



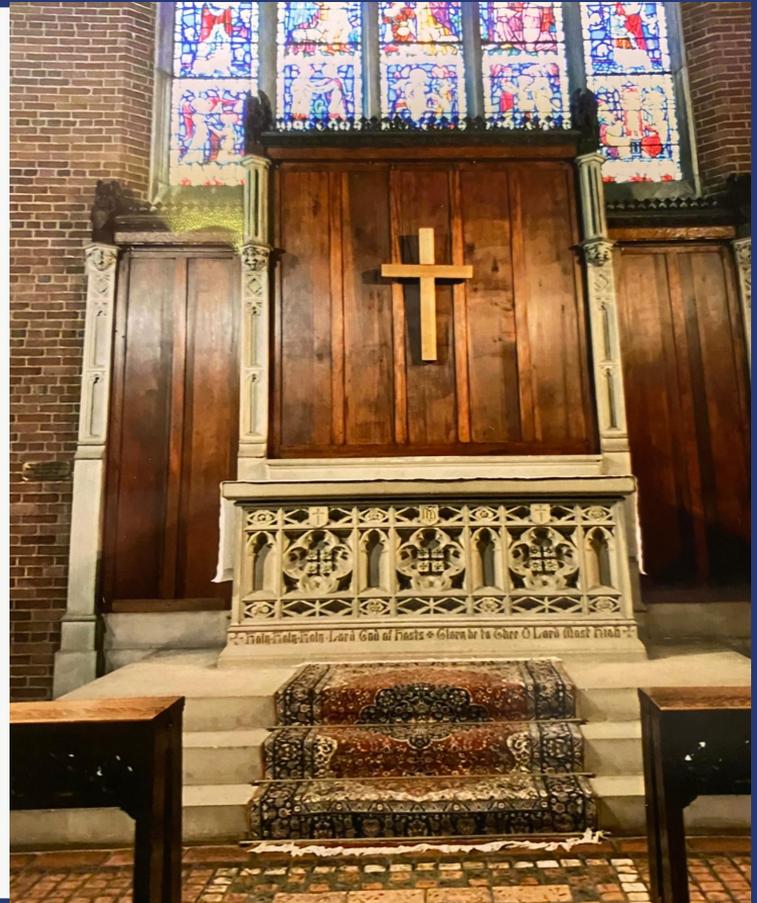
The Tapestry Restoration Project

Parish of the Epiphany
Altar Guild

Composition of Epiphany's Tapestries

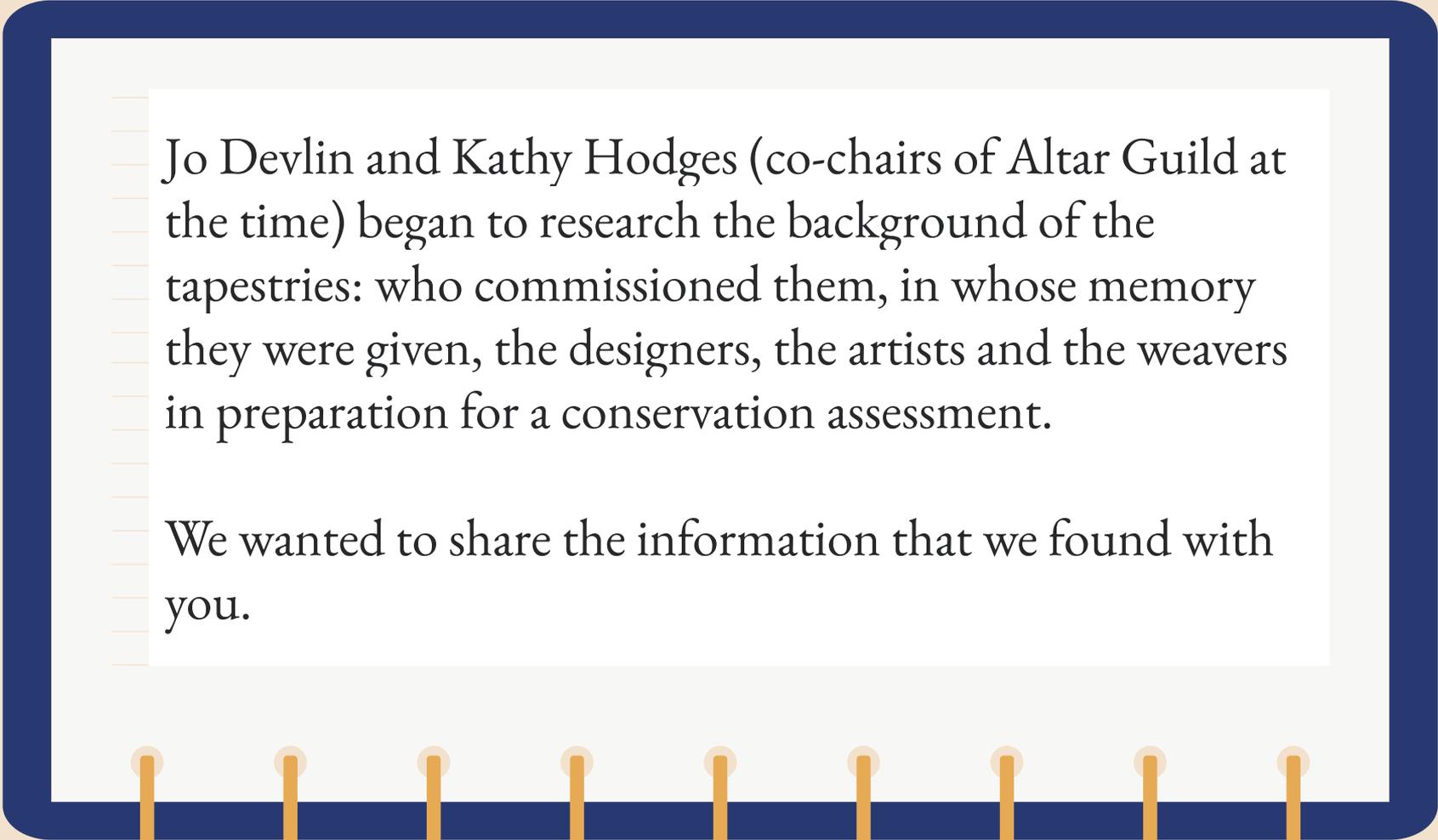
Adoration of the Magi - Mary sits with Jesus on her lap as the three Magi present gifts. A verdant grotto frames the Virgin with Joseph and two angels overlooking.

The two flanking tapestries represent the Old Testament prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah.



