

JANE CAMERON NATIONAL ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER



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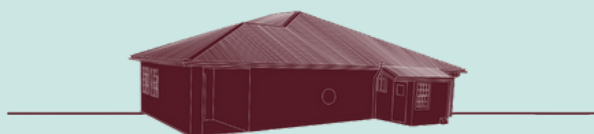
WELCOME

Welcome to the latest issue of the Jane Cameron National Archives newsletter! My name is Chloe Anderson-Wheatley, the Corporate Records & National Archives Manager. I am very pleased to share with you this reformatted newsletter and the following annual service update from the National Archives for 2023. Going forward we plan to release a newsletter at multiple points throughout the year to share news with you more frequently.

In this publication you will be able to read more about the service itself, including the recent additions to both the online and physical archival collections, the outreach and engagement activities the Archives service has undertaken, as well as interesting snippets of information from the records we hold in our collections.

To assist in the development of the newsletter and demonstrate how the archival records can be used for research, I enlisted the help of Helen McShane, Policy Officer in the Directorate of Policy, Economy & Corporate Services, and Torin Harte, FIG Management Trainee. They have both contributed an article and used the archival records to investigate a subject more closely. I would like to thank them for their efforts and enthusiasm in taking this on.

Hope that you enjoy this new format and if you have any questions or feedback, please contact us!



Jane Cameron National Archives

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Annual Service Update for 2023

The past year has seen some significant changes for the JCNA, not least in terms of staffing with the departure of Tansy Bishop in July 2023, my subsequent appointment, and the recruitment of a Records Management and Archives Support Officer, Diana Aldridge, who will be starting in February 2024.

From the research statistics it is evident that the Archives has continued to receive and deal with family history, academic and general research queries from a variety of people including from the local community, government departments and officers, and overseas researchers.

The amount of in-person research visits has also rapidly increased over 2023. In comparison we had very few numbers visit in 2022, partly due to the impact of Covid-19 and the growing amount of digitised material that is now accessible via our website.

Whilst these figures reflect a strong interest in the Archives, renewed focus has been given to increasing the service's engagement and outreach within the local community to encourage wider public use. Since August 2023 for example there has been several collaboration opportunities.

We continue to work with the Jane & Alastair Cameron Memorial Trust, and most recently

interacted with younger people about to commence their Jane & Alastair Cameron History Prize. The Archives have showcased and shared archival records to support exhibitions and projects from both the private and public sector, including the Museum's FIGAS Exhibition in September 2023.

A new mailing list has also been created to send out our regular updates on what is happening here at the Archives and what new material is uploaded online. The service is set to develop its profile further through the launch of a Facebook account this month – more information to come!

All of these transitions in 2023 have highlighted the increasing presence of the National Archives and the ways it supports our past and present. It is exciting that 2024 looks to bring forward even more positive changes to meet the demands of users and allow more people to explore the wonderful records stored at the Jane Cameron National Archives.

Research Statistics for 2023:

Local Organisations or People: 74

Government Departments: 33

Overseas Researchers: 119

Total: 226

Research Appointments: 11

Hello, my name is Chloe Anderson-Wheatley! I am an Islander with over ten years of experience in this sector. I have worked in a number of archival institutions alongside my academic studies including Portsmouth Library & Archive Service, and later whilst undertaking an MA in Archives & Records Management at University College London, at the British Library, Royal College of GPs, and Royal College of Surgeons.

After completing the postgraduate qualification in August 2017, I returned home and developed from scratch the role of Records Manager within FIG. I have continued to work on projects at the Archives but, my primary role has been to develop policies and procedures, train staff, carry out data protection audits, and improve storage conditions for corporate records. I have become an accredited member of both professional bodies, and since March 2021 have been studying for a PhD in Archives & Records Management with University of Dundee.

Over the past six months I have been carrying out the 'business as usual' activities at the Archives, like responding to research queries and managing the online and physical collection, whilst progressing my records management tasks. I am really passionate about preserving the history of the Islands and highlighting the importance of Archives to society, our community, and our ourselves as individuals. I have been planning and developing new ways to raise the profile of the JCNA within the local community and making the records even more accessible to those who want to use them.



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.

