



# Historical Society of Pennsylvania

## Curtis family papers, 1838-1926, undated MSS072

### Transcriptions of selected letters from the collection

#### Summary Information

**Repository:**

Historical Society of Pennsylvania  
1300 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-732-6200

**Transcriptions by:** Susan Kearney

**Transcriptions completed:** March 2019

**Collection creators:** Curtis family

**Title:** Curtis family papers

**Collection number:** MSS072

**Dates:** 1838-1926, undated

**Extent:** 0.4 linear feet; 1 box, 1 flat file

**Language:** English

**Abstract:** The collection contains letters to John Curtis and his mother, Bridget, living in Philadelphia, from family members living in Belfast and Mountmellick, Ireland, which describe conditions during the famine in Ireland and discuss family news and plans for emigration. Also included are a copy book and miscellaneous family documents.

**Conditions governing access:** The collection is open for research.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Flannery, 1983

**Accession number:** 1983-21

**George Gillon Certifying John Curtis in St. Patrick's Beneficial Society**

Philadelphia, May 3, 1858

Certificate of Absence

This is to certify that John Curtis is a member of "The Saint Patrick's Beneficial Society of Philadelphia," and is hereby permitted (agreeably to the By-Laws, or such other rules as may subsequently be adopted to absent himself from the city and still be a member of the same, Provided he pay, or cause to be paid all his dues, at least once in every six months, and in default there-of, he shall be liable to expulsion.

Witness our hand at Philadelphia, This day of May 3, 1858 A.D.

George Gillon, President

Secretary

Attest John Murray, Secretary

## **Bridget Dunne Curtis to John Curtis**

Derrylough, 12 April 1845

My Dear Children,

We have received your letter that is John's letter, and I am highly delighted to hear that you and Jane are in good health, thanks be to God as we are at present, my dear children. You can never sufficiently thank the Almighty for bringing you so near your friends, especially your Aunt Mary. I received a letter from my sister Ellen Connolly and she spoke of Jane as she would of an only child. I give it here out of her Letter, "From your Aunt Ellen, my beloved Jane, although its long since I have seen you, I feel the same affection for you as I did in days that is for ever passed (but as not for ever, I hope). Dear Jane, if I was to see you once more, it would be a great consolation to me. I long to see you. I have shed a many a tear thinking about you for I love you so Dear, as I love my Mary Anne and Catharine, my two children, they are all I have got. Mary Anne will be nine years old in March and Catharine seven in April. Dear Jane, let me know the sentiments of your mind if you would like to come to America and what your Parents say about it. Your Parents must not think that I want to raise [?] your mind by speaking so. It is because I love you and want to see you, Dear Jane. I must conclude I hope you will answer this letter. I remain your affectionate Aunt Ellen Doorley. Farewell my dear Jane but not for ever."

She thought my Dear Jane that you were in Ireland. Still the Directions to her is as follows: Mrs Ellen Doorley, Belleville, St. Clair County, State of Illinois. I now will tell you the way that Ellen Connolly found your Uncle Timothy. Here is her words. "We advertised in the New York Truth teller that is the surest way to find relations in America. My brother Timothy seeing the Advertisement in the paper and wrote to me without delay expressing every wish to see me and my Husband. We prepared as soon as convenient. We left Worchester on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 1838 and arrived in St. Louis (or Louise) the 18<sup>th</sup> April where we expected to see Timothy but had moved to Belleville 16 miles from St. Louis the week previous to our coming and then we went to his House where we were received and treated with much Kindness and respect. He is in good circumstances. He had several contracts on Turnpike [?] road. He had 40 men employed for several months, paying them 4 pound, 10 shillings per month and boarding them. He sold his Farm in Pennsylvania, expecting to better himself not but he was doing very well. He purchased a Farm in Illinois containing 350 Acres well improved with Fences and Outhouses and a Dwelling House 16 miles from Belleville where he is not situated with his Family. He has got seven children living and one Dead. Their names are

Margaret, John, Mary, William, Elizabeth, Thomas, Catharine and Timothy. Timothy has not heard from John, Mary, or Margaret since he left Pennsylvania which is not Ten Years. When he left it, John, Margaret, her Husband and 3 children were living in the City of Washington. [Illegible] is married to a very wealthy man and went to live to some part of the state of Maine but he never heard from her since. Your Mother is now on a visit to Mrs. Bremans. She enjoys herself very well. She has been to see Timothy twice and feels very happy to send it." That Letter was written on the 30<sup>th</sup> November and I received it the 11<sup>th</sup> January. I remain my Dear Children, your Loving Mother – Bridget Curtis.

I forgot to mention that my Brother since they saw me, I hope my Dear John that you will always and first send your Love to the Revd [?] Mr. Byrne and Mr. Boland, and also to your Uncle William. He is greatly [illegible] and jealous with you for not enquiring for him and he bids me tell you he expects a letter from you. His address is Antrim Turnpike, Belfast. I remain my children, your Loving Mother till Death.  
Bridget Curtis

William sends his best love to his sister. My Dear Children, I now send you my best Love and affection as also Margret and Timothy does the same. I hope you will show this to your Aunts and every Letter that comes from your Mother I send my Love to my Dear Sisters, and I trust they have not forgotten their sister Bridget, long so it is.

Addressed to Mr. John Curtis, Philadelphia, America.

## John and Jane Curtis and Mary Dunne Dillon to Bridget Dunne Curtis

Philadelphia  
July 21, 1845

My dear Mother,

I know you will think long until you here [sic] the particulars about all your Brothers and sisters. I would have wrote sooner but oportunity [sic] did not permit me. I am very well and John is in a very good situation and is very happy. I thank God I am in as good health as I ever was in all my life. I hope dear Mother you and all the family is well as we and all friends are at present. I received the stocking you sent me [unclear] for John a for me you wished to [unclear] how we found our aunts [unclear] Margaret

Eldest daughter and I got acquainted [sic] after I landing and we were for a long time conversing together. She happened [sic] to be taking my Aunt Mary and her Mother about me and when the hering my name sent for me. I went to see her, not thinking she was any relation. To my great surprise, it was my Aunt May. She was so overjoyed she could harly spake [sic] to me. She, of corse [sic] asked for you all. She is very well and the presents [unclear] gave me was some handsome clothing. [unclear] my aunt is well to do. She canot [sic] do as she pleases. If she could do to her wishes, she would not be to this time without sending a token of her love to you. My aunts soon got married after coming to this contry [sic] which prevents people from doing anything for those they left behind. If person could remain single for some [unclear] of time that is the only chance of sending there friends some help. When any one gets married [sic] here, they have so much troble [sic] on their minds. The first thing my Aunt Mary showed me was a little silver knife you gave her when she was coming here. It is as nice as the day you gave it to her. She says it the only thing she has belonging to you and she will keep it as long as she lives, dear Mother. I got a letter from Aunt E [unclear] and Grandmother. I was glad to here [sic] from them. You say [unclear] is thinking of coming here in the spring. It [unclear] enough for him to think of that when John [unclear] say something about it. Dear [unclear] you may well but it is to son [sic] for you. This is one of the warmest summers has been this eight years. The men and horses droped [sic] dead in the street with the heat of the sun. I sopose [sic] you heard of the great fire was in Pitsburg [sic] and New York. I send my love to you, my father and all my brothers and sisters and all friends to all my little bidy [sic] neighbours. John joins me in love to all. You must not wonder our not writing soon as you expect. It is not convent. John send his love to Patsy [unclear] without young he will soon write to him. Biddy and J [unclear] Culton and all the

neighbors are well, send there *[sic]* love to you all and all there *[sic]* friend. No more at present from your loving children, John Jane C*[unclear]*.

My dear sister,

I know there is no use in the excusing myself to you for not writing but if you were to now as much of the world as I and you in my place, you would not blame me. When young people comes to this conty *[sic]*, they have many tricks to meet with. We were not long in the conty *[sic]* until we were separated far from each other. I have not seen Timothy this 17 years nor John for 15 nor sister Margaret for *[unclear]*. Brother John was in delicat *[sic]* health when he came to see me. He died in a few weeks after he came to me. That is about *[unclear]* since May the Lord have mercy on his soul. Dear sister, were it in my power, you *[unclear]* long before this have a *[unclear]* of affection from me but I canot *[sic]* do what my heart would wish. Margaret doesn't *[unclear]* I am writing as she lives a few miles from *[unclear]*. I will send her best love to you, dear, and all the family. I will let you know how I am situated and family afarse *[sic]* in my next letter. I must conclude my letter as Jane has not time to delay *[unclear]*.