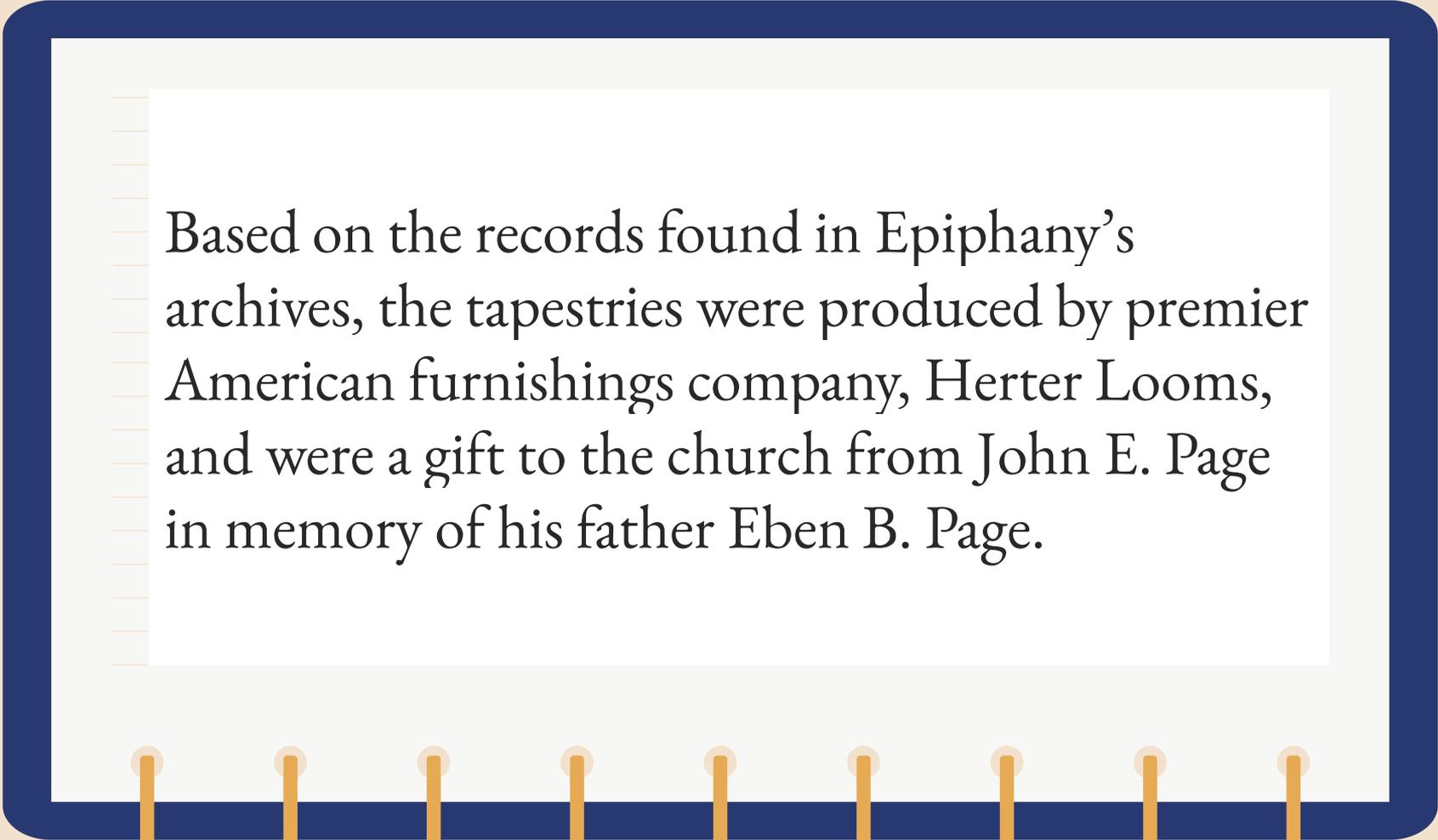


When removing the tapestries for Lent in 2021 the Altar Guild noted increased fraying, split seams and bare spots on the tapestries that were concerning (particularly the center Magi tapestry).



Jo Devlin and Kathy Hodges (co-chairs of Altar Guild at the time) began to research the background of the tapestries: who commissioned them, in whose memory they were given, the designers, the artists and the weavers in preparation for a conservation assessment.

We wanted to share the information that we found with you.



Based on the records found in Epiphany's archives, the tapestries were produced by premier American furnishings company, Herter Looms, and were a gift to the church from John E. Page in memory of his father Eben B. Page.

John E. Page
 Wattle Adventwood Co.
 Masonry. Page Memorial
 1918
 Mar 4 Bill 99.68
 Mar 5 Goldfrank 2876 99.68
 July 10 Leinfreath 2891 99.68

MEMO NO. WARREN & SMITH, ARCHITECTS, BOSTON DATE Dec. 3/15

CLIENT Tapestry for the SUBJECT Parish of the Epiphany.

OFFICE	TELEPHONE	CONSULTATION	ORDER	DR'W'G. WANTED	SUPERVISION
Panel A.	64.88 sq. ft.	at \$15.00			\$973.20
Panel B and D.	36. "	at \$25.00			900.00
Panel C.	45. "	at \$25.00			1125.00
Panel E and G.	36.89 "	at \$15.00			544.35
Panel F.	5.73 "	at \$15.00			85.95