Over 2023 there have been a total of 524 records processed, digitised and uploaded to our website. This has included the following:

- Building plans, maps and information including those of Town Hall, Sullivan House, Stanley Cottage and the Deanery
[See *Buildings & Land - Stanley*]
- Government files and reports on Fisheries Industry
[See *Trade & Industry - Fisheries*]
- Government report on the artillery guns and defence of the Islands, including those used by the Falkland Islands Defence Force
[See *Defence & War - Artillery/Guns*]
- Photographic albums from the archives photographic collection, including
[See *People - Culture - Photographs*]
- Details and reports from various Royal visits to the Islands, including celebrations and material on coronations marked
[See *People - Royalty & VIPs*]
- Family information of early settlers to the Islands [See *People - Early Settlers - 19th & early 20th Century Families*]
- Government files and reports on development of FIGAS and aviation to mark the 75th anniversary of the service in 2023
[See *Communications - Air*].
- Public Holidays information and files
[See *People - Culture & Early History - Lifestyle*]
- Periodicals including the Falkland Islands Gazette from 2015 to 2021.
[See *Government - Gazettes*]
- Rear Admiral Hamond Correspondence 1834 - 1836
[See *People - Culture & Early History - General*]
- Dr Stephen Palmer's record and list of Honours, Awards and Decorations for the Falkland Islands and South Georgia 1918 - to present
[See *People - Medals & Honours*]

We have also added in new menu items to the site such as an **FAQs page**, **How To Find Us**, and **External Links & Resources** section to give the community more information about the role of the Archives, how to access the Archives, and where to find more information.

One major change that is coming is the accessibility of our public archive catalogue, so that you can browse through our collection and descriptions of records that we hold. This will allow researchers to identify records that are available to view. Some of which may already be uploaded to our online collections on this website, but are otherwise able to be accessed in person via an appointment.

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

Physical Collection

The Archives physical holdings have also been expanded this year following several new accessions from private individuals and organisations. We were very pleased to accept a collection of baptism, marriage and burial registers from the Tabernacle United Free Church in September 2023. The JCNA are in the process of cataloguing these and will then digitise the open records.

In May 2023, the Archives also received a donation from The Friends of Falklands Museums and Archives (FIMA) which consisted of a bound book of correspondence between Rear Admiral Sir Graham Hamond KCB, Royal Navy officer in charge South Atlantic in the mid 1830's, and the authorities in London. The letters cover early period of Falklands life, including details of the prisoners captured for the massacre in 1833 as well as revealing some of the problems being faced by those living in the Islands. We are very grateful to FIMA for the purchase and pleased that this has been added to our collection, both physically and online for all to read.

Outreach & Engagement

The Archives have been taking part in a few outreach activities to help promote the service and advocate for 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. The JCNA is keen to engage with the community as much as possible, and more events are planned for the coming year!

The J&ACMT History Prize

The National Archives has strong links with the Jane & Alastair Cameron Memorial Trust (J&ACMT), who support not only our archive service and the Historic Dockyard Museum, but projects within the islands concerned with local history and with the preservation of sites, buildings and artefacts of historic interest.

In the past five months the Archives has worked alongside the Trust to organise the judging and marking of the annual J&ACMT History Prize; a prize which aims to encourage school children to take an active interest in local history and culture. The prize is awarded to the best project in the field of Falkland Islands history from the Community School and the Infant & Junior School and Camp Education.

To provide further structure to the students, teachers and parents, the Archives has worked with the Trust to develop a guidance document on the History Prize. This sets out the purpose of the prize and the Trust itself, the timeframe for completing the work and receiving awards, and includes subject/topic suggestions. We hope that it will be useful document for all those involved.

Visit from Schools

On Tuesday 21 November, Wednesday 22 November and Tuesday 12 December 2023, we hosted approximately 80 students from the Falkland Islands Community School (Year 9's) and the Infant & Junior School and Camp Education (Year 6's). This engagement with the next generation was part of a planned approach with both schools as they started the planning process for the J&ACMT History Prize. Primarily the visit introduced the students to the role and purpose of the Archives and encouraged them to use the service to support their research and studies for the Prize.

As part of their visit we gave them a 'behind the scenes' tour of the facility including inside the Archives Stack, where the archival records are held, and the Conservation Workshop, where damaged documents are treated. In the Reading Room we had a selection of materials out for students to look through – photographic albums, previous editions of the Falkland Islands Journal, family records, and a time capsule – to give them a further insight into the types of records we have.

Overall, the visits were a huge success, with the students engaging with every part and asking lots of questions. Hopefully we will have encouraged some of them to use the Archives as a resource!



Outreach & Engagement (cont.)

