

Moses Ashley Curtis of North Carolina

(11 May 1808 – 10 April 1872)

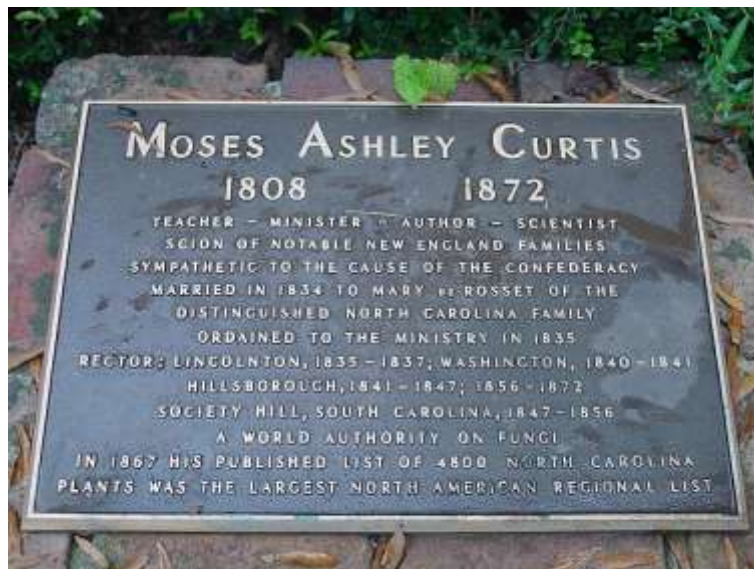
A Descendant of Thomas Curtis and Elizabeth Salmon of Wethersfield, CT



Moses Ashley Curtis

Moses Ashley Curtis was born in Stockbridge, Massachusetts and educated at Williams College in Massachusetts. After graduating, he became a tutor for the children of former Governor Edward Bishop Dudley in Wilmington, North Carolina, returning to Massachusetts in 1833 to study theology. He married Mary de Rossett in 1834, was ordained in 1835 and obtained a post to teach at the Episcopal school at Raleigh, North Carolina. He became rector of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Hillsborough, North Carolina in 1841 and in charge of a parish at Society Hill, South Carolina in 1847 before returning to the Protestant Episcopal Church at Hillsborough in 1857. He died in Hillsborough, North Carolina in 1872.

As a botanist, Curtis explored the southern Appalachian Mountains, embarking on a major expedition in 1839. It was said that “No living botanist ... is so well acquainted with the vegetation of the southern Allegheny Mountains ...” and that he “... was among the first to retrace the steps and rediscover the plants found and published by the elder Michaux, in the higher Alleghany Mountains.” For the last twenty-five years of his life, he studied and became an authority on mycology. (Source: Wikipedia)



William A. Graham to William A. Graham, Jr.

A&H

Hillsboro
April 10th 1872

Our community was shocked this morning by the announcement of the death of the Rev. Dr. Curtis.¹ He was feeling, as he said, unusually well yesterday—reired well last night. About 5 oclock this morning was attacked & died in a short time, saying only "it was his heart." He will be interred on Friday next, his children being at distant points. The negro Willis, shoemaker, died also last night. The senior Evans² is said to be ill at Milton.

My cattle have all survived the winter & are now sent to pasture. We are also planting corn.

¹Moses Ashley Curtis (1808-1872), born in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, was an Episcopal priest, a teacher, botanist, musician, and mycologist. In 1830 he went to Wilmington, North Carolina, where he was first employed as a tutor for the family of Edward B. Dudley. During the years 1830-1833 he and Dr. James F. McRee became partners in studying the plants growing in the Wilmington area. This hobby developed into a lifetime pursuit of knowledge about plants—in particular, fungi. Although he went back to Massachusetts for the beginning of his theological training, Curtis returned to North

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Carolina after a few months, married Mary Jane de Rosset of Wilmington, and for the rest of his life remained in the state, except for the years 1847 to 1856, when he and his family lived in Society Hill, South Carolina. A versatile and brilliant man, Curtis was highly respected for his valuable contributions not only to the Episcopal Church but also in the fields of education (he taught from 1837 to 1840 in the Raleigh Episcopal School for Boys), music, and especially science. Except for the years at Society Hill, Curtis served as priest of St. Matthew's Church in Hillsborough from 1840 until his death. Powell, *DNCB*, I, 475-476.