					<u>\$3628.50</u>

TAKEN BY _____ EXP. _____ MILEAGE _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Archival Materials and Receipts

OFFICE RECORD F. PATTERSON SMITH ARCHITECT, BOSTON DATE May 3, 1918.

CLIENT Church of the Epiphany. SUBJECT Valuation of Tapestries.

	Hertor Looms Price.	Theft Insurance.	Fire Insurance.
Nativity	\$956.66	\$1200.00	\$1500.00
Jeremiah	400.00	400.00	500.00
Isaiah	400.00	400.00	500.00

F. PATTERSON SMITH ARCHITECT, BOSTON DATE May 20/27

CLIENT Parish of the Epiphany. SUBJECT

Cost of Tapestries and Enframement. 1916-1918. complete. \$4208.54



Herter Looms



Herter Looms was founded by Albert Herter in 1909 as a tapestry and textile design and manufacturing firm.

The H.L. weaver's mark along with the date can be found on the Isaiah tapestry (1917) and the Adoration of the Magi tapestry (1916).

Albert Herter



Albert Herter was himself an accomplished American painter, illustrator, muralist, and interior designer as well as founder and president of The Herter Looms, Inc.

Two of his many works are shown on the prior slide including the mural *Departure of the Infantrymen* in Paris (Gare de l'Est) and *Woman with Red Hair* at the Smithsonian. He also executed a series of five murals for the Massachusetts State House.

