

## Dakota Territory Curtis Settlers

By George Curtis

In 2012, the Moody County Historical Society in Flandreau, South Dakota had a number of unique documents online at [www.moodycountymuseum.com](http://www.moodycountymuseum.com). Moody County is on the eastern South Dakota border with Minnesota, named for Gideon Curtis Moody, first U.S. Senator from South Dakota. One document available then but no longer online, was a listing of land grants and patents in the Dakota Territory. Of course, I had to scan it for any Curtis-Curtiss names of which I found three in the area around the Lake District. Ira Curtis paid cash for the purchase of three plots of land totaling 158 acres on June 30, 1883. Uriah Curtis made a cash purchase of 160 acres of land on April 20, 1882. William Curtis purchased 160 acres on June 30, 1886 on which to homestead. The 1880 U.S. Census showed about two dozen Curtis households in the Dakota Territory which included Ira (b. abt. 1835 in New York), Uriah (b. abt. 1843 in New York) and William (b. abt. 1850 in Canada). I was not able to conclusively identify any of their ancestors.

The second document of interest, still available online, was a listing of cemetery records in which I found two Curtis listed, an *Ed. Curtis* and an *A. Curtis* in the Colman Cemetery, Colman, SD. I was successful in finding this cemetery on the Find-A-Grave website along with the two Curtis. The *Ed. Curtis* was Edmond Wilbur Curtis, born 1844 in Great Barrington, Berkshire Co., MA and died in 1910. According to the Curtis/s Family Society's database, Edmond was the son of Charles Curtis (b. c1820 in MA) and wife Delia J. (b. c1820 in NY). Charles and Delia are last documented in the 1870 census of Union, Branch Co., MI.

Edmond's son, Allen Marvin Curtis (*A. Curtis*), is also buried in Colman Cemetery. Allen was born 1875 in Michigan and died 1959. Our database also reflects that Edmond married Charlotte Wilcox in about 1874 in Michigan and was divorced there in 1883. Unfortunately, we do not have any additional information Charles and Delia's parents or ancestors.



Dakota Territory Settlers, 1878