



THE TENNESSEE STATE MUSEUM  
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February 2, 2001

Charles H. Murphy  
2460 S.W. Gardenview Ave.  
Portland, OR  
97225

Mr Murphy,

Greetings! My name is Kevin D. Smith and I am an Assistant Curator with the Tennessee State Museum. The museum's textile curator and I are currently working on producing a book on the history of the Civil War battle flags from the state Tennessee. It is our understanding that you possess the flag of the Freeman's Battery. We are very interested in acquiring an image of that flag and any information that you might have on its history after the war. We are willing to pay for the costs involved in hiring a photographer and the necessary expenses to produce the image. We, of course, would want your authorization to use any such image and we would give you credit in the book as the owner. I can be reached at the address and telephone number listed below. I have included my email address, as well. Thank you for your consideration and time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Smith  
Assistant Curator  
Tennessee State Museum  
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December 15, 1997



FLAG OF EDWARD CURD  
FREEMAN'S BATTERY  
ARMY OF TENNESSEE  
C. S. A.

Dear Riley,

I apologize for being so tardy in thanking you for your wonderful hospitality. Jackie and I consider meeting you and your family one of the highlights of our trip. You certainly have an interesting life. Jackie says thank you for the home canned jellies.

Riley, firing that cannon was an experience I will never forget! Thank you so much! Also, you are a great tour guide. Your insights to the Battle of Shiloh made it almost come alive in my imagination.

We got lost on the way to Memphis. Jackie drove while I took a nap and when I woke up we were in Jackson. Anyway, we made it. We stayed with my Aunt Vickie and had a busy time visiting Graceland, Beale Street, Hunt-Phelan home, etc. I did see the Nathan Bedford Forrest statue.

One day we drove over to Helena, Arkansas and spent the night in the old Murphy home there. It's now a Bed & Breakfast Inn. Aunt Vickie had last slept in the house in 1926 so there were lots of remembrances. I drove up to the Confederate Cemetery and saw General Cleburne's monument.

Jackie was thrilled to see the cotton fields. They were in full harvest.

The sternwheeler trip to New Orleans was fun. We stopped in Vicksburg and had a tour of the battlefield. Our tour guide said most of the Union guns were 3" rifles and that most of the Union troops carried repeating rifles. I don't think he was correct. Was he? I was interested in seeing the Cairo gunboat.

I finally got the pictures of the flag I promised. I thought you might like a nice color print as well as the black and white. The studio says the negative can be used to make either black & white or color prints. I scanned the color print and have used it for a letterhead on this note.

I mentioned that we had visited the old Curd Cemeteries in Mt. Juliet. When I researched the names on the tombstones I found that quite a few of the Curds had fought in the Civil War. My Great Grandfather, Edward Curd, had an older brother, John T. Curd, who was in the 7<sup>th</sup> Tennessee, Co. I. He was wounded at Seven Pines and died at home of complications. Edward also had several Curd first cousins in the war. Capt. William E. Curd was also in Co. I and was killed at Seven Pines. John N. Curd was Ass't. Surgeon in the 45 Regular Tennessee Regt. Also, George W. Lanius (Curd) was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in Co. F of the 28<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry. He was killed on 12/7/1861 but I don't know in which battle. Another first cousin was Richard Lanius (Curd) who also served in Freeman's Battery with Ed. Curd. You might find it interesting for your book on Freeman's battery that the two Curd/Lanius first cousins in Freeman's Battery both lost an older brother in the early part of the war.

I would be willing to bet that Samuel Freeman was from Wilson County. The Wilson County Historical Society booklet I showed you is full of Freemans. I found a reference to a Dorrell Freeman in 1844, Edward Freeman in 1859. A Thomas Harvey Freeman (1835 – 1915) married a Nanny Curd (1840 – 1906) Nanny was the sister of John N Curd and Capt. William E. Curd mentioned in the preceding paragraph..

The library in Mt. Juliet is named the Harvey Freeman Memorial Library.

Another clue to Capt. Freeman being from Wilson County is on page 136 of the booklet. It says:

“About the year 1854, the leading citizens of Mt. Juliet got together and organized themselves into a Board of Trustees for the purpose of establishing a school of high character -----They elected as principal Samuel Freeman, a capable and highly educated man. Mr. Freeman became distinguished in the Civil War as Capt. Freeman of Freeman’s Battery and was killed in the war. -----Under the management of these two men the school began its work in 1854 ----- The school was chartered as “The Mount Juliet High School”.