Albert Herter's 5 Murals
*Milestones on the
Road to Freedom*
(1942)
Massachusetts State House
House of Representatives



Herter Looms Ad

September 1919

Good Furniture Magazine*

** references 26 tapestries made for Hotel McAlpin, NYC
that are now at the MET*

September, 1919

GOOD FURNITURE MAGAZINE

55



At left and right, part of open-work tapestries with charming effect of shimmering light. Above, Chinese painted parchment lamp and shade.

The HERTER LOOMS, INC.
ALBERT HERTER, President.

THE HOUSE OF ORIGINALITY
in INTERIOR DECORATION

We invite the attention of the trade to our
TAPESTRIES
and
**HAND-WOVEN
TEXTILES**

Weaving on hand-loom, we make tapestries for Churches, Public Buildings and Residences. A notable example of our work is the famous historical series of tapestries executed for the Hotel McAlpin in New York City.

We weave textiles for walls, floor coverings, upholstery and curtains from samples and designs submitted.

841 Madison Ave.



Modern Overstuffed Armchair combining beauty and comfort.

Manufacturers of
**LAMPS and
SHADES**

INTERIOR
ARCHITECTS
and
DECORATORS

ANTIQUES
and
OBJECTS of ART

Correspondence solicited.
Inspection invited.

NEW YORK CITY

Herter Looms Tapestry
The Great Crusade (1920)
Cranbrook Art Museum



Advertisement - *The Spur* (1919)

ALBERT HERTER, *President*

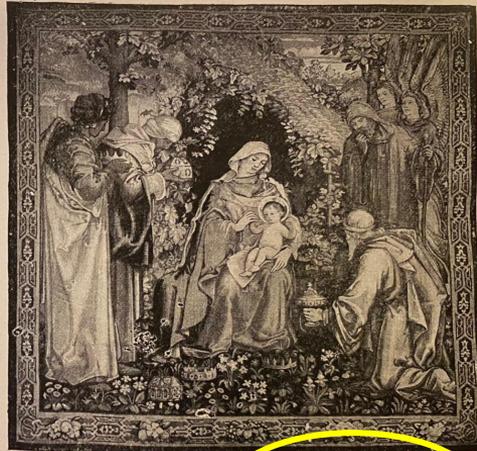
The
HERTER LOOMS
INC.

INTERIOR
DECORATORS

841 Madison Avenue
NEW YORK CITY

251 Post Street, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

*M*anufacturers of hand woven tapestries and rugs, of hand woven textiles for curtains, walls and furniture coverings from our own designs and cartoons, and from materials dyed and woven in our own establishment.



This memorial tapestry was woven for the Church of the Epiphany, Winchester, Mass.



The Artists

Epiphany's tapestries were based on 'cartoons' designed by E.G. Hanks and painted by artist Ethel Parsons Paullin (nee Ethel Maria Parsons).

The compositions reflect 500 years of Medieval and post-Medieval tapestry tradition including a mille fleur foreground, verdure background, ornamental borders and cross hatching blending colors in vertical parallel lines.

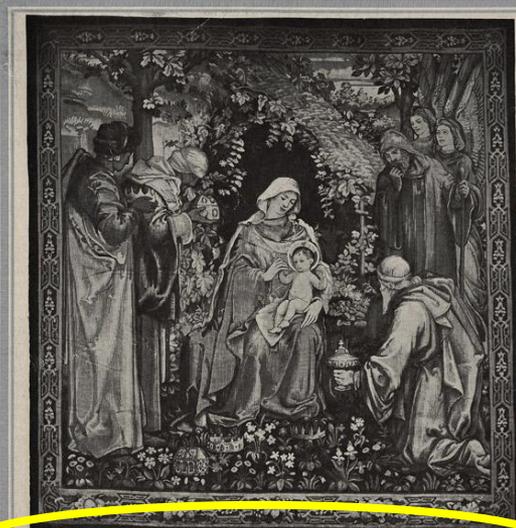
Unlike many 20th century tapestries, Herter Looms maintained the traditional horizontal orientation of the warp when hanging, meaning the image was woven sideways.

Advertisement - *The Spur* (1917)

March 1, 1917

THE SPUR
Designed by E. G. Hawks cartoon by E. Parsons

59



The Herter Looms
INCORPORATED
841 Madison Avenue
New York

Manufacturers, Importers,
Decorators, Contractors

Awarded at the Panama-Pacific
Exposition the Grand Prix for the
manufacture of hand-woven tapes-
tries; hand-woven textiles for cur-
tains and upholstery; and for hand
woven rugs; also the Gold Medal
for the manufacture of furniture
and lamp shades.

