# 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: Lyre

**The lyre is a harp-like musical instrument often referred to in Sacred Scripture. King David, who is in tradition credited with writing the Psalms, is also known as a skilled player of the lyre. The symbol calls to mind the service of King David and also the Book of Psalms, which forms the foundation of the Church prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours.**

## Given by: Thomas Crowley

Thomas Crowley was a fairly prominent man in the Irish community of Downerville and Pawcatuck. He was born in 1833 in the parish of Kilcockan, County Waterford, Ireland, son of Thomas and Mary (Crowley) Crowley. On November 19, 1833 he was baptized in Knockanore Roman Catholic parish in County Waterford. His Godparents were Patrick Lynch and Mary Crowley.

In the 1850s Tom Crowley immigrated to Pawcatuck. On May 31, 1857 he married Margaret McGrath of Limerick, Ireland, in St. Michael parish (before the church was built), and they raised their family at 24 Downer Street.

Thomas and Margaret Crowley had at least five children: Daniel Francis; Thomas James who died in childhood; Mary Ann "Minnie" who married James Ryan; Margaret who died in childhood; and Thomas James Crowley.

When the Civil War broke out, Tom Crowley was among the Downerville Irishmen who enlisted. He joined Company H 26th Connecticut Infantry and on June 14, 1863 he was wounded in the Siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana. When he returned from the war, he opened a grocery and saloon at 1 Mechanic Street, a location that later was run by the Cella brothers as "City Hall Cafe."

Tom was a gregarious man and his grocery/saloon became a gathering spot for Pawcatuck Irish immigrants. It was the place to go if you wanted to hear the latest news, share some local gossip, or get some help with a problem or issue you faced. Tom Crowley soon became known as "The Mayor of Pawcatuck," or to his closest friends and neighbors, "The Mayor of Downerville."

Thomas Crowley died on April 17, 1902, five years after his wife Margaret who had died May 10, 1897. They're buried in St. Michael Old Cemetery with a number of their children.

***Descendants***

Descendants of this Crowley family include members of the **Crowley, McGrath, Comolli, Donohue, Fitzgerald, Foley, Glavin, Keenan, Lawrence, Morrissey, Murphy, O'Keefe** and **Ryan** families. The family included farmers, stonecutters, grocers, saloonkeepers, and a number of Civil War soldiers who were wounded in battles in Virginia and Louisiana.