

# The Hurleys

by Mickie Parr, née Hurley

Jeremiah Hurley was born about 1799, in Ireland, died 26 August 1869, Lebanon Township, Waupaca County, Wisconsin. He married Margaret Sullivan, who was born about 1810, in Ireland, and died 12 May 1891, Lebanon Township. Both are buried at St. Patrick's church cemetery, Lebanon.

Jeremiah came from Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland to Erie County, Pennsylvania in 1848. Working on canals for three years, he saved enough to send for his wife, and children, including John then age twelve, James age ten, and Jeremiah E. age eight. The family remained in Pennsylvania until the fall of 1855, when they then emigrated to Lebanon Township, Wisconsin.

There Jeremiah purchased 160 acres of farm land, at \$1.27 an acre. For a short time the family lived in a shanty that was built to house stock. The first year they managed to partially clear three or four acres and raised some corn and potatoes among the stumps and stones. About 1860, a two-story log cabin was built, and remained the family home until about 1915, when a new modern frame two-story was built by the Jeremiah E. family. That stood until the "Home Farm" was sold out of the family, the new owners replacing it with a low slung ranch home. The only thing reminiscent of the way it was is the swamp on the farm with its beautiful cedars.

After the death of Jeremiah at age 70, the care of the farm fell to his wife and sons. When Margaret (Sullivan) Hurley died, the "Home Farm" fell to the youngest son Jeremiah, the older two having already purchased their own farms nearby.

Eldest son John Hurley was born 21 April 1839, Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland, died 22 February 1918, Lebanon Township, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, married Ellen Crain, born 1841, Ireland, daughter of James and Mary (Forestal) Crain, who died 10 September 1904; both are buried in St. Patrick's cemetery, Lebanon. They had five children: Margaret, Mary Ellen, Ellen H., Jeremiah M., and Elizabeth Ann.

James Hurley, born 4 February 1841, Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland, died 8 October 1920, Lebanon. He married Julia Welsh, who was born 27 December 1855, New York State, daughter of James and Julia (Fitzgerald) Welsh of Ireland. Julia died 5 September 1934 at Lebanon; both are buried at St. Patrick's. They had eleven children: Elizabeth Ann, Jeremiah, Julia Ann, John, Michael, James, Helen E., Daniel Evan, Sylvester, Agnes Theresa, and Timothy.

Jeremiah E. Hurley, who was born 15 April 1843, Skibbereen, died 26 March 1935, Lebanon. He married (first) Honora Eagan, who was born September 1853, in Lebanon, the daughter of Jeremiah and Elizabeth (Allen) Eagan of Ireland, and Honora died 15 February 1873. Jeremiah and Honora had one son, Jeremiah, born 12 February 1873, died 24 February 1873; mother and son are buried in the same plot in St. Patrick's cemetery.

Jeremiah E. Hurley married secondly 9 January 1875, Sarah T. Fitzgerald, who was born 29 June 1857, in Meridan, Connecticut, the daughter of John H. and Anna (Malloy) Fitzgerald of Ireland. She died 24 May 1925, Lebanon. They had 10 children: James Patrick, Margaret G., Anna Theresa, John D., Robert Emmet, Edward J., Floyd D., Francis X., Sarah Henrietta, and Eugene Michael.

In 1925, Jeremiah E. and Sarah (Fitzgerald) Hurley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and the Hurleys gathered for the first time in what was called a family reunion on the "Home Farm". In 1952, the reunion was moved to Hatton Park, New London, Wisconsin, where it has since been held each and every year. Of the first generation of U.S. born Hurleys, only one survives today--Francis X, born 14 August 1890, son of Jeremiah and Sarah. On 2 July 1972, the 21st Hurley reunion in Hatton Park was held, and there was extra cause for celebration for early that morning in New London Hospital the youngest member of the family was born at 4:42 a.m., Kristina Lee Brittain, whose birth marked the first 5th generation Hurley descendant to be born in the United States, and the first 7th generation to live in this country.

## Sources of Information

Birth, marriage, death, probate, and land records, Waupaca County Courthouse, Waupaca, Wisconsin. St. Patrick Church, Lebanon Township, Waupaca County, Wisconsin: Baptismal, marriage, and burial records. Original Land Purchase Deeds, dated 1858, deeds in my possession. United States Federal Census: 1860, 1870, 1880, Lebanon Township, Waupaca County, Wisconsin. Newspaper articles: interview of Jeremiah E. Hurley, 1925; 25th wedding anniversary of Jeremiah E. and Sarah (Fitzgerald), 1925; obituary notices. Hurley Reunion minutes of meetings since 1951.

14 Feb. 1974

Dear Mr. Keane:

I am deeply honored that you thought my article on the HURLEY family an excellent one. At the time I wrote it for you, I was not thinking of its being written for publication. Yes you may have my permission to put it into an edition of the Irish Genealogical Helper. It may be anywhere from 2 to 20 years before I am ready to publish my book on the HURLEY's and their allied lines. I've been working on it for 10 years now, with no end in sight as I keep adding more and more of the Irish settlers from Lebanon Twp., Waupaca Co., Wisconsin as they married in and out of my families.

