

Curtis - Curtiss

Genealogy



St. Mildred's Church – Tenterden, Kent County

This M.I. listing of Leland Duncan's work is different, in that it is not taken from his notebooks, but from a book printed at his own expense in 1919. A copy of the book, being of only a limited print run in 1919, is very difficult to obtain. The text from this volume was typed up by Margaret Broomfield.

Preface

The history of Tenterden as a volume for our library shelves has yet to be written, but meanwhile a fair foundation is being laid. A general outline will be found in Vol. III of Hasted's *History of Kent* and contributions to the volumes of *Archeologia Cantiana* deal with various phases, amongst them "Early History of Tenterden", by Robert Furley, F.S.A. (Vol. XIV pp. 37-60). "Notes on the Hales Family", by Rev. R. Cox Hales, M.A. (Vol. XIV pp. 61-84). "The Rectors and Vicars", by A.H. Taylor. (Vol. XXXI pp. 207-270). This has an appendix of early bequests to the Church in wills. Mr. Taylor has also printed in Vols. XXXII and XXXIII valuable extracts from the Municipal Records and in Vol. XXX he dealt at length with the story of the chapel of St. John Baptist, Smallhythe.

The yearly editions of Thomson's "*Tenterden Almanac*" also contain many extracts by the same author from the Churchwardens Accounts whilst Mr. J. Ellis Mace in an interesting little book entitled "Old Tenterden", has put on record much information about the Town and the older houses and their inhabitants.

All these will be of great value to the future historian of the Town, but they touch but a tithe of the information yet to be sought out and put into print.

The present contribution to the material for such a History contains all the Inscriptions on the monuments now existing in the Parish Church of St. Mildred, an epitome of all those in the Churchyard and in the extension in the Station Road, and, in the appendix, those in the yard of The Old Meeting House, which will be found to supplement the record of the churchyard. The inscriptions in the churchyard of St. Michael's, of the Jireh Chapel and in the Cemetery have not been included, being all of recent date.

It is a matter for regret that the memorials in the Church are so few. No a single monument of mediaeval date has survived, save the matrix of a brass to a former Vicar c 1450, now under the Tower. Of the Tudor period there is only a ledger stone to William Austen 1595, with two brass shields of arms the only brasses remaining. Of the Stuart times the fine monument to the Whitfeld family [No. 501] with its wealth of heraldry helps to fill up what would otherwise be a long blank. A few 18th century ledger stones to Austens, Blackmores and Finches etc., were moved to the west end of the nave at the restoration, but they can hardly represent all the families of this ancient Kentish Town once commemorated in their parish church.

The history of any parish or township is inextricably bound up with the lives of those who have passed their days within its boundaries. Of the majority of these it must be said "their memorial is perished with them", but a proportion of all classes have their names handed down to us in some form of monument within the church or churchyard. The information contained in these inscriptions is of much interest both to the topographer and genealogist and the particulars as to age in the case of the earlier stones are unique, as they are not recorded in the Registers.

Owing to the increased cost of printing it has been found necessary to epitomize the inscriptions but all essential details are here given. For the same reason the insertion of a plan of the churchyard has had to be abandoned but the following general directions will be useful to those who desire to find any particular stone:-

Numbers 1 to 86 are in the S.W. part of the yard, beginning at the S.W. corner, going northwards and taking the stones as nearly as possible row by row. Nos. 87-97 are in the little plot on the southern side of the Churchyard. page iii Nos. 98-133 are in the plot against the South Aisle and under the east end of the Church, beginning at the Porch and going eastwards. Nos. 134-396 are in the Northern part of the yard, beginning at the east and going westward row by row. The tomb No. 224 is in the centre of this plot under a yew tree. No. 396 is at the west gate of the yard. To economize still further the following abbreviations have been used:- 'P' or 'late P' = 'of this Parish', or 'late of this Parish'. "died" for "died" or "departed this life".

Amongst the church muniments is a carefully made plan of the churchyard which indicates the position of very many internments not marked now by any stones.

There is a tradition in the Town that the churchyard in ancient times extended southwards as far as the High Street, and bones have been found in excavations on the site of the present houses which tend to support this, but as some of the houses at least are of the early 17th century, if not earlier, the encroachment must have taken place many years ago.

