

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

"After the close of the Sabbath, with the dawning of the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to look at the tomb. And behold a severe earthquake occurred, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and approaching the stone rolled it from the door, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his raiment white as snow. The sentries shook for fear of him and became like corpses. But the angel said to the women, have no fear! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen just as He said. Come, see the place where he lay."

Matthew 28: 1 - 6

And behold here is the angel! This window continues the sixth of a series of articles on stained glass windows in Orleans County. Our subject this week however, will not be particularly recognized by many. This window is seldom seen by anyone for it is located in the Boxwood Cemetery and Holding Vault at Medina. This landmark is always locked, thus making the window "off limits", obscure and remote. Indeed, it's plenty visible from Route 63 but to see it from the interior sheds a totally different light upon it as we see it here. Viewing it from inside for the first time several months ago I was struck by the sheer beauty of this romanticized angel, particularly the flawless quality of his face. In today's language, we might easily call this one "a pretty boy" with his long blonde hair.

It's not by chance that I selected this subject matter in relationship to Easter. How could I find a more timely subject for this week? And too, it is only natural that a window of this subject matter should be placed in a cemetery. Certainly, in the eyes of our ancestors, nothing could have been more appro-

priate.

The Boxwood Cemetery Chapel was erected in 1903 with this Tiffany style window. The angel is shown seated upon the stone that he has just rolled away from the door of the holy sepulcher. He's pointing heavenward as though speaking to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. His raiment is twotone with a robe done in white as the Bible states. This is symbolic of light, faith, joy, life, religious purity, virginity and innocence. The outer mantle however, is done in gold which is the symbol of the sun and the goodness of God. The wings are of a similar color shaded with browns and grey which is a symbol of humility and mourning. The sky which is done in various tones of blue, bespeaks heavenly love and truth while the halo suggests and aura of glory. The flowers which appear are simply ornamental. To achieve the various shaded effects in the window, two or three layers of glass were leaded over each other. This is especially noticeable in the wings. The face, hair, hands and feet are painted.

At the base is lettered "In Memoriam Silas Mainville Burroughs". Silas M. Burroughs was one of Medina's illustrious citizens in the 19th century. He was a Colonel in the State Militia and later became a very able attorney. He was one of the original incorporators of the Medina Academy in 1850 and donated the lot at the head of Pearl Street for the academy which opened in 1851. This, at present, is occupied by the Medina High School.

Silas Burroughs served as a trustee on the village board in Medina and was later elected our assemblyman, serving four years. He was also twice elected to Congress and served from 1857 to 1860 when he died. It was Mr. Burroughs who was particularly responsible for acquiring the land for Boxwood Cemetery back in 1848. He, along with George Northrup and Caleb Hill, paid \$600.00 for the initial site which opened as a cemetery in 1850. It is easy to understand how a window in his memory years later, was placed in the Cemetery Chapel. Indeed, a fitting memorial to such a distinguished personage.



Silas Mainville Burroughs