

THE KIRK T.F.B

information does not exist, such as John Finlayson, or young people who did not stay long enough in Victoria to be recorded in the annual directory.

A list of the year when members of the 1890 congregation joined St. Andrew's, and when they left, provides some interesting information. First, around the year 1890 there is a very high turnover of people. George Barclay was one of them. He may well have been a young man, looking for work. Sometimes the Roll gives a suggestion, such as "Gone to Wellington." The Dunsmuirs had a large coal mine there which frequently would have been offering jobs. In June 1899, (after which the twenty year gap in the Roll begins), there were still 55 of the 1890 members on the roll. This group of stable members can be balanced with an earlier group. By the end of 1884, 57 had joined St. Andrew's who were on the Roll in 1890. Some of these people have been described above. It should be emphasized that they, in their younger years, were mobile, looking for work and seeking their fortune. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the turnover around 1890 is not abnormal. The departure of some longer serving members, such as Gray, is a clear reflection of local economic conditions in Victoria.

The available address information offers some insight of where and how people lived. Not surprisingly, the wealthier members of the church lived in James Bay. Nine families lived in Michigan Street alone. Five lived in Belleville Street, and three of the political families, including the Robsons, lived in Bird Cage Walk. Several of the James Bay residents had their businesses or offices in Government Street. On the other hand, Fort Street was a mix of residences and commercial establishments. Not infrequently owners, (or an employee), lived over the shops in Fort Street. For example, the Lemms lived at 133 Fort over their "Fancy Goods" store.

Accommodation for single people was not always easy. At the top end of the market the Jorands offered some rooms at "Rocabella." In a descending order there were a variety of other residential hotels and boarding houses. One of the latter was certainly at 9 Amelia Street. Extended families, brothers, sisters, or mothers-in-law, commonly shared an address. As the Communicants' Roll records movement of people joining and leaving the church, it also shows some moving within the city. Doubtless

the reasons would be the same as they are today—changing circumstances of family or fortune.

The congregation of 1890 included people from all walks of life. They had a wide range of skills and abilities. They lived and worked in Victoria. Some members of the congregation were leaders who helped build the city. Others worked for them in their foundries, on their railroads or ships, or in their businesses. Without them the achievements of Victoria could not have been made. Regardless of individual changes in their personal condition, and whether they settled in Victoria, or moved on, collectively these were the people who built St. Andrew's Church. Their work has endured.

W. R. GLOVER

NOTES

- ¹ McDonald, Robert J., "Victoria, Vancouver, and the Economic Development of British Columbia, 1886-1914", in Ward, W. Peter, and Robert J. McDonald, (eds.), *British Columbia: Historical Readings*, (Vancouver, 1981), p. 376.
- ² *Daily Colonist*, Victoria, 17 April 1949. The source is one of a series of articles for the Sunday paper, written by James K. Nesbitt, that appeared in the late 1940s and early 1950s. They have been collected in a set of bound volumes, under the title "Old Homes and Families," and are available in the Provincial Archives of British Columbia (PABC). The Munro story is in Vol. 3, No. 15.
- ³ *Daily Colonist*, 19 September 1954, (Nesbitt Vol. 12, No. 24).
- ⁴ *Ibid.*
- ⁵ Careless, J. M. S., "The Business Community in the Early Development of Victoria, British Columbia", in Friesen, J., and H. K. Ralston, (eds.), *Historical Essays on British Columbia*, (Toronto, 1980), pp. 191-92.
- ⁶ Taylor, G. W., *Builders of British Columbia: An Industrial History*, (Victoria, 1982), p. 197.
- ⁷ The Minutes of the Board of Managers, (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Archive, Victoria, B.C.) record a letter of appreciation of 17 November 1906 that was sent to Rithet. In addition, reference is made to clearing the debt because of Rithet's business accumen in the pamphlet *To Commemorate the Sixtieth Anniversary, St. Andrew's Church*, PABC.
- ⁸ Members of long standing of today's congregation may remember the pamphlet published in 1941 to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the congregation. At that time Mrs. W. H. Dorman and Mrs. R. B. McMicking were honoured as charter members. The surviving written record cannot substantiate a claim perhaps based in the oral record of the church, that is now lost. Two Dorman

JOSEPH
HUN

H.F.H.:

JAMES
R.

RITHE

Geo
N 9 Amelia St
boarding house