

# STAINED GLASS WINDOW DEDICATIONS



## By Pete Peterson

The stained glass windows in our church are dedicated to a number of members...usually well known members...of our early congregation. These are brief biographies and/or obituaries of those people whose names are printed on the windows. The locations are also listed, with you facing the front of the church and starting with the first window on the left as #1.

Left #1- (front) Mrs. David Sheean  
#2- (middle) Benjamin Franklin Felt and Ann Elizabeth Platt Felt  
#3- (back) Dr. Horatio Newhall

Right #1- (front) Rev. David Clark  
#2- (middle) Augustus & Julia Estey  
#3- (back) Rev. & Mrs. Aratus Kent

Back Left- (facing window) Junior Christian Endeavor Society 1906

Back Center- (above elevator) In Memoriam James Spare

Back Right- (facing windows) Frederic Chetlain 1822-1891

Lobby

(Exiting door on left)- Mrs. Elizabeth Godat

(Exiting door on right)- Mrs. Emma Sheerer

Left Window #1:

**Mrs. David Sheean**  
**May 25, 1850-April 5, 1895**



was still a baby. She grew up here and was educated in the Galena High School. Her marriage to David Sheean took place at her parent's home on September 21st, 1876. They had no children.

She had been stricken with a series of illnesses for four years prior to her death, including one of a serious nature caused by a runaway accident while on an evening horse & wagon drive with her husband and aunt, Mrs. Jane Spare, who was her constant companion and friend. Mrs. Sheean's death was caused by stomach cancer.

The *Gazette* reported: "The death of Mrs. Sheean robs Galena of one of the most gifted and most generally-loved women in the social life of the city. She will be mourned alike by those who enjoyed her friendship and association and by the poor, of whom she was always an interested friend. Up to the time of her unfortunate accident, she was active in all social and charitable affairs. She was a skilful organizer and an indefatigable worker, and when she did not take the leading part in such affairs, her aid and counsel were invariably sought. She was a lover and patron of the arts. Her superior attainments won for her universal admiration, while her beauty and grace of character commanded the love of all.

"The profound sympathy of the community goes out to Mr. Sheean in his great bereavement. Only a year ago they gave up their apartments in the De Soto where they had resided since their marriage, and took up their abode in the J.M. Spratt mansion on Bench Street, which was purchased by Mr. Sheean. Mrs. Sheean was an attendant of the First Presbyterian Church and was baptized by Rev. David Clark a few days before her death."

The *Galena Weekly Gazette* carried her full page-one column obituary with a headline reading: "The Demise of One of Galena's Most Esteemed Ladies."

Mrs. Sheean, the only daughter of John C. Spare, was born in Utopia, Ohio. Her parents had previously lived in Galena and returned while she

Left Window #2:

**Benjamin Franklin Felt  
Ann Elizabeth Platt Felt**



**Benjamin Franklin Felt**

A front page, two-column article in the *Galena Weekly Gazette* dated Thursday morning, August 8, 1899 features a headline reading, “Benjamin Felt is Dead.”

“Death Claims Galena’s Old and Honored Citizen after an Illness of Long Duration. In Mr.

*Felt’s Departure from Earth Galena Loses a True Friend Who Will Not Soon Be Forgotten.*” Other area newspapers also carried the story.

Benjamin Felt was born in Plattsburg, New York on January 3, 1821 and attended local schools until his father was paralyzed and his mother died. He then worked the family farm until he was 21 when he left for Galena to work for his brother Lucius, as clerk in his grocery store. During his four years in this position, according to the *Gazette*, he earned one thousand, fifty dollars and was able to save seven hundred dollars. With this money he was able to go into the grocery business for himself and continue this work for the next 45 years; 35 of which he remained in the same store at 114 S. Main Street. In fact, it was the same building that was used by Ulysses Grant as a tannery before the Civil War.

On September 11, 1854, Benjamin Felt married Ann Elizabeth Platt of Plattsburg, New York. His wife and three children survived his passing: Zeph Charles, Anna Elizabeth and Benjamin Jr. Their home, at 125 S. Prospect Street, was purchased in 1871 from Judge Richard Seal. Felt made some changes to the front of the house and had a set of cut stone stairs leading from the street to the walkway up to his new porch. The stairs were known as Felt’s Folly. The house is still standing and has become a popular bed and breakfast residence known as Felt’s Manor.