Afectionate *[sic]* sister Mary Dillon

I send my best love and respect to Willings and all the Children

## Hannah Curtis Lynch to John Curtis

Mountmellick, November the 24<sup>th</sup>, 1845

Dear brother John,

We receiv'd your letter on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nov which gave us great pleasure to hear from you that you are so well since you left home. I was often surprised you did not write to me before now. We are all well quite well ever since you left us. We are after moving up street to live in Knaggs house next door to Mr. Timothy Dunues (sp?). It is him we have the house from [unclear] pay 12 pound a year for it. We hold the house in posesion [sic] yet Williams father and Mother are still in it. We intend to keep it and to keep the men lodging in it. By that means, we think it won't come heavy on us to keep the too [sic] houses. For my part, I am quite happy to be separated from the old pair. It was very hard for me to live with them for they were always making mischief between William and I. Dear brother, it is most dreadful, the state the potatoes are in Ireland and all over the world. They are all tainted in the ground. With every one, it is the opinion of every one, there will be no potatoe with any one in very short. We are greatly afraid [sic] there will be a famine this year of the Lord.

does not do something for the people, they are not aware of everything rates very high at present. William can employ 10 men and has work for 3 or 4 more only for the way the potatoes has turned out. We were very well off. We have 2 acres of them sowed this year but they are no good. I may say, Dear John, My Father, Mother, Margaret, John and Thomas are all well. Thomas is with me this 2 months. He is going to be bound to the trade. He is going to School every day till he is able to go to the trade. He is a very good boy. He and Margaret and William has confirmed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of last August as we have had his Lordship the Bishop in that month with us. Thomas has communicate twice since has was confirmed. He promises to be a good boy. I persuaded my father to do something for him while he has it in his power. He gave William 5 pound when he was coming. He would not take him on any account only for me. He would not take him without 12 pound. Dear brother I hope you will send the other 7 lb as it was on these conditions he was taken by William. I was very hard set to get my father to be at 5 lb loss by him but I told my father you would not forget Thomas. I hope the first money you send will be to William for Thomas's fee and if you did not send it, my father will not and then Tom would have to go home which would give me a great deal of trouble. You know he is no service to us this 3 or 4 year. I may say therefore, I hope you won't forget him. If you send money and not in Tom's name, my father won't give it for [unclear] William.

Meredith has the house thrown down to the ground and a house built in place of it for himself with regard to way my father [unclear] will settle, we do not know. My father thinks he won't stay with him. He would keep them all only for my mother. She is as bad as ever if not worse. My father was very angry to hear what was in the letter about Jane, but for my part, I glad to hear what they were sending to America and much affraid they were she would be a catholic. Dear brother, I hope you do not neglect your Christian duties or that anything would seduce you to forget the care of your eternal Salvation. I hope Jane is not so as she was at home. She [unclear] be as the rest of her brothers and sisters. I understand she promised my father on any account, but she ought not to forfeit her soul for any one, but I hope the Lord will open the eyes of her Soul and that he will bring her to the true holy roman Catholick Church. Dear brother, all of your friends are well. Your aunt Kitty Carrole and family are well. I do not see them often. My aunt Hannah and family are well. When you or Jane writes, I think it very queer of you to direct to any one but me and I living in the town you forgot letting me know John to direct to on where you or Jane were living which really anoyd [sic] me. It was on chance I wrote to you all the old neighbours and friends are well. The Revd. Mr. Byrne and [unclear] Boland are well. Mr. Byrne would write to you. John, I would get the next letter he told me that when you wrote

I did hear from my uncle Billy this long time. [unclear] I was my aunts that you have met with would not write home. We send our love to you and Jane and aunts and friends. I hope you will soon write again. Be sure and let us know when to write as it is very unpleasant not know where to write to. I remain your loving sister, H. Lynch

Dear Brother, I hope you won't forget your respect to my father. Don't forget Thomas upon any account but send him what I told you. They all can do for themselves [sic] what he can't. You need not be troubling yourself mentioning so many neighbors as you don't be losing your time or wasting paper.



**Jane Curtis to John Curtis**

May the 27, 1846

Dear Brother,

I have not answered the Letter. I was leaving that for you to do. I will be very glad you would answer it yourself and say what you please to William Lynch. You need not think it is *[unclear]* if the *[sic]* come for I told them just as you bid me so therefore you need not blame me for there *[sic]* coming. I therefore will leave the answering of the letter to you, and as the *[sic]* request an answer as quick as possible *[sic]*, I hope you will not delay writing as soon as you can. I was sorry I had not my shirts or any thing made to send you but when we go to the country, I expect to have some made. When you come there to see me, I shall expect you and John Cullen the 4 of July. If you want to write to me direct to the care of Mrs. Schively Frankford.

Your affectionate sister,  
Jane Curtis

## Hannah Curtis Lynch to William Curtis

Mt. Mellick, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1846

Dear Father,

I received your long wished for not expected letter on the 15 of August as it gave me great pleasure to hear from you all as I was every other night dreaming about you all. Dear father, I never could let it go to my head any of you were gone from me on account of me expecting to be with you again in short. Dear father I received a letter from John directed to you to the name of [unclear] Meredith to Clonasle post office. I thought it very queer to direct it to him and I to be in the town of Mount Mellick. It lay in the post office some days before I got word about it. Mr. William was going to the [unclear] of the heath. He called and told us about it. You may see he did not think it worth his while to release it, and it no loss to him as I would pay him. I went to Clonasle myself for it. I got it the 9<sup>th</sup> of July. What was in it made me very uneasy as it [unclear] you about going to America. I recivd [sic] another from John in about a fortnight after wrote the 29 of June. He discouraged us greatly about going to America. He said we could do much better in Mt. Mellick. It gave me great pleasure to hear from him and that he was doing so well. I need not go over anything that was in it to you. It was a very pleasing, good letter. I would be glad he would not be mentioning so many neighbours at home filling up paper as he has enough to say about himself. Dear father, I suppose you told Jane what I said about her saying what she did in her letter. You may know what I mean, and if she knew the differ, she would not say any such thing. But I suppose she thought it would please you, dear father, or she would say no such thing. But I don't think you enjoyed it in the least but it Jane could see clearly into what I said to her as I forgot what it was, it would not affect her in the least. But all I will say now is may the Lord direct her in the ways of eternal Salvation and give her grace to save her Soul as it will profit her nothing to gain the whole world and lose it.

Dear Father, there was a great many sudden deaths since you left as it was something like the Cholera they used to [unclear] cramps. Frank Bryan, the tailor, died the week of the races. He died quite sudden. We were at the races and he had a very pleasant day. The races was on the 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> of July. There was not a drop of rain the 2<sup>nd</sup> day as that was the day we went. Dear Father, you did not say any thing about my Mother or little Tom, but I suppose you must have forgot it or you would. I suppose they and you are together. I would like to know what you would [unclear] Thomas [unclear] him little John Dunphy is quite jealous. He did not mention him in the letter. He sends his love to him now. He says he promised to write to him. Dear father, I am sorry to inform you that potatoes all the same

way they were last year. They were tainted when the people first tried in July. The stalks are all withered. This good while it is the peoples opinion there won't be a potatoe in short. I did not see any of the persons you mentioned in your letter, but will after a little. Whoever it was that wrote the letter for you that I got, we could hardly read it. It was so bad there did a great many respectable *[sic]* persons ask to see it and it was so bad, I was ashamed of it.

(written on margin of envelope side)

Dear Father, I hope you and my mother are well united. Since you went, I trust in the Lord you and my Mother be in peace with one another during life as the Lord never prospers any one that acts to the contrary of that. May the Lord in his mercy give my Mother grace to do penance for her Sins and to amend her life and to govern her passions and gain respect and attention from her Children she has with her, as it is my wishes and prayers for you all and be as you ought to one another.

I got too *[sic]* letters from my uncle Billy. Since you went, I wrote to him the week of races. He did not write to me since. I am going to write to him now. Tell Johny Cullon and Biddy their Sister May is dead since the 1<sup>st</sup> of this month. The Corrolis got a letter the other day from Anne Landy *[unclear if Landy is a last name and correct]*. *[unclear]* of new town died sudden in June. Dear John, the Rev'd Mr. Byrne is going to the Salt water at present and when he comes home, he will write. You may think I see him often, but I never was in *[unclear]* Chappel but twice since you left the Country.