The Nativity, one of a suite of tapestries in Aubusson Weave, made by the Herter Looms as a memorial to the late Eben Page, for the Church of the Epiphany of Winchester, Mass.

The nativity, one of a suite of tapestries in Aubusson Weave, made by the Herter Looms as a memorial to the late Eben Page for the Church of the Epiphany of Winchester, MA

Painter Ethel Parsons' Initials



Ethel Parsons Paullin

(from her great-niece's site gplart.com)

The artists at Herter produced murals as full-size 'cartoons' from which tapestries were woven in the ancient French Aubusson style where weavers would copy directly from the full size oil painted cartoons to make finished tapestries.

Between 1909 and early 1918, while working with Herter, Ethel designed and painted 3 tapestries, called 'Adoration of the Magi', for the Church of the Epiphany, Winchester Mass, as well as many other projects.



E.G. Hanks

(from Ethel's great-niece's site gplart.com)

The original design for Epiphany's tapestry was created by Ethel's friend, E. Grace Hanks, or 'Hanks' as she was called, who would later join in working with Ethel in 1918 after they both left Herter's employment.



(from Ethel's great-niece's site gplart.com)

In 1918 Ethel left Herter Looms and began contracting with major architects for monumental projects in N.Y.C. and across the country.

'Hanks' also contributed her skills to some major projects, such as the chancel in the Chapel of St. Bartholomew's Church (across from the Waldorf Astoria Hotel at 50th and Park Ave) New York City.





The Page Family

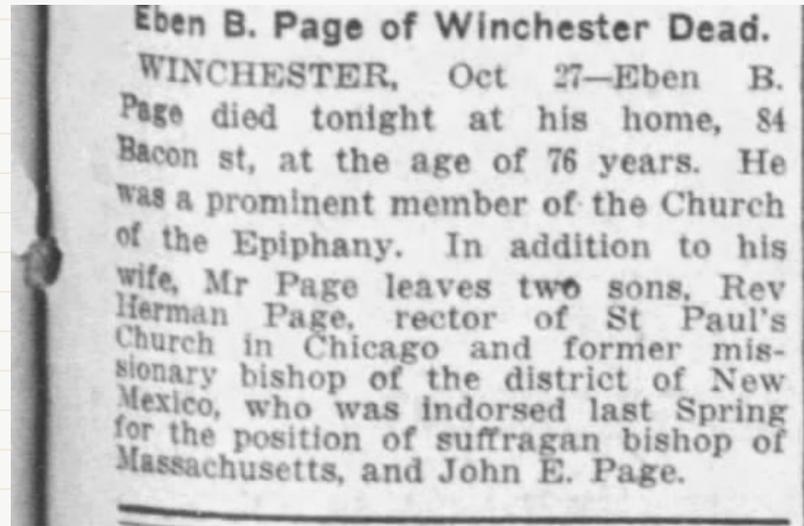
Epiphany's tapestries were given by John E. Page in memory of his father Ebenezer (Eben) Blake Page.

John E. Page's (1874-1955) was also a member Epiphany and served on the vestry (*Boston Globe*, Jan. 13, 1915). In terms of his potential familiarity with tapestries, his obituary did mention that he worked in the textile business in Boston for over 50 years at the time of his death.

Eben B. Page

Eben B. Page (1837-1913) resided at 84 Bacon Street in Winchester at the time of his death. His funeral services were held at Epiphany on October 31, 1913. His death notice in *The Churchman* (Nov. 29, 1913) noted that he was a life-long and devoted churchman. The *Boston Globe* listed him as a “prominent member of the Church of the Epiphany”.

From the *Boston Globe*, Oct 28, 1913



Eben Blake Page

Obituary from
Boston Evening Transcript
Oct 28, 1913

EBEN BLAKE PAGE

Boston Business Man of Varied Interests and the Father of Rev. Herman K. Page of Chicago

Eben Blake Page died last night at his home at 88 Bacon street, Winchester. He had long been connected with the commercial life of Boston and was the father of Rev. Herman K. Page, D. D., rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chicago, who, at the Massachusetts diocesan convention in the spring received the minority vote for the Suffragan Bishopric of Massachusetts.

