

The Curtis-Garrow Cemetery *by Jean von Schilling with Frederick W. Boelt*

Background

The cemetery was surveyed in 1937 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and is included in their report on Warwick County. Since that time, there have been additional burials, and the cemetery has fallen into disrepair. According to the dates on existing stones, the earliest burial was in 1844 and the last in 1958. The cemetery was surveyed again by Barry W. Miles and Gertrude Stead and included in *Cemeteries of the Cities of Newport News, Formerly Warwick County, Virginia* (1999). Another survey was done 10 March 1998 by Sherry Brown Tyler, Frederick Wills Boelt, and this writer. The results are the subject of this article, which will outline their findings, compare them to those of the other two studies, and provide relevant genealogical data.

Location

The cemetery is located in Newport News, Virginia, south of Warwick Boulevard (State Route 60 East) and lies behind the house at 938 Sherry Circle.

Description

Earthworks from Confederate Fort McPherson separate the back lawn of 938 Sherry from the cemetery area, which is fenced on the remaining three sides. The cemetery, which is roughly 1/2 acre in size, backs on Susan Constant Drive, which

runs off Curtis Tignor Boulevard. There is a gate on Susan Constant, but it has been effectively closed by a large piece of timber.

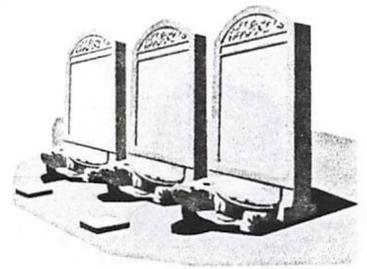
The rows of gravesites run at right angles to the earthworks. The extant stones are old, and some are in poor repair. Some fragments of broken stones remain. In a few instances there are depressions but no stones, suggesting that perhaps there had been a burial and the stone is missing. Many of the graves are marked by footstones, inscribed with initials, in addition to headstones.

The Survey

The following is a list of the names and dates recorded in the March 1998 survey. In many instances there were discrepancies between the spelling of names and the dates recorded in the Miles and Stead list and those of the March 1998 survey. The spellings and dates below are from 1998. Biblical texts and other phrases are not included. After each entry, there is a "W" if that entry was also included in the WPA survey and "MS" if it was listed by Miles and Stead.

Below each entry is a brief, sometimes tentative, identification of the person giving his or her full name, if pertinent, and family connection, if known. Women's married names are italicized.

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North Carolina Research Trip Scheduled for September



Please note that the GRIVA research trip to the Raleigh, North Carolina Archives has been scheduled for 27 September. This is an earlier date than usual for our North Carolina trip because of renovations to the Archives which will begin later in the fall.



