

# Cork City & County Archives

## Descriptive List

### Identity Statement

**Reference Code:** IE CCCA/U170

**Title:** Hurley Family Emigrant Letters

**Dates:** 1871 - 1939

**Level of Description:** Fonds / Item

**Extent:** 141 items

### Context

#### ***Creator(s)***

Hurley Family, Michael and Denis.

#### ***Archival History/Source of Acquisition***

The Hurley Family Emigrant Letters, reference U170, were donated to Cork City and County Archives in 1974 by Mrs. Eileen O'Donovan, Castlefreke, Clonakilty, County Cork.

#### ***Biographical History***

Brothers Denis Hurley and Michael Hurley were from a farming family at Tawnies, near Clonakilty, County Cork. They emigrated to Nevada in the United States in 1873 and c.1871 respectively (U611/1 and /2).

Michael Hurley (1845-1926) worked initially in Gold Hill, Nevada as repair foreman for the Virginia and Truckee Railway and later in a similar capacity at a railway near Lake Tahoe (U170/1). In 1881 he moved to Oregon to work on the railways there. He spent some years working in the railway at Spokane Falls, Washington State, before moving to San Francisco, California where he spent the rest of his life (U611/14, /28). Michael appears to have invested heavily in mining stocks that did not pay much dividend (U170/83, /88).

Denis Hurley (1849-1938) became one of the most prominent citizens of Carson City, Nevada. Following his arrival in Nevada, he worked with the Virginia and Truckee Railway for many years before obtaining employment as a prison guard at the State prison in c.1912 (U611/63). In c.1887, he married his wife, Maggie, also an emigrant from Ireland, in Carson City. His wife died of Typhoid in 1910 (U611/59). Active in politics, in c.1913, after a number of attempts, Denis was elected as a Commissioner of Carson City (U170/58). In 1925 he was elected as Chairman (Mayor) of Carson City Council (U611/89). Denis made several investments in stocks and shares, and was at one stage a director and stockholder of the Nye and Ormsby Bank (U611/44). In his final years he worked as Baliff of the U.S. District Court for Nevada. A man of great religious commitment, he was active in the Catholic Church and became a 4<sup>th</sup> degree Knight of Columbus in 1923 (U611/82). Evidently highly literate and well-read, Denis in his letters makes many observations on events local, national and international.

## **Content and Structure**

### ***Scope and Content***

The major part of the present collection comprises of 122 letters home to Ireland from Michael and Denis Hurley in the United States over a period of 77 years from 1871 to 1938. The majority (117) of the letters are written by Denis Hurley, although Denis does regularly pass on news of his brother Michael. The earlier letters are mainly addressed to their parents at Tawnies, Clonakilty, and later on to their brothers and sisters, and finally to their nieces in Clonakilty and Timoleague, County Cork. The letters have been arranged chronologically.

The letters reveal much about emigrant life in the United States, in particular the experiences of those who migrated to the Western states, usually after arriving on the East coast (U170/2). At the time, these states had a very large number of emigrants from all around the world, many of whom worked in the mining industry and the railroads (U170/1, /3). Although often optimistic about living conditions, the letters reveal the hardships facing emigrants (U170/45, /52, /92). Despite these hardships, neither Denis nor Michael seem to have considered returning permanently to Ireland, ‘...to struggle on an Irish Farm...’ (U170/49). The letters make frequent observations on poor living conditions in Ireland, such as the cost of land, high rents and low prices for crops ‘...living in misery trying to raise rent to pay the tyrant Lords.’ (U170/13) (see also /14, /15, /20); although some later observations about Ireland are more optimistic (U170/62, /90).

The brothers maintained strong contacts with Ireland through their correspondence and through newspapers sent from home (U170/4), and they kept an interest in Irish affairs, and often wrote of their support of the Home Rule movement (U170/21, /61, /62, /67). Later on, Denis supported the Irish Republic for which he subscribed funds and spoke at meetings (U170/75, /82). Denis’ concern for Ireland during the Irish War of Independence and the Civil War is apparent from some of his letters from that time

(U170/73, /74, /79-/85), including a mention of the death of Michael Collins in 1922 (U170/79).

Many letters also mention major events in the United States and Europe, such as; the economic recession of the 1890's (U170/22-/24), the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, which Michael Hurley survived (U170/54, /55), the First World War (U170/68-/71), the prohibition of alcohol in the 1920's (U170/73, /74), the Spanish Civil War (U170/119) and various U.S. elections (U170/11, /20, /31 /43, /52. /72, /93). The effects of the Great Depression of the 1930's feature in much of the later correspondence, and Denis' observations illustrate the depth of the problems faced by the United States during this period (U170/101 - /106, /108- /118). Although Denis at this time was fortunate to be in secure employment, his hopes were dashed of visiting Ireland for the Dublin Eucharistic Congress in 1932, partly because the value of his banking stocks were reduced during the depression (U170/106, /112). In the event, neither brother ever returned to Ireland.

The remainder of the collection includes a few documents related to the estate of Denis Hurley following his death in March 1938 (Section B of the arrangement), an 1885 financial statement of affairs for Thomas Hurley, general merchant, Clonakilty (U170/130), and a letter from John Hurley to Clonakilty Union in 1897 concerning the valuation of his property (U170/131). Also found are 2 items related to the death of Mrs Mary Hurley, mother of Denis and Michael, including a list of expenses incurred at her wake and funeral (U170/133). The collection also contains 2 letters from a Marie Collins in Connecticut, United States to the Hurleys in Clonakilty. The final sections of the collection contain portrait photographs of Denis Hurley, and newspaper clippings, one of which is a public notice by Denis announcing his standing for election as a Commissioner of Carson City (U611/141).

The present collection is a valuable source for the history of Irish emigration to the United States in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, in particular documenting the experience of those who continued their migration westwards rather than remaining in the more traditional Irish urban centres such as Boston, New York and Chicago. The collection documents the response of Irish emigrants to the daily struggle to make a living in a new country and their coping with being away from friends and family with little likelihood of ever seeing them again. It also documents the Irish/Irish emigrant response to some of the political, social, military and economic events in the United States, Ireland and Europe, during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## **System of Arrangement**

Collection is made up of 8 sections.

A: Letters from Denis Hurley and Michael Hurley from the United States (1871-1928)

B: Estate and Death of Denis Hurley (1934-1939)

C: Thomas Hurley (1885)

D: John Hurley, Tawnies (1897)

E: Mrs Mary Hurley, Funeral (1899-1900)

F: Letters from Mary Collins (1899-1900)  
G: Photographs (1890-1930)  
H: Newspaper cuttings (1899-1910)

## Conditions of Access and Use

Access: Open for research by appointment to those holding a readers ticket.

Language: English

Finding Aids: Descriptive List

## Publication Note/ References

Census records from the Nevada State Preservation Office  
Carson City Chronicle Newspaper 4 March 1938  
Carson City Daily Appeal 4 March 1938

## Rules/Conventions

ISAD(G)

## Archivists Note / Date of Description

Brian McGee  
Archivist, Cork City & County Archives  
August 2010

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## **List of Items**

### **A: Letters from Denis Hurley and Michael Hurley from the United States, 122 items (1871-1928)**

1 26 August 1871

Letter from Michael Hurley, Cedar Pass, Carlin, Elko County, Nevada, U.S.A., to 'Dear Parents', Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He is still in the same employment [with the railway], mentions the lack of newspapers, compared to the 'five newspapers daily' in Truckee 'three english papers, one French and German'. He received news that Truckee was burned down a few days after he left. He does not work on Sundays, but 'there is no talk about the holidays. I did not hear any one talking about holidays since I came to america...' except from a French Priest that he met in Truckee who spoke of St.Patrick's Day. He does not think the 'movement in Ireland' (Home Rule) will 'have much effect to have a parliament in dublin'. Mentions 'Burke and Luby' coming to the Pacific Coast and San Francisco, which 'was so thronged to see them that some women fainted and were nearly trampled to death...They may thank russia for being liberated. The English thought they would be at war With Russia that time and they wanted to get in good friends with the Irish'. Speaks of the arid climate in Nevada, and the number of Chinese and other emigrants. He can speak some chinese and some of every European language except Russian and Turkish.

4pp

2 21 April 1873

Letter from Denis Hurley, 688 2nd Avenue, New York, USA, to 'Dear Parents', Tawnies, Clonakilty County Cork. He arrived from Boston by train and boat and is due to 'train it away to the West'. His health has improved. He visited the zoological gardens at the Grand Central Park. Notes that there is no great demand for labour in New York, work men getting 2 dollars a day, servants 12 to 15 dollars monthly. Mentions a number of people from Ireland that he has met, including one who survived the sinking of an Atlantic steamer, 'I suppose when you heard of her loss it caused you to feel more uneasy on my account'.

