



THIS WAR SHRINE was erected by public subscription in 1917 and placed outside St. Paul's. Panel listing the fallen is now enshrined at west end of church.



WHITE AND BLUE ENSIGN of RCN with red ensign of army, placed in St. Paul's for safe keeping in 1965. Top, old King's Color of 1st Bn. PPCLI, laid away in 1959.

ST. PAUL'S: Old Naval and Garrison Church To Mark Its 100th Birthday

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The history of Esquimalt goes back more than 150 years. Captain Cook may have anchored here between the years 1772-1776, and Captain Vancouver between 1790-1795. Old records state that in 1790, Sub-Lieutenant Quimper, of the Spanish Navy, anchored in Esquimalt Harbor aboard the confiscated British sloop Princess Royal and named the waterway after the 46 Viceroy of Mexico - Puerto de Cordoval. The harbor first saw a British man-of-war in 1848, when the sailing frigate Constance, Captain G. W. C. Courtenay, anchored here on July 25 of that year.

The origin of the first naval establishment of any kind on Vancouver Island was due to the Crimean War, 1856. Following the attack on Petropaulovski, the fleet came here with wounded, Governor Douglas, for their accommodation, ordered three buildings to be erected on

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Perry Point, now known as Duntze Head. The official creation, however, of the naval establishment at Esquimalt was in 1865 by Her Majesty's Order-in-Council dated June 29.

A very small white building used as a Sunday School, standing opposite the old gravings dock at Esquimalt was the lineal parent of St. Paul's. Erected in the year 1858, as a school house, it was also used for Divine Service of the Church of England, under the ministry of the Rev. R. Dundas.

As those seven years were in the earliest days of the naval hospital and dockyard, it can be safely taken for granted that the bulk of the small congregation of this little building were members of the navy.

That connection has been maintained without interruption for the 60 years officers and naval ratings from men-of-war in the harbor have marched to the parish church to worship, while many mural tablets testify to other occasions when services have been held in memory of those who sailed out from the sheltered waters never to return.

Its bells have rung in two kings and chimed or tolled through three long wars. A succession of renowned admirals have sat in the reserved pew under the pulpit, and the parish registers bear

names which have gone down in the annals of our race.

The foundation of St. Paul's was due mainly to the enterprise of Paymaster Sidney J. Spark, RN, of HM Shipyard, Esquimalt, who in 1865 took the initial step towards the establishment of a church in Esquimalt. His efforts being successful, a small church was built on a level spot on the south side of the main road at the base of Signal Hill. This site was given in May, 1866, by Donald Fraser, a member of the legislative council of Vancouver Island.

On Aug. 30, 1866, the foundation stone of the new church was laid by Mrs. Denman, wife of the admiral, Joseph Denman, commander-in-chief of the station, both the admiral and his wife being most keenly interested in the undertaking. In the harbor were HMS Sutej and Scout, the gunboat Forward and the USS Saginaw, all gaily decked.

The procession was headed by the band of the Sutej, followed by the guard of honor, school children, architects, builders, church-wardens officers of the ships in harbor the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly; Chief Justice Needham and members of the legislative council; Rear-Admiral Joseph Denman and staff; Lieutenant-Governor Kennedy and staff; clergy of the diocese; the Bishop of Columbia (the Right-Rev. George Hill) and Chaplain, Archdeacon Gilson (rector of St. John's, Victoria), Dean Cridge, the Rev. A. C. Garrett (the first rector of St. Paul's and later Bishop of Texas), the Rev. F. Doolan, the Rev. R. Carstone (chaplain of the Sutej), also Captains Price, Sullivan and Coode of the Royal Navy, and Captain Franklin of the Saginaw. Among the ladies present were Mrs. Kennedy and daughter, Mrs. Denman, Mrs. Hills, Mrs. Needham and daughter, Mrs. Sparkes and daughter. At the close, HMS Sutej and Scout joined in firing a salute in honor of the occasion.

Under the supervision of the architect, Mr. Thomas Trounce, the building was completed with accommodation to include seating for 100 officers

and men. Consecration by the Bishop of Columbia took place on Dec. 12, 1866.

