

The 2024 Curtis/s Family Society Reunion
Bethlehem and Woodbury, Connecticut



The 2024 Curtis reunion will be held on Saturday, October 19, at the First Church in Bethlehem in the scenic Litchfield Hills of Connecticut. First Church was established in 1739 with Reverend Joseph Bellamy as the first pastor. In the little town of Bethlehem, Joseph Bellamy established the first Divinity School in the United States. Bethlehem – like almost all towns in Connecticut – began as a farming community, but unlike other Connecticut towns Bethlehem remains an active farming community today – a living reminder of our colonial agricultural heritage. Dinner Saturday night will be at the Painted Pony Restaurant in Bethlehem.

First Church was established when Bethlehem was still a part of Woodbury which was itself established by dissident members of the Church of Stratford, Connecticut, in 1672. Not surprisingly several of the key founders of Woodbury are descendants of Widow Elizabeth Curtiss of Stratford. Her son William Curtiss was one of the four original grantees of Woodbury and her grandsons Israel and Joshua Curtiss were two of the 19 first settlers who signed the Fundamental Articles that established Woodbury. Woodbury – the oldest town in Litchfield County – is a classic quaint New England town of historic homes, churches, and businesses laid out along a beautiful mile-long stretch of Main St. A tour of the John Hurd House – built in 1680 and the oldest house still standing in Woodbury – is being planned as part of the reunion. Sunday brunch in Woodbury at the 1754 House (formerly known as the Curtis House) will be another opportunity to enjoy the rich history of this town and the companionship of your fellow Curtis-Curtiss descendants.

Reunion Talk / Workshop

Member Tom Curtis will be presenting a talk on the *Ten Best Reasons to Learn Your Ancestry and Ten Ways to Help You Do That*. Following his presentation, reunion attendees will have the opportunity to share their own personal experiences in finding their ancestry and their own key learnings. Finally reunion attendees will be given an opportunity to share their most pressing genealogical stonewalls and solicit ideas for tearing down those walls from other attendees.

And a big THANK YOU to Tom and Bonnie Curtis for arranging the reunion and dining venue activities in both Bethlehem and Woodbury.

The **Registration Form** follows on page 5. Come prepared for an exciting, educational, and illuminating experience!

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## REUNION DETAILS



**Reunion:** Saturday October 9th, 9-AM to 4 PM - Bellamy Hall at the First Church of Bethlehem, CT located at 21 Main Street South, Bethlehem, CT. Morning and afternoon refreshments will be available and a deli lunch will be served. An afternoon house tour in Woodbury is being arranged. Reunion registration fee is \$25 per person. See the following for travel information and the reunion registration form.

**Dinner:** Saturday evening dinner will be held at 6-6:30 at the Painted Pony Restaurant, 74 Main Street South, Bethlehem.

**Sunday Brunch:** A Sunday brunch will be held at the 1754 House (formerly The Old Curtis House), 506 Main Street South, Woodbury, CT from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Menu offerings can be found below on page 4.

*See You There!*

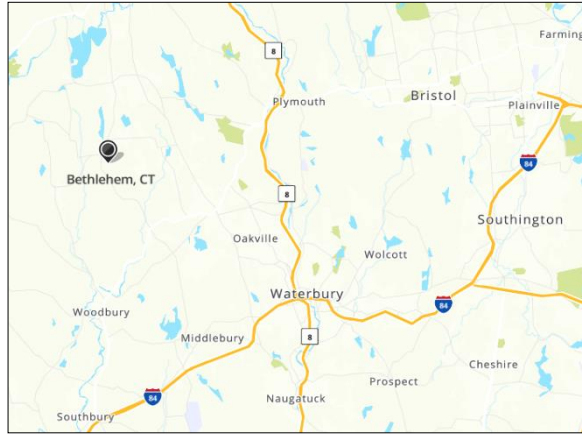


### More Reunion Information

As a continuation of the reunion information, the following area travel information and hotel accommodations are provided.

**Travel:** Bethlehem Township is located in central Connecticut. It is 14 miles (30 minutes) northwest of Waterbury, the largest city in the area. Woodbury is 9 miles (15 minutes) south of Bethlehem and 11.5 miles (20 minutes) from Waterbury.

Bradley Intern. Airport is in Hartford, CT, 46 miles (1.5 hour) to the northeast of Waterbury. Airlines serving Bradley are: Air Canada, American, Delta, Frontier, jetBlue, Southwest, Spirit and United.



Transport from airport to Waterbury: Option A—CT Transit Route 30 bus, hourly from Terminal A, \$1-\$4. Two hour trip. See CT Transit website for details. Option B: Taxi-train-bus - about \$50, 1.5 hours total travel. Taxi or Uber/Lyft to Amtrak at Windsor Locks, Amtrak train (coach \$7 senior) to Meriden, bus Route 940 to Waterbury (\$1-\$4), 25 minutes, E. Main St & Phoenix St. Waterbury.

### Accommodations

I'm sure most folks have their favorite hotel chain. Although there is not a hotel in Bethlehem or Woodbury, there are good choices in the area. In Waterbury are the Courtyard Waterbury Downtown, Hampton Inn and Quality Inn. There is a Wyndham on I-64 in Southbury, south of Woodbury. Check their websites for availability and rates. Don't wait until the last minute as late October ushers in the autumn change of leaves traffic.



## Sunday Brunch at the 1754 House Woodbury, CT



Sunday, Oct 20, 11:30-2:30

The 1784 House was once the Curtis House, Connecticut's oldest inn. One society reunion, in 1986, had their Sunday lunch there.

Brunch selections are listed on the following page. Hopefully our dining room will afford us the opportunity to continue discussions in a somewhat private manner. See you there!



# brunch

**1754 Bloody Mary | 10**  
Olive, Tomato Garnish

**Prosecco Mimosa | 8**  
Orange Juice

**Cider Beignets | 6**  
Maple Butter

**Pastrami Smoked Salmon | 14**  
Grilled Everything Bagel, Dill Pollen Cream Cheese,  
Shaved Red Onion, Tomato, Arugula, Green Salad

**Bacon Brussel Hash\* | 14**  
Two Fried Eggs

**Shaved Slow-Roasted Pork Sandwich | 14**  
Fried Egg, Marinated Onions, Pickled Peppers, Gruyere,  
Smoked Maple Aioli, Hand-Cut Duck Fat Fries

**Nona's Pancake | 14**  
Mixed Berries, Whipped Cream

**Steak and Eggs\* | 20**  
Petite Fillet Mignon, Potato Rosti, Sunny Side Egg

\*May contain raw or undercooked ingredients. Thoroughly cooking meats, poultry, seafood shellfish or eggs reduces the risk of foodborne illness.

**2024 CURTIS/S FAMILY SOCIETY REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**

Attendee(s): \_\_\_\_\_ # of people \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (cell): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your immigrant or earliest Curtis/s Ancestor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Will you be:**

Attending the Saturday reunion activities, including lunch (included)? Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending Saturday Woodbury house tour? Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending the Saturday evening reunion No-Host dinner at The Painted Pony? Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending Sunday brunch at the 1784 House in Woodbury? Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please register for the reunion no later than September 23rd.**

Please complete this form, attach your check (\$25.00 per person) made out to “Curtis/s Family Society” and mail to: Curtis/s Family Reunion, c/o George Curtis, 226 W. Inlet Rd, Ocean City, NJ 08226-4410.