

# JANE CAMERON NATIONAL ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER



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## WELCOME

Welcome to the first issue of 2025! We apologise that this issue is a little later than usual but as we hope you agree, this one is a bumper edition, reflecting the activities we have been involved in since September 2024.

Our service update share all the details of our recent advocacy and engagement events. As usual we also have an update on the records that have been digitised and made available on our website since September.

The 'Falklands On Record' section once again features articles delving deeper into our collections. This time Helen McShane reflects on the personal notes and photographs of Arthur Cobb, to provide information on his interests and pursuits in nature. We also have an interview with Shirley Hirtle, who speaks about her family's involvement in the *Monthly Review*, a periodical that provides researchers with so much detail about social history and life in the Falklands.

The team are also thrilled to include a contribution from one of our Y10 work experience students, Marcy Bonner, who has completed a transcription of a handful of records from our early government letter books collection. She completed this during her placement in November 2024 - and you can find out more about what she and fellow student Brett Anderson-Smith got up to in our 'Outreach & Engagement' section.

Some activities from January of this year that we have taken part in and completed, will be published in our next newsletter planned for August 2025. At this point we also hope to show you all the improvements that have been made with our revamped webpage, which is going live soon. We hope that you enjoy reading and please contact us if you have any feedback, or want to arrange a research appointment to view any records.



Jane Cameron National Archives

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## Service Update- February 2025

The service has been pleased to see that the amount of research queries has continued to be high over the second half of 2024. Though the amount of research appointments has been lower, our various campaigns have seen more people come through the doors and more interest in the service as a whole.

The team has been pleased to take part in a few initiatives for the first time, including Explore Your Archive Week, Careers Day, and the FICS Year 10 work experience week. This has been a great opportunity to engage with the wider community in the Islands, but also with students and those who might consider Archives as a career option in the future. We were very pleased with our two work experience students who helped to support our Explore Your Archive Week activities, speaking to tour groups and getting material out.

In terms of our social media we recently created a BlueSky account (@JCNArchives) to further promote our work and collections. In comparison to our Facebook and Twitter channels, that have majority local or individual persons following us, this new account sees a mixture of familiar faces and worldwide archives institutions and professionals.

Since making the FIC Ltd photograph collection available on our website, there has been an increase in amount of people requesting to use or include these

images in their own articles and research. Our online collections are still growing and with our revamped website we will be adding more of our digitised photograph albums.

### *Copyright guidance:*

Whenever material from the Jane Cameron National Archives is reproduced in any form or in any medium, the user must acknowledge the Jane Cameron National Archives as the source and give all document references. If material is to be used for commercial publication, exhibition or broadcast the written permission of the Jane Cameron National Archives must first be obtained.

For information about how to cite our records can be found on our FAQs page here:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/about-archives/faqs>

### **Research Statistics for July - December 2024:**

*Local Organisations or People: 77*  
*Government Departments: 12*  
*Overseas Researchers: 54*  
**Total: 143**  
*Research Appointments: 5*

### **Helen McShane, Records Management & Archives Support Officer, reflects on her activities over the past few months**

*Since taking up the role in October 2024, I can honestly say that every day at the Jane Cameron National Archives has been an adventure.*

*Over the past few months, we have opened our doors to the public, schools, and our colleagues in FIG, advocating our mission to maintain and preserve the archives of the Falkland Islands, and promoting the study of Falkland Islands history. Assisting with these visits has quickly developed my knowledge of the JCNA collection, allowing me to fully appreciate its historical value and cultural importance.*

*Alongside ongoing work to process and catalogue accessions, a large part of my role is also to respond to the varied research queries that we receive as a service. Seeking out and discovering the desired (and sometimes surprising) information to relay to researchers is a highly rewarding process.*

*Every day brings something new and is a learning experience, that highlights valuable snippets of the rich and unique heritage of our Islands.*

*A great example of this is the recent digitisation project I have undertaken, focusing on the photographic collection, diaries, and correspondence of the Cobb Family within the wider FIC Ltd Collection. Being able to use Arthur. F. Cobb's dated notebooks and publications to match descriptions to previously unlabelled photographs, has been particularly satisfying.*

*The digitised photographic collection, and notebook will be available to view on our website, and in the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading my article on Arthur Cobb, where I will be focusing on his observations of the natural world, and amusing asides concerning the challenges of rural life in the Falkland Islands in the early 1900's.*

# Online Collection

The website and our online collections are one of the most popular services that the Archives facilitates and updates frequently. It offers researchers anywhere in the world the opportunity to access, and download, our digitised records without having to visit the archives physically or make an appointment.

Between July and December 2024, we have continued to add to our existing online collections and complete series of records. The files series digitised and uploaded to our website include:

- Culture – Library & Museum:  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/online-collections/people/culture-and-early-history/library-museum>
- Shipping – Darwin Log Book, Agreements and List of Crew (for the period 1968-1972):  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/online-collections/shipping/vessels-government-files-and-log-books-and-crew-agreements/a-to-e>
- Shipping – Research Vessels – John Biscoe Log Book, Agreements and List of Crew (for the period May 1953-April 1956):  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/online-collections/shipping/vessels-government-files-and-log-books-and-crew-agreements/log-books-crew-agreements>
- Minerals – Kelp:  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/online-collections/natural-history-and-mineral-resources/mineral-resources/general>
- Mail – Stamps:  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/online-collections/mail-stamps-and-telecommunications/stamps>
- Natural History – Seals and Sealing (for period 1922-1926)\*:  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/online-collections/natural-history-and-mineral-resources/natural-history/seals-and-sealing>
- Economic Reports (Various 1987-2000):  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/online-collections/trade-and-industry/economics>
- Gazetteer 2024 (copyright of Robin Isherwood):  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/online-collections/buildings-past-and-present/general>
- Defence – Falkland Islands Defence Force (General files for the period 1921-1941):  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/online-collections/defencenwar/falkland-islands-volunteers-and-falkland-islands-defence-force/general>
- People – Updated Honours and Awards (copyright of Dr Stephen Palmer):  
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/online-collections/people/medals-and-honours>

\* This latest series was digitised and uploaded by our two work experience students, Brett Anderson-Smith and Marcy Bonner

## Website Redevelopment

JCNA website will shortly be revamped and accessible to researchers. Existing links will not change however, we are excited to provide our readers with the details of the expected changes, including a new:

- ‘Photographic Collections’ menu section – we will be adding over 10 new albums
- ‘Advocacy & Outreach’ page- to find our mail list updates and social media campaigns
- Improved ‘Contact Us’ page- making the ‘contact us’ form more prominent

To receive a detailed list of items digitised to our website, email us to be added to our mailing list

**You can access our online collections, along with copyright guidance, at:**  
**<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/online-collections>**

# Physical Collection

The Archives have been fortunate to be gifted documents by individuals and organisations to expand our archival collections and add to the history we preserve and make accessible. Between September 2024 and the end of February 2025, we have received 15 new accessions, including Mensun Bound's latest book which has been added to our Reading Room Library, and a lovely collection of family photographs donated by Shirley Hirtle.

These records will be part of the ongoing cataloguing work that is undertaken by the service.

The Archives team have completed four service policies that provide further information to the public about our procedures and how we manage collections in our care. This provides potential donors with details about our collection criteria and how we manage their details.

The following policies will be made available when our revamped website goes live:

- Collections Development & Acquisition Policy
- Collections Access Policy
- Collections Information Policy
- Volunteering Policy

If you are interested or considering donating any records please contact us to discuss in the first instance.

The team will be working on our Catalogue over the next month to develop a version that will be accessed via our website, for researchers to review our collections. This follows on from recent work that we have undertaken with a volunteer (more to come in our next newsletter, when we hope that this feature will be live).

# Outreach & Engagement

The Archives have been taking part in a few outreach activities to help promote the service and advocate for the Archives. This is important work to raise the profile of the service both locally and internationally and support the accessibility of the records through engaging with people and encouraging them to get involved.

## Visits to the Archives

The JCNA have hosted several group visits since September including:

### FICS Careers Day - 10 October 2024

The Archives hosted and took part in the FICS Careers Day on 10 October 2024. The 14 students, from across the various year groups, were accompanied by two teachers. The purpose of the visit was to showcase the work of the Archives and provide the students an insight into the career and day-to-day work of an Archivist.





## Outreach & Engagement (contd.)

The two-hour session started off with a tour of the Archives, explaining the role of the service, and showing them the Archives storage area and workshop. As with similar tours, we spoke about the work behind the scenes to arrange, catalogue and manage the collections – and even got some of the students who had previously visited for their J&ACMT History Prize, to recall and explain some of the information as we went along.

There were two interactive elements of the session, to get the students more involved with a practical, hands-on experience of the varied work of Archives. The students were separated into two groups between the Archives staff.

### *Collections Care*

Preservation and collections care is an important part of working in Archives. Being aware of, and controlling the storage environment where archives are held, is key to supporting the long-term survival of the records and avoid deterioration.

There are multiple risks and factors that can lead to deterioration of records including exposure to light, the wrong temperature/humidity, water damage, poor handling, pests, and external threats such as theft. As standard practice, the Archives have policies and procedures in place to manage these risks, including controlling the temperature and humidity of the storage area.

The JCNA have in the past year, partnered up with the National Conservation Service in the UK (NCS). As professional Heritage Conservators they assist us in providing advice and guidance to identify where we can improve our practices. In this programme, the JCNA are provided with equipment to digitally log the environmental conditions in the storage area, and undertake pest monitoring. These pieces of equipment are swapped and replaced every three months, with the results being analysed by the NCS and the JCNA. The 10 October coincidentally was the point at which the various pieces of equipment were due to be swapped.

The students were tasked with firstly, setting up the piece of equipment. The data loggers were switched on and the pest monitoring equipment set up. Each group had a mixture of both items to ensure they each had a go at preparing them.

Secondly, the next phase was to put them in place. Continuing in their assigned groups, some of the students were tasked with picking up and collecting the old equipment due to be swapped, and the other students had to place the newly set up equipment in their place. It was a smooth operation and the students were able to learn about the preservation efforts in place at the Archives.

### *Advocacy*

Another element of working in Archives is advocacy and promotion. In addition to preserving documents, the role of the Archivist is also to make collections accessible and open to researchers. Advocating and making people aware of the service therefore becomes a function of the work. With the Explore Your Archive Campaign (EYA) taking place in November, it was decided that the next activity would be for the students to brainstorm ideas for content to use for the social media campaign.