Felt was also a stockholder in the National Merchandise Bank from its inception and succeeded his brother on the board of directors. In fact he was held in such high regard that the bank had printed a Resolution of Respect honoring him in the *Gazette* and closed early so that the staff could attend his funeral.

“During all the years of his residence in Galena, Mr. Felt has been foremost in advancing the city’s prosperity. In 1891 he formed the idea of founding a free public library for the benefit of his fellow citizens — a project in which he was strongly encouraged by his daughter Anna. He at first tried to interest other citizens, offering to be one of ten who should contribute the necessary funds; there was no one his equal in liberality and generosity, and he was

compelled to abandoned that mode of procedure. Mr. Felt however, had decided that Galena should have a public library and he did just what might have been expected of a large-hearted, generous man — paid the entire expense himself. With the modesty that characterized all of his acts of benevolence — and they were almost numberless — he made it a condition that the name of the library should be the Galena Public Library and Reading Room.”

His daughter Anna was 35 and a member of the library board when her father founded the Galena Public Library and remained associated until she died at age 93.

### **Ann Elizabeth Platt Felt**

Mrs. Ann Felt was born Ann Elizabeth Platt March 12, 1830 at Plattsburg, New York. She married B. F. Felt, also a native of Plattsburg, in September 11, 1854 and soon after, the couple moved to Galena. She became a member of the First Presbyterian Church and an active participant in church activities for the rest of her life. She was also involved, with her husband and daughter, in the planning of the Galena Public Library.

She and her husband were interested in traveling and visited every state in the union plus Alaska and Hawaii.

She died at the age of 79 on April 4, 1909. Countless friends and two sons — Zeph Charles Felt of Denver, CO and B. F. Felt of Spencer, IA — plus a daughter — Miss Anna B. Felt of Galena — mourned her passing.

*Left Window #3:*

### **Dr. Horatio Newhall**



“Dr Horatio Newhall was one of Galena’s earliest physicians and drug store owners. Coming to Galena in 1823, he was called a puritan, editor, scholar and eminent doctor and a man of marked ability and stern integrity,” says *Images of Galena*, a current book about Galena’s old homes.

He was also involved in many early community activities, including the library board, Temper-

ance Society, Chamber of Commerce and the *Galena Advertiser*.

Horatio was born in 1798 in Lynn, Massachusetts, a seventh generation descendant of Thomas Newhall, who came from England in 1630 with John Winthrop, who became the first governor of the state. Young Newhall was admitted to Harvard University at age 15 and graduated with honors in 1817. He then studied medicine for the next three years and received his doctorate in medicine in 1821.

During his early practice in Massachusetts, he became friends with a couple of physicians who had made a trip to the new state of Illinois and convinced him that was the place which needed doctors. At that time, the route was across the Allegheny Mountains and down the Ohio River to the Mississippi River, then up that river to the little village of St. Louis. He made the trip in nine months, which was excellent time, and set up his practice at his destination in Greenville, Bond County, Illinois. He became deeply involved in the political struggle of slave state vs. free state.

Newhall devoted most of his time on the side of freedom and, after one of the greatest struggles in the state, Illinois narrowly became a Free state. He then became involved in a number of causes that were designed to benefit the people... a practice he was to follow all of his life. He helped to form a Bible Society, then a Sabbath School and shortly after was appointed a Commissioner to negotiate a loan to finish construction of the courthouse.

About that time, in early 1827, the big news was the discovery of lead at the mines in the Indian country, up around Galena, so on March 5<sup>th</sup> of that year, Dr. Newhall boarded a steamboat in St. Louis for that area. Unfortunately, the steamboat couldn't clear the rapids up-river to the north, and was forced to return to St. Louis, dropping Newhall and other passengers off at the uninhabited southern part of Iowa on the Mississippi, where Keokuk now stands. He was then able to board a keelboat that was carrying provisions to an army fort on Rock Island. From there it was a horse-and-wagon journey through the wilderness to Galena, arriving on March 31, 1827.

