

History of James Curtis 1681

James was born 12 December 1681 in Boxford, Massachusetts. He was the son of Zacheus and Mary [Blake] Curtis.

A deed dated 1 December 1719 and executed by James Curtice of Boxford and Ellinor his wife conveying land at Casco Bay in Maine, together with John Perkins of Andover and Elizabeth his wife, states that the two wives were daughters of Francis Jaffords formerly of Casco Bay. The grantee was Thomas Cummings of Topsfield, Massachusetts and the land was formerly the property of Francis Jaffords, deceased. The actual Curtis signatures are "Isaa Couras" and "Elinor Couras".

He married, secondly Mary Killam, on 21 January 1723/4 at Boxford, and lived in that town. He is probably the James Curtis whose name appears on a tax list of Boxford for 1711 and also the period 1714 to 1744, inclusive. The list covers only the period 1711 to 1744.

History of James Curtis 1712

James Curtis was born about 1712, probably in Boxford, Massachusetts. He was the son of James and Mary [Killam] Curtis.

He married Sarah Buswell, on 1 October 1731, and resided in Boxford.

James Curtis of Boxford is listed as Proprietor No. 95 of Township 3, Souhegan West, New Hampshire (from which parts of Amherst and Mont Vernon were set off) in the right of [his grandfather] Francis Jeffrey. Also he was one of the signers on 1 December 1759 of a petition to the Masonian Proprietors of land in Souhegan West to have their titles confirmed.

James Curtis on 26 July 1785 conveyed all of his real estate in Boxford to his grandson, John. The latter removed to Hillsborough, New Hampshire and sold, in turn, the house and lands to Eleazer Flint of Reading, Massachusetts. In 1789 Flint conveyed to Capt. Jacob Gould and Ruth Curtis, mother of the above named John Curtis the same property. Mrs Curtis in 1795 conveyed her half to Jacob Gould Jr., son of her associate purchaser.

In a tax listed for Boxford for the period 1711 to 1744, the name of James Curtis Jr. appears from 1732 to 1744. He is not listed in the 1790 census so probably was deceased, or living with one of his children. His name is not in the probate index for Essex County, Massachusetts.

History of Jeremiah Curtis

Jeremiah Curtis was born 10 March 1782 in New Salem, Massachusetts. He was the son of Moses and Mary [Meacham] Curtis.

Jeremiah Curtis removed to Erie Co., Pennsylvania with his three brothers, Jacob, William and Nahum, and it was probably there that he married on 10 April 1811 to his first wife, Aurelia Meacham, by whom he had no children.

As his second wife, he married on 1816 to Ruth Stratton, born 23 February 1795 at New Salem, Massachusetts, daughter of Jonathan and Ruth [Foster] Stratton.

At the 1820 census the family was living in Conneaut, Erie Co., Pennsylvania and consisted of:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
under 10 years	1	2
10 & Under 16	0	1
betw 16 & 18	0	-
16 & under 26	0	1
26 & under 45	1	0
45 yrs & over	0	0

At the 1830 Census Jeremiah had removed to Pontiac, Oakland Co., Michigan, the family consisting of:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
under 5 yrs.	1	1
5 & under 10	1	0
10 & under 15	1	1
15 & under 20.	0	0

20 & under 25	0	0
25 & under 30	0	0
30 & under 40	0	1
40 & under 50	2	0
50 & under 60	0	0

In Michigan he became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and with his brothers, Nahum and Jacob, and began the wandering with his fellow Mormons which brought them to Warsaw, Hancock Co. Illinois.

Jeremiah Curtis joined the Lyman Wight dissident group of Mormons in Illinois and sometime in 1845, with 150 men, women and children, 8 wagons, 1 cart and 82 head of cattle, began the trek to Texas via Iowa and Kansas. They arrived there with five lives lost of fever and ague.

The group finally settled on the Pedinales river, 4 miles below Fredericksburg in Gillespie Co., Texas naming the settlement Zodiac.

It was in Texas that Jeremiah Curtis died on 27 September 1845.

The family as enumerated in the 1850 census for Zodiac consisted of:

<u>Name</u>	<u>age</u>	<u>birth</u>
Ruth Curtis	55	Penn
Jeremiah	19	Penn herdsman
Sarah	17	Penn
Joseph	12	Mich

Stephen	27	Penn	waggoner
Eli	20	Penn	
Meachum	31	Penn	farmer
Emmeline	22	Ill	
William	28	Penn	waggoner
Henrietta	16	Germany.	

Jeremiah's widow, Ruth Curtis, died 14 November or December 1859 in Texas. The family of Curtis moved to California in 1861 and settled in San Bernardino Co.

History of Moses Curtis

Moses Curtis was born 21 February 1747 in Boxford, Massachusetts. He was the son of James and Sarah [Buswell] Curtis.

He removed from Boxford to New Salem, Franklin County, Massachusetts where he married Mary Mechem 20 October 1771.