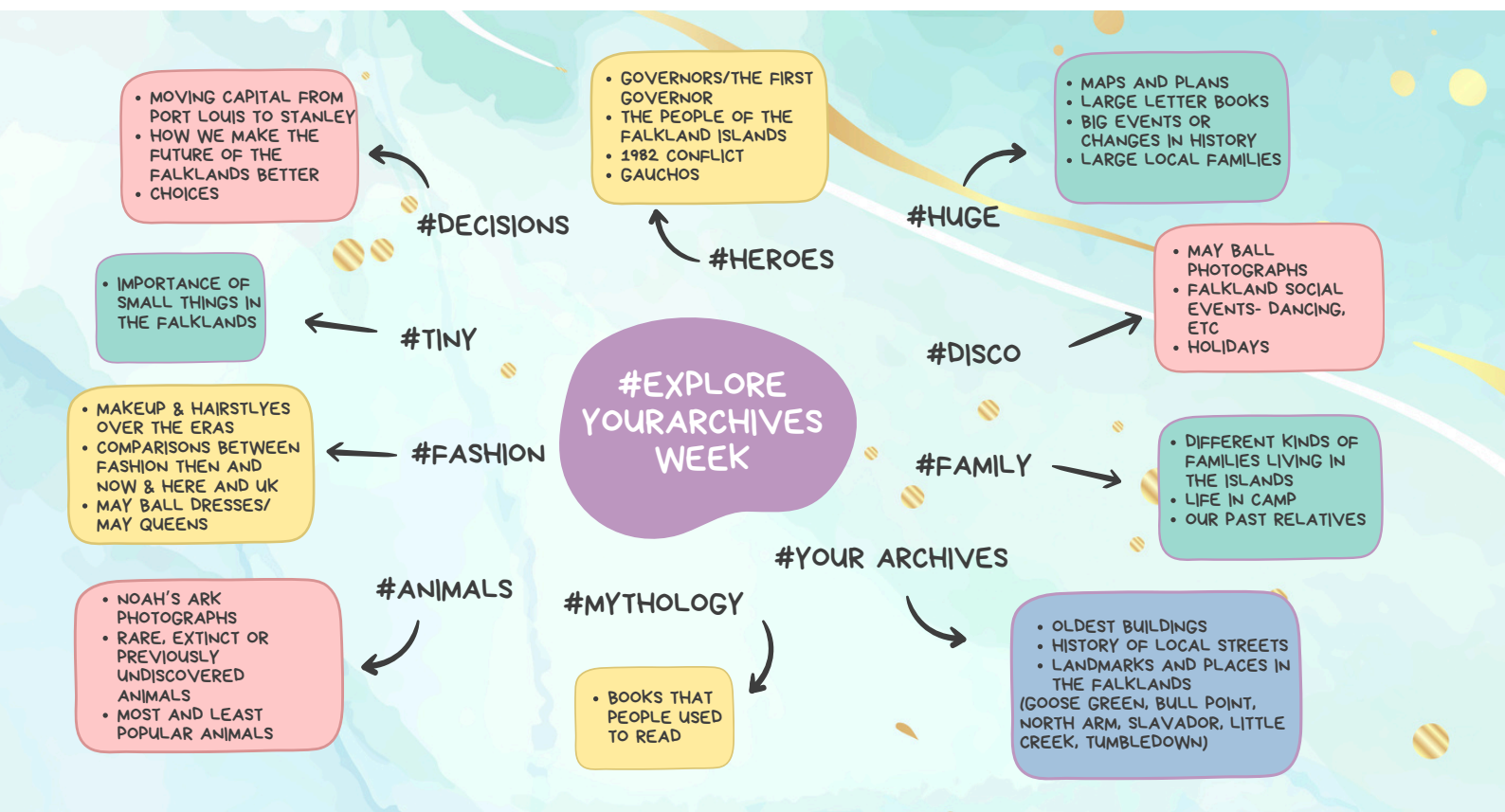
Remaining in their groups, the students took the daily themes, scheduled for the EYA Week, and wrote down their ideas. The Reading Room had a selection of material out on display to provide them with some inspiration on the various types of records we had – such as photographs and documents that might make for a visually appealing post or content.



## Outreach & Engagement (contd.)

During the EYA Week itself, we did use some of the ideas as a starting point to find relevant material and produce content for social media.

Below: A visual diagram of the student notes



### Career Chat

To end the session, we discussed the various career routes and options to train or qualify to become an Archivist. We (staff) had produced a leaflet to explain more about the role of the Archivist, the skills involved, and the opportunities within the Archives for supporting those interested in pursuing it as a career.

It was explained to students that connected to, and within the field of Archival Studies, are other career options for those interested in heritage.

Thank you to Ali Ford, from the Careers Department, for allowing us to take part.

### Explore Your Archive Week – 21 November to 30 November 2024

'Explore Your Archive' is a platform run by the UK & Ireland Archives & Records Association (ARA) to encourage everyone to visit, use, celebrate and be inspired by archives. The focused week in November was an opportunity for archives to focus on promoting their services and engaging with the daily social media themes to highlight elements of their collection. This year, the 'Explore Your Archive Week' campaign ran from Thursday 21 November to Saturday 30 November 2024 and the Jane Cameron National Archives took part for the first time.

The 'Explore Your Archive Week' activities undertaken by the JCNA were a continuation of outreach efforts to increase awareness within the local community of the archive service and its role in ensuring the long-term survival and preservation of the heritage of the Falkland Islands. In addition to the engaging with the standard social media themes, the service hosted additional events to allow the community to learn more about our National Archives service in the Islands, the work that we do, and more importantly about the original and historical documents we preserve.

## Outreach & Engagement (contd.)

Over the week, the Archives undertook the following activities:

### Group Tours of the Archive

The group tours provided an insight into the facility itself, showing the Archives Storage area and visitors were able to view/read a selection of records on display in the main Reading Room.

### 'Introduction to the JCNA' – Presentation with Q&A

The presentation (hosted at the Museum) provided a bit more discussion on the work behind the scenes, speaking about the history of the archives, and how much our collections have developed over the years.

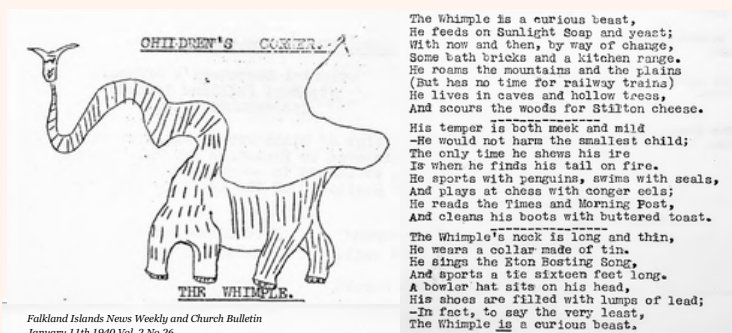
### Social media content for each daily theme

Daily for 10 days via Facebook and Twitter at @JCNArchives

### FIG Departmental Visits

An opportunity for FIG staff to visit the Archives, in a similar session to the public group sessions and showing records from their department/section and emphasise the link between records created today, becoming the archives of the future.

Below are two social media posts created by our work experience students Brett and Marcy, who were with us during the 'Explore Your Archive Week' campaign:



### #Mythology

In the Jane Cameron National Archives, we have digital and hard copies of different periodicals, newspapers and bulletins, like the FI Weekly News and Church Bulletin.

In the Children's Corner of this edition, they introduced a "curious beast", the Whimple. Make sure to keep your buttered toast close, so he doesn't use it to clean his boots!



### #Disco

Country dances are very common in the Falkland Islands, whether it is the occasional random event or the yearly occurring May Ball, locals have always loved to dress up and dance around with their family and friends.

The Jane Cameron National Archives has photographs and articles that document these events.



#ExploreYourArchives  
ARCHI'VE CREATED



#ExploreYourArchives  
ARCHI'VE CELEBRATED

For those who do not use social media, you will soon be able to view our posts from the 'Advocacy & Outreach' page on our website.

### Some highlights included:

- Welcoming 47 people to the Archives physically (including FIG Department and the general public)
- Receiving 134 engagements (likes, reposts) on our social media content across Facebook and Twitter (most of the content was created by our work experience students)
- Receiving interest in our upcoming Volunteer Programme

## Outreach & Engagement (contd.)

If you missed our tours, please get in touch so we can contact you next time we offer open days in the future.

Posts from our social media campaigns will **soon** also be viewable from our website, on the new 'Advocacy & Outreach' page.

We hope that the Explore Your Archive Week will become an annual event that the service engages with. To learn more about Explore Your Archive visit their website at: <https://www.exploreyourarchive.org/>

### FICS Year 10 Work Experience Week – 25 November to 29 November 2024

In November 2024 the service offered and hosted two placements for the FICS Year 10 Work Experience Week which ran from Monday 25 November to Friday 29 November. Brett Anderson-Smith and Marcy Bonner were our Archive Assistants for the week and this year the timings for the placement coincided with events and planned activities for 'Explore Your Archive Week' campaign.

The week's schedule saw both students getting involved with projects across the service, to understand about our internal procedures, showcasing elements of our routine tasks and ongoing advocacy work. Each student had the opportunity to undertake projects by themselves and the various activities demonstrated the varied work of the service.

A few key highlights of the week included:

- Digitising a collection of records and preparing/processing for the website (including removing metal clippings, using the scanning equipment for image capturing and editing, and responsibility of quality checking and naming the images before they were uploaded)
- Assisting staff with box-listing and auditing of records in the Archive storage area
- Locating relevant material and developing content for the Explore Your Archive Week social media posts
- Answered questions and assisting in hosting visitors from FIG Departments (including the MLAs)
- Numbering Letter Books and other records to update out catalogue information
- Transcribing and performing palaeography on four items in the Letter Books
- Cleaning the Archives office areas and Archives Stack as part of routine work
- Receiving a mention by MLA Short at Legislative Assembly on Thursday 28 November, praising the students for their work

We were very impressed with how Brett and Marcy developed their archival skills and knowledge, speaking confidently with any visitors we had during the week as we got them involved in the tours and telling people about the archives, our service, and their experience of the week. They both supported each other during their placement and for the group activities supervised each other's work.



## Outreach & Engagement (contd.)

Below Marcy and Brett tell us a bit more about why they chose the Archives, what they learnt over the week, and what they enjoyed doing:

### ***Why did you choose the Archives for your placement?***

**Marcy:** I chose the Archives for my work experience because I have always had an interest in history, and wanted to try and get an understanding of what area I might want to go into. My week of working there has really helped me do that, and I am highly considering doing some sort of archival work in the future.

**Brett:** The main reason I chose the archives for my work experience is I have a general interest in the history of the Falkland Islands. I think it could be helpful since I am considering studying archaeology at college.

### ***What activities have you carried out during your placement and what skills have you developed?***

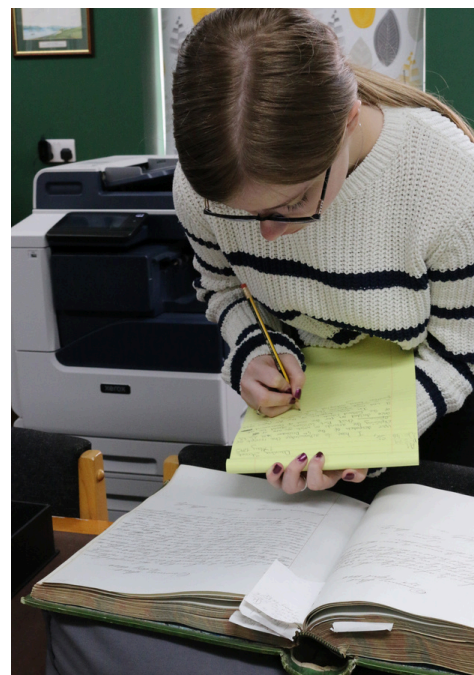
**Marcy:** During my week I carried out quite a few different activities, such as: box listing; digitising documents; preparing and assisting in tours; producing material for the JCNA's social media; and foliating. I have learnt a variety of new skills, for example digitisation. When I was digitising, I had to get a file and arrange it in chronological order and remove any old paperclips or other bindings to prevent damage/further damage. On the Friday, I edited the images produced from digitising, and uploaded them to the JCNA website. We also made a list of which photo albums were scanned to the website and labelled them for future reference.