4pp

3 25 May 1873

Letter from Denis Hurley, Ormsby County, Carson, Nevada, USA, to 'Dear Coz', his cousin Mr. Denis Ryan, Clonakilty. He and Michael are in good health. Describes the shoemaking trade there, 'This climate is fatal to the longevity of shoes, on account of its

extreme drought. Before a months wear the soles and uppers of store boots apply for a divorce...Why not, in a country in which the marriage tie between man and woman is so easily severed...'. He is at work assisting to keep the railway track in order. Nevada would be a 'fertile and luxuriant state, was there sufficient moisture'. Describes 'nice comfortable cottages on the outskirts of the town', and a 'nice Catholic Church, attended by a very eloquent Irish Priest...The appearance of the congregation is very respectable on account of the rich clothes...'. He notes those from every nation under heaven may be found in Carson, from 'The long-tailed sombre looking Chinaman, to 'the black haired red skinned Indian', and including Mexican, German, French, Swedes, Swiss, Italians, Spanish and Portuguese.

6pp

4 24 June 1873

Letter from Denis Hurley, Ormsby County, Carson, Nevada, USA, to 'Dear Parents agus muintir go leor', Clonakilty, County Cork. He received their letter and 4 papers and had great pleasure to hear that all at home were in good health, 'When I got the first papers and saw the address thoughts of home burst upon me and "my spirit filled up and my longing eye filled" '. He is obliged to his 'pious, eloquent and learned friend' Jeremiah Holland for his 'solicitude on my behalf'. Sends regards to various friends at home. He hopes '...this will be a better year with the people of poor Ireland than the last' and advises that 'Those of them to come to this land must not be chicken hearted...[and] make up their minds to suffer the hardships at times...', and not to spend their money on drink.

6pp

5 3 October [1873]

Letter from Denis Hurley, [Carson, Nevada, USA], to [parents], Clonakilty. Describes meeting an acquaintance from home, who is paid 3 dollars a day. Describes the food in America as requested by some of his neighbours in Ireland. Gives details of the boarding 'house where Michael stops' kept by two Irish men named Roche, and mentions Chinese and 'Red Indians'. His brother Michael 'thinks he will easily get me into his own work, which is not too hard.'

4pp

6 16 March 1874

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City Nevada, to 'Dear Parents', Clonakilty, on 'La Feile Naoim Padraig' (St Patrick's Day). Regrets death of neighbour D. Ryan and J. Coghlan. Comments on the custom of giving a dowry with a girl getting married and the divorce situation in the States, 'the marriage tie is not to them a knot which they cannot open with

U170/

their teeth...'. He supposes father was 'disappointed not being called on to exercise the franchise at the late election', and A.H.S. Barry 'was left in the cold...'.  
4pp

7 21 July 1875

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson, Nevada, to 'Dear Parents', Clonakilty. He regrets the death of a Mrs Hurley and sends regards to the Templebrien friends. Mentions the '...tolerably cool nights' and '...too much dust'. He and Michael do not waste their money on whiskey, 'It is a cause of a great deal of misery more so here than in the old country owing to the greater opportunities working men have to indulge their brutish appetite', especially on the 'inferior kind' of alcohol, which is '...the devils own stuff.'

3pp

8 6 January 1876

Letter from Denis and Michael Hurley, Carson, Nevada to 'Dear Parents', Clonakilty. They are well and have '...every reason to be thankful to Providence for its favours towards us. We have good health & steady work which is not very laborious'. The stocks they have bought are rising and the market improving. They are thankful for the papers sent from home, although 'never a great admirer of the Cork Constitution i.e. the conservative position'. Mentions that the railroad has replaced the stage coaches between Reno and Virginia.

4pp

9 20 May 1877

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson, Nevada, to 'Dear Parents', Clonakilty. He and Michael request a loan of £100 (500 Dollars) in order to buy stocks, '...if we are as successful as we expect we will return your money at least two-fold.' They are '...neither drinking nor howdying nor squandering..', but 'Big men have made work scarce and money tight in order to be masters of everything'.

6pp

10 21 August 1877

Letter, from Denis Hurley, Carson, Nevada, to 'Dear Parents'. He has managed to cash the £100 draft from his parents. Describes the state of the stocks in mining, and how some of the mines are controlled by Irishmen.

4pp

11 11 December 1877

Letter from Michael Hurley, Carson, Nevada to 'Dear Parents'. He thanks his parents for sending out the money, 'We will never forget your kindness in sending it and...we will sell stocks at a big profit and send back that amount or double'. Times are 'purty hard in this country at present...owing to Republican misrule'. He voted in the last Presidential election and has lived at Lake Tahoe during the summer. Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

4pp

12 22 August 1879

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson, Nevada to 'Dear Parents'. Apologises for the delay in writing. Encloses money towards the new Church, the Vincent De Paul Society, and to family members. He made a trip to Lake Tahoe and California and stayed with his brother Michael.

4pp

13 5 December 1886

Letter from Michael Hurley, Kennet Post Office, Shasta County, Middlecreek, California to 'Dear Sister Kate'. He would have written before but he has not had a permanent residence. He is sorry times are so bad in Ireland. Describes the climate in California. 'You were advising me to come home a few years ago. If I did I might be like Patrick and Tim Hurley now, living in misery trying to raise the rent to pay the tyrant Lords. I hope the time will soon come they cant collect no more rents'. (Reference to landlords).

2pp

14 13 January 1891

Letter from Michael Hurley, Spokane Falls, Washington State, to 'Dear Mother', Clonakilty, County Cork. Written on notepaper of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company. He is astonished that his family paid £750 for a tenant farm, but he does not wish to return to run it '...after all I have lost...I don't want to give it all for that place'. Refers to the Parnell and Mrs O'Shea affair in Ireland and he is 'afraid it will delay home rule for a while...Ireland never was in the point of gaining anything but something happened to prevent it'. Notes that the 'wilds of America are becoming builded rapidly'.

1pp

15 25 January 1891

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'Dear Mother'. He received her last 'welcome letter'. He received a letter from Michael, who is in charge of the tracks in the yard of the railway at Spokane Falls. Michael wrote about Parnell and Irish affairs and also strongly disapproved of the family at home paying 'so much money for a tenant's interest'. Mentions his spouse receiving a letter from home.

2pp

16 15 September 1891

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'My Dear Mother'. He has received three letters from different members of the family. Michael is still in Spokane Falls, Washington. He is glad to know his nephews are going to school, where Mr. Madden is a 'good educator'. Notes that Mr. Deasy is fortunate in getting a reduction in rent, and mentions the sickness of Tim. Encloses a paper which records that he was one of a party who dined with the Bishop.

2pp

17 5 December 1891

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'Dear Mother'. Christmas is coming and he encloses a little money. He hopes his brother John and wife are kind to her. There was a church mission by one of the Vincentian Fathers, as in Clonakilty in 1868, but 'what a contrast...between the spirit of the people of both places...There is not much faith here, but drinking, gambling, immoralities and dissipation.' He attends Mass at 5 o'clock every morning after work.

2pp

18 18 February 1892

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'My dear Mother'. He sends congratulations on the birth of his brother's first born and hopes that in years to come he will be able to correspond with his uncles in America. He had feared his mother would be one of the sick of West Cork as reported in the Eagle (Skibbereen Eagle newspaper). He has been pretty fortunate with his health, unlike his wife. He is in contact with Michael, who '...would very likely write home oftener but he knows you hear through me'. Enquires whether Tim has any help [on the farm], 'I hope he is not entirely alone like Robinson Crusoe'. Mentions Anglins and Palmers farms at home and notes 'Our cousins are becoming large landed proprietors. They have a knack for money making which I do not possess'.

2pp

19 16 October 1892

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'Dear Sister'. He received the photograph in the post and his wife will be sending on two. He is sorry that so many of Kate's children die '...but it is a great consolation...that they live long enough to receive the cleansing waters of Baptism.' He believes Tim to be foolish to postpone marriage so long, and 'as dairy farming is the most profitable he should get a...wife that would make first-class butter'.

2pp

20 7 December 1892

Letter from Michael Hurley, Union Depot, Spokane Falls, Washington, to 'Dear Mother'. He is in good health and in the same occupation. Requests a picture of John and wife. He is 'well pleased' with the election results in the USA and England, but does not see how land is so expensive in Ireland with the price of crops so low. Encloses £5 'hoping you will live to enjoy it'.

1p

21 14 September 1893

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'Dear Mother'. He is surprised Tim cannot get her a helper, and refers to the fact that Tim is still unmarried, 'He is better [to] make a trade with me, as I have secured a life partner, he to come here and take my place & I go home and manage the farm'. He has not recently heard from his brother Michael, who travelled 1700 miles last summer. His pay is still \$3.50, but he is one of only 'a handfull of men employed around here now'. Notes that the Home Rule Bill for Ireland 'received but short favor from the Lords' (House of Lords).

2pp

22 12 March 1894

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'Dear Mother'. He hopes to hear that his nephew Tidy (Thady) is again well. Notes that the Donovan brothers are 'living to a good old age'. He has not heard from Michael recently. Times are 'very bad' in the United States, 'everything low with a great scarcity of money and work', in particular the price of silver is very low. He is still at work but 'retaining it [is] very insecure'. Provides advice to brother Tim on choosing a wife, 'Some girls are better for a man to marry, even without a shilling than others with a good fortune...do not postpone...as you are not getting young.'

2pp

23 15 October 1894

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to 'My Dear Mother'. Writes that Michael 'was in the "No Rent Manifesto" or sympathetic Pullman Strike movement' and lost his job. Michael has enough means to 'enable him to take the world easy as long as he wants to'. Business affairs are 'much depressed and unsettled in this country. Some people think the times are owing to the Tariff, others to hostile silver legislation...'. He hopes the crops are pretty good, and mentions the lack of rain in Nevada, 'Good weather to dry turf'.