Mr. Page was born in Hebron, Conn., seventy-six years ago, and was the son of Judge Jonathan G. Page. He attended school at Wilbraham and for a time was in the shoe business at New London. Later he moved to Boston and was associated with the Faxon shoe store, which in the sixties was a well known establishment near Faneuil Hall Market. He next became associated with the Haywood Rubber Company, and subsequently with the Hub Gore Makers, of which he was treasurer for thirty years.

Mr. Page was president and director of the Blodgett & Orswell Company, treasurer and director of the Bridgeport Elastic Web Company, and director of the Cotton & Woolen Manufacturers' Mutual Insurance Company, the Industrial Mutual Insurance Company, Pawtucket Dye & Bleachery Company and Rubber Manufacturers' Mutual Insurance Company, of which he was vice president. Mr. Page had been identified with the Masons, Boston Art Club and other bodies. He is survived by his widow, who was Miss Annie A. Jay of Castine, Me., and a second son, John E. Page of Boston and Winchester.

Notice of Funeral from the *Boston Globe*, Oct 31, 1913

FUNERAL OF EBEN B. PAGE.
Services Held at Church of Epiphany
in Winchester.
WINCHESTER, Oct 30—The funeral
of Eben B. Page, for many years a
resident of this town, was held this
afternoon at the Church of the Epiph-
any, preceded by family prayers at the
home, 84 Beacon st. conducted by Rev
John W. Suter, rector honorarius of the
church.
At the church service Rev Murray W.
Dewart officiated, assisted by Rev Mr
Suter. The full church choir was led
by J. Albert Wilson.
The ushers were Addison R. Pike,
William I. Palmer and Roland H. Sher-
man. The pallbearers were George A.
Fernald, Manuel H. Lombard, Everett
D. Chadwick, John Abbott, F. Patterson
Smith, Marcus B. May, Robert W. Hart
and Alfred S. Higgins.
Burial was at Forest Hills Cemetery,
Boston, where Rev Mr Dewart read the
committal service.

His funeral was officiated by
Rev. Murray Dewart assisted
by Rev. John Suter.

Reredos Dedication from the *Boston Globe*, January 18, 1918

TO DEDICATE NEW REREDOS IN A WINCHESTER CHURCH

WINCHESTER, Jan 18—In the Church of the Epiphany next Sunday morning there will be a dedication service in which the reredos, presented to the church in memory of the late Eben Blake Page, will be consecrated. The memorial is the gift of the widow, Mrs Annie A. Page, and two sons, Bishop Herman Page of Spokane, Wash, who will preach the dedication sermon, and John E. Page of Winchester.

There will also take part in the service the first rector of the church, Rev John W. Suter, who upon his resignation after more than 25 years in that capacity was elected by the parish rector honorarius, and Rev William S. Packer minister in charge. The present rector, Rev Murray W. Dewart, is now chaplain of the 101st Field Artillery in France.

The reredos is a tapestry representing the Epiphany story, the visit of the wise men, with a frame of carved stone and wood.

Dedication service for the reredos tapestry representing the Epiphany story with a frame of carved stone and wood

