

Alice Hurley

(- 4 Jun 1905)

Hurley. Suddenly, on Sunday, June 4, 1905, Alice Hurley (nee Smith), beloved wife of James W. Hurley. Funeral from her late residence, 1126 Robinson street southwest, on Tuesday, June 6, 1905, at 2:30 p.m. Services at 3 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Twelfth and C streets southwest. Relatives and friends invited to attend. Interment at Congressional Cemetery. (Rockford, Ill. papers please copy).

The Washington Times, June 5, 1905

Burns Prove Fatal to Mrs. Alice Hurley

Six children, the eldest fourteen years and the youngest six weeks old, were left motherless when Mrs. Alice Hurley was burned to death at her home, 1126 Robinson street southwest, yesterday afternoon, while trying to fill the gasoline tank of a small stove. Their father, James W. Hurley, a fireman in Truck A command is prostrated by the tragedy.

Mrs. Hurley was preparing her husband's dinner, when she noticed that the supply of gasoline was getting low. One of her children brought her the can, and she prepared to fill the tank. Lifting the can to the opening in the stove, she began pouring the explosive in. In a few seconds the fumes of the fluid permeated the air and found their way to the flame.

Without a flicker or sputter the stove exploded and set the can on fire, causing it to burst and throw the contents over Mrs. Hurley's dress. In a moment the woman was enveloped in fire from head to foot, and with her garments burning, rushed into the street, screaming and groaning.

Neighbors who heard her cries rushed to her assistance. William Groves snatched a rug and threw it around the frantic woman and rolled her on the ground until the last spark had been extinguished. By this time, however, Mrs. Hurley had received fatal burns. She lay unconscious, with her face swollen, her hair and eyelashes burned, and her lungs scorched as a result of breathing the flames.

As she was placed in the ambulance, her husband, who was on duty and had been summoned from the headquarters of Truck A, arrived. He found his children almost frantic. Hurley remained at home to care for the children, and an hour later received a message from the hospital that his wife was dead.

The six children and their ages are, Charles, fourteen; Gertrude, nine; Elmer, seven; Alice, five; Lydia, two years, and William, a babe six weeks old.

The funeral services will be held in the Epiphany Chapel, Twelfth and C streets southwest, tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. The place of interment had not been decided upon at noon today.

The Evening Star, June 5, 1905

Fatally Burned

Mrs. Hurley Attempted to Fill a Lighted Gasoline Stove

Mrs. Alice Hurley, wife of James W. Hurley, who is connected with the local fire department as a member of Truck A company, was fatally burned yesterday morning while attempting to fill a tank with gasoline while the stove was lighted. The affair occurred at the family home, 1126 Robinson street southwest, about 9:30 o'clock, and death claimed Mrs. Hurley at the Emergency Hospital about five hours later.

When the trouble occurred and Mrs. Hurley's clothing caught fire she left her six little children in the house and ran to the street where she thought she would be able to get assistance in time to save her life. The blaze had made so much headway in a short time, however, that almost her entire body was

burned. She was suffering intense pain when taken to the hospital. The surgeons found her burns were so serious that they felt satisfied they would be unable to save her life. She died about 3 o'clock and her death was reported to the coroner, who gave a certificate of accidental death. The body was removed to the family home, from where the funeral will take place.