2pp

24 1 April 1895

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to his brother Tim. He congratulates Tim on his recent marriage to a Miss Scannell, 'Twenty Two years separation does not make me forget old times and scenes'. Asks questions concerning the wedding. He remembers two boys named Scannell when he was one of the sub-governors of the Clonakilty school. He believes that prices will be better for farm products in the future, making circumstances at home more comfortable, but 'present times are very hard on the majority of people throughout the world. There is a great deal of destitution and lawlessness in this country'.

2pp

25 6 September 1895

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'My Dear Mother'. He received a letter from Michael, who is well and has sufficient means to support his wants indefinitely, 'But congenial employment is hard to get in the past few years, so he is waiting for better times'. Notes that you can 'see, hear and enjoy life much better in San Francisco than here, if you have means'. Mentions the death of Bishop Manogue, who died at Sacramento of dropsy. He is proud of County Cork 'in keeping out Redmondites, Unionists, and Tories'.

2pp

26 7 November 1895

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'My Dear Tim & sister'. He is glad to know that they are well and busy. He suggests putting the potatoes in drills in order to save labour, as is done in America. Advises them not to live exclusively on potatoes and to work in moderation, and hopes 'you had the tubers in before the weather got very cold so as to save your pretty little wife's fingers'. Mentions Father Kiely of Reno who is visiting Ireland. He hopes they will provide him with hospitality.

2pp

26a [November 1895]

Fragment of letter from Denis Hurley, to his brother and sister. Concerns visit to Ireland of Father Kiely. Asks them to 'regard him as an old friend', and to introduce him to local clergy. 'He is not there as a beggar but as a worthy Irish American priest who is a credit to Old Ireland'.

2pp

27 2 December 1895

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'My Dear Mother'. He received the lock of hair, and he is 'old enough now to be getting pretty grey like so many who are much younger get in this country'. Advises her not to overtax herself by walking to church on Barrack Hill, and 'Michael says that young women in San Francisco would be panting and out of breath with far less exertion...'. Suggests having a 'little jug of good whiskey' and to take 'a good joram when you feel cold or feeble and then you can recite your rosary more briskly...'. He is glad her daughter in law is so kind, 'May the Lord reward her...'. Hopes she will have the pleasure of seeing Father Kiely who is visiting Ireland.

2pp

28 28 January [1896]

Letter from Michael Hurley, 1234 Mission Street, San Francisco, to 'Dear Mother'. He would have written more often, but was not sure where he would be for the reply. Thinks that 'you all made a mistake in giving so much for Ahamilla People in Ireland are too anxious for land its no wonder landlords would be expecting big rent...land will never again be as valuable as it used to be...the value of land has come down very much in this country the last seven or eight years...Money getting dearer and land getting cheaper...'. He has seen in the papers the large funeral for the late bishop. About two and a half years ago he would have gone back home, but he 'had some money where I could not get it then so I had to stay and look after it'. He 'got and attack of sickness... for the first time...two months ago...it lasted only six days...'.  
 ...it lasted only six days...'

4pp

29 9 March 1896

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'My Dear Mother'. He congratulates is brother Tim and wife on the birth of their child. Father Kiely's health has not much improved on his visit to Ireland, and he has been unable to visit Clonakilty due to the

rain, 'Persons who have lived in a dry country like this for several years do not take kindly to the rain...'. Irish farmers 'may think time hard and dull.. but they are much better off than many out here who can scarcely dispose of their products at all. Distance lends enchantment to the view'. Michael is still unemployed, but is more content and 'has a better chance now to cultivate his mind...and a better opportunity to attend to his spiritual affairs...'.  
 2pp

30 3 July 1896

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'My Dear Mother'. Father Kiely visited at length. Father Kiely noticed 'a lack of trees, the tide out and a long dusty road to Ring...', he praised the parish priest and noted the new church is a 'fine building'. He is sorry to hear the crops are suffering for want of rain. 'We are making a great effort in the cause of silver. If the movement is successful you are apt to get better prices for farm products next year. The fewer who leave Ireland for this country...the better all round. Many a man cannot find work enough to get grub...'.  
 2pp

31 1 December 1896

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'Dear Mother'. He has postponed writing in order to remit his usual Christmas gift. Mentions Michael recovering from an illness. He had a 'long conversation' with Father Kiely who 'says you are lively enough to live several years yet'. Notes his cousins 'big luck with Anglin. He was a good Protestant. I hope the Lord will reward him...'. Mentions 'Our Election did not go as we of the West would like, Dullness depression, depreciation and cutting down is the order of the day.'  
 2pp

32 11 February 1897

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to his brother Tim. He advises him not to 'work too hard or worry needlessly...Be hopeful of the future...and trust in God for everything'. America is 'still in a very unsatisfactory condition' and 'getting worse'. He is still at work but the company is doing less business. Recalls his being a 'great caretaker' to their sister Kate and 'the little one who went to the angels'. Mentions a forthcoming prize fight in Carson.  
 2pp

33 18 June 1897

U170/

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'Dear Mother'. Mentions sister Kate keeping 'up the sulks... she should be ashamed of herself for her stubborn and unsociable conduct.' He is glad the church tower is ascending. Father Kiely was transferred from Reno to Ferndale, Humboldt County.

2pp

34 3 December 1897

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to 'My Dear Mother'. He received a letter from Michael who may come to Carson for Christmas. Sympathises on the 'excessive rains this season', but notes 'It is singular how wedded the Irish people are to the potato...'. Father Kiely thinks it would be better if Ireland had never seen the potato. He has had several friends in America who failed on farms or stores, and the labour market is overstocked. Encloses his usual remittance and some for his mother-in-law.

2pp

35 21 June 1898

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'My Dear Mother'. His brother Michael is well 'as usual, but is not increasing his fortune any'. Times are very dull in Nevada due to 'mining being at bedrock', and water is scarcer than usual. Denis is still 'steadily employed' and 'making some hay while the sun shines'. Mentions 'Our war' that 'is causing many of our men to go to the front' and was brought on by 'knaves' and will be fought by 'fools' (possibly a reference to Spanish-American War of 1898). He is glad Tim, his brother is doing well.

2pp

36 29 September 1898

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'My Dear Mother'. He spent a week with his brother Michael in San Francisco, which he enjoyed very much. There were many grand churches there with large and devout congregations. He 'felt good to see the blue ocean, after 25 years in the interior'. A doctor advised him to take cod liver oil, which was 'about the last piece of advice I got from my mother'.

2pp

37 9 December 1898

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'My Dear Mother'. Glad to know John and wife are so kind to her. Expresses 'profound sorrow' at the death of [cousin] Patrick. Encloses the 'usual Christmas money'. He is still employed, even though it is

hard to get employment at the moment. He had 'hopes one time to have an independent fortune and to dazzle the natives. But thank God that we are so well'.

2pp

38 24 February 1899

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'My Dear Mother'. Sorry to hear she is so weak, but hopes she will be stronger and 'will see the new century and more'. Her sickness was a dampener on Christmas, 'But death is as natural as going to sleep, and a few years of time is a small amount compared with eternity'. Sends regards to family members. Sister Kate's '...wrongs are too deep...to be condoned.' Received a letter from Michael, who is sending on a few pictures of the family. Suggests that his mother '...drink a little stout and have some light nutritious food...'

2pp

39 3 May 1899

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'My Dear Mother'. Sorry to hear she is confined to bed, and hopes 'that with the advent of fine weather you would...be around frisking with the little ones and picking daisies (noneens)'. Mentions the death of uncle Bill and Jack Bushell. Glad to hear 'the olive branch has been extended from sister Kate to brother Tim'. He had a letter from Michael, who is well. Hopes Michael will 'find time to write a few lines to his mother'. Wishes God to 'reward John and his wife for their kindness and unremitting care to you'.

2pp

40 19 October 1899

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'My Dear Mother'. He is glad that she is feeling stronger, and 'that you will live to see the new century'. Sends good wishes to the family. Says that 'None of the boys large enough yet to go out to Africa to fight the Boers! Their American uncles, if they had any stomach for fighting...it would be to aid the Boers. You loyal British subjects cannot holler lest you would be sent to Cork Jail'. Requests her to send papers regularly.

2pp

41 13 February 1900

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to 'Dear brother and sister', Clonakilty, County Cork. He was much affected in reading the account of his mother's death. His mother was a 'hard working industrious little woman truthful and honest in word and deed and never meddling or causing discord between neighbours...much devoted to the

U170/

Rosary'. Says they are at perfect liberty to dispose of 'that money' as they see fit, and only regrets that there was not more to be disposed of. Hopes his sister has completely recovered from her illness. Wishing for rain, 'none yet in 1900'. Also note to 'Reverend Sir' for prayers for the repose of Mrs Mary Hurley of Tawnies who died on 18 December 1899.

2pp

42 31 May 1900

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John, Tawnies, Clonakilty. Regrets to hear of the many deaths amongst old friends and relatives. Asks him to 'maintain no little bickering with Tim or Kate'. Michael his brother is employed 'but I am afraid not very profitably'. He had expected to be displaced from his home due to a new roadway, and thought of returning to Ireland and ending his days in a 'little cottage home'. A priest, Father Clyne, may visit his family while home on a six month trip.