Intern Placement - Eirinn Murphy

The JCNA has been very pleased to employ Eirinn Murphy as Archives Administration Clerk since the start of November 2023. Eirinn has an interest in heritage and has been assisting with projects and gaining work experience at the Archives before she continues to University in September 2024 to study Archaeology and Anthropology. Here Eirinn tell us a bit more about what she has been doing and how she has found her time with the JCNA so far:

During my time at the Jane Cameron National Archives I have had the opportunity to assist with a number of projects. The first thing I helped with was digitising documents so that they can be uploaded to the Archives website. I started with the FIGAS and aviation files to mark the 75th anniversary of the service. Alongside these files I have also digitised the public holiday files and am progressing through the agricultural files. The process of digitisation includes reorganising the folders into chronological order. I also had to remove the steel staples and paperclips which are more prone to rusting and damaging documents and replace them with archival brass paper clips. Once the files were organised properly, I used the digitisation scanner to convert them and then use the software to edit the images to ensure that they were of a good quality and straightforward to read for people. Once all the images are scanned, I converted them to PDF and combine them into one document. While naming the files I had to cross reference with the database to make sure that they are consistently named with the original file so that they can be located with ease. The majority of the documents that I have digitised have since been uploaded to the website and are now easily accessible to the general public.

The other tasks that I have assisted with has included preparing for researchers. This consisted of helping to

locate and retrieve files from the Stack, as well as supervising researchers to ensure that they handle the documents properly.

I have assisted in helping with some research queries sent to the archives which often range in subjects. Recently the archives have partook in community outreach, hosting students from years 6 and 9 in the Archives for a tour to help them prepare for their Alastair and Jane Cameron Memorial Trust History Projects. My role helped to obtain the capacity to host them since we needed multiple staff members in the archives at the time. I helped to prepare for the visits by retrieving relevant and engaging material from the Stack for them to look at. I was supervising the students in the Reading Room to make sure that they didn't mismanage the documents or take anything out of its protective covers. I answered any questions that the students may have had about the archives or history that they were interested in as well as taking photographs of the visit for promotional material.

I believe that, so far, my time here has been beneficial to me in a number of ways. It has been helping me acquire new skills as well as a more in depth understanding of the archives and of the unique challenges faced on a day to day basis by archives in a more remote location such as the Falkland Islands.



Falklands On Record: Snippets from the Archives

FIC Ltd Collection: 10 Years since Archival Accession

In July 2013 the Archives received a significant accession, both in terms of the quantity and the historical importance of the collection. These records were created and deposited by the Falkland Islands Company Ltd (FIC Ltd) and related to its local administration and service in the Islands from the Stanley office.

For the first issue of this newsletter in 2013, Joan Spruce recalled the history and her involvement in the management of the collection prior to its arrival at the Archives. 10 years on, we now reflect on what has happened to the collection since the mammoth task of moving the boxes and how the contents have been made accessible to researchers.

The FIC Ltd was formed in January 1851 and officially established by Royal Charter on 10 January 1852 by Queen Victoria, following the signing of a Charter of Incorporation on 23 December 1851.

The Company was formed to purchase the rights and interest of the Lafone brothers, Samuel and Alexander, who had land and wild cattle in the southern portion of East Falkland, later known as Lafonia. A preliminary meeting was held 30 April 1851 to discuss the purchase, and the objectives from the Royal Charter included developing sheep farming, taming the wild cattle, establishing a store, and providing regular postal communications both within the Islands and with the mainland areas.

The extensive involvement of the FIC Ltd within the Islands and supporting its shipping and agricultural sectors and wider economic development, is preserved through the collection of archival records. Joan Spruce, in her earlier article, discussed how she managed the archival collection stored in the Crozier Place Offices as Clerk within the FIC Ltd and worked to start sorting, labelling and indexing the collection.

Joan now recalls her memories of the decision to transfer the collection to the Jane Cameron National Archives:

“We (the FIC Ltd) had already been in discussion with Tansy, the National Archivist, about transferring the collection from the FIC Ltd to the Archives but had not yet progressed plans. I had already started some of the work to better arrange and sort the material in advance of it being accepted and allocated space in the Archives. We were fortunate that the storage area at Crozier Place was dry but it was not appropriate storage area for the records, as the attic was very dusty and cold. The Archives was the best place for the future management of the collection and transfer responsibility from myself, the untrained ‘keeper’ of the archives to the Archives with purpose-built facilities and specialised knowledge.

The decision to move the records however, was expedited with the visit of an FIC Chairman to the Islands in 2013. From having shown him the attic area and the records, and explaining that maintenance would be required to improve the storage area and particularly the roof area, it was approved that the space would be better suited as an office and that they were going to convert the attic accordingly. This decision was communicated to me and we were given a limited period of time to actually relocate and move the collection.

