

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS PAPERS

A Special Collection in

The Archives and Library of

THE STATEN ISLAND MUSEUM

75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, New York 10301

Arranged and Described by

Mabel Abbott,

With addition by

Gail Schneider

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS COMMISSION

Grant Number 79-124

## PROVENANCE:

The Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences had, over the years, received many single gifts of the Curtis materials. They are governed by 48 accession numbers and were the gifts of 22 individuals and institutions.

Many of these items existed in the collections of the Institute at the time that Mabel Abbott was Curator of History and Literature. It was her initiative which brought all of the items together under the label of the George William Curtis Collection, resulting in an exhibition and subsequent gifts of letters, scrapbooks, paintings and memorabilia.

A major part of the most recent gifts were given by descendants and relatives of George William Curtis: Bridgham, Constance, and George William Curtis; Marian Holyoke; Mrs. William Tidball.

The Institute, at the request of Miss Abbott, made a few purchases to augment the collection. These purchases were made through the Crooke Fund or through the Museum Purchase Fund. The period of time covered is from 1918 through 1967, with the greatest activity being between the years 1949 and 1954. The accession numbers are: 1265, 1695, 1816, 2011, 2047, 2229, 3684, 3685, 3605, 3737, 3777, 3778, 3780, 3922, 3922, 3946, 3991, 4091, 3092, 4104, 4140, 4143, 4149, 4161, 4162, 4177, 4183, 4241, 4250, 4252, 4256, 4258, 4262, 4263, 4264, 4276, 4301, 4313, 4314, 4316, 54-156, 54-189, 55-43, 57-8, 58-59, 58-94, 63-86, 67-79. Other donors were: Daniel and Edward Bridgman, H. Cleaver Brown, D. Clute, Edward C. Delavan, Jr., Diana, Disosway, E. Eisele, Earle T. Goodnow, Arthur Hollick, Mrs. Pierre Jay, Miss Emily Kolff, H.E. Magruder, Agnes Pollard, H.B. Reed, and Mrs. L.A. Zerega di Zerega. The institutions were the Connecticut Valley Historical Society and Wagner College.

Miss Abbott transcribed and copied letters in other collections and these have been added: The Hayes Memorial Collection; the Curtis Collection at Harvard University; the collection of letters belonging to the Paulist Fathers, New York City.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

George William Curtis was born February 24, 1824 at Providence, Rhode Island, the second son of George and Mary (Burrill) Curtis. His brother, James Burrill Curtis, had been born in 1822. He and his brother attended C.W. Greene's boarding school, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. Mary Burrill Curtis died in 1826; the boys were in school from 1830-35. George Curtis remarried the daughter of Samuel W. Bridgham of Providence.

At about this time the teachings of Emerson began to influence both the Curtis youths. George finished his schooling in Providence in 1839 and the family moved to New York City, where George received private tutoring.

In 1840, Mr. Curtis placed George as a clerk in a German importing house in Exchange Place. He was poorly suited to his and soon left.

The influence of Emerson flowered into an interest in the Transcendental movement and he spent the summers of 1842 and 1843 at Brook Farm. The following years, both the brothers spent their summers studying and farming at Concord, Massachusetts, where George William became good friends with Emerson, Hawthorn, and Thoreau.

From 1846 to 1850 George William traveled over Europe, Africa, and the Near East, acting as correspondent for the Courier and Inquirer in New York, and had kept a journal. In 1851, he became music critic and editorial writer for the New York Tribune and published his first book, "Nile Notes of a Howadji," and gave his first lecture. "Lotus Eating" and "The Howadji in Syria" were published in 1852, and the following year, he was editor with Parke Goodwin and Charles F. Briggs on Putnam's Weekly, and published two more books: "Potiphar Papers" and "Prue and I."

In 1854, he became Editor of the Easy Chair column in "Harper's Monthly Magazine," a position he maintained the rest of his life.

He married Anna Shaw, daughter of Francis G. Shaw of Staten Island, at her father's home by the Rev. John Parkman. The young couple took up residence on the island. This was also the first year in which he evidenced deep interest in abolitionism and in politics in general, campaigning for Fremont in the fall of the year.

He accepted a partnership of the publishing firm of Dix, Edwards and Co., the new owners of Putnam's Monthly in 1856. In April 1857 the company failed and Curtis accepted a large indebtedness he felt morally, even though he was not legally responsible for it. It took him almost twenty years on the strenuous lecture circuit before he was able to repay the debt, and forced him to forgo his development as a creative author. He came through this to be considered to have been the greatest orator of his time.

