

'Curtis, WE'

Publication/Creation

1906-1911

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/kagjb8vm>

License and attribution

Works in this archive created by or for Henry Wellcome or the Wellcome organisation are available under a CC-BY license. Please be aware that works in this archive created by other organisations and individuals are not covered under this license, and you should obtain any necessary permissions before copyright or adapting any such works.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

CURTIS, W. E.

'06/'11

MANAGERS
F. S. RICHARDSON
P. A. BALDWIN

FLEITMANN AND COMPANY
COTTON DEPARTMENT
59 LEONARD STREET, NEW YORK
TELEPHONES, FRANKLIN, 5062
5063

CABLE ADDRESS
NAMTIELF

28 NOV 1911

November 20th 1911.

Dear Mr. Willcome:-

Mother wrote me to send you a copy
of the Record Herald containing their references to
father's death, which I asked Suter to do from Wash'n.
I have just finished my scrap book and find the
duplicates enclosed. I do not know of a better
use for them than to send them to a dear friend
like yourself.

With kindest regards,

Loyally yours,
E. J. J. J.

Oct. 12th, 1911

Wm. H. Curtis Esq.,
Correspondent Chicago Record Herald,
Washington. D.C.

Dear Mr. Curtis,

I desire to thank you very cordially
on Mr. Wellcome's behalf for the pamphlet en-
titled "Long and his discovery", by J. H. Goss,
which has duly come to hand. It will no doubt
be of service to us when we are using our little
work on the History of Anaesthesia. You will
doubtless have seen Mr Wellcome by this time.

Again thanking you and with kind
regards to your family and yourself,

I am,

Yours very truly,

THE CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

WILLIAM E. CURTIS, CORRESPONDENT

HOME LIFE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 9, 1911.

Dear Mr. Thompson:-

I am greatly obliged to you for your letter of March 22nd and the information it contains. I shall be glad to look up this matter the next time I go to Europe, and if Dr. Cock can connect the William Curtis, who sailed for America on the ship Lion in 1682, with the Tenterden family, it will be a great gratification.

I haven't heard from Mr. Wellcome for a long time and I wish you would remember me to him and tell him I will write him as soon as I can. Mrs. Curtis and I have been in California for some time.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

William E. Curtis.

Bliss S.H.B.

22nd March 1911.

Dear Mr. Curtis,

Some interesting information has just come to me in a curious manner in connection with the search I made some years ago respecting the little book Mr. Wellcome gave you. In the last twelve months I have come in contact with Dr. Cook, a well-known London practitioner, whose family have lived in Appledore, I believe, for centuries. Dr. Cook's brother was a famous Counsel at the English Bar, and the doctor now owns an ancient house in Appledore, close by the church, which you may remember seeing.

Dr. Cook wrote me a few days ago, telling me that he was collecting material for the purpose of writing a history of Appledore, and in going through the literature for the purpose, the Vicar had loaned him a copy of the Curtis book, which was presented to him by Mr. Wellcome as a souvenir of your visit. I will now quote from Dr. Cook's letter the part that interests you. He says:-

"I have had a great deal of correspondence with a lady who was born a Curtis of Tenterden. She has made out the Curtis pedigree, a most tremendous one too. In going through some old Kentish deeds I had bought I found the parchment will and probate of the father of that William Curtis who went to America. This interested her, because although she had the name on her list there was no entry of his baptism in the Tenterden register, but a will is always of more evidence than any other deed or document, so this particular deed settled the point of whom William Curtis was the son, and when and where he sprang from. If your friend the American Mr. Curtis comes over this summer I shall be pleased to show him the deed. William Curtis who went to America, was of Tenterden, and not of Appledore."

I do not know whether you purpose paying us a visit this year or not, but in any case I shall be pleased to put you in communication with Dr. Cook, if you wish.

Mr. Wellcome is still travelling abroad, but I hear that he is much better than he was before he went away, and we are hoping he will return in full health and strength very soon.

Trusting you are fit and well, and with kind regards to Mrs. Curtis and your family,

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

W. E. Curtis Esq.

Chicago Record Herald.
Washington D.C. 1801 Connecticut Av.

THE CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

WILLIAM E. CURTIS, CORRESPONDENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Home Life Bldg., May 12, 1909.

Dear Mr. Thompson:-

I have received the draft for thirty dollars in payment of the photographs for Morton's Letheon pamphlet and ^{am} greatly obliged for your responding so promptly. By this mail I am sending Mr. Wellcome a copy of my Irish letters which have been published in book-form, and if he is not in London, I should be glad to have you forward it to him with my compliments. I had hoped long before this to have heard good news about Mrs. Wellcome, but we have heard nothing at all. With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

William E. Curtis.