**Brett:** During my placement at the Archives, I digitised sealing records from 1922 to 1926. Another project we took part in, was box listing and auditing the Stack. The Stack is the storage area for the archives, unfortunately I found it to be freezing cold – but the reason for this is so that the documents have a longer life span and are protected from damage. We also helped with cleaning the Stack, Reading Room and Workshop. I have developed the skills to be able to digitise and catalogue documents.

### ***What has been the most enjoyable, and the most challenging part of the experience?***

**Marcy:** For me, the most enjoyable part of the experience was going through the documents and finding some interesting and random information. The most challenging activity that I had to conduct was palaeography, which is being able to read and decipher old writing. But after I had some help and practice, I got the hang of it.

**Brett:** The most challenging part was removing the rusty staples and metal clippings from the records before they could be digitised. I think the thing I've enjoyed the most while working at the archives was being able to learn about my ancestry (for which I can say that I do not have a family tree – I have a family bush!). At the Archives I learnt a considerable amount about my family history and the Anderson family. The first Anderson, James Anderson, was Danish. He is my Great, Great, Great Grandfather and worked as the Harbour Pilot, living in Gilbert House.



## Outreach & Engagement (contd.)

### *Which records have you found the most interesting?*

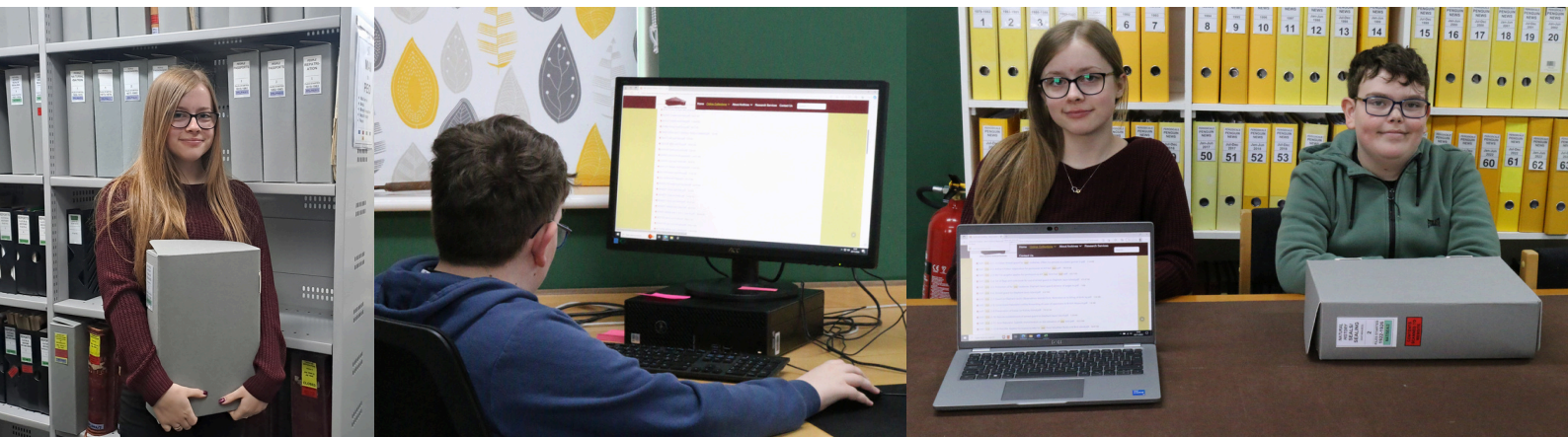
Marcy: The records I personally found the most interesting were my family's records from the 1800s, for example, I found a picture of my first descendants to live in the Falkland Islands from the 1870s.

Brett: What I believed to be the most interesting was the *Penguin News* (and older issues of the newspapers) - they are a great source of information.

### *Anything else you want to comment on about your experience or about the Archives?*

Marcy: The Archives does a very good job of preserving and looking after our history, and always having the community in mind. There is a lot of work to be done, especially for two people, and it is all done to an incredibly good standard. I would recommend to anyone who has an interest in Falkland Islands history, or would just like to know more about the Archives, to make an appointment and head down for a look!

Brett: My placement in the Archives has in fact exceeded my expectations. Don't get me wrong I knew I would enjoy it, but it was a better experience than I thought it would be and the staff (Chloe and Helen) were very welcoming and kind. They have helped us learn about all the different things that go on in the Jane Cameron National Archives like the cataloguing, digitising (and cleaning).



**ABOVE RIGHT:** MARCY AND BRETT SHOWING THEIR COMPLETED BOX OF DIGITISED RECORDS, AND THEIR LOCATION ON THE WEBSITE

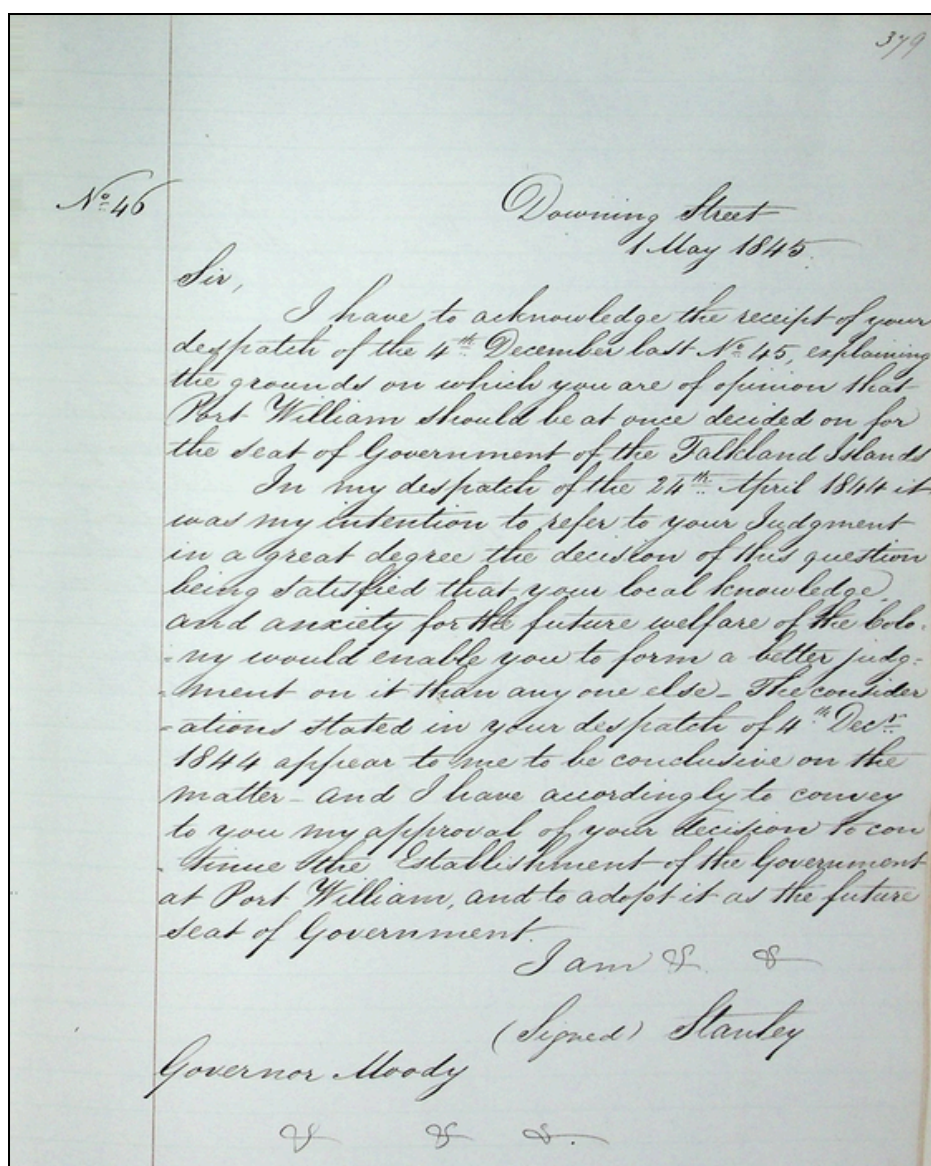
You can access the series of records [NAT/SEA/2] digitised by Brett and Marcy here:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/online-collections/natural-history-and-mineral-resources/natural-history/seals-and-sealing>

Thank you to Sally Heathman, from the Careers Department, for supporting the Y10 Work Experience Placement and for checking in on Marcy and Brett during their week with us.



## Transcription of Letter Books- Marcy Bonner



JCNA. A1: DESPATCHES FROM DOWNING STREET TO LT/GOVERNOR MOODY- 22 JULY 1841 TO 23 JUNE 1847.

