

Transcript of 1867 December 27: Samuel Prentis Curtis, Keokuk, Iowa, to Governor Isaac Murphy, Request for biographical information for article in the Phrenological Journal, L.C. Gulley collection, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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Keokuk, Iowa Dec. 27, 1867

Dear Friend

I received your kind letter some time ago, for which I am much obliged. I think you do yourself injustice and are far too modest. There are few men whose names appear to me more worthy of being honored.

The editors of the Phrenological Journal desire such a sketch of your life as will fill about four pages of their magazine. General Curtis life, more lengthy than any previously written, occupying six pages.

To write this I am still anxious to obtain all the information I can about your life. I hope I do not trouble you too much, but I desire to do you justice, and a fair sketch of your life

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Will I think prove very useful. I desire further information than that already furnished for which I am obliged. If not too great trouble please let me know the date and place of your birth. When also were you in California? If you can take the trouble to relate them, I should like a more detailed account of your sufferings in Arkansas after your vote against secession, the sufferings of other refugees and Union

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men which are proper matters of history, the return of yourself to Arkansas, and the manner of your election as Governor. Also have you been reelected? If you can furnish me with any documents bearing on the subject or tell me where to find them I shall be equally obliged. In short I want any and all information bearing

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on this subject that I can obtain. The terrible sufferings of Arkansas unionists are perhaps less generally known than any other portion of the southern people. Justice requires that more should be said of them. I design both to give a sketch of your life and to show somewhat of the afflictions undergone by the people of which you are the head. I hope thus to make an interesting magazine article which may do you justice.

The Phrenological Journal is devoted to biography and the study of human character. The editors aim to show peoples' faces while they publish their lives, in order to give more of an idea of the character of a man by showing his countenance, its expression, Etc. Hence it will be important for

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Me to obtain a picture of yourself in order that an engraving

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may be made by the publishers of the magazine. I should like it as soon as possible, if you can conveniently send me a photograph, in order that it may be placed at once in the hands of the engravers. I also send you by mail the latest and best steel engraving of General Curtis.

With many thanks for your kind letter and best wishes for your welfare I am as always  
Very truly your friend  
Sam'l Prentis Curtis

SP Curtis  
over  
Jan 17, 1868  
Gov. Isaac Murphy  
Little Rock  
Arkansas