

Continued Controversy

Apr 2, 1863 Gardner letter. George W. Gardner, Co E, 120th OVI [Published Thursday, 30 Apr 1863, Wooster Republican, pg 3, available at GenealogyBank.]

"From the 120th Ohio

The following extract is from a letter written by a soldier in what was Capt. Eason's Company, and shows the great change which has taken place in the minds of many of the 120th. Various causes have produced this very commendable change; better health, better spirits, brighter prospects, and *better influences*. The writer, as our readers have heretofore been informed, was one of those who wrote '*peace letters*' to the Wayne County *Democrat*, but who has bravely 'recovered' and now stands as firmly and speaks as patriotically as he ever did. After giving the news generally, and describing the great change in the Regiment for the better, the writer continues under date of April 2d:

"When you read the above you will think there is something of a change in sentiment and feeling in our Regiment. True, there *is* a change, and I am heartily glad of it.

"When we first encamped on Louisiana soil we wallowed in the mud, and became awful *blue* - perhaps you will say it was rather a Butternut color. Well, just as you please, It is true a strange spell bound us. The greater part of our Regiment being unfit for duty, those who were well were obliged to be on duty almost day and night through the inclement weather, exposed to all the hardships and privations of camp life, often confined to scanty and poorly prepared rations, and laboring under what we were led to believe, that our sufferings, our labors and losses were all for nought [sic]; else, I for one could have endured them all cheerfully for the sake of the cause in which I enlisted. Under these circumstances we became dissatisfied, lost all confidence in our power, and got to writing 'peace letters.' Perhaps you will remember reading some of which I was the author, and here I confess to you that all I have written in that direction was done inadvertantly [sic] and through misrepresentations. - True, peace is very desirable. We are not a warlike people. We prefer peace and quiet to war. But then, we want an honorable and durable peace.

"The misguided rebels of the South have been the cause of all the distress of our nation and should expiate their crimes. I believed when I entered the service, and I see no reason now for disbelieving, that unity of sentiment in the North, and a cordial support of the war, would bring about a speedy restoration of the Union. But I fear that the lack of this support has done much to discourage the troops and prolong the conflict.

"What we want is a hearty concurrence with the war policy so far as its measures have a tendency to weaken Southern power and suppress rebellion, and then, ere long, we shall be permitted to hail the advent of an honorable and permanent peace, and the glorious 'Stars and Stripes[']' be unfurled to the breeze throughout this our beloved country. If we may credit the stories of deserters from the rebels, the masses of the Southern people are tired of the war, and are only kept down by the iron heel of despotism. I am sorry that our regiment has the reputation of *being the worst regiment* in the field, but may be it deserves it. I think it is as good a *fighting* regiment as can be found. As we grow older we grow wiser. We have learned to take advantage of anything that will embarrass the enemy.

"We see by the papers that there is a Conscript law passed. We say bring them on, and let's have done with this rebellion.

"Some express fears that the draft will be resisted; but I do hope that men are not so lost to their true interests as to thus wildly err, and bring the war to their own doors. Every one wants the assistance of those who are yet idle at home, and if it be necessary we are ready to assist in *bringing them out*. I want to know how the people at home feel, and what the general opinion is.

"How I long for the peace and prosperity that once made us happy, that once made us admired of the whole world. But all is in the hands of a just God, and He will in his own good time work out his wise purposes Surely we have the best Government in the world, and He will favor it.

"Yesterday we received a mail. I got a letter from home and the *Wooster Republican*. They were gladly recived [sic]. Letters and papers from home cheer the hearts of soldiers, and make the flagging hours pass more pleasantly. You will excuse this desultory and immethodical letter, as my mind is in poor frame for writing. I have fatigued myself. Perhaps I have written too much. I will close. Write often.

Yours truly, George W. Gardner."

In defense of Capt. Myers.

[Wooster Republican, 2 Apr 1863, page 2, available at GenealogyBank.]