In 1857, his first child, a son, was born on Staten Island and the following year his novel "Trumps" was serialized in Harper's Weekly. His interest in politics grew and he became very active in the Richmond County Republican Party Organization. In 1860 he was nominated as a delegate to the national convention in Chicago where he made a speech in favor of the resolution that all men are created equal be endorsed by the Party.

He became political editor of Harper's Weekly in 1863 and the following year again was delegate to the Republican National Convention where he was an ardent supporter of Lincoln and wrote the letter officially notifying Lincoln of his re-nomination. He was nominated for Congress from Staten Island and was defeated, as he expected to be.

He continued to be very active in subsequent years, and in 1868 was Elector on the Republican ticket, casting his vote for Grant. The New York Times offered him the editorship of the Times, which he refused, in 1869 and the same year he declined a nomination for the office of Secretary of State. One year later, he was Chairman of the Republican National Convention, and the following year was nominated Chairman of the Civil Service Reform Commission, which he accepted. He resigned this by 1874, doubting the willingness of the Grant administration to support Civil Service Reform.

President-elect Hayes unofficially offered him an ambassadorship, possibly to England, which he declined after consideration.

In 1880, the New York Civil Service Reform Association was founded and he in attendance was elected president, a post which he kept until his death. The 1884 Republican National Convention which nominated Blaine and at which he was, as usual, a delegate disappointed him. He gave his

support instead to the Democratic nominee, Cleveland, because he believed that Blaine would not support needed reforms. This constituted a complete break with the Republican Party, and in 1888, he supported Grover Cleveland's bid for reelection.

In 1890, he was appointed Chancellor of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, which post he held at the time of his death.

His last lecture on Staten Island was delivered on Charles Sumner at the YMCA Building in Tompkinsville. His last public address, on his dear and late friend James Russell, was delivered in New York. He became seriously ill early in June 1892 and after a period of acute suffering, died at his Staten Island home on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### SCOPE & CONTENT:

Genealogy: writings on Curtis Genealogy by William Winter, Ida Dudley Dale, Harlow D. Curtis, and William T. Davis. (Folders 1 & 2, box 1)

Letters and Correspondence: This series encompasses the dates 1784 to 1892 and includes family correspondence: Jonathan Arnold, Josiah Lyndon Arnold, James Burrill, and George Curtis; and letters received and sent by George William Curtis on a variety of subjects (civil service reform, abolitionism, women's suffrages, equal rights, Republican Party, "Black Republicanism," national politics; letters to artists, writers, poets, philosophers, as well as to politicians). One letterbook (1869-1875) is filed in Box 2, folder 58. The individual letters are filed chronologically (folders 5-57, 59-113). The scope is national. There is Staten Island material, but it is in the minority in this series.

The series of letters comprise 113 folders in four boxes. The fourth box is shared with a series of Manuscripts (folders 114-127). The subject matter of the manuscripts deals mostly with political history as well as with comparisons between the English and American spoils system. There is one manuscript on Staten Island. All manuscripts, with the exception of two, are undated.

A selection of letter writers follow:

Charles F. Adams	Willard Fiske	Annie A. Longfellow
James P. Allen	W.P. Garrison	Benson Lossing
George Bancroft	Sidney H. Gay	Hugh McCulloch
N.P. Banks	J.R. Gilmore	Frederick Law Olmsted
Francis Barlow	Horace Greeley	Francis Parkman
Henry W. Beecher	Rutherford B. Hayes	Wendell Phillips
Edward Cary	Thomas Hicks	Charles Reade
Lydia Maria Child	Mary J. Holmes	William H. Seward
Cassia M. Clay	William Dean Howells	Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Roscoe Conkling	Daniel Huntington	Lucy Stone
Chauncy M. Depew	Helen Jackson	W.W. Story
Anna E. Dickenson	Henry James	Bayard Taylor
Frederick Douglass	Thomas L. James	Theodore Tilton
Neal Dow	Thomas Starr King	Marcus L. Ward
Samuel A. Eliot	Mrs. O. Langhorne	Thurlow Weed
Hamilton Fish	Samuel Lawrence	N.P. Willis

The balance of Manuscripts (folders 128-143), including those dated 1890 and 1892, begin in box 5. These continue the emphatic treatment of the historical investigation of spoils systems and civic service reform, with the exception of the 1892 eulogy for James Russell Lowell. The rest of box 5 is filled with proofread and annotated Galleys, again mostly dealing with civil service reform.

