



Mr. Mark Hardy

## The Hardy Family Window at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in San Jose

Nestled alongside the congregation midway in the sanctuary, Greek letters chi and rho signify the name of Christ on the exquisite stained glass window which honors the memory of Mark Hardy, the first junior warden of the Trinity Episcopal Church congregation formed in 1861. The symbolism dates from pre-Christian times, but is often associated with Constantin I using the imagery on the shields of his army establishing Christian churches.<sup>1</sup> Considering the times of manufacture of the stained glass windows by Owen Doremus of New Jersey—the American Civil War—the chi symbol (cross) of green fronds is indicative of a plea for peace. The border rows are stems and flower forms of three and four petals, perhaps shamrocks chosen to honor the Irish birth of Mark Hardy, who died on December 16, 1862, age forty.<sup>2</sup>

The lower element is a realistic portrayal of fish, the well-known Christian symbol, swimming as a Gordian Knot in the heavenly sea. The artistry of the fish is well-worth close examination. The Hardy family window is enclosed by the bell tower, behind the stairs. The location makes a heavily-shadowed presentation. However, the exterior portion of the window is available for study of its layers and structure. This photograph was made on July 27, 2017 with careful timing by Cathedral Warden Daniel Hall using a high-resolution lens and tripod.

Stories of the windows and the memorialized families are inspired by *The Trinity Windows*, a 1977 publication by the church vestry which was edited by Jerry Estruth, active in the vestry and as senior warden during the 1970s and 1980s. This remarkable 32-page pamphlet was printed with color covers and excellent black and white finely screened prints by Vestry member Leonard McKay: “Gratis, because he liked history and he liked Trinity.” (Jerry Estruth, editor)

It is a privilege and pleasure to bring reminiscences by Jerry Estruth to this series of articles for *The Carillon*. The Vestry’s publication grew from notes made by church historian Joan C. de Lisle, who passed away suddenly in the early 1970s. Her mother Ailsa de Lisle began collecting information on the People of the Windows years before. Jerry Estruth and the Committee created *The Trinity Windows* with these notes and a 35 mm. Pentax with which he photographed the windows on the walls and in the rafters.<sup>3</sup>

Sarah J[onna] Hardy is the second name among First Communicants registered by Rev. Sylvester Etheridge between 1861 and 1863, when Trinity Episcopal Church was organized in San Jose, meeting at the first City Hall on Market Street. Joanna, as she is known throughout her long life, is enumerated on the 1860 Census in San Jose as age 33, born in Vermont. M[ark] Hardy, age 38 on the census, was a grocer, his real estate valued at \$7000. Their two named children, Mark Robson and Franklin Graves Hardy were baptized by Rev. Sylvester Etheridge during the 1861-1863 period.

The First Communicants, Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Burials in the 1861-1863 period of the first rector Rev. Sylvester Etheridge were previous to the building of the church designed and constructed by ship's captain J[ames] W. Hammond, whose name is fourth on the Early Communicants register. Built like a ship with Douglas fir and redwood from the Santa Cruz Mountains, the church was completed in 1863. Eighteen stained glass windows by Owen Doremus of New Jersey were ordered and shipped around the Horn of South America in time for the Advent service, performed by the second rector, Rev. Dinsmore D. Chapin, due to the illness and death of Rev. Etheridge two months later, February 1864. <sup>4</sup>

Fifteen Doremus windows are extant at Trinity Cathedral, the same wooden church designed and built by Captain James W. Hammond, the oldest building in continuous use as a place of worship in Santa Clara County. The first senior warden (1861) was Judge William Daniels, whose daughter Harriet is memorialized on the stained glass window with a pelican feeding its young next to the entry to the parish hall. (See *The Carillon*, July 2018 <sup>5</sup>) Mark Hardy was the first junior warden. James W. Hammond served as senior warden in the years 1862-1867, 1869, and 1871-1873.

*The Trinity Windows* edited by Jerry Estruth in 1975-1977 states: *There is no record of when Hammond came to San Jose, but he left the city in 1878. In accepting his letter of resignation from the Vestry, the Parish by resolution warmly praised him for his strong leadership. There is no record where he went, only that his membership was transferred to another Episcopal Church.*

The continuing story of Sarah Joanna Hardy is that of a pillar of Trinity Episcopal Church. She made gifts to the church of the altar linens, raised \$200 for the melodeon that preceded the pipe organ installed when the building was complete in 1863, and taught in the Sunday School. The 1903 parish history describes her continuing active membership at Trinity.

The Hardy's came to San Jose before April 1857. Joanna attended the Baptist Church in San Jose before becoming a member of the First Confirmation class at Trinity, March 17, 1861. White roses and green ivy were planted on the wall of the church containing the memorial window of her young husband Mark. The 1870 Census finds widowed Joanna Hardy age 42 "keeping house" for her sons, then 14 and 12 years. The real estate owned in the name of Mark Hardy has grown to \$26,000. This provided her with income for the rest of her life, which continued past her 80<sup>th</sup> year.

"S. J. Hardy (widow)" married Platt Gregory, a farmer from Contra Costa (Pacheco) in Santa Clara on April 14, 1873. Their residence continued at the home on the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and San Salvador Streets (346 Second St). Joanna's name from that time forward was "Mrs. Hardy-Gregory." She would benefit from California legislation passed in 1865 that provided women could keep and dispose of inherited property in their own names.

Mr. Platt Gregory first registered to vote in San Jose in 1873, a farmer born in Ohio, age 42. The family are not found in the 1880 Census; the enumeration of 1890 burned in Washington D. C. The 1900 Census in San Jose lists Joanna Gregory, age 70, Platt Gregory, age 69, and Anna Hardy, age 21. Platt was a notary public by occupation; Anna Hardy possibly a grandchild. Platt Gregory died in 1906.

Widowed again, Joanna S. Gregory was the Head of Household, age 80, on the Census of 1910. She had her own income, but the house at 396 S.2<sup>nd</sup> St. was mortgaged. There were several adults living in the house, including her son Frank G. Hardy, age 52, also with "own income." The other unrelated adults had varying occupations, including a layer of asphalt and a teacher. It would appear that she was renting rooms. One of the questions on the 1910 Census was the number of children born, and the number of children living. Joanna stated that three children were born to her, and one remained living. Her older son Mark Robson Hardy evidently had passed away.

The new series of stories about the Trinity Windows is written by Jean Libby, a member of the congregation.

## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> Symboldictionary.net. Notably, this source states that the legend of Constantin's conversion from a vision of the combined chi and rho before a battle is unlikely to be factual.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thespruce.com/irish-shamrocks-and-4-leaf-clovers-2130966>

<sup>3</sup> The entire book is scanned and available online:  
[http://www.alliesforfreedom.org/files/The Trinity Windows complete.pdf](http://www.alliesforfreedom.org/files/The_Trinity_Windows_complete.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> The entire book, digitized by Google, is published in pdf:  
[http://www.alliesforfreedom.org/files/Trinity Church San Jose Calif Advent 186.pdf](http://www.alliesforfreedom.org/files/Trinity_Church_San_Jose_Calif_Advent_186.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.alliesforfreedom.org/files/07\\_2018\\_Carillon\\_for\\_the\\_web.pdf](http://www.alliesforfreedom.org/files/07_2018_Carillon_for_the_web.pdf)