At first he joined everyone else in the pursuit of mining and smelting but soon found these activities were not his bag and in 1828 opened up his doctor's office in his new home on Bench Street. Two years later he married Elizabeth Bates, daughter of Moses Bates, originally from Richmond, Virginia. His marriage of 20 years, resulted in a family of six children, three sons and three daughters.

He became a surgeon in the U.S. Army in 1830 and was stationed at Fort Winnebago in what is now Wisconsin, but was then considered Indian country. Two years later he left the army and returned home to Galena and his medical practice. But not for long. The Black Hawk Indian War broke out so he volunteered his service back in the army and General Scott, who had his headquarters in Galena, ordered him to establish a hospital here and put him in charge. When the war ended, cholera, a new disease at that time, moved into the area and took a heavy toll of lives. Characteristically, Newhall began a successful study of the disease and saved a great many lives. Some years later, in 1850, there was another cholera outbreak and General Scott, who had moved his headquarters to Rock Island, requested that Newhall come there and treat his army patients as he had in Galena. This he did and developed a national reputation before returning home to Galena.

In 1835 Horatio Newhall became a member of the First Presbyterian Church, was elected an elder and remained active in the church throughout his career. During the succeeding years, even though he still practiced medicine, he was involved in a number of other activities, including becoming a trustee of Beloit College in Wisconsin. In 1856, having been a widower for a number of years, he married again, this time to Jane Bouton and became the father of two additional sons and a daughter.

In 1861, Dr. Newhall was appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury, Physician to the U.S. Marine Hospital at Galena. He held that position for five years until the hospital was closed, along with a number of others in the west. Among his many other activities he was editor of the *Miners Journal* for a time and also edited the *Galena Advertiser*.

During the last eleven years of his life, he suffered from a painful illness, passed along to him by a charity patient he had been treating. He died at the age of 72, on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1870. At the time of his death he was the oldest practicing physician in the state.

In a "Sketch of Dr. Horatio Newhall," published October 22, 1870, in the *Galena Gazette*, the tribute included the following: "Throughout a long life of unremitting activity, he had done much in originating and sustaining educational and religious institutions, he had times without number, gratuitously administered to the sick and generously helped the poor in their extremity; but he knew that these deeds, good in themselves were not of sufficient value to cancel sin and purchase heaven. It was in and through the merits of the blood of Jesus — the infinite atonement that he hoped for eternal salvation. This hope in his heart was both sure and steadfast. He had a childlike faith in Christ.

"One of the highest tributes that can be paid to Dr. Newhall is the fact that he was willing to go whenever called upon — to the poor as well as to the rich. It made no difference to him whether he was to obtain a fee or not. If he thought he could relieve any suffering he was ready to do it. But such labor is not without its reward. for the Master has said — 'In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least, ye have done it unto me.'"

Right Window #1:

### Rev. David Clark



*The Daily Galena Gazette*, Jan 23, 1906 reported: "Former Galena Pastor Dies in St. Louis."

"Miss Anna Felt received a telegram this morning from her friend. Mrs. Rhoda Clark Hopkins of St. Louis, Mo., conveying the sad news of the death of her father, the Rev. David Clark.

"Rev. David Clark was for several years pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in this city and

was well known to the people in general. He made many friends both in and out of his church in Galena who will be sorry to hear of his demise. Mr. Clark was a veteran of the Civil War. He had been in the best of health and occupied the pulpit of his church last Sunday. Death was caused by heart disease.”

An article in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* the next day, reported that Rev. Clark dropped dead in the office of the Pacific Express. His death was thought to have been caused by apoplexy. He had left his house to attend a meeting of the Presbyterian ministers which was held each Monday morning. He was apparently in good health. After the meeting, he went to the express office to secure a package for his son-in-law, E. B. Hopkins. He was in the act of signing for the package when he suddenly reeled and fell to the floor. He died immediately and the body was sent to the morgue.

The previous Sunday evening, Dr. Clark had preached at the Grace Presbyterian Church in St. Louis but, because of his age, didn't have a regular church.