Christopher Pearse Cranch materials consist of four folders focusing on the 1848 sketchbook by Cranch (who was an artist and poet and translator of Greek and Latin poetry, better appreciated abroad than at home). This sketchbook is a brief record of one year during Curtis' Grand Tour of Europe during which he spent time with Cranch, Cropsey, and W.W. Story. Research notes on Cranch by Mabel Abbott are filed with the sketchbook.

The balance of this box holds the Curtis Family Biographies and Curtis Family Photographs (folders 115-130A).

Mabel Abbott's Curtis Chronology and transcribed letters from the Paulist Fathers and from Harvard, and newspaper articles and speeches about Curtis are continued in Box 7. Miss Abbott's notes on West Brighton, in which locality Curtis lived on Staten Island, are also contained herein.

Box 8 contains further Curtis reference transcribed by Miss Abbott, her original inventories, and the labels for the exhibition. An index and list of the letters and papers of Rutherford Birchard Hayes are filed in this box. The photostatic copies of letters, are chronologically filed in the Letters and Correspondence Series (boxes 1-4).

Sidney Howard Gay was an assistant editor for the New York Tribune and an abolitionist who lived with his wife and family on Staten Island, not far from George William Curtis. The families were friends. The basic collection of Gay Papers is at Columbia University. Box 9 contains a description of this collection, Mabel Abbott's notes on Gay, and transcripts of materials from the Columbia collection: Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society, Staten Island property inventory, Record of Fugitives; Letters, Biography, obituary; biographical sketch of Gay by James T. White.

Scrapbooks: This is the largest series in this Collection—the collection begins with a scrapbook kept by George Curtis which records Rhode Island Politics and R.I. General Assembly proceedings (1828-1837). Volume II was presumably kept by both father and son and covers the years 1837-1853, continuing R.I. politics, but documenting the New England Society, women's rights

convention; the American Art Union; and published art and music criticism by GWC (annotated). These two are oversize and are filed on the shelf in the cabinet with the boxed scrapbooks.

Volume III is mainly political (election returns, including S.I. , and political conventions), 1856-1864; Volume IV (1857-1893) covers Wendell Phillips, Charles Sumner, the draft riots; Volume V (oversize) covers seven months in 1861 and the Civil War. Volume VI is "Literati" in Curtis' description: Browning, Shelley, Dickens, Disraeli, Carlyle, etc.(1861-1877). Volume VII (1861-1866) covers speeches and campaigns and Congressional proceedings while Volume VIII (1862-1872) covers local politics; abolitionism and "War between the States Journalism."

Curtis kept Volume IX on the Freedmen and the Freedmen's Bureau and reconstruction plans, ending with impeachment. The following two volumes were given over totally to Andrew Jackson and the impeachment proceedings.

The balance of the volumes (XII-XXXII) cover the history of the country and its politics very thoroughly from 1870 to 1892, with the exception of two scrapbooks titled: "clippings anent G.W.C." (Vol. XVI) and the 1892 scrapbook which was kept by his widow, Anna Shaw Curtis and contains notices and stories in newspapers about Mr. Curtis' illness, death, funeral, and memorials.

The Ephemera includes two boxes of pamphlets by, about, or related to George William Curtis and an oversize print box of Occasional Papers issued from the "New England Loyal Publication Society" of which Curtis was a member and contributor.

The dates covered by the collection range from 1784 to 1963, the latter being a gift of published papers based on research in the collection. The entire collection comprises 32 cubic feet.

#### ARRANGEMENT:

In addition to Letters and Correspondence, Manuscripts, Galleys, Scrapbooks, and Ephemera, the following subgroups have been set up: Christopher Pearse Cranch, lifelong friend of Curtis'; and Sidney Howard Gay, abolitionist friend on Staten Island and New York of Curtis'; chronology on Curtis compiled by Mabel Abbott together with research materials also compiled by Miss Abbott about the Shaw family, West Brighton, Staten Island, and letters about the development and management of the collection; references regarding Curtis transcribed by Abbott and the original inventories. A listing of the paintings from the Curtis Collection, which are in the care of the Art Department, Staten Island Museum, completes the collection description.

