

BLYTH FAMILY

NB: The following is prepared from Falkland Islands Registers and files – there may be other family born outside the Falklands. Unless stated otherwise, all dated births, deaths and marriages occurred in the Falklands and all numbered graves are in Stanley Cemetery. Any variations which may occur in name or the spellings of names are recorded as written in the records at the time.

John “Billy” BLYTH was born 15 October 1859 at Bridge End, Ceres, Fife Scotland to **William BLYTH**, linen weaver, and **Ann BLYTH** formerly **MILLAR**. John, a blacksmith, was married to **Agnes Christina Brown LATTO**, domestic servant, 1 January 1885 in the Church of Scotland, Kingsbarns, Fife, Scotland. [Family History]

John BLYTH was employed as a foreman smith on an annual salary of £160 by the Falkland Islands Company Limited in April 1898. In a despatch dated April 1898 to the Colonial Manager in Stanley Frederick Cobb, the Managing Director in Stanley, said that he was *“much pleased with his appearance and manner; he has excellent testimonials, and I hope that you will find him an acquisition.”*

John BLYTH age 38, **Agnes BLYTH** age 34, **William BLYTH** age 11, **Alexander BLYTH** age 9, **Agnes BLYTH** age 7 and **John BLYTH** age 0 left London 19 April 1898 on board the *Tanis*, arriving in Stanley 19 May 1898. John came out on contract as the Falkland Islands Company Ltd’s foreman smith. John and his family departed for Lafonia on board the *Fortuna* 27 December 1898. They returned from Darwin Harbour 5 January 1899.

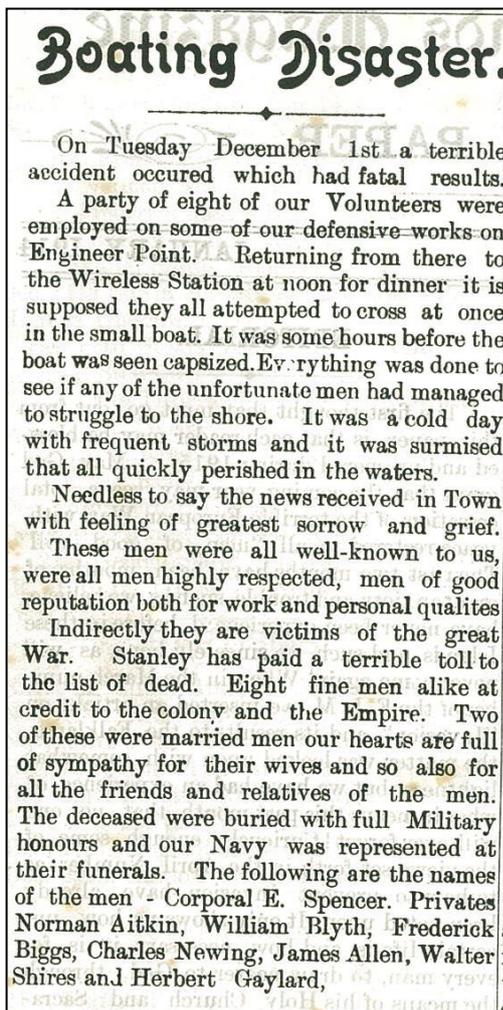
On 18 May 1908 the Colonial Manager of the Falkland Islands Company Ltd, Stanley requested Head Office to send out another blacksmith to replace John Blyth. John’s original agreement had been terminated some years ago during to misconduct but as he had always been a good workman the FIC had continued to employ him on an hourly rate during the winter months and he was allowed to occupy the house rent free as he was considered a really useful man until recently; accurate in his work, good at shoeing horses and especially good at tempering tools. He needed replacing as he could no longer withstand drink. [FIC: D11, 672,673]

John and Agnes and their younger children (*William and Alexander stayed in the Falkland Islands*) departed for Punta Arenas on board the *Oriana* 3 June 1908. In a letter from the American Consulate, Punta Arenas, J E Rowen writes to the Colonial Manager of the FIC, Stanley that he was *“assisting to send Mrs Blythe and the family back to Stanley. Blythe has gone to “The Devil” to talk plainly, but as you know Mrs Blythe is a very nice woman, and I am assisting to get her where the boys can look to her.”* [FIC/ES/LOC/3#18] John and his family returned from Punta Arenas on board the *Oravia* 13 August 1909.

John, age 63 and a British blacksmith, died 22 December 1922 in Stanley and was buried 24 December 1922 in Grave K879. Agnes, age 82, died 10 May 1945 and was buried in Grave K1237.

FIRST GENERATION:

1. **William BLYTH** born circa 1885 in Scotland. William departed for Port Howard 22 May 1905 on board the *Fortuna* and returned from Fox Bay 23 June 1906 on board the *Lafonia*. William arrived from Chile on board the *Orissa* 17 June 1909 and departed for West Falkland on board the *Hattie L M* 28 August 1909. William arrived from Punta Arenas via West Falkland 26 April 1910 on board the *Alejandro*. William, a labourer, was married to **Ellen Mary Grace LEE** 27 May 1913 in the Nonconformist Church (Tabernacle) by Special Licence by Robert Johnson, Nonconformist Minister. The witnesses were Alfred James Lee and Catherine Harriet Lee. William's father was recorded as John Blyth, blacksmith, and Ellen's father was recorded as Alfred Vincent Lee, shepherd. William, age 26 and a private in the FI Volunteer Corps, drowned 1 December 1914 and was buried in Grave F779.



