

**Corpus of American Civil War Letters
TN3-04, Joseph Freeman**

**Source: University of Tennessee, Hoskins Library Special Collections,
Civil War Collection, Joseph Freeman Papers.**

Joseph O. Freeman (b. ca. 1829) was a Tipton County, Tennessee farmer laborer. He served as a private in Co. A, 51st Tennessee Infantry and was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 19, 1863. His letters were written to his wife, Indiana Freeman (b. ca. 1842).

**Transcribed by Casey White, August 2008
Proofed and corrected by Michael Ellis, September 2008**

Febary the 26 D 1862
Henderson Station Madison CO

my Dears i take the present optuney
of riten you A few lines to let you
no that i land haer saft and well at
this time and i hope whe thes few lins
com to hand that ma find you in gud helt
i want you to cap in gud sparret and duue
the best you can i Dont no how long we
weill sta hear we land hear the nex
Day after we lef home i hav noth new
to rite [rest of line is crossed out]
har frend tom Dennis was taken
presner and he was a gud frend we all
node inday i noth to rit giv my love
to Mrs Dennis to and to Mis salle
Dennis and to Mr Dennis giv my lov
Mrs marten and famley giv my
lov liser giv my to Jon Stokes and
famly and to al my fendes all the
rest is all excuse my bade riten
so noth mo at present
but remane you fecent husben
Don let no body se this fo is so badley
rote

March the 9 D 1862

Corinth Missippey Tishomingo Conty
my Dears Belovet Wife i take the pres optuney
of innforme you that i am well at
this time and i hope when thes few lines
com to hand that thay may find you in
Joy the sam bleson and all the rest is well
we hav move to corinth missippey we got
hear last Frid nite hit is A pretey plase hit
serpose to Be six teen thusent and sum artilra
i dont no werthe thay wil Be eney Fitin hear
or note we have no guns yet thar was
teentyfore of connel lesemen Deserte thay
hav cot thrt teen of them or general is his
name is Bugbe i supose that all sogel hav
left Clumbs i haerd A bout an hou A go that
the yankes was commen on us A bout
teenty thousent hit is A bout
Fifteen miles her to Tensee river
tel all the men A Bout Randolph
and A Rand thar if thay ever inter to
Fite fo thar cuntre homes and libtr
if thay ar now is the tim to Dow hit
For now is time to Fite elce serrender
hit will not dow to serrender i will
Fite in blode upe to my neke tel all
the bos to come on now is the tim to ruch to
the battle feld Inda i dont no when i can com
Home for thay hav <??> on Furlo i wou
nt you to dow the beste you can cape
in gud sparret i will cend you sum
monney as suen as i draw hit tel
Mr Dennis Mrs Dennis for to not let
you suffer for they ner shall lus
everything by hit and if i done git
[page 2]

kild i want them to tak you and tak gud
car of you but i am in hope that i
will git home saft a gin inday i wust
that i cud git to see you and the pictur
of my Dears litl Boy agane
i am gon to live hopes if i Di in <aspard?>
shul bring my letter to A close
giv to Mr Dennis giv my lov to
Mrs Dennis and to Mrs Sal Dennis
and to Mrs martin inda giv my

lov to all them canot Rite enmo
for we hav got ordes to cok Five Days
rasen thay ar fixen for a Fite hear
so noth mo But Remane your
Dears Husban untl Deth
so Far you well Dear inda
Joseph O. Freeman

Rite to me as sone as you git
this let me no how you giten along

March 25 D 1862

Corinth Tishmingo CO
state of mississippi
my Dears wife i take the
ope tuney of Riten you
a few lines to lete you
no that i am yeat a
live hope when thes few
lines comes to hands that
they may finds you in gud
helth my Dear hav noth
new to Rit oly all is well
i hav Rote and Rote and hav
never hav receive no letters
from you yeat i hav lost
all hopes of ever heren from
you en mor thay is A bote
ninty thousent cholgs her
wee ar fixten to Draw
money and as son as i can
draw hit
i will send hit home
the forst chanch i git

