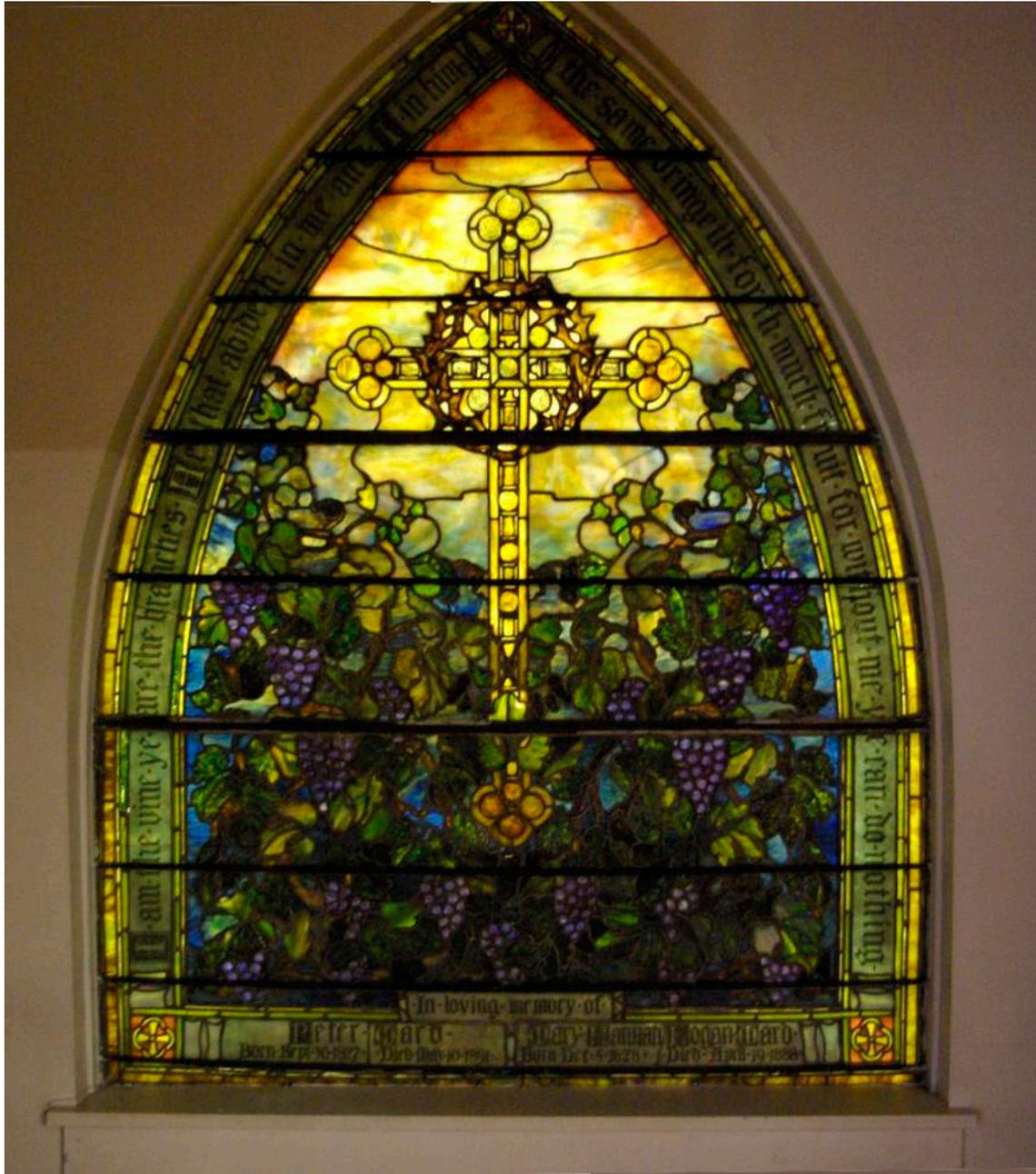


The Ward Stained Glass Window



Window prior to fire; photo by Northeast Stained Glass LLC, 2016

The window depicted a cross among grape vines with the crown of thorns hanging from it at its center. Around the perimeter was an appropriate inscription, “I am the vine, ye are the branches ...” from John 15:1-4. This verse was commonly illustrated with grape vines. The botonée ends of the cross (the four spheres forming a rosette), its shaft, and the grapes were made of glass

jewels. Those in the cross were hand-faceted, while the grapes were cabochons. The window was probably composed in layers, like most opalescent windows of this time, but it is not possible to determine how many from its remains.

It was dedicated to Peter Ward and his wife Mary Hannah Logan. Ward died in 1891; Mary had died earlier, in 1888. They had six children, who donated this window to Calvary Presbyterian Church in 1905. Ward was a New York State senator and successful area businessman who led a “useful, honorable and kindly life,” according to his obituary.¹ He was one of the first trustees of the church.²

In 1905, the church was redecorated, which included the addition of most, if not all the stained- glass windows. When it reopened in October, the Ward window and one other had not yet been finished and installed, due to a strike at the Gorham Manufacturing Co., according to a newspaper article.³ A later article stated that the two missing windows were to be “the finest in the edifice, and the order was entrusted to the Gorhams, silver smiths and jewelers.”⁴ A third article bemoaned, “Two other windows, in memory respectively of Mr. and Mrs. Grant E. Edgar and of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ward, all of whom were prominently identified with the work of Calvary church, are in process of construction, and it is a matter of sincere regret to us all that, by reason of labor troubles, we can only thus refer to them today, reserving further words to such time as they shall be in position.”⁵ By October 1, 1906, the window was in place in the church proper.⁶ It was moved to the Fellowship Hall at a later date, possibly in the 1950s; the precise date of this move is unavailable due to the loss of church records in the fire.

Gorham Manufacturing Company was founded in 1841 as a silversmith shop in Providence, RI. It was incorporated in 1865. In 1878, the firm opened sales rooms in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. In 1885, it created an Ecclesiastical Department to provide decorations for churches, such as plaques, candelabra, and eagle lecterns. A year later, in order to provide stained-glass windows, they contracted with the London firm, Heaton, Butler & Bayne. They began to manufacture windows themselves in 1904 in a New York studio in their flagship store on Fifth Avenue, under the leadership of Edward Peck Sperry (1850-1925), who had worked for Tiffany Studios for fifteen years and then helped established the Church Glass and Decorating Company, also in New

York.⁷ He left Gorham in 1907 to open his own company.⁸ Gorham was highly prolific and during Sperry's tenure, created windows that looked very much like Tiffany Studios' windows. It was during Sperry's term that the Ward Memorial Window was manufactured.

In 1906-1907, the Gorham company was listed as "unfair" in the *Glass Worker*, the official organ of the Amalgamated International Glass Workers' Association.⁹ At the time, the union was demanding better pay and fewer hours in a work week. This is probably the source of the strike mentioned in the contemporary newspaper accounts that held up the completion and installation of the window in Calvary Presbyterian Church.

¹ "Peter Ward now Dead," *Newburgh Daily News* (May 11, 1891). ² "Calvary Church Happily Rounds out Half Century," *Newburgh Register* (October 1, 1906). ³ "Strike Delays Finish of Church Improvements," *Newburgh Register* (October 5, 1905). ⁴ "Will Re-Open Tomorrow," *Newburgh Register* (October 14, 1905). ⁵ "With Appropriate Exercises Beautiful Church Re-Opened," *Newburgh Register* (October 15, 1905). ⁶ "Calvary Church Happily Rounds out Half Century," *Newburgh Register* (October 1, 1906).

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