I am indebted to my friend Ralph Griffin Esq., F.S.A. for the identification of the various shields of arms on the Whitfeld tomb. My special thanks are due to the Rev. J.A. Babington, M.A., Vicar of Tenterden, for his sympathetic interest in the work and for such personal kindness and goodwill which has enabled me to clear up many doubtful dates from the Registers. These notes add considerably to the value of this record of former generations of men and women of Tenterden. Leland L. Duncan., Rosslair, Lingards Road, Lewisham. October, 1919

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INSCRIPTIONS IN THE CHURCHYARD, TENTERDEN - CURTIS ONLY

SECTION A - Stones in the South Western part of the Yard, on East Side:

53. Coped Tomb. South face:- John CURTEIS of Woodside and Ashenden, Tenterden, and of London, Merchant. Born 6th July, 1801, died 22nd March. 1875. Curteis Coat of Arms and Crest on the East end of the Tomb. On North face:- Elizabeth, wife of John Curteis of Woodside, Tenterden. Born 28th July, 1809, died 19th November, 1902.

54. Flat stone in railings. Robert CURTEIS late of this parish, gentleman, son of Robert and Elizabeth Curteis, departed this life on the 11th day of October, 1841, in the 82nd year of his age. He married first Ann, daughter of Mr. Richard BEALE by whom he had issue one daughter, Ann who married Mr. Thomas WILLMOTT and died without leaving issue. He

married secondly Mary, daughter of Mr. Thomas TRESS, who departed this life on the 20th day of April, 1805, and by whom he had issue six sons, George Robert, Thomas, Francis Tress, Walter who died in his infancy, and John.

Thomas departed this life on the 2nd day of October, 1810. Robert departed this life on the 22nd day of November, 1840, having had issue by Caroline Mary his wife, daughter of Mr. John RUSSELL, three sons, Robert Bassett, Frank Tress and Alfred Tress of whom Robert and Alfred survived him.

Alfred Tress died at Heidleberg, Germany, 7th November, 1856, aged 17 years. Francis Tress departed this life on the 21st day of February, 1859, without issue. George died at Canterbury, August, 1861, leaving two sons and two daughters. Caroline Mary died at New Cross, November, 1870. John youngest son of the said Robert and Mary Curteis died 22nd March, 1875, aged 73 years. Leaving issue (by Elizabeth, daughter of Richard BEALE Esq. of Riverhall, Biddenden), one daughter Elizabeth Fanny died 12th March 1894. Robert Bassett Curteis died 20th February, 1914.

55. George CURTEIS late of this parish who died March ye 24, 1742, aged 54. Margaret his wife died March 2nd, 1759, aged 75. He left issue two sons, George and Robert and one daughter Mary.

56. Coat of Arms:- On a chevron a dagger or pike head between two fish (?pike). Crest a fish tail downwards. Here lyeth the body of John PEMBLE Mayor of ye Town and Hundred of Tenterden who dyed April ye 9th, 1695, in ye 49th year of his age. Also Mrs. Anne Pemble his daughter who died December ye 26th, 1702, in ye 14th yeare of her age. Also Mrs. Mary CURTEIS once Pemble before WALEIS (?) buried January 13th 1704. William Pemble their son buried December -, 1715, aged 20. *Register.* 13th April, 1695, John Pempl Esq. Mayor, buried.

57. John CURTEIS of Birdyle in this parish, Gentleman, who died ye 3rd of May, A.D. 1722, Act 38. Also four of his children, George, William and Anne, infants and Pemble who died ten days before his father, aged 4 years and 6 months. *Register.* 7th May, 1722, Mr. John Curteis of Bordes Isle, buried. (Mary his wife ob. 1726).

58. (Much worn ? to W. CURTEIS) also Left issue by, Samuel, John and 1790.

60. CURTEIS of Boresile, Gentleman, died May ye 8th 1757, aged 50. Sarah his first wife died January ye 29th, 1747, aged 37. Left issue by Mary his second wife two daughters, Maria and Martha. *Register.* Norton Curteis buried 13th May, 1757. Sarah Curteis buried 4th February, 1747/8.

65. CURTEIS died August, 1797, aged 64. *Registers.* Elizabeth Curteis buried 2nd September, 1797, aged 64.

66. George CURTEIS died? 1794, aged 74. *Registers*. Mr. George Curteis buried 16th June, 1794.

SECTION C

Stones in the plot outside the South Aisle and east of the porch.

123. John SHARP, late gardener to Richard CURTEIS, Esq. 39 years, died 11th May, 1810, aged 68. Martha, his wife died 12th March, 1817, aged 77. Leaving issue one daughter, Sarah who married Robert WALKER of Eboney by whom this small tribute of respect was erected.

