

**RECORDS OF SOME OF
THE DESCENDANTS OF
WILLIAM CURTIS,
ROXBURY, 1632**

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Records of Some of the Descendants of William Curtis, Roxbury, 1632 by Samuel C. Clarke

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SAMUEL C. CLARKE

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1871

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DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM CURTIS.

By Samuel E. Curtis

RECORDS
OF
SOME OF THE DESCENDANTS
OF
WILLIAM CURTIS,
ROXBURY, 1632.

COMPILED FROM THE MS. OF MISS CATHERINE P. CURTIS,
AND OTHER SOURCES.

BY
SAMUEL O. CLARKE.

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1869.

WILLIAM CURTIS.

William Curtis In the Ship Lyon, which arrived in Boston, Sunday, September 16, 1632, came William Curtis, with his wife and four children. In the same ship came William Heath and Daniel Brewer, and all three settled in Roxbury, William Curtis on Stony river.

In the earliest Records of Roxbury was a list of "Y^e estates of the Inhabitants of Roxbury." There is no date to this list, but it was between 1634 and 1643. In it are the names of the families of William Curteis with thirteen persons in his family; forty acres of land, estate eight—probably pounds sterling. Also John Corteis, with five persons in family. William Curtis appears to be the largest land-holder in this list, which contains fifty-three names; but there is another list of about a dozen larger land-holders, among whom are Dudley, Weld, Gore and Heath. Curtis is spelled in various ways in the old records, as was the case with most other names. In one of Shakespere's plays it is spelled Curtis, which is good authority.*

Roxbury was settled by a party under the direction of William Pynchon, from the company who came with Winthrop, in 1630. They were mostly from London and its vicinity, and a few from the West of England. It is supposed by some that William Curtis came from London, by others from Warwickshire. The birth of his youngest son, Isaac, is in the Town Records, 1642, ten years after their arrival. It is not known whether Mary was married. The marriages of his daughters Elizabeth and Hannah are on record, but not their births. John and Philip settled

* There is a family in Stratford, Conn., the first corner of which is said to have been a brother of our William Curtis, and that they came over together in 1632, from Stratford, in Warwickshire, England. As the great poet lived there from 1564 to 1616, it is possible that he was a fellow townsman and acquaintance of these brothers, and so took their name for one of the characters in "The Taming of the Shrew."

on Stony brook, near their father. John was a farmer, but also in mercantile business, for there is a paper extant relative to a consignment of goods from a London merchant to John Curtis, Ephraim Crafts and Isaac Curtis. Isaac was Collector of Taxes for many years. In his will, still extant, and written on parchment, he is styled gentleman. All the Curtises in Roxbury are his descendants. Those of John and Philip are scattered through other States.

The house built by William Curtis, on Stony brook, is yet standing in good preservation. It is occupied by a lineal descendant in the sixth generation, Mr. Isaac Curtis. It stands near the Boylston Station, on the west side of the Boston and Providence Railroad, under the shadow of a large elm, and near it is the spring of water used by the family for more than two hundred years. The family tradition is that the house was built of timber cut upon the ground, and that it was the second house built here by William Curtis, which seems to be confirmed by the following extract from the Records of Massachusetts Bay, Vol. I. p. 252. "William Curtis had leave to build upon his lot, his other dwelling being seated so inconveniently. March 13, 1638-9."

In 1669, William Curtis made over the homestead to his son Isaac, then twenty-seven years old, on condition that he and his wife should have a comfortable support from the estate during their lives. This deed is still extant. William Curtis died December 8, 1672, aged 80. Sarah Curtis died March 22, 1673, aged 73.

CHILDREN, SECOND GENERATION.

I.	WILLIAM,	} born in England.	1
II.	THOMAS,		2
III.	MARY,		3
IV.	JOHN,		4
V.	PHILIP,	born in Roxbury.	5
VI.	HANNAH,	" " " m. William Cary, 1651.	6
VII.	ELIZABETH,	" " " m. Isaac Newhall, 1659.	7
VIII.	ISAAC, b. 1642.		8

In the Records of the First Church of Roxburrough, may be found the following notice of William Curtis, Jr. "William, his eldest son, was a hopeful scholar, but God took him in the end of the year 1634."

4. JOHN CURTIS, 3d son of William, married, December 26, 1661, Rebecca Wheeler, daughter of Thomas Wheeler, of Boston.

"Boston Records, February 25, 1675.

"This Court doe order John Curtice of Roxbury, to be a guide to the forces now going forth, and he is impowered, to take sixe Indians from the island for his assistance, with their armes, some of which Indians may be improved for spies, as the commander in choife shall appoint."

CHILDREN, THIRD GENERATION.

I. JOHN,	} Births not recorded, baptism recorded December 14th, 1672.	9
II. THOMAS,		10
III. JONATHAN,		11
IV. REBECCA,		12

5. PHILIP CURTIS, 4th son of William, married, October 20, 1658, Obedience Holland. The Boston Records, 1657, have the following: "Philip Curtis to be paid 20^s for killing a wolf at Muddy river last winter."

This Philip Curtis was a Lieutenant in Captain Henchman's company, and was slain by the Indians, with several others, in an expedition which left Boston November 1, 1675, for the rescue of some captives taken by the Savages at the town of Marlborough. The captives were recovered, but in an assault upon an Indian camp at Hassanomossott (now Grafton), led by Lieut. Curtis, he was killed.

CHILDREN, THIRD GENERATION.