MOSES ASHLEY CURTIS (1808-1872) *Scientist, Clergyman*. Native of Massachusetts. Rector of St. Matthew's Church, 1841-1847, 1856-1872. Head of Episcopal School for Boys, Raleigh, 1837-1839. Made scientific study of fungi, shrubs, woody vines, and other plants. Discovered and named number of new plants. First to understand and describe process by which Venus Fly Trap "eats" insects. ("Orange County - 1752-1952" edited by Hugh Lefler and Paul Wager, published in 1953)

Moses Ashley Curtis was a seventh-generation descendent of a line from Thomas Curtis (1598-1681) and Elizabeth Salmon of Wethersfield, CT; thus, Moses⁷, Rev. Jared⁶ (1777-1862) and Thankful Ashley, Isaac⁵ (1749-1831) and Hannah Higbee, Elnathan⁴ (1713-1781) and Rose Weller, Capt. Thomas³ (1680-1781) and Mary Goodrich, Joseph² (1644-1683) and Mercy Deming, Thomas¹ and Elizabeth Salmon. (Curtis/s Family Society)

Mary Jane de Rossett, wife of Moses⁷ Ashley Curtis, was born on August 10, 1813 in Wilmington, NC. She died on 21 July 1903 in Lincolnton, Lincoln Co., NC. (FindAGrave)

The Ten Children of Moses⁷ Ashley Curtis and Mary Jane de Rossett

William⁸ White Curtis, born in December 1837 and died on Aug 5, 1843. He is buried in the cemetery at Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Hillsborough, Orange County, NC. (Source: FindAGrave, CFS Database)

Armand⁸ de Rossett Curtis, born in 1839, died Aug 4, 1856 and buried in Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, NC. (Source: Find-a-Grave)

Moses⁸ Ashley Curtis II, son of Moses⁷ Ashley Curtis (Sr.) and Mary de Rossett, born 29 April 1842 in Hillsborough, NC and died a widower in on 9 Jan 1933 in Wilmington while living with daughter Susan

Alexander. He married, on April 29, 1873 or 1875 in Saint Matthew's Church in Hillsborough, Mary Hollock Nash. She was born on Feb 26, 1844 in Hillsborough and died on Dec 27, 1921 in Wilmington, NC. In the 1920 census, Moses⁸ was a railroad clerk in 1880 census.

The Three Children of Moses⁸ Ashley Curtis and Mary Nash:

Mabel⁹ Curtis , born 3 Sept 1875 and died 19 Dec 1954 in Tarboro, NC. She married Dr. Leon Edgar Norfleet, M.D. on 29 April 1897 in Tarboro, NC. He was born 22 June 1864 and died 12 Sep 1942 in Tarboro. Their children: Ashley Curtis Norfleet (born May 1900 NC), Mabel Norfleet (born about 1903NC), Robert Norfleet (born about 1908NC), Mary N. Norfleet (born about 1912NC). (Sources: 1900/1910/1920/1930 US Census, Nash Family Record, Ancestry.com - Family Tree)

Wedding Photo of Mabel Curtis, 1897



NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

REGISTRATION NO. 28779

DECEASED: MABEL CURTIS, born Sept 3, 1875, Tarboro, N.C., died Dec 19, 1954, Tarboro, N.C., age 79 years, 3 months, 16 days.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Myocardial Infarction

PLACE OF DEATH: Home, 1100 Main St., Tarboro, N.C.

REPORTER: MARY HOLLOCK NASH, Registrar, Tarboro, N.C.

Physician: Dr. Leon Edgar Norfleet, M.D., Tarboro, N.C.

Funeral Home: [illegible], Tarboro, N.C.

Interment: [illegible], Tarboro, N.C.

Signature of Registrar: MARY HOLLOCK NASH

Susan⁹ Wooster Curtis – born Nov 1878. She was married about 1900, worked at the Customs House in Wilmington, NC and was widowed in the 1920 census. Her parents (Moses⁸ (II) and Mary) were living with her in the 1920 census and in the 1930 census her father Moses⁸ Ashley Curtis, widower age 88, was living with her. Sue C. Alexander was listed as head-of-household in the 1930 census. Sue

had children: Mary A. Alexander (born about 1910) and John “Jack” Alexander (born about 1913). Sue died on 11 Feb 1953 (NC Death Collection).

Moses⁹ Ashley Curtis III – born Dec 7, 1885 Hillsborough, Orange Co., NC, died Oct 31, 1934 in Washington, D.C. Buried: Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, New Hanover Co., NC. He married Fanny Murchinson, born April 28, 1888 in Wilmington, NC; died Feb 1, 1967 Wilmington, NC. Her parents were Joel William Murchinson and Leslie Atkinson. The 1910 census shows Moses Ashley Curtis III as a boarder and single in the home of William & Lizzie DeRossett in Wilmington, NC. He is a clerk for the Atlantic Coast Railroad. In the 1910 census, Moses was married and living in a Washington, DC boarding house (without Fannie listed) and occupation as a salesman for a manufacturing company. In the 1930 census, Moses and Fannie are renting at Fannie’s sister’s (Jennifer A. Murchinson, born about 1890) establishment at 1643 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC. Moses and Fannie were married in about 1909. It does not appear they had children.