[page 2]

pucky A member of hor [Pvt. Joseph Pucket, Co. A, 51st TN Inf.]
comney Dide to Day
we ar in genrel chalmes
brigad i noth mo to rite
indy Rite to me as son as you
git this let me no how you
ar a gitten along and how
times is thar so noth mo at
present
giv my lov and repecekes to
all my frends so no
but remane you Dears Boy
so far you well my Dear
Inday
Direck you letter to the
fiftey first Rigman tennssee
voltears Comney A
inday i am mity onessey abote you
my harte all most brak sumtimes
when i thik abote us A ben paret
but we must taket hit the

best way we can we hafter
work evr Day Dige in the Diches
[page 3]
and chopen don trese thay ar forfine
this plase i sene luis Daves and
gorge smith her noles Rigman is
her i spek you Brother Frank is her
but cant get achance to look for
him for i cant git A Canch to goe
of From the Rigmen i did git A Chanch
to go and see luis the erthr Day tel
Brother Chrle that i receve his letter
that he sent by fil bales
and i was sarre to her that he was
sick tel Mrs scales
that ed it well all the rest is
well tel chrle that wee hav mov
abot A mile From wher we wer
tel all my Frenedes to Rit to me i wod
like to git A leter ever Day so noth
mo but remane you afecion
Husban so Far you well my
Dears inday Direck you letters
to the Fiftey First Rigman Tennssee
volters to Compeney A
so far you well my Dears

[page 4]

Joseph. O. Freeman

Inday i am A com
home as son as i can
thay hav shot don on
Furlow thay ont let
no one lev no long
than tow ower at
time
give my Repeckes to Mrs Dennis
and Famley
and John Stokes and Famley
and to all the conneck
so Far you well
my Dears and Fecion
Wife

Joseph O. Freeman So Far y

April the 3 D 1862

Corinth Misisissippi

my Dears Wife I tak the ope tuney
of Riten you A few lines to let
you no that I am well at this time and
I hope when thes few lines comes to hands that
thay mal find you in joy the same blesen I Recev
you letter from Mr <??> he rote hit to
me hit did releve my mind verre much to
reseve a letter from you I was begint to think
that I was nevr gon to git a letter from you enmore
I was sorre to her that you was out of pervisson
Inday hit pud ni chil me to hear of hit but tri
and git long the best you can tel I can send
you som monney I will send hit to you as son
as I can git hit tel Mr Dennis to not let you
suffer Inday I wust that I cud com home but but
thay ant low no ferlow I drem a bote you ever
nite I drem on night that we was camp clost
to Randolph and I thout you and Mrs Whitson had com
to see us I thout that I was fixen to go home wuth you
you better beleve that I was a fixen in A herre
when I wok I was fold badly John is well
he send his lov to you Inday I wount you to leve thar
ef the yanke coms thar ef can I wount
you to go weth sum body that is gon to leve thar tel
Mr Dennis ef he leves thar to take you with
[page 2]

him ef he lese but I am in hopes thay wont
com thar bille <Whillar?> com to see us he tol
me that thar was A man told him that you
Frank hear I cant git A chant to go and see him
Inday I want com home but i cant com now and I
dont nowe when I can for thay wont giv ne
furlowe I want you to pick up A big
reslusion and say you will be content
tel my times is out i wount you to
rite to wether I must Jone for the war or
not sum time I think I will git A tranfur
and go to fort piller thay will giv me A
tranfer if I goin fer the war but i
dont wount to gone for th war now
I had droth wate A while longer thay ar looken
fo A fite A abote ten
miles from this plase what is cold <m??>ray
we was orde out thar but we coud not git guns
serfisen to fite with and we did not go i expect

they ar A fitn thar to Day I can har the cannon
wonce and while I dont no wether thay will be eney
fiten hear or not I am A frad that thay will pase
fort piller I am a fred ef thay do pase thar thay will do
A hepe A dammages to the pepele thar thar is A hap
of sixson in our camps Jams Farras A member of
our comney was taken sick A Tusday morne and
he Dide the next morne at one o clock hit is
somthing like the brane fever ever one

[page 3]

[the rest of the letter is transcribed from a typescript]

that takes it dies Indiana tel Mr Dennis that Dock <???

is a gone back where Tom Dennis is and he can git a chance to send Tom eney

thing he wonce to I dont lik this place a tol I want to git back into

Tennsee agin hit is low flat counre here you cant dig a grave without the

grave a been haffail of water after you git <???

<???

when you pute the coffin in the grave ht flotes in the water Inday I wist you cud send me

a guge of milk in your next letter if you cud I wisht I cud git to com hom

chis little Alje for me I whisht I cud git to see his little face wunce more

if the Yankes pas forte pillar I am gone to try mitey harde to git home if I

fale to git thar I am in hopes that som of my frends will take you <???

a weay if thay dont <???

thar has bin fore dethe in our comney sens

we has bin hear the helth of our comney is mitey bad at this time thar is a

gud meny sick that aint mo than telve men abl for duty tel Chrle to stay at

home til he git sond and well no mo ar preset but premane you efecton husban

so far you well my Dear Wife

Joseph O. Freeman

Rite me as son as you git this Inday I nevr has reseve but one letter from
you yeat

