

**RECORD OF THE
DESCENDANTS OF
PHILO CURTIS,
RUTLAND, VERMONT**

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Record of the descendants of Philo Curtis, Rutland, Vermont by J. A. Curtis

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J. A. CURTIS

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Compiled by J. A. Curtis.



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FOREWORD

When the writer was a boy living with his grandmother, Mrs. Defia Pritchard, in Jefferson, Iowa, it was a never failing source of interest to talk with her about the relatives. Her remarkable memory and wide correspondence gave her a large fund of information, but she was not in the habit of preserving it. At last she suggested to me that I write down for her the family record of her first husband's father, my great-grandfather, Philo Curtis. This was done in a crude schoolboy form about 1886 or 1887, and it remained by me, untouched, for about twenty years.

During my first missionary furlough, in 1906-07, a short visit with the Cleveland Curtises, a visit in Rutland, Vermont, with the two branches there and some correspondence brought out more facts. These I worked up on the return voyage to India, hoping to find someone in America to complete the record, but the papers remained in the same table drawer for the next ten years.

While we were again home in 1916-17 more details were brought to light. Mrs. Gordon Weaver began her efficient co-operation, which she has kept up by the collection of both information and funds, and the long voyage back to India furnished leisure to work up the information. Little has been added since 1917. At last after many delays it goes to the Press.

The hopes with which the Record is sent out are four. First it may be hoped that with the facts herein made accessible the remaining facts concerning Philo Curtis's descendants may be discovered. Of the descendants of Cephas, Milton and Moses Curtis, (No. 1, 2, 10.) only one branch has been traced with any completeness; that of J. Milton Curtis (No. 20). And there are many other gaps in the record which ought to be easy to fill when we have once got the thread. Also there are many dates missing, as well as places of residence, occupations, religious denominations, church and other public activities, academic degrees, military records, political opinions. Information on these points has come to hand in very limited quantities. Gaps are to be filled. Especially necessary is it that post office addresses should be supplied where missing, and then kept up to date. Besides these gaps there will be inaccuracies in the dates, places or even names. The present little book should be only a preliminary to one a good deal more complete, to be got out sometime in the next decade. Let members of the family make it a point to preserve carefully the particulars

of those who served in the terrible World War, such as regiments, rank, where they saw service, medals, mention in dispatches or other military honors obtained, and report them for this Record.

The second hope for the Record is that something may be discovered, through the search of many, to carry the relationship backward. So far as my information goes, Philo Curtis, who heads the Record, might have been like Melchisedek, without genealogy. Whence he came and who his father was are still to be discovered. But farther search in the right place ought to connect him up with some of the well worked out Curtis genealogies, of which there are several. The name is common and very ancient in England. It is said to mean: "The courteous one," and probably had many independent origins, like the name of Smith or Taylor. Correspondence with well-informed members of other Curtis families and search in genealogical libraries should produce results. Legitimate family pride is a definite aid to character and a social asset not to be despised. In the west we think all too little of family. Our children will be glad of any pains we take in this respect.

Another hope has been the outgrowth of the writer's strong interest in the new science of Eugenics, which seeks to tell us how to be well born. As inheritors of a common stock it is wise for us to study that stock, its weaknesses and strong points; its physical and mental characteristics out of the ordinary, whether merits or defects; its special capacities, as for music, literature, languages, art, public speech; its organizing and money making ability; its religious and spiritual gifts for mankind. We should seek to make it a definite family tradition that our young people must give sober consideration to the question of their matings, in order to secure from future generations of this typical middle class American family an increasing contribution to human welfare and progress.

The fourth hope with which this Record has been compiled is that through it we can all enter into a new social circle, almost world-wide, and based on the real element of blood relationship. "Blood is thicker than water," expresses a real moral and social fact. We will be found to have much in common, and a certain fund of common traditions and ideals, thoroughly sound and wholesome in the main. It will do us all good to get better acquainted one with the other. Considerable letter writing to distant, half-forgotten relatives, and some visits, should result from this record. We might be able at some time to unite in the accomplishment of some worthy task for the honor of our name. At any rate, to the writer, who has spent many years in a foreign land, the sense of having "a lot of folks" is a great comfort, and knowledge of them a great satisfaction.