p.379

No-46

Downing Street  
1 May 1845

Sir,

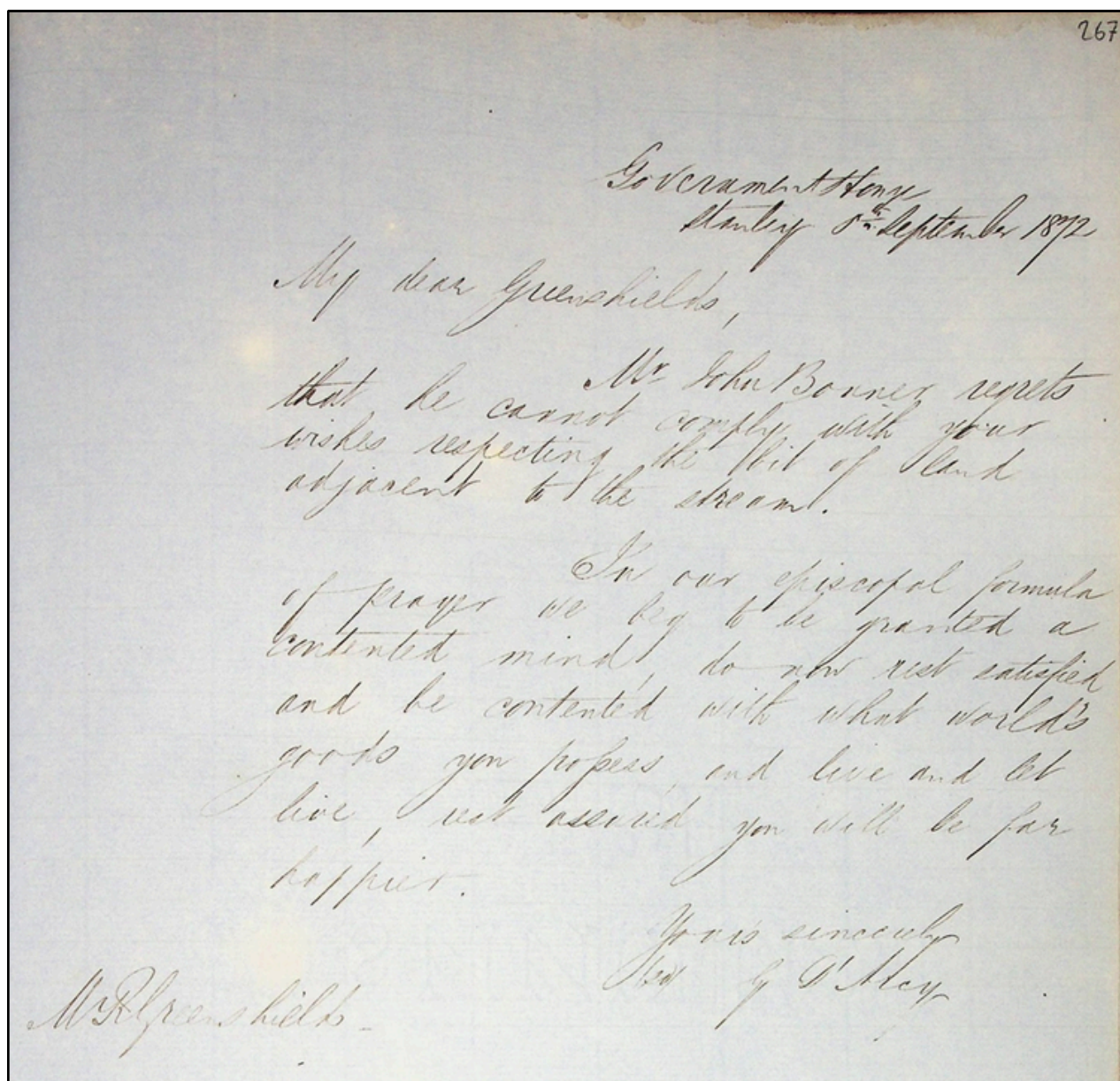
I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 4th December last No. 45, explaining the grounds on which you are of opinion that Port William should be at once decided on for the seat of Government of the Falkland Islands.

In my despatch of the 24th April 1844 it was my intention to refer to your judgement in a great degree the decision of this question being satisfied that your local knowledge and anxiety for the future welfare of the colony would enable you to form a better judgement on it than anyone else. The considerations stated in your despatch of 4th Dec 1844 appear to have to be conclusive on the matter and I have accordingly to convey to you my approval of your decision to continue the Establishment of the Government at Port William, and to adopt it as the future seat of Government.

I am  
(signed) Stanley

[Addressed to] Governor Moody

## Transcription of Letter Books- Marcy Bonner (contd.)



JCNA. D15: MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS FROM GOVERNMENT (GOVERNOR D'ARCY)- 31 OCTOBER 1871 TO 01 APRIL 1873.

p.267

Government House  
Stanley 8th September 1872

My dear Greenshields,

Mr John Bonner regrets that he cannot comply with your wishes respecting the bit of land adjacent to the stream.

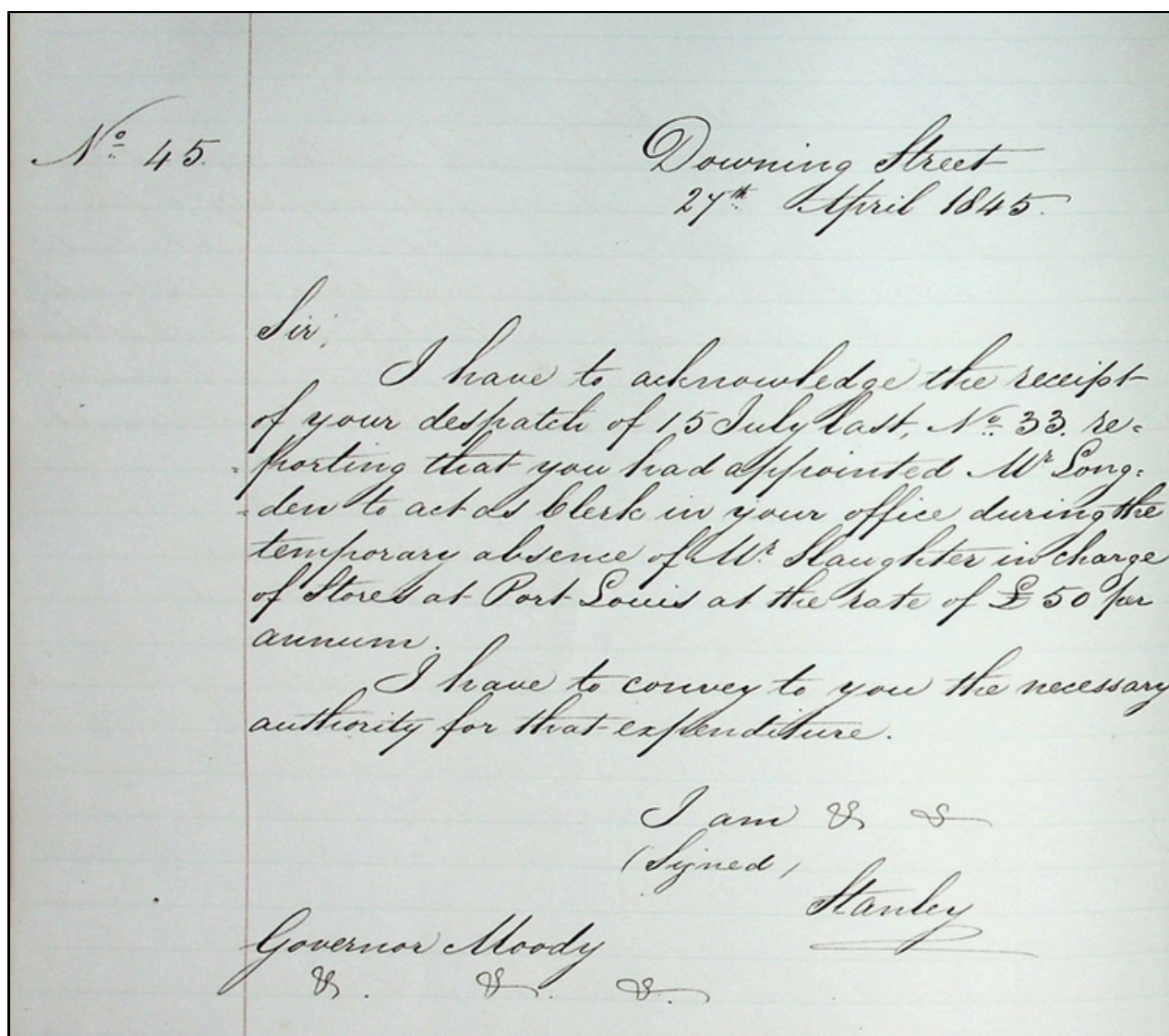
In our episcopal formula of prayer we beg to be granted a contented mind, do now rest satisfied and be contented with what world's goods you possess, and live and let live, rest assured you will be far happier.

Yours sincerely  
Governor D'Arcy

[Addressed to] Mr Greenshields



## Transcription of Letter Books- Marcy Bonner (contd.)



JCNA. A1: DESPATCHES FROM DOWNING STREET TO LT/GOVERNOR MOODY- 22 JULY 1841 TO 23 JUNE 1847.

No-45

Downing Street  
27th April 1845

Sir,

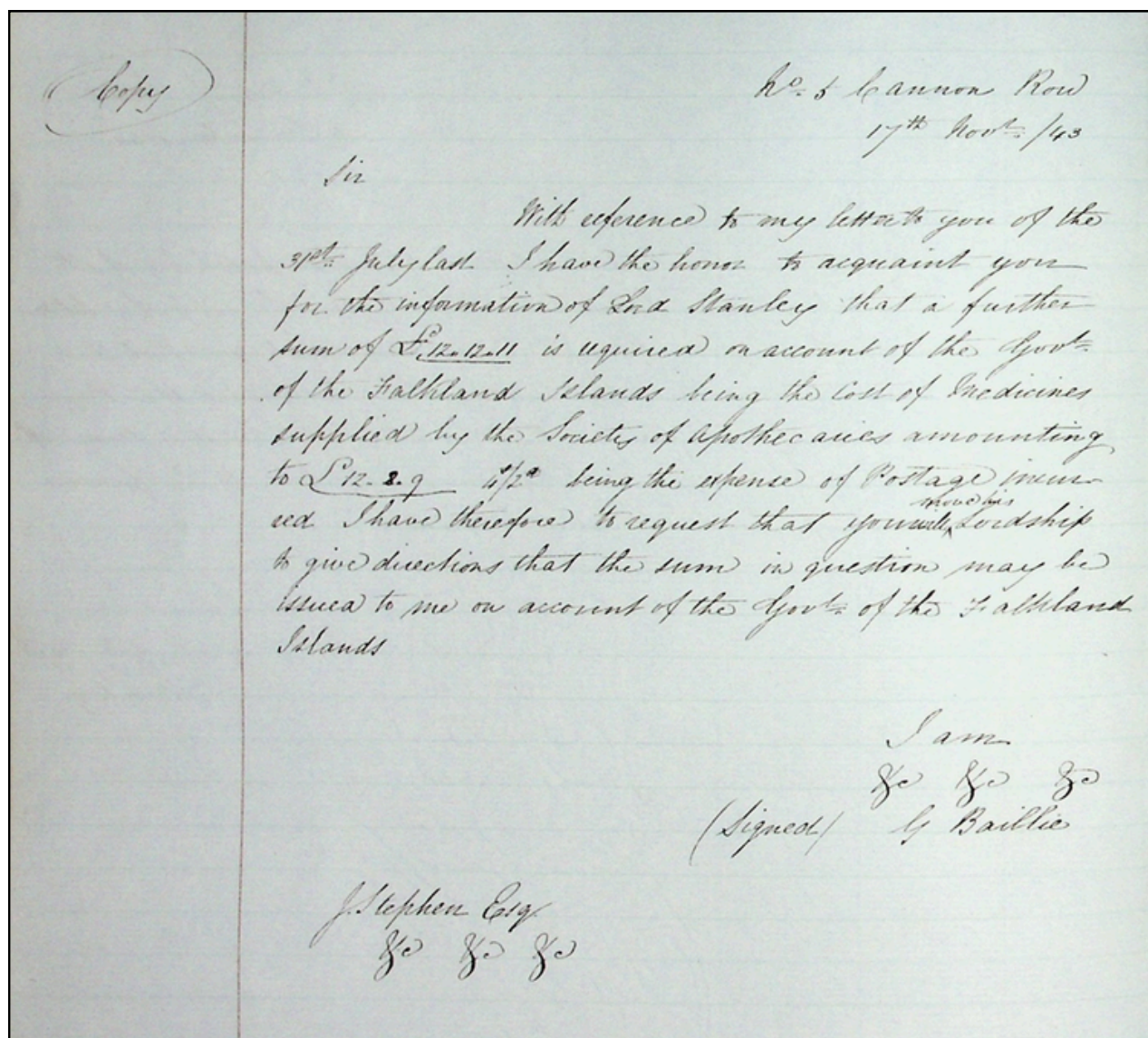
I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of 15 July last, No 33 reporting that you had appointed Mr. Longden to act as Clerk in your office during the temporary absence of Mr. Slaughter in charge of stores at Port Louis at the rate of £50 per annum.

