



The Windows of St. Michael's

A brief history about those who donated the stained glass windows of St. Michael's, or in whose memory they were given.

Window Symbol: Lamp

The symbol of the Word of God, described in the Bible as a lamp unto the faithful. It also symbolizes wisdom and piety. It was associated in the Old Testament with worship and the presence of God. "You are my lamp, O Lord! My God brightens the darkness about me." 2 Samuel 22:29

Given in Honor of: James H. Mahoney

This window in honor of James H. Mahoney may have been given by his parents or by James himself. James was born August 18, 1885 in Pawcatuck to John M. Mahoney, an immigrant from the banks of the Shannon River in County Limerick, and Annie Horsfall, whose family was from Bradford, Yorkshire, England. James was baptized in St. Michael's on August 23. His godparents were John Sullivan and Mary Mahoney.

The Mahoneys lived for a number of generations in the house at 79 Liberty Street, on the corner of Downer Street. John Mahoney ran a grocery and a saloon there. John and Annie had at least ten children: James H; Cornelius; Edward T. who married Thelma Steele and Mae Babcock; Alice who married Kirk Redmond; Margaret who married William Fallon; Florence who married William Gow; Annie who married Eugene O'Neill; Loretta who married George Chapman; Veronica who married Frank Ward; and Madeline who married John Spencer.

There's an interesting anecdote about Edward, a brother of James Mahoney. In 1897 their father was running the shooting gallery at the annual St. Michael's summer picnic. Edward, kidding around, put his hand over the gun muzzle as it was being fired and was badly injured.

John Mahoney, the father of James, was a decorated hero during the Spanish-American War. A Sailmaker in the US Navy aboard the *USS Newark*, he served during the Battle of Manila under Admiral Dewey and the Battle of Manzanillo in Cuba. For his bravery in action, he was awarded a medal of heroism by the United States Congress.

James H. Mahoney worked as a chauffeur for a private family. There's some indication he died before 1914, but that's not known for sure.

Descendants

Descendants of this Mahoney family include the **Mahoney, Horsfall, Chapman, Fallon, Gow, Heath, O'Neill, Redmond, Spencer, Ward** and **Whitney** families. The family included grocers, saloonkeepers, teachers (Alice Redmond taught in St. Michael School), furniture salesmen, awning makers, the founders of St. Michael's Boy and Girl Scouts, and a war hero.