Duplicate.

21st April 1909

Dear Mr Curtis,

Your letter of the 1st inst. is just to hand, having been forwarded to me in Paris, and on behalf of Mr Wellcome I wish to thank you most cordially for the trouble you have taken in having the pages of Morton's Letheon pamphlet photographed for us. The plates and prints duly arrived in safety just as I was leaving for the Continent, and I regret I was unable to acknowledge them at once, but do so now apologising for the delay. The work has been beautifully carried out, and will answer our purpose excellently.

Mr Wellcome is away just now but I shall shew them to him on his return, and also give him your message of regret that he was unable to visit America this Spring.

I am enclosing remittance for the amount of thirty dollars which you have kindly disbursed for us, and trust it will reach you in safety.

Trusting you are in excellent health and with kindest regards to yourself and family,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

Hon. W. E. Curtis,
1801 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington, D.C.,
U. S. A.

THE CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

WILLIAM E. CURTIS, CORRESPONDENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Home Life Bldg., April 1, 1909.

Dear Mr. Thompson:-

When your letter came I sent it down to the army medical museum by Mr. Blake, our consul at Dunfermline, who is a great friend of Mr. Wellcome, and who happened to be hanging about Washington with nothing to do. He arranged with Dr. William M. Gray, of the medical museum, to make plates and prints of "Morton's Letheon" and they were shipped to you March 10, marked H. S. Wellcome, London, England, by Adams Express. I presume they have arrived by this time, but if not please advise me. I enclose you samples of the print and Dr. Gray's bill for \$30 which I have paid.

I hope they will turn up all right.

I have the receipt from the express company which I will hold
subject to your orders.

Please tell Mr. Wellcome that we are all regretting that he could
not spend the spring with us.

With kindest regards, Sincerely yours,

William E. Aubrey.

Snow Hill Buildings,
18th February, 1909.

Dear Mr Curtis,

Yours of the 25th ult. enclosing postcard from Miss Long, duly to hand. I am sure Mr Welloome will be interested in the latter, and I shall bring it before him immediately on his return. He is still abroad, but I believe now on his way home.

When in the British Museum the other day, I came across an interesting note, stating that in the Surgeon-General's Library at Washington, they have a copy of the original circular issued by Dr W. G. T. Morton, cautioning those who attempted to infringe on his legal rights in 1846, when he placed his new anaesthetic, called letheon, on the market.

Would it be possible for you to have this photographed for us, so that we could reproduce it in the new edition of our 'History of Anaesthetics' which I have now in preparation? I expect it will be a two-page circular, or perhaps only a leaflet, so there should not be much difficulty in photographing it. There is probably an official photographer attached to the Library, as there is at the Royal College of Surgeons here, who would carry it out for us. If it is not putting you to too much trouble, and if you are anywhere in the neighbourhood of the Library, would you kindly ask him to photograph the circular, and forward us the negative and prints of the same with the bill of his charges? I may say that the circular is described in the catalogue as follows:-

Morton, W.G.T. Letheon, Eve, Boston. 1846.

I know Mr Welloome would be very pleased if we could get a photograph of this which would greatly add to the interest of the new edition of the 'History of Anaesthesia'.

Trusting that Mrs Curtis, Miss Curtis and yourself are well,

Faithfully yours,

W. E. Curtis, Esq.,

(signed) C. J. S. THOMPSON

Washington, D.C.

THE CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

WILLIAM E. CURTIS, CORRESPONDENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Home Life Bldg., Jan. 25, 1909

Dear Mr. Thompson:-

I haven't heard a word from Mr. Wellcome for a long time, but I judge from my daughter's letters from Mrs. Blake that he is detained in Spain. However, I wish you would give him this enclosure and post-card when he returns, as it shows the place where Dr. Long first discovered anaesthetics, and I promised I would get some souvenirs from that place for Mr. Wellcome. You will notice that the post-card is from his daughter. With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

William E. Curtis.

ATLANTIC COAST LINE RAILROAD.
ATLANTA & WEST POINT RAILROAD.
GEORGIA RAILROAD.
LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE RAILROAD.
MACON, DUBLIN & SAVANNAH R. R.
NASHVILLE, CHATTANOOGA & ST. LOUIS RY.

SAMUEL C. DUNLAP,
COMMISSIONER.

GEORGIA BUREAU
OF
INDUSTRIES AND IMMIGRATION.
ROOMS 714 AND 715 CENTURY BUILDING.

ATLANTA, GA., January 23rd., 1909

Dear Mr Curtis:-

My long silence must not be taken as an indication that your commission--to secure for your friend Dr Henry Wellcome, of London, some souvenir of Dr Long, has been overlooked. As soon as I received your letter I took the matter up with Mrs Taylor a daughter of Dr Long living at Athens, Ga., but did not receive a reply to my letter for six weeks when a reply came from Mrs Florence Long Bartow, another daughter living at Elberton, in which she promised me several mementos of her father. I replied at once presuming she would send the articles immediately, and some three months passed and along comes the enclosed postal card postponing the matter at least two or three months longer.

However, whenever they do show up I will send them right along to you.

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

26th November, 1908.

Dear Mr Curtis,

Many thanks for your letter of the 14th inst., and for the information respecting Dr Conner's medical library.

Mr Wellcome is at present travelling abroad, as you surmise, so I am unable to bring the matter before him at once, but will write, according to your suggestion, to Dr Conner and ask him to kindly send me his catalogue for inspection. If, as you say, Mr Wellcome already knows of the library, it will save time if I examine the catalogue before he goes to the States.

Trusting that all your family and self are well, and thanking you for the trouble you have taken in the matter on Mr Wellcome's behalf,

Believe me, with kind regards,

Faithfully yours,

(signed) C.J.S. THOMPSON.

W. E. Curtis, Esq.,

The Chicago Record-Herald,

Washington, D.C.

THE CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

WILLIAM E. CURTIS, CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Nov. 14. 1908.

Dear Mr. Thompson:-

I suppose Mr. Wellcome is in Spain or in some other sunnier clime, and hence I inquire from you whether it is desireable to send you the catalog of the Medical Library in Cincinnati concerning which my brother Rev. Henry M. Curtis, DD. has spoken to me, and I. to Mr. Wellcome. There are about thirty-five hundred volumes in the collection and many of them are rare and valuable. The owner, Dr. Conner, who is one of the leading physicians of Cincinnati, says that he has paid as high \$400 for single volumes, and that he has several unique examples of early medical work. He also a large collection of professional periodicals which have not been bound. Dr. Conner has

lost his health, and has been compelled to give up practice, and his friends are urging him to sell his library and invest the proceeds in such a way that they will contribute to his income. I spoke to Mr. Wellcome, about it, and he was quite interested. It occurs to me that if you were to look over the catalog in advance of his visit to America, you might be able to determine whether there is anything in the collection of value to him, and if you will write Dr. P. S. Conner, 215 West 9th Street, Cincinnati, I am sure he will send you the catalog, and it would be better to negotiate directly with him.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

William E. Curtis.

Copy.

215 West 9th Street,
Cincinnati, Ohio,
2nd November, 1903.

My dear Dr Curtis,

Returning home late Friday, I found your kind letter at my office on Saturday. Neither know whether I want to sell my library, nor what I want for it. Two years ago, I had a catalogue made (about 3500 volumes), and if you think it best I will express it to the gentleman and let him, if so disposed, make me an offer for the books.

Hoping that you are very well,

I am,

Very truly yours,

(signed) P.S. Conner.

Copy.

The Chicago Record-Herald,
Washington, D.C.,
14th November, 1903.

Dear Mr Thompson,

I suppose Mr Wellcome is in Spain or in some other sunnier
clime, and hence I enquire from you whether it is desirable to send
you the catalogue of the Medical Library in Cincinnati concerning
which my brother the Rev. Henry M. Curtis, D.D. has spoken to me, and
I to Mr Wellcome. There are about thirty-five hundred volumes in the
collection and many of them are rare and valuable. The owner, Dr Conner,
who is one of the leading physicians of Cincinnati, says that he has
paid as high as \$400 for single volumes, and that he has several unique
examples of early medical works. He also has a large collection of
professional periodicals which have not been bound. Dr Conner has
lost his health, and has been compelled to give up practice, and his
friends are urging him to sell his library and invest the proceeds
in such a way that they will contribute to his income. I spoke to
Mr Wellcome about it and he was quite interested. It occurs to me that
if you were to look over the catalogue in advance of his visit to
America, you might be able to determine whether there is anything in the
collection of value to him, and if you will write Dr P. S. Conner,
215 West 9th Street, Cincinnati, I am sure he will send you the
catalogue, and it would be better to negotiate directly with him.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

(signed) William E. Curtis.

Shaken
write to Dr P. S. Conner & say Dr Curtis had written
and requested me of his library and that he desired
for catalogue to sell it & would he send the
catalogue as he suggests -
W-

30 NOV 1903

Write & thank Mr W. E. Curtis &
saying you are doing as he
suggests & that you
are in Portugal

Snow Hill Buildings,
London, E. C.

