



As Trinity parishioners, we are blessed to worship in a beautiful and historic building, surrounded by magnificent stained-glass windows. These windows have been given by former members of the church to honor & preserve the memory of beloved family members whose names are engraved on the lower portion. The glorious window above the high altar, the one we all see every Sunday morning, celebrates the Holy Trinity and numerous saints. Yet for decades, the lower section of the window, the space bearing the name of the person who it honored, was concealed from view – until Gregory Curatolo guided his drone into a perfect position to take a picture of the long-hidden dedication! “To the Glory of God and in loving Memory of James Hanan 1819 - 1897 and Anne his wife 1824 - 1911”

In the late nineteenth century, James and Anne Hanan worshipped in this church, enjoyed fellowship with other parishioners, and most likely loved Trinity in the same way we do today. Yet – who were they?

The story is fascinating and could be described as a “rags to riches” saga. James Hanan and Anne Dalton were married in Midleton, County Cork, Ireland in January of 1848, during the devastating potato famine. Their first child was born in the same year and they made the decision to flee poverty and unrest in their country and emigrate to America.

James had been a shoemaker in Ireland, a trade passed down for generations in his family. When they arrived in New York City, he began work in the cutting department of A. G. Trask’s shoe factory, rising to the position of superintendent. In 1851, their first son born in America, was baptized at All Saints Episcopal Church in Manhattan – a rather unusual choice for an Irish Catholic family!

Yet, Episcopal they remained and when they moved their growing family to Brooklyn, they became lifelong members of Holy Trinity (today St Ann & the Holy Trinity Church).

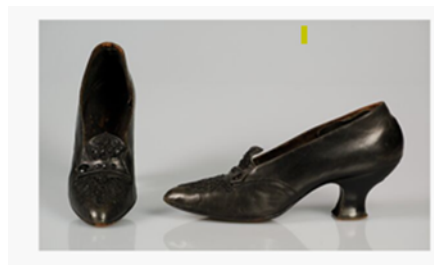
James' talents and abilities soon became apparent. In 1854, he and a partner opened their own shoe factory, Hanan, Richard & Co on Dey Street in lower Manhattan and in 1867 he expanded that business, took a new partner and opened Hanan & Redding. By 1882, he was successful enough to open his own business with his eldest son John Henry, Hanan & Son. The building which housed the Hanan shoe factory at 54 Water Street in what is today known as DUMBO in Brooklyn, still stands.

Throughout his career, he found ways to expand the shoe market. When the Civil War caused a decline in his southern market, he took his business into Cuba. Shortly thereafter, he began to open retail stores to sell his shoes. Hanan Shoe Stores operated in Manhattan, Brooklyn, New Haven CT, Chicago IL, Minneapolis MN, and St Louis MO.



In the mid-1880s, the Hanan family began to spend their summers in Asbury Park and joined the Trinity Church community. Their home, located at 407 Seventh Ave, has since been replaced by an apartment complex. Although James died in 1897, leaving his family a "small fortune" according to one obituary, Anne continued to live in their Asbury Park home every summer, often with her daughter Elizabeth.

As of now, we do not know who commissioned the beautiful window in their memory, yet it was probably one or all of their surviving children. Today we gaze upon this gift to Trinity Church and remember the family who fled hunger and poverty in Ireland to become successful and wealthy entrepreneurs of a shoe empire in America – part of the "great cloud of witnesses" who helped build Trinity, both in spirit and in beauty.



Evening Shoes by Hanan & Son in the Metropolitan Museum of Art collection