This meant that I had to talk to Tansy, and between us and our families, and arrange to quickly move the boxes of records from the shelves in the FIC attic to the Archives. We were very grateful to Roger Spink, the Manager at the time, who was very sympathetic and at my request purchased a map cabinet to store the valuable collection of maps and plans in the National Archive. The ledgers, cartons, packages and files were all manoeuvred to the Archives over a long weekend and placed in the Archives workshop for Tansy to then accept and sort out.”

FIC Ltd Collection: 10 Years since Archival Accession (cont.)

Since July 2013 the collection has been accessioned (the formal process of transferring ownership and responsibility from the donor to the Archives), and the collection arranged, sorted and catalogued to be added to the archival storage area. This has involved sorting through each individual record, labelling and adding to the central database, removing duplication, and repackaged into archival standard boxes. The collection has been separated into the various subject matters including:



- **Administration** – Director Meetings; Proprietors
- **Correspondence** – inward and outward despatches between Stanley and London office; with clients across farm settlements; with Government officers; with Camp Managers;
- **Farm Diaries** – including Darwin; Fitzroy; Fox Bay West; Goose Green; North Arm; Fox Bay West and Port Stephens
- **People** – employee contracts and estates; wages ledgers; passenger lists on voyages between Stanley and London/Uruguay
- **Shipping** – Shipping Registers from 1889; Log books for Lafonia, Fitzroy, Darwin, Monsunen and Forrest; Diaries of Shipping Operations; Agency information;
- **Ledgers, Journals and Cashbooks** – financial details relating to Stanley and London Office
- **Photographic Albums** – include subjects on Camp, Shipping

Joan reflects on the changes that have taken place and her reaction to the collection today:

“I am very impressed to see what the collection looks like today. The last time I saw the records, some were in the Archives workshop, with piles of boxes and material. Whilst the ledgers and other packaged material was on shelves in the Stack. Seeing that the collection is now properly organised, labelled and catalogued, makes me really happy and relieved that the collection is safe.”

This was always what I wanted to see and had made small steps to achieve through my own listing and labelling, so it is great to see it all finally done and professionally arranged in the Archives. The archival boxes and labels make it so easy for staff to locate records. The collection has not changed in terms of content obviously but it is super to see it now 10 years on

It is very heartening to know that FIC history can be accessed online for people in the Island and overseas. The FIC was, and still is, an important part of Falklands history.”

In addition to the physical work to organise the material and catalogue for those who want to access the collection in person, the material has also been digitised and uploaded to the Archives website. The website contains the online collection of the FIC Ltd records.

The cataloguing process is still ongoing, as well as efforts to digitise the collection. The records are accessible through archive appointments or visiting:

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

Falklands On Record: Snippets from the Archives



INFORMATION USEFUL TO OFFICERS PROCEEDING TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ON FIRST APPOINTMENT.

The population of the Islands is about 2,437 and of Stanley about 1200 (1934).

The climate is rigorous but healthy. It is trying to people from the United Kingdom on account of the continuous cold, the lack of sun, and the constant high winds as well as by the few opportunities afforded for outdoor exercises. No special precautions need be observed by Europeans.

Clothing suitable in the United Kingdom is serviceable in the Colony but should be of extra thickness and warmth. An overcoat of exceptional warmth, one of lighter description and a waterproof will be found to be necessary. Strong walking boots and a pair of glazed rubber boots (cavalry pattern) will be found to be useful.

Houses of any kind are difficult to rent, and the average rental of an unfurnished house suitable for occupation by an official is £50 a year. There are no hotels in Stanley, which is the only town in the Colony, but there are several fairly comfortable boarding-houses. The cost of living in a boarding-house ranges from £2. 2. 0. to £3. 3. 0 a week. An officer desiring to occupy an unfurnished house would be well advised to come to Stanley prepared with all heavy articles of furniture. Household requisites and small furnishings can be obtained locally.

In a small house one domestic is usually found sufficient; in larger houses, two. It is customary to engage a boy to attend during the day at intervals to chop and bring in peat. Wages for domestics range from £3 to £4 a month and for Peat Boys 10s/- to 15s/- a month.