I have to convey to you the necessary authority for that expenditure.

I am  
(signed)  
Stanley

[Addressed to] Governor Moody

## Transcription of Letter Books- Marcy Bonner (contd.)



JCNA. A1: DESPATCHES FROM DOWNING STREET TO LT/GOVERNOR MOODY- 22 JULY 1841 TO 23 JUNE 1847.

Copy.

No. 5 Cannon Row  
17th Nov /43

Sir,

With reference to my letter to you of the 31st of July last I have the honour to acquaint you for the information of Lord Stanley that a further sum of £12.12.11 is required on account of the Govt [Government] of the Falkland Islands being the cost of medicines supplied by the Society of Apothecaries amounting to £12.8.9 4/2 being the expense of postage incurred I have therefore to request that you will have his Lordship to give directions that the sum in question may be issued to me on account of the Govt [Government] of the Falkland Islands.

I am  
(signed) G Baillie

[Addressed to] J. Stephen Esq



# Falklands On Record: Snippets from the Archives

## The Arthur Cobb Collection by Helen McShane

This article explores Cobb's personal notes and photographs, accessioned by the Jane Cameron National Archives as part of the FIC Ltd Collection. The notebook itself is a collection of Cobb's original notes, collated and transcribed by Robin Woods and Isobel Castle.

It provides great insight into his ornithological studies, providing much context for the development of his second published work 'Birds of the Falkland Islands' (1933). Many details from his notes form the descriptors of the species included in the book, and some of the corresponding photographs from his collection can be seen in print.



**ABOVE:** JCNA. PC-050-0295A. ARTHUR COBB STANDING IN A PENGUIN ROOKERY. PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY R H BECK, BIRD PHOTOGRAPHER. BLEAKER ISLAND. 1916. FIC LTD/COBB COLLECTION

For those that may not have come across the name before, Arthur Frederick Cobb (1877-1965?) was the son of Frederick Edward Cobb, Colonial Manager for the Falkland Islands Company Ltd from 1867- 1891. Arthur studied in the United Kingdom before returning aged 29 as farm manager for Bleaker Island, where he lived for approximately 17 years.

Cobb had a keen interest in natural history and photography, and became the namesake of the 'Cobbs Wren', and endemic bird species. In his notebook it states that he "shot first one with rice on log by beach" on Carcass Island on 28 July 1908.

As with many scientists and naturalists of that era, Cobb would regularly "collect" specimens to acquire eggs, skins, and bones. Somewhat ironically, he was able to purchase the camera used to further his ornithological interests from the proceeds of killing an Elephant seal, and the subsequent sale of the hide and skeleton.

*28/5/1908: Sea Elephant came ashore at Darwin above bridge to woolshed & towed across upper bay in afternoon... a Russian Finn offered to skin it for a bottle of whiskey. Took fortnight to skin.*

*11/6/1908: Hide towed across harbour by Jennings. Then cleaned all bones of skeleton. Rubbed alum and saltpetre into hide, [after soaking it in a big iron pot] packed in cask, skeleton in crate.*

*Rowland Ward bought the lot for £50. Freight etc about £13. Bought Birdland camera with proceeds in 1909.*

[FIC/OM/COB 1#1. PAGE 143]

The hide and skeleton were displayed in Lord Rothschild's Museum at Tring in Hertfordshire, England (now part of the Natural History Museum). Cobb was later able to visit Tring and photograph the exhibit.

## Arthur Cobb Collection (contd.)



**LEFT:** JCNA.PC-050-0107.  
MUSEUM DISPLAY. ELEPHANT  
SEAL. FIC LTD/COBB  
COLLECTION

**RIGHT:** JCNA.PC-050-0108. MUSEUM DISPLAY.  
ELEPHANT SEAL  
SKELETON. FIC  
LTD/COBB  
COLLECTION



Whilst modern environmentalists would perhaps employ less invasive methods to develop their knowledge, Cobb's notes provided vital context, which undoubtedly aided the further study of Falkland Islands birds and wildlife of those who followed in his footsteps.

Evidenced in his various correspondence with other farmers and the Falkland Islands Government, Cobb recognised the ecological importance of tussac as a habitat for species of native birds. As well as its agricultural uses he encouraged and promoted tussac planting both in the Islands and further afield. He also remarked on various occasions that smaller birds, such as Wrens and Tussac birds, thrived on islands where there were no cats, rats, or mice to prey upon them; the basis of much important conservation work carried out in the Falkland Islands to this day.



## Arthur Cobb Collection (contd.)

*"Tamest and cheekiest of all Falkland birds. Come into kitchen and eat pies while being made (Lively Island). Perch on people's heads when in boats and blades of oars. When one rows to an island always met a little way off by these small dark birds which are very inquisitive and watch everyone."*

[FIC/OM/COB 1#1.PAGE 16]



**ABOVE:** JCNA. PC-050-0239. TUSSACBIRD TAKING WORM TO YOUNG IN UNDERGROUND NEST. FIC LTD/COBB COLLECTION

Cobb took numerous photographs of different species and colonies, primarily on Bleaker Island and Lively Island, where he also spent a deal of time. Whilst some photographs may appear repetitive in nature, to me - paired with varied dated entries and descriptions in the notebook - it suggests multiple visits to the same locations to study the habits and behaviours, and nesting sites of the birds that he observed there.

In his notes around Quarks (Night Herons), he describes a nest which appears to feature in photographs PC-050-0169, 0237 and 0238 of the Cobb collection.

*"13/11/22: Nest down under cliff made entirely of black dry kelp, must have been built when soft or it could not have been pliable enough. 2 eggs, able to see into it on foot! Outside opp. Hattie [wreck]. Photo later of this nest with three pale blue eggs in it..."*

[FIC/OM/COB 1#1. PAGE 43]



**LEFT:** JCNA. PC-050-0169. NIGHT HERON NEST IN KELP ON CLIFF FACE. FIC LTD/COBB COLLECTION

## Arthur Cobb Collection (contd.)

He clearly spent a deal of time observing bird behaviour, recording some of the incidents he observed whilst watching and photographing them

*“A shag carrying long piece of kelp over twice its own length missed landing at his nest and had to go up again in gale of wind, finally just approaching the nest a sitting shag leant over and grabbed the end of it and pulled off most of it, but the carrier carried on and presented the remains to his Mrs as if nothing had happened to it.”*

[FIC/OM/COB 1#1. PAGE 54.]



**ABOVE:** JCNA. PC-050-0127. SHAGS ON THE TOP OF A CLIFF. FIC LTD/COBB COLLECTION

**RIGHT:** JCNA.PC-050-0187. KING SHAGS NESTING. FIC LTD/COBB COLLECTION



As well as his own observations, Cobb attributed the anecdotes of others, presumably other farm workers and visitors to the islands where he lived and worked, sharing their experiences or tales of the different birds. One such example was in the form of a letter sent to Cobb dated May 1933 from H. N. Sullivan (aged 84).

*“Let me tell you one Bird story!*

*In Stanley - I think it was - my father saw a woman on a ladder against her chimney. She has a Johnny Rook in her hands and two others were tethered below. She put one bird down her chimney- it came out of the window of the room below black with soot. Then she went down and took up a second. It came out not so black- The third bird came out almost clean and her chimney was swept!”*

[FIC/OM/COB 1#1. PAGE 60]



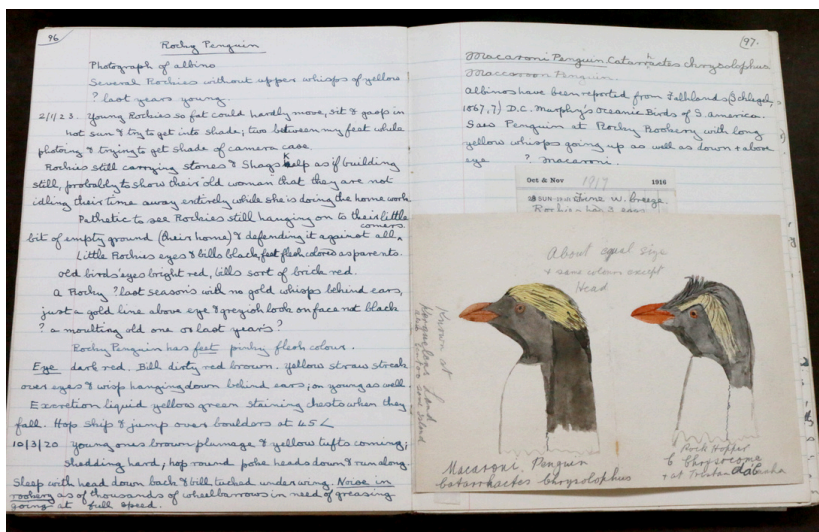
## Arthur Cobb Collection (contd.)

Whether or not Sullivan's father provided his son with a true account of chimney sweeping practices in the late 1800's - or perhaps a more inventive version of events - anecdotes such as these demonstrate Cobb's fascination with the small details, and his sense of humour, which are both apparent in his observations and descriptions of the natural world.

My personal favourite was his description of the call of the Rockhopper penguins.

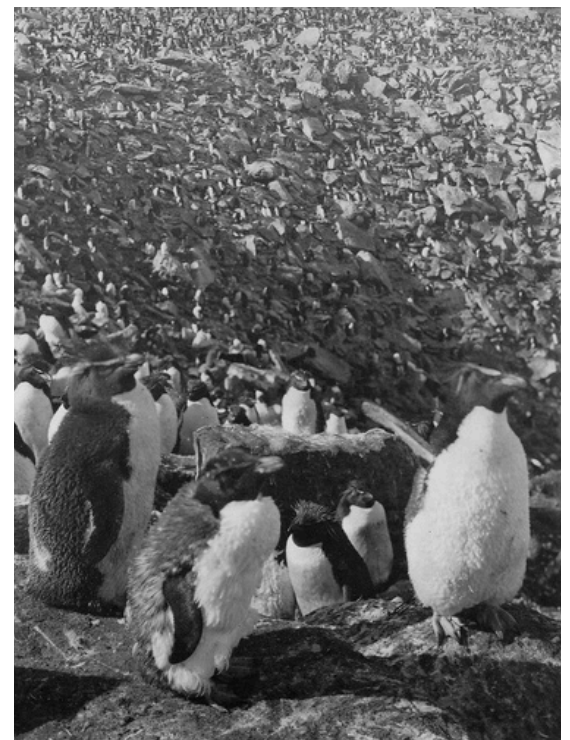
*"Noise in rookery as of thousands of wheelbarrows in need of greasing going at full speed."*

[FIC/OM/COB 1#1. PAGE.78]



ABOVE: JCNA. FIC/OM/COB/1#1. PP.78-79.

