

Postmaster Lurvey Dies Suddenly.

On Thursday afternoon the whole community was shocked on learning of the sudden death of Joseph J. Lurvey, postmaster, at the family home in this village. Mr. Lurvey was a son of Ezra W. and Caroline McDermot Lurvey and was born in Livingston county, N. Y., April 22, 1837. On his father's side the family traces their ancestry back to France and the mother was a descendent from Scotch ancestors. The Lurvey family has resided in America since Revolutionary times. In the fall of 1844 the subject of this article accompanied his parents from his native town to Wisconsin, arriving in Milwaukee, which was then a small village, and thence to New Berlin, where they spent the winter with a brother-in-law. The following year they moved to Ottawa and settled on section 15. The family consisted of five children, Joseph, William, Liza, James and Lucy, all of whom but the last two having departed this life. Joseph acquired his education in the district schools in Ottawa and worked on his father's farm until August 10, 1861, when he joined Company A, first Wisconsin cavalry and served in St. Louis until December, 1862, when he received an honorable discharge. On New Year's Eve, 1863, he was married to Miss Mary Jane Reed, who preceded him in death since Nov. 2, 1907. Five children were born to them: Ada, who married J. A. Stephen, a merchant of Waltham, Minn., now deceased; Lyda, wife of Fred Jacobson of Delafield; Charles M., a musician of Milwaukee; the Misses Christina and Mabel, at home. Mr. Lurvey followed farming until about thirteen years ago when he came to Eagle and purchased the William W. Perry residence. On November 6th, 1897, he was appointed postmaster under the McKinley administration, succeeding Henry M. Loibl, and held the office until his death. In his home town he was secretary of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co. and held many offices of trust, all of which he filled with credit. When the village of Eagle was incorporated he was one of the trustees for two terms.

The funeral took place from the family home Sunday and notwithstanding the severe snow storm and cold weather many from Eagle and also his former home gathered to pay their tribute of respect to a departed friend and neighbor. Roy Applin of Ottawa sang "Nearer My God to Thee" and "Abide with Me." Rev. E. B. Boggess of Palmyra delivered the funeral sermon. Members of the Grand Army of the Republic were present to do honor to the comrade dead. Neighbors from Ottawa served as pall bearers and laid his remains at rest in Oak Ridge cemetery in the family lot.

During the time that the Lurvey family has resided in Eagle they have won the friendship and regard of all and as evidence of this we need only state that a petition unanimously signed has been prepared asking the appointment of the daughter, Miss Christina, as postmistress to succeed her much beloved father.

We all extend sympathy to the family in their hour of bereavement.

CALL CAME
SUDDENLYPostmaster Lurvey Dies at
Eagle Without Warning

WAS WELL HALF HOUR EARLIER

So Esteemed and Beloved in Village
that Death Caused Great and
General Grief.

Eagle, Feb. 16.—At his village home on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 11, occurred the death of Postmaster, Joseph J. Lurvey. The summons came so suddenly that the friends and neighbors listened with unbelieving ears to the message that was passed along that Mr. Lurvey was dead. Many had seen him less than a half hour before pass down the road on his way home from the post office. His joyful greeting to those he met gave no warning of the stilled heart beat so soon to come. He passed into the living room, lay down on the couch and life went out. Without a struggle, without suffering, he went to his final sleep.

Joseph J. Lurvey was born in Avon, Livingston county, N. Y., April 22, 1837, and came with his parents to Wisconsin in the fall of 1844, settling the next spring on section 15, town of Ottawa, where he grew to manhood. He enlisted in Company A, 1st Wisconsin cavalry, August, 1861, and after being in several engagements, was discharged for disability in September, 1862. He was married to Mary J. Reed, New Year's Eve, 1863, and continued to reside in the town of Ottawa up to the time of their moving to this village in 1895. He was appointed postmaster of Eagle in 1897, continuing in office until his death. He held positions of trust in Ottawa and has been a most excellent postmaster here. Four children, Mrs. Fred Jacobson of Delafield, Misses Christine and Mabel at home, and Charles of Milwaukee, survive him; also one sister, Mrs. William Probert, and one brother, John C. Lurvey, both of Ottawa.

Funeral services were held at the residence Sunday afternoon. "Nearer My God to Thee" and "Abide with Me" were given by the beautiful young voice of Roy Applin, one of the boy friends of Ottawa.

Fitting and impressive remarks were made by Rev. E. B. Boggess of Palmyra. He took for his theme, "The Greatness of Gentleness," likening that characteristic in the deceased to that of Abraham Lincoln to whose greatness America has so recently paused to pay its tribute.

All of the home G. A. R. comrades who could brave the weather were there, and followed their soldier friend to his last resting place. The storm prevented many from coming for a last mark of respect to one they highly esteemed, but they were there in thought and sympathy. The bearers were neighbors from the Ottawa home and with the keenest sorrow they laid their friend in Oak Ridge cemetery beside his wife, who was taken from him a little over a year ago.

The writer has no words to adequately express the greatness, the success of Mr. Lurvey's life. To leave accumulated a large fortune does not mean success. To have one's name pushed before the public does not alone make a success, but to have lived the life that throws its tenderness, its fine mental qualities, its rare judgment, its broad, earnest truth into the hearts of all so fortunate as to know him, is a success surpassing all others.

It is a beautiful life that rounds out seventy-two years so filled with the noble and fine attributes of humanity that those who come within the radius of its influence are made the better for it. His was the standard of an honest man and from it he never wavered. As counselor, friend, neighbor and citizen, as well as father and brother, he will be long remembered and greatly missed.