

1684

\*\*Vents are single groove type glazed with putty. The division bars are of 3/16" x 3/4" irons, soldered to the lead. (#1684)

Description of the Design for the Northwest window, First Presbyterian Church, Waco.

In this design the rich and varied imprint of Kate and Edward Rotan on the life of their time is expressed in terms of color and symbolism; characteristic episodes and spiritual qualities are reflected in the pattern of distinctive figures and symbols.

The two central medallions present a significant experience from the life of each. Above is symbolized Edward Rotan's journey on horseback from Tennessee to Texas. In the small upper circles the Pegasus symbolizes his love of poetry, and the "castle in Spain", his unceasing aspiration. Those below recall his experiences in the Confederate Army, his early school teaching, and his special fondness for motoring. The lower circle symbolizes the McCall's journey by covered wagon to Texas, when Kate was three years old and Waco was still an Indian village. The future city of Waco is symbolized within cloud-forms in the upper circle. Trees and flowers symbolize her love of gardening; the Scotch hills, lochs and thistle, her love for Scotland, and the arms of Sir Walter Scott, her fondness for his novels. The lower left circle represents Mrs. Rotan reading to their nine children. The arms of the McCall family appear below.

At the very top of the lancet is the figure of Virgo, the Sign of the Zodiac presiding over the date of their wedding anniversary, August twenty-second.

In the two lancets at the left, four medallions, above them the crossed arrows from the McCall arms, symbolize Mrs. Rotan's varied interests and activities - the founding of the Presbyterian Church, the making of the River Drive, presiding over the Federation of Women's Clubs, and managing the Old Women's Home. Symbols of women's activities, related to August and the Sign of Virgo, appear at the top - picking fruit, and gathering flowers.

The opposite lancets are devoted to Edward Rotan. The medallion subjects testify to his breadth of interests and his activity in the life of his community. He sends books to farm houses where there is nothing to read; as the bank president he stands by the safe as guardian of savings; as chairman of the school board he appears with symbols of a school and school children; and as the successful merchant he serves his neighbors at a counter. His love of poetry is suggested by the Pegasus above each medallion, and by the figure writing under a tree at the top of the left lancet. Chess men also symbolize still another interest possibly related to the season of Virgo.

The inscription is from II Samuel 1:23, "(They) were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided".

The upper portions of the design suggest, in the lovely figures of St. Francis Canticle of the Sun, the spiritual harmony with nature characterizing these pioneers. The central figures of "Sister Moon" and "Brother Sun" are attended by those of "Sister Water", "Mother Earth", "Brother Fire", and "Brother Wind". In the openings below are symbols of the elements, Water, Earth, Fire, and Air.

Angels of Praise and Prayer, a Seraph and a Cherub, appear in the outer openings.

The background pattern is developed in a blossoming form, repeating the symbolism of growth throughout the window.

Symbolic color enriches the entire design. Blue is the traditional color of spiritual truth and wisdom. Red symbolizes love, sacrifice, devotion. White is for faith, green for youth, hope, the renewal of life, and gold for spiritual riches and victory.

\*The stops that the present art glass window is set in with are 5/8" or the rebate is 5/8".

Jan. 5, 1933, C.J.C. wrote Mrs. Howe: "The color scheme throughout (but there). will be marked by various tones of blue; the borders and material and medallions will be of deep, pure blue, and the background in tones of lighter and cooler blues, intensified by bands and spots of oranges, golds, and reds."

They were typical pioneers. Edward Rotan went to Waco from Tennessee on horseback in his young days. First he taught school and then he was clerk in the general store which ultimately became a large wholesale grocery store of his own. He was four years in the Confederate army in the Civil War. Was wounded in the foot and became lame. His lameness may have explained partially his fondness for automobiles and especially for great big cars - his only extravagance. He was fond of books, gave himself an education in the classics. Loved poetry. When he was a school teacher he became so popular he had to have an assistant, and the girl who answered his advertisement for an assistant teacher had been a farm girl near the Town of Waco having gone there when it was still an Indian Village. They married and it was to eek out the pitance of a school teacher that he went into the general store, where he slept nights. They were both always incurably young. He was tremendously fond of chess and books. They were both great friends of Colonel House. They became a legend in Waco, so much so that at their deaths the town went in mourning.

Mrs. Rotan was very fond of Sir Walter Scott's novels. While they were both the pioneer type, they were distinctly and inherently cultured. The huge hamper that the mother took with four babys and two colored nurses from Texas to Glourester (3 nights and 3 days) became a family symbol or tradition.

Mrs. Rotan was born in Kentucky. Edward Rotan was born in Tennessee. She was three years old when she went to Waco in a covered wagon and Waco was then an Indi Village. Edward Rotan, as a lad of 17 ran away from home to join the Confederate Army. He escaped from the hands of northern soldiers on a mule. His trip from Tennessee to Texas took three months. He carried his provisions in saddle bags and had thirty dollars in cash, - a great sum of money at that time.

Inscription from 2nd Samuel 1-23 (Saul and Jonathan) were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: (they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions).

Edward Rotan → April 9, 1844, Mar. 10, 1932.  
Kate Sturm McCall Rotan.

Kate McCall → Mar. 27, 1851, Oct. 17, 1931.  
and Edward Rotan.

or this.

Kate and  
Edward Rotan.

"Do little and do it handsomely" (favorite quotation).

Mother  
(War of Sexes)

1st Pres. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs.  
Books circulating - among farmers.  
Pres. School Board.  
" Library " .

There are photos of interior and exterior of the Church in the folder.