



## The Soldiers in a Barrel Project

In early 2012 James Bond, the great-grandson of Fred Curtis a soldier in the First Connecticut Cavalry, inherited a barrel of letters and documents related to the family of Victory and Susan Miles Curtis of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Fred was one of five sons. He joined two of his brothers in the ranks of Federal volunteers who fought to preserve the Union and contributed to the subsequent victory that brought about the end of slavery.

James hired consulting historians, Bill and Glenna Jo Christen, to transcribe, annotate and catalog the collection that has been supplemented with the addition of other material from other Curtis family members. The material has been preserved and archived, but there is additional work required in order to make the information available to the remaining Curtis descendants, historians and the general public. The funds needed for this are estimated to be about twenty thousand dollars.

The work to be completed includes:

1. The Victory and Susan Miles Curtis genealogy, along with research on the Curtis siblings and their spouses.
2. Preparation of brief genealogies for the Kelley and Hull families.
3. Identify and catalog all available photographs as discovered.
4. Transcription of eight (8) remaining diaries.
5. Completion of letter transcriptions and diary annotations.
6. Place all the letters in chronological order regardless of author.
7. The story outline.
8. The first draft.
9. A manuscript for submission to a publisher.

Other costs:

1. Research trips to Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Iowa and other locations.
2. Rights to use photographs for publication.

James and the Christens hope that you will support their efforts to preserve the family history found in The Barrel by contributing information about the family, the military units and places and by making a financial contribution.

Bill Christen is the president of a non-profit educational organization and publishing company (The Watchdog Review). He has agreed to establish a fund for The Soldiers in a Barrel Project.

The Watchdog Review, Inc. is an IRS approved 501(c)3 educational organization. Your donations to complete the preservation of the collection of Curtis family letters, diaries, documents and photographs is tax deductible on your Federal Income Tax return (itemized filing). There are two ways to contribute:

1. By check payable to "The Watchdog" [memo: "Curtis"] and mailed to

The Watchdog.  
PO BOX 1675  
Warren, MI 48090-1675

2. Through PayPal by sending funds electronically using [watchdogreview@sbcglobal.net](mailto:watchdogreview@sbcglobal.net) as the "pay to" e-mail address.

Contact James Bond at (402) 968-6366 or Bill Christen at (586) 801-6199 or at [watchdogreview@sbcglobal.net](mailto:watchdogreview@sbcglobal.net) if you have any questions.