

WORCESTER HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES
2003.FIA.04

The John Curtis
Collection

Processed by Priya Jayachandran
July 2004

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Collection Information

Abstract : Collection contains various speeches and letters to and written by Mr. John Curtis as well as probate records from the Estate of Marjorie Curtis. Dinner invitations and meeting minutes of the Worcester Fire Society are also present.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Found in Archives in 2004.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

Historical/Biographical Notes

Mr. John Curtis was a retired trust officer at the Worcester County National Bank and was a longtime civic leader. The son of Philip N. and Marjorie (Whitin) Curtis, he was born and raised in Worcester and spent most of his life there. Mr. Curtis graduated from Bancroft School in 1928 and attended Hotchkiss School in Connecticut as well as Harvard Business School in Cambridge and Yale University. He was also a Navy Veteran of World War II, serving as a lieutenant in the Aleutian Islands at Adak.

Mr. Curtis was a member of many clubs and societies throughout Worcester. He served as the president of the Worcester Historical Society, Bancroft School Alumni Association, and Visiting Nurse Association. He was also a member, moderator, and senior deacon at United Congregational Church. Mr. Curtis was also a member of the Worcester Fire Society, the American Antiquarian Society, and a former board member of the Worcester Foothills Theatre. Mr. Curtis passed away at the age of 82.

Scope and Content

The collection contains different speeches written by Mr. John Curtis as well as meeting minutes and dinner invitations to the Worcester Fire Society of which he was a member. Some photographs of the entire society at the time are also present. There are miscellaneous letters to family and friends written by Mr. John Curtis as well as letters written to him. Lastly, there are several genealogical notes and items pertaining to the Estate of Marjorie Curtis including tax returns and wills.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Speeches

Series 2: Worcester Fire Society

Series 3: Correspondences

Series 4: Genealogy

The John Curtis Collection
2003.4
Series 1, Speeches

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | 1 | 2003.4.1.1 | Speech entitled "Some Historical Aspects of Tobacco Use" |
| 1 | 1 | 2003.4.1.2 | Speech entitled "Some Aspects of Worcester in the American Revolution" |
| 1 | 1 | 2003.4.1.3 | Speech entitled "Some Aspects of the Tories in the American Revolution" |
| 1 | 1 | 2003.4.1.4 | Speech entitled "Random Thoughts in Sending and Receiving Christmas Cards" |
| 1 | 1 | 2003.4.1.5 | Speech entitled "Megantic Fish and Game Club" |
| 1 | 1 | 2003.4.1.6 | Speech entitled "Doublespeak" |
| 1 | 1 | 2003.4.1.7 | Another draft of Speech entitled "Doublespeak" |
| 1 | 1 | 2003.4.1.8 | Speech entitled "Insurgents March in Streets, Justices Barred from Courts; Army Surprises Enemy in Hill Town, After Night-Long March; Rebel Chief Escapes, Sentenced to Death with Leaders" |
| 1 | 1 | 2003.4.1.9 | Speech on the Badminton Library of England |
| 1 | 1 | 2003.4.1.10 | Speech about Adak in the Aleutian Islands |
| 1 | 1 | 2003.4.1.11 | Speech entitled "George Washington at Dorchester Heights", by Gilbert Stuart |
| 1 | 1 | 2003.4.1.12 | Another draft/copy of the speech entitled "George Washington at Dorchester Heights", by Gilbert Stuart |
| 1 | 1 | 2003.4.1.13 | Speech entitled "How Does It Feel To Have a 65 th College Reunion" |