#### RELATED MATERIALS:

Reverend Horace Colpitts, minister of the Unitarian Church of Staten Island (the same church of which Curtis was a Reader), volunteered in 1975-1977 to prepare an index to the series of letters to Curtis. This index on cards is available to the researcher. It is arranged alphabetically and each letter is abstracted. The letters are arranged chronologically.

Miss Abbott prepared inventories to the collection and these were published in the Proceedings of the Institute in 1951-1952. Xerox copies of these inventories are filed with the collection in folders 153 and 154 in box 8/9.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

"George William Curtis: Orations & Addresses" Harper & Bros. Three volumes

"The Dream of Arcadia..." Van Wyck Brooks

"Theodore Winthrop" Elbridge Colby

"Christopher Pearse Cranch..." F. DeWolfe Miller

"Brook Farm" Lindsay Swift

"The Genteel Tradition"

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS COLLECTION  
Biography:

- 1824 Born February 24, Providence, Rhode Island, the second son of George and Mary (Burrill) Curtis. His brother, James Burrill Curtis, had been born in 1822.
- 1830-1835 He and his brother attended C.W. Greene's boarding school at Jamaica Plan, Massachusetts. His mother had died in 1826.
- 1835 George's father remarried: the daughter of Samuel W. Bridgham, Providence, Rhode Island. At about this time, the teachings of Emerson began to influence both of the Curtis youths.
- 1835-1839 George finished his schooling, Providence, Rhode Island
- 1839 Family moved to New York: Washington Place (north side). George was receiving private tutoring at this time.
- 1840 Mr. Curtis places George as a clerk in a German importing house in Exchange Place. He was poorly suited to this and did not stay there long.
- 1842 Beginning of interest in the Transcendental movement, spending the summers of this and the following year at Brook Farm.
- 1844, 1845 The brother spent the summers of these years studying and farming at Concord, Massachusetts. He became good friends with Emerson, Hawthorne and Thoreau.
- 1846 George Curtis starts an extended tour of Europe, Africa and the near east. In 1846, he visited Leghorn, Pisa, Florence and spent the winter in Rome.
- 1847 Tours Italy, visiting Naples and then turning north to Florence and Venice. In the fall, visits Lake Como and through the Tyrol to Vienna and Berlin.
- 1848 Traveled through Switzerland and Holland. Sailed to Egypt in the fall.
- 1849 Visits Egypt and the Holy Land.
- 1850 England and returns to US in August. In these four years, he has acted as correspondent for the Courier and Inquirer in New York and has kept a journal.
- 1851 Becomes music critic and editorial writer for the New York Tribune. Publishes his first book "Nile Notes of a Howadji." Gives his first lecture.
- 1852 Publishes "Lotus Eating" and "The Howadji in Syria."
- 1853 Becomes editor with Parke Goodwin and Charles F. Briggs of Putnam's Weekly and this year and next writes the articles on Emerson, Hawthorne,



- Longfellow and Bancroft, which were included in the work *Homes of American Authors*. Publishes two more books: "Potiphar Papers" and "Prue & I" (originally serialized in Putnam's).
- 1854 Becomes Editor of the Easy Chair column in Harper's Monthly Magazine.
- 1856 Marries Miss Anna Shaw, daughter of Francis G. Shaw of Staten Island. Married November 26 by the Rev. John Parkman at her father's home. The young couple took up residence on Staten Island. Also by this year he had become deeply interested in abolitionism and in politics in general. He campaigned for Fremont in the fall of the year.
- 1857 First child, a son, born on Staten Island in December. The previous year, Mr. Curtis had become a partner of the publishing firm of Dix, Edwards & Co., the new owners of Putnam's Monthly. In April 1857, the company failed and Curtis accepted a large indebtedness he felt morally, even though he was not legally responsible for. It took him almost twenty years on the strenuous lecture circuit before he was able to repay the debt, forcing him to forego his development as a creative author. He gained great experience in public speaking through his lectures and came to be considered to have been the greatest orator of his time.
- In autumn of this year, he started a column in Harper's entitled "The Lounger."
- 1858 His novel "Trumps" was serialized in Harper's Weekly.
- 1859-1860 Very active in the Richmond County Republican Party Organization, and became chairman of the county Republican Committee, a post he held until his resignation in 1879. In May 1860, he was nominated as a delegate to the National Convention in Chicago where he made a notable speech in favor of the resolution that all men are created equal be endorsed by the Party.
- 1863 Becomes Political Editor of Harper's Weekly.
- 1864 Delegate to Republican National Convention, Baltimore. Ardent supporter of Lincoln, and wrote the letter officially notifying Lincoln of his renomination. Active in the campaign which followed. Is elected a member of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. Nominated for Congress from S.I. Was defeated as he expected.
- 1866 Actively involved in the elections of this year. He was chosen delegate-at-large to the Convention for revising the NYS Constitution.
- 1868 Elector on the Republican ticket, casting his vote for Grant.
- 1869 Offered editorship of the NYTimes, which he refused. Nominated for office of Secretary of State for New York State, but declined.