/ The



TOP LEFT: WEST STORE BEING BUILT. 1930. [JCNA. FC/005/0201]

TOP RIGHT: WEST STORE. [JCNA. FC/005/0207]

BOTTOM LEFT: INFORMATION USEFUL TO OFFICERS PROCEEDING TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ON FIRST APPOINTMENT. 1934 [JCNA. GOV/TGE/1/13]

BOTTOM RIGHT: BEAVER FLYING IN FRONT OF MARMONT ROW. [JCNA. FC/005/0165]

Learning Through Transcription: Deciphering the 1833 Port Louis Murders – By Torin Harte

When Chloe shared with me Thomas Helsby's first-hand account of the 1833 Port Louis murders and the newly accessioned correspondence from Rear Admiral Hamond (recently donated to the Archives from the Friends of Falklands Museums and Archives), I found myself met by two competing feelings. Firstly, a general excitement to be casting my eyes on near 200-year-old documents detailing the events of such an infamous moment in Falkland Islands history. Second, upon attempting to parse the intense cursive handwriting on the first page, a creeping apprehension at the mammoth task I had just signed up for. I had agreed to write an article for the JCNA newsletter, and it was my intention to somehow turn Helsby's "Rough notes relative to the murders at Port Lewis" into the basis for a short and sweet article, alongside Hamond's letters, that would capture the attention of readers. I quickly learned, however, that the task would by no means be short and sweet.

Naturally, the first step towards writing any article is to understand your source material—therein lay the first hurdle. I possessed essentially no experience at deciphering calligraphy, save attempts to interpret my own terrible handwriting on occasion. Any documents I had read pertaining to the nineteenth century were always pre-transcribed into text. 'Slowly' would be a rather generous word to describe the pace at which I made my way through the account on my first few attempts. My initial efforts resembled that of a primary school student sounding out words they were seeing for the first time, as I painstakingly differentiated cursive s's and f's from one another. In many instances, I did audibly sound out what I believed the scrawled word to be and would celebrate when I cracked a particularly perplexing word that unlocked the meaning of the sentence at hand. Yet, to my own pleasant surprise, I found that after sitting with the document for some time, my brain adjusted to picking out words with relative ease.

Just as I began to get into a groove and had reached a point where I could parse whole sentences without much pause, I realised that in order to make the most of this incredibly rich account, it would be prudent to transcribe Helsby's notes into a digital format.

Not only would this allow me to refer back to sections that I had already read without having to decipher the same sections multiple times, but it was an opportunity to make a piece of Falkland Islands history accessible to a wider audience.

Motivated by what might be fairly described as a morbid intrigue for the murderous events of August 1833, I delved deeper into the Helsby account—now transcribing as I went. In my haste, though, I failed to consider that perhaps someone else had already been gripped by the same motivation that had compelled me to transcribe the account. After many pages of transcription, I went to do some ancillary research into the Port Louis murders and came across a typed version of the manuscript on the website Wikisource. Initially annoyed that my efforts appeared to have been unnecessary, I found some consolation in the fact that I now had a digital document to work from going forward. If only it were that simple. In what I can only describe as some sort of cosmic irony, the transcriber of the Wikisource document had abruptly given up on their transcription a mere 100 words or so further into the account than I had reached in my own transcription. Laughing at the situation to abate my frustrations, I pressed on with well over half of the account to transcribe.

I had learnt about the Port Louis murders briefly in school, but I did not have a strong idea of what actually unfolded. This made the process of transcribing Helsby's account all the more fascinating. With each sentence decoded, a little bit more of the story revealed itself. Because most of Helsby's account actually details the immediate aftermath of the murders, I truly had no idea what was coming next. I felt somewhat like a codebreaker whose prize was a riveting story about murder and survival.

As day broke over Berkley Sound on the 26 morning of August, 1833, the 36 inhabitants of Port Louis awoke to a seemingly ordinary morning in the isolated little colony. A group of sealers set off for Johnson's Harbour, storekeeper William Dickson began selling his wares for the day, and the colony in general went about the routine tasks so required to keep a small settlement running. Yet, by mid-day five of Port Louis' residents laid dead—brutally murdered by a band of eight men led by Antonio Rivero and armed with a medley of pistols, muskets, swords, dirks and knives, as they seized control of the settlement.

What could possibly have motivated such a coordinated and brutal act of violence? Some revisionist histories like to claim that Rivero had been motivated by a nationalistic desire to rise against British rule, but the truth is actually much more mundane.

Learning Through Transcription: Deciphering the 1833 Port Louis Murders – By Torin Harte (cont.)

Harsh treatment by Louis Vernet's agents, Captain Brisbane and William Dickson in particular who refused to pay the men for their labour, coupled with a lack of any form of legal redress, turned the men towards murderous recourse.