"The Attack on Capt. Myers and Some History.

Some weeks ago, the Wayne County Democrat published a private letter, written by Capt. Myers to Mr. Benj. Harshey, [father of Sgt. Abraham Harshey, of Company G.] of Chippewa, from the Army near Vicksburg, criticising the course of several of the Regimental officers of the 120th Regiment; and, although the letter contained nothing which Capt. Myers desired to suppress, or does not fully indorse [sic]; and as he is now charged by E. V.(Vallandigham) Dean, and a correspondent of the Holmes County *Farmer*, with having changed his views in regard to the war, so far as to abandon the Republican ground, and embrace that of the 'Peace' or Copperhead Democracy, it is proper that the letter should be published by us, with a statement of the manner in which the Democrat obtained it for publication, which will also explain why Capt. Myers read the original letter at a public meeting in Doylestown.

A. H. Purcell, of Chippewa, an *itinerant tinker of clocks, teeth, and reputation* called at Mr Harshey's in his absence, to tinker his clock, and Mrs. Harshey having just read one sheet of the letter, and being busy at some house-work which required her attention, handed the other sheet to Purcell, requesting him to read it aloud, which he did till he came to the word 'confidential.' Here he stopped, and Mrs. Harshey suggested, that probably that portion of the letter was confidential, and he had better not read it. Purcell replied that it was 'hard to read' (the letter being in a very plain hand) and he would have to look it over. In a few moments he said, in an excited manner, that as poor a man as he was, he would not have missed reading the letter for twenty dollars, and if Capt. Myers was there he would run a dagger to his heart. Mrs. Harshey becoming alarmed, requested him not to say anything about the letter, and he promised, that on her account, he would not, but as soon as he reached Doylestown, he sat down and wrote a copy from memory, and commenced circulating it, and from this, there was an improved copy sent to Col. French, at Vicksburg. So much as to the manner in which a private letter was procured for publication.....

"It is well known to the people of this County, that Capt. Myers took command of the Chippewa Company, under peculiar circumstances, and his neighbors knew, and he was so advised by his family physician, that he was disqualified by a longstanding complaint, for active service in the field, or the exposure necessarily incident to the service. But a company having been raised by John McSweeny, and abandoned and deserted by him, 'in the very worst time,' and most of the Company being Capt. Myers' neighbors, he was induced to take the place made vacant by McSweeny's treachery, and go with the boys, as long as he was able. He did so, and faithfully and bravely discharged all his duties so long as he was able, and then received a full and complete discharge, sustained by the unqualified, and decided certificates of different surgeons. This is the manner in which Capt. Myers 'ran away from his men,' as stated by Ezra Vallandigham Dean. We may also add, that as Capt. Myers was about to part with his Company, they voluntarily [sic] presented him with the following testimonial, signed by all the members of the Company then in camp. [Note: 70 men signed] It is the highest compliment his men could pay him:

Young's Point, Louisiana, Jan 25 1863.

We the undersigned members of Capt. W. G. Myers Company (G.) 120th Regiment, O. V. I. deeply regret that the Captain's health will not permit him to remain with us, he has labored with us in the capacity of Captain since the organization of our company, and we have a deep attachment to him. The discipline of the Company has always been excellent. Instead of being tyrannical, we have always found him mild and pleasant. -- He has never failed to see to our wants, and he has labored to make us as comfortable as the circumstances in the army would permit. We placed unbounded confidence in him in time of battle. He stood firmly by us, and led us on to victory. And we further certify that the Captain has never tried to intrude his political views upon any of us."

Numbers of officers in the 120th resigned. One of them was Captain William G. Myers, of Co G,

who resigned because of disability. In April, 1863, he wrote a letter the father of Sgt. Abraham Harshey, of Company G. The E. V. Dean spoken of in the letter was Regimental Quarter Master.

Dean resigned 27 Oct 1863.

