

JAMES HURLEY (1852-1943)

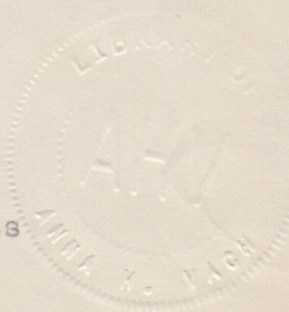
James Hurley was born in Brookfield, Vermont, on February 10, 1852, two years after his parents, Michael and Mary (Conneran), had arrived in the United States from County Galway, Ireland. He was the third of nine children: Bryan (b. 1846), Mary (b. 1850), Michael (b. 1854), William (b. 1856), Catherine (b. 1859), John (b. 1861), Celia (b. 1864), and Margaret Anne (b. 1868). His father did railroad and contracting work immediately after his arrival in this country.

Coming west to Minnesota, the Hurleys lived successively in St. Paul, Oxford Township, and finally Linwood Township, Anoka County, a few miles west of Stacy. There Michael Hurley homesteaded 160 acres, farming it until a few years before his death, when he sold his farm to his sons William and John and moved to North Branch.

James Hurley received his education in a log cabin school house in Anoka County, where one of his teachers was his uncle Daniel Hurley.

In the winter of 1869-70, leaving home with \$1.25 that his father could spare him, he came to Pine County to work, first in Rush City and then in Pine City as the railroad moved north. The first train was run through Pine City on November 1, 1870, and James Hurley began team and mill work there in the same fall.

In 1873 he moved to Hinckley, where he clerked in a store. Later he went into the general store business



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there with his brother John.

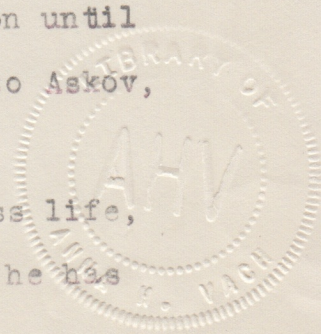
In Hinckley he married Mary Eagan. They had eight children: William, Michael B., Mary, Martin J., James, Francis, Agnes, and John. Mrs. Hurley died in December, 1892.

In 1878, when Mr. Hurley was elected as Pine County Register of Deeds, he moved his family from Hinckley to Pine City, where he lived until his death. He remained in this office for fourteen years, during eight of which he also held the office of Clerk of the District Court. He retired from office as Register of Deeds in 1892.

In 1891 he entered the wholesale liquor business--- Hurley Brothers Wholesale Liquor---in St. Paul with his brothers William and John. James Hurley traveled for this company for four and a half years and also served as its president until his retirement from the business in 1917.

After his years of traveling for Hurley Brothers, Mr. Hurley engaged in the farm implement and machine business in Pine City. He also maintained a real estate office in the village from 1894 to 1930. He build the Agnes Hotel Block and operated the hotel for a number of years. In 1924, he purchased control of the Security State Bank o f Sandstone and remained president of this institution until his death in 1943. The bank was previously moved to Askov, where it still operates.

The Pine Poker-Pioneer, writing of his business life, summarized: "During his long life in Pine County, he has



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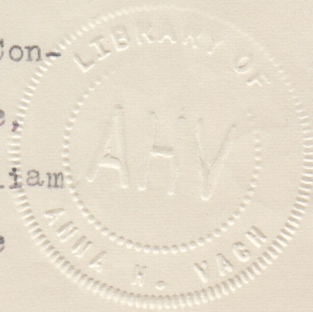
had a prosperous and venerable career. In his business dealings, his word was his bond and his integrity never questioned."

In 1894 Mr. Hurley married Katherine O'Brien, a teacher in Pine City, at Atwater on November 12. They had four children: Catherine, Margaret, Julia, and Cecile.

Spending most of his life in Pine City, Mr. Hurley saw the village develop from a lumber camp with one store. He was active in community and county affairs throughout his life, for 10 terms serving as the Pine City school board treasurer. He was an enthusiastic baseball fan for many years. The Pine City team, in its early years, was called the Hurley-Barringtons. In later years he was an inveterate bridge player. In politics he was a Democrat and served this party as county chairman and member of the state central committee for a number of years.

He was 91 years old at the time of his death, the oldest pioneer of Pine City, having lived in the village for 73 years. The only residents who had preceded him to the village and who had continued to live there were the deceased Fred Wright and Julius Dosey.

Contemporaries of Mr. Hurley in Pine City were Congressman J. Adam Bede, Elijah L. Seavey, George Payne, Robert H. Blakenship, Hiram Brackett, Walter and William Gottry, Carl H. Brandes, John Y. Breckenridge, Amalie



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Buselmeier, James E. Netser, Robert Wilcox, Richard G. Robinson, Arnold Cranton, Douglas Greeley, W. H. Hamlin, Frederick A. Hodge, P. W. McAllen, and Alfred H. Lambert.

Mr. Hurley was a member of the Catholic Church of Pine City. He was buried from this church (February 25, 1943) in Calvary Cemetery after his death on February 23.

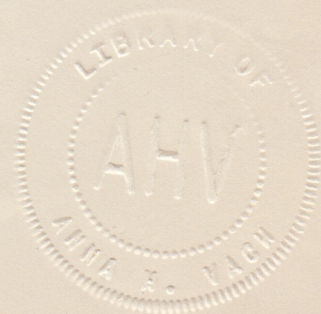
The Pine Poker-Pioneer, Pine City, Minnesota, vol. LVII (February 25, 1943), no. 12, p. 1.

History of the Saint Croix Valley, Augustus B. Easton, ed., vol. II, p. 1265. Chicago, 1909.

vol.
The Michael Hurley Family Bible.

The Hurley Family.

December 6, 1956



Donated by Agnes O'Donnell.

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The Pine Raker-Pioneer, Pine City, Minnesota, Vol. LVII
(February 22, 1943), no. 12, p. 1.

History of the Saint Croix Valley, Augustus B. Easton, ed.,
vol. II, p. 1262. Chicago, 1902.

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