Dear Father, trade is pretty good at present. I trust the next letter I get will give me every satisfaction about the way you are all doing. Dear father, I remain your every affectionate and loving Daughter, H. Lynch

### **Cross written over letter to William Curtis**

Dear John,  
William is sending you a news paper with this letter. Did you see *[unclear]* or did Margaret give her the *[unclear]*. Judy that lives with me sends love to her. You see I have no room to say any more at present. Dear father, every one of you got great deal of good prayers from every one. You could not but do well, for my own heart is not one hour in the day but I am thinking and praying for you all. My Aunt Hannah and her family sends their love to you. She was quite angry you said so much about one person and family and nothing about her. Dear Father and Mother, William and I send our love to you and to my brothers and sister. It is not from heart I say that only to let Jane see I remember what she said when she left me

out. I send my love to my Aunt Mary and Margaret and all their Children and any one you think fit. I will *[unclear]* a letter when you think fit as I am sure you will not forget me.

## William Dunne to John Curtis

Friendly St, Belfast, November the 16,

1846

Dear John,

I now take this opportunity *[sic]* of sending you those few lines hoping they will find you in good health and all friends as they have me and family in at the present, thank god for all his blessings to us. I was and am very glad to here *[sic]* how well you have got on in america *[sic]*. I think it was A good job that your father, Mother, and family went the time they did, for there is nothing here but hardship and starvation. Our potatoe crop is all *[unclear]* all over Ireland this year, but I suppose you have herd *[sic]* of it. There was not one *[unclear]* of potatoes in my house this three months. It is very seldom that there does one come to market at all and what some is not worth buying. They cant be fat. They sell at 8 or 9 shillings per hundred. Every thing else is very dear also and had *[unclear]* meant for the poor and bad wages. The people are starving in the west of Ireland and turning out for something *[sic]* to Eat. We think there will be a rebellion *[sic]* if there is not something done. Your sister Hannah as rote *[sic]* to me prety *[sic]* regular since all her friends left her. She did not know what it was to be alone and til now, she lets me know everything she hears from you, and believe they are prety *[sic]* well of *[sic]*. She says they get a prety *[sic]* good share of work but hard to get in the money. I hope your father and Mother gets their health well and all friends, you will let them all know as soon as you can when you get this that you herd *[sic]* from me and family Hannah and family was well. When I herd *[sic]* from her last, she said she was going to rite *[sic]* to you. She sent me your Address. You will continue to see your Aunt Mary and Margret and all friends as soon as you can and let them know you herd *[sic]* from me. If you have any opportunity *[sic]* of your Uncle Timothy, you will let him know also I am only struggling [here] at the present myself. There is nothing doing in my way in the north of Ireland. At the present, times are so bad your Cousin John is at the Curragh of Kildare. We expect him home to see us this winter. I hope you will write as soon as posible *[sic]* in receipt of this as we will be weating *[sic]* with patience for your kind letter which I will expect to get with all the particulars about yourself and all friends. I suppose your Mother will be glad to see this, Dear John, only it is a thing I Could not Expect. It is a very little thing would be of use to me at the present. All is a way long ago. I hope you will not fail. I will Expect letters in the *[unclear]* of letters from my sisters. I might be with yous *[sic]* myself yet you will let me know if you think a person of my kind could make out A living. I could have done prety *[sic]* well some

time a go but Ireland is gone to the bad. There is nothing but hardship and poverty in it. *[unclear]* of my thing Else at the present. Dear John, you will let me know what your father is working at. I hope you are saving Money. You will let me know if you have Ever seen your unkle *[sic]* thimothy or if you know where he lives or how he is getting on. I often herd *[sic]* he was well of *[sic]* and had a good farm. You will let me know if you Ever see your grandmother or how she is and all particulars about all friends. Hannah says you talk of Comeing *[sic]* to Ireland. If you would think of it, I would Expect you to Come by belfast *[sic]* as it is generally *[sic]* the shortest pasage *[sic]*. I would Expect you would call to see me if you ware *[sic]* in Ireland. There is Cheap and speedy traveling by the railrodes *[sic]* here now so you will let me know. You will direct to friendly Street, belfast *[sic]* for me, my wife, and Children longs to here *[sic]* from yous *[sic]* all, Especialy *[sic]* your Mother although they never had seen her, they all Conclude in sending their king love to you and all friends in America. If I be able, I intend going to see Mrs. Lynch after Chrismas *[sic]*. *[unclear]* but Remains your Affectionate unkle *[sic]* and famely *[sic]* until death,

William Dunne

## Hannah Curtis Lynch to John Curtis

Friendly St No 35, Belfast April the 25 1847

Dear John,

I recd your kind letter of the 31 of December 46 which gave us all great pleasure to here [sic] from you and All friends, and I am glad to here [sic] of yourself getting your health so well and of your Father and Mother being satisfied with their journey. I think they went in a good time for the like of this Kingdom at the present is not to be found. I believe there is neither Employment nor food. The people is in a starving state and dying in hundreds and the streets of belfast crowded Every day with people going out to america half naked.

Dear John, I wrote to Hannah Lynch when I recd your letter. I wrote since and got no answer which kept me from writing to you before this. I would have rote [sic] by the next packet only weating [sic] for her answer. I do not know how she Could think you Could send her Money to bring her out and your own famely so short. With you, I think, that they ought to be very Comfortable to live having such tread (?) and good work, I believe. I am sorry about your Sister Jane being in a bad state of health, but I hope those few lines will find her better than when you were writing, and your brother also and all my friends. Dear John, if you can at all, I hope you will still write as it is all the Comfort we have now to here [sic] from you and friends. You will let Mary know as soon as you can that you hard [sic] from me, Margret also and all our friends. You will let them all know as soon as you can. I hope those few lines will find them all well as they have me and all. At present your Cousin William was very bad with A buillis favior (?). We did not Expect him for on Month. He is better. Thank God for all his blessings to us. I am in prety [sic] good health myself at present, thank god for it. Your Cousin John Dunne is at home at the present. We are very hard let to Make it out at the present for there is nothing doing in my way here. There is no gentlemen her now. The times are so bad, it has fritened [sic] them all. They are not keeping a horse at all. I do not know what I will do. I did not rite [sic] to Thimothy yet. I will write to him as soon as I here [sic] from you again which I hope will be without delay. As soon as you Can see your aunts and all friends, Mabey [sic] you Could gether [sic] something. Let it be Ever so little, it would be very Exceptable [sic] at a time like this. People that has friends in America about where I am, they are sending them help Every day but let that not hinder you from riting [sic] as we will be glad to here [sic] from you and all friends. You will let me know if you herd [sic] from your unkle [sic] Thimothy since you rote [sic]. I hope you will let me know all the particulars how all things are getting on with you since you rote [sic] Dear John. Do not fail but write as we will be weating [sic] with patience for your kind letter in receipt of this as the packets sail regular. There is no delay. Your letter Came very speedy. I

think we got it in about three weeks. I hope your father and Mother gets their helath well and that yous are all well at the present. I never here [sic] from up the Country only when Hannah rites [sic]. I do not understand what is the reason she has not wrote all this time. I do not understand it. I was afraid there was something rong [sic] or she would have wrote as I told her I was going to write to you. Dear John, as I intend writing to Thimothy, I wish to here [sic] from you again. Before I write you will send me his Address Correctly and your aunt Marys and know is it Cullin or Kilculin that is the name of the plase [sic] where Dillen is from or what business he is in.

Dear John, I Excuse your hand and gives you Credo for how well you in Indited (?) your letter. I join with My kind love together with wife and Children sends our kind love to you and all friends. Dear, I Remain your kind and affectionate unkle [sic] and famely [sic]

William Dunne

Direct as before



**John Cullan to John Curtis**

Philadelphia

Friday, May the 7<sup>th</sup> 1847

Dear John,

I rite [*sic*] to you according [*sic*] to promise. I am at John Riley's and I have Doct Riely [*sp?*] attending me. He has taken away pretty near all the swelling. He purges me very much and I feel very weak. He says he will have me well in 3 or 4 days. Your brother William has the chill [*?*] and ague. Give my best respects to Bidy and the girls. Let me no [*sic*] how you are getting on. No more at present, I remain your friend.