May 8th, 1890.

Dear Mr. Curtis,

Your kind letter of April 10th duly to hand.

I have had enquiries made about the copy of the
Duchess of Alba's book on the Columbus manuscripts, which you mention
you sent to Mr. Wellcome about Christmas time, as I felt sure I had
never seen it, and thought that perhaps it had gone astray in the post.
I am glad to say it has just been discovered, having been put away in-
advertently with other parcels awaiting Mr. Wellcome's return. I will
bring it before him directly he comes back, and I am sure that he will
be most pleased to have it.

Mr. Wellcome is still abroad, enjoying the sunshine of
the Peninsula, and we do not yet know definitely when he returns to
London, but I do not think it will be long.

I am glad to know that you have fragrant recollections
of the apples of Appledore and of the days you spent on the pilgrimage
to the old county of Kent.

Trusting you are well, and with kind regards to Mrs.
and Miss Curtis,

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

The Hon. Wm. E. Curtis,
"The Chicago Record-Herald,"
Washington,
D. C.

March 3th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Curtis,

I much regret that pressure of work has prevented my replying earlier to your kind letter of November 8th, 1906.

Unfortunately I have had no opportunity of going into the matter of your ancestral history since you were in London, but what other notes I have made I am very pleased to place at your service.

You say you "have not yet discovered where your coat of arms comes from." Well, I can give you authentic information respecting the blazon on the cover of "The Perambulations of a Pilgrim." In the pedigree of the ancient families of the Curteis in the county of Kent given by Berry, the author states "The arms are first recorded in the ancient pedigree of the family given under the sign and seal of Segar, Garter, and transcribed by John Philpot, Blane Esq." They also appear in several old manuscripts in the Harleian Collection, without reference to grant; and, consequently, there is little doubt that these arms were borne by the family by virtue of ancient usage. Berry goes on to state that the first Curteis mentioned in these ancient pedigrees is one Stephen of Appledore, who lived about 1450 A.D. William Curteis appears in the genealogical tree as having been born at Appledore in 1532.

On looking through the "Harald's Visitation" of the county of Essex I find that there is no mention of any family of Curteis in the district. Of course it is possible that a branch of the Kentish Curteis migrated to Essex in the sixteenth century for some time, but there seems little doubt that the ancient family of Curteis of Appledore was the original stock. I think, therefore, that you are quite correct in surmising, as you state, that the Curteis family that settled at Hasing came originally from Kent.

I find that there were two William Curteis who sailed to America, according to the lists of ship passengers who emigrated to New England now preserved in the Record Office, in London. One of them sailed on January 22, 1632, and that is the one, I take it, who married the sister of John Elliot. The other William Curteis sailed to America on the ship "George" on August 21, 1635. There is little doubt in my mind that you are entitled to use the crest of the Curteis, originally of Appledore, which is the one stamped on the cover of "The Perambulations of a Pilgrim."

It may interest you to know that Hotten mentions that Robert Cooe, aged thirty-eight, with Anna his wife, aged forty-three, together with three children named John, Robert and Benjamin, embarked in the ship "Francis" bound for New England from Ipswich in April, 1884.

It will be interesting to know where that adipose genealogist in Chancery Lane got the chest of the arm holding a scimitar with which he supplied you. You may remember that he gave no authority whatever for it, and I have not found it connected with the name of Curtis in any book on heraldry that I have consulted.

Mr. Wellcome is still travelling abroad, and we do not expect him back for some time yet.

With kind regards to Mrs. and Miss Curtis, and also to yourself,
I remain,

Faithfully yours,

The Hon. Wm. Eleroy Curtis,
"The Chicago Record-Herald,"
Washington,
D. C.]

THE CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

WILLIAM E. CURTIS, CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Nov. 2, 1906.

Dear Mr. Thompson:--

Since my return home I have put in a good deal of time, and more than I could conveniently spare, trying to connect on to my relations in Kent. I have not yet discovered where our coat-of-arms comes from. None of the family seem to know, but Vermont's "American Heraldica" and Fairbairn's "Book of Crests", (Edinburgh, 1892), describe it with those of sixteen others belonging to the Curtis family and say that it was confirmed to the Curtis family of East Clyffe, Devonshire. I have not been able to learn anything about that family or anything further about the crest and if you can enlighten me on the subject I shall be greatly obliged.

