

**The History of a Tiffany Window  
from  
The American Revolution  
to  
St Paul's Church in Troy NY**



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St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Troy, New York, is known both for its music and for its Tiffany stained glass windows. This is the story of one of St Paul's most beautiful Tiffany windows.



*St Paul's Church, Troy NY*

Dr. Samuel Gale, Sr (1743-1799) was a physician, born in Goshen NY. When commencing his medical practice under the guidance of his uncle, Dr Benjamin Gale in Killington, Connecticut, he was appointed a captain in the Continental Army of the American Revolutionary War and his name is on the "Lexington Alarm List" which means that he was one of the many early Revolutionary War militia members who carried the message "the war has begun" between the American patriots and the British Army. He married his cousin, Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. Benjamin Gale.

Dr. Samuel Gale Sr saw active service in New England and in New York and so liked the area of what is now Troy, New York, that he decided to move his family to live in Lansingburgh, New York. However, when Dr. Gale attempted to bring his family and their household belongings by sailboat up the river, he was delayed by bad winds and the house he had attempted to acquire was sold to someone else. So, Dr. Gale and his family stayed with Jacob Vanderheyden in what later became the city of Troy until they could have a house built, and where he lived until his death in 1799.

Dr. Samuel Gale was the first, and for a while, the only physician in Troy and he was well liked.

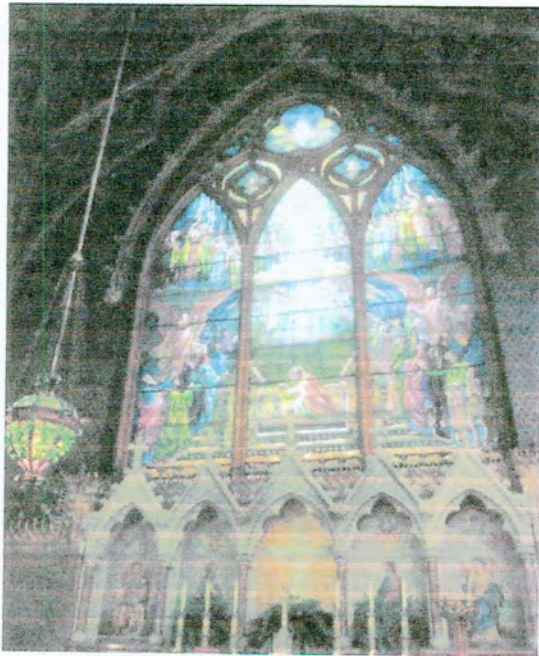
Dr. Gale's son, Dr. Samuel Gale Jr. (1772-1839), also became a physician and seeing the need of a growing population in Troy, in 1797 started an Apothecary. Dr. Samuel Gale, Jr. married Mary Thompson (1788-1853) from Dutchess County. She had a younger brother, John Leland Thompson (1797-1880) who came to work for his brother-in-law and he eventually took over the drug company which became known as the John L. Thompson Drug Company. Dr. Samuel Gale Jr and his wife had a large family, but only two sons, John and Ezra Thompson Gale survived to adulthood and neither entered the family business.

John L. Thompson (1797-1880) married Mary Perkins (1809-1892) and together they raised a large family. One of their sons was John Isaac Thompson (1831-1901) became a member of the family drug firm. John I. Thompson married Mary Mabbett Warren (1838-1915). Mary was the daughter of Joseph Mabbett (1813-1896) and Elizabeth Adelaide (Phelps) Warren (1815-1891); and she was the great-granddaughter of Eliakim (1747-1824) and Phebe (Bouton) Warren (1755-1835).

The Warren family, starting with Eliakim and Phebe, came initially from Norwalk Connecticut, settled in Troy in the 1790's. Eliakim had married his neighbor, Phebe Bouton, daughter of Esaias Bouton, January 17, 1771. Before his marriage he had belonged to the Congregational church, but his wife, Phebe Bouton, was an ardent Episcopalian and persuaded him to join that church. Phebe and Eliakim Warren were concerned that there was no Episcopal church in Troy and so they were instrumental in having St. Paul's Episcopal parish established in 1804. The first St. Paul's Church was built at the corner of Third and Congress Streets, and was completed in 1805. Too small for the growing congregation, the current St Paul's Church was completed in 1828, a block away, at the corner of Third and State Streets.

In 1901, John I. Thompson was a senior warden at St Paul's. He and his wife Mary traveled by train to San Francisco to attend a large Episcopal meeting. While there, he contracted pneumonia and died. His wife brought him back for his funeral and for burial in Troy's Oakwood Cemetery. In spite of the circumstance, it was remembered by Alfred Warren Gale that his grandmother brought presents back from this trip for all her grandchildren.

St Paul's Episcopal Church in Troy has beautiful Tiffany windows and many people have given generously towards them. The window over the altar, "Vision of St Paul", was commissioned by John Isaac Thompson's widow and her adult children, Hobart Warren Thompson and Mary Warren Thompson (Mrs Edward C) Gale in memory of John I. Thompson.



Thus, from the war of the American Revolution that brought Samuel Gale, Sr. to Troy, through many lives and the decisions made by them, a beautiful Tiffany window was placed over the altar in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Troy, NY.

#### Notes

1. [http://www.rchsonline.org/ind-biz\\_19.htm](http://www.rchsonline.org/ind-biz_19.htm)
2. *Hudson-Mohawk Genealogical and Family Memoirs*, edited by Cuyler Reynolds (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1911)
3. <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com/Details.aspx?sid=56e4381c-5c55-4501-acc7-af45592df0aa>
4. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nytigs/ChurchMemorials-StPaulsEpiscopal.htm>
5. *Troy and Rensselaer County New York, A History*, edited by Rutherford Hayner, 1925
6. <http://www.stpaulstroy.org/>