In Volume 1, page 105 Lamar Papers Mr. Curtisis shown as having participated in the Battle of Velasco in June, 1832, as a member of Captain Mohn Austin's Company. He was a member of Captain William H. Patton's Columbia Company at San Jacinto and on July 10, 1838 he was issued Donation Certificate No. 441 for 640 acres of land for having participated in the battle. On December 4, 1837 he was issued Bounty Certificate No. 670 for 320 acres of land for having served in the army from April 15 to July 17, 1836.

In the Probate Records of Matagorda County, it is certified that Mr. Gurtis died in that county December 28, 1846, without children. He and his wife Sarah had separated by mutual agreement April 14, 1838 and their property was divided between them at that time. James B. Hawkins was appointed administrator of the estate of Mr. Gurtis January 25, 1847. In his will he left Sarah B. Surtis, wife of James H. Curtis of Alabama, 1480 acres of land. To his sister Mary B., wife of Robert Jones of Tennessee, he left the 640 acres of land given him for having participated in the Battle of San Jacinto. To his friend James B. Hawkins he left his slave, Mahala, and her three children.