John Cullan

## Hannah Curtis Lynch to John Curtis, her brother

Mt. Mellick, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1847

My dearly beloved brother and sister, you cannot but be greatly surprised I did not answer your letter of the 12 of June last but the reason was at that time, I thought I would be going so soon myself that I would not have time to write and that I would be with you as soon as the letter Myself. The day before I got your letter which was the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, I met with a great deal of trouble from William's bad treatment to me. He turned out very disagreeable to me by reason of him drinking. He has my heart broke. I could not div\*\*\*h all I went through the day I got the letter. When I read it, he said he could not go at all. I then put it off till the next month which was August as he gave in to go at that time but he thought he could take the old pair. But for my part, I did not care whether or no as you may know the wish they have for me. We sold the remaining things. We had to go and I was read up to the very day. The morning we were to go, he got up early and went off to Mr. [unclear] funeral to Dublin. He told me he was going to measure some of his customers for some clothes and that he could not go to America till next month that would be September. But he was only making a fool of me all the time, I think. I thought to go myself, but he would not give me my bed nor bed clothes and I would not please them to leave it behind me. My father told me to [unclear] little Biddy but she had no money to take her. I engaged a very nice girl to be with me if I had gone. He has agreed to go now in either of the 2 last months which is January and February. I don't like to go in them months as they are so very hard but the terror of the sea is no trouble to me by reason of me having such a longing desire to be with you all once more. As I hope my days will be more happy then than they have been. I did not hear from my Uncle Billy this 2 months. I am just after writing to him 2 days ago, but got no answer yet. I think the reason he did not write was he thought I was gone to America as I told him I was going. The fever raged dreadfully in Ireland this summer and we hear dreadful accounts of fever in the vessels going over to America. I had a very heavy turn the same. I had in Mr. Dunne's house. I took bad the 9<sup>th</sup> of July and was very ill for a month. I am only sketching everything to you now as I am in a hurry writing this, Affraid [sic] William will see what I have in it. It is quite late in the night that I took the opportunity of writing this. I coud have wrote before now my mind was so disturbed that I did not know whether I would go or not. At the time, nothing in this world would please the old pair but me going myself and if he does not go in the time I [unclear], I will go myself. I hope you got the 2 letters I sent you in April and May. I suppose my aunt and family are near you. Old [unclear] Meredith

died in July. I have a great deal to say to you when I see you, my dear father and mother, brother William, Margaret and Thomas and aunts and friends, hoping [unclear] the blessings of the Lord, I shall in very short have the happiness of seeing you and spending the last of my days with you. Nothing breaks my heart rightly but the thoughts of being so long separated from you to be with them that did not care if a drip of water would drown me. Don't [unclear] when you are answering this anything about William's bad conduct. Read it for no one. You [unclear] dear John, upon my account, don't neglect answering this as soon as you get it as I will depend on you to write. I have a nice silk vest for Thomas. I could break my heart if I did not go to you, dear brother, I remain your ever affectionate and loving sister, Hannah Lynch.

My father's character [sic] he wrote for was sent to my aunt Smith. I hope he has got it cause me if I forget anything I will bring [unclear] when I am going. I am sending a newspaper after this letter. For goodness sake, delay not a moment till you write to me. As the Lord be praised, you left this country in time. The potatoes did not miss the year, I may say.

## William Dunne to Mary Dunne Dillon

35 Friendly St

Belfast

February [sic] the 1 1848

Dear Sister Mary, I have recd your kind letter of the 8 of January on this day which gave me and family [sic] great pleasure to here [sic] from you and famely and friends. I send you those few lines and returns your sincear [sic] tanks [sic] for you being so kind as to not forget me as I am left alone here in this poor land of hardship and distress. There is nothing in it but hardship and poverty. However, I am not as bad of [sic] as other people. In my way, I still get a little to do but it only [sic] just keeps the bone green as the saying is.

Dear sister, your Neece [sic] Hannah Lynch is on her way to see yous all. I do not know whether Lynch is gone or not. I think she said in her last letter to me that she was to lave [sic] liverpoole on the 14 or 15 of last month. I thought to be able to have met her there or in Dublin but was not able to manage it. We received her last letter on the 8. She was in a hurry and did not say much. I suppose she will be with yous as soon as this with the help of god.

Dear Mary, I hope those few Lines will find you and husband and famely [sic] in the same health as when you rote [sic] last and all friends. You will not forget to give my kind love to sister Margret. I did not think I forgot her or any of my friends. In my last for yous are all my thoughts day and Night. I am Expecting a letter from brother Timothy [sic] in answer to the one I sent him. Every packet that comes, I wonder he does not rite [sic] to yous when he knows where yous are. You will let me know if yous have herd [sic] from him lately. I hope you will not fail in riting [sic] to us as long as you live. You did not let me know what sort of a match Margrets daughter got but I hope you will in your next. You will give my best respects to Mr. Dillin.

Dear Mary you know how to do yourself best and what would answer. I would like to know what willey and aunt is doing or how they make it. Off I thought I would have had a letter from sister Bridget before this. Dear John I hope thought I would had a few lines from you and Mother and father before this. I am glad to find that all friends are all well. I had not been as stout as usual this while back as I had been but I am rather better, thank god for all his blessings to us.

Dear John, I hope you will not fail in writing a few lines in answer to those few and let me know how yous are Comeing [sic] on and how father and Mother and all are. You did not let me know how Jane was Comeing [sic] on in your last or was she getting better. I hope you will let me know all the particulars as it is all the Comfort we get is when we here [sic] from yous all. You will let me know if you got any word at all from unkill [sic] Timothy [sic] or did you rite [sic] to him lately. I rote [sic] him Acording [sic] to your directions but got no answer yet.

Dear John, there is nothing here but hardship and want. I am struggling *[sic]* a way as well as I can. There is nothing doing in my way where I am. At present, they are Afraid of their lives to loose one shilling. Dear John, I am glad that yous Call to see aunt Mary and that yous can see one and other know *[sic]* and then and as our over land Mail Comes in such a short time, *[unclear]*, we can here *[sic]* from one and other *[unclear]* as the postage is not so very high. Dear John, I hope you will not fail in writing as soon as you Can. I suppose sister Hannah will be with you as soon as this. Your aunt and Cousins *[unclear]* with me in sending their love to you and our friends, hoping those few lines will find yous all in good health as they have us all pretty *[sic]* well at present, thank god for it. Dear John, you will let your aunt Mary know that all is rite *[sic]*. *[unclear]* are at present but Remains your Ever affectionate unkle *[sic]* and famely *[sic]*

William Dunne

35 Friendly St, Belfast

## William Dunne to John Curtis

Friendly St. Belfast

March the 28, 1849

Dear John,

Mrs. Dillon and all friends as I have the oportunity [sic] of sending those few lines by hand. I took this oportunity [sic] of sending yous a few lines after your long abstance [sic]. I waited with pacience [sic] this twelve months. Last Crismas [sic] since I rec'd your last letter. I answered it at the time. It was all rite [sic] and was very glad to get it. At the time, it left us very uneasy on account [sic] of your long abstance [sic] for fraid [sic] yous [sic] had rote [sic] and that it did not come. Our lenth [sic] of thought you would not forget me as I am here now, the last of the family in a poor, distressed kingdom where there is nothing but hardship and distress. Dear John, I did not think you would forget me. I thought you would have rote [sic] as soon as Mr. and Mrs. Lynch would arrive [sic] but as yous [sic] are all in the land of freedom and far from me and my little family, I suppose it is out of site [sic], out of mind. But I could not think that I rote [sic] to Uncle Thimathy and got no answer. Rather it haves [sic] me and my family very uneasy for fraid [sic] you rote [sic] and that it did not come the (unclear). Dear John, Mary and friends I send yous [sic] those few lines, hoping they will find yous all in good health as they have myself and family in at the present only. I am sorry to let you know that this is the first pen I took in my hands this last six months in concequence [sic] of my rite [sic] arm been broke last November. I never done one thing since nor earned one shilling. I am getting a little better at the present. I think I will have the use of it withe [sic] the help of god. It happened [sic] putting a horse into harness. It was broke below the Elbow in bite [sic]. Dear John and friends as times are bad here and things went against me, it is a very little thing would be of use. I know if it be in your power, you will not forget me. You will remember us to all – father, mother and family, all of your aunts, brothers and sisters. You will not fail in writing in answer to those few lines and let us know if you get any word from your uncle Thimathy. I am going to rite [sic] to him just now as I have an oportunity [sic] of sending it by hand. I fell in with a young man that is going out where he is. If he is living, dear John, I hope you will rite [sic] without fail as we are very uneasy to here [sic] from you and all friends and let me know all the particulars how all friends are getting on, how Margret is getting on with her large family and how Mr. and Mrs. Lynch are coming on. I thought Hanah would have rote [sic] to me when she would land but I am afraid yous [sic] have all forgot me. That is what I would not do with yous [sic] if I had it in my pour [sic]. You would not believe what is going out from this this year for by what is going from every other port, people may goe [sic] where they like for there is nothing

