

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: Omega

Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. The symbol is a reference to a passage in the Book of Revelation: "I am the Alpha and Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty." Rev. 1:8

Given in Memory of: Patrick Healy

Patrick Healy was born about 1834 in County Kerry, Ireland, son of Cornelius and Nancy Healy. He emigrated from Ireland about 1858 and settled in Pawcatuck. Like so many of his countrymen, he lived in the Downerville area of Pawcatuck when he first arrived.

On August 28, 1859 he married Ann "Nancy" Sullivan in St. Michael parish, before the church had been built. Nancy was also born in County Kerry about 1836, daughter of Michael and Annie Sullivan. Immediately after arrival in the area, Patrick Healy went to work as a stonecutter in the granite quarries. Since he seemed to have some stonecutting experience, it's quite possible he came from the parish of Valentia in Kerry where many of our local Irish stonecutters got their early training in the slate quarries.

Patrick and Nancy Healy had at least nine children: John, who died in childhood; Jeremiah C.; Mary who married John Fanning; Ann who married Patrick Morrison; Catherine "Kate"; Julia who married William F. McGrath; Helen E. "Nellie"; Dr. Michael; and Delia Healy.

The first two children, John and Jeremiah, were born in Pawcatuck. Then the Healys went to Boston for a few years and a number of the children were born there. By 1870 they were back here, living on Morgan Street. Later they lived at 11 Walnut Street. Sadly they lost a number of their children. John, Jeremiah C., and Dr. Michael Healy all died young. Michael Healy was a dentist. Delia Healy, the youngest child of Patrick and Nancy, was a professional singer, performing in local entertainment venues and for weddings and funerals in St. Michael and St. Mary churches.

On November 5, 1890 Patrick Healy died of tuberculosis and bronchitis at his daughter's home at 5 Grove Street in Westerly. His wife Nancy lived to the age of 80 years, dying on March 18, 1925. Patrick and Nancy Healy are buried in St. Michael Old Cemetery with their sons, Jeremiah C. and Michael Healy.

Descendants

Descendants of the Healy family include members of the **Healy, Sullivan, Connors, Doyle, Fanning, Houlihan, McGrath, Morrison, Murphy** and **Ryan** families. The family included stonecutters and blacksmiths in the local quarries, a dentist, a priest, a professional singer and railroad workers. A nephew, Mike Healy, was a popular mailman for the Stillman Avenue area of Pawcatuck for many years.