A few words of generalization on the Curtis characteristics. There is a strong strain of pioneer blood, well illustrated by the successive locations in Vermont, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Colorado, Panama, New Mexico and now in considerable numbers along the Pacific Coast. There seem to be few soldiers or sailors recorded, however. This pioneer strain, rather than a lack of taste and ability, may account for the small number who before 1900 secured higher education. There seems to be a generous share of musical ability, probably far more than gets cultivated. The family as a whole would rank with ordinary Americans in having enough to eat and wear with large bank accounts scarce! As to occupations, farmers predominate. There is no marked longevity. As the record stands, only three can show eighty years and above,—the three sons of Henry Spring Curtis, (No. 4) who himself died young. His wife, Delia Hall Curtis lived to be ninety-six. Only sixteen others have passed the age of sixty. But in the matter of large families the record is strong. The average family is practically three children. The banner family (No. 254) has thirteen children. Twelve families have seven or more; thirty-eight families have three to six; forty-two families have one or two, (considered eugenically unsound); and there are twenty-three childless families.

Religiously our people show well. While not many have become ministers, yet active church membership is the rule, and unbelievers the rare exception. Philo Curtis and his family were Congregationalists in Vermont, and the Rutland branches remain so; but with the western movement most became Methodists, with some Presbyterians, Christians and Baptists, and a few Lutherans through marriage. The particulars under this head are far from complete. It is hoped that pains will be taken to set down those who were deacons, S.S. teachers, personal workers, or otherwise active in the Christian life, or in temperance or other philanthropic work.

It remains to call attention to the system employed in the Record. Serial numbers from 1 to 41 are given to the children and grandchildren of Philo Curtis. The children of these grandchildren are given family numbers from 1 up, and the serial number of the parent prefixed for identification when the name is taken for a separate record. This double identification number, again, is prefixed to the family serial number of great-grandchildren, and so on. Thus, No. 21-5-1-1. Eugene Curtis, is eldest son of Ralph Curtis, who is eldest child of William Milton Curtis, who is the fifth child of No. 21, Sylvester Gardner Curtis, a grandson of Philo. This seems complicated, but has the advantage of being indefinitely expandible.

Until someone can be found more conveniently located to take the place, the present writer qualifies, by his strong interest in all the folks, as

family Chronicler. Mrs. Gordon Weaver, El Monte, Calif., has consented to act as correspondent in America. We bespeak your hearty co-operation and interest. To either of us you may send your additional information, corrections, suggestions to a future Record, or personal letters.

American Baptist Mission, }
Donakonda, Nellore Dist., India. }
February 5th, 1924.

J. A. CURTIS.

died; again *M.* July 27th, 1830, Nancy Foster; lived in Hinkley, O.; Lodi, O.; South Illinois.; Cleveland, O.; *D.* June 23; 1844.

<i>Issue of Lavica:—</i>			<i>Page.</i>
14.	Mary	... <i>B.</i> Feb. 20, 1825	... Below
15.	Sophia	... <i>B.</i> Nov. 26, 1825	...
16.	Caroline	... <i>B.</i> Dec. 12, 1827, (lived somewhere in Ill.)	...
<i>Issue of Nancy:—</i>			
17.	Philo	... <i>B.</i> Apr. 26, 1831; <i>D.</i> unmarried	...
18.	William	... <i>B.</i> May 4, 1834; <i>D.</i> 1860, unmarried	...
19.	Albert	... <i>B.</i> Dec. 15, 1835; <i>D.</i> Nov. 14, 1859, unmarried	...
20.	James Milton	... <i>B.</i> Feb. 26, 1840,	... Below

No. 14. Mary Curtis.

M. Mr. Decker; they live somewhere in Denver, Col.

Issue:—(three daughters, one son.)

No. 20. James Milton Curtis

Aug. 31, 1862, *M.* Susan C. Brainard; after her death, *M.* Mary Eglin who survives him; spent his life at Cleveland, O., a prosperous business man of taste and influence; served in city government; 1909 with his wife visited Europe, India and the Far East, attending the World's Christian Endeavour Convention in India; *D.* Mar. 8, 1910; Methodists.

<i>Issue of Susan:—</i>			<i>Page.</i>
1.	Ruth,	... <i>B.</i> Apr. 24th 1864	... Below
2.	Amy,	... <i>B.</i> Apr. 15, 1860; <i>D.</i> Oct. 28, 1869	...
<i>Issue of Mary:—</i>			
3.	Evelyn B.	... <i>B.</i> Nov. 24, 1875	... 3
4.	William Eglin	... <i>B.</i> Mar. 17, 1877	... 3
5.	Albert Milton	... <i>B.</i> Jan. 20, 1879; <i>D.</i> Mar. 18, 1917, at St. Louis,	...
6.	Nancy Jane,	... <i>B.</i> Mar. 14, 1883	... 3

No. 20-1, Ruth Curtis.

B.A. of Vassar College; July 23, 1898, *M.* Theodore P. Lyman; *D.* Oct. 16, 1902.