[Published at the request of Col. Marcus Spiegel, Wooster Republican newspaper, pg 2, Thurs. 7 May 1863, available at GenealogyBank]

" Chippewa, **April 6th, 1863**

Mr. Abraham Harshy - Dear Sir:- I saw your father a few days since, and he learned that E. V. Dean had taken a particular *interest* in your welfare, by calling you up to his *quartars[sic]* and *flattering* you. We were all very sorry to hear that any Republicans took any part in passing those resolutions *denouncing* Mr. Foreman, and the Democrats are jubilant over it, as they claim that it will *destroy* the *influence* of our *paper* in the future, and he penned that article with no other motive than to expose such men as Dean, and Col. Spiegle and Capt. Eason, supposing that you would all understand it in that light.

"E.V. Dean and Col. Spiegle know that I know more about their treachery and disloyal motives than any other man, and they know I will *expose* them at the *proper time*. So they will make an effort to have the officers and men pass some kind of resolutions prejudicing the public against me, and if possible have my *own company* participate in *them*, after giving one of the *best certificates* before I left them. Therefore, you and the rest of the Republican officers and men will be on the look out, for everything they do in this light will be aimed at the party *over my shoulders*. Such young men as you, Meech, H. Galehouse, Wesley Galehouse, Thos. Harris, Jas Boak, Wm. Q. Lawrence, Geo. Jackson, Jacob Numan, and many others that I could mention, will be looked after to fill the places of other active men after you return, and if you prove *brave* on the field of battle, and *true* to *Republican principles* and your best friends at home, you may rest assured that you will be loved, respected, and honored by all loyal men on your return home. You can see that this enmity against me all grows out of the letter I wrote your father and was read by Purcell, and a *false copy* sent to Capt. Eason. I was respected by all up to this time. **In this week's Republican you will see the letter**, and I am glad the Democrats published it, as they could have told a great many big stories if it had not been made public.

"You and all the boys will find that I take the ground of slavery restriction for that time, but I believe the traitors will fight till our army will have to make short work of it and destroy slavery root and branch. - Were it not for the loss of life of so many of our best men, I would hope things *would take this turn*. But if the South would offer to lay down arms and agree that all the Territories should be free, and if we did not accept this and let slavery alone in the States, that they would fight it out. There the simple question would rise, whether I would sooner continue our friends and neighbors in the field and sacrifice their lives by the 100,000 more and clean up the job at once, or have slavery surrounded by free territory and be *sure and die in time* and save those brave men of the North and have them enjoy their families' society I would say stop the war and save life, as we will accomplish all we ask *in time*.- Your messmate, Samuel Garber, may say that this would be too slow. If he does, tell him for me, that I would rather have slavery continue one hundred years, *cease then*, than lose 100,000 such men as he and you, and if I were in your places, I would like to enjoy the fruits of my labor, but I fear that the rebels will contend till we lose these 100,000 men, and then have slavery totally destroyed. If this prove true your friends will enjoy the fruits of our labors, and all coming generations will honor and bless you. Answer as soon as you can and give me a history of everything in the Regiment and Company, of interest. Tell all my boys that they can well trust their reputation in my keeping till they return as I will take care of them against all their enemies.

G. W. Myers."

April 4 and April 9 [Note: Ezra Dean resigned 27 Oct 1863.]

Wooster Republican news article [Published in Wooster Republican, 9 April 1863, page 2, available at GenealogyBank]

"The Wayne County Democrat of March 26th, contains a letter from E. V. Dean, who is Quartermaster of the 120th Regiment, which, besides other infamous slanders on the army, contains the following charge of cowardice against Republican officers of that Regiment, while in the battle of Chickasaw Bluffs and Arkansas Post. **Dean says: 'In both the battles in which our**

Regiment was engaged, there was not a Democrat that faltered, whereas three of the Black Republican Officers, who were caught skulking, had to be driven back to their men.'