He was born on July 8, 1839 in Paqua, Ohio and received his early education there. He had been attending a college in Washington, PA, for two years when the Civil War broke out. He joined the 15<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania cavalry and, on the day that Lincoln was assassinated, he was taken prisoner, but released shortly after because the war had already ended. When the war was over, Clark resumed his studies at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio and, after graduation, attended McCormick Theological School. He served as pastor in Galena from 1887 to 1899. He was our congregation's 10<sup>th</sup> pastor.

*Right Window #2:*

**Augustus Estey  
Julia Monier Estey**



**Augustus Estey**

**March 29, 1811-October 30, 1882**

He was born in Mt. Vernon, New Hampshire, and came to Galena when he was 25 years old to search for lead. For the next 25 years, he was involved in mining and later owning and operating a smelter furnace in Shullsburg, WI. In 1865, Captain

Estey, as he was called in Galena, was prominent with the organization and founding of the Merchants National Bank of Galena and then became its president; a position he held until he died.

He was married in 1820 to Julia Monier who survived him, together with three daughters and two sons: Mrs. W.A. Montgomery of Chicago, the Misses Mamie and Fannie G. Estey, Eugene Estey, of Galena, and Augustus Estey, Jr. of Boulder, Colorado. The family home at 301 S. High Street still stands.

His obituary coverage in the *Daily Galena Gazette* states: "Mr. Estey enjoyed to an uncommon degree the confidence and esteem of the people of this community. His character was that of a truly upright man, full of generous purposes and kindly feelings; and while his sympathy rarely expressed itself in words, his hand was ever ready to assist with timely aid. To the poor and unfortunate, the loss is indeed great, for his benefactions were unceasing, performed quietly, and as far as possible, secretly. It may be truly said of him that he moved about, a good angel scattering blessings by the wayside. His manners were simple and unostentatious, his language truthful and direct; he was a man rather of deeds than words. His familiar form will long be remembered and his tones recalled by both young and old, for with the former he was ever accessible and pleasant. Seldom has a community been called upon to sustain such a loss. All lips praise him and all lament.

"Mr. Estey united with the First Presbyterian Church in March, 1837. His daily life has testified how completely he was imbued with a religious spirit; unaffected piety with all its choice influences has pervaded his life, and carried the conviction that religion was a living reality. Among his brethren in the church relationship he was eminently loved and honored. His loss severely felt by them. His presence and his aid were constantly and freely bestowed. The universal sentiment in this community is that a strong tower had fallen. Yet while mourning and sadness spread their pall over our people, the assurance remains that he has gone to the reward in waiting for the just."

### **Julia Monier Estey**

Mrs. Julia Estey died suddenly on Saturday, July 4, 1885, at the family residence on South High Street. She was 68 years old. Her death was unexpected since all of her grown children, with the exception of her son Augustus who lived in Boulder, Colorado, had gathered at her home to spend a happy Fourth of July together.

The July 10, 1885, *Weekly Galena Gazette* reported: "The deceased was one of the oldest and most respected residents of the city and of the Lead Mines, and was a most estimable Christian lady whose life abounded in quiet unostentatious charity and good deeds, and announcement of whose death will bring sadness to many hearts."

Her funeral service was held at the family home the following Wednesday. It was conducted by Rev. L. J. Adams and assisted by A. C. Smith. Her final resting place is in Greenwood Cemetery.

Right Window #3:

### Rev. & Mrs. Aratus Kent



### Rev. Aratus Kent

*A sketch of the life of Rev. Aratus Kent written by Dr. Horatio Newhall and printed in the Galena Gazette on November 23, 1869.*

Rev. Aratus Kent, son of John Kent, a merchant of Suffield, Connecticut, was born on the 15th of January, 1794, and belonged to the same branch of the family from which Chancellor Kent, of New

York, came. He was fitted for college at Westfield Academy, Massachusetts, and at the age of nineteen entered the Sophomore class at Yale College. He united with the church under President Dwight, August 15, 1815, and was graduated in 1816.

He spent the next four years in theological studies in the City of New York. He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of New York on the 20th day of April, 1820. From November 21, 1822, until April 11, 1823, he was a regular student of the Theological Seminary at Princeton. He was ordained January 26, 1825, at Lockport, New York.

After being licensed; he spent one year, 1821, as a missionary in what was then the wilds of Ohio, one Massachusetts and Connecticut, three in Lockport, New York, and one in Connecticut with his aged father.

In 1828 Capt. John Shackford, of St. Louis, spent several months in the Village of Galena. Through his representations of the situation of the people, without churches, without a clergyman of any denomination, the American Home Missionary Society determined to send out a missionary to occupy the field. Just at this time Mr. Kent applied to the society "for a place so hard that no one else would take it," and he was sent by way of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to this place, the metropolis of the lead mines.

The following document has come into my possession:

"We, the subscribers, feeling desirous for the improvement, welfare and morals of society of Galena, and believing the best step to the accomplishment of this important object is to have among us a clergyman of talents, education, and piety to promote an object so desirable, we agree to pay the several sums set against our respective names, to a committee to be appointed to receive and collect the same, and to pay it over to any clergyman who shall come and discharge the duties of his sacred order, for the space of one year, or to pay in proportion for a shorter period."

This was signed by forty-four of the leading citizens, guaranteeing the sum of five hundred and thirty dollars. This subscription paper accompanied

the application to the Home Missionary Society. As Mr. K. applied for a hard place, it might be inferred that Galena was remarkable for its wickedness. The above document speaks well for her citizens. Although they were non-professors of religion, and without religious privileges, many of them had pious parents, were liberally educated. The writer, who was personally acquainted with the forty-four gentlemen above referred to, thinks it would puzzle any one to find in the present population an equal number of more enterprising, intelligent, high-minded men.

The appointment of Mr. Kent was dated March 21, 1829; he arrived at Galena in April of the same year. Above St. Louis there was not another Protestant minister on the river; none in Northern Illinois. Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota were occupied by Indians. Mr. Kent at that time was thirty-five years of age, a strong, healthy man, except a weakness of the eyes. He immediately made himself known as a missionary. But where should he hold forth? Where preach to the multitude who came into the village on the Sabbath to do business? Mr. Kent was not a man to be discouraged. He knew the power of Him on whom he leaned. Although there was no church, no public hall of any description, yet "where there is a will there is a way." Mr. William Watson was building a frame house on Bench Street, two lots south of the present Young Ladies' school-house. The house was enclosed, but no floor laid. A few enterprising young men laid some boards upon the sleepers at one end of the building, on which was placed a borrowed pine table, and after considerable search, a Bible and Watt's hymn-book were found. Notice was given in the *Miners' Journal* of the 9th of May that Mr. Kent would preach the next day, Sunday, 10th. The congregation was composed wholly of young people, there were no old ones here, occupying the sleepers for seats, very conveniently resting their feet upon the ground, there being no cellar under the house. The whole congregation sung the good old tunes of St. Martin's, Mear and Old Hundred. Here was preached Mr. Kent's first sermon.

In November he purchased with his own money the house and lot next south of the present

First Presbyterian Church. It contained two rooms, separated by a pine partition. The smallest was occupied as a study and bed-room, and the largest being supplied with long wooden benches, was used for a church and Sabbath School. Mr. Kent was unceasing in his labor in Galena and the vicinity, and in the Spring of 1830 had a Sabbath School\* with ten teachers and from sixty to ninety scholars. He also commenced a day school, education being with him a matter next of importance to religion. He taught the school through the week and preached on Sundays, until October, when he was laid by with remittent fever, and the day school was turned over to Samuel Smith, a brother of Capt. Orrin Smith.

Having performed a very large amount of labor in preaching and teaching, at the end of two and a half years, October 28, 1831, he organized the First Presbyterian Church of Galena, consisting of six members: Abraham Hathaway, Abraham Miller, Eliza Barnes, Ann Crow, Susan Gratiot, and Isabella McKibben; two only, and those females, resided in the village, the others lived at various distances, from five to forty miles.

In 1832 was the Indian war, known as the Black Hawk War. The village was crowded with people from the country; Block houses and stockades were built for defense, and the place was under martial law. The church was occupied by soldiers, and Mr. Kent took this opportunity to visit the East, and on the 4th of September, 1832, was married to Miss Caroline Corning, a daughter of Daniel Corning, who was the son of Ezra C., of Hartford, Connecticut. He returned to Galena in November with his wife, and other assistance, and soon after recommenced his labors, with uncommon zeal, being very much aided by the efficient help he brought with him.