Corinth Mississippi
May the 24 /62

dear sister i take this oportunity
of ritin to you to let you no
how i am i am not well but
i am so as to be a bout i am
in hopes that this may find
you well times is vary glumy
hear tha air fiting som eryday tha
have bin fiting to day tha have
bin canonadin all day ou regiment
is gone out on picket to day
we air lookin for a fight evry day
the yaney is advancian an forty
fy ing as tha cum i want to
com home mity bad but
thair is no chance nou i am
in hopes that i can com home
a bout the fourth of july i
want you to right to me i
have ritin to you too or three
times an i have not
got no anser yet

[page 2]

bruther henary
sayd that he wants you to
right to him he is her at
corint he is well at this time
he sed he was comin home as
son as this fite was over ef he
lives you must pre par a good
diner for us when we get
home on the fourth of july
an ask all the gals to com
over an eat with us you must
gave my best respect to all
the folks about randolph
you must not think hard
of john for not comin home
for he cant get a furlow an
tell this fite is over
sister ef you sea eny of fathers
folks you must tel them to

right to me an tel uncal
<John?> to right to me an tel
them that i want to sea them

[page 3]

all an you mus right to me
brother jo is not well but
he is so as to be a bout
i bleave i have ritin you
all the news that i have
so i must bring my leter
to a close by saying that
you must right to me
so remaine your afeciate
bruther un tell de <eath?><Joseph?> <Freeman?>
to indeanor freman

May the 5 1863
Camp near shelby vill Tennsse
my Dear Wife i take the
opetuney of riten you a Few
lines to let you no that i am
well at this time and hopen
<??> when thes Few lines
comes to hand that thay may
find you well i hav noth new
to rite oly times is <??> <??>
wee haft to Dril <??> ever Day
then i go to the <after?> <??>
then I go to the brand<??>
i dont no we thar tho <??>
<??> may <??> <??> <??>
Dr <Lharson?> and i rote <??>
and sent one back by him
i want you to rite to me
i have <never?> <get??> <??>
and wher <??> <??>

[page 2]

at i wont rite eny mor
at this time i had brother
come and bring this letter
then to send hit Indiana
<??> see the baby <??>
you Dont no how bad i
want to see you and the
baby giv my repeckes to al
the connexion and Frenedes
tel laura Hunt i hav not
Forgoten hear yeat giv hear my
love and best Repeckes tel her
that <L?n?> Dennis is well
tel hear that he is al <??>
tel hear not to <??> <??>
a <??> concript <??> <??>
and <??>a rebel tel hear to
rite to us ef noth more at
prsen but remane yor
Fection Husban Far you
well Dear Indiani Joseph Freeman

septembr the 16 D 1863
Camp near Lafayette
Gorgy

my Dear Wife

i receve yor letter the 15 of
this month and i was glad to
hear from you and littel Joe and
glad to hear younes was well yor
letter found me well and i hope
when thes few lines comes to hand
that thay may find you and littel Joe
i hav no nwes to rite at this time
oly we expect a fite before long we
left Chattanooga abote tow wekes
a go the yankees sheld the town for
tow weekes befor we left thar thay
kild a woman and child by shelen
the town ede skeles got hear saft
i was glad to see him he brot me
tow pear of sox wich you sent to
me i was glad to git them for i
had none ede told me al the nuse
yor brothr John has bin up har
but he has gon back Henry is
well Frank was well the last
[page 2]

[Pvt. Ed. Scales, Co. A, 51st TN Inf.]

time i hear from him i was sorry
to hear of Mr Davis Dethé i fel
very sarray for siter magrat
tel Luis to come back he wont
be hurt Inda thar has bin the
grates revivel in our brigade
that evver i sean Inda i perfest
religen i am redy to
meet littel Alje in heaven
Inda seas the yankee was a goin
to make you al take the oth ef thay
forse you to take hit <wel?> you had
betr take i rekin for thay take
ever thing you got Inda ef you
want eney money git sum
from Mrs skeles git abote thurty
Dolars and i will pay ede hear
for hit rite to me weth you git
hit or not i am lookin for
ordes to leve hear evr minet so

you must excuse my short
letter we hav plenty to eat and
heap of hard march to Dow
Inda kiss littel Joe for me

[page 4]

god bless hear littel sole i
wist i cud git to see hear
giv my best repeckes to John
stokes and famley and al
the connexion and frends
giv my lov to Mrs skeles
and geiney Inda giv my best
love to Lara Hunt so
noth mor at presen but
remane you affection

Husban

Joseph O Freeman

tel John stokes to take gud
car of you and littel
Joe