We knew the moment we saw this charge, that it was manufactured by the vile wretch who was himself so base a coward, that he took no part in either action, but at both, was skulking among the army wagons two or three miles in the rear, or playing off sick.

We now furnish the proof of the infamous character of the charge, by officers who took part in the battles and were so situated on the field as to be able to see, and know the charge to be wantonly and maliciously false. We first give the certificate of officers who were in both actions, and they speak by the card:

We the undersigned having been commissioned officers in the 120th Regiment O. V. I., noticing a letter in the Wayne County Democrat, from the pen of Quartermaster E. V. Dean, charging three Republican Officers with skulking from duty in the battles of Chickasaw Bluffs, and Arkansas Post and that they had to be driven back to their men, denounce the author, as an unmitigated liar and slanderer, as we were on the battle fields, and saw no officer skulking. Therefore, we demand the names of the officers who faltered and the officers who drove them back to their men, and we hope the Regimental officers will demand the proof of the above charges, or recommend the removal from office of the base slanderer, who never was in sight of either battle, much less in his proper place in Regimental line of battle.

Capt. W. G. Myers, Chippewa, Wayne County, O. [Note: Company I]

Capt. R. M. Brayton, Lucas, Richland Co., O. [Note: Company B]

Lieut. J. E. Strickler, Lucas, Richland Co., O. [Note: Company B]

Lieut. R. M. Zuver, Ashland, O. [Note: Company F]

The undersigned fully concurs in the statements made above, so far as the same had reference to the battle at Arkansas Post, but, in consequence of sickness, not having been in the battle at Chickasaw Bluffs, he cannot say from personal knowledge, what took place there.

Lieut. M. J. Stanley, Rowsburg, O. [Note: Company G]

In addition to the above most emphatic proof of the false and infamous character of Dean's charge, we give the following communication from Capt. Buck, of Rowsburgh, who was in both actions. Dr. Buck was in a good position to know the falsity of Dean's villainous charge. Read:

Mr. Editor: -- Having been a Commissioned officer in the 120th Regiment, O. V. I., in the Mississippi forces before Vicksburg, and present at the battles of Chickasaw Bluffs and Arkansas Post, where the gallant 120th, which has suffered more privation than any other new Regiment in that Department, won for itself *honor* and a high position of the records of history, and having recently noticed an article in the Wayne County *Democrat* signed, E. V. Dean (who is Quartermaster of said Regiment,) which contains a charge of cowardice against three Republican officers, at Vicksburg and Arkansas Post, alleging that they faltered, or run, and were driven back by their officers, to their men, but does not give the names of the officers nor the rank they held. I desire to say that in my humble opinion the charge has *no foundation in truth*, and unless he gives the names of the officers that run, and of the officers that drove them back to their men, the charge must and will be recognized as a malicious and base slander upon those who have occupied positions more dangerous and less lucrative than he has seen fit to make his, and as the result of *political demagogism* a WITHERING CURSE TO ANY REGIMENT, *that should not be tolerated in the army.*

I was at the time of the battles above referred to upon the Medical Staff, detailed by the order of Col. French to aid in administering to the wants of the sick and dressing the wounds of the unfortunate in the actions named, and as Surgeons camping out, as those of the 120th did, with the Regiment for days and nights together, if there had been any such tall running of the line officers, we would have seen their strides or any goading them up by the Staff officers, we should have heard their groans.

But I am of the opinion that Adjutant Slocum's fieldglass did not contain lenses of sufficient magnifying powers to have allowed the Quartermaster, in the use thereof, from his general stand point to have witnessed a stampede of the entire army corps. The 120th was led on those occasions by good and brave officers. Those officers said repeatedly, that the Regiment done its duty nobly. -- **Lieut. Col. Speigle after the battle of Vicksburg, where**

the 120th was first tried on, said on a certain occasion, if anybody says the 120th won't fight, tell them they lie d__n 'em. Gen. Morgan rode up to Col. French and complimented him in person for the bravery not of a certain *political class* of officers or privates, but of the 120th Regiment.