(Sources: Death certificate for Fanny & Mabel, Find-A-Grave for Moses⁹ Curtis III, US Census)

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH 6009**

REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. **5-90** REGISTRATION DISTRICT NAME **New Hanover**

1. PLACE OF DEATH
a. COUNTY **New Hanover** b. TOWNSHIP
c. CITY **Wilmington** d. PLACE OF DEATH (City, town, village, hamlet, or other locality) **Wilmington**

2. FULL NAME OF DECEASED **Moses Ashley Curtis III** e. PLACE OF DEATH (City, town, village, hamlet, or other locality) **Wilmington**

3. SEX **Male** f. RACE **White** g. DATE OF BIRTH **12-7-1885** h. AGE (In years, months, and days) **78**

4. MARRIAGE STATUS **Married** i. DATE OF MARRIAGE **1-28-1909** j. AGE (In years, months, and days) **78**

5. OCCUPATION **Housewife** k. PLACE OF BIRTH (City or town, county, and state) **Wilmington, N. C.** l. CITIZENSHIP (Country) **USA**

6. FATHER'S NAME **Joel William Murchinson** m. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME **Leslie Atkinson**

7. MARITAL STATUS **Married** n. DEGREE OF DEGREE **None** o. DEGREE OF DEGREE **None**

8. CAUSE OF DEATH: PART I: IMMEDIATE CAUSE **Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease (K102)**

9. DEATH CERTIFICATE: a. DATE **2-1-1967** b. PLACE OF DEATH **Wilmington, N. C.** c. COUNTY **New Hanover** d. STATE **NC**

10. SIGNATURE **Dr. R. S. Murchison** e. DATE SIGNED **2-3-1967**

11. PLACE OF BURIAL **Oakdale** f. LOCATION **Wilmington, N. C.**

John⁸ Henry Curtis, born 14 Feb 1844, died Mar 23, 1865. Buried Saint Matthews Episcopal Church Cemetery, Hillsborough, Orange Co., NC. Monument inscription says “Son of M.A. and Mary Curtis.” He may be the same John Henry Curtis who served in the 3rd N.C. Artillery during the Civil War.



Charles⁸ Jared Curtis, born November 1847 in South Carolina (probably Society Hill, Darlington), died 10 Nov 1931 in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Resided in Hillsborough, Orange Co, NC in 1880, Tilghmanton, Washington Co., MD in 1900, Piscataway, Prince Georges Co., MD in 1910 & 1920, Anne Arundel Co., MD in 1930. Married Margaret Watkins Ingleheart in 1899. She was born 31 Jan 1863 in MD and died 24 Jan 1954 in MD. She was daughter of Thomas Sellman Ingleheart (1820-1904) and Margaret Ella Welsh (1836-1930). They had no children as per census.

Katharine⁸ Fullerton Curtis, born October 7, 1845 and died September 28, 1922 Wilmington NC, retired school teacher, single. Buried in Saint Matthews, Hillsborough, NC (Sources: Death Certificate, FindAGrave)

CAUTION: This form is to be filled out by the physician or other person in possession of the body of the deceased. It is not to be filled out by the family. See instructions on back of certificate.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
 BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
 Registration District No. 5-2188

1 PLACE OF DEATH
 County North Carolina State NC Registrar No. 407
 Township Wilmington or Village Wilmington
 City Wilmington or Hospital Ward

2 FULL NAME Katharine Fullerton Curtis
 (a) Residence, No. 502 Sex Female (b) Birthplace (State or Territory) NC
 (c) Length of residence in city or town where death occurred 10 (d) Has been in U. S. of foreign birth? No

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS
 3 Sex Female 4 Color of Race White 5 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (circle one) Single
 6 Date of birth (month, day, and year) Not known
 7 Age: 76 years Months 0 Days 0 (Age last birthday)

8 Occupation of deceased Retired School Teacher
 (a) Trade, Profession, or particular kind of work
 (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)
 (c) Name of employer

9 Birthplace (City or town, State or country) NC
 10 Name of Father Mrs. Curtis
 11 Birthplace of Father (City or town, State or country) NC
 12 Mother's Name of Mother Mary de Rossett
 13 Birthplace of Mother (City or town, State or country) NC

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
 14 Date of Death (month, day, and year) Sept 28 1922
 15 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from Jan 1922 to Sept 28 1922 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 8 P.M.
 The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Chronic Myocardial Infarction
 (Signature) [Signature]
 (Physician) [Signature]
 16 Where was disease contracted? At home
 17 Was there any operative procedure? No Date of None
 18 Was there an autopsy? No
 19 What was the cause of death? Phthisis
 (Physician) [Signature]
 (Physician) [Signature]

20 Address 711 1/2 W. 10th St. Hillsborough NC
 21 Place of Burial, Cremation, or Interment Hillsborough NC Date of Burial 9/28/22
 22 Undertaker W. H. Anderson Address W. H. Anderson

Elizabeth⁸ "Lizzie" de Rossett Curtis, born 25 May 1854 Society Hill, SC and died July 9, 1928 in Charlotte, Mecklenburg Co, NC. Single. She was buried in Saint Matthews Episcopal Church Cemetery, Hillsborough, Orange Co., NC on July 10, 1928. (Source: FindAGrave, Death Certificate on next page.)

