

## That “Sweet” Bell!



In 1865 the parish was presented with a memorial bell in memory of Rev. R. F. Sweet, a deacon when he came from New York in the 1860's to assist the priest at Saint Mark's. He left Saint Mark's shortly after being ordained a priest a few years later. As clergy from Eastern parishes accepted calls to missions in the west, it was common for parishes and friends of the clergy to assist the young mission congregations and clergy with both funds and furnishings. The bell was presented by ten friends and former parishioners of Rev. Sweet and ten businesses in New York state, all noted in the casting.

The bell was made by Jones and Co. Founders, Troy, New York. There were several bell foundries in Troy, all variously related to the McNeeley family which is known for fine American bells. Either our parish records are incorrect or the foundry misspelled the last name of the priest as "SWEIT" and cast Rev'd as "REV.,D." The bell is 37 inches in diameter, weights over 1000 pounds, was cast in bronze alloy and rings a tone of "A natural." It is a high quality bell with exceptional tone and has served Saint Mark's for nearly 150 years. For most of those years it rang from the wooden steeple of old Saint Mark's. At the present building on East Mill Street the bell stands on a stone mounting in the courtyard and is struck with an electric ringing mechanism, controlled from inside the building. The original wood wheel, once used for swinging the bell by pulling a rope, is displayed on the wall in the narthex. ~ Kit Marceil



This is a photo of the large wooden wheel that was attached to the bell in the tower of old Saint Mark's Church for 120 years. A rope was wound around the wheel, and when pulled, rang the bell from below. Today the wheel is displayed in the church narthex.