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|---|---|---|----|
| 1. Margaret Curtis* | 9 September 1910 - 11 October 1911 | | MS |
| 2. Martha Harwood <i>Curtis</i>
wife of William Henry Curtis | 3 April 1836 - 4 March 1911 | W | MS |
| 3. W.H. Curtis
William Henry Curtis, husband of Martha Harwood | 2 February 1827 - 22 September 1903 | W | MS |
| 4. D. P. Curtis
Daniel Prentice Curtis, son of Martha Harwood & William Henry Curtis | 25 May 1852 - 11 April 1900 | W | MS |
| 5. Sallie Vellette Curtis* | 18 December 1901 - 4 August 1902 | | MS |
| 6. Hortense Curtis* | 13 August 1907 - 4 October 1907 | | MS |
| 7. Perlia Curtis* | 19 April 1884 - 14 July 1884 | | MS |
| 8. Anna E. Curtis* | 14 August 1898 - 10 May 1899 | | MS |
| 9. Murcer Curtis* | 22 March 1877 - 28 March 1877 | | MS |
| 10. John Y. Curtis* | 19 January 1900 - 15 June 1900 | | MS |
| 11. Margaret E. Jones
Margaret Elizabeth Patrick <i>Jones</i> , daughter of Julia Charles & Daniel C. Patrick, and wife of Donaldson Dempsey Jones | 23 October 1876 - 30 August 1894 | | MS |
| 12. Julia C. Patrick
Julia Chisman Charles <i>Patrick</i> , daughter of Martha Jane Curtis & Edmund Chisman Charles, and wife of Daniel C. Patrick | 13 November 1846 - 23 April 1917 | | MS |
| 13. Daniel C. Patrick
husband of Julia Charles <i>Patrick</i> | no dates | | MS |
| 14. Lucie F. Curtis
Lucie F. Wood <i>Curtis</i> , wife of Robert Chidley Curtis | 7 December 1846 - 8 July 1915 | | MS |
| 15. Robert Y. Weymouth
probably grandson of Elizabeth Toplis Curtis & Robert Y. Weymouth | no dates (Spanish American War veteran) | | MS |
| 16. Robt. C. Curtis
Robert Chidley Curtis, son of Elizabeth Gibbs Wade & Samuel Gray Curtis | 1849 - 1919 | | MS |
| 17. T. Gibbs Curtis
Thomas Gibbs Curtis, son of William Oliver Curtis & Annie Gray Garrow, his first wife | 15 September 1885 - 6 July 1886 | | MS |
| 18. Lizzie Gibbs Curtis
daughter of Lucie F. Wood & Robert Chidley Curtis | 24 March 1884 - 1 February 1948 | | MS |
| 19. Samuel Wade Curtis
son of Lucie F. Wood & Robert Chidley Curtis | 12 December 1873 - 23 May 1958 | | |

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|---------------------------|---|------|
| 20. Annie E. Curtis | 16 March 1867 - 2 September 1881 | MS |
| | daughter of Martha Harwood & William Henry Curtis | |
| 21. R.G. Curtis, Jr. | 19 December 1863 - 27 August 1872 | W MS |
| | probably son of Robert Grigg (Gray?) Curtis & his first wife,
Elmirah; possibly son of Martha Harwood & William Henry Curtis | |
| 22. Samuel G. Curtis | 12 April 1823 - 16 November 1896 | W MS |
| | Samuel Gray Curtis, son of Nancy Gray & Thomas Curtis, and
husband of Elizabeth Gibbs Wade | |
| 23. Annie Curtis | 20 February 1859(?) - 8 March 1886 | W MS |
| | Annie Gray Garrow <i>Curtis</i> , daughter of Ann Drewery Curtis &
John Toomer Garrow, and first wife of William Oliver Curtis | |
| 24. John E. Curtis | 14 July 1870- 1 August 1892 | MS |
| | John Elmer Curtis, son of Elizabeth Gibbs Wade & Samuel Gray Curtis | |
| 25. Charlie Wade Curtis | 10 November 1866 -14 October 1892 | MS |
| | son of Elizabeth Gibbs Wade & Samuel Gray Curtis | |
| 26. Charlie W. Curtis | 8 December 1892 - 22 June 1910 | MS |
| | Charles Wade Curtis, son of Fannie S. & William Oliver Curtis | |
| 27. Fannie S. Curtis | 10 December 1873 - 9 February 1939 | MS |
| | Sarah Frances (nee Curtis), second wife of William Oliver Curtis | |
| 28. William Oliver Curtis | 23 February 1859 - 10 July 1935 | MS |
| | son of Elizabeth Gibbs Wade & Samuel Gray Curtis, and husband of
Annie Gray Garrow and Fannie S. Curtis | |
| 29. E. C. Charles | 19 October 1818 - 2 May 1870 | W MS |
| | Edmund Chisman Charles, husband of Martha Jane Curtis | |
| 30. Mary Hope Johnson | 1870-22 December 1870 | MS |
| | daughter of Mollie Weymouth & Jacob H. Johnson | |
| 31. William H. Garrow | 14 July 1840 - 3 August 1844 | W MS |
| | son of Ann Drewery Curtis & John Toomer Garrow | |
| 32. Marth A. Garrow | 8 June 1842 -1 September 1844 | W MS |
| | daughter of Ann Drewery Curtis & John Toomer Garrow | |
| 33. John T. Garrow | 30 June 1846 - 25 February 1860 | W MS |
| | son of Ann Drewery Curtis & John Toomer Garrow | |
| 34. Marth T. Garrow | 20 November 18(59?) - 24 May 1860 | W MS |
| | daughter of Ann Drewery Curtis & John Toomer Garrow | |
| 35. John T. Garrow | 15 August 1820 - 9 March 1866 | W MS |
| | John Toomer Garrow, husband of Ann Drewery Curtis | |

