

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## LUMINARIES IN THE FIRMAMENT



*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given me. Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you. And, remember, I am with you all the days until the end of the age."*

*Matt. 28:18-20*

This beautiful rose window now mounted in Disciples United Methodist Church in the Town of Clarendon might well be entitled, "Go therefore, and teach all Nations." It was originally installed in the rear of the sanctuary of the former First Methodist Church in Holley. The theme and message of this subject was to symbolically serve as a benediction for when people left church services they turned around, filed out gazing up to this picture. Jesus portrayed with one arm raised seemingly pronounces in His own words the concluding thought from the Book of Matthew.

The window created by the Pile Stained Glass Studio of Rochester, was originally installed at the Holley Church in November 1939 and dedicated December 3, 1939 in Memory of Henry Clay Milliman given by his son Charles. In 1969 the combined congregations of Holley and Clarendon Methodist Churches moved into their new church some known as Disciples United Methodist Church. Finally in the mid-1880's several artifacts and other memorials were retrieved from the former Holley church edifice and put to use again. The window was then rededicated in June 1986 and remains now as a focal point illuminated with artificial light. Contrary to its original installation, we now view this work of art from outside in rather than from inside out as it would have been seen in the Holley Church, i.e. the image is reversed in its orientation.

The Rev. Henry Clay Milliman (1852-1939) nev-

er served the Holley Church but was a Methodist minister in the New York Western Conference. He was born in Rochester and grew up on a farm near Holley. He studied at the University of Rochester and Boston School of Theology and entered the Genesee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1880. In June 1881 he married Florence Desire Farwell of Holley. During the next forty years they served nine Methodist Churches including: Kendall, Middleport, Oakfield, Central Park in Buffalo, Rush, Avon, Limestone, Castile and Addison. In 1920 they retired to their Holley residence with Rev. Milliman serving as a supply minister for the Hulberton Methodist Church. He was predeceased by his wife in July 1938 and he died Oct. 3, 1939. Their only son Charles Milliman obviously wasted no time in procuring this memorial window. It is interesting that when the window was dedicated in Dec. 1939, another window given by Rev. Milliman in memory of his wife, which had been installed early in 1939, was also dedicated.

Luminaries In The Firmament (Gen. 1:5) will be the title of a book on stained glass windows in Orleans County Churches to be published by the Cobblestone Society this coming Fall. Locally, when it comes to fine art, our most important examples exist in the form of stained glass. Many windows depict actual stories or parables as related through the Holy scriptures, while other windows illustrate allegorically, certain theological concepts. The voluminosity of these windows is unequalled in any other art form locally, save perhaps, architecture. Luminaries In The Firmament with a subtitle A Guide To Stained Glass Windows of Orleans County will describe the tremendous symbolism and significant art history of around forty stained glass windows and figural images from twenty churches. Local photographer, Dr. James Orr, is currently working on both black and white and full color photographs for the publication.