RIGHT: JCNA. PC-050-0029. ROCKHOPPER PENGUINS AND MOLLYMAUKS ON WESTPOINT ISLAND. FIC LTD/COBB COLLECTION



Conversations with those around him also yielded quotes which amused him, and were duly recorded in his notes:

*"you can't cut peat and booze" F. Allan*

*"Captain Thomas describing a roughish trip in 'Samson' to Darwin taking Bishop out from Stanley "yes, I did all I could for the Bishop, gave him a bucket all to himself."*

[FIC/OM/COB 1#1. PAGE 176 ]

Cobb's observations also did not focus solely on the birds of the Falkland Islands. He dedicated sections of his notes to flowers, the weather, a list of Spanish terminology for horse gear, recipes, and general details concerning farming life.

## Arthur Cobb Collection (contd.)



**TOP LEFT:** JCNA.PC-050-0160. MAN STANDING WITH SPADE IN PEAT BANK. FIC LTD/COBB COLLECTION

**TOP RIGHT:** JCNA. PC-050-0296A. HORSE IN FALKLAND ISLANDS HORSE GEAR. FIC LTD/COBB COLLECTION

Cobb's written and photographic observations not only provide interesting insight into human interaction with wildlife in the 1900's, but also the many ways in which rural life intersected and relied upon the nature to thrive. His notebook ends with the following quote, containing sentiments which many resonate with many who have share connections with the Falkland Islands:

*These are my people, & this is  
my land,  
I hear the pulse of her secret soul,  
This is the life that I understand,  
Savage & simple & sane & whole.  
Laurence Hope.*

*"These are my people, & this is  
my land,  
I hear the pulse of her secret  
soul,  
This is the life that I  
understand,  
Savage & simple & sane & whole.  
Laurence Hope."*

*[pseudonym of Adela Florence  
Nicolson]*

[JCNA. FIC/OM/COB/01#01. PAGE 192.]

Cobb's notebook, notebook and diaries have been digitised and will soon be accessible for viewing on the Archives website in the FIC Collection

## References

Dictionary of Falklands Biography (2025) [https://www.falklandsbiographies.org/biographies/cobb\\_arthur](https://www.falklandsbiographies.org/biographies/cobb_arthur)  
[Accessed on: 14 February 2025]

JCNA. FIC/OM/COB/1/1. A F COBB. Bleaker Island - Notebook- wildlife, weather and other observations. C 1906 to 1923

JCNA. Arthur Cobb; Birds of the Falkland Islands - A record of Observation with the Camera; H F & G Witherby; 1933



## Local News in the Falkland Islands Magazine & Church Paper

**P/FIM/13/54. June 1901.**

If the borrower of a BOOT STRETCHER from the "Globe Store" does not return same at an early date, exposure must certainly follow.

We hear that the "Columbus" will no longer be allowed to carry Mails and Passengers, at any rate until the authorities are satisfied that her boilers are safe and sound. No-one will really regret this decision, and if it should lead to the purchase of a newer and better Steamer, we may rejoice.

ABOVE: P-FIM/16/20. August 1913

BELOW: P/FIM/17/17. May 1918

Talking of the green cover of the Parish Notes reminds us of the blue that has adorned the F. I. Magazine for some months past. A correspondent writes: "But!, what a fearful and startling blue colour—to an old friend. We don't like it at all. The original green was nice and neat—but *this!*" This is severe, the Editor invites opinions.

ABOVE: P-FIM/15/02. February 1907

**P/FIM/01. June 1895.**

NOTICE- The EDITOR is not responsible for opinions held by his correspondents.

"The" cold—an imported article, of course - has attacked a great number of people both in Stanley and in the camps.

—O—

Talking of things that are catching reminds us that a great catch of herrings was made in Stanley Harbour during Passion Week. Many and varied explanations of the phenomenon have been offered, but the Editor, being suspicious of fishy stories, refuses to allow them to be published.

—O—

**P/FIM/17/56 - August 1921**

The following is extracted from a recent issue of the Yorkshire Evening Post,-

### *The Empire's Loneliest Spot.*

Where is the loneliest place in the British Empire?

Captain Galloway, of the Pacific liner *Corcovado*, who knows the world well, believed that it is the Falkland Isles. "There is not much to do there" said the captain.

"There is a 9 holes golf course and one piano. The piano was put ashore by the *Good Hope* before she went out to meet von Spee's squadron. There is also one cinema film, which is shown in the town hall now and then."

We can afford to be amused at the thing, but it seems a pity that people in England should be mislead by such rubbish. We might reasonably expect that a person holding the responsible post of Master or a P.S.N.C. cargo boat would be able to do better than that. At the same time we offer to him our respectful congratulations on having packed so many misstatements into so few words. He would be a brave liar that set out to beat it.

## Interview with Shirley Hirtle – An Insight into the *Falkland Islands Monthly Review*

The *Falkland Islands Monthly Review* was started in December 1958, by the then Colonial Secretary, Aubrey Denton Thompson, and the Government Printer, Vernon “Joe” King.

It was initially produced in a large four-page format with local news and items of general interest on the front and third page while the second page carried local advertisements and the back page was blank. By June 1959 the local news and items on page 3 were moved to page 4 and the third page featured photographs, usually from overseas.

When Joe King went on overseas leave early 1963 Douglas R. Morrison volunteered to take on the production and from then on it was produced in a smaller format with various editors over its life.

From January 1963 there was a far more in-depth coverage of local news and events such as weddings, sports and school prize giving's.

During this period, one of the editors was Wallace Hirtle, the father of Shirley Hirtle. This article features an interview with Shirley, to find out a bit more about the *Monthly Review* and her family's involvement in the process and production of this great community resource.

### ***Tell me about your parents and your family?***

My Dad, Wallace Hirtle, was the Tax Officer in those days. Mum, Mary Hirtle (nee Reive), was a housewife, as most married women were back then. Dad was born in 1909 and Mum in 1915. Dad was a Stanley boy and Mum was born at Port Sussex and didn't come to town 'till she was 14. They met before Mum came to town because Dad was a travelling teacher in those days. They courted for 10 years and got married in 1939.

My grandparents lived on Drury Street. One lot of grandparents lived on Drury Street and the other lot lived on James Street, the Reive grandparents lived on James Street. But when I was born in 1943 my parents were living in the house that was called the 'Pig and Whistle', opposite the Old Senior School on John Street. And then we moved to the little stone cottage up Philomel Hill and I've just got one or two very vague memories of that. My brother was born by then. And then it would probably have been sometime in 1945, [they] moved to Drury Street, when my grandmother went away to England and Mum and Dad bought the house off her.

Dad became a Clerk in the Secretariat. And then went to the Tax Office.

### ***When did your Dad take over as Editor of the Monthly Review?***

Joe King and Doug Morrison, they both did it, that was as well as the day job. They were both civil servants. Joe was the Head Printer and Doug was upstairs in the Secretariat. One of the head guys in the Secretariat in those days. So, it wasn't a case that they spent all their time gathering news. It was after the doors closed at half-past-four.

I know it was after Doug, or whenever Doug finished, Dad took it over.

Wallace also took over for a six-month period between April 1966 and October 1966, when Douglas was away from the Islands

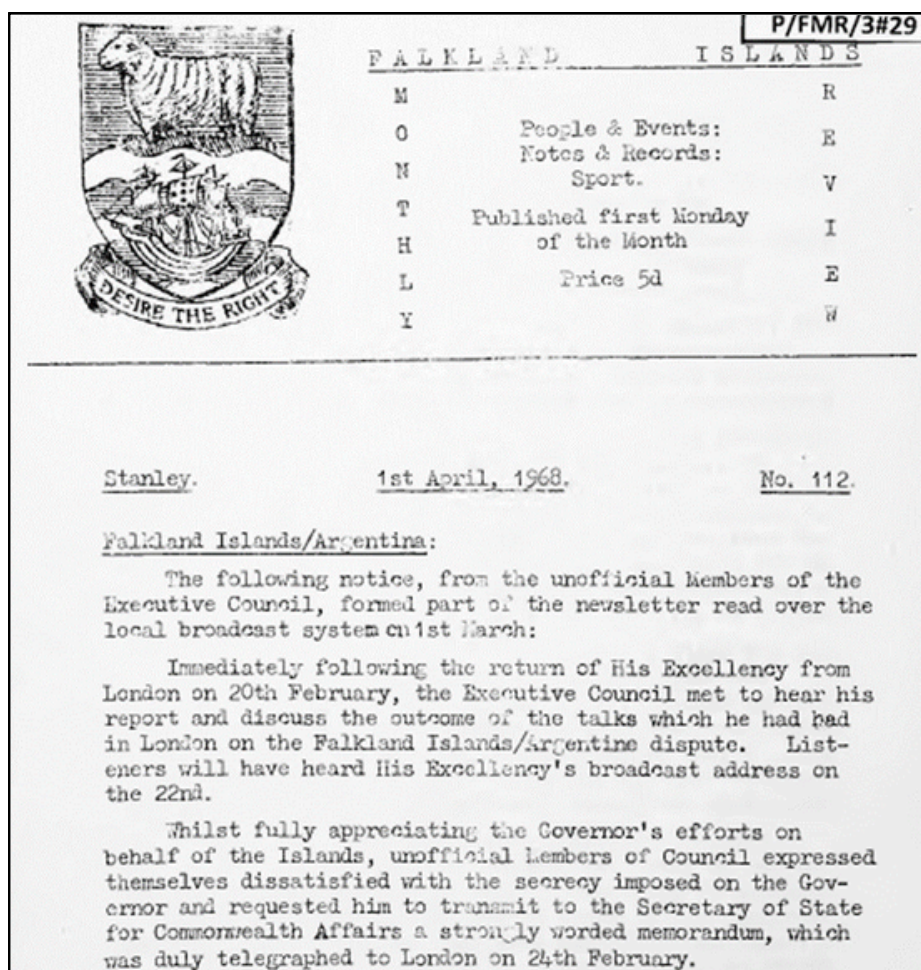
#### Thank you note:

Mr. D. R. Morrison will be returning in time to prepare the November issue of the "Review", and I should like to take this opportunity to thank everybody (too numerous to mention) who, in any way, helped me to fill the gap during his absence. I am most grateful to you all.

W. HIRTLE.



## An Insight into the Falkland Islands Monthly Review (contd.)



But I think he enjoyed doing all of it, because we all liked to know what everybody was doing.

If he'd had the opportunities that the young people have now, he could have gone onto great things. Back then, he left school when he was 13 or 14 and helped support the family. And again, they were really precious few opportunities for our people.

### **What were the responsibilities of the Editor?**

A lot of it was going out collecting the news as well, not sitting waiting for articles to be sent into you.

### **Tell me more about the process of collecting news for the Monthly Review?**

The daytime was the day job, and then on top of that were all things that had to be done around - the peat, the garden, painting the house, all the things that the man of the house did in those days. So yes, I guess he just got in touch with people and probably went to their house.

Some probably would have been put into him written up.

They'd come to the house. Or yes, no doubt people would go to him at work as well. Sometimes they would come to house to talk about work, with questions about income tax, or they'll phone him up at home!

But he would check them all and put them into proper order. A lot of it he did himself, like the shipping news that he was able to get from the Customs Department. Dad was a great one for detail. He really was a meticulous person.