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Ask Genie

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Virginia's County Formation Maps

http://www.myviriniogenealogy.com/va_maps/va_cf.htm

AniMap Plus CD

<http://www.goldbug.com/AniMap.html>

Everton Publishers

<http://www.everton.com/>

reference chart, arranged like a descendency chart, provides a guide to the organization of Virginia's counties since the colony's founding.

A classic source of information on Virginia counties is Martha W. Hiden's *How Justice Grew; Virginia Counties: An Abstract of Their Formation*. Originally published in 1957, it was reprinted by Genealogical Printing Company (GPC) in 2002, but is currently out of print. This engaging book recounts the beginnings and alterations of each county in Virginia, including those Virginia counties now found in the states of West Virginia and Kentucky. Descendency charts for 11

early counties supplement the text.

Researchers looking for an online source of information on

the growth of Virginia counties, or counties in other states, should check Virginia's County Formation Maps at myviriniogenealogy.com. (The Virginia site includes links for other states.) Beginning in 1617 with the four corporations, this site takes the user year-by-year through the many changes in jurisdiction visually and with brief notes. Related links of interest to Virginia researchers are also featured. This site is based on *AniMap Plus County Boundary*

Historical Atlas, ver. 2.5, a county-formation atlas of the United States available on CD. The new CD version of the program displays over 2,300 maps in color to show changing county boundaries for each of the 48 adjacent United States for every year since colonial times.

There are several books that will be of use to researchers interested in multiple states. Everton's *Handybook for Genealogists*, 11th Edition, provides concise information for each of the fifty states and several countries. Each state entry includes a list of counties and provides date of formation and parent county.

Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920, by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide, (published by GPC) shows all U.S. county boundaries from 1790 to 1920, in ten-year intervals that coincide with the decennial census. Each of the nearly 400 maps superimposes the old county lines over modern ones to highlight the boundary changes.

Ancestry .com's *Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources* provides information on each of the states, including specific details on each county.

High tech or low, detailed or stated simply, there are many tools to help researchers follow the land that their ancestors called home.



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|--|------------------------------------|---|----|
| 36. Ann D. Garrow | 14 March 1818-27 July 1897 | W | MS |
| Ann (Nancy) Drewery Curtis, daughter of Nancy Gray & Thomas Curtis, and wife of John Toomer Garrow | | | |
| 37. Robert Grigg Curtis | 24 February 1832 - 20 March 1899 | W | MS |
| Robert Gray (?) Curtis, son of Nancy Gray & Thomas Curtis, and husband of Elmira ? and of Matthey Campbell | | | |
| 38. Martha J. Charles | 25 November 1813 - 22 January 1890 | W | MS |
| Martha Jane Curtis Charles, daughter of Nancy Gray & Thomas Curtis, and wife of Edmund Chisman Charles | | | |
| 39. Lewis P. Charles | 17 October 1852 - 27 December 1907 | W | MS |
| son of Martha Jane Curtis & Edmund Chisman Charles | | | |