here for them at the present. There are [sic] a great dale [sic] dyint with it. We live in a very holdsome [sic] part of the town. There has been a great dale [sic] of cases about our neighbourhood and (unclear) your Aunt Mrs. Dunne is very poorely [sic] by this while back. She sends her love to you and Mother and all the rest althan [sic] she never seen any of yours [sic], she Continually [sic] offers up her prayers for you and friends. She would be satisfied if she had one site [sic] of you or Mother, what I suppose she never will in this life. She is a very kindly good natured woman (unclear) and famely [sic] lives in belfast in the neighbourhood where we live. They are prety [sic] well of [sic]. He is porter in a grocers where I got him. He is in it this 5 or 6 years. It is a prety [sic] good place, only he thinks he is killed with work but he is a very good man. He is never trusting to his wages any week. I suppose he is worth 15 or 20 shillings per week. It is for Myself, I did not earn a pound this three Months. Your letter was very kindly recd [sic] and just came in the rite [sic] time. It could not come in a better. I see a man from Mount mellick that comes here once or twice a year of the name of Conlon. He comes with bits and sturrips [sic]. Your mother knows him. He says that part of the Country is miserable. He tells me there are some of the big famers in the poor house that carrid [sic] a high herdance [sic]. He says there is nothing but hardship and distress in the Country [sic]. There is no employment, only what (unclear) the railroads [sic] and that is dear earned Money. Dear John, I hope you will not fail in writing as soon as posiple [sic] as it is all the Comfort [sic] we have. We are a new people when we get your letter. I think I will get one from Unkle [sic] Thimoty [sic] yet I wish you were after seeing him. You will let me know all the particulars. If you have not sent the peaper [sic], you will not forget it. No more at present but us all again in sending our kind love to you and all friends. You must excuse for not mention names but include all friends together with yourself. I Remain your ever Affectionate unkle [sic] and famely [sic] until Death,

William Dunne

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1849 35 Friendly St, Belfast July the 19

Dear John,

I read your kind and long luck for letter of the 16 June. It came to me in 17 days. We read it with open arms. It left us all in tears at the time. Your cosin [sic] William was reading it, but we ware [sic] all rejoiced and became a [unclear] after alittle when we came to ourselves to here [sic] of your health and all friends being living and in good health, only sister, but I hope with the help of god, she will get better yet. I hope going to the country will do her good. You never say any thing about Margret or what she is doing or what father and Mother is doing or how they

are making [sic] it off. I hope they are not all a burding [sic] on you, Dear John. I sent a letter by hand about last Easter with a man that I fel [sic] in with that I met in a friends house. He said if he would get the (unclear), he would deliver it out of his own hands. It was directed to Mr or Mrs Dillin. You said nothing about it in yours, but I thought by some words, you said you got it. I let you know in it about getting my arm broke last November and never done any thing for six months. It is not well yet, but I am able to do alittle. If there was any thing to be done, but there is not.

Dear John, your cosin [sic] John hapened [sic] to be at home at the time. He had a sort of a jab, but it was a very poor one, but it stood to us. We could not have kept the house as well as we did, only for him. He is at a place called the Malfe [unclear] training a couple of horses this summer. It is only 10 miles from belfast. I would have had rate [sic] sooner in answer to your kind letter only I wanted to let him see it. Dear John, I could not show your letter to any one cause some confidential friend for it would not be safe for it is nothing but desperation. He cautious [sic] of what you say in your letters has to come through the English Channel and I understand they have opened some Merica [sic] letters. One like yours would be dangerous. There was a great turnout the 12 of July. There was not much harm done about belfast but there was some in the County down, houses burnt and people killed. Dear John, I still hope to see you but as you have got safe to the land of freedom and the sea uncertain [unclear] you had good business, I would not advise you to come. If you could bring anything with you that would make Money [sic], you might come. I would suppose such as flour, port, or beef, there is a great dale [sic] of it comes here. Dear John, if you change your life, which I suppose you will, be Cautious. I hope you will get what will Make you and yours comfortable all your days. With the help of god, you will not run [unclear] like a many a fool. Look before you leap. I hope you will get one with hundreds or a good property, as I think and hope you will, if you have a good lookout. Dear John, you mentioned and said you would send a newspaper with your letter I got. Never came yet. I send you our with these few lines but I suppose you see plenty of our Irish peapers [sic]. We are glad to here [sic] you are living with such a good man. I hope you will rite [sic] us soon as you can and let me know what father and Mother and Margret is doing or how they are making it out. I sent a letter by hand to unkle [sic] Tim with a young man that had been there before. He never new [sic] him, but he said he had been there. Dear John I am no more than able to rite [sic] with my arm, yet you must excuse those few lines. I hope they will find you and all friends in good health. You will not fail in riting [sic] as you see how fast letters comes. I wonder very much your Mother never sent me a few lines when you had not time. Remeber [sic] me Mr. and Mrs. Dillen, aunt Margret and children, father, Mother, and all the rest of the famely [sic]. The Colera [sic] is very bad here.



## ANNIE to LOUISA

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1849

My Dear Louisa,

Has it ever entered your mind since the glorious 4<sup>th</sup> of 1848 of the promise Annie and Olive made to you, now you cannot guess, so you are not much of a Yankee. We both promised that on the coming 4<sup>th</sup>, you should have a letter from each of us, and here is mine that is if it only reaches you in time. You are well aware that I do not approve of sending letters by the Sunday Mail unless in case of extreme urgency, such as life or death, and if you do not receive this on the 4<sup>th</sup>, it will be owing to my deferring to send it until Monday.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of 1848 is still in my mind remember it as though it were but yesterday, how your father called at the soon as he should return from the boat with Mis Townsend, oh what a hurry I was in and after all my speed, your Father was obligated to exercise his patience in writing. We jumped into the carriage, and away we drove to that place in Geneva that I loved most (the home of Louisa; here I was introduced to your sister Susan's family, a joyous party were we at dinner. In the afternoon while lying down, we regretted that we might not always spend the 4<sup>th</sup> together, but by say of a substitute, I promised a letter, which I guess will be better than Annie, for you know the length of his tongue and after a year's absence from you, how much I have to communicate.

I have not for one moment regretted my visit to Geneva. Tis true that I have passed some sad moments while a resident of the seminary, many kind friends did cluster around my path, but there was one you know who always misconstrued my motives, with whom I was no favorite, because I could not profess to her what I never felt or never would. If it had not have been for you and your family, Julia and all and little Olive too, I should have indeed been miserable. With you, I would have been happy any where. You were all truth and affection. I could depend upon you for sympathy and in hours of sickness you would fill a Mother's place.

Louisa oh! That I had the wings of a dove, I would fly to Geneva, tap at your chamber window and ask to nestle upon your bosom for this day and with e morrow would fly to Debbie and talk of you.

You know not how much I long to see you, what a fine time we would have together, how I should love a chance to tease Eli. I should pinch him, and I wonder if he returned in my [*unclear*] coin or foreign money As he did if I should be so indignant, I guess not. If I had known him better, it would have been otherwise retrieved. I should have boxed his ears and not made such a fool of myself as to

shed so many bitter tears, and over what. Why absolutely nothing. Tell him that I have a good pinch for him, one that he will feel a year after. Methinks I see him tremble now. Sell Eli, shall we take a ride to day, Dear ride now, and am like unto [unclear].

Remember me kindly to your dear Mother and Father and if your sisters are with you, give my love to them and tell little Thede [?] to say Annie, give my love to Julia and Mary.

So at long last Mr. Chapin is going to reside in Philadelphia. I heard of it before the paper reached me. I am glad of it for his sake, for he was always anxious "dwell in the land of his birth, but how does Mis C like it. Does she oppose it much. She once told me that never with his consent would she reside in Philadelphia, and what reason she had for saying so, I know not. She had never seen the place and knew no one here but me, perhaps this was sufficient cause of dislike, but she need not now be alarmed. We will be at a great distance still, and if I see that my visits will not prove agreeable, she will not often be troubled by my presence.

Louisa, from necessity, I shall be obliged send you a short letter. I have been ill with the Cholera Morbus, and am not sufficiently strong to t long at any one thing, no matter how attractive. I must therefore say good bye for the present. This will answer to show you that I have not forgotten my promise. God bless you, dear Louisa. Write very very very soon, and do not be so formal as to allow so much time to lapse before you write.