But back then to you tended to know a lot more about what was happening in the community. Any events were well advertised beforehand. And you must remember too, that then, virtually everybody knew everybody. So, we were well aware of what was happening and what was going to be on.



## An Insight into the Falkland Islands Monthly Review (contd.)

And although it only came out once a month, it was jam packed with local news. Weddings, dances, all local events for Stanley and Camp. Passenger lists for the Darwin, so you always knew who was coming and going. Things like the weather for the month. Things on sale in the stores. The shipping comings and goings so you always knew, well a week or a month later maybe, but you always knew which ships had been in and out of the Islands. And as time went on too, quite a lot of political things [were included]. It really had a wide variety of articles, no photographs.

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Una Smith - Pass in shorthand at 60 w.p.m.  
and pass, with credit, in typing.

Anne Rowlands - Pass, with credit, in typing.

Evening Classes: Coleen Biggs - Pass in shorthand at 80 w.p.m.

Our congratulations to you all.

### Passengers, out and in:

Departed by R.M.S. Darwin on 8th March: Mr. & Mrs. C. Hale & 3 children, Mr. & Mrs. D. Selway & child, Mr. & Mrs. B.W. Shorey & 2 children, Mr. & Mrs. H.L. Bound & 2 sons, Mr. & Mrs. L. Gleadell & 2 children, Mrs. P. Thain & 3 children, Mr. & Mrs. A.G. Barton, Mr. & Mrs. N.K. Cameron, Mrs. E. Guest, Mrs. M. Cronin, Mrs. E. Morrison, Mrs. R. McBain, Mrs. G. Dickson, Miss M.L. Smith, Miss J. Young, Miss F. Young, Messrs. A. L. Blake, M. Scally, G. Zendler, R.W. Ross, J. Blackley, D. Smith, Master P. King.

Departed by R.R.S. Shackleton on 19th March: Mr. & Mrs. M. Hulbert & 3 children, Mr. & Mrs. G. Pugh & son, Mr. & Mrs. D. Jennings, Mr. & Mrs. P. Goodwin, Mr. & Mrs. K. Browning, Messrs. J. Lucas, D. Bailey, P. Barker, F. Davey, L. Castro, J. Cardenas, and outgoing B.A.S. personnel.

Arrived by R.M.S. Darwin on 21st March: Mr. & Mrs. B.O. Barnes & daughter, Mr. & Mrs. K.W. Luxton, Mr. & Mrs. C.H. Robertson, Mr. & Mrs. G. Douglas, Mr. & Mrs. F. Whitney, Messrs. D. Davidson, D. Cordery, V. Gutierrez, C.T. Thorsen, A.J. Blyth, J. Shirtcliffe.

### Hill Cove Centenary Celebrations:

Friday, 2nd February, was the day set for the gathering of the clans at Hill Cove. With the help of two settlement land rovers (one of which squatted), and two others from outside, all hands were collected together in the settlement for the celebrations to mark the centenary of Hill Cove. The guests present were Mrs. C. Luxton

The festivities were floated off at a party at the House and most people seemed to have enjoyed themselves. The children present, getting rather bored, paid a visit to the strawberry patch where they found refreshments more to their liking. The remaining guests, as befitted a sheep farm, drafted themselves off into ewes and wethers and settled down to a good gossip; in which they were assisted by all types of liquor. One lesson learned at the party was that you cannot eat salted nuts without teeth. Without the help of breath-alisers all departed in land rovers at about 8.00 p.m., gathering again after supper at the dance hall for the presentations.



## An Insight into the Falkland Islands Monthly Review (contd.)

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<u>Wrecks &amp;c. (concluded):</u>	
<u>CENTO:</u>	A drifter, arrived in the Falklands on 2nd February, 1927, for Dean Bros. of Pebble Island. She is now owned by Mr. W. P. Hills.
<u>GOLDEN CHANCE:</u>	A drifter, built in Lowestoft in 1914 and steamed out from the United Kingdom, with "Protector III", for the South Atlantic Sealing Co. Broke adrift from her moorings in the gale of 1945 and became a total loss after grounding in the Canache.
<u>LADY ELIZABETH:</u>	A three-masted barque, now lying in Whalebone Bay. After serving as a storage hulk for many years she was beached after developing a serious leak.
<u>PLYM:</u>	A tug, built in Plymouth in 1903, converted into a lighter in 1929, she dragged ashore in the same gale as the "Golden Chance".
<u>PORT RICHARD:</u>	Another drifter which broke adrift during the gale of 1945, and was wrecked on the harbour beach. Built in the United Kingdom in 1919, she was formerly named "Afterglow", owned by the Government and armed for the protection of fur seal colonies round the Islands.
<u>SAMSON:</u>	Another victim of the 1945 gale, and now lying on the north beach at the east end of the harbour. Built in Hull in 1888, gross tonnage 96, she was owned by the Falkland Islands Co. and used for towing sailing vessels in for repairs after they had suffered damage rounding Cape Horn. She was converted into a lighter in 1924 and used as such until her beaching in 1945.
<p>This concludes the list of wrecks etc. in the Falklands, as compiled by the Naval officer mentioned in the May, 1967, issue. Mr. John Smith has noted some errors and has kindly offered us corrections for next month's publication.</p>	

**Shirley adds:**

**Above:** John Smith was a contributor back in those days

**Below:** Everybody wanted to know what happened. And it wasn't just a case of the service itself. There's the reception, the wedding breakfast. The fact that Mrs Rene Rowlands made the dresses. And she made the most beautiful wedding dresses. Just on her own. Many, many brides had their dresses made by Rene Rowlands. Dad got the information from the bride and groom probably, the bulk of it.

### Weddings:

On Friday, 1st March, St. Mary's Church was the scene of a very pretty wedding when Miss Wendy Ross of Stanley and Mr. Ron Buckland of Portsmouth, England, were married. Monsignor J. Ireland officiated at the wedding service.

Wendy, given in marriage by Mr. Tom Wallace, looked most charming in a full-length gown of blue brocade, cut on a simple A line with matching blue headdress of net attached to a bow trimmed with Lily-of-the-Valley sprays, and carrying a small bouquet of Sweet William and Pinks.

For such a small publication, and although it covers a month, there is an awful lot of news in there.

## An Insight into the Falkland Islands Monthly Review (contd.)

20

Rev. Paul Charman, wish to thank, very sincerely, everybody who helped in any way at all. The total amount taken was approximately £590, and the profits will amount to about £500.

### Reunion Party, London:

We understand that the usual London Reunion Party, where Falkland Islanders meet annually, will be held on 15th June, from 4.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m., in the Assembly Hall of the Royal Commonwealth Society, 16/20 Craven Street, London, W.C.2. We hope to receive news of the meeting, for publication, in due course.

### Births:

BERNTSEN: To Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Berntsen of Port San Carlos, (in Stanley) a daughter, GINA MICHELLE, on 20th March, weighing 9 lb. 3 oz.

PEDERSEN: To Mr. and Mrs. Melvyn Pedersen of New Zealand, a daughter, PATRICIA ANNE, on 1st March.

### R. I. P:

MRS. CHRIS KATE BOWLER at Stanley on 8th March. Aged 78.

A.E. THORNE in England on 4th January. Aged 85. The late Mr. Thorne was serving on board H.M.S. Glasgow at the time of the Falkland Islands Battle.

MRS. SARAH HARDING at Martock, Somerset, on 2nd March. Aged 64. The late Mrs. Harding was a daughter of the late Joseph Butler and left the Colony 38 years ago.

REV. DR. R.T. WADE in England. The late Rev. Dr. Wade was Senior Chaplain of Christ Church Cathedral in 1935 and 1936.

MRS. SARAH ELLEN PECK at Stanley on 25th March. Aged 68.

### **What was the overall process like?**

It was all written news. But really the pages wouldn't have been able to be laid out properly until virtually the end, and then to make sure that everything fitted in.

And Freda Alazia, who was married to Jimmy Alazia, used to type it all up. She did it down in Dad's office in the Tax Office. Again, out of hours.

And then the last Saturday of each month, Dad and Mum and I would go upstairs in the Secretariat where there was a Roneo Machine and Dad did all the hand cranking on the Roneo Machine, and it was all run off by hand.

It was a hand cranked Rodeo Machine. It was a case of standing, you put the master copy there, crank the handle, and the copies of the amount of copies you needed came out. It was a very time-consuming process. I think Government provided the paper and the use of the Roneo Machine.

The pages were laid on the table and then when everything was collated, the three of us would go around the table putting the pages into the order. Then they got stapled. Then they got folded. Then the ones that were being posted, all got rolled up and addresses put on, and stamps put on ready.

We'd be up there all afternoon.

### **How was the Review distributed once it was complete?**

They must have gone to a couple of the stores for sale, as well, to get distributed around. Back then, it would have been the Globe Store and the West Store. And then the ones for Camp would get rolled up just for the settlement or put in an envelope and sent out to the settlement.



## An Insight into the Falkland Islands Monthly Review (contd.)

10					
<u>THE FALKLAND ISLANDS COMPANY LIMITED</u>					
<u>W E S T     S T O R E</u>					
Essays Brandy	...	...	per bottle	£1. 13.	1d.
Essays Brandy	...	...	per flask	19.	7d.
Teachers Highland Cream Whisky			per bottle	£1. 17.	2d.
Parrlsack Sherry Medium Dry & Golden Cream			per bottle	14.	0d.
Draught Rum	...	...	per bottle	£1. 15.	0d.
Baxters Scotch Tomato & Chicken Soup			per tin	2.	8d.
Baxters Scottish Haggis	...		per tin	6.	8d.
Baxters Cook-a-leekie Soup	...		per tin	2.	8d.
Baxters Strawberry Jam	...		per jar	3.	2d.
Baxters Beetroot in Redcurrant Jelly			per tin	2.	10d.
Baxters Strawberries in Syrup			per tin	4.	1d.
Coopers Marmalade	...	...	per tin	3.	9d.
Ready mixed Horse Radish	...		per tube	4.	2d.
Garlic Salt	...	...	per bottle	1.	9d.
Spaghetti Bolognaise	...	...	per pkt.	4.	9d.
Libbys Sweet Corn	...	...	per tin	3.	0d.
Crystallised Ginger	...	...	per box	3.	1d.

### What can you tell me about your involvement in the process, as you and your Mum assisted?

I think Dad volunteered us to be honest. It wasn't much a case as being forced to do it or anything. I was happily volunteered into doing it. I'd have been 23.

We would see the finished product before anybody else.

And I used to type the addresses to be stuck on the ones going overseas. I'd go up the Secretariat after working hours and bash away on the old Imperial typewriter.

The lists of addresses included people in UK, New Zealand, Australia, United States. A lot of our people in those days had emigrated to New Zealand. There would have been others as well.

I think it made you feel part of the community more as well, being involved with something like that. You felt like you'd be of a bit of use.

It's made me very nostalgic. In my mind I see us upstairs, you know, in the General Office in the Secretariat.