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40. Mary E. Curtis	26 March 1844 - 25 November 1868	W	MS
	Mary Elizabeth Garrow, daughter of Ann Drewery Curtis & John Toomer Garrow, and wife of Robert Curtis		
41. Robert Curtis**	1 July 1840 - 28 January 1923	W	MS
	husband of Mary Elizabeth Garrow		
42. Maiy E. Curtis	30 October 1868 - 23 January 1933		MS
	daughter of Mary Elizabeth Garrow & Robert Curtis		
43. Ann G. Garrow	11 November 1883 - 16 April 1886		MS
	probably granddaughter of Ann Drewery Curtis & John Toomer Garrow, and daughter of James R. or Samuel Cook Garrow		
44. Cornelia N. Garrow	18 October 1885 - 24 October 1894		MS
	probably granddaughter of Ann Drewery Curtis & John Toomer Garrow, and daughter of James R. or Samuel Cook Garrow		
45. Virginia Curtis Garrow	29 May 1853 - 28 December 1930	W	MS
	daughter of Ann Drewery Curtis & John Toomer Garrow, and wife of John L. Curtis		
46. John L. Curtis	5 July 1845 - 12 March 1905	W	MS
	John Langley Curtis, son of Sarah Katherine Harwood (1800-1886) & Miles Curtis (1791-1851), and husband of Virginia Curtis Garrow		
47. Miles C. Curtis	28 July 1878 - 8 October 1895		MS
	Miles Caiy Curtis, son of Virginia Curtis Garrow & John L. Curtis		

◆These unidentified children may be siblings, but given the range of their dates of birth, it is more likely that they came from more than one family. Those who were not siblings were certainly cousins. Sallie Vellette was identified on her tombstone as “daughter of J. G. & H. V. Curtis.”

◆◆Robert Curtis was the son of Sarah Katherine (1800-1886) and Miles Curtis, who was the son of Edmund in and Ann Cary.

Both WPA and Miles and Stead reported the following: Elizabeth G[ibbs Wade] *Curtis* (1826-1884), Ann E. Curtis (1851-1855), and T. C. Curtis (1849-1874). In addition, Miles and Stead listed Samuel Garrow (1807-1872). The March 1998 survey located none of these four gravesites. Elizabeth Gibbs Wade is identified in this text. Ann E. and T. C. Curtis may have been children of Elizabeth Gibbs Wade and Samuel Gray Curtis. Samuel Garrow has not been identified.

To be continued

Originally printed in *Wynne News: A Newsletter of the John Wynne Society* (# 10) December 1999

REFERENCES

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- Hansford, T. I. (1989). *The Curtis Family of York County, Virginia*. Unpublished manuscript
- Jenson, L. (1990). 32nd *Virginia Infantry*. Lynchburg: H. E. Howard
- Miles, B. W., & Stead, G. (1999). *Cemeteries of the City of Newport News, formerly Warwick County, Virginia*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books.