2pp

43 1 November 1900

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John, Tawnies, Clonakilty. He has not had any letters from other members of the family. Michael is 'well but not as prosperous as he was 5 years ago'. Denis has undertaken some new investments, and has worked steadily, taking no lay-off this Summer. Describes his running water facilities 'We have bath-tub wash bowl sink for dish washing patent closet for private purposes – instead of the shelter of the ditches as we had to [at] home'. Would have liked to be at the ceremonies for the blessing of the new Bell at the church in Clonakilty. Mentions an election 'I am afraid it will go with the party in power, as yours went'.

2pp

44 12 March 1901

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. His wife has been 'considerably sick for some time' with 'Grippe' (influenza) and other matters. He holds some mining shares and bank shares and deposits. Notes the Munster and Leinster Bank pays shareholders 10 or 12 per cent. Michael does not write as often and is sensitive about his private affairs. Mentions the death of 'our poor old Queen', who '...took her departure to that kingdom where monarchs are no better than peasants.' Says the state law making body in Carson 'is about closing. All members get time enough to speak here, and will not be packed out for protesting...'

2pp

45 1 August 1901

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to his brother, John. The hot weather is making him 'lazy and languid', and his wife is visiting with Reno friends who are camping in the mountains. Sympathises with John's loss 'in your cows slinging your calves'. Michael is still in San Francisco 'following his usual pursuits'. The country 'is agitated with labor troubles at present- Capital versus Labour...'. Wishes him a generous harvest, of 'fine mealy new spuds'. Says he would appreciate a comfortable home in Ireland, and that 'Foreign fortune seeking may occasionally meet with big rewards but the disappointed ones far outnumber them and their hardships are not much written about...'. Notes that the 'South African war is still dragging along – with all its misery entailed on the poor troops...'

2pp

46 27 December 1901

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother, John. His wife has been sick over the past year. Michael is to work 'bossing a gang' at the railroad yards, and is strong and healthy. He met a gentleman and his sister from the townland of Desert named Fitzgerald who were well informed on Clonakilty affairs.

2pp

47 29 May 1902

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. His wife's health has improved. He received a letter from Michael, who is back in his old job on the Southern Pacific Rail Road and living in the country. Mentions the death of Father Twomey. Notes 'The war has made the loaf dearer but an advance in the price of farm products should be an advantage to the farmers. It sent up the price of American horses and mules...'

2pp

48 2 January 1903

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. Brother Michael is well and has bigger pay and is saving more money than he has for a long time. Hopes they have visited the Cork Exhibition and enjoyed it. He sees 'no wisdom in being absorbed entirely with worldly affairs... We ought to... cultivate friendly relations with friends, neighbors and relatives'. He dreamt he was on the old place recently.

2pp

49 7 May 1903

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. He does not think that himself or Michael will invest in Irish farms at this stage of their lives, 'They would naturally look forward to a life of ease and retirement now instead of commencing again to struggle on an Irish farm'. He has acquired a plot of land adjoining his own and is growing vegetables, and is getting electric lighting installed in the house, 'This is a great place for comfort and convenience if you have the means of possessing them'. He has not heard from Michael for some time. Advises that 'If We are above poverty and have health and contentment we have a fair share of the pleasures of life'. Hopes the new Irish land bill becomes law 'and will result in prosperity and contentment for the country'.

2pp

50 11 August 1903

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. He is glad to know they are well and that they 'have such a corps of pupils attending the schools'. Mentions appointment of a new Pope. He is growing his own potatoes for some time. Michael is 'about 200 miles nearer to you now than I am', but he is moved around much.

2pp

51 15 November 1904

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. Glad to hear John's son is growing in health and strength, 'When we were little, we as well as many others, had to put with many inconveniences and drawbacks which were not agreeable....Now with changed conditions and improved circumstances you need not follow too closely on the old footsteps...'. Sends £1 for Aunt Ryan. He has worked every night this year, 'But there is pleasure in toil if we have health and a contented and benevolent mind'. Mentions an election '...which went overwhelmingly Republican'. Michael is in San Francisco '...peculating...I hope he will sometime be successful'.

2pp

52 30 January 1905

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. Remarks on death of his Aunt [Ryan]. He has 'no encouragements for emigrants', most of whom 'would be better off at home...'. The Irishman must compete with the hardy sons of all nations here', but people are free to come and take their chances. The principle sources of employment are 'mining and railroading – both dangerous to life and limb The pay is good if a person gets a job and can keep it...'. Farmers must work 16 hours a day and must 'run reapers

mowers and big teams' to succeed. Thinks Irish farmers are 'on the pigs back...they have moderate rents, security, and independence...'. He is getting old and would like to be freed of working night after night.

2pp

53 13 March 1906

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. It has been some time since he wrote, but he and his wife are feeling pretty well at present. Saw an account in one of the papers from Ireland of an accident which befell on of John's sons. He hopes the boy is doing well and will not be permanently crippled. Enquires for news on 'times, the weather and crops'. Mentions 'awful mining disaster in France'. Notes that Balfour (Prime Minister) and his party 'met with quite a political Waterloo in the British elections'.

2pp

54 17 May 1906

Letter from Michael Hurley, 166 Potero Avenue, San Francisco, California, to his brother John, Clonakilty. He was not injured in the great earthquake, '...though it was frightful'. He was woken up at 5 o'Clock in the morning due to the shaking, and 'thought my end had come then' but his house remained standing as it was supported by those on both sides. Many large buildings were thrown down and the rest burning, 'a sight not to be forgotten'. Water pipes were broken so there was no water to put out the fires, and eventually 'three fourths' of the City was destroyed. Laments that it was 'getting to be a great City before the earthquake...it had doubled in population the last ten years...'. Regrets that John's son was injured. Denis is 'doing well and needn't work anymore of he don't want to'. Says he is speculating in mines again, with better prospects than heretofore. Sends regards to 'our cousins of Templebrien'.

4pp

55 25 June 1906

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. He is glad John's son is recovering from his serious accident. Says that the San Francisco earthquake 'was an awful thing and has impovrished many and dethroned the reason of others. I had some investments that were a little depressed by that disaster'. He had hoped to give up working, especially nights, but now he must wait some time longer, 'It is pretty expensive to live, and meet one's various obligations', but he hopes better times are coming 'for us all'. Nevada is enjoying a 'period of much prosperity'. Mentions the

death of politician Michael Davitt, who 'was a hard worker and did much good – not only for his own country, but for humanity'.

2pp

56 27 June 1907

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to 'My dear May', his niece. He has given up work since December, 'the steady drag was getting too much for my health owing to my advancing years... We have to figure out and economise at present. We may if God spares us see old Ireland some day'. Carson City will have a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration of 'considerable magnitude' this year', with a grand electric light display. He now has plenty of time to tend his garden and can go to Mass every morning. Brother Michael is well. Mentions funeral of cousin Tom Hurley, a 'good big-hearted man'.

2pp

57 25 April 1908

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. 'This country has experienced a great and unlooked for change in the past year... Crops are plentiful and command good prices, mines producing well, and yet there are more than 300,000 RR (Railroad) cars idle: train crews and machine shops in proportion Many banks had to suspend...' Says he has faired pretty well in his affairs, though short of money at present.

2pp

58 31 December 1908

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. He has not been in the best of spirits for some time, and has been 'squeezed and cornered... with the financial stringency'. Things are now looking better. Denis had 'some political experience' which did not add to his peace of mind, when he was a candidate for the Nevada Legislature for his county in the November election. However he did not succeed in being elected as the Commissioners, 'who had the recounting' were of his opponents political party. Says 'There was much money used in bribery also against us'. He has lost some money in expenses as well as the salary he would have been entitled to. He will try again in 2 years as he 'had the support of a large majority of the respectable voters'.

2pp

59 15 August 1910

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. Recounts the circumstances of his wife's death from Typhoid. 'She was sick since about the 1<sup>st</sup> July...[I hoped] she would pull through like so many other sick spells'. 'We had the sympathy of the community...She had a fine large funeral with impressive church services...Neither of us had a relative present.' Michael may come and stay with him for some time. 'The only drawback in our lives was her frequent sick spells. It was sad news to be sending to her poor old mother in Ireland'.

2pp

60 28 March 1911

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. He is glad to know John and family are well. Says he owes a letter to each of his three brothers just now. He has not yet written to Father O'Flynn in Portland. Notes that civil service examinations are difficult with so many candidates for a limited number of places. San Francisco is 'getting busy preparing for the Panama Fair Exhibit'.

1pp

61 12 July 1912

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. He does not do much letter writing for some time past' having lost some of the ambition of my younger days'. Has been steadily employed [in a prison] since 1<sup>st</sup> December . Mentions Father Gartland who is visiting Ireland for the first time in 25 years. He has not heard from Michael for a month or two. Notes that 'The girls are good correspondents...interested in the Fair and Irish Feis'. Refers to the 'Home Rule struggle' in Ireland, 'they must not let it flag until victory perches on their banner'. He is involved in local politics and likes 'to show that an Irishman is able to take a hand in affairs of government'.

