



Fig. 1: St Paul's Anglican Church, Dunrobin, in 2013. (BE)

Building St Paul's Anglican Church, Dunrobin, 1895-96

by Bruce S. Elliott

AFTER FORWARDING THE GOTHICIZATION of St John's and St Mary's Churches, Rev. W.H. Stiles promoted construction of a church at Dunrobin beginning in 1892. A picnic was held in June in aid of the building fund, and J.J. Younghusband hosted a fundraising social in November. A concert was held in February 1894 with Rev. Mr Smith of New Edinburgh and Mary Headley of Woodlawn providing musical entertainment while John Grierson of Woodlawn and two gentlemen from Ottawa gave comic readings. By May a site in the village had been purchased for \$150. In September the congregation decided to construct a church of brick, but the building actually tendered for and constructed would be of stone. A phonographic concert by Laing Bros. of Acton, Ontario, was held in the Orange Hall the following January, and tenders were issued for the construction of a stone church in February 1895.

The architect was **Charles Frederick Noble Cox** (1858-1895) who was born in London, Ontario, the son of George Cater Cox (1819-1907). The father was a Great Lakes sailor from Devonport, England, who lived at first on Wolfe Island near Kingston and later moved to London, Ontario where he worked as a postal clerk. Charles trained in the office of architects Tracy & Durand in London, and worked as a surveyor there in 1881. He moved to New York later that year but married Kate

Mitchell in London in December 1882. He served as a lieutenant with D Company of the 7th Battalion Fusiliers during the North-West Resistance of 1885. He was in an architectural partnership with A.O. Graydon back in London that year when he designed a pair of houses. He also designed St John's Anglican Church there early in 1887 before moving to Ottawa where he was employed for the month of May in laying out and surveying the new Central Experimental Farm. In doing this he probably worked for J. Bower Lewis (1854-1937), nephew of C.H. Pinhey's brother-in-law and law partner Mayor J.B. Lewis, who had the contract for surveying and preparing the plans of the farm. [Sess. Papers 51 Vic. 1888 no. 2 pp. 102-3]

In October 1887 Cox was taken on as a draftsman by the Department of Marine and Fisheries as a temporary employee. His work as a draftsman was apparently unexcelled and he was chosen to oversee the decoration of the Canadian fisheries exhibit for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. He was a member of the Ottawa Rifle Club, where he won the McLeod Stewart Cup in 1889, and Secretary of the Ottawa Cricket Club. He took part as a vocalist in a number of local concerts. Cox had joined the militia in London and was a lieutenant in the 43rd Battalion in Ottawa. In 1894 he was appointed assistant engineer of the Hydrographic Survey. He applied his graphic and architectural talents to producing the

plans for St Paul's Church Dunrobin prior to his death in a swimming accident at Gatineau Point on August 1, 1895, aged 37, leaving a wife and daughter.

Local contractor Humphreys Gow worked on the building from May to December, assisted by George Harris, William Smith, and Joseph O'Hara. The building was nearing completion by Christmas, and another concert to raise money for the building fund was held in January 1896. As the lengthy article (*below*) from the diocesan newspaper

explains, the church opened for services on February 27, 1896. At the first vestry meeting, in April, the congregation selected the name St Paul's, as he was accounted their favourite apostle. The church was consecrated on June 13 by Bishop Hamilton of Ottawa. Consecration of the churchyard was postponed until improvements were completed. The first burial was that of James Abbott who died early in September; by later in the month a wire fence had been erected in front of the church and cemetery.

**From *Canadian Churchman*,
March 12, 1896, pp. 167-8**

*(The same article appeared in the
Ottawa Journal, Friday, March 6,
1896, p. 3, col. 3)*

DUNROBIN.—The opening for Divine service of one of the prettiest churches in the diocese took place here on Thursday, February 27th. The services were continued on March 1st. The services have been held regularly for the past nine years in the Orange Hall, kindly placed at our disposal by the Orangemen of the district. Five years ago it was proposed that a new church should be built, and from that day forward no effort has been spared to place in the bank to the credit of the treasurer – of the building committee – funds for that purpose. Last winter the stones were placed on building site by the members of the congregation and other friends – while the members of St. Mary's Church drew the sand. Last June the building was commenced, but owing to delays we were prevented from opening it for service till late on in the winter. A beautiful stone building, surmounted by a bell turret, standing in a prominent position, meets the eye from either of the four ways you approach the village. The building is 56 by 27, exclusive of porch and vestry, and was built from designs prepared by the much lamented C. Cox, Esq., of the department of Fisheries and Marine, Ottawa. The roof is an open one, finished in clear pine and varnished; while a dado, reaching to the under side of the east window, gives the chancel a well-finished appearance.

Mr. Humphrey Gow, the contractor, deserves the highest praise for the thorough manner in which he has carried out his contract; every detail showing him to be a most skillful workman. The whole of the furniture was supplied by the Globe Furniture Co., Walkerville, and surpasses anything we have ever seen in a country church. The nave seats, choir stalls, lectern, bishop's chair, altar rail, prayer desk and seat, are all made of oak, polished in clear antique finish. The prices were most reasonable, and the work excellent. The windows are all filled with stained glass, put in by that old and reliable firm, J.C. Spence & Sons, Montreal. The nave windows are square, each containing three lights; the various tinted glass producing a quiet, subdued light. The east window, the most beautiful of all, containing three lights, represents "The Nativity," "The Good Shepherd," and "The Ascension." The cost of this window was collected by Mrs. J.J. Younghusband. The west window, of beautiful design, is the result of "a talent" traded with by Bernice – a ten-year-old daughter of Mrs. J.J. Younghusband – until a sum sufficient to pay for the window was realized. The cost of the furnace was chiefly defrayed by Mrs. G.H. Younghusband, of S. March, who gave a social for that purpose. The chancel carpet, matting, lamps, and the furniture from Walkerville, were collected for by the rector, Rev. W.H. Stiles, while the dossal and drapes, brass altar desk and brass alms' basin, are the result of loving work made and sold to realize the amount by the rector's wife. The brass vases were

kindly donated by J.C. Spence & Sons, Montreal. On Thursday the services were Holy Communion, 10.30, celebrant, the rector, assisted by Rev. W. Loucks, who read the Epistle. Preacher – Rev. Rural Dean Bogert, of Ottawa, who in a most powerful and impressive sermon, traced the history of worship from the time of Abel to the present; while the Rev. Rural Dean Pollard, at the evening service, showed that the worship of the Church of England, being liturgical, dated back to the times of the Apostles, some of the prayers of the Prayer Book being used from almost Apostolic days. On Sunday the rain continued till late in the evening. The roads were in an almost impassable state, so that very few came to the services. There was a celebration at 10.30 o'clock, at which the Ven. the Archdeacon of Ottawa gave words of loving counsel and advice to the few present, urging upon them to use that building as the house of God on all the more sacred occasions of life. At 2.30, evensong was said by the archdeacons, while the Rev. E.A.W. Hanington preached a most instructive sermon, proving the Catholicity of the English Church. The offertories at the services amounted to nearly \$52. The people of Dunrobin are to be most earnestly congratulated on the way in which they have worked for the new church – and more especially for the absence of that discord which generally finds a place in an undertaking of such magnitude. The clergy present at the opening services voted this the most perfect little church they had ever seen.