I. SARAH,	b. Aug. 24, 1659; d. young.	13
II. PHILIP,	b. Sept. 8, 1660; d. 1669.	14
III. ABIGAIL,	b. Nov. 17, 1662; d. 1665.	15
IV. JOSEPH,	b. March 14, 1664; d. 1690.	16
V. ABIGAIL,	b. April 1, 1666.	17
VI. JOSIAH,	b. March 18, 1667.	18
VII. HOLLAND,	b. Aug. 13, 1671.	19
VIII. WILLIAM,	b. March 2, 1673.	20
IX. ABIEL,	b. March 2, 1675; m. John Beacon 1693.	21

8. ISAAC CURTIS, youngest son of William and Sarah Curtis, born 1642; married, in 1670, Hannah Poly, of Roxbury. He lived in the old homestead on Stony brook, and left it to his son Isaac. He died May 31, 1695. Wife died February 6, 1720.

CHILDREN, THIRD GENERATION.

I.	ISAAC,	b. 1671; d. young.	22
II.	HANNAH,	b. 1672; m. Samuel Blake, 1712.	23
III.	EBENEZER,	d. young.	24
IV.	SAMUEL,	d. young.	25
V.	SARAH,	b. 1679; m. Joseph Harkness, 1709.	26
VI.	SUSANNA,	b. 1680; m. Daniel Whitney, 1704.	27
VII.	MARY,	d. young.	28
VIII.	MERITABLE,	b. 1684.	29
IX.	ISAAC, 2d,	b. 1685.	30
X.	SAMUEL, 2d,	b. 1688.	31

30. ISAAC CURTIS, 2d, born 1685; married, April 17, 1727, Meritable Crafts. When quite a youth he called at the house of Mr. Crafts. His future wife was in the cradle in the room. Mrs. Crafts said, in the course of conversation, Mr. Curtis, why don't you get married? He replied, "Madam, I will wait for your little daughter;" and what was spoken in jest, proved true.

Fourth
CHILDREN, ~~THIRD~~ GENERATION.

I.	ISAAC,	b. April 26, 1728; d. young.	32
II.	ISAAC,	b. d. 1730.	33
III.	ISAAC, 3d,	b. 1732.	34
IV.	EBENEZER,	b. Jan. 26, 1734.	35
V.	HANNAH,	b. Jan. 29, 1736; m. Jere. Gore, 1768.	36
VI.	NATHANIEL,	b. Aug. 6, 1738.	37
VII.	PATIENCE,	b. May 28, 1740; m. Peleg Heath, 1768.	38
VIII.	JOHN,	b. Nov. 25, 1742.	39
IX.	REBECCA,	b. May 28, 1744; m. Joseph Ruggles, 1765.	40

31. SAMUEL CURTIS, youngest son of Isaac Curtis, born in Roxbury, 1688; married Hannah Gore, of Roxbury, 1711. He was a shoemaker by trade, and served his time in Boston. In 1712, he purchased twenty acres of land on Jamaica Plain, bordering on the pond, and in 1722 he built the house now standing on the premises, and occupied by his great-grandson Joseph Curtis. In 1731, he bought five acres, and in 1738, six acres more, joining his first purchase. Samuel Curtis died in 1772, aged 84 years. His wife died in 1775, aged 88 years.

Fourth
CHILDREN, ~~THIRD~~ GENERATION.

I.	SAMUEL,	b. 1712; d. 1733.	41
II.	HANNAH,	b. 1713; d. 1733.	42
III.	PHILIP,	b. 1716; d. young.	43

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IV.	PHILIP, 2d,	b. 1717.	44
V.	MARY,	b. 1720.	45
VI.	JOSEPH,	} twins, b. 1722.	46
VII.	BENJAMIN,		47
VIII.	OBADIAH,	b. 1724.	48
IX.	WILLIAM,	b. 1728; d. young.	49
X.	ELIZA,	b. 1728; d. 1734.	50
XI.	WILLIAM, 2d,	b. 1730.	51

34. ISAAC CURTIS, 3d, born 1732; married Anna Heath, November 15, 1758. He died January 29, 1776, aged 45. Wife died June 12, 1799, aged 64. He left his estate to his son Isaac, according to the custom of the family.

CHILDREN, FIFTH GENERATION.

I.	ELIZABETH,	b. Aug. 29, 1760; m. Nathaniel Brewer, 1788; d. 1827.	52
II.	MEHITABLE,	b. Nov. 10, 1762.	53
III.	ANNA,	b. June 18, 1764; m. Sam. Blaney.	54
IV.	SUSANNA,	b. April 17, 1766; m. Wm. McCarthy; d. 1827.	55
V.	ISAAC,	b. Dec. 2, 1767.	56
VI.	SARAH,	b. Oct. 16, 1769; d. young.	57
VII.	JOHN,	b. Aug. 3, 1771.	58
VIII.	SARAH,	b. April 19, 1773.	59
IX.	HANNAH,	b. 1775.	60

44. PHILIP CURTIS, born 1717, Harvard College 1738. Kept school in Dorchester, and studied Divinity with Rev. Mr. Bowman, of that town. Settled in Sharon, 1742; married, in 1744, Eliza Bass, of Newburyport. Second wife, Eliza Randall,¹⁷⁵⁴ of Sharon. He preached to the age of eighty (fifty-five years) without the use of spectacles. His salary was £60 in money, the use of a meadow, and his wood. Upon this stipend, and a small farm of his own, he brought up a large family, and liberally educated one son. During the war he opened a free school for the parish. Besides this, he fitted students for college, and the Hon. Christopher Gore was one of his pupils. After the war, his people proposed to build a new church, and he gave one quarter's salary, with the right of way through his farm, that a nearer road might be opened to the church. Mr. Curtis baptized 926 persons, buried 403, and married 313 couples, during his ministry. Rev. Philip Curtis died in 1797, aged 81. Mrs. Eliza Curtis died November 11, 1823, aged 91.