

## Horwood Stained Glass

Harry James Horwood was born on September 3, 1865 in the little English village of Frome in Somersetshire, England, the son of Harry and Ellen Long Horwood. Harry's father and two uncles were all well known stained glass artists who had hundreds of windows scattered throughout the southern part of England.

By 1851 Harry Horwood immigrated to Toronto, Canada at the age of 17 and was working for McCausland Studio as a glass painter. His skill level must have been exceptional for within three years, this studio that was and still is the largest stained glass studio in the Americas was known as McCausland and Horwood. It was during this time that Harry Horwood made all the windows for the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa but, they were all lost in the great fire of 1919.

Harry Horwood returned to England in 1864 where he married and had five children, four boys and one girl.

By 1881 Harry Horwood is in New York City with his oldest son Harry James and they are working for the Gibson Studio. Harry James learned the art of stained glass from the family but received further training at the Gibson Studio. Harry James also had an opportunity to tour Europe and studied the windows in all the great cathedrals especially in Italy. Harry James absorbed everything he saw, and with his further skills learned at the Gibson Studio placed this young man with a skill level almost at a par with his fathers.

By 1881 Harry Horwood moved his whole family to Ottawa Canada as there were no stained glass studios in that city. Harry soon opened another studio in Prescott, Ontario. Being located on the St. Lawrence River, he was in a position to take advantage of the requirements for stained glass windows through the entire North Eastern United States.

In 1881 Harry was awarded the contract to make all of the windows for the new city hall and opera house in Ogdensburg, New York. It was at this time that Harry realized that he had a double problem, first, he imported most of his glass from the United States and as such was required to pay a substantial import tax to the Canadian government and second, when he shipped the new windows to the States he was again required to pay another tax to the United States government. The fertile market in the States was the last straw and Harry decided to move the studio to the states which he did in late 1881. He established the new shop on Ford Street across from the new opera house. Now he only had to carry the new windows across the street.

The new opera house was the pride of the city. There was a rose window in the front of the building that was an exact copy of one of the rose windows in the cathedral in Reims, France and was considered at the time to be the most beautiful window in the north east.

Harry Horwood died in 1919 leaving the business to his son Harry James. Harry James moved the studio to the corner of Washington and Patterson Streets, into a larger building. Business rapidly increased and Harry James soon had more work than he could handle, receiving orders for windows from many churches throughout the North Country.

In 1907 Harry James made all of the windows for the Young Memorial Church located in the little hamlet of Brier Hill in the township of Morristown, New York. There is hardly a church in the North Country that hasn't been touched by Harry James Horwood in one way or another.

This writer likes to call Harry James "The poor man's artist," He did not get rich in the pursuit of his trade. He often sold windows for as little as \$35.00 and thus even the small country churches could afford beautiful windows. As you drive through Upstate New York and look at the little churches scattered throughout the towns; villages, and cities it quickly becomes apparent that most of these beautiful windows are the work of the same artist. The Horwood family made windows for the smallest country churches and some of the largest cathedrals throughout England; Canada, And the United States.

David E. Martin