Rt. Rev. Herman Riddle Page

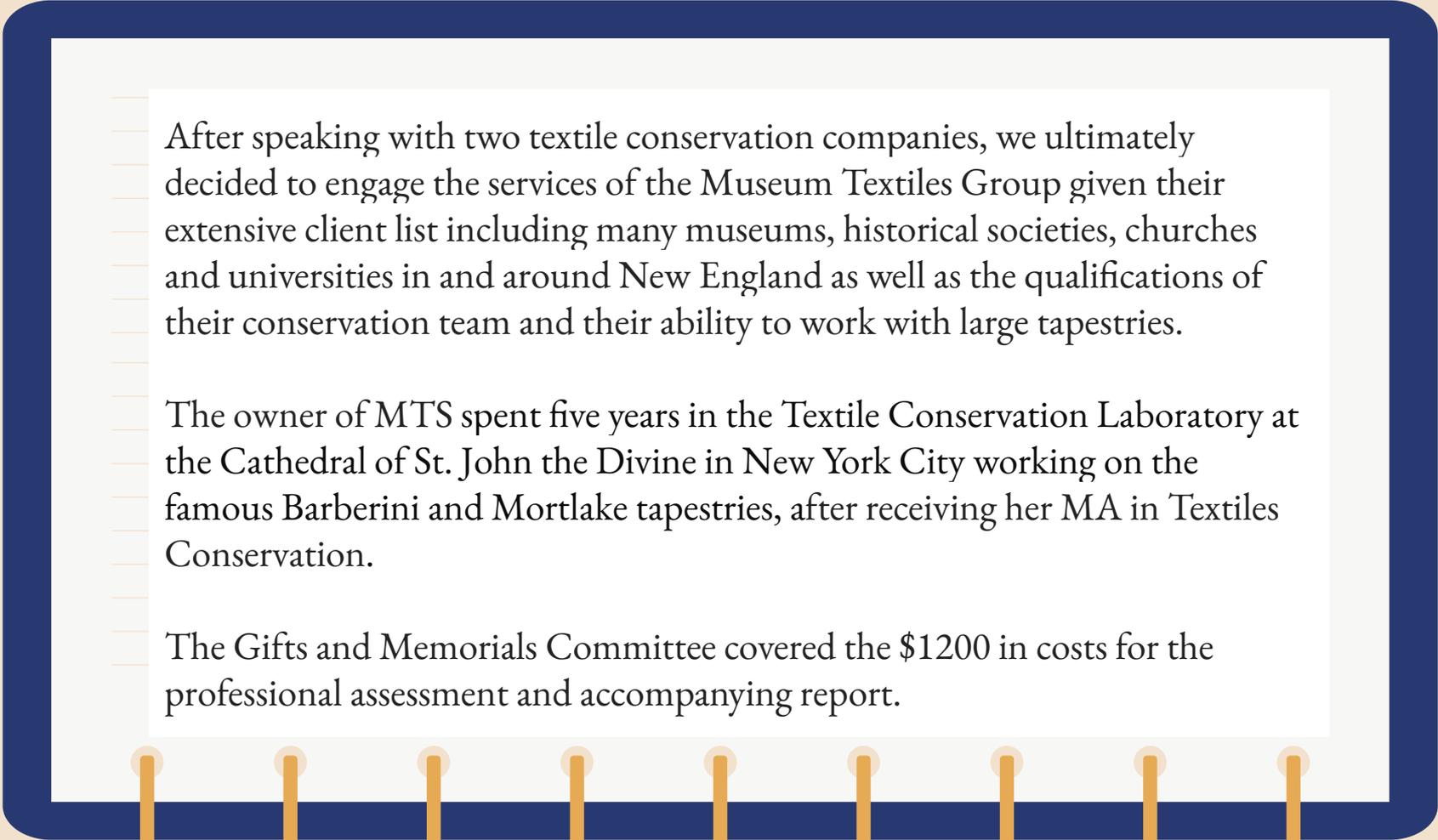


Eben Page's oldest son was also connected to the broader Episcopal Church and was the Rt. Rev. Herman Riddle Page (1866-1942).

He was the Bishop of Spokane (1915-1923), Bishop of Idaho (1919), Bishop of Michigan (1924-1939) and Bishop of Northern Michigan (1939-1942). His son, Herman R. Page, Jr. succeeded him as Bishop of Northern Michigan (1942-1964) upon his death.



Textile Conservation



After speaking with two textile conservation companies, we ultimately decided to engage the services of the Museum Textiles Group given their extensive client list including many museums, historical societies, churches and universities in and around New England as well as the qualifications of their conservation team and their ability to work with large tapestries.

The owner of MTS spent five years in the Textile Conservation Laboratory at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City working on the famous Barberini and Mortlake tapestries, after receiving her MA in Textiles Conservation.

The Gifts and Memorials Committee covered the \$1200 in costs for the professional assessment and accompanying report.