2pp

62 9 November 1912

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. He spent 10 days in San Francisco, which is 'fine again after the havoc wrought by fire and quake in 06' . Father Gartland returned recently from a trip to Ireland and reported a 'great improvement in the condition of people. meals, tea, etc, 5 times a day now'. He stood for election again but despite a 'strenuous political campaign' was ten votes short of gaining office. Remarks that the Home Rule debate is still going on in Parliament, and hopes 'we all live to see the day when Ireland's lawmakers will meet in College Green'. Mentions the Turkish war which is drawing many Greeks and Slavonians back from America.

2pp

63 3 March 1913

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. Mentions an execution at the prison where he works. Remarks that 'our countries are fortunate...in being spared the horrors of wars that are raging in Mexico and Turkey at the present time. People should be grateful to God for casting their lot in peaceful countries and under stable governments'. He is glad to see Home Rule making good headway with the election in Derry, which 'took the boast and the brag from the Unionists'. Notes 'Your suffragettes are more warlike than their sisters here'.

2pp

64 18 June 1913

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John, Tawnies, Clonakilty. Mentions the very dry weather in California. On a 2 week vacation he visited a new mining camp, Rochester, 'nearer to Ireland than what I have been in 40 years'. If he is successful in his venture he 'may see the old land ere I die'. Mentions the suffragettes 'still keeping up a hard fight', and the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Home Rule Bill. He recently acted as sponsor for the boys' confirmation.

2pp

65 11 December 1913

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. He was not able to advance John £2000 as the 'condition of my estate does not enable me to do so. I may some day possibly see the land of my birth, but I doubt it as the world has been treating me'. Intends his remains to lie beside his wife in Carson City.

1p

66 16 March 1914

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. Thanks John for the card and shamrocks (for Saint Patrick's day). Mentions their cousins who 'are great in acquiring landed property...They have more means by industry at home than if they emigrated abroad'. Hopes 'that St. Patrick's day 1915 will find Ireland thriving under Home Rule and enjoying peace and prosperity'.

2pp

67 9 June 1914

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. He had suffered from pneumonia in April but has recovered well. Remarks that 'there has been much excitement over Ulster and Home Rule, but more over the suffragettes. A peculiar notion these women have got and what they are themselves their country and society...'. Belfast, he says, seems to be the 'storm centre in Ireland'. Notes that the Mexican Question remains unsettled.

1p

68 8 September 1914

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. Remarks that 'This awful war and things arising from it is putting almost everything else out of persons minds' (refers to First World War). Hopes Ireland and Poland will arise new nations at its close, and notes that 'The trampling on Belgian neutrality has already alienated sympathy from Germany'. Hopes 'our new Pope will have a long and successful reign'.

1p

69 18 December 1914

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. Refers to 'This terrible war...I did not think I would live to witness such havoc amongst Christian nations'. He spent 12 days in San Francisco with brother Michael, and both are feeling well. Business is 'badly upset in many places in this country - war and other troubles'. Encloses £5 for Christmas.

1p

69a 2 January 1915

Note from Denis Hurley to his brother John, sending something by mail.

1p

70 29 August 1915

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. He is not writing many letters of late, as he is 'getting lazy and without ambition'. Remarks that the 'war slaughter' continues, 'It would be better for the governments to make peace and

recognise and accord rights to others. Europe will not get over this in a century. There are scoundrels and fools who would like to draw this country too into trouble’.

2pp

71 17 March 1916

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. Thanks him for the bunch of shamrocks. John’s letter was ‘...honoured by being opened by the censor’. Hopes ‘...this awful war will come to an early close’. Mentions ‘trouble’ between America and Mexico. Asks if any Clonakilty man ‘distinguished himself in the war’ (First World War) .

1p

72 18 October 1916

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. He is just back from his vacation in San Francisco. Brother Michael ‘is strong and well and a great pro-ally man. We could not agree in our views in many respects at home or abroad. He is strongly in favour of the re-election of President Wilson, while I intend to vote against him’. Glad to know John is ‘able to work as you did 40 years ago. I am working too and feeling pretty good...this is a world of toil and ups and downs’.

2pp

73 19 January 1920

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John. Says ‘Many of us here are anxiously awaiting the results of the recent elections.’ Mentions ‘some friction’ between Sinn Fein and nationalists such as Mayor O’Connor of Cork ‘being assaulted’. Thinks ‘they should be more tolerant and unite against the common enemy’. Hopes ‘the dove of peace will soon flutter all over the world’. Mentions the prohibition of alcohol in the United States, and notes that ‘The abuse of drink is a curse but its total suppression works a hardship especially in cases of sickness’. Mentions the Russian Soviets gaining strength, ‘They seem to me to be like the French revolutionists before the advent of Napoleon’. Asks regarding local politics in Clonakilty.

2pp

74 17 October 1920

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to ‘Dear Niece’, Mary Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He is glad to hear something direct from old Ireland. Notes

'They whom the gods which to destroy they first make mad' (Euripides, Greek tragic dramatist 484 BC - 406 BC ), referring to England in her treatment of Ireland. Says 'The world had gained very little in smashing the German Government, if it permits English atrocities the world over...'. He is glad that the Irish people are pious 'in these trying times'. Mentions Father Murphy of Virginia City arriving back from Ireland. His conditions of life are 'very agreeable'. The government has a 'hard time' in enforcing the prohibition of alcohol, with 'A good many violators of the law...' brought before the Federal Court where he is in attendance and 'many old and indigenous devices for the manufacture of illicit liquor exhibited'.

2pp

75 7 August 1921

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to 'Dear Niece', Mary Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He has returned from a visit to San Francisco, his first in 4 years. Glad to hear his immediate relatives in Ireland have 'escaped the storm of desolation that has swept the country'. He purposely refrained from writing 'lest anything I might say result in doing you any injury'. He has subscribed to funds and spoken at meetings to secure the American recognition of the Irish Republic, 'If the battle was waged against any other government than England, recognition would be had long ago...but the money power of both countries and the press...is trying to misrepresent the real situation...'. Sir James and the Ulster Parliament 'receive undue prominence'. Mentions 'one of the grandest sights' he ever witnessed being 'KC's convention' in San Francisco. Michael is well, but investing his money in 'hopeless' stocks in 'played out mines'.

2pp

76 2 January 1922

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to 'My Dear Niece', Mary Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. Thanks her for her 'welcome and interesting letter' and encloses a £5 New Year's present. He read the account of the funeral of Monsignor O'Leary in the Cork Weekly Examiner. Notes that his young relatives are 'branching out in various professions...In my day if one went to Ballydehob or Bantry Fairs, he was regarded as having seen much of the world...'. Hopes peace in Ireland will continue and that the treaty (the Anglo Irish Treaty 1922) will be ratified.

2pp

77 17 March 1922

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. Glad at the 'improved state of affairs in Ireland. The cleaning out of Dublin Castle was a great change'. All from the old town are proud that a Clonakilty man was a 'central figure in this reconstruction' (reference to Michael Collins). Hopes the people of Ireland will make good use of their liberties 'and make the Land contented and prosperous'. Mentions a 'great deal of unrest and discontent' in the United States and the 'partly successful' enforcement of the Prohibition Law. He cannot celebrate St. Patrick's day with a 'pot or glass' and has only a weak beer unlike Clonakilty Porter.

2pp

78 12 May 1922

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to brother John Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He regrets the death of John's son. Notes that having the Wake in the church is a 'new departure', and that few of the people were taken to church in his time, and most of the poor did not have a priest in attendance at the funeral. In America the priest attends regardless of how poor a person may be. There are only a score of priests in the whole of Nevada. Mentions 'much labor unrest- wealth crushing the sons of toil and the toiler trying to come back on the employer'. Regrets that Ireland does not agree on a course of action and favours giving everybody the opportunity to vote. Claims that 'Robbing of banks and acts of violence is not in keeping with the religious God fearing and law abiding character of the people which we in this country claim for our people at home'.

2pp

79 18 September 1922

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He had hoped that events in Ireland would have settled down, 'too bad that some common sense and a desire for peace could not prevail. The Irish seem to have imbibed that French frenzy in Paris in the 70s'. He is in the same position and would have had the opportunity to 'study law and practice speaking' if he had the job 40 or 50 years ago. Notes the Turks 'living up to their old barbarities'. Regrets that '...Michael Collins' young life should be extinguished in a petty ambush. He seemed to be more of a general favourite with the Press...and his career more romantic than any of the other leaders'.

2pp

80 14 April 1923

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He received John's box of shamrocks after St. Patrick's day. Refers to the Irish Civil War, that Ireland's condition 'seems more deplorable than under the Saxon yoke...I thought the Irish people with their Catholic faith and their love of justice would arrange matters between themselves...It makes an Irish man in this country hang his head in shame...if one is friendly with one side he is supposed to be an enemy of the other'.

2pp

81 10 August 1923

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to niece Mary Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. Sends regards and encloses £5. He is fortunate in having a job which does not tax his strength and which pays a salary that more than meets his expenses. Mentions the funeral of President Warren Harding, 'a good upright man who worked faithfully in the country's interests'. Denis is glad that fighting has ceased in Ireland, 'More work and less wrangling is what the country wants...intelligence, enlightenment and general good will'. Notes discontent and dissatisfaction amongst farmers in the U.S.A. He celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his coming to Carson City, 'a nice affair tho' under another's roof'.