- 1879 Chairman of the Republican National Convention of 1870.
- 1871 Nominated Chairman of the Civil Service Reform Commission. In 1873, was very ill and ordered by his doctor to rest. By 1874 had resigned his Chairmanship of the Civil Service Commission because of his doubts of the willingness of the Grant administration to support Civil Service reform.
- 1876 Delegate to the Republican National Convention.
- 1877 Unofficially offered an ambassadorship possibly to England by President-elect Hayes which he declined after consideration.
- 1880 At the founding of the NY Civil Service Reform Association, elected president. Held this post at the time of his death. 1881 President of the newly-formed Civil Service Reform League. 1884 delegate to the Republican National Convention. However, he supported Cleveland (Democrat) because he felt that Blaine, the Republican candidate, would not support needed reforms.
- 1888 Supported Grover Cleveland's bid for reelection.
- 1890 Appointed Chancellor of the Board of Regents of the University of NY. Held this position at the time of his death.
- 1892 Last lecture given on Staten Island was on Charles Sumner at the YMCA Building in Tompkinsville on March 7 and his last public address—on James Russell Lowell—was delivered in New York in May. He became seriously ill early in June and after a period of acute suffering died at his Staten Island home on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS COLLECTION  
Box Inventories:

PRINTS:

The Print Collection of the Institute, located in the Archives and Library, contains the following prints:

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|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 50-167 | "The Easy Chair" and "The Residence of G.W. Curtis"<br>from Harper's Weekly |
| 50-170 | A political cartoon about Curtis from "The Hour"                            |
| 50-250 | A portrait of G.W. Curtis (large cabinet photograph)                        |
| 50-904 | Engraved portrait of G.W. Curtis by Reich. (Gift of<br>the artist's son)    |

PAINTINGS:

The Collection received at different times seven paintings and drawings, which are maintained in the Art Department, the Staten Island Museum:

Acc. No.

- |        |                                                                                                           |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4161   | Pastel portrait of Mrs. Curtis by S. Laurence, 1812-1884<br>Gift of Marian Holyoke                        |
| 4276   | Pastel portrait of Mr. Curtis by S. Laurence, 1812-1884<br>Gift of George William Curtis (grandson)       |
| 4241.1 | Crayon sketch of G.W. Curtis by Burrill Curtis<br>Gift of Bridgham Curtis and Miss Constance Curtis       |
| 4241.2 | Portrait of G.W. Curtis by F.A. Perkins, 1887 (oil)<br>Gift of G.W. Curtis                                |
| 4256   | Crayon drawing of G.W. Curtis by Samuel Worcest Rouse,<br>1822-1901<br>Gift of G.W. Curtis                |
| 60-19  | Anna Shaw (Mrs. Curtis as a child), portrait in oil by<br>William Page, 1811-1885<br>Museum Purchase Fund |
| 62-33  | Anna Shaw as a child, pastel drawing by William Page, 1811-1885<br>Gift of G.W. Curtis                    |

## SCRAPBOOKS

Box 1 A

Shf CC 2

Dates: 1828-1837

Volume I

George Curtis, father of GWC, scrapbook, indexed with written introduction listing public offices he has held. Includes a loose note, pinned, in his hand (1845) and a loose undated clipping regarding rise of GWC.

Subjects covered: public meets, riot in Providence (R.I.); recordings of the General Assembly; Henry Clay in Providence; Merchants Bank case.