Restoration Company

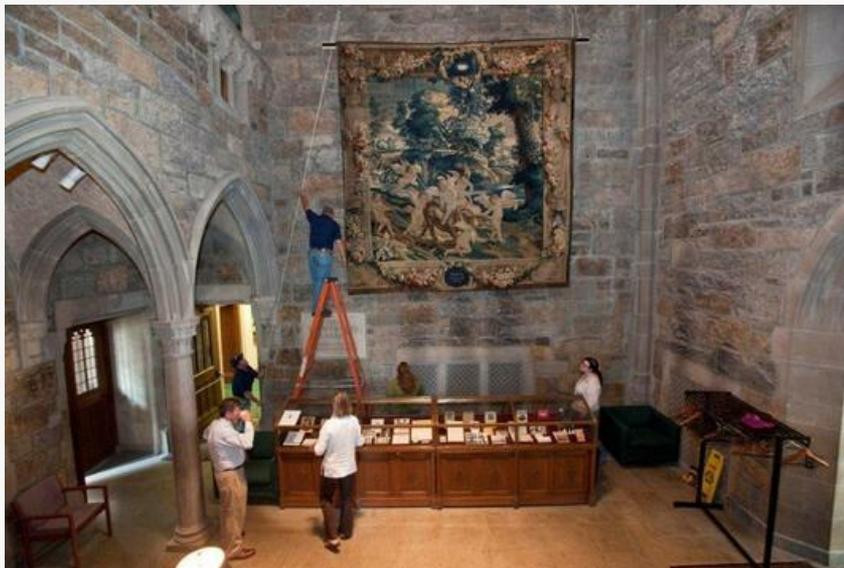


Museum Textile Services

MTS at Work



MTS hanging Tapestry at BC



MTS's confirmed that the tapestries were in good condition overall with only moderate fading considering their age.

There was almost no restoration visible on the tapestries with the exception of one repair.

They did find that the cotton threads originally used to stitch up the slits between the color fields are rotting and must be tested and replaced as needed.

Photos of additional findings follow.

Detail of open slits



Detail of slits, weakness and weft loss



Detail of open slits



MTS also identified moth casings on the tapestries and moths had been seen in the cabinets where the tapestries and the altar frontals were stored.

There was an immediate need to have the tapestries (and the altar frontals) fumigated to minimize moth damage and prevent further issues. Thorough cleanings of the cabinets, placement of traps and repellent were also required.

The conservator recommended the carbon dioxide treatment services offered by Historic New England at their Haverhill facility.

Gifts and Memorials provided \$1000 in funds to cover the cost of immediate fumigation.

Tapestries Packaged for Transport



The tapestries and frontals were packaged and transported to Historic New England by another member of the Altar Guild, Judy Coltman. There they underwent a seven week treatment.

Historic New England offers a controlled atmosphere carbon dioxide treatment service as a safe and effective method for protecting museum and private collections from pest infestations.

Transport by a member of the Altar Guild to and from the Haverhill facility resulted in savings of \$1500.

Historic New England



Fumigation Bubble



By virtue of the renown of their creators, Epiphany's tapestries are museum quality and deserve proper repair and preservation.

For Epiphany, they are the centerpiece of our sacred space adorning our high altar.

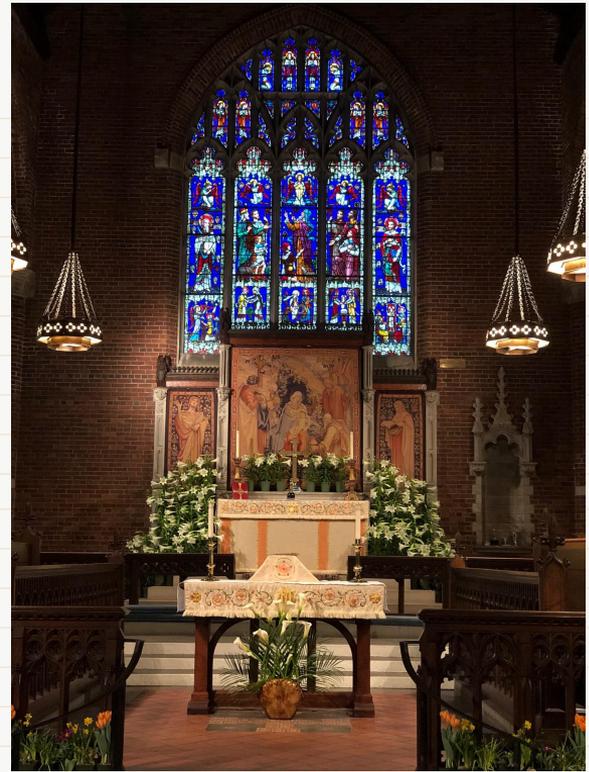
They are also the main representation of "the Epiphany" in our church building.



The estimated costs for professional restoration, repair, and fitting of new recommended hangers is approximately **\$42,000** (this estimate is valid until June 2022).

The entire restoration process is expected to take 12 months.

If you are interested in making this project possible, please contact Rev. Nick directly at the church offices.



THANK YOU

Thank you for your contributions to restoring our works of art!

With special thanks to:

Allen Hill - Epiphany Archival Research

Brenda Verdolino - Tapestry Restoration Co. referrals

Jo Devlin, Matt & Kathy Hodges - Research on background of tapestries

Madeleine & Kathy Hodges - Packaging for fumigation and cleanings of cabinets

Judy Coltman - Transportation to and from Historic New England