2pp

82 15 November 1923

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. Says he is well, 'but slower in my walk and less firm in my step'. Wishes John could have seen him become a 4<sup>th</sup> degree Knight of Columbus in Reno, 'High Hat, dress suit, a sword dangling at my side, marching military fashion...Few of my friends of 40 years before that I knew in Reno were around'. Mentions general election in England. His brother Michael is 'a strong Free Stater. De Valera he terms a "bum" making trouble by his agitation'. Denis 'cannot agree', due to De Valera's '15,000 votes in the Clare constituency. These voters are not bums nor a rowdy element'. He does not think Ireland should be partitioned, 'nor was it manly...to abandon the nationalists of the north to the tender mercies of the orange lambs'. Farmers are complaining at the low prices of stock and wheat and 'Labor is very high, especially in the building trades'.

2pp

83 6 January 1924

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece Mary Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He is glad her father is 'spry and active and carrying his years well'. Brother Michael is not feeling well, but 'is with kind people with whom he has made home for upwards of 30 years. His means are not large – Always laboring with the delusion that he would get rich by speculating in mining stocks. He never wasted or dissipated, nor was intemperate or immoral.' Asks how England 'affords a better field for teachers and nurses than old Ireland...Home rule and Ireland's small population ought secure employment and prosperity...If they could only permit the dove of peace to settle over the land.' In America, the condition of many farmers is bad and many have lost their farms.

2pp

84 25 March 1924

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He received the letter and a box with the 'chosen leaf', which had about perished. Notes 'that wonderful organisation the Irish Free State army is restive and somewhat rebellious' and that some members of the Dail are resigning. Hopes he wont hurt the feelings of his excellent correspondent (niece, Mary) by 'censuring some men and measures in the dear Green Isle'.

2pp

85 21 July 1924

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He is 'fairly well' and taking medicine for a cough. Describes the lack of rain in Nevada and California, 'not a shower in 4 months and only...4 inches since...last September'. Hopes Mary enjoyed her picnic at Youghal. If he was back in his younger days and had ample means and time he would visit Ireland and see 'many of the historic and romantic places spoken of in song and story', such as Inchadoney, the old abbey in Timoleague, Gougane Barra and Loch Inne. Mentions death of their Bishop who 'was not mixed up with the turbulent doings of recent years. Too much politics in the world today and not enough of common sense and hard work'. He is glad De Valera is released, 'It was a shame for Irishmen to be keeping such a man in prison'.

2pp

86 28 September 1924

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. Welcomes John's 15<sup>th</sup> August letter, 'the day that we used to have the early part of our harvest – in the days when we were young'. Notes that John would have no trouble saving the hay in Nevada, but that there might not be any hay to save owing to the drought. Farmers and Towns along the Truckee river are getting their water pumped out of Lake Tahoe. He is 'pretty well though still short winded' from coughing. Asks concerning the Irish political situation and notes 'the Free Staters dont know what to do with De Valera'. The new pastor Father Murphy and himself differed in speaking of Irish events. Asks John to inform him concerning the events on 'Bloody Sunday' in Croke Park.

2pp

87 29 January 1925

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece Mary Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He has not received a letter from Tawnies for some time. Notes the 'very heavy rains in the British Isles'. His health is somewhat improved. Sends 'a little check'. Hopes her father is holding up well, 'He will soon be of venerable age'. He supposes that some of the family are going to Rome for holy year pilgrimages, and he would have been 'very apt to go' had he been in the old country.

2pp

88 8 April 1925

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece Mary Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. Thanks her for the letter received before St.Patrick's Day and for the shamrock which he wore proudly that day. Many cans and boxes were returned or destroyed and saddest of all 'the confiscation of a little bottle of whiskey which was sent along to mellow things up'. Michael is in pretty good health, but 'never more discontented...He has spent the savings of a life in mining speculation expecting to strike the crock of gold some day. Now he has not much hope...'.  
2pp

2pp

89 5 June 1925

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece Mary Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He is sorry to hear her father has suffered from rheumatism. Brother Michael suffers from lumbago. Encloses a newspaper clipping announcing his 'political elevation as Chairman of our City Council. It carries no salary, but we all like a

voice in managing our City affairs'. Hopes peace and prosperity will come to poor old Ireland and notes that Ireland is not included in tourist travel tours to Europe.

2pp

90 30 November 1925

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece Mrs. Mary Deasy (Mary Hurley), Timoleague, County Cork. He is glad to hear that she has been married. Advises that 'Life does not entirely depend on riches' and notes that her husband 'must be an interesting companion as he can talk of American conditions as well as home affairs'. Denis says he has never seen the Statue of Liberty in New York nor Liberty Hall in Philadelphia, and New York in 1873 had only half of its present population. He cannot say the same thing about 'his adopted little city of Carson'. He spoke with his Bishop who returned from a Holy Year pilgrimage in Ireland and who '...says the state of Ireland is much improved...'. Asks whether they own their own farm 'without any landlord which was the plague of the old conditions.' Says he was in Timoleague 'a couple of times – once at a fair and once at a funeral.'

2pp

91 10 June 1926

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his brother John Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. 'Our brother Michael died in San Francisco last evening...He died with friends with whom he was making his home for upward of 30 years. His wants were seen to both spiritually and corporeally...The quartet of four brothers living around the 80s in years is now broken...'

1p

92 29 June 1927

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Timoleague, County Cork. He is very sorry to hear of Tim's death and is now 'more in the world alone than Lord Byron was when he wrote the lines.' He heard of 'poor Ryan's death by a wire from the city...he was to be married in a little while...'. Hopes that Mary's sister Kate did not tell his parents the manner of his death. He is glad Mary's husband is 'contented and liking farming on his native ground. Many young people run away over seas thinking that all was roseate abroad. Some succeed...others become roust-about and bums. Prudence, industry, frugality and sobriety are essential qualities to success'. A visit to Ireland 'was a dream I often indulged in...but circumstances did not enable me to make it

in the manner I would wish to'. Mentions recent election in the Free State, 'I think a republic under prevailing conditions is not practicable'.

2pp

93 2 July 1928

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. Mentions Governor Smith running for the Presidency in the United States. Notes that 'Bigotry is stronger in many parts of this country than what it is even in Northern Ireland.' Smith is an able statesman who 'will do nothing to cast discredit in his Church'. Hoover, he says, 'is also a good man and an able man'. He does not think that the election is effecting the labour market, 'high class machinery can produce manufactured products in enormous quantities with less labor than formerly'. Notes that 'American farmers are demanding justice and an equality with manufacturers in being subsidized'. His health is good and he walks 2 or 3 miles every day.

2pp

94 23 March 1929

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. Hopes Eileen [her sister/cousin] will like life in America. Comments that 'If the Irish Free State does not increase in population you should not be held blameable...'. Hopes that farm prices hold up and advises them to diversify their farming 'so that when one commodity is low, another may command a better price and...even things up'. Says that American farmers are complaining of low prices and hard times, with a special session of Congress called to pass remedial legislation, but the 'industrial part of our people are... prosperous'. He is glad a relative remains in Castlevew, which was 'rather historic in Land League days'.

2pp

95 19 May 1929

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, [Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague], County Cork. Her letter was 'well worded and interesting... You struck it well about St. Mary's and the pocket book. Six dollars per day – besides incidentals count up. I have one consolation that I realize a good job was made on my leg...'. Remarks that many Irish farmers were 'very slovenly in the making of butter and marketing of eggs – a few smart fines may help cure them of their lethargy'. He sees 'things are warming up in Belfast over the election'. He would like to be in Dublin for the celebrations. Asks what became of Sir Edward Carson and whether 'Shandon Bells' is in Catholic or Protestant hands at present.

96 4 August 1929

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to niece Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. He received letters from her cousin in Durham and from Eileen in New York, who 'says they are cooped up there like monkeys in a cage'. Notes that there is plenty of 'foot room' Nevada, 'more per cap than any State in the Union'.

1p

97 16 December 1929

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Catherine Deasy, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He is very sorry to hear of his nephew's death and would not favour bringing the body back to Ireland, as '...France held a warm place in the heart of the Irish people. And what place would a pious Catholic wish to repose than the favoured spot of Lourdes'. Mentions Tim Canty who proposed him for membership of the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Says 'Clonakilty seems to have given birth to many distinguished men in former as well as modern days'. Mentions the Ambassador from the Free State to Washington. Notes the name Hurley came into 'national prominence' lately with Colonel Patrick J. Hurley in the Hoover Cabinet as Secretary of War.

2pp

98 21 December 1929

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. He is glad Mary and Mr. Deasy and the children are well. Explains that the 4 brothers (Denis, Michael, John and Tim) were almost of the same height. Notes that Mary's children keep her 'pretty busy', and that some mothers in America with one baby 'think they have their hands full and send their washing to a laundry'. Mentions that he was in hospital last Christmas, where he had mostly a good time, 'but hospital bills had to be met and they were not small or trifling'. He always enjoyed walking and it is a great pleasure to be back to his 'old stride again'.

2pp

99 2 March 1930

U170/

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Catherine Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. Thanks her for her letter and the shamrock in the post. He has not been writing much of late. His health is 'pretty good', though his hearing is not as good as it once was. Mentions the poor effect of the fall in the price of silver on the mining industry, with some miners losing their jobs.