The first Admiralty grant made was the sum of £100 sterling in 1866, toward the initial cost of building, on condition that men belonging to HM Naval Yard and Navy, have certain sittings allotted to them.

In December, 1873, the Admiralty promised to pay the Rector of St. Paul's an annual sum of \$50.

In the year 1876, the church was much damaged by a heavy gale, and the Admiralty allocated \$50 towards the repairs which, apparently, were delayed until 1879, when the church was completely restored at a total cost of \$4,000.

In August, 1878, an organ having been bought in England for the use of the church, the Admiralty arranged to transport it free to Esquimalt.

In November, 1898, the Admiralty increased its annual payment to the rector from \$50 to \$75, specifying that attendances at the naval prison and hospital would be included.

From the first, the church became the centre of a busy and gay community. The first wedding recorded in the register was that between G. S. Neale and Annie Doty, in March, 1867. The first baptism was that of Victor Charles William Palmer. The second wedding was that between Charles E. Pooley and Elizabeth Fisher.

In 1903, that is three years before the Canadian government took over the defences, the then rector (the Rev. C. Ensor Sharp) entered into the prolonged and lively controversy with the deputy minister of militia and defence (Col. L. F. Pinault) concerning the risk of damage to the church caused by gun practice from Signal Hill. In June, 1904, the site of the church was expropriated, the government paying \$5,700. The building was dismantled forthwith, almost bodily removed, and reconstructed with alterations, on property known as The Hermitage, the residence of George Gillespie, a little more than half a mile from the original site.

J. N. Woodgate, C.E., of the navy yard, supervised the work of reconstruction, the expense of which was met by the amount paid for expropriation. A further expense involved in refitting the chancel was met by subscriptions amounting to \$1,200, raised by the rector.

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Traditional association of this church and the Navy was carried on under the new auspices; moreover, in 1911, during Col. R. L. Wadmore's command of the military district, this "Church of the Bluejackets" became also the garrison church for men quartered at Work Point Military Barracks, who hitherto had regularly paraded to St. Saviour's, Victoria West.

During the Great War, services were held constantly in barracks, on board ship, and in the church, for naval and military personnel quartered here. In those years the whole parish was caught up in the war activities belonging to a naval port and garrison town. The record of services held in the church between 1914 and 1918 records the names of well-known ships and battalions and of men who at one time or another during those years under the exigencies of war sought the ministry of the church in this place.

On one day, for instance, to cite only one, namely, Aug. 23, 1914, it is recorded that at 9:45 a.m. a Valedictory Celebration of the Holy Communion was offered for men of the 88th Fusiliers, Lt-Col. John A. Hall commanding, and of the 5th Regiment, RCGA, on the eve of departure for Valcartier Camp. At this service, 91 men made their communion. The celebrant was the rector, assisted by Capt. Barton, William Barton. An hour later Capt. Barton preached here at a parade service for officers and rating of HMCS Rainbow, and naval volunteers. Three days later, it is recorded, he left for overseas with 70 men of the RCGA.

The church as it stands today is a very simple edifice externally. Inside, over the altar is a triple window depicting the Childhood of Christ, a gift of Archdeacon Wright in memory of his daughter Alice, 1879. This is flanked by windows bearing the names of Frederick Seymour, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who died on board the Sparrowhawk in 1869, and of Horace Douglas Lascelles, Commander, RN, seventh son of Henry, third Earl of Harewood, died June 15, 1869. Commander Lascelles was uncle to Princess Mary's husband, and thereby constitutes a link between the parish and the Royal Family.

The oldest in the nave are associated with one of the whitest and most honored families in the history of the parish and province. Installed in memory of William and Harriet Alice Fisher and their two sons, they furnish an additional reminder of the long association of the Pooley family with the parish. Mrs. E. Pooley, the daughter of the aforesaid, arrived in Esquimalt

with her parents in 1863, was present at the consecration of the church, and as stated, was married there in 1869.