How old would Samuel Freeman have been in 1854?

To sum up my thoughts – There were lots of Freemans in Wilson County before and during the war. The Curds, Lanius, and Freeman names are mentioned together frequently during the prewar period. Samuel Freeman was elected first principal of the new Mt. Juliet High School. Edward Curd and Richard Lanius both joined Freeman’s battery early in the war.

I’m sending some photos. The one of me actually pulling the lanyard did not turn out. I think the blast startled Jackie so much she forgot to snap the picture.

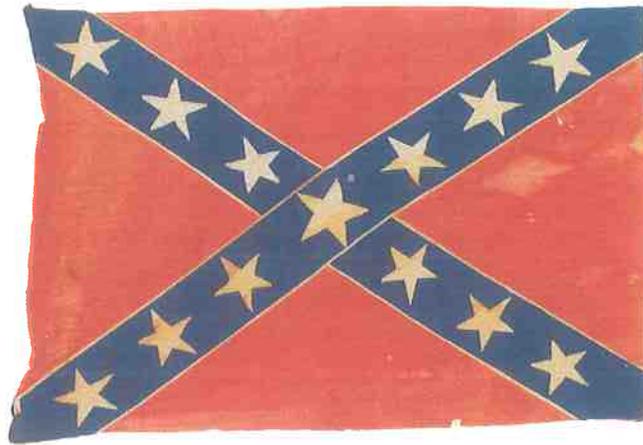
Please give our warmest regards to your family. (also to the goat, six mules, etc.) Hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 1998.

Thanks again for your hospitality.

Hello Kevin,

I've been away on vacation and just received your letter requesting a photo of the flag my ancestor, Edward Curd, saved from Freeman's Battery, Forrest's Artillery, Army of Tennessee. The flag, along with a Colt revolver, and some reunion medals, were kept by my grandmother. Family history is that the flag was carried by Edward Curd during the war and that the revolver was captured on Forrest's famous West Tennessee Raid. I would be happy to furnish you with a photograph of the flag. I had a professional photo taken three years ago and have an 8X10 color photo if that would meet your needs. Let me know what you require.

Sincerely, Chuck Murphy



## THE CONQUERED BANNER

BY FATHER ABRAM J. RYAN, THE POET PRIEST OF THE SOUTH

Furl that banner, for 'tis weary,  
Round its staff 'tis drooping dreary;  
    Furl it, fold it, it is best:  
For there's not a man to wave it,  
And there's not a sword to save it,  
And there's not one left to lave it.  
In the blood which heroes gave it,  
And its foes now scorn and brave it -  
    Furl it, hide it, let it rest.

Take the banner down - 'tis tattered,  
Broken is its staff and shattered,  
And the valiant hosts are scattered  
    Over whom it floated high.  
Oh! 'tis hard for us to fold it,  
Hard to think there's none to hold it,  
Hard that those who once unrolled it  
    Now must unfurl in with a sigh.

Furl that banner, furl it sadly -  
Once ten thousand hailed it gladly,  
And ten thousand wildly, madly,  
    Swore it should forever wave,  
Swore that foeman's sword could never  
Hearts like theirs entwined dissever,  
Till that flag would float forever  
    O'er their freedom or their grave.

Furl it, for the hands that grasped it,  
And the hearts that fondly clasped it,  
    Cold and dead are lying low;  
And the banner, it is trailing,  
While around it sounds the wailing  
    Of its people in their woe.  
For, though conquered, they adore it,  
Love the cold, dead hands that bore it,  
Weep for those who fell before it,  
Pardon those who trailed and tore it.  
And oh! wildly they deplore it,  
    Now to furl and fold it so.

Furl that banner! true 'tis gory,  
Yet 'tis wreathed around with glory,  
And 'twill live in song and story,  
    Though its folds are in the dust;  
For its fame on brightest pages,  
Penned by poets and by sages,  
Shall go sounding down the ages,  
    Furl its folds though now we must,  
Furl that banner, softly, slowly,  
Treat it gently - it is holy -  
    For it droops above the dead;  
Touch it not, unfold it never,  
Let it droop there, *furled* forever,  
    For its people's *hopes* are dead.

Flag belonging to Edward Curd, Freeman's Battery, Army of Tennessee