Now in conclusion permit me to ask Lieutenant Dean, for the sake of the innocent, and their friends, to let us know *who your victims are*, the innocent should not, by withholding names, be made to suffer with the guilty.

H. BUCK. Rowsburg, April 4, 1863. [Note: Captain Henry Buck, Company F]

Such is the proof we give of the false and infamous charges made by *this Dean*, who has been a curse to the 120th Regiment from the very hour he was appointed Quartermaster. -- We could furnish the testimony of other officers and soldiers of the 120th to the same effect as the above, but until this Vallandigham pupet[sic] gives the names of his victims, we will forbear. A pretty creature *this Dean*, to make charges of cowardice, when he was so far from both battles, that a *spie glass could not reach him*, although he was a staff officer, and his proper place was only 'three paces in the rear of the Colonel.' Let him stand branded not only as a malignant slanderer, but as a coward.

This is the *same* DEAN, who while holding a lucrative office at the hands of the President, denounced him [the President] as *dishonest, ignorant and imbecile*, and spent much of the precious time which should have been devoted to the care of the men in his Regiment, in **reading to them such copperhead sheets as the Chicago Times, and the Cincinnati Enquirer, and in circulating the speeches of the Arch Traitor, Vallandigham, among the honest and unsuspecting soldiers of the 120th.** He is the same Dean who while *writing loyal letters to Gov. Tod*, denounced in the bitterest terms the prosecution of the war, and declared that the President *deceived* the Democrats to get them to volunteer, that it was 'nothing but a n***** war' -- that it ought to be compromised, and the Proclamation was issued by the President for the purpose of producing insurrection, and the indiscriminate slaughter of men, women, and children. **He is the Dean of 'ten thousand pound cheese notoriety,' which the brave boys of the 120th, guarded so patiently for two weeks on its way from Cincinnati to Memphis, and for which they were openly branded as 'thieves,' and scoundrels.** He is the very same DEAN who got up resolutions denouncing the *Wooster Republican*, for condemning his infamous conduct in regard to the aforesaid matters, and who is now the laughing stock of his Regiment, and a stench in the nostrils of every Union loving soldier. But we will leave him for the present, reserving the 'history of the cheese,' 'the hay and feed,' and other matters for the future." [Published in *Wooster Republican*, 9 April 1863, page 2, available at GenealogyBank]

[A response from John McSweeney was published Thursday, 16 April 1863, *Wooster Republican* newspaper, pg 2, available at GenealogyBank]

"Capt. John McSweeney!

The last Wayne County Democrat contains a communication from the late Captain John McSweeney, in answer to some incidental remarks made by us, two weeks ago, exposing a scurrilous attack upon Capt. Myers. There are only one or two points in the late Captain's dishwater article worthy of attention.

"First, in answer to our statement, that he had abandoned the Chippewa Company just when it was ready to go towards the enemy, the late Captain tacitly admits the charge, but says: 'My connection with the Chippewa company was never anything but honorable on my part, and though I never troubled the public with a history of my grievances and the baseness of certain parties who were guilty of mean and infamous conduct towards myself whilst I was engaged, day and night, for weeks, spending time and money freely to procure men under the call of the President, yet, every person whose *interest* it was to know the facts, including members of the military committee, advised me that no man treated as I had been, was under any obligation to receive or accept a commission; and I say a man who would have accepted it, under the circumstances, would have been wanting in self-respect.' "

Published in the *Wooster Republican*, Thursday 16 April 1863, pg2

The Editor was E. Foreman.

