

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Register of Papers

I

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JAMES FREEMAN CURTIS

(1878 - 1952)

The working correspondence and memoranda of James Freeman Curtis, lawyer in Boston and New York, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, first counsel of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, are to be found in the Treasury files for 1909-1913, and incorporated in the early files of the New York Federal Reserve Bank. All private papers are said by his widow (Mrs. Eleanor Curtis, 120 East 30 Street, N.Y.C.) to have been destroyed.

A two volume memoir of his life was recorded by Mr. Curtis for the Oral History Project of Columbia University. Some fifty pages from these memoirs, dealing with Mr. Curtis' experience with Federal Reserve legislation in 1913 and as General Counsel, Deputy Governor and Secretary of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York during its first five years, have been photostatted for the Committee. Two copies are in Committee files.

Literary rights in the unpublished memoirs of Mr. Curtis are reserved to Mrs. Curtis during her lifetime. They are understood to revert to Columbia University after her death.

See notes on Committee's career card of Mr. Curtis

Biographical Note

1878, Aug. 16	Born, Manchester, Mass.
1899	A.B., Harvard
1903	LL.B., Harvard Law School
1903-06	Practiced law with Storey, Thorndike, Palmer and Thayer, Boston
1906-09	Assistant attorney general of Massachusetts
1909	Assistant district attorney of Suffolk County, Mass.
1909-13	Assistant Secretary of the Treasury
1913	At request of certain New York bankers, drafted an alternative to Glass-Owen Bill
1912, Nov. 26	Married Laura Beatrice Merriam (3 children)
1914-19	Counsel and Deputy Governor, Federal Reserve Bank of New York
1919-47	Practiced law in New York City
1938, Sept. 25	Married Eleanor Munroe Green
1947-52	Counsel to former firm, newly named Patterson, Belknap and Webb
1952, Nov. 15	Died

Author of:

The Reminiscences of James Freeman Curtis. 2 vols.,
 361 pp. typed. Columbia Oral History Research
 Project. 1951.
 1 copy (bound) in possession of Mrs. Eleanor Curtis
 2 copies (unbound) in Special Collections Dept., Butler
 Library, Columbia University, New York

See Who's Who in America, 1952/53, vol. 27, Marquis