In January, 1833, he had collected a church of twenty members, and held a communion for the second time in Galena. The room in which services were held had become too small to accommodate all who wished to attend, and in February the partition was removed, and the whole house thrown into a single room.

Mr. Kent continued to labor as a missionary and stated supply of the First Presbyterian Church from 1829 until the 6th of April, 1841, when he received a call to become pastor of the church, with the promise of a salary of six hundred dollars per annum. The call was accepted, and he was installed April 28. His labors as a pastor were constant. All knew him to be a man of God. In zeal and self-sacrifice he was rarely, if ever, surpassed.

Did space permit we should gladly give the entire account of this great man's Herculean labors. He was active in the organization of three colleges and two seminaries, now all in a prosperous condition. He labored without cessation until his death, on November 8, 1869. To him this great country owes a debt of gratitude. No man has lived in the Northwest who has so left the impress of his life, and influenced so many minds. May not the humble minister who has spent his energies in gathering disciples on the frontier, and training them and their children for usefulness on earth and glory in Heaven, be regarded as having accomplished 'as much for his country's weal as the Senator whose thrilling speeches have electrified the Nation?

The present First Presbyterian Church building was erected in 1838. It is a large stone edifice, seating 350 persons. A tower was added in 1854. The location is Bench, between Hill and Franklin Streets.

In September, 1845, a portion of the society colonized, forming the Second Presbyterian Church, with Rev. George F. Magoun, now President of Iowa College, at Grinnell, Iowa, as pastor. This church again consolidated with the old one in November, 1860.

In December, 1848, Mr. Kent closed his pastorate of the church, and was succeeded by Rev. S. G. Spees, who continued until November, 1855.

### **Caroline Corning Kent**

Caroline Corning was born in Hartford, Connecticut on March 31, 1802 to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Corning. She married the Rev. Aratus Kent on September 4, 1832. She moved with him to Galena two months later and spent the rest of her life in this city. She died on Friday, June 28th, 1872 after a brief ill-

ness. [*Please note that this is the correct date of her death even though the tombstone she shared with her husband — the one now located in the church vestibule — places her death ten years earlier, in 1862.*]

Upon her death, the *Galena Evening Gazette* printed the following tribute to her:

"Mrs. Kent was 70 years of age, and had been a resident of this city for 40 years, arriving here in 1833, with her husband, the late Rev. Aratus Kent, the first Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. During this time her Christian character shone forth in constant and abundant labors for the church which she loved.

"Mild and gentle in life, she had endeared herself to a wide circle of friends who mourn her death, but rejoice in the assurance that she is gone to her reward. She was especially interested in Sabbath School instruction, a work for which she was eminently qualified, and where her loss will be deeply felt."

*Back Left Window:*

### **Junior C. E. Society 1906**



believe that the church at large was losing the interest of its young people because the church expected far too little of them. Therefore, members of the Christian Endeavor Society were asked to commit to two full pages of promises, which are summed up the following they were asked to repeat on a daily basis:

“Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would like to have me do; that I will make it the rule of my life to pray and to read the Bible every day, to support the work and worship of my own church in every way possible, to tell others the good news of Jesus Christ, and just so far as I know how, throughout my whole life, I will endeavor to lead a Christian life.”

By the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the group’s founding — which perhaps not coincidentally happened to be 1906, the date specified on our church window — the Christian Endeavor Society included more than 4,000,000 members in 67,000 societies around the globe.

Although our existing church records don’t offer specific information about the numbers of the Junior Christian Endeavor Society in this congregation, we know something about the group’s generosity. The church’s annual reports note that the Junior Christian Education Society donated \$500 for home missions and \$300 for foreign missions in the 1905-06 budget year and \$100 for home missions along with another \$300 for foreign missions in 1906-07.

In modern America, the initials C. E. in the context of a church almost always mean Christian Education. However, that was not the case 100 years ago. In fact, those initials in this window refer to the Junior Christian Endeavor Society, which was an early form of youth group.

The national Christian Endeavor Society was created by Francis Clark in 1881, when he came to

Back Center Window:

## James Spare



This name was shared by a father and son, both of whom died before their time, although little information is available now about either of them.