"We give the Captain the benefit of his statement in full, as it is *his plea* and *only* excuse for *deserting* the sons, brothers, and fathers, who left their homes and families, relying on his oft repeated pledges - 'I will never say go boys, but it shall be COME AND FOLLOW YOUR LEADER' - *I will never forsake you.* 'I will GIVE YOU MY FIRST THREE MONTHS' WAGES TO BE DIVIDED AMONGST YOU.' 'A history of my grievances' - 'mean and infamous conduct towards myself' - 'no man treated as I had been was *under any obligation* to accept a commission,' &c., &c. And what does all this mean? Why, simply and only, that after McSweeny was appointed Captain, and a Company was raised, he took into his head that he ought to be Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel, or perhaps Brigadier-General, and that Ezra V. Dean, and some more of his Democratic friends took it into their heads to defeat him, claiming that he was unfit for, and incompetent to fill any higher place than the one he had asked for and obtained. We have no doubt the Captain's Democratic friends were treacherous, base, and false to him, and shamefully abused and slandered him, but will common sense and common honesty plead *their* infamous conduct in justification of his course towards the brave and patriotic men who enlisted under his banner, and desired him to lead them to fields of glory? Certainly not, 'Act well your part, 'tis *there true honor* lies.'

"Again, in answer to our statement that the Captain had 'liberally subscribed a Hundred Dollars,' and never paid it, he declares that he never '*refused to pay it.*' We did not say you 'refused' to pay, but simply that you *did not pay*, and for our authority we had the Treasurer of the Military Committee, who still assures us that you never did pay a cent directly to the Treasurer, and that it was only *after repeated demands* made on you, and in answer to one of them that you presented the ten dollar bounty receipt. Now, as the Captain is something of a lawyer as well as a *military* man, let him state how many demands it is necessary to make before a 'refusal to pay' may be implied, even though the debtor may *constantly promise* to pay. But we do not desire to press this unpleasant affair upon the Captain's attention, and will leave it between him and the soldiers families, merely remarking that we suppose he subscribed his hundred dollars, very much in the same spirit that *somebody* put down fifty dollars for the Catholic Church.

"In regard to the Captain's raising volunteers 'under pressure of a draft,' we say that as he seems to be *very sensitive* on the point, we will not press it, further than to say that *the canvass of Wooster Tp. was made* and the fact of her quota being full, *first ascertained, while the Captain was in Chippewa* raising volunteers. Until the canvass was made it was *not known* that Wooster would be exempt. - "Mark how plain,' &c.

"The statement that we attacked the Captain simply because he 'castigated us for charging Bliss and others with abusing the soldiers,' is so silly that no reply is needed, and the additional falsehood that 'twenty Republicans', have since stated to him that 'Forman's lies are injuring us as a party and we will sustain you in every exposition of his falsehoods when made so fairly and clearly as you did,' is so unblushingly false that Democrats even are ashamed to have it named in their presence. - The idea of *Republicans* pledging themselves to sustain the most notorious blackguard in Northern Ohio, and the most infamous villifier and slanderer of the Republican party, in Wayne County, is *truly rich indeed!* As well might the Ministers of the Gospel pledge them selves to 'sustain' this moral and pious Captain in his brave defense of their holy calling! True, he commenced his vile slanders upon the Clergy as long ago as 1854, denouncing them as '*Whited sepulchers,*' '*Judases,*' '*vile hypocrites,*' and '*satellites of the Devil,*' and has continued his vulgar and scandalous attacks upon them every campaign, in which he took part, since; and even in his last defense of Vallandigham, and his traitorous crew, he *slurred* and *libeled the Churches and Ministers in Wooster;* still, according to his logic, he is the chosen defender of the pulpit, and we doubt not in his next communication, will proclaim that 'twenty clergymen have pledged themselves to sustain him in his bold and manly defense of their calling!' But we propose to put this brave Captain to the test, and we challenge him to give the name of *a single Republican*, who said to him,

'Foreman's lies are injuring us as a party, and we will sustain you in every exposition of his falsehoods when made so fairly and clearly as you did.'

