

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Mary C. Curtis

PERSON

**Curtis, Mary C., 1953-**

**Alternative Names:** Mary C. Curtis;

**Life Dates:** September 4, 1953-

**Place of Birth:** Baltimore, Maryland, USA

**Residence:** Charlotte, NC

**Work:** Charlotte, NC

**Occupations:** Newspaper Editor; Newspaper  
Correspondent; Newspaper Columnist

## Biographical Note

Newspaper editor and news correspondent Mary C. Curtis was born on September 4, 1953 in Baltimore, Maryland. She was the youngest of five children born to Thomas Curtis and Evelyn Curtis. After graduating from Seton High School in Baltimore, Maryland in 1971, she enrolled at Fordham University in New York City and graduated from there in 1975 with her B.A.

degree in communications. In 2006, Curtis was awarded a Nieman Fellowship from Harvard University.

From 1985 through 1994, Curtis served in a variety of editing positions at The New York Times, including as editor of “Home, Education, Life” and “The Living Arts,” a section in the National Edition that she helped to develop. She also served as the Features editor for the Arts and Entertainment section at The Sun in Baltimore. In addition, Curtis held positions as a reporter and as an editor with The Associated Press in New York, Hartford, Connecticut and with the Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. She also contributed news articles to TheRoot.com, theGrio.com, National Public Radio Creative Loafing , and served as a national correspondent for AOL’s PoliticsDaily.com. In 2011, she joined the The Washington Post as a contributor for the blog, “She the People.” She covered the 2012 Democratic National Convention for The Charlotte Observer.

Curtis is a member the National Association of Black Journalists. Curtis received the Carmage Walls Prize in 2005 for commentary in a competition sponsored by the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association. She is the recipient of several Green Eyeshade Awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). The North Carolina Associated Press recognized Curtis with the Thomas Wolfe Award for her writing “My Rebel Journey,” an examination of Civil War heritage groups. She received the Clarion Award from the Association for Women in Communications in 2010 and 2012. Curtis was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Region IV National Association of Black Journalists in 2004.

Curtis and her husband, Martin F. Olsen, live in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mary C. Curtis was interviewed by The HistoryMakers

on May 8, 2013.

## Related Entries

**Harvard University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Fellowship**

**Fordham University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**The Seton Keough High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Diploma**

**St. Pius V Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Associated Press (AP)** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1968 to ?]

**Traveler's Insurance, Co.** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1982 to 1984]

**Editor**

**Arizona Daily Star** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1966 to 1989]

**Copy Entertainment Editor**

**Baltimore Sun** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1983 to 1985]

**Features Editor for Arts**

**New York Times** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1985 to 1994]

**Deputy Education Editor**

**CNN** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1971 to 2001]

**Freelance Contributor**

**Fox Charlotte** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1987 to 1988]

**Commentator**

**Creative Loafing Atlanta** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2011 to 2013]

**Columnist**

**AOL** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1982 to 1986]

**National Correspondent**

**Charlotte Observer** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 199408 to 200810]

**Columnist**

**Washington Post** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 201201 to ?]

**Blogger/Columnist**

**Grio, The** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1974 to 1992]

**Politics Reporter**

**Washington Post** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1984 to 1988]

**Contributor**

**National Society of Newspaper Columnists** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Society of Professional Journalists** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

## **Trotter Group of African American Columnists**

[MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

## **National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ)**

[MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]