

# 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: Anchor

A symbol of the hope which Christians have in Jesus Christ, the anchor became a key Christian symbol during the first century. In ancient times as today, the anchor symbolizes safety. "We who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul." Hebrews 6:18-19

## Given in Memory of: Patrick Hartney

Patrick Hartney was among the early Irish immigrants to the Pawcatuck area, arriving here before St. Michael Church had been built. He was a native of Ireland, born about 1833, son of Michael Hartney and his wife. He was from County Limerick, possibly in the parish of Kilferges or the parish of Shanagolden, although this is not confirmed.

Sometime in the early 1850s, Patrick Hartney married Elizabeth Seward in Limerick. Elizabeth was born about 1829 in Limerick, the daughter of Robert and Johanna Seward. The Hartneys had at least one child while they were still in Ireland, but emigrated shortly after her birth. Patrick and Elizabeth Hartney had at least three children: Annie, born about 1852 in Ireland who married Mr. Gowan; Michael Hartney; and Patrick Hartney.

Like so many of the Irish who traveled across the ocean to America, Patrick Hartney most likely immigrated to New York. Although it's not proven yet, he may have been the Patrick Hartney who arrived in the Port of New York on June 1, 1854 aboard the *Southampton* out of Liverpool and Cobh. By the 1860s he was settled in Pawcatuck, where he was working as a stone polisher in both the granite and the marble quarries.

On February 13, 1861 Patrick Hartney became a naturalized U.S. citizen in the Superior Court of Norwich, Connecticut. The Hartneys settled in Downerville with the growing Irish population of Pawcatuck, living at various times on Cross (Robinson) Street and on Downer Street.

Patrick Hartney succumbed to tuberculosis on June 8, 1887. Three years later Elizabeth (Seward) Hartney died of pneumonia on May 2, 1890. She was living on Thompson Street at the time. They're both buried in St. Michael Old Cemetery.

## Descendants

Descendants of the Hartney family include members of the **Hartney, Seward** and **Gowan (McGowan)** families. It appears that the only one of Patrick and Elizabeth Hartney's children to survive childhood was Annie, who married a Mr. Gowan or McGowan and had two daughters. By 1880 Annie was a young widow and she and her daughters, Elizabeth and Annie Gowan, were living with the Hartneys. It's unlikely there are many descendants of the Hartney family in St. Michael parish.