Love to all,

Your loving

Annie

## Probably William Lynch to John Curtis

My Dr John, I hope you nor Jane will take No Notice of the many lying Letters may have been sent over the Atlantic by those Who have no Scruple. I hope your Coat has been of great Use to you. It wants to be glad of use [*unclear*] to let me know if Jane has brought his [*sic*] Wollen [*sic*] Shaw with her. I have my reasons for Making these Enquiries – let me Know if you receive 5 pair of Socks and two pr Stockings – I thought to get the price of a Hat from your father, but he would not give it to me. I send you Mr. John Merediths Address – Gurteville [*sic*] Chester County, Pensylvania [*sic*]

William is a very Good laboring Boy. When you Write My Dr John, direct to me

## William Dunne, Jr to John Curtis

Belfast      Belfast, Ireland      April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1851 AD

My Dear Cousin John,

I Write to you this letter hoping that it will find you and my aunt uncle and the rest of my Cousins in good health as this leaves my father mother brother and sisters and myself in the same, thank god. It is a very long time since we heard any word from you now or any of my aunts. My da has been very uneasy this long time on account of you not writing to him. I now write you this, hoping you will get it and when you get it, be shure *[sic]* and answer it by the next mail. My brother John is working with the horses the same as my da. He is living at a place called Carrickfergus with a gentleman. He is quite well. I am in an office in town. I would like to go out to the land of Liberty where you now are, and I hope with the help of god, I will soon be there, my Dear Cousin, as I never had the pleasure of seeing you or my aunt or cousins. I still have the same feeling for you and all of you as if you and I had spent our childhood together.

When I look over my aunts Dear letter, It reminds me of when you were all at home. We never get any letters from that part now. My Cousin Hanna never wrote to my da since she went out to you. He expected you would have wrote *[unclear]* who like not write. Dear Cousin, there is great changes in Ireland at present and in England on a account of our religion. The Pope sent a Cardinal to England and one to Ireland. The government is striving to put down or *[sic]* religion but it is to *[sic]* strong to be touched. The *[sic]* cannot do us any harm and the *[sic]* are going to put penal laws on our Bishops and fine them for every time the *[sic]* call themselves by the name of Bishop in a £100. The *[sic]* also want to break the emancipation that was so long struggled for, but it is past there *[sic]* power to do so. The great and the small are rising out against the prime minister Lord John Russle, and they are burning his Effigy. The *[sic]* mean to gain there *[sic]* liberty with without his leave. There is no such work in America. There was a synod in Munster last year and All the Bishops of Ireland attended. It was held in Thurles. Three weekes *[sic]* the *[sic]* marched in public procession through the streets to the Cathedral *[sic]*.

My Dear Cousin, I would wish when you get this letter, you would write an answer and let us know how you all are and how all my aunts and my uncle Timothy is and if the *[sic]* be all living and well. I hope the *[sic]* are with the help of god. My da sent you letters by several persons that was going out to philedelphia *[sic]* but we never received any answer. Nhther *[sic]* the *[sic]* found you out or not and he sent one to my uncle timothy with a man named Mr. Moore. He sent word back that he heard of him but he was removed from where he used to

live. We got no word this long time. We do not know whether found him out or not.

Dear Cousin, this poor Island is in poverty. There is nothing going to keep it up, only hunger and hardship [*unclear*] with everyone. Really you might come over again summer and see the exhibition that is going to be in London for all nations. If I thought you would come over with the real of your fellow Countrymen, I would gladly go and meet you. My Dear Cousin, when you get this, do not delay but write as soon as this comes to hand. I now conclude with my father mother Brother and sisters and my self Joining in one and sending yous all our kind love and Blessing. May the Blessing of god Desend [*sic*] upon you and all my aunts uncles and Cousins,

No more for your ever Dear Cousin, Wm Dunne, Junior till Death –

You can direct your letters

William Dunne, 35 Friendly street, Belfast

## William Dunne, Jr. to an aunt in America

Belfast, 35 Friendly street

July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1851

Missing Aunt

I write you this letter for the first time. I hope it will find you and my uncle and family in good health. I also hope that it will find my aunt Bridget living and well and my cousins all. I wrote to my cousin John sometime since but never got an answer from him. It is a long time now since my da has got any word or a letter from any of my aunts or Cousin John. He think great long to here [sic] from some of you. He is just middling in his health this long time back and a good deal of it rests in him hearing no word from you or my aunt Bridget or any of you. He thought my cousins John and Hannah would never forget him as long as the [sic] would live, and I hope the [sic] are still living and may see this although I never had the hapiness [sic] of seeing any of you, I feel as if I Had been with you and my [missing] life my da would be very happy [missing] living atall [sic] and if you get this [missing] god you will answer it and let [missing] all know how you are and how all my aunts and cousins are. My sisters Marg and Bridget are well and so is my Brother John. He is at present living with a gentleman in Carrickfergus. My mother is quite well at present but she was lying for 2 month but she is quite recovered, thank God. There are some people in Philadelphia that my da knows and he has directed them to call and see if you be in the last place we had you lived, that is 124 Carpenter st south side. I hope this will find you there, and I hope it will find my uncle quite well. I hope I will see you all before I die. I would like very much to go to America but not for sometime. I was looking and uncle you [missing] as soon as you [missing] be doing an everlasting [missing] and it will reap an eternal [missing] for to ease a troubled heart [missing] will let us know if my aunt [missing] bee [sic] still living in Philadelphia and how [missing] getting on and make my cousin John write to my da and send us word how my uncle Timothy and aunt Ellen is and where the [sic] are living. Let us know all you can as it is so long since we heard any word from [missing] if you can get me all my My aunts directions, send them to me and my uncle Thimothy.

Wm Dunne

**George Cadalader to Major General Patterson**

Philad 23 July 1855

Major Genl Patterson

My dear General,

John Curtis who will hand you this lived with me several years as a house  
Servant. He tells me that he desires to apply to you for some situation in your  
Store [?] Houses, and if there are vacancies and you desire to employ him, I  
consider him sober Steady and faithful.

Very truly yours,

Geo Cadwalader

**Thomas Curtis to John Curtis**

Alexandria August the 3 1855

My Dear

Brother John after a long delay in riting [sic] to yo [sic], I now take the opertunity [sic] of sending yo [sic] these few lines, hoping to find yo[sic] and fameley [sic] and my father in good healthe [sic] as I am at present, thank god. I rote [sic] a letter to Hannah some time a go [sic] in harrisburge [sic] but got no anser [sic]. Yo [sic] will pleas [sic] anser [sic] this soon and send me aney [sic] news if ther [sic] is any about the folks. I have no more at present.

Give my respects to all of the fameley [sic] from your brother

Thomas Curtis



**William Dunne, Jr. to Mary Dunne Dillon**

34 Castle Lane, Belfast  
14 May, 1857

My Dear Aunt

This is the third letter I have written to you and got no answer. I hope it will find you and all my Cousins in the enjoyment of good health as this leaves me at present. I take this opportunity of sending this one for fear the others may have gone astray in the post, but I think not. Something else is wrong, I am afraid or you would have written long before this. I am very uneasy. May it is I that has been the Cause of it, promising to go out and never going, but I am sorry to say, I never had it in my power get to do anything for myself. In that way, I am bound down here, Dear Aunt, and Cannot do anything for myself. The wages are small and then I have to keep mother and sister. The Husband is living with us and all I can do, I cannot save money to take me out of this land of Bondage. I have been expecting a letter this long time or if I got a paper at [unclear] to know that you were alive, I would be Satisfied. Brother John says I have turned you all again me by saying I would go and go but have not. I need not say any more on this subject.

