

Hurley Family Photographs

Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Collection ID: P025

Provenance: Virginia M. Hurley donated the collection as part of the CHC Photo Project conducted in the 1980s. Other photographs were given on loan and then returned after print negatives were created.

Dates: ca. 1918-1925

Extent: 1 folder, 6 print photographs, all 4" x 5"

Processed by: Brittany Fox, February 2019

Access: Collection is available for research under the CHC rules of use

Collection Description:

The Hurley Family Photograph Collection consists of copy prints of photographs and one original print on cardstock. The images date from circa 1860s to the 1920s. Hurley's ancestry showcased in the collection include the Moran, Graves, Welsh and Ward families.

Historical Context and Biographical Note: Virginia M. Hurley (1933-2011) was the secretary of the Gold Star Wives of America Inc., which aimed to protect widows from increases in their property taxes after the deaths of their husbands. For a period, she worked for City of Boston, as a secretary for Judge David Nelson and then for the Elder Affairs office. She was born to Joseph C. Moran Sr. and Virginia Graves in Cambridge and lived most of her life in Ellsworth Park. She had three sisters, Rita Walsh, Margaret Hurley, and Elaine Moran, and two brothers, Joseph Moran Jr. and David Moran. She married Thomas D. Hurley and was buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, Brighton after her death on July 8, 2011.

The Moran family was from East Cambridge and they were generational glass workers for the New England Glassworks until a strike in 1888. Her grandmother, Elizabeth Ann (Reed) Moran, started the Moran Restaurant located on the first floor of the St. John's Literary Institute, and it was an extended family business until the 1920s.

Hurley's mother, Virginia E. Graves (1908-1992) was from Western Ave. and Columbia St. Her grandmother was married to David Gregory Welch [initially spelled Walsh] and they had her mother, Elizabeth Welsh. David Gregory Welch was a participant in the Civil War but he was known as Peter McGurr during the fighting. Hurley was also related to the Ward family on her mother's side.

Related Resources:

There are thirty-three 35mm print negatives and two 4" x 5" print negatives donated by Virginia Hurley during the CHC photo project conducted in the 1980s. These images also relate to her family photographs.

See the Moran Family file in the CHC vertical files.

See oral history interviews conducted in the early 2000s located on CHC share drive.

Items:

1. Photograph of Olive, Mary, and Virginia Graves (left to right) in a photo studio. The three girls are dressed in white dresses and hair bows. The central girl is sitting on a wooden object. The image is undated. Verso: "Gift of Virginia Hurley. Left to right, Olive, Mary, Virginia Graves (Hurley's mother)."
2. Photograph of two older women [possibly Hannah Ward Welsh and Elizabeth Genevieve Welsh Graves] holding a little boy and posing for the camera with a woman to the left. The image is undated. Verso: "Gift of Virginia Hurley."
3. Portrait photograph of David Gregory Walsh, an ancestor to Virginia Hurley on her mother's side. Front inscription: "David Gregory Welch [sic]." The image is undated. Verso: Gift of Virginia Hurley."
4. Photograph of Joseph C. Moran Sr., Virginia Hurley's father, posing in full Colonial militia attire, wig, and gun. He stands in a garden in front of a fence and house. Ca. 1925. Verso: "Gift of Virginia Hurley. 150th anniversary of Washington taking command of army under 'The Elm.' Joseph C. Moran Sr."
5. Sepia photograph of an unidentified woman's portrait. She is looking to the left. The image is undated. Verso: "Gift of Virginia Hurley."
6. Landscape sepia photograph of two men and a woman in the middle posing for the camera. The men are in leisure suits, ties, and hats while the woman is in a skirt, hat, and a coat with a small fur trim. The original image had handwritten writing at the bottom, but the inscription has been cut off. The image is undated. Verso: "Gift of Virginia Hurley."
7. Photograph mounted on cardstock of Marshal Ferdinand Foch in military regalia looking at the camera while standing in an open horse-drawn carriage. Other men in the carriage are wearing top hats but their faces are obscured. Two coachmen are perched on the box seat. The central figures and the carriage are located in front of a row of townhouses. The image is ca. 1918 but the cardstock has been damaged and ripped off the top right and lower left corners. Verso: "Gift of Virginia Hurley." "Marshal Foch. Cambridge Parade after WWI."

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