Acc. No. 54-156.1

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Dates: 1837-1854

Volume II

O.S.-not in box on Shelf CC 1

Anti-slavery correspondence, Rhode Island political articles, handbill "To Freemen of Providence"-Tristram Burges-Daniel Webster letters to the Tribune-GWC letters from Europe; also GWC music and art criticism—New England Society celebrations—Rights of Women Convention; Whig policy

Acc. No. 54-156.2

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Dates: 1848-1866

Volume III

General political clippings on local and national elections; political position on slavery, emancipation, rights of labor, Free Soil movement; also, on rights of labor, southern politics, Missouri compromise, People's Union Party. NYS and C votes and statistics on various elections including Staten Island statistics from 1858 to 1861.

Acc. No. 54-156.3

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Dates: 1857-1867

Volume IV

Women's day in senate; Andrew Johnson, Wendell Phillips, Charles Dickens, Private Miles O'Reilly, 47<sup>th</sup> NY Volunteers, plea for Cornell University, Henry Ward Beecher, Charles Sumner, James Buchanan, William Llyod Garrison, Draft riots results and damages. All clippings. Also loose clippings for 1878 including Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Acc. No. 54-156.4

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Dates: 1861

Volume V

O.S.-not in box on Shelf CC 1

Beginning and progress of the Civil War; politics of the Civil War.

Acc. No. 54-156.5

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Dates: 1861-1877

Volume VI

Shelf CC 2

"Literati"

Mrs. Browning's last poem; also articles about and poems/articles by: Tennyson, Shelley, James Olcott Brown; Charles Dickens; John Fiske; B. Disraeli; Sumner obsequies; De Witt Clinton; Thomas Carlyle; Emerson on the death of Lincoln; William Cullen Bryant; Horatio Powers; James G. Bennett; Walt Whitman; Harper & Brothers; Fletcher Harper. Loose clippings on Victor Hugo et al.

Acc. No. 54-156.6

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Dates: 1861-1866

Volume VII

Mostly orations and/or polemics by Wendell Phillips (preponderance), Edward Everett, John Brown, Jeff. Davis, Frederick Douglass, Thaddeus Stevens, John Van Buren Seward, Henry Ward Beecher; conclusion—articles for impeachment of Johnson.

Acc. No. 54-156.7

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Dates: 1862-1872

Volume VIII

Clippings of speeches by Henry Ward Beecher, Wendell Phillips, Thaddeus Stevens, William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, Edward Everett. Impeachment of Johnson.

Acc. No. 54-156.8

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Dates: 1864-1866

Volume IX

Clippings: constitution of the CSA; Pius IX; Edward Everett obituary; Freedmen in Georgia; General Sherman on the Negroes; Peach Conference (between Union and Confederacy); suffrage for women; Negro suffrage by Lincoln; John Stuart Mill and Robert Dale Owen on peace with the south; ethnic population of NYC; reconstruction; law of bounties; Atlantic cable-laying; the Freedmen; Gen. Andrew Jackson and the Colored Citizen; meeting on Seguin's Point for Quarantine; New Orleans riot; amnesty investigation re. Lee.

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Dates: 1865-1867

Volume X

Andrew Johnson

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Dates 1865-1889

Volume X – a Not in box. On Shelf CC 1

Ashfield, Massachusetts (summer home of GWC); clippings from Massachusetts papers regarding his political and cultural interests.

BOOK MATERIAL:

Crooke Fund	Memorial to Wendell Phillips from the City of Boston Proceedings at the Centennial Celebration of Concord Fight, April 19, 1875 Cary, Edward – George William Curtis (3 copies)
#1966	The dance of Death at Basle
Davis Collection	“Aquehonga”  Hogarth, v. 1, 1791 – Illus. by John Ireland
#6999	Sabine, trans. by C.A. Boettiger Curtis, George Wm. – Prue & I
#3947	Curtis, George Wm. – The Howadji in Syria
#3684	Crooke, George Willis, ed. – Early letters of George Wm. Curtis to John S. Dwight
#2011 & 55-43	Curtis, George Wm. – Trumps (2 copies)
64-35	Curtis, George Wm. – Prue & I  Curtis, George Wm. – Oration on dedication of Statue of Major-Gen. John Sedgwick
#2229	Curtis, George Wm. – Potiphar papers  Harper’s New Monthly Magazine, vol. XVII, June- November 1858

Note: Above are contents of box marked:

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS    25.gwC:E  
Ephemera  
Books

Note: As of October 1989, these books have been placed on the shelves.

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS COLLECTION

Box Inventories:

Box 1/9

Folders		
1-2	Genealogy	
3-12	Autographs and letters	n.d.
12A-12J	Arnold (Jonathan) correspondence	1784-1796
13-28	Burrill (James)correspondence	1797-1820
29-36	Curtis correspondence: Bridgham, Judge, Harris, Thackeray, etc.	1848-1855

Box 2/9

Folders		
36A-48	Curtis correspondence: Beecher, Stoddard, Furness, Gay, Banks, Willis, etc.	1856-1864
49-58	Curtis correspondence: Dana, Childs, Stedman, Story, etc.	1864-1875

Box 3/9

Folders		
59-72	Curtis correspondence: Fish, Shellabarger, Douglass, Olmsted, Elliott, Barker, etc.	1870-1875
73-99	Curtis correspondence: Bancroft, Hayes, Freeman, etc.	1876-1885

Box 4-9

Folders		
1-29	Curtis correspondence: Everett, Adams, Bancroft, etc.	1886-1892
	Manuscripts: most of these manuscripts regard American and foreign spoils systems	1876-1885

Box 5/9

Folders		
128-143	Manuscripts	n.d.-1892
144-153	Proofread and annotated galley (marked in Curtis' hand)	1885-1892

Box 6/9

Folders		
113-130	Christopher Pearse Cranch, friend of Curtis. Sketchbook, letters; notes Anna Shaw. Elizabeth Burrill Curtis. Photos of Shaw and Curtis family (F 8-10)	1887-1951

Box 7/9	Folders 131-145	Chronology of the Curtis family and of George William Curtis, including notes on West Brighton, Staten Island. Mabel Abbott	1635-1892
Box 8/9	Folders 146-149	Mabel Abbott's references for the Curtis Collection	n.d.
	150-155	Inventories of the Collection when it was first assembled	1950-1953
Box 9/9	Folders 157-168	Subgroup: Sidney Howard Gay Transcriptions and copies of Philadelphia's Anti-Slavery Society Staten Island Property List Records of Fugitives	1836-1892
	169-172	Curtis artifacts	1833-1875

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SCRAPBOOKS

Box 1/13	Volumes III, IV, XA Volume V – oversize	1856-1861 1860
Box 2/13	Volumes VI, VII, VIII	1861-1866
Box 3/13	Volumes IX, X, XI	1864-1869
Box 4/13	Volumes XII, XIII	1869-1879
Box 5/13	Volumes XIV, XV	1874-1877
Box 6/13	Volumes XVI, XVII	1876-1880
Box 7/13	Volumes XVIII, XIX	1877-1879
Box 8/13	Volumes XX, XXI	1878-1881
Box 9/13	Volumes XXII, XXIII	1881-1882
Box 10/13	Volumes XXIV, XXV	1882-1888
Box 11/13	Volumes XXVI, XXVII	1884-1890
Box 12/13	Volumes XXVII, XXIX	1885-1892



Box 13/13	Volumes XXXI, XXXII	1891-1892
	Shelved after Box 13: Volumes I and II	1828-1853

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Box 1/2	Pamphlets, annotated and inscribed	1859-1884
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Box 2/2	Pamphlets, annotated and inscribed, including memorials	1885-1902
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Box 1/4	Publications by Curtis	1850-1860
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Box 2/4	Publications by Curtis	1860-1870
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Box 3/4	Publications by Curtis	1870-1892
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Box 4/4	"New England Loyal Publication Society" – occasional papers annotated by Curtis, but not by him (in print box)	1863-1866
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Letter from George William Curtis to Unknown. Published September 10, 1858 (short work) (external scan). Works about George William Curtis[edit]. A few remarks upon "Four papers from the Boston Courier" concerning Theodore Parker, Ralph Waldo Emerson, George William Curtis, and the abolitionists, 1858 (short work) (external scan). "Curtis, George William," in Appletons' CyclopÆdia of American Biography, New York: D. Appleton and Co. (1900). Carl Schurz, George William Curtis, October, 1904. "Curtis, George William," in A Short Biographical Dictionary of Engli George William Curtis (February 24, 1824 â€“ August 31, 1892) was an American writer and public speaker, born in Providence, Rhode Island, of New Englander ancestry. A Republican, he spoke in favor of African-American equality and civil rights. Curtis, the son of George and Mary Elizabeth (Burrill) Curtis, was born in Providence on February 24, 1824, and his mother died when he was two. His maternal grandfather, James Burrill Jr., served in the United States Senate representing Rhode Island from 1817 to