I hope my Aunt Curtis and family are well. Cousin John and family and William, I think If I was in their place, I would soon write them a long letter and have news some way. I send papers to them sometimes but never get any so, I don't know what to do in regard of getting a letter from any of you. The young man who takes this letter, I have known him for many years and his sister is out in Philadelphia. This good while, I have not heard any word from Mr. Mullan this long time. Let me know if ever he calls to see you. His Brother here is very well and so is all his sisters and mother. I wish I could have got out with him when he went last year. Brother Johns wife has another young baby, a little girl called after herself, Anne. It is a fine child. I hope God will spare it to them as they were very [unclear] after little Mary. He sent you a paper from Carrickfergus, one I sent him to send you. I suppose you got it before this. It has been very wet weather here for the last two months. There is nothing sown by the farmers yet, and it is expected to be a very late harvest this year one. I hope, Dear Aunt, you will answer this and let me know the Cause of the delay. When I look on you and all my Cousin and [unclear] and Aunt Bridgets likeness, I am only sorry I cannot see them in reality for some time yet to come, but I hope God will enable me to go out

to you yet. I am in a great hurry to give the letter to the young man, so must excuse my writing this time. I will be waiting for an answer with paitence [sic] and I hope it will not be long and that it will Contain good news of all your good health. Remember me to all aunts and cousins, to Cousin John and [unclear] Pat Joseph. I have his likeness before me every morning when I awake at my bedside, and I only wish I could enjoy the happiness of being in Company with you all. I have nothing more to add, only that I hope you will write if you have not done so before this reaches you, and let me have a long letter and all particulars. We all join in Sending you our Kind love and blessing, and until I hear from you, beleive [sic] me to remain your ever affectionate Nephew till Death

William Dunne

Mrs. Mary Dillon  
255 Georges St above 15  
Philadelphia

Since I wrote this, I have formed a strong inclination of going out myself and as soon as I can get the price of my passage money, I will go. I may get there as soon as this myself as I can never do any good for myself or any one else her [sic]  
Wm Dunne

**Philip C. Murphy, St. Patrick's Beneficial Society to John Curtis**

Philada March 8, 1861

John Curtis

Dear Sir – Your letter of the 22 of February came to hand in proper time, and I delayed answering it this long for the purpose of being able to send you a Copy of the Auditing Committee, showing you how prosperous the Society has been for the past year, and besides you told me to write you after the meeting. You will see by the Report that the society made \$482.98 the past year; (last year (torn) were -73 behind hand,) and we hope to be still more prosperous the coming year, so you will perceive the necessity of not falling behind hand in your dues. Although you do live a long distance from the Society, still if you were sick where you are, money would be equally as much needed as in Philadelphia – and if you were ick (which I hope you wont be for a long period) the officers of St. Patrick's would be only too happy to forward you your benefit always, remember, when properly applied for.

I should have said earlier that the enclosure of *[unclear]* also came safely to hand. I enclose with a Report, a Traveling Certificate, which is only good for 6 (six) months. You need not remit any money to me until you apply for a renewed Certifice, 6 months hence, as I will pay for you up to that time. The money you sent me paid your arrears *[unclear]* - \$5.25; and my 50 cents will pay your dues for the next two months, April and May, and 25 cents over. If any deaths occur, I will let you know. If you change your residence, let me know.

Very respectfully yours,  
Philip C. Murphy  
Society of St. Patricks B.S.  
1148 South 12<sup>th</sup> St

**Hannah Curtis Lynch to Rebecca Reid Curtis?**

Wilmington Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> 1867

Dear Rebeca

I did not get here till Wednesday. I met William Lynch at the depot. I could not get the chance to write till today. I do not like this place. I think I will soon go back. Every thing is very dear here. I had a pleasant journey, was very sick in the boat. I had to stop on Tuesday in Norfolk on account of the track being washed away by Monday nights rain. I will say no more just now. Let Ellen McGonigle know you hear from me. My love to Mother and you all. I will say more in my next letter. Let Maggie answer this soon. Good bye

Yours

Hannah Lynch

Note: scribbling at the end of this note

## William Lynch to Margaret Curtis Dunne

Wilmington Agt the 6<sup>th</sup> 1874

Dear Maggey,

Yo [sic] must have given mea [sic] up for a bad Job ore [sic] yo [sic] would have written before this. When yo [sic] received moy [sic] laste [sic], I was under tratemete [sic] [unclear] an inden [sic] docter [sic] for rumitirem [sic]. I think he has made a perfect cure but I have sufferd [sic] a grate [sic] dale [sic] and am now as thin as Willey. Before I went under his care, it was imposable [sic] for mea [sic] to go up or down stairs without upon the banester [sic] for leaning support. Now I can run up or down as as nimble as ever, but I am coverde [sic] over with boiles [sic], Just 19 ove [sic] them on one leg, four ove [sic] them on the nee [sic], four on calf and one between [unclear], five on my head, sraterd [sic] the others.

In a few days after I received your teller and fashons [sic], I went to Charleston, sevanna [sic], agusta [sic], Atlanta, and some other places trying to get a situasion [sic] as Cutter but could not succeed [sic] on account [sic] of the hartiimes [sic] for comeback the same way that I went, free of expenses and took this, I hope, in the same block tht [sic] I have been in, but work is so dull. Ther [sic] is incorigcmints [sic] today much. I can go home free of expense but will not untill [sic] I can rase [sic] a good soote [sic] of clothes and some money and then goodbye [sic] NC Wilmington. Write as soon as yo [si] get this and send mea [sic] all particulars [sic] about grandmother if she is at Aunt Mareys yet an [sic] how shee [sic] is. Can shee [sic] walk out and is aunt Marey better. I hope Soo [sic].

Is Willy with the same Tailor and what hee [sic] is doing. Mention Every particular. How is Martin and family. I will write asoon [sic] as ireceive [sic] yours and send yo [sic] some better news. I hope all is well. I want a dance wend [sic] I get there. Is Wm Dunne in pila [sic]. There was a grate [sic] maney [sic] deaths hear [sic] lately, Some of them from our church: Mr Darby, Mr. Burans, the painter, Mrs. Riley, the magers [sic] wife.

Hopeingalls [sic] well. I remain as Eaver [sic] yours,

Wm Lynch

**William Lynch to Margaret Curtis Dunne**

Wilmington July 19<sup>th</sup> 1874

Dear Maggy,

I received yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 14 June and one on last wensday [sic] of the 21 of June. All in this week and was glad to heer [sic] that yo [sic] ware [sic] well and at worke [sic]. Tell Marey to bea [sic] a good guirl [sic] and mind her worke [sic] and not to be going out much. I got her likenes [sic] but I do not think it looks [sic] much like her. I thould [sic] it was verey [sic] strange that yo [sic] did not mention grandmother or Mrs. Dillin and let me knowe [sic] howe [sic] the [sic] are and Martin Gruggs and is Mrs. G home and howe [sic] the [sic] are getting on.

Let mea [sic] knowe [sic], is there any account from Wm Dunne and whare [sic] hee [sic] is and what he is doing and let mea [sic] knowe [sic] howe [sic] aunt Hannah is and has Marey Hall gone home and how Charley is. The weather is verey [sic] Coole and pleasant hear [sic] this season but there is not much Buisnes [sic] of any kind nor Lines of the buisnes [sic] getting better. Give my love to Mrs. Barry and tell her I never see aney [sic] more Beer. I would not knowe [sic] the taste of it, not on the 4<sup>th</sup>. I never tasted. They are changed times with new and all hands.

Willy wants to know how money (unclear) yo [sic] have goto [sic]. Hee [sic] is getting very Big. He has quitt [sic] going to School. Give My love to Mrs. Buckhannan. Remember me to Mr. Williams.

Dear Maggy,

I will soon write to you with more particulars. I cannot say much at preasant [sic]. I will write soone [sic] to Mrs. Curtis. Write soon with all particulars.

Your (unclear) Willy and Wm ar [sic] all well [sic].

**William Lynch to Margaret Curtis Dunne**

Wilmington Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 1875

My Dear Maggie

Your loving and kind letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> was reseved [sic] this Morning and I am sorry to say that I had to wait untill [sic] evening befor [sic] I could anser [sic] it. I am sorry to say that I have bin [sic] doing very bad for sometime but am now geting [sic] all right again and in a day or two, I will be able to attend to my buisness [sic]. That is the only reason that I have not writin [sic] to you before for god knows my thoughts are all the time apou [sic] you, for there is nothing on this earth that I love as I do you. I am in hopes that it will not be long before I and Willie is with you all. Then we will be happy and not untill [sic] then. I am very anxous [sic] to see Mother, Grand Ma and all the rest of the family, for you do not know how lonesom [sic] it is here far away from all those you love, but thanks be to god, it will not be much longer. Dear Maggie, I want you to get me five cents worth of fine [unclear]. You can send it in a Newspaper. Belive [sic] me as ever,

Your Loving Uncle,  
Wm Lynch

Wilmington Nov 28

My Deer [sic] mother and sisters, unkel [sic] recev [unclear] letter today. I Was glad to heer [sic] from you all and too [sic] her [sic] that you Was Weel [sic]. I am glad too [sic] say that this leu [sic] me Well [sic]. Uncel [sic] has not Bean [sic] Wel [sic] sinc [sic] you left. I Wod [sic] have Writen [sic] before but I expeted [sic] cor [sic] home before this. Ido [sic] not expet [sic] it Will be long before uncle and myself Will be in Philadelphia as Weer [sic] tirb [sic] of this plase [sic]. Plase [sic] iam ancious [sic] too [sic] see you all. Iam [sic] so [unclear] without yous and Wen [sic] you writ [sic] in the next letter, let me know if my [unclear] ar [sic] all ther [sic] and keep them til [sic] icom [sic] home and falst [sic] then [sic]. Wel [sic], tak [sic] good care of them. Sinc [sic] you left, my [unclear] got a Wey [sic] and I never Was able too [sic] find him.