The John Curtis Collection
2003.4
Series 2, Worcester Fire Society

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.1 | Letter to the Worcester Fire Society members from Hudson Hoagland dated July 7, 1966 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.2 | A poem entitled "The Power of the Press" presented by Paris Fletcher on January 2, 1967 at a meeting of the Worcester Fire Society |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.3 | Minutes of a meeting of the members of the Worcester Fire Society; April 5, 1971 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.4 | Minutes of a meeting of the members of the Worcester Fire Society; June 5, 1971 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.5 | Minutes of a meeting of the members of the Worcester Fire Society; October 4, 1971 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.6 | Report of Inspection Apparatus; December 11, 1971 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.7 | Minutes of a meeting of the members of the Worcester Fire Society; January 3, 1972 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.8 | Card to Paris Fletcher demanding attendance at meeting on January 7, 1974 and payment of \$20 for dinner |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.9 | Bill of Fare for dinner on Monday, April 1, 1974, \$15.00 for dinner |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.10 | Card to John W. Curtis demanding attendance at meeting on July 1, 1974 and payment of \$15 for dinner |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.11 | Invitation for dinner on January 7, 1974 (1 st copy) |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.12 | Invitation for dinner on January 7, 1974 (2 nd copy) |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.13 | Photography of members of Worcester Fire Society taken in January of 1975 |

The John Curtis Collection
2003.4
Series 2, Worcester Fire Society (Continued)

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.14 | Another photography of members of Worcester Fire Society taken in January of 1975 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.15 | Another photography of members of Worcester Fire Society taken in January of 1975 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.16 | Bill of Fare for dinner on Monday, April 2, 1979 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.17 | Newspaper clipping of Firefighter's items, Worcester Sunday Telegram, May 11, 1980 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.18 | Bill of Fare for dinner on April 2, 1990 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.19 | Bill of Fare for dinner on July 2, 1990 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.20 | Bill of Fare for dinner on October 1, 1990 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.21 | Bill of Fare for dinner on January 7, 1991 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.22 | Bill of Fare for dinner on July 1, 1991 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.23 | Bill of Fare for dinner on April 1, 1991 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.24 | Bill of Fare for dinner on October 7, 1991 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.25 | Card to John W. Curtis demanding attendance at meeting on January 6, 1992 and payment of \$60 for dinner |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.26 | Bill of Fare for dinner on April 6, 1992 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.27 | Bill of Fare for dinner on July 6, 1992 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.28 | Bill of Fare for dinner on October 5, 1992 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.29 | Bill of Fare for dinner on January 21, 1993 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.30 | Bill of Fare for dinner on April 5, 1993 |
| 1 | 2 | 2003.4.2.31 | Bill of Fare for dinner on July 6, 1993 |

The John Curtis Collection
2003.4
Series 3, Correspondences

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.1 | Letter to brother from Amelia dated January 29, 1854 and letter to uncle from Amelia dated January 29, 1854 |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.2 | Letter to Ed from Charlie dated September 17, 1895 written on stationary from The Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company in Philadelphia |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.3 | Letter to Ms. Elnora W. Curtis from G. Stanley Hull?; dated May 5, 1908 from Clark University, President's office |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.4 | Letter to Ms. Curtis from Richard Healy dated May 6, 1926 from the Richard Healy Co. |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.5 | Obituary clipping of Mrs. Amelia R. Curtis from The Gazette dated December 26, ?? |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.6 | Letter to Mr. Curtis from Michael J. O'Hara, Mayor, City of Worcester dated January 21, 1928 |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.7 | Letter to Mr. Curtis from Michael J. O'Hara, Mayor, City of Worcester dated January 23, 1931 |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.8 | Letter to John from Rodney? Washburn dated April 2, 1963 written on stationary entitled Brooks Pond Rd, Spencer, MA |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.9 | Letter to Estate of Marjorie W. Curtis from James W. Wright from the Law Offices of James Weston Wright dated January 10, 1969 |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.10 | Letter to John from Paul dated January 9, 1974 |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.11 | Letter to John from Helen H. Frost dated January 12, 1974 |

The John Curtis Collection
2003.4
Series 3, Correspondences (continued)

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.12 | Letter to John from Mary dated January 15, 1974 |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.13 | Letter to Mr. John W. Curtis from Francis H. Dewey Jr. dated January 29, 1974 |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.14 | Letter to John Curtis from Alice dated April 19, 1984 |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.15 | Letter to Mr. John W. Curtis from Randall Conrad dated March 29, 1984 on stationary entitled Calliope Film Resources Inc. |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.16 | Letter to Mr. John W. Curtis from Randall Conrad dated April 24, 1984 on stationary entitled Calliope Film Resources Inc. |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.17 | Letter to John from Paul dated July 15, 1986 |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.18 | Letter to Mr. John Curtis from Suzanne H. Leiter from Vermont Land Trust entitled March 25, 1992 |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.19 | Letter to Ms. Leiter from Curtis L. Bourdon dated December 18, 1992 from Bourdon and Bourdon Law Offices and letter to Mr. John Bruno from Curtis L. Bourdon dated December 18, 1992 |
| 1 | 3 | 2004.4.3.20 | Letter to Mr. Whitman from Mr. Guy?, undated |