125. An Altar Tomb, South East Corner of the Yard. *On top*. Arms of CURTEIS much worn. Near|Body of Samuel Curteis | Gent who dep.....| De17..... |th.....| Philadelphia.....| died..... | M..... | died 1st February aged (?4).Frances Curteis | died 1st February, 1817, aged ...6 |grand-daughter of | the above named | Jeremiah Curteis Esquire.

South side. Here lies Interr'd the Body of Jeremiah Curteis, gent, late of Tenterden, who departed this life May, 1725, in the 63rd year of his age.

North side. Here lies Interr'd the Body of Sarah Curteis, the wife of Jeremiah Curteis, gent, who departed this life the 24th of December, 1727, in the 58th year of her age.

West end. The aforesaid Jeremiah Curteis left issue, Samuel, Jeremiah and Edward.

126. A large vault. On keystone:- Edward CURTEIS, gentleman, died 3rd October, 1777. Enlarged A.D. 1822.

127. An Altar Tomb. No inscription on top but two shields of Arms. One (left) CURTEIS, and (right) a bend (much worn).

South side. James Curteis, son of Samuel Curteis, Esq. and Sarah his wife, died 12th March, 1819, aged 81.

East end. Sarah Amelia Curteis died 2nd February, 1839, aged 75. Eldest daughter of the late James Curteis before mentioned.

North side. Elizabeth, wife of James Curteis, died 3rd May, 1833, in her 83rd year. Sarah HOGBEN her sister, died 4th October, 1830, aged 70.

East end. Frances Catharine Curteis died 28th June, 1866, aged 86, youngest daughter of the late James Curteis, Esq.

On keystone of a vault to east of above, Sarah Amelia Curteis, 1839.

SECTION D

Stones in the Northern part of the yard beginning at the east.

134a. A.C. G.C. Ann CURTEIS, wife of George Curteis died February, 1827, aged 5(3 or 5). George Curteis died 15th October, 1848, aged 80.

142. William CURTEIS of Eastwell House in this parish died 28th February, 1855, aged 55. Ann Lydia, wife of Alfred BARRY and daughter of above, died 13th March, 1855, aged 28. Lily Curteis, infant daughter of above Ann Lydia and Alfred Barry, died 9th March, 1855, aged 2 days. Ann, widow of above William Curteis died 2nd August, 1883, aged 81.

155b. An altar tomb by Vicarage railings covered with ivy to Edward and Philadelphia CURTEIS. He died 12th April, 1797, aged 65.

180. Elizabeth HOOK died 19th January, 1850, aged 81. Erected by Rev. T. Curteis in whose family she lived for 60 years.

191. Jeremiah CLIFF of this place, Surgeon, died 17th January, 1775, aged 69. Martha, his wife, daughter of the Rev. T. CURTEIS, D.D., late Rector and Vicar of Wrotham in this County, died 24th June, 1791, aged 84. *Register*. Mr. Jeremiah Cliffe jurat, buried 24th January, 1775, aged 67.

195. Eleanor, wife of John Curteis MARSHALL, of this parish, died 2nd March, 1829, aged 57. Two of their sons, George died 18th August, 1828, aged 23, William died 2nd August, 1837, aged 23. Left surviving, Maria, Turner, John and Thomas. John Curteis Marshall died 16th October, 1840, aged 72.

309. Lucy, wife of George CURTEIS of this parish, died 8th November, 1856, aged 56.

395. (A Vault) on keystone, CURTEIS, 1831

Inscriptions in the Church.

The following are now on the floor of the Tower and west end of the Nave:-

477. Here lyeth interred the body of Stephen CVRTEIS Esq., Maior of this Towne and Hundred, who died the 12th of August, 1654. Having sonne named Nathaniel and onely daughte named Elizabeth. Being aged 28 years. *Registers*. Stephen Curteis Esqre. Major, buried the 12th day August, 1654.

481. *Arms*: On a fess between three (birds), two (?roundels) between two fleur de lys. Impaling a chevron between three bulls heads cabossed (Curteis). Crest, a mailed hand holding a fleur de lys. Robert STACE of Tenterden died 23rd April, 1718, aged 77. Elizabeth his wife, daughter of John CURTEIS of Tenterden, died 2nd August, 1739, aged 70. They left issue one son Robert.

In the North Chancel.

(which is now known as the "Roberts" Chancel).