Almost the first object one notices on entering the church is a lifebuoy. Washed ashore near Ucluelet Inlet in December, 1901, this buoy alone remains to commemorate one of the saddest tragedies of the sea. On the night of Dec. 3, 1901, accompanied by the good wishes of friends, HMS Condor put to sea in a heavy storm. From that day nothing more has been heard of the ship, except the mute testimony of this lifebuoy. The brass underneath was erected by the officers and men of the Pacific Squadron.

The mural tablets in the church are reminiscent almost entirely of fatalities at sea. Since the presentation of new Colors by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, the former King George VI Color of the Royal Canadian Navy and the former King's Color and Regimental Colors of the First Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, have been ceremoniously laid up

the former King's Color and Regimental Colors of the First Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, have been ceremoniously laid up in this church where they now hang with honor.

Furthering this military tradition of laying away the Sovereign's Color and the Regimental Colors in a church for safekeeping, the most recent additions were occasioned when Canada flew her new Maple Leaf Flag which replaced the former red, white, and blue ensigns, formerly flown over establishments or ship. In 1965, a white ensign and a blue ensign from the Royal Canadian Navy was presented to St. Paul's for safekeeping by the then Flag Officer Pacific Coast, Rear-Admiral M. G. Strling, accompanied

by a naval escort. This traditional ceremony was re-enacted a short time later when Major Ken Webber, Commandant, Work Point Barracks, also accompanied by an escort from the present resident regiment, The Queen's Own Regiment of Canada, presented the last red ensign to fly over Work Point Barracks to the rector to be laid away as well.

Today this church has mostly a civilian congregation but the maritime commander still occupies the front left pew and on his right is the pew for the officer commanding Military District No. II, which reflects the army representation before and during the Second World War, when the Old Naval and Garrison Church cared for the spiritual needs of countless numbers of service men and women.

Padre, the Rev. J. A. Roberts, is the 22nd rector of this church since it was built in 1866 and he has served his parish since 1952, which is a record for service by the priest of this church to date.

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On Saturday, Aug. 27, there will be a festive garden party to be held on the grounds of the residence of the Rector's Warden, Commodore R. M. Battles, in HMC Dockyard.

On Sunday, Aug. 28, there will be special services to mark the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the church.

To both the garden party and the Sunday service, special invitations will be extended to church and civic dignitaries to join with present and former parishioner to join in the celebrations.

THE OLD GORGE MAPLE TREE LIVES ON IN CALIFORNIA

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wanted, and why, and maybe they would be kind enough to get him a piece of the tree.

However, they might also think he was crazy and say no, then where would he be? Besides wasn't there a restriction on taking plants, trees, and similar vegetation across the border between Canada and the United States? Or better, he decided, that was the other couple's problem, all he had been asked to do was get a limb off the old maple tree.

First he drove down to Maple Bend and took a good long look at the tree. After careful inspection from all sides, Mr. Phillips decided on a branch that was not too high to climb up to, and looked about the right size to handle easily. Noting its position carefully, he decided that it would be best to wait until late some dark night, then sneak down there as quietly as possible, climb the tree, and with a hand saw remove the limb.

The following Sunday morning about 2 proved to be ideal. After a Saturday night party, and bolstered by some liquid courage, and accompanied by an equally daring gentleman friend, they arrived on the scene. After much scrambling around, torn pants, and muffled laughter they managed to get the branch off without falling out of the tree themselves.

How the friends got it past the customs men is their secret, but in due time Harry Rogers received the piece off the old Gorge Road maple tree, and he was very pleased with it.

He went to work on it immediately, whittling away at the fine old wood, and polishing and polishing it until he finally had it just the way he wanted it. He even had a gold-plated band inscribed with the date, made to encircle the gavel.

Then with an appropriate little speech and bow he presented his gift to Rose at their installation meeting. It was up to Rose then to explain the tears that flowed to their fellow lodge members, who cheered and clapped heartily after they heard the story of the old maple tree from her home town of Victoria, B.C.

Shortly afterwards the old maple tree blew down during a particularly heavy wind storm, and had to be cut up and hauled away by a department of public works crew, and, although this familiar old landmark is now missing from its setting on the Gorge Road, I was happy to know that at least a small piece of it still lives on in San Diego, Calif., as well as in the hearts of those of us who knew and loved it almost as much as Rose and Harry Rogers did.