"Come sir, give us a name, a single name, (not twenty,) or *stand convicted of a deliberate and*

bare-face falsehood. No dodging behind the moral courage of a sneak, or the pretext that you *do not wish to expose Republicans!*

"In a future article we will make plain the manner in which Bliss and other Vallandigham speakers, including yourself, did abuse the soldiers. We will then also *explain, even to your satisfaction, why we exposed your treachery* to the Chippewa Company."

About a previous letter, Col. Spiegel said, **7 May 1863**:

"As long as that man Myers contented himself by showing his personal hatred to me, in slandering me in the most villifying [sic], malignant and unscrupulous manner through the public press, I felt it beneath my dignity to notice him.

"When, however, he undertakes to weaken the confidence of my brave men in me, in a cowardly and sneaking way, attempting to destroy the utility of one of Ohio's bravest Regiments, by creating dissatisfaction and secretly trying to alienate the faith of my boys in their commander, and that at a time when daily advancing, expecting to meet the enemy, it becomes my duty to notice it."

Also published Published that day, Wooster Republican newspaper, pg 2, Thurs. 7 May 1863, available at GenealogyBank:

"All the late letters from the gallant and brave 120th Ohio, speak in the most decided terms of the improved health, spirits, and general welfare of the Regiment. New officers have taken the place of those who resigned, renewed health has returned to the soldiers generally, so that there is scarcely a new Regiment in Grant's Army which answers so fully at roll call as the 120th.

"Colonel Spiegle has infused renewed energy and determination throughout the ranks of his Regiment, and from all that we can learn, he has the fullest confidence of his men, and when the hour of battle arrives, (if it has not already come,) the ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH OHIO will meet the foe as gallantly and bravely, as any, even of the oldest Regiments.

"The resignation of Colonel French, and the promotion of Colonel Spiegle to the command of the Regiment, seem to have been fortunate circumstances; for whatever may be said of Col. French as a man, as an officer he lacked the energy, industry, pluck and ambition now so freely accorded to Col Spiegle. Besides, Col. French was an easy, plastic individual in the hands of such characters as E. V. Dean, and whose Democracy allowed Dean to circulate Valandigham's infamous speech in the Regiment, and to read the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, the Chicago *Times*, Medary's *Crisis*, and other treasonable publications to the unsuspecting soldiers, at a time when general gloom pervaded their ranks, and sickness and death were everywhere present. And we here desire to say that whatever remarks we have at any time made, reflecting on Col. Spiegle, were caused by the belief that, by his presence and silence and *without reproof*, he allowed Dean and his assistants to circulate these treasonable documents which were denounced and prohibited by other loyal Commanders. We are now most glad to know that a different policy was adopted by Col. Spiegle, as soon as he was in Chief Command of the Regiment, and that among his first acts, as *acting Colonel*, was the issuing of the following address to the Regiment: [See Colonel Spiegle's address to the 120th Regiment delivered on Dress Parade, Monday, 22 Feb 1863 above in this history.]

"This patriotic address of Col. Spiegle has been followed by others in a like character, and the 120th Ohio now have the commendations of their Division Commander, Gen. Austerhouse [Osterhaus], as one of the best disciplined and most soldier-like Regiments in his Division.- For intelligence and bravery, the soldiers of the 120th have ever stood as high as any Regiment in the army, and we have always had the most unbounded confidence in their patriotism, integrity, gallantry and heroism. Sad and dark days have they seen, but we believe a bright and brilliant future is before them."

[Thursday, July 9, 1863 Paper:Wooster Republican (Wooster, OH) available at Genealogy Bank: John McSweeney was a supporter of Vallandigham in the campaign for Ohio Governor. In May of '63 the 120th participated in the second attack on Vicksburg. In October John Brough defeated Vallandigham.

"While that very Convention was in session, and Geo. E. Pugh and John McSweeney and others were making their speeches lauding Vallandigham and vilifying the President and *his* supporters, *thousands of the best and noblest sons of Ohio were in the trenches around Vicksburg, charging up to the very walls meeting death in every form.*"]

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