496. *On the floor*. Shield of Arms:- Two chevrons on a chief 3 cinque foils. Impaling Curteis. Crest. Out of a mural crown a demi eagle displayed:- Here lyeth the body of Robert BRODNAX, late of Tenterden, gent, being the youngest sonn of Tho. Brodnax Esq., of Godmersham in ye County of Kent, who was born 5th of November, 1615, and departed this life ye 22nd of February, 1673, being 58 yeare of his age. Who married Elizaebth CURTEIS sole daughter of John Curteis of Woodchurch, gent, the 8th day of August, 1643, who departed this life ye 30th day of April, 1644, being ye 25th yeare of her age, they both lyinge here interred.

497. On west wall over door which led to the Rood loft:- In memory of Joseph

GREENLAND who died on the first of April, 1739, aged forty four years and Elizabeth his wife who died the twenty eighth of October, 1744, aged thirty nine years, and was buried in a vault near the Yew Tree at the North East corner of the Churchyard leaving issue two sons, Thomas and Jere, and one daughter Elizabeth who was married to Edward CURTIS and died with-out issue the fifteenth of July, 1758, aged twenty six years and was buried in the same vault. Also Thomas Green-land elder son died the first of March, 1793, aged sixty three years. Surviving issue three sons and one daughter. *Registers.* 6th March, 1793, buried Thomas Greenland.

In the Chancel.

503. On the north wall between the arches of the arcade to North Chancel:-

Arms: Quarterly 1st and 4th, a chevron between 3 bulls heads cabossed (Curteis) 2nd and 3rd a fess dancette in chief 3 scallop shells. Impaling Curteis. *Crest:-* Curteis.

Sacred to the memory of Jeremiah CURTEIS, late of Heronden House in this Parish, Esq., who died 11th June, 1828, in the 76th year of his age. A Jurat of the Corporation, a Deputy Lieutenant and a Justice of the Peace for this County, he discharged the duties of these stations with intelligence, discretion and integrity and for half a century his active exertions were constantly directed to maintain peace and to promote the public welfare. He was a true patriot, a loyal subject and a firm friend. He was the only son of Samuel Curteis, Esq., and Sarah his wife. He married Sarah, youngest daughter of the Reverend Thomas Curteis, D.D., Prebendary of Canterbury and Rector and Vicar of Sevenoaks in this County, who erected this monument in memory of an affectionate and lamented husband. Also of the aforesaid Sarah Curteis- who died 7th December, 1839, in the 80th year of her age.

In the South Chancel.

507. On the west wall. Above is the Curteis crest, a stag emerging from a burst of trees.

Sacred to the memory of William CURTEIS of Camber-well, in the County of Surrey, Esq., who died June the 20th, 1813, aged 67 years. Also Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heiress of Francis WHITFELD of Bethersden, Esq., who died December 29th, 1795, aged 43 years.

They left issue three sons and two daughters, viz., William Whitfeld, Edward, Sarah and Mary Ann. Likewise Mary widow of the above named William Curteis, Esq., she died 21st May, 1830, aged 83 years, leaving no issue. Below is the Curteis coat of Arms with Whitfeld on an escutcheon of pretence. [*See the Curteis pedigree in Berry's Kent Genealogies*].

In the South Aisle.

510. Over the arch leading to the South Chancel. Arms. Curteis impaling Beale.

Edward CURTEIS, gent, died 3rd October, 1777, aged 65 years. He married Sarah, third daughter of Richard BEALE, gent, and had issue three sons and two daughters Jeremiah, Richard, William, Sarah, wife of Mr. Thomas JACKSON and Mary, wife of Mr. George JEMMETT. Sarah Jackson died 5th July, 1779, aged 38 years, and was buried in her Father's vault. She left issue two daughters Sarah and Eleanor, Eleanor died an infant. Sarah, the

widow of Edward Curteis, died 20th February, 1791, aged 78 years. Elizabeth, wife of William Curteis, died 29th December, 1795, aged 43 years. She was the surviving daughter and heiress of Mr. Frances WHITFELD of Bethersden. Jane, wife of Jeremiah Curteis, died 1st March, 1796, aged 54 years. She was one of the three daughters and co-heiresses of Mr. Searles GILES, late of Biddenden. Jane, daughter of Mr. Jeremiah Curteis and Jane his wife, died 11th June, 1796, aged 20 years. Edward Jeremiah Curteis, eldest son of Edward Jeremiah Curteis of Windmill Hill, Sussex, and Mary [BARRETT] his wife, died 7th August, 1795, aged 4- years. The said Jeremiah Curteis [of Rye] Esq., died December, 31st, 1806, aged 71 years. He left surviving issue Edward Jeremiah Curteis of Windmill Hill, Sussex, Esq., Martha [MASCALL], Anne [COLLET] and Katherine Sarah [LUNFORD].