*[This writer uses the letter N when he means M. The transcription used M since this was clearly a penmanship problem.]*

**Sophia Cerveau to Margaret Curtis Dunne**

Savannah, Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, 79

Dear Cousin,

Maggie, I hope thous [sic] fair lines Will find All Well as it leaves us at present. I Sent you a letter two or three days after Ma and I Arived [sic] in Sav. I have not received an Answer to it Yet – but I suppose you have never received it, for I sent in it 25 cts in silver for you to get me some bang nots (?) as I whanted [sic] very bad and could not get them here so I think it was opened as it was heavy. I would have liked you to have got the letter but it cant be healped [sic]. How are all the Girls. I hope well and your Mother and the Baby and also Mr. Getty. Ma and Myself have been very bisey [sic] ever since we came Home tryin [sic] to get the House clean, for you must know it was in a nice fix after Men's work. The weather is very cold here now and every thing looks dull, nothing like Phil. With so much life and pleasure. I feel like I wish I was liven [sic] there, and I hope we will soon. Ma thinks she will never remain in Sav. any longer then [sic] this Winter. She is so tired of it. I cant very much blame her as I cam getting tired of it Myself. I gess [sic] I have been spoilt by my trip I enjoyed it so much. I shall never forget my pleasent [sic] times with you all. I liked you all so much and was very much pleased indeed.

Write and tell me if you received my first letter. Ma Sends her best love to your Mother and all and my love to Your Mother and all the Girls. I will write soon to Mary or Cassy – Maggie, don't forget to gve my kind regards to Mr. Flanaty and sisters and inquiring [sic] friends. Write soon.

Your Affectionate Cousin.  
Sophia Cerreau

PA – address Your letter Sophia L. Cerveau  
No 109 Weast [sic] Boone St.  
Savannah, Ga.



**Sophia Cerveau to Margaret Curtis Dunne**

Savannah Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 79

Dear Cousin

Maggie, I Take the pleasure to pen thous [sic] few lines to let you All know of our Safe Arivel [sic] in Sav. We arived [sic] on Tuesday Evening And I must Say our Vougie [sic] Was pleasant indeed. Ma and myself was well all the Way. Coming the Weather was very good. I only wished I could have remained longer on Sea. I enjoyed it so much. I found very pleasant Company on the Boat. A young Gentelman [sic] from Phil and We had Some pleasant talks together wich [sic] made the time pass very pleasant. My Brother Francis Was at the Boat, waiting for us and My Beau Was the first that came on the Boat. He had a Carrige [sic] Waiting for us but when I Seen old Sav and thought of Phil in all its splendor, I feel sorry that I came back. I miss you all so much and I feel like I wish I was there, but I hope to see you all next Summer with the healp [sic] of God. Oh Maggie, how can Ma And I thank your Mother enough for her kindness. She was so good to us, but I hope we will be able to repay her Some-day for it – but we could never repay her half what she is sersirving (?) of. The Weather hear [sic] is getting quiet cool and every thing looks dull. Ma says she will never feel like herself untill [sic] she gets to Phil again. Maggie, I sent enclosed 25 cts. Please give it to Mary Greeg and tell her to get me one Gang Net Hair, her color for 16 cts and two 5 cts ones and Send them in your letter in Answer to this. Thay [sic] ask 25 cts for the hair one's here. Give My love to your Mother and Ma Sends her love and is in (unclear) of Seeing her next Summer – And Ma Sends her love to all And My love And best Wishes for you and All the Girls. Tell them I am goin [sic] to write a letter to them soon. Kiss the Baby for me,

Yours Affectionale [sic]  
Cousin Sophia

PS Address Your letter  
Sophia Gerveau  
No 109 Weast [sic] Broad st.  
Savannah, Ga

## Archie Getty to Margaret Curtis Dunne

White B

Dear Maggie,

Your welcome [missing] and contents noted. I have be[missing] as I could be, in not receiving [missing] from you for so long. I have [missing] letters from Mary Hall since [missing] you at all. She writes a really [missing] letter, and I was very, very much [missing] read its contents. I think I ha [missing] one correspondent, and one [missing] pondence I can value. Ma [missing] girl and I am very glad she is [missing] so nicely. Do you never see [missing] any more? Do you still take [missing]. If you do, I would rather [missing] any other paper you could [missing] folks were in the habit of [missing] Ledger, in Phila, and would be 9missing) see it out here, only don't [missing] it is a week old. I am really [missing] Cassie is so sick; she was the [missing] great extent of much music but I cannot cherish (unclear) in her condition. Is she [missing] ter? Mac Davitt is apparen [missing] don't bother your head [missing] him. Cannot find [missing] of. Have you done anything [missing] eyes. You know if you [missing] time yourself, what I told [missing] Will Burke. He is a good [missing] would gladly do anything [missing] ever. Am having some [missing] taken in hoboggan suit [missing] send you one. Will not [missing] 9<sup>th</sup>. This is Carnival time [missing] am in St Paul several times [missing] with our club. Tobogganing [missing] skating, Charades, and dancing [missing] and I have more fun than [missing] that to do with, besides at [missing] Choir practise [sic]. There is [missing] night and [missing] choir has [missing] and I am also busy at [missing] ready for a Reading Room [missing] and also a Choir Enter- [missing] both to be given within [missing] two weeks in Gettys Hall. [missing] to be the head and front [missing] thing, besides being corres- [missing] or the St. Paul Globe and [missing] Post. Am going to write [missing] fall now if I can get time [missing] and send some cash in few [missing] must write oftener if it [missing] Card

Yours [unclear]

Archie

Two fragments with partial works

**Bernard Dunne to Margaret Curtis Dunne**

222 West 19<sup>th</sup> St  
New York  
Nov 13, 1903

My Dear Wife,

I rec'd your Letter last night. I am as usual in health. Enclosed you will find \$10 Ten Dollars. I'm pleased to know Margurite is going to school. What did Mat. Say about Rosa Ward? Remember me to Mr. McCorzric, Family, Mrs. Feely, Family, Mr. Smith and Martha. Also Mat and his family? Tell Marguirte I would send her 10 cts sach wk. [?] but you know I can't well get \$10.10 registered. How did Mr. McCormic make out about his figus? Send my best wishes to all. O, I forgot to inquire about you [sic] mother, yourself and children.

I want to get this to office before 8 o'clock. You may get it tomorrow.

Your loving husband

P.S. You need not send the papers anymore as I can get them here now for less then [sic] you pay postage.

**Dan Polin to William Bennet**

Pittsburg June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1878

My Dear Sir,

Tho' neither you nor I would now know each other, yet your intimacy with my father will certainly excuse this liberty on my part – Since you came to this country, there has not been a letter but one recde from you by your friends in Ireland, which has rendered them very unhappy – Waiting is the only happiness that absence grants to real friends and you must pardon me for saying that you ought not to omit it, as I can assure you, the affection of your Brothers and sisters is as sincere and unshaken as ever as it was. Many a time I have heard them lamenting that they did not hear from you, but I hope your future attention to them will be such as to excuse your past neglect. As I am but a few days landed in this country from Ireland, I can give you the principal news there. I flatter myself *[unclear]* of them will not be indifferent to you – Your Brothers Alex, Hugh and Jimmy are well – Alex has a large family but most of them are grown up and able to do for themselves. He still has plenty to do at his trade and is able to take a hearty drink now and then. Hugh is married to Nancy Copeland and has got two fine children. He lives very comfortably and is industrious. James works journeywork with Alex. Your Brother in law Mosey Hamilton is dead some time ago, but I beleive *[sic]* his family are all well. Billy Jackson's wife and family are well. Your sister Jenny married James Martin and they live pretty well in a little spot of land belonging to the Mateers. Andrew Matt *[unclear]* married a daughter of Frank Hamilton's and has got four or five children, but Jimmy has never found in his heart to venture on a wife tho he is often *[unclear]* of it. Frank Scott is still alive, but he is threatened with a cancer on his shin which I am affraid *[sic]* will soon take him off. His son John became a doctor and is married and doing well in Dromone. Robt Copeland's family are nearly all married. Old William and Jimmy Jackson are both widowers this some time past, but it is not expected they will ever marry again. Old Jimmy Stewart is dead. He signed over his land to his son John in order to get him a rich wife, and the poor fellow was but badly handled in his old days.