very few
of the fair set down here, what few
I meet I find overbearing, haughty
& stubborn, powdered over with
flour or white paste to make them look
ridiculous, they are much worse
than the Southern man. I think
a married lady of a large Planter
is really a secondary Intelligencer.
General Banks I think manages
the political Department Excellent
I think he will have the state in the
Union a few State in a very short time
he is decidedly one of the smartest
Statesmen of the age, I wish he
would be our next President.

I send you a few Pictures I doubt
not you will get one from nearly
all my boys in the Regt. they are
getting them taken here.

As to my plan I can not tell
you we will I am satisfied agree
upon some plan when I come
home. As long as the war looks
so important and call after
call for men, it seems as though
a soldier and Patriot could have
no rest except in the Army, I
have an excellent Regiment, my
men almost worship me and
if I were to resign to day one
half of my officers would also
and perhaps demoralize the Regt.
which would be doing the Govt.
more harm then my humble
efforts perhaps ever done it good
but never mind I do not be-
lieve you really want me to resign
I think you are really proud of
your Soldier man, only you
do not like to let an
eye. God bless you, my
love to the Children & all friends
I am your true
friend
M. W. Allen

Head quarters 120th O.V.I.

Plaquemine La Feby 12/64

My dear good & Kind Cary!

Yesterday I received your very good & loving letter of the 22nd ult and I have been joyous ever since; I say like you this is the first real good and lovely letter I received since I left home; the others all were as blue that they made everything look black to me, but thank God "Richard is himself again."

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As for moving and leaving Millersburg, I am perfectly willing. If you can sell the House you may it ought to bring \$1400.00 or at least \$1300 with the new stable. The New Orleans business is a failure for various reasons, yet I think there not be anything lost. I think and of course you will let the Children continue as Mrs. Lowman's more especially if they made any progress.

I have not received your letter relating to the warehouse matter but I received the one you referred to. I suppose your business letter is the one Charley lost. Well we are looking for the Paymaster every day, yet if he does not soon come I am thinking he may stay away untill the 10th of March when I will receive eight (8) months pay and if so will send you (\$1500) fifteen hundred Dollars. If Charley comes home before I send any money, he can let you have \$4 or five hundred Dollars; it seems to me you ought to be able to manage that with friend Cohn, for a little while.

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"wind." I suppose though ere long the matter will be positively decided & you must not omit to inform me as I think I have a very large share of interest in the matter. Your "Kindbett" [childbed] present shall not be very slovenly you may bet; it must be O.K.

I much regret the loss of our good neighbor Yergin, my warmest sympathies are with his family. The death of Mr. Houston is a sad affair indeed though I knew the lady not, yet it must be terrible for the Captain.

I hope Mrs. Myer has recovered by this time, am really uneasy to hear of so much sickness in town.

We have very little news, two of my Companies A & I are stationed 18 miles down the river on the opposite side superintending the building of a broken levee. Josey and his clerk Louis Burger of Chicago, a son of the Widow Burger, are down there and two nights ago they came near being captured by the Rebels. Their outpost picket of 15 men of Cavelery, 4th Wisconsin Regiment were surrounded at 12 o'clock at night and all captured but one who was fortunate enough to get away and inform & alarm Captain Au commanding the two companies of my Regt who got them out in time, to prevent being captured. It was a pretty narrow chance. They say Josey behaved like a true Soldier. He came up to day with his stock. I think though he rather prefers staying with the big crowd.

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Good bye. God bless you, my love to the children & all
friends.

Ever your true

Marcus