From records we find that during the Revolutionary War Moses Curtice of New Salem was a Corporal in "Capt. Ebenezer Goodall's co., of Minute-men Col. Woodbridge's regt., which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775; service 7 days; also, Capt. John King's co., Col. Ruggles Woodbridge's (25th) regt.; muster roll dated August 1, 1775; enlisted April 26, 1775; service, 3 mos. 13 days; also, company return dated Camp at Cambridge, September 29, 1775".

The family as listed in New Salem in the 1790 census consisted of one male of 16 years or older, five males under 16yrs., and four females.

Also in the 1800 and 1810 census schedules, but not in that of 1820, Moses is listed as living in New Salem. At the 1800 census the family make-up was:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Under 10 years	0	1
10 & under 16	1	1
16 & under 26	2	0
26 & under 45	0	0
45 & over	1	1

The baptismal records of the first two children give their parents as "Moses and Lewis Curtis". Since Lois was the wife of

Asa, the brother of Moses, obviously there is a mistake on the minister's part, and it seems evident that they are correctly the children of Asa.

Mary Curtis, wife of Moses was admitted to membership in the Church at New Salem 4 September 1814.

It is stated in records that he died in Conneaut, Erie Co., Pa. (may be Conneautville. Pa., near Conneaut, Ohio) about 1815, and that his wife died there about 1818.

History of Zacheus Curtis 1647

Zacheus Curtis was born about 1647, probably in Salem Massachusetts. He was the son of Zacheus and Joanna Curtis.

Apparently he was a trouble maker in his youth. At a Court held at Ipswich 5 May 1663 "Zacheus Curtis of Topsfield" was sentenced to stand at the court-room door for an hour with a paper in his hat on which was written in large letters "For setting up a faulse purpose of marriage at Topsfield. James Waters and Elizabeth Redington were the young couple thus involved.

A year later at a Court held on 29 March "Zaccheus Curteous, son of Zacheous was present for whipping and misuing several children". This followed a complaint against Curtious by Mary Hadley who stated that: "My unkell sent me to a feelld of corne

to see whether theare was any cattil in it about half a mile of it was: and when I was goone by Thomas baucrs hous where Zacheus curtious was and he folowed me and ouertoock me and he had a rod and he whipt me with that and then he let me gooe and pulede another rod and he over took me agayne and whipt me with the 2 rod with my feet under his armes and my head on the ground and then he let me gooe and gathered two rods and ouertwoke me and mad me pull of my cots and whipt me with both them rods the thurd time and then he let me gooe agayne and got another rod and whyp me with that rod also which was the fifth rod and then he bid me gooe and dress my selfe but afore he whipt me the second time I tould him that I

would tell my aunt he sed he would whip me fower times as much."

He married Mary Blake, daughter of George and Dorothy Blake of Gloucester, in 4 December 1673.

In 1675 he served under Capt. Gardiner in King Philip's war and was in action in the Narragansett fort fight.

He settled in Rowley village (in the area that became Topsfield) where on "April 12, 1682 the town of Topsfield voted to give him enough clapboards and shingles to cover his house, etc., if it don't take over fifteen hundred".

Capt. John Gould deeded him forty-two acres in 1686 and ten acres in 1686. With his brother Ephriam he also owned a tract of one hundred acres in Boxford which was divided by their heirs in 1721.

By 1688 his residence was included in the town of Boxford (also originally part of Rowley village) and he was selectman in that town in 1693, 1705 and 1708.

After the death of his wife, Mary, Zacheus Curtis married Abigail Stiles. Among the dismissions from the First Church of Rowley is listed, Abigail Styles "now wife of Zacheas Curtis to Boxford" 15 January 1710/11.

Zacheus Curtis died between 18 April and 17 July 1712, the dates of the codicil to his will and the probate of the document. In the will his wife Abigail and his sons James, Zachariah and Joseph, and his daughters Sarah Scales, Mercy Prudence, Ruth and Deborah Curtis are mentioned, and the sons Zachariah and Joseph are

named as executors. In the codicil several specific legacies are created, as "my best coate, my pistoles & razor" to his son James; "my Carbine" to Zachariah; "my Muskett" to Joseph; "Mr. Mathers book of eight sermons", etc. The land devised to his sons was entailed.

Administration cum testamento annexo was granted to son James on 9 July 1716, and he returned an inventory of real property valued at 232 pounds. He petitioned the Court for permission to sell sufficient land to discharge the debts and legacies, amounting to 64:1:8 pounds, "the estate being all Reale & entailed by the deceased in his last will", but the request was denied on 13 November 1716, by the Supreme Judicial Court.

The Widow Abigail Curtis married Jonathan Hyde [or Hides] of Canterbury, Connecticut 28 January 1723/4, and was his widow in 1731, when she sold her dower right in Zacheus Curtis' estate to his three grandchildren, Love Beale of Needham, Massachusetts and Zachariah and Abial Curtis, both of Salem. She made her own will on 25 April 1750, but none of her Curtis step-children is mentioned therein. It was probated 11 June 1751, Plainfield, Connecticut.