511. On south wall. Above is Curteis Arms and Crest. Sacred to the memory of Richard CURTEIS, Esq., who died August, 21st, 1814, aged 76 years. Mary his wife, eldest daughter of Mr. Searles GILES, of Biddenden, who died April 10th, 1806, aged 66. Having issue two sons, who died in their infancy and two daughters, Sarah and Mary. Mary, wife of J.B. PROMFRET, Esq., and daughter of Richard and Mary CURTEIS, died 26th December, 1804, aged 36 years. Leaving five sons and two daughters, John Dewe, Virgil, Richard Curteis, Charles Wilson, Mary Catherine, Harriett and Edward Giles aged 6 weeks. Charles Wilson died March 26th, 1808, aged 9 years. Edward Giles died August 26th, 1812, aged 7 years. John Dewe died 6th March, 1820, aged 30 years. John Butler Pomfret, Esq., died 12th February, 1834, aged 69 years. Mary Catherine died 31st May, 1862, aged 62 (Buried at Ashford). Richard Curteis died 6th May, 1867, aged 70. (Buried at Rye). Harriett Pomfret died 28th July, 1870, aged 68 years. Virgil Pomfret died 18th May, 1875, aged 79 years. Sarah the eldest daughter, married William CROUGHTON, Esq., of London. Having issue two sons and one daughter, Richard Curteis, Samuel and Sarah Curteis. Samuel died 3rd April, 1814, aged 24 years. Richard Curteis Croughton died 22nd April, 1822 aged 34. He married Hester, daughter of Thomas PEEL of Manchester, Esq., by whom he had issue, William Peel, Ann Curteis, Hester and Sarah Bradshaw. Sarah, wife of William Croughton, died 30th September, 1827, aged 63 years. William Croughton, Esq., died 2nd November, 1827, aged 70 years. [see No. 442].

512. A brass:- In loving memory of John CURTEIS of Woodside, Tenterden, and Gordon Place, St. Pancras, youngest son of Robert Curteis of Ashenden, Tenterden. Born 6th July, 1801, died 22nd March, 1875. A humble Christian who feared God and lived in charity with all men. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Also in loving memory of Elizabeth Fanny, only child of the above John Curteis, for 38 years the beloved wife of John Clarke Crosthwaite McCAUL, a devoted daughter, wife and mother and a faithful friend. Born 4th May, 1832, died 12th March, 1894, leaving five children, John Curteis McCaul, Florence Ella McCaul, Alice Mary McCaul, Madeline Beale McCaul and Ella Mildred McCaul.

In the North Aisle.

514. *Arms.* Quarterly 1 and 4 or a lion ramp. sa. grasping a chess rook (?) in his fore paws. 2 and 3 Quarterly, 1 and 4 Curteis, 2 and 3 per pale sa and gu a griffin statant or. mpaling Arg

3 sheaves of as many arrows ppr banded gu. On a chief az a bee volant or (Peel). Crest, a griffin's head erased sa, armed gu. Motto, Esse quam videri. In memory of Richard CURTEIS CROUGHTON, Esq., of Heronden, who died 22nd April, 1822, aged 34 years, and of Hester his wife, who died 4th January, 1856, aged 59 years, and of their second daughter Hester, who died 15th April, 1840, aged 19 years, and of their third daughter Sarah Bradshaw, who died 14th March, 1842, aged 20 years, and of their eldest daughter Ann Curteis, who married George WILDE, Esq., of Cheam, Surrey, and died 14th September, 1864, aged 45 years, leaving issue one son Spencer Croughton and one daughter Ann Mary. In memory also of William Peel Croughton, Esq., of Heronden, their only son who died 7th June, 1856, aged 38 years. He married Mary, daughter of Robert PEEL, Esq., of Accrington House, Lancashire, and left issue one child, Hester Ann Curteis, who was born 30th May, 1843. In memory also of the said Mary, wife of the above William Peel Croughton, Esq., who died July 9th, 1898, aged 84 years.

Source:

<http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Libr/MIs/MIsTenterden/MIsTenterden.htm>