The father, James Bayard Spare, was an early resident of Galena, and was elected Trustee for this congregation in the second year we had Trustees. That year was 1838, which meant that he helped to supervise the construction of our church building.

Later, the *Gazette* reports that he was in East Boston when he died August 30, 1866. He was 50 years old. The only other information given in his obituary was the fact that he was the brother of Mr. John C. Spare of Galena.

His son, James B. Spare, died May 14, 1860 at the age of six.

## Mrs. Jane Mead Spare

Mrs. Jane Meade Spare died at the age of 86, on January 13, 1906, at the home of David Sheean following several days of illness. She was born in Meade, PA. She lived as a widow for a good number of years since her husband James Bayard Spare died on August 30, 1866. In addition she suffered the loss of the son, also James B. who died on May 14, 1860. He was 6 years old.

Jane Spare was survived by two sisters living in Meade and three step-daughters: Mrs. Eliza Evans, Mrs. Abbie Meade and Mrs. Sarah Murtfeldt, who all lived in Rockford.



*Back Right Window:*

**Frederic Chetlain**  
**September 1822-January 31, 1892**



The *Galena Daily Gazette* obituary of Frederic Chetlain reported that “he was the last survivor of he famous Red River colony. His father, the late Louis Chetlain, was one of a little band of Huguenots who left Switzerland for the Selkirk settlement on the Red River in 1821. Frederic was born at the settlement the following year in 1822. His parents

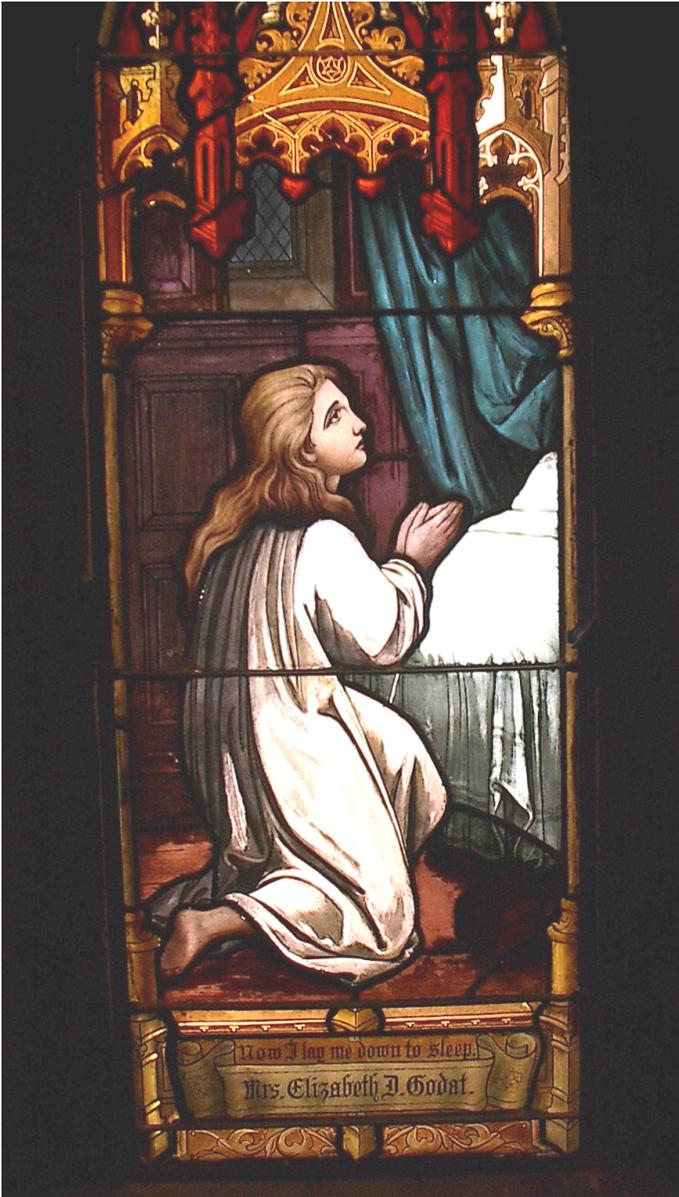
went to St. Louis in 1923 and came to Galena with Col Henry Gratiot in 1826. Here, all of his future life was spent. In 1858 or '59, he married Miss Eliza Stone, who survives him. They have no children. Mr. Chetlain devoted all of his long life to the management of his homestead farm near the city.”