2pp

100 2 May 1930

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. He is glad to hear they are all well and that Mary's family is 'increasing in numbers'. Hopes she will do as well as her grandmother who 'had a pretty hard struggle at times to make ends meet'. Encloses £1 for each of the family and £1 for the tower of Timoleague Church. He recalls reading J.D Sullivan's poem on Timoleague Abbey and 'the trouble Father Mulcahy had with the landlord, Beamish in locking the gates of the old burial place'. Mentions a 'great deal of unemployment' in America, the Western States hit hard by the decline in the price of silver. Says Mr. Deasy 'acted wisely' going back to Ireland and '...tilling his own ground'. Notes that machinery of the present day works too fast, '...with the profits mostly for capital.'

2pp

101 10 July 1930

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. Congratulates her on her new motherhood. Aileen (in New York) gets 'her proposals' from non-Catholics and Jews. Says 'If you have not good times in Ireland now you cannot blame England or the Labor Ministry. In this country many blame (President) Hoover. Industrial conditions cannot be adjusted by Executives. Rivalry, greed & concentration are more to blame'. Quotes lines of poetry beginning 'Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates and men decay...' (Oliver Goldsmith)  
Notes that farmers in America think they are badly treated, but 'worst-off' is the miner. He is feeling well, and providence has been kind to him in working conditions.

2pp

102 22 July 1930

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Catherine Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He is glad to know everyone is well and that the 'family population is not decreasing'. Mentions her sister Aileen (in New York) getting a promotion. Says that the male members of his brothers' families do not write him at all. He observes that Ireland has some labour strikes at present, 'Poor fools, some are never

happy unless they are making trouble with police, soldiers or bailiffs. Unemployment is a hard problem...the world over'. He is fortunate to have a position that does not require much strength in his old age. Hopes the harvest will be good 'even if prices are not high'.

2pp

103 24 [October/November] 1930

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. He has three letters to the three sisters in Ahafore, Tawnies and New York. Hopes the blight did not visit their potatoes. He enjoyed his trip to San Francisco where he was very kindly treated by his friends. Mentions visit to a hospital in Reno. He is 'dreaming and visioning' about attending the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin (in 1932). This will depend on health and finances. 'I would be like a ghost from the tomb in a locality that was so familiar to me nearly 60 years ago and as to seeing it in the flesh – I had put it out of my mind.' Notes 'strange situations' in America with 'millions out of work...The markets loaded with food stuff and raw materials; billions of idle money...'

2pp

104 1 December 1930

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Catherine Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. He is glad the family are well and is sorry about the potatoes blackening. Says 'Our trouble here in growing the tuber is water shortage and frosts..'. Observes that many places in the U.S. suffered from drought and there are many appeals for government aid. Unemployment is a serious problem, but many government and public works are refusing to employ persons of foreign birth who are not citizens. This 'does not look much Christian or humane'. Laments that his papers do not give much Irish news, unlike the times of Black and Tan atrocities or earlier days of Parliamentary news 'when Parnell, Biggar, Tim Healy and Michael Davitt helped to keep the House of Commons awake'. Mentions a 'shocking' aeroplane disaster. Hopes the Dublin Eucharistic Conference will be 'a grand affair' and 'stimulate the old time fervour in the hearts of the people'. He may come to the Congress depending on his finances and health.

2pp

105 17 February 1931

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. Wishes health and contentment to her family and says 'wealth

does not always give happiness'. Mentions Mary's younger sister Hanora being 'fond of work'. He may attend the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, though he 'would look like a dream after so many years absence'. He is in good health and takes frequent walks of 5 or 6 miles. Notes the 'strange condition in world affairs' due to unemployment, with low prices for silver, wheat and farm products and that manufacturers keep up the prices by curtailing output and discharging their employees. 'We fancied when I was a boy that if we had not big rents to pay for the land we were happy'. England led the world in manufacturing and paid high prices for farm products.

2pp

106 31 May 1931

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. He is glad both families are well, 'It must be amusing to see the children help and protect the younger member'. Notes that excessive rains are very disagreeable, but the extreme shortness of rain is worse, as has happened in Nevada for several years. His prospects of visiting 'dear Ireland' have lessened due to the decline in his investments, some of which have declined by half, however he concludes that much may happen in the next half-year. Notes the 'strange state of affairs' in America, with a 'superabundance of everything...and...war loan payments...and yet millions out of work hungry and living on public and private charity'. This is not so strange in European countries he says. Mining in particular is badly effected. Concludes that Irish farmers, now owning their own land and not fearing 'the landlord or his agents' should have enough to eat.

2pp

107 9 November 1931

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. He has not written since the new postal rates came into use. Notes that 'You complain of too much rain and we complain that we have too little...Lake Tahoe stands lowest of any period in 40 years'. He responded to a begging letter from the Sisters of Mercy in Skibbereen to aid their library. Says that the Free State is fortunate to be free of England's colonial debt, and hopes the people wont be '...carried into extreme measures by De Valera and his republican adherents. Weak nations cannot do much to defend themselves'. Explains that Nevada State has become a diocese, and that while the Roman Catholic population of the United States has grown to 20 million since 1881, the Catholic population of Nevada declined by half. There was no Catholic school in the State, '...and things of this world became the paramount consideration...'. He may not be able to attend the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin as his investments have dropped much in value. Mentions the ship 'Tuscania' sailing from New York for Southern Ireland.

2pp

108 29 February 1932

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. The winter has been 'cold and stormy', but it will promise an 'abundance of water' during the summer. Notes that De Valera won the election and hopes it will turn out for the best, but he would have voted for Cosgrave. There is 'much clamour and legislation' in America to aid the unemployed and 'speed up the wheels of industry. A strange situation – hunger in the midst of plenty...'. It does not look like he can attend the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, as he needs to hold on to his employment. He is much interested in the Congress and hopes the Irish nation 'will show to the world that they knew how to preserve order and are worthy of their old reputation'.

2pp

109 9 June 1932

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. He is glad they are all well. 'Work gives health, health contentment and contentment happiness'. He hopes she will be at the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin. He had hoped to come to Dublin 'and see the green flag floating from the Castle. As Thomas Davis said, 'See from the Castle the green banner waves, bearing fit motto for uprisen slaves, now or never, now and forever'. He had a letter from her sister Aileen who was departing for Ireland. Hopes the economic depression will be 'much helped' before her return to the shores of America. Mentions upcoming national political conventions and nominations. He looks forward to news of her pilgrimage (to Dublin).

2pp

110 15 August 1932

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. Congratulates her on her visit to Dublin to attend the Eucharistic Congress. Thanks her for the papers and souvenir card. Mentions the Chicago Congress where electric cars took 4 hours to go 40 miles. Notes 'It must be galling to the spirit of old Trinity to see such a Catholic outpouring in Dublin'. Irish athletes with General O'Duffy are at the Olympic games in Los Angeles, where Pat O'Callaghan won the hammer throwing. Observes that the 'government is making great efforts to help the country over the depression with only a small measure of success so far'. Hopes that her children do well at school and that the crops are good even if prices are low.

2pp

111 4 September 1932

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Catherine Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, County Cork. Her letters are very instructive and contain much information. Observes that the Eucharistic congress 'would be galling to the old time spirit of Trinity College' and that some of that spirit survives in the Orange communities in the North of Ireland. 'Dublin Castle's former tenants would rub their eyes could they revisit their former haunts... Thank God for the change. Ireland showed the visitors... what the faith is in Ireland.' Mentions the national convention of the Knights of Columbus, with the unveiling of a statue of Cardinal Gibbons. He is retired from that organisation and is an honorary member. The economic depression is showing 'some signs of letting up'. Hopes the Ottawa Convention will improve relations between the Free State and England '...they both need friendship and not emnity between them'.

2pp

112 27 November 1932

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, [Catherine] McCarthy, County Cork. Congratulates Catherine on her marriage, 'It is a nice thing... that you were not forced to roam, a comfortable living at home is more desireable than seeking one's fortune abroad'. Concerning America he writes that 'In this land of plenty the economic conditions are upside down... farm products very low, millions out of employment and many hungry... a dozen of our banks had to close'. He was fortunate in being a bank shareholder for many years, but now the stock value has been 'wiped out'. Asks concerning the crops on the new farm. Observes that European Governments 'don't like to pay their loans'.

2pp

113 25 October 1933

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. Congratulates her on the birth of her new baby, 'You are doing your part to increase the population of Ireland'. Mentions his new pastor Father O'Grady, a native of Tipperary, who attended the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin and reported that people followed the services over the radio, and that 'the people were generally well off and giving big fortunes to their daughters'. Observes that the United States government is making every effort to provide employment and to increase prices for farm produce. Changes in the courts may effect his position, but 'It is about time I should retire anyway'.

114 10 February 1934

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Catherine McCarthy, Carrigroe Upper, County Cork. He is glad to receive her letter and to learn that they are all well. He asks her to be kind to her father in law, who 'must be a worthy old man to live to such a fine old age'. He is writing the letter 'without glasses' and attended mass that morning said by the assistant priest who was ordained in Reno. Recalls a previous ordination in Clonakilty in the 1860's. Mentions her sister Mrs. Fox [Aileen Fox], whose husband is a teacher. Notes that teachers positions and salaries are not guaranteed in the United States when funds run low. The government is making a 'tremendous effort to lift the country out of the present depression' by 'loaning immense sums of money and putting persons to work at all kinds of business'. The government is also buying large numbers of pigs and cows in order to raise prices, and is distributing the meat to the unemployed. Mentions his nieces in London, Durham and Lancashire.