Ellen, a widow, was married to (2) **Thomas Nathaniel John BRAXTON**, navy, 10 June 1919 at Port Howard by Special Licence by J Stanley Smith, Clerk in Holy Orders. The witnesses were Henry John Lee and Flora Braxton. Ellen's father was recorded as Alfred Vincent Lee, shepherd, and Thomas' father was recorded as Thomas Braxton, deceased carpenter.

2. **Alexander Latto BLYTH** born 19 October 1888 in Fife, Scotland. Alexander departed for North Arm 1 September 1906 on board the *Lafonia* and started work for the Falkland Islands Company Limited in the North Arm area 3 September 1906 and finished 29 February 1912. Alexander, a navy, was married to (1)

Frances Emily BOWLES, 28 February 1912 at Darwin Harbour by Edward J Seymour, Dean & Chaplain. The witnesses were George Edward Bowles and Charlotte Edith Bowles. Frances' father was recorded as George Bowles, gardener, and Alexander's father was recorded as John Blyth, blacksmith. Frances, age 28, died 14 March 1919 from pneumonia and heart failure at Darwin Harbour and is buried at Darwin.

Alexander, a widower and labourer, was married to (2) **Christina Agnes Dickson MORRISON**, domestic servant, 14 July 1922 in the Church, Darwin Harbour, East Falkland by Special Licence by Alex Moir, Deputy Registrar. The witnesses were John Goss and Beatrice A Crawford. Alexander's father was recorded as John Blyth, blacksmith, and Christina's father was recorded as Roderick Morrison, shepherd. Alexander, a retired handyman age 70, died 29 July 1959 in Stanley and was buried 1 August 1959 in Grave Q1638. Christina, age 64 and a widow from Canada, died 14 September 1968 in Stanley and was buried 18 September 1968 in Grave T2111.

3. **Agnes Ferrer BLYTH** born 7 January 1891 at 34A North Street, Lesle, Fife, Scotland. Agnes was married to **Alexander BERNTSEN**, labourer, 8 June 1911 at the Registrar's Office, Stanley by M Craigie-Halkett, Acting Registrar General. The witnesses were Abner Berntsen and Kate Allan. Alexander's father was recorded as Lars Marentius Berntsen, sailmaker, and Agnes' father was recorded as John Blyth, blacksmith.
4. **John "Jack" "Beetle" BLYTH** born circa 1893 in Scotland. John, a school cleaner, was married to **Louisa Mary WATSON**, widow, 30 January 1937 at the house of Alex Blyth, Davis Street, Stanley by Special Licence by Walter Forrest McWhan, Nonconformist Minister. The witnesses were A L Blyth and E A Peck. John's father was recorded as John Blyth, deceased blacksmith, and Louisa's father was Emile Boyer. John, age 59 and a labourer, died 9 June 1953 from acute enteritis and intestinal obstruction and was buried 12 June 1953 in Grave 1514. Louisa, age 87 and a widow, died 18 February 1968 in Stanley and was buried 21 February 1968 in Grave T2097.
5. **Ann Miller BLYTH** born 15 July 1897 in Dundee, Scotland. Ann, age 18, was married to **Edward William HEADFORD**, fireman in the Royal Navy, 3 November 1915 at Stanley by C McDonald Hobley, Chaplain. The witnesses were Agnes Berntsen and Alex Berntsen. Edward's father was recorded as William Headford, oilcloth maker, and Ann's father was recorded as John Blyth, blacksmith. Ann, age 48, and Edward, age 56 and a caretaker from Bristol, went on leave to the UK in 1946. Edward, age 69 and a retired civil servant from England, died 22 August 1958 in Stanley. Ann, age 67 and a widow, died 19 April 1965 in Stanley.
6. **James BLYTH** born 15 July 1901 in Stanley and baptised 12 December 1907 by Christ Church Cathedral. His father's occupation was recorded as blacksmith. James, a labourer, was married to **Mary Greenhill SMITH** 4 November 1933 at the Registrar's Office, Stanley by Special Licence by A B Hoare, Ag Registrar General. The witnesses were A J Blyth and Helen Biggs. James' father was recorded as John Blyth, blacksmith, and Mary's father was recorded as James McNicoll, blacksmith. Mary was born in Dundee, Scotland 21 January 1898. James, age 50 and a blacksmith, and Mary, age 54, went on holiday to the UK in 1952.

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VERSION: 1 October 2014

7. **Frederick Isbel King BLYTH** born 28 January 1905 in Stanley and baptised 12 December 1907 by Christ Church Cathedral. His father's occupation was recorded as blacksmith. Frederick, a labourer, was married to **Winnifred HARRIES** 11 March 1923 at Christ Church Cathedral by J Stanley Smith, Clerk in Holy Orders. The witnesses were John Blyth and Emily Lanning. Frederick's father was recorded as John Blyth, deceased blacksmith, and Winnifred's father was recorded as Joseph Harries, gardener. Frederick and Winnifred went to the UK on holiday in 1958.

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN & AGNES STILL IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS