

St. Paul's, in Fulford Harbour .

St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, ^{pioneer} Church on Salt Spring Island, built 1880, ~~dedicated~~ ^{dedicated} by the late Most Reverend John Baptist Bronde, D.D. then Bishop of Vancouver Island, ~~1885~~ ~~1885~~ The blessing of the church took place

on May 10th. with the whole population of Fulford, mainly the Kanakas, with some Cowichan and Saanich Indians, and a handful of white men, some of whom had married Indian women. The children show the mixture of blood.

At the far right of the picture can be seen the Bishop in his robes and mitre, while the priest who founded the church, Rev. Father Donckele, is missing, so it is presumed that he took the picture. Fifth lady from the left was Mrs. George Fisher, a Kanaka, (Maria Mahoi) Back of her, wearing a hat and with ~~his~~ white beard, is the Kanaka leader, William Naukana, who was employed by the Hudson Bay Company in James Douglas' time. On the fence is well known Ted Akerman, one of the sons of the pioneer of 1863, Joseph Akerman, (who snatched a bride from the Bride Ship Robert Lowe) Ted Akerman at the age of 12 in 1880, used to be the only one who could handle the yoke of oxen that hauled the lumber for the building of St. Paul's after Indians had dumped it on the beach at Burgoyne Bay, having paddled it across from Cowichan Bay in their great canoes. They were nearly swamped in the tide waters of Sansum Narrows en route. ~~Ted Akerman~~ ~~Bob Akerman~~

Sons and daughters and grandchildren of Ted Akerman live on Salt Spring today. Other names in the picture would be John King, E. Bittancourt, John Pappenburger, Michael Gyves Sr. and Dick Purser, (Greek, Portuguese, ~~Irish~~ German, Irish, all nationalities and only five Roman Catholic families on the island at that time.) John Maxwell Sr. and Joseph

Akerman Sr, would have been two of the white men who helped found the little church that is so much a landmark in Fulford and still being used by the people for Sunday Mass.

The picture by courtesy of Bob Akerman, Jr.