Nash Family Record

Courtesy of the North Carolina State Archives

NASH

FAMILY RECORD.

MARRIAGES

William Lord DeLoft of Wilmington N.C.
and
Elizabeth Simpson Nash of Hillsboro N.C.
were married by Rev. Dr. W. A. Curtis, in
St. Matthew's Church Hillsboro June 10th 1868

John Lewis Wooster of Wilmington
N.C.

and

Susan Meade Nash, of Hillsboro N.C.
were married by Rev. Dr. W. A. Curtis in
St. Matthew's Church, Hillsboro on
the evening of Dec: 8th 1869

W. Ashley Curtis of Wilmington N.C.
and

Mary Kellogg Nash of Hillsboro N.C.
were married by Rev. Charles S. Curtis in
St. Matthew's Church, Hillsboro on the
evening of April 29th 1875



FAMILY RECORD

BIRTHS

Amanda John DeKoffet, son of Wm L
and E. S. DeKoffet, born in Hillsboro
March 9th 1864

Mary DeKoffet, daughter of
Wm L. and E. S. DeKoffet born in
Hillsboro October 3rd 1865

Henry Nash DeKoffet
Son of Wm L. DeKoffet & E. S. DeKoffet
born in Hillsboro Oct. 15th 1867

Kate DeKoffet - daughter of
William L. and E. S. DeKoffet born
in Hillsboro, Conn. 1870

Phoebe Littlejohn Nash, daughter of
Frederick and S. M. Nash born in
Hillsboro, September 24th 1874

Lydia Lunt, daughter of S. M. Nash
Born Dec. 13th 1878

Frederick Nash E. DeKoffet

Born in Hillsboro, Jan. 23rd 1879

Ene Florence Lunt - Born in Hillsboro
Dec. 19 1878

Born in Hillsboro Dec. 7th 1880 - Mrs. Ashley, son of
Mrs. H. & Mary K. Carter

Born in Hillsboro Oct. 7 1889 Samuel Thompson
Nash, son of S. L. & A. H. Nash



Lillian Nash daughter of Capt & Mrs
W. Nash born in Durham N.C. 8-28-82

FAMILY RECORD

BIRTHS

Mabel Leuter, daughter of
M. A. & M. N. Leuter, born on Friday
Sept. 3rd 1875

Mary Annand Nash - daughter of
Frank Nash & Elizabeth M. Nash born on
Sunday Feb. 12th 1876

Bethie Elizabeth Nash daughter
of Medusack & Elizabeth M. Nash born
September 17th 1877 - Wednesday

Robert Norfleet Nash - son of
Henry N. & Corrie Ellashin born in
Durham - Feb. 26 - 1880

Joseph Emaline Nash son of
Saml S. & Annand Nash born
in Durham N.C. June 11, 1880 Friday

Frederick Nash son of
Fred & Belle M. Nash born in
Charlotte Tuesday Oct 5, 1880

Anita - Daughter of H. L. & C. S. Nash
born Sunday Oct 27, 1881 in Hillsboro N.C.

Mary Ferguson Nash born in

Durham N.C. 1881 -
Ed. H. & Mrs. Nash born in Durham N.C.



FAMILY RECORD.

DEATHS

Henry Nash DeRoset
son of W. L. + E. S. DeRoset
died Saturday the 17th July A. D. 1968

Armand John DeRoset
son of W. L. + E. S. DeRoset died
Friday the 27th May A. D. 1974
aged 12 years, two months + 18 days

Phoebe Littlejohn Nash infant
daughter of Frederick + Betty M.
Nash, died in Cyfarth, July 4th 1875. Sunday
aged 9 months, one week + one day

Henry K. Nash son of Fred K. +
Betty Nash born in
Charlotte N. C. on Tuesday
19th June 1883 -
died in Falloway on
the 25th October 1883 -

Died in Falloway Feb. 15th 1895 -
Mary T. Nash, wife of H. K. Nash.
aged 76 yrs. 1 mo. 15 days

Died in Falloway Nov. 25, 1897
Henry K. Nash aged 20 years
9 mo. + 18 days -