2pp

115 24 April 1934

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. He received her letter and the shamrock in good condition. Observes that her husband Mr. Deasy 'is a far happier man than he would be if he remained in the ranks of labor in America'. Business is looking better in America, 'but it is largely due to the immense amount of money the Government is giving out to help the needy and the unemployed'. Thanks her for her kindness in sending 'those magazines which your good father valued all his life'. Notes lack of rain during the winter, with prayers for rain at Mass. He has been present at Mass every morning. He regards as 'a great blessing' that his health enables him to work. Asks concerning her present parish priest.

2pp

116 21 December 1934

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. His health is 'wonderfully good' considering his age. His pay some months is small, but it assists other income. Notes that his securities 'escaped the depression better than average' and hopes his relatives and others will have 'some little bequests' after his death. Observes that 'Low prices is the trouble in this country....lower interests and lower profits, making readjustment unavoidable...Almost one-sixth of the population is receiving Government aid, piling up the national debt...'. He visited San Francisco for two weeks and Monsignor Kiely at Sacramento.

117 21 March 1935

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada, to his niece Mrs Jerome (Catherine) McCarthy, Carrigroe Upper. He received the letter and shamrock in the post. Hopes that he will have 'no long experience' of being an invalid as 'It would take a fortune to get hospital care, or hire an attendant, to a person without a family'. His health is 'pretty good', he is 'under salary' most of the time and attends mass every morning. Observes that the economic condition of the world 'appears badly upset', and that the government is spending billions of dollars to help the unemployed. The wisdom of some measures is questioned by many, as 'It is not helping thrift and industry and individual effort'. Notes 'There was trouble enough in the world without this world war scare' and that if farmers in Ireland had to pay rent to landlords, 'as in old times there would be many evictions'.

2pp

118 18 May 1935

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. Says it is not necessary for her to write so often, 'Two pence half-penny may come in handy for the children attending school...I know pennies used to count in my day'. Refers to the economic depression in the United States as 'a strange situation and solving it a great problem'. He is 'very fortunate' in his health and in retaining his job, 'If I had any hard work to do I should have retired long ago'. Mentions his cousin Pat Ryan attending a funeral in Timoleague. Concludes that her husband 'is fortunate in not being in the ranks of labor in the States with strikes and lock-outs'.

2pp

119 21 January 1937

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. Remarks on the 'important work' of looking after the children, and their 'educational and religious training'. His investments are bringing him 'a fair income', but he 'suffered with the failure of the banks'. Mentions the very cold winter in his part of the world. Observes that those in Ireland are interested in the Spanish civil war. He had hoped General Franco would capture Madrid. Notes that all the 'Reds and evil minded and many who don't understand the situation are giving assistance to the so-called government and think it patriotic and a fight for Democracy'. He compares the land holding issue with 'Irish Landlordism'. Mentions the near death of Pontiff Pius XI.

2pp

120 25 March 1937

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mrs Dan (Mary) Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. His health has been poor for almost 2 months and it has improved very slowly. He has not been able to attend church services during Lent, which was noticeable to the 'old timers'. Hopes 'times and conditions are favourable' and that they are 'not cursed with labor troubles, which is the curse of this country'. Father Hogan, a priest from his neighbourhood, observed that Ireland was 'one of the most prosperous peaceable countries' he had visited while abroad. Notes 'they are encouraging home manufacturing'. Explains that in the event of his death his estate will be entrusted to a friend. He does not know what he may die possessed of owing to the cost of sickness and the value of the property at the time.

2pp

121 4 May 1937

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. Refers to the sad news of her sister's death. Remarks that 'God will bless your charity and love for your departed sister'. Observes that 'Our happiness does not depend on the amount of earthly good we lay by' and that her sister '...may be able to help the afflicted souls in Spain in the spiritual kingdom...'. Quotes some lines of poetry by Thomas Moore,

"This world is all a fleeting show,  
For man's illusions given...".

Refers to the coronation of King George, 'The frisky ones will see more in Edward's wedding than in George's Coronation'. Asks regarding the crops and on the 'likelihood of a Kingly crown of Tara among the Clan De Valera'.

2pp

122 8 January 1938

Letter from Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada to his niece, Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. He heard news of her through her sisters Mrs. Fox and Mrs. McCarthy. Mentions some of the priests Mary met while they were vacationing in Ireland, including Father O'Grady, located 60 miles from Carson, and Father Lambe from Las Vegas. He is glad she is building a new house and says he took an active part in quarrying rock in the hill side in front of the house. Asks concerning cousin Timmy Hurley of Ahamilla who married a neighbours daughter. Hopes the house builders are 'not so unreasonable and high priced' as they are in the United States.

2pp

**B: Estate and Death of Denis Hurley, 7 items (1934-1939)**

123 17 March 1934

Copy of the Will of Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada. He appoints Howard Griffin as his executor. Bequeaths \$100 each to 7 of his friends including 4 priests. The balance of his estate he bequeaths to his brother's and sister's children in Ireland.

1p

124 7 March 1938

Typescript copy of newspaper article concerning funeral services for the late Denis Hurley. Names the ten priests who officiated at the ceremony including Monsignor H.J.M. Wientjes who paid a special tribute to Denis Hurley. Pallbearers were representatives of the Carson City Board of Trustees, the U.S. District Court for Nevada, the Virginia and Truckee Railroad and the Catholic Church.

1p

125 23 April 1938

Letter from Eileen Fox, 77 Mizzy Road, Rochdale, England to Mrs Daniel Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. Concerns the Will of the late Denis Hurley who died on 3 March 1938. She thinks the estate may be appraised at \$10,000.

2pp

126 28 April 1938

Letter from John M.Chartz, Attorney for the Executor of the Estate of Denis Hurley deceased, Carson City, Nevada, to Mrs. Mary Hurley Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. Informs her of the death of her uncle.

1p

127 April 1938

Letter from [Mary Hurley Deasy], to executor of the estate of the late Denis Hurley. Concerns the estate of Denis Hurley.

2pp

128 April 1938

Fragment of letter from John M. Chartz, Attorney for the Administratrix, to Mrs Mary Hurley Deasy. Concerns estate of the late Denis Hurley. Mentions that Denis was a member of the Board of Trustees of Carson City since 1913. Encloses copies of newspaper items on Denis Hurley following his death.

1p

129 11 May 1939

Letter from Homer Mooney, Attorney at Law, Carson City, Nevada, to Mrs. Mary Deasy, Ahafore, Timoleague, County Cork. Encloses cheque for \$934.71, from the estate of Denis Hurley.

1p

### **C: Thomas Hurley, 1 item (1885)**

130 14 November 1885

Statement of the Affairs of Thomas Hurley of Georges Street, Clonakilty, General Merchant, from Richard Davoren, solicitor, Dame Street, Dublin. Shows Hurley's assets and liabilities and gives proposals for settling Hurley's accounts with his creditors.

2pp

### **D: John Hurley, Tawnies, 2 items (1897)**

131 February 1897

Letter from John Hurley, Tawnies Upper, Clonakilty, County Cork, to Clerk of the Clonakilty Union. Concerns the valuation of his property, which he considers to be too high. Requests the Clerk to send notice to the Commissioners of Valuation to have it rectified.

1p

132 15 February 1897

U170/

Copy of U170/131

2pp

### **E: Mrs Mary Hurley, Funeral, 2 items (1899-1900)**

133 December 1899

List of expenses incurred in providing a wake and funeral for Mrs Mary Hurley, mother of Denis and Michael Hurley. Expenses include food, candles, wine, whiskey, tobacco and payments to clergy.

2pp

134 6 January 1900

Letter from Mrs John Hurley to 'Dear brother'. Concerns the death of their mother Mrs Mary Hurley of Tawnies, Clonakilty.

4pp

### **F: Letters from Mary Collins, 2 items (1899-1900)**

135 19 February 1899

Letter from [Marie] Collins, Leetes Island, Connecticut, United States, to Mrs. And Mr. Hurley. Asks concerning their family, friends and relations.

4pp

136 20 February 1900

Letter from [Marie] Collins, Leetes Island, Connecticut, United States, to 'My Dear Mrs. Hurley'. Mentions death of Mrs [Mary] Hurley and that of Pat Hurley.

4pp

### **G: Photographs, 2 items (1890-1930)**

137 [1890]

U170/

Portrait photograph of [Denis Hurley], Carson City, Nevada.

9cm x 13cm

138 [1930's]

Full length portrait photograph of Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada.

6cm x 11cm

### **H: Newspaper cuttings, 3 items (1899-1910)**

139 [December 1899]

Newspaper cutting regarding the funeral of Mrs. M.A. Hurley, Tawnies, Clonakilty, widow of John Hurley.

1 item

140 10 August 1910

Newspaper cutting concerning funeral of Mrs. Denis Hurley, Carson City, Nevada.

1 item

141 6 September 1910

Newspaper cutting with announcement by Denis Hurley that he is standing for nomination as a Commissioner [of Carson City].

1 item