1.
William Curtis¹ of Roxbury, who is supposed to be our progenitor, did not come directly from Kent County, but from Nasing, Essex County, about twenty miles north of London, with a party of Pilgrims from that place and Waltham Abbey. He was born at Nasing and baptized in the parish church there Nov. 12, 1592. He married Sarah, the sister of John Eliot, and daughter of Bennett Eliot, of Nasing, August 6, 1618, and sailed for Boston in 1632.

His brother John Curtis was baptized at Nasing Feb. 26, 1614, sailed in the ship "Safety" Aug. 10, 1635, and married Elizabeth Hutchins about that time. He settled first in Roxbury, then moved to Wethersfield, Conn., and afterward to Stratford in 1640, where his name disappears. We find mentioned of Elizabeth, his wife, and John and William, his sons, as among the first settlers of Stratford, but he is not mentioned, so that he must have died immediately upon his arrival

+ 38 Abbeem Place
44 Main Hall

there or on the journey from Wethersfield. Elizabeth, his widow, died in 1658 in November, and her will is on file in the Recorder's Office in Stratford.

This John Curtis, the brother of William I of Roxbury, had a coat-of-arms confirmed to him by the College of Heraldry, London, May 9, 1632, forty-three days before his brother William sailed for America, and it is described as :

"Azure, a fesse dancette, between three ducal crowns." I cannot find that ^{William} ~~John~~ Curtis ever used this crest.

A genealogy of the Curtis family by Frederic Haines Curtis, of Boston, gives this crest to the descendants of John Curtis; it gives my crest to another branch of the family without any definite information as to their origin or line of descent and it gives your crest, the three bull's heads and unicorn, to the Curtis families of Appledore, Otterden Place, Tenterden, and Rye, Kent, and of Wyndham Hall, Sussex. It also gives fourteen other coats-of-arms and crests to other branches of the Curtis family.

The Curtis family at Nasing came originally from Kent and as near as I can figure out, moved in the latter part of the sixteenth century. The parish records show baptisms and marriages as early as 1570. Before that date the Curtis name does not appear, so that they must have arrived about that time.

I have ^{not} been able to make any connection for Mr. Wellcome. His grandfather was Ebenezer Curtis and he lived at Hampden, Maine, and he must have lived during the first fifty years of the last century. The genealogies give the name ^{Ebenezer} ~~Ephraim~~ of ~~Ephraim~~ frequently about that time, more than a dozen, but, unfortunately do not locate them, so that we cannot tell where they lived. With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

William C. Curtis.

Duplicate.

September 21st, 1906.

Dear Sir,

You may remember that about two months ago I paid a visit to Appledore, with the object of finding out some particulars of a family of the name of Curtis, for which you kindly allowed me to look through the Church registers.

Mr. William Eleroy Curtis, who is a distinguished American, claims to be a descendant of the William Curtis who left Appledore to settle in America in 1631. He is at present on a visit to this country, and Mr. Henry S. Wellcome of London, and some other old friends of his have arranged a small party to come down to Appledore on Monday next, where they hope to arrive about noon.

They propose having luncheon at the Swan Hotel at one o'clock, and Mr. Wellcome asks me to say that he would be very pleased if you would favour us with your company.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a little souvenir with which Mr. Curtis's friends in London are presenting him, in remembrance of his visit to the country of his ancestors.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. C. B. Hall,

Appledore Vicarage.

They propose having luncheon at the Swan Hotel, at one o'clock, and Mr. Wellerme come asks me to say that he would be very pleased if you would favour us with your company.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a little souvenir with which Mr. Curtis's friends in London are presenting him, in remembrance of his visit to the country of his ancestors.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. C. B. Hall,
Appledore Vicarage,
Ashford,
Kent.

September 21st, 1906.

Dear Sir,

You may remember that about two months ago I paid a visit to Appledore, with the object of finding out some particulars of a family of the name of Curtis, for which you kindly allowed me to look through the Church registers.

Mr. William Henry Curtis, who is a distinguished American, claims to be a descendant of the William Curtis who left Appledore to settle in America in 1661. He is at present on a visit to this country, and Mr. Henry S. Wallcome of London and some other old friends of his have arranged a small party to come down to Appledore on Monday next, where they hope to arrive about noon.

Duplicate.

September 21st, 1906.

Dear Sir,

I am bringing a party of six or eight friends to Appledore on Monday next, and I should like you to have a luncheon ready for us at one o'clock prompt.

I should like the luncheon to be as follows:-

Some good filleted soles or plaice.
Roast leg of lamb with mint sauce.
French beans and potatoes.
Stewed plums and cream.
Black coffee.

Please wire me if you can manage this all right and your charge per head.

Faithfully yours,

The proprietor,
The Swan Hotel,
Appledore.