Which brings up a question I have for you, I can write up other Irish lines that I am related to as I did the HURLEY family, would you like to receive them? Also, I have an interview of my g. grandfather Jeremiah Hurley Jr., from 1925. In it he tells of his arrival to America, and their journey to Lebanon, settling the farm. In all, there are about 70 or more families from Lebanon (Irish) that I have been researching.

Lastly, would it be possible, if you are going to include my name as author, to write it as Mickie Parr

## HURLEYS

'nee Hurley. I've been known as Mickie since I was 3 years old, and am not all that fond of Marjorie which is my given name. In fact, my husband, if he gets his way, wants me to have it changed legally.

Guess that's all the questions I have for now, I'm going to enclose one of the computer read-outs on the Hurley family which is not up to date. I have to make out a new program as they got a new computer, and I don't know when there will be time. The read-out I've enclosed was printed just before the July 1973 HURLEY Reunion. It is quite simple to figure out, but I will give some explanation for it. B., D., & M. are birth, death, marriage. After the birth is place where born, the read-out begins with Jeremiah and spouse and goes right on down to the youngest son's family. They are in order from eldest to youngest, and indented by generation.

The number at the far right is the individual family number, no one has the same number. An 0 at the end denotes direct descendant; a 1 or 2 denotes spouse of a direct descendent. Take my number for example. It is 030601030000000, which means that I am the 3rd child of the 1st child of the 6th child of the 3rd child of Jeremiah & Margaret (Sullivan) HURLEY. My husband is the spouse so his number is the same as mine except for a 1 at the end. As you can see, my children then go on 01, 02, 03, 04 in the next column as they are obviously the next generation.

I like the numbering, for all I have to do is look at it and see which generation one is, and of course since I know all by heart, can even figure out who they are simply by counting up or back. Each year I take these read-outs with me to the reunion. I mark those in red that I still need information on, and you'd be amazed at how they will work to, as the saying goes, to "get the red out". I also like the computer system because once the information is on the print-out cards, and is correct, there is very little room for error in name or date, as there might be when typing it up by hand.

Since my family has been informed of the article, they all think I should tell you a bit about myself, as they think I am pretty young for this line of work, and after reading your paragraph about how the ancient Gaels had their historians, they are now positive that I am a throw-back to somebody.

I am, as the read-out so clearly states, 32 and rapidly running to age 33. I am a wife, mother, and amateur genealogist, though not necessarily in that order for I was a wife first, mother second and genealogist third, although there are days on end that the latter is first. I was born in Sparta, Wisconsin, raised in Tomah, Wisc., the daughter of the typical Irish cop, and my mother is/was a nurse.

My interest in genealogy began when I was about 4, although I did not know what it was then, not until about 10 years ago. I was always pumping my grandfathers for stories, not the usual bedtime types, but rather I always wanted to know about them and their

life. I lost both of my grandfathers about the same time. My mother's father was probably the greatest loss as he had lived with us off and on since 1945 and we were very close. After his death I discovered that I was the only one who knew about his life. I had thought that everyone did, but he had chosen only to tell me, and it was quite a life!! I discovered that my mother knew nothing of her father's family, and so taking old clippings that I found in his belongings I began to trace his family. Well, it took me back to the Mayflower and other places; Daddy was not happy so I decided to do his line too. Thus it started.

It was only going to be a simple family tree, perhaps to the country of origin. Well, the best laid plans, mother's part of the ancestry chart made Dad's look pretty small. So I decided while up in Waupaca Co. I would go to the courthouse and see if I couldn't fill it in just a little. Once there I was hooked! I found all of the sons of Jeremiah, so thought as long as I'm here I'll copy them, so I did; brought home reams of paper full of names and dates; now the question was, what to do with it. Well, the answer wasn't long in coming; the Hurley's had held a reunion of all 3 sons families since 1925, and the interest in attending was to say the least very poor.

So, I came up with the idea of writing a genealogy to include every single Hurley descendent in this country, and also to make it a history not just a book with name and dates. A lot of things bothered me; one, that in all those years no one had ever taken the time to write down who was who; also, the disinterest really got to me. Those of my own generation had all but quit attending the reunion, and to be honest I did too. I went the first year I was married and was bored stiff. Each family brought their own meal, and each family set their own table and each family sat and talked only to their own. Well, I was asked if I would allow my name to be used as Secretary-Treasurer in the hope of involving more of my generation. I said "yes" and was told I didn't have to do any work. They just wanted to use my name. That didn't sit right with me, and I said that if there was going to be any credit or discredit for the next reunion it would be mine.

So at the meeting when I was voted in, I told the family the way it was going to be. First we would work under the theme "Family Togetherness". There was no longer going to be all these little dinners. From now on, each family would bring a dish and sandwiches to share, and they would be placed on one table and we'd eat pot-luck, and Heaven help the little families that sat together without having a member of another family with them!! As my Dad so bluntly put it, I gave them "h".

In the months that followed I wrote reams of letters to all that I knew asking for addresses of others and really pushing to get all to attend and to bring their married children along. Well, time passed and the reunion was upon us. I bought special name tags with little Shamrocks, and everyone wore their name. That eased things, as people are more apt to talk with each other if they are sure of who they are talking to. The