Since Frederic Chetlain was not an outgoing person he took no part in public affairs but was a religious man and an elder in the First Presbyterian Church. He as a man of excellent character and kindly disposition. He had a long illness that began with pneumonia the year before. His relatives were with him when he passed away. Members of his immediate family included, General A. L. Chetlain of Chicago, Mrs. T. H. Davis of Grundy Center, Iowa, Mrs. T. Drenning, Mrs. D. S. Gorwith and H. B. Chetlain of Galena.

Since Chetlain was an honored member of the Galena Horticultural Society, a memorial was adopted at the group’s next meeting following his departure and sent to his surviving widow. It read: “All flesh is grass, and all the godliness thereof is as he flowering of the field.” \*\*\* The grass withereth and the flowers fadeth. We are admonished that, as the flowers that we love so dearly fade and wither away while we are yet beholding their beauty and enjoying their fragrance, so it has always been with man. So it will be with us. “Surely the people is grass.”

*Lobby Left Window:*

**Mrs. Elizabeth Godat**



Born Elizabeth Dembach, on March 24, 1822, in Wiesbaden, Germany, she came to America with her family in 1827. The family settled in St. Louis but ten years later followed the rush of lead mine seekers to Galena. On June 28, 1849 she married Charles Gustav Godat and during their 27 years of married life had 10 children; five sons and five daughters. Unfortunately, four of the children died. Her husband, Charles, died in 1867.

Elizabeth was sick for the last twenty five years of her life and was in constant pain from a

complication of troubles. Her daughter Mary did everything she could to comfort her, but nothing could be done. She died on August 27, 1909, at 87 years of age.

*Lobby Right Window:*

**Mrs. Emma Sheerer  
July 9, 1854-February 2, 1939**



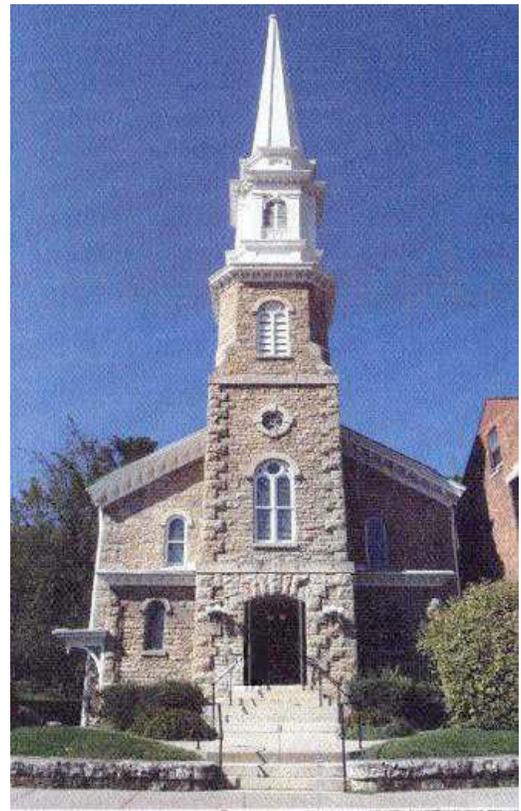
Emma Sheerer died at the age of 84 of a heart ailment. She had not been well for some time. Born

Emma LeBonne in Galena, she went to school and lived here all of her life. On October 9, 1873, at age 19, she married Charles Sheerer. They remained happily married for 36 years until her husband died suddenly while serving as mayor of Galena.

The *Galena Daily Gazette* noted that “Mrs. Sheerer was a life-long member of the First Presbyterian Church and an active member of all the church organizations: the choir, the Missionary society, the Ladies Aid and the Sunday school. She was a member of the fortnightly club and of the Woman’s club and a charter member of the Horticultural club.

“She had made a host of friends through her varied activities and, until the very last, found no greater pleasure than to entertain her friends.”

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and four brothers.



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First Presbyterian Church

106 N. Bench Street

Galena, IL 61036