VA
RDC
MISC
1.1Obituary Abstracts*Rockbridge County News*

- 20 June 1889- Sterrett, Rebecca A., w/o late James; ci. 4 miles N. of Lexington, buried Timber Ridge.
- 27 June 1889- Terrell. Lee d. 13 June 1889, buried Fairfield Cemetery.
- 4 July 1889- Dempsey, Mary, w/o Wesley G.. d. 2G June at Denmark, buried on the farm.
- 4 July 1889- Alexander. Miss Amanda d. 29 June, aged 70 years, buried New Providence, d/o Andw.
- 4 July 1889- Reed. Mrs., w/o Win. who committed suicide several months ago. d. Sat., buried Oxford.
- 4 July 1889- Allen. II.D. committed suicide near Clifton Forge by setting the house afire and keeping neighbors and family away with a shotgun, then leapt into the flames
- 19 July 1889- Shaw, Henry d. of heart disease, s/o Campbell Shaw of Cedar Grove, aged 22 years.
- i/19 July 1889- Harrison, James A.. Jr., infant s/o Prof. A J. A., aged 13 months.
- 25 July 1889- Burkes, Carter (colr'd) d. on farm of S.V Turpin, kicked in side by a horse 2 wks ago. d. 19 July.
- 25 July 1889- Harlow. Alexander (wounded 2 yrs ago by pistol shot from Sandie Co udon), instantly killed at Big Bend tunnel. WVa, Thurs. by a slide, s/o Dick Harlow of Cedar Grove.
- 25 July 1889- Daniel. Herbert d. at residence of Capt. J. C. Deacon on upper Buffalo last Thursday, aged 70 yr. Emigrated to Missouri as a young man. enlisted Mexican War. then removed to Ca.. returned back to Rockbridge few yrs ago to live with brother-in-law. J.C. Deacon.
- 1 August 1889- Christian. Mrs. Belinda d. 25 July . aged 90 yrs.. Natural Bridge.
- 1 August 1889- Pennington. Mrs. Salina, w/o Soloman. d. 18 July, buried Timber Ridge new graveyard, aged 53 yrs. member Methodist Church. (Riverside).
- 1 August 1889- Reid. Mrs. Jane d. 1 July . aged 68 yrs. (Collierstown).
- 1 August 1889- Hutton. Mrs. Martha B. d. 8 July, aged 84 yrs. (Collierstown).
- 8 August 1889- Dorsey. Fred (colr'd) aged about 20 yrs. d. in County jail Tuesday. (In Jail for riding horses at night without owners permission).
- 8 August 1889- Davidson. Capt. Wm. d. Arnolds Valley Monday of erysipelas, buried Lexington Cemetery. Confederate Soldier, aged 51 yrs.
- 8 August 1889- Sehorn. Mr. Chapman Johnston d. at Masonic Home aged 26 yrs. Lynchburg. s/o Lafayette & _____ Johnston. buried Collierstown ITesbyterian.
- 8 August 1889- Moxley, Mrs. Geo. from Balcony Falls d. 2 August, buried Falling Springs.
- 8 August 1889- Echard. Decaree Lillian d. 26 July in Roanoke City, infant d/o F. P.
- 8 August 1889- McDowell. Robert Pritchard infant s/o Wm. G.. aged about 12 months, d. 4 August.
- 25 August 1889- McCluer, Elizabeth, granddaughter of David Witt. Esq., aged 21 months, d/o R. S. & Bettie B.
- 25 August 1889- Rees. Litetia d. 10 August, d/o N.B. . died of consumption, buried Falling Springs.
- 25 August 1889- Croc ken. James H. d. Monday at Lincoln Nebraska. 6 August.
- 25 August 1889- Camden. Charles C. d. Friday at Lexington of a large tumor on one of his legs, went to Richmond and had it removed several months ago. it reappeared and enlarged, aged 24 years.
- 25 August 1889- Shaner. Mrs. Mary d. 9 August, aged 72 years. 4 months. (Longwood).
- 22 August. 1889- Lam. John S. d. at home on Shield's Hill last Friday. 16 August. Native of Kens Creek. Co 11 58 VA Infantry, CSA. Wounded Cross Keys. No children, wife survives. He was torn 2 August 1839, h/o Sarah J. Nuckols, married 9 September 1863.
- 5 September 1889 Withrow. Mrs. Henry d. near Cedar Grove Sunday, buried Timber Ridge.
- 5 September 1889- Clark. Chas, aged about 17 years, lived North Mountain, killed at Longdale Furnace on Tuesday. Riding on front of engine and as approached furnace, he stepped off and somehow fell in front of the train. (Collierstown)
- 5 September 1889- Entsminger. Perry, s/o Mrs. Frank, d. Tuesday, aged about 20 yrs., of y epilepsy. (Collierstown)
- 12 September 1889- McCorkle. Mary Frazier d/ J/f 5 September of typhoid fever, aged 16 yr, d/o James W. of Middlebrook. Augusta County, buried Bethel. Augusta.
- 12 September 1889- Hutton, Mattie V.. w/o A. G.. d. 6 September at Oakdale of convulsions. native of Indiana, aged 22 years, buried Collierstown Presbyterian.
- 12 September 1889- Harlan. Boyd. d. Martinsburg. WVa 5 September aged 53 yrs.. CO C. 1st VA Cavalry. CSA. brothers Hunter. Scott, and Wick of same Company.

