

## A Curtiss Family Visits the Old Homestead in Georgia

(Portions reprinted with the permission of Member Greg Curtiss and Gwyn Chesnut.)

Greg Curtiss of Houston, Texas posted several items in 2013 on the Curtis/s Family Society's Facebook group page about his Curtiss ancestors in Georgia. He is a descendant of John and Elizabeth Hutchins Curtis of Stratford, Connecticut 1639. Greg, his brother and sister-in-law visited the old family homestead in December 2012 that is currently the home of the Carroll County Historical Society (CCHS) in Carrollton, GA. The following article appeared in the CCHS newsletter.

*"On the Sunday after Christmas, Gwyn Chesnut received a call asking when the Historical Society's Curtis-Marlowe-Perry House was open. Upon inquiry, she found out that it was Greg Curtiss of Houston, TX who said that he was descended from the Henry Curtis family. Plans were made to meet Greg as well as his brother Jeff and sister-in-law Annette Curtiss of Atlanta, GA. Greg brought along family charts that go back seven generations with hopes to work on them back to twelve generations. He had some old pages that his Uncle Bobby had developed through the years, and with the Internet, had filled in much more of it.*

*Greg explained that they spell their name with two "s's", but have seen family name with only one "s" that we use. Upon inquiry, they did not seem to know of other members of the Curtis family living today.*

*After the visit to the house, they followed us through town to the old cemetery by Moore's Chapel Church. Henry Curtis' son William Ezra Curtis is buried in a raised monument that faces north. William Curtis was a Confederate soldier who fought through most of the Civil War and was killed in 1864 at Missionary Ridge in North Georgia. The Curtis-McDaniel SCV Camp is named for him and Charles McDaniel, Gwyn's third great uncle who was killed in Perryville, Kentucky in 1862. Both were colonels in the 41<sup>st</sup> Georgia Infantry. It's a small world.*

*With an exchange of home and e-mail addresses, Gwyn plans to stay in touch with these visitors, and hopefully learn more about their early pioneer and Curtis family after they left Carroll County for Texas.*

*Gwyn Chesnut"*

[Director of Archives]

### Henry and Nancy Curtis of Carroll Co., Georgia

In the days when Carrollton's city government was near the community of Sand Hill, this dog-trot was the home of Henry and Nancy Curtis. Henry Curtis is best remembered for selling Lot #128 to the 10<sup>th</sup> District of Carroll County – the land which became the county seat of Carroll County and the public square of Carrollton – for \$150. Curtis Creek, which flows from the Lake Carroll spillway, is named for the Curtis family.

Henry and Nancy Curtis had five children, one son and four daughters. William Ezra Curtis, the eldest child and only son of Henry and Nancy, became a tinsmith. During the Civil War, he was elected captain of the "Carroll Guards," Co. F., 19<sup>th</sup> Georgia Regiment and was promoted to lieutenant-colonel in the 41<sup>st</sup> Georgia. After the death of Col. Charles McDaniel, William became a colonel in this unit and near the beginning of the Atlanta Campaign, was killed at Rockyface Ridge in North Georgia. His wish was if he died during the war, he would be buried facing the enemy. Colonel Curtis is buried in a box tomb facing north in the Carrollton City Cemetery.

Henry Curtis, born 1790 in Huntington, Connecticut, died 1836 in Carroll County, GA, was Greg & Jeff's great-great-great-grandfather. According to the Curtis/s Family Society's database Henry's line was - Henry, Col. Ezra, Peter, Capt. Josiah, Capt. William, John & Elizabeth of Stratford, CT 1639.

### Curtis-Marlow-Perry House

The Curtis-Marlow-Perry House was built about 1830 and is one of the oldest homes in Carrollton, Georgia. The residence is currently the home of the Carroll County Historical Society at 226 West Avenue. As documented in Georgia history, the first frontier homes in the state were single-pen log cabins (one room). A dogtrot is a single-pen plus another single-pen separated by an open breezeway but joined under one

roof. It is called a dogtrot or possum-trot because animals were free to run through this opening. It was popular in warmer climates because the opening was oriented to catch the breeze. In the Curtis-Marlow-Perry House, the breezeway was enclosed to form a central hall.

