

STORIES FROM THE RICH PAST OF OUR PARISH

The Chancel Stars

There has been much discussion with regard to the date upon which the gold stars were placed in the chancel ceiling. It was generally accepted that they were installed early in the 20th, century. This appears not to be so. In the "Church Chronicle" dated, May 30,1872 in the description of the Consecration of the new chancel and enlarged nave, by Bishop Binney, the stars are mentioned.

The description of the alterations, reported in the "Chronicle" has been pasted in the minute book of that period. The Chancel is described as follows: "There is no plaster at all to be found in the Chancel, the walls and roof being boarded. The walls are painted a French Gray. The panels on each side of the centre window have, the one a ribbon twined round a corn stalk, bearing a full ear of corn, with the words,"I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE",the other a ribbon on a vine stalk, with the words" I AM THE TRUE VINE". "The ceiling is blue studded with stars of gold"

This, I believe settles the matter. The consecration took place on May 19, 1872. In this space in the next few weeks I plan to give more detail on the changes made between 1870 and 1872. There were many problems but the Rector, Henry Owen and his Wardens showed great wisdom and diligence.

by George Munroe, St. John's Heritage Chairperson

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