Swafer



Viola E. RYAN, 1871-1928
 CASS, mother, Arta J., 1873-1960; father, Matt L., 1871-1948.
 CAJPS, Agnes, wife of Lewis S. CASS, July 18, 1845-May 10, 1915. Same stone:
 Leumis S. CASS, Nov. 19, 1838-Feb. 7, 1899, Co. D., 4th IND. Cav.
 Beverly J. SNOW, wife of Russell BARROW, Dec. 0, 1934-Aug. 15, 1959.
 Archib K. SNOW, Missouri, S/Sgt., 105 Eng. Combat Bn. WW II, Aug. 20, 1922-Aug. 7, 1944.
 Miner wife of GJ W. COE, Jan. 27, 1884, ae 46 yrs., 8 mos., 5 days.
 Amanda S., wife of John W. W., April 30, 1880, 18 mos., 8 days.

Lewis NIGH, Feb. 25, 1828-April 29, 1879.
 Anna E., wife of F. W. FLATT, March 28, 1874-Jan. 7, 1908.
 GALLOWAY, son, Thomas, 1886-1948; father, Allen, 1846-1892; mother Arnetta/ 1858-1935.
 JACKSON, Lawrence Leroy, Jan. 18, 1932-Jan. 27, 1932.
 HALL, Mary B., his wife, 1861-1929; Samuel, 1851-1937.
 Mabel V., wife of B. E. HALL, 1889-1928.
 Martha Ann, dau. of B. E. & Goldie HALL, Oct. 30, 1931-July 2, 1934.
 Elizabeth NIGH, d. March 25, 1897, aq/73 yrs.
 Ida NIGH, Jan. 27, 1871-Aug. 10, 1901.
 PERKIN (no first name) (date).
 Robert, son of J. S. & M. L. NIGH, March 18, 1878-July 31, 1878.

 INNELL Cemetery. This burial ground is located on the property of the Beef Cattle Research Center on Highway 522, out of Front Royal, Virginia. The land was obtained by the Army in 1911 for the Army Remount Station, later called the Aleshire Q. M. Depot. The cemetery is within the building complex of the center, and is enclosed by a stone fence built in 1914. The inscriptions were copied on July 9, 1971, by Arthur Louis Finnell

of Marshall, Minnesota.

18 rough stones were counted that seem to mark graves; one is believed to be the grave of Reuben Finnell, Revolutionary War soldier and Methodist Minister, who died in 1823. One stone is broken and the top half could not be found.

Hanson FINNELL, son of Alexander & Catharine Finnell, d. Feb. 12, 1856, ae 33 yrs.
 Warren FINNELL, son of Reuben Ellis & Vienna Finnell, d. Oct. 1831 in the 12th yr. of his age.
 Reuben E. FINNELL, 1790-1843. Same stone:
 Vienna RUSSELL, his wife, 1798-1868.
 Frances B., wife of William J. CLANAHAN, b. April 15, 1827, d. May the 19th, 1861.
 William Hanson, son of Hiram & Mary PULLIAM, d. Sept. 24, 1854, ae 8 yrs., 3 mos., 8 da.
 Caroline, wife of Jacob HOCKMAN, d. April 27, 1856, ae 48 yrs., 4 mos., 2 da.
 Mollie Hanson, dau. of H(illeg.) & Jonath Ann GARDNER, b. Sept. 10, 1854, d. June 19, 1855, ae. 9 mos. and 9 da.
 Robbie A., only son of J. B. & G. H. GARDNER, d. June 23, 1853, ae. 11 mos. and 24 da.

The "Searcher" desires unpublished cemetery inscriptions,

particularly from old locations that are neglected. The editor recalls one such burying plot near Hancock, Massachusetts, which he had planned to copy on his next trip to the area. But that turned out to be ten years later, and in the meantime brush had overgrown the spot, cows had knocked over stones, most of which had disappeared. Only a half dozen remained standing and were almost inaccessible. As the enigmatic saying goes, "time is of the essence!"

 ALTSBURG, Pennsylvania, inscriptions; supplied by Berth/ A. Kiebl(^ of Torrance, California, who states, "In what is known as the Old Burial Grounds there are (mly two markers remaining. The old glass works took part of the graveyard and the railroad left only the markers of Mrs./Jane Boggs and Johnson. The Church ?und was most likely ut 18lk and burials itil Edgewood Cem-)ened in 1868. Some

1 their relatives redegwood, among pers. This ceme-cated just above S. V. Kiebler's Mill.