#### Girls' Brigade:

On 3rd March, under the command of Lieut. Geraldine Goodwin, members of the Girls' Brigade attended a ceremony in Christ Church Cathedral to witness the commissioning of Miss Shirley Hirtle as an officer of the Brigade. The Reverend Peter Millam conducted the short, but impressive ceremony. Lieut. Hirtle has been a member of the Brigade for the past 11 years.

To someone my age or younger, going through those [early Monthly Reviews], it kick-starts so many memories about other things.



## An Insight into the Falkland Islands Monthly Review (contd.)

**Looking back at the Review, and reflecting on your family's involvement, what are you most proud of about the Monthly Review and the time your family edited it?**

The excellent quality of it. Not just the variety of news but, and this was something that Dad was a complete stickler for too, the high quality of the spelling and the grammar. Nothing slips up about it at all. It was all very well put together. It wasn't controversial, it was sort of government funded, really. There was nothing nasty in it. There was nothing offensive in it. I think it was just, for the time that it was done in, the resources that were there, it was a pretty high-quality publication. It was also a complete mixture of things. Instead of loads of pictures and very little text. The information is there.

You could start going through these [now] and get completely absorbed!

**When did your Dad stop being Editor?**

It would have been the early 70s. They [Wallace and Mary Hirtle] were away for a while at '73. Yes, that would be after he finished doing it. And then when I went away in '73.

**What did he do afterwards?**

He retired from the Tax Office before '82, but then I think he went back on a temporary basis. I don't know if it was the Tax Office or somewhere else in government but, he was still employed in '82, to some extent.

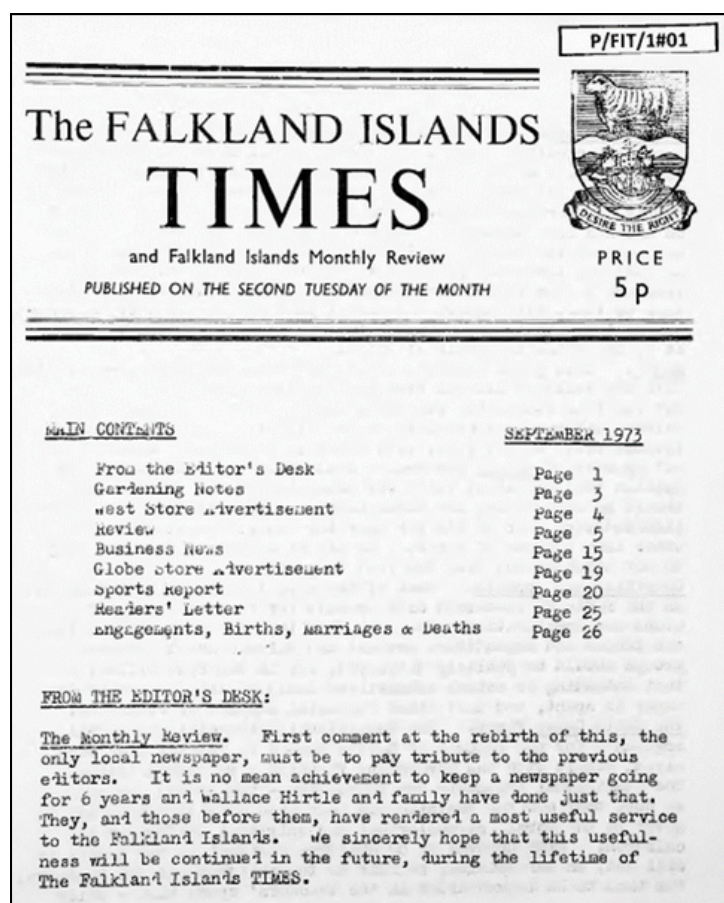
With the final edition of the *Falkland Islands Monthly Review* in April 1973 there was no local periodical until September 1973 when the Reverend Robin Forrester, the pastor of the Tabernacle, revived the paper as *The Falkland Islands Times & Falkland Islands Monthly Review*.

In this edition, Rev. Forrester paid homage to the Hirtle Family (see right).

Originally a monthly periodical this revised version once again covered local news and events. Dave Ryan took over editorship in 1975 followed by Dave Colville in December 1977. From the May 1978 issue it was known just as *The Falkland Islands Times*.

You can access all issues of the *Falkland Islands Monthly Review* on the JCNA website at: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.fk/online-collections/periodicals/fi-monthly-review>

A huge thank you to Shirley for allowing us to interview her and speaking about this.



### References:

JCNA. P/FMR/3#29. *Falkland Islands Monthly Review* 1968 Apr 01.

JCNA. P/FIT/1#01. *Falkland Islands Times and Falkland Islands Monthly Review* 1973 Sep.

## 100 Years – Completing the Construction of Bodie Creek Bridge

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the completion of Bodie Creek Bridge. The Bridge was constructed to transport sheep between Walker Creek and Goose Green. Goose Green at the time was going to be used by the FIC Ltd as their main sheep shearing location, following the building of a new shearing shed at Goose Green and decision that Darwin was no longer a suitable site.

On the 14 October 1924, work commenced on the construction of Bodie Creek Bridge. On 14 April 1925 the foundations were complete and by 10 July 1925 so too were the steel towers and suspension cables. Final cement work and outstanding items were progressed after this and the bridge was ready for the start of the 1925/1926 shearing season. Alongside the Chief Engineer, Charles Peters, Edward Samuel Crawford and a number of labourers, assisted in the construction of the bridge.

Among the JCNA collection there are a number of FIC Ltd photographs, and a diary written by Crawford that provides snapshots of the progress over 1925. This article showcases a few extracts from Crawford's diary in 1925, to celebrate the successful building operation that took place.

<b>Wednesday 7 January 1925</b>	Concreting foundations for tower Darwin side 5 men and self concreting Remainders of Gang quarrying and crushing Amount of cement used 16 ½ barrels
<b>Thursday 15 January 1925</b>	All hands working on Roadway quarrying and Cleaning off top soil Two Blasts off midday Self and two men building buttresses on Darwin side Very squally day last 2hrs afternoon
<b>Friday 30 January 1925</b>	Quarrying Breaking and Crushing, 5 men self put up shuttering for pier Bridge extension Findley Creek side
<b>Saturday 7 March 1925</b>	1 man pumping Anchor hole out Remainder of Gang helping to build buttresses, 10 pounds cement
<b>Sunday 22 March 1925</b>	Gang unloading Timber out of <i>Lafonia</i>
<b>Saturday 11 April 1925</b>	Gang Whealing stone off for Bridge extension Towed <i>Lafonia</i> alongside Buttrass Findley Creek side gang preparing to erect tower
<b>Wednesday 15 April 1925</b>	Gang Discharging <i>Lafonia</i> at West Buttrass Gleadall and Browning working on road

**100 Years – Completing the Construction of Bodie Creek Bridge (contd.)**

<b>Friday 17 April 1925</b>	Shifted and put on Saddles on Towers for Darwin side and put in anchor bolts and plates West side.
<b>Saturday 18 April 1925</b>	Bought <i>Lafonia</i> across Creek and erected Tower E
<b>Thursday 23 April 1925</b>	Started to put Wire Rope across Creek. Ritchie & Dickson Grouting in Towers E. F. Cement used 2 Barrels
<b>Wednesday 6 May 1925</b>	6 men working on placing stone round caisson, remainder doing various jobs – tightening wires etc.



**TOP:** FC-004-0033. BODIE BRIDGE SITE ON DARWIN SIDE OF CREEK

**BOTTOM:** FC-004-0035. BODIE BRIDGE. CONCRETING STEEL CAISSON FROM THE END OF TEMPORARY JETTY SHOWING MASONRY BUTTRESS IN RIGHT HAND SIDE FOR SUPPORTING ROADWAY





100 Years – Completing the Construction of Bodie Creek Bridge (contd.)

**RIGHT:** FC-004-0041.  
BODIE BRIDGE.  
WHEELING  
CONCRETE TO  
DARWIN SIDE  
ANCHOR HOLE



**LEFT:** FC-004-  
0038. BODIE  
BRIDGE. VIEW  
ACROSS CREEK  
FROM DARWIN  
SIDE, ANCHOR  
HOLE

<b>Tuesday 12 May 1925</b>	1 set clips and suspension rods in position and 1st Section of Bridge erected. H Bailey and D Couttes working on Fence at Bridge extension
<b>Monday 15 May 1925</b>	Finished putting up Suspension rods and started to put out section of Bridge
<b>Thursday 4 June 1925</b>	6th Section placed on both sides

## 100 Years – Completing the Construction of Bodie Creek Bridge (contd.)

<b>Thursday 11 June 1925</b>	Adjusting suspension rods and joining girders Three men concreting holes for grey ropes
<b>Thursday 2 July 1925</b>	Putting Lattice joints and putting down Bearers and Decking Mr Peters left for Stanley (via Egg Harbour) Rained all morning, turned to after dinner
<b>Thursday 9 July 1925</b>	2 men adjusting suspension rods 2 men sick Remainder of Gang Building Wall and Concreting Roadway at Bridge head Darwin side Cement used 3 Barrels
<b>Monday 20 July 1925</b>	2 men working on Bridge and laying tracklines. Remainder of Gang clearing off Roadway and picking out Building Stones.
<b>Friday 24 July 1925</b>	All hands clearing off Roadway 3 men absent at D. Coutts wedding



**ABOVE:** FC-004-0048. BODIE BRIDGE. FINDLEY CREEK ABUTMENT WITH 'LAFONIA' ALONGSIDE AND ONE TOWER ERECTED



## 100 Years – Completing the Construction of Bodie Creek Bridge (contd.)

<b>Friday 21 August 1925</b>	2 men started to clear up and get ready to build wall at east tower to cliff
<b>Wednesday 26 August 1925</b>	Self and 2 men finished building walls at East Bridge head, put gang on widening road
<b>Sunday 20 September 1925</b>	3 men tarring Bridge extensions 3 men fencing. 2 working on Valley Broadway Self, Ritchie, Dickson on painting of Buttresses
<b>Tuesday 22 September 1925</b>	Bailey, Pettersen started contract to paint Bridge. Remainder of gang stowing stone round Caisson. Finishing Anchor bolts, started to widen road at Valley.



**LEFT:** FC-004-0053.  
BODIE BRIDGE.  
PUTTING  
SUSPENSION WIRES  
OVER CREEK.

You can view these photographs from our FIC Ltd Collection at:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/online-collections/falkland-islands-company-ltd-collection/photographs>

Read more information about Bodie Creek Bridge in Dr. Stephen Palmer's article in the *Falkland Islands Journal*

### References:

JCNA. FIC/FD/DAR/27. Darwin Farm Diary: Camp Mason - Edward Samuel CRAWFORD. 1925.



# Contact & Research Information

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- General queries
- Accessing and booking an appointment in the Reading Room to conduct research
- Queries about our catalogue and physical collection
- Queries about our website or online collection
- Advice on information management and storage of records
- Discussion with potential donors about transferring records to the Jane Cameron National Archives

The JCNA have a dedicated Reading Room to access archival records upon appointment. There are power points available for laptops and a computer station that can be used to access our website, the online collections and internet.

**The opening times are as follows:**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:** 9am – 4pm (12 noon to 1pm on request)

**Wednesday:** Closed

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