The John Curtis Collection
2003.4
Series 4, Genealogy

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.1 | Genealogical notebook of the Curtis Family copied from Vital Records of Sudbury, 1850 |
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.2 | Letter to Cousin Amelia R. Curtis from C.R.M. dated October 16, 1901 |
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.3 | Memoriam of Mrs. Amelia Riley Curtis dated January 3, 1904 |
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.4 | Decree of Distribution for the estate of Philip N. Curtis attested by the Town Clerk received for the record on September 21, 1946 |
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.5 | Letter to Mrs. Curtis from Morton B. McCraney? dated August 4, 1955 |
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.6 | Letter to Cousin Elnora from Morton B. McCraney? dated August 28, 1955 |
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.7 | Letter to Ms. Elnora Curtis from Silan? Dated September 15, 1956 |
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.8 | Affidavit of Domicile for James W. Wright completed on January 20, 1968 and Probate Record for Marjorie W. Curtis dated January 25, 1968 |
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.9 | Probate Record for Marjorie W. Curtis dated August 12, 1966 |
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.10 | Estate Tax Preliminary Notice for John W. Curtis dated August 15 1966 |
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.11 | Jewelry Appraisal from Freeman Jewelers for the Estate of Mrs. Marjorie W. Curtis dated August 16, 1966 |

The John Curtis Collection
2003.4
Series 4, Genealogy (continued)

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.12 | Letter to Mr. Julian C. Pease from John W. Curtis dated April 11, 1968 |
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.13 | Letter to Mr. John W. Curtis and Mr. Julian C. Pease from James W. Wright dated April 10, 1968 |
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.14 | Probate record about petition for extension of time for the Estate of Marjorie W. Curtis from Hartford District Probate Court dated April 8, 1968 |
| 1 | 4 | 2004.4.4.15 | Notice from U.S. Treasury Department (IRS) dated January 16, 1969 for the estate of Marjorie Curtis |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.16 | Beneficiary's Share of Income, Deductions, and Credits of 1968, Copy B for Beneficiary – John W. Curtis dated March 12, 1969 |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.17 | Final account of Co-Executors for the estate of Marjorie W. Curtis dated June 1969 |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.18 | Monitoring Report on February 18, 1992 fro Pease-Curtis Property signed on February 25, 1992 |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.19 | Land Use Documentation Report for Pease-Curtis Property dated March 24, 1992 |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.20 | Description of Walter Bigelow Farm by E.P. Curtis, Executor |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.21 | Genealogy notes |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.22 | Genealogy notes |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.23 | Directions to people's homes |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.24 | photograph of Edwin P. Curtis |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.25 | photograph of two tombstones in a graveyard |

The John Curtis Collection
2003.4
Series 4, Genealogy (continued)

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.26 | photograph of an old deserted barn |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.27 | Vermont Warranty Deed of Marjorie W. Curtis |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.28 | Inventory and Appraisal of the Estate of Marjorie W. Curtis |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.29 | Inventory of household furniture for 14 Mountain Avenue Residence |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.30 | Estate Tax Return for the Estate of Marjorie Curtis dated July 8, 1966 |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.31 | Valuation of the Estate of Marjorie Curtis |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.32 | Another valuation of the Estate of Marjorie Curtis |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.33 | Record for the Chapter Registrar – genealogy paperwork |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.34 | Biography of Edwin Prentice Curtis from the Biographical History of Massachusetts |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.35 | Another Biography of Edwin Prentice Curtis from the Biographical History of Massachusetts |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.36 | Passage about Trowbridge Line |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.37 | Another Biography of Edwin Prentice Curtis from the Biographical History of Massachusetts |
| 1 | 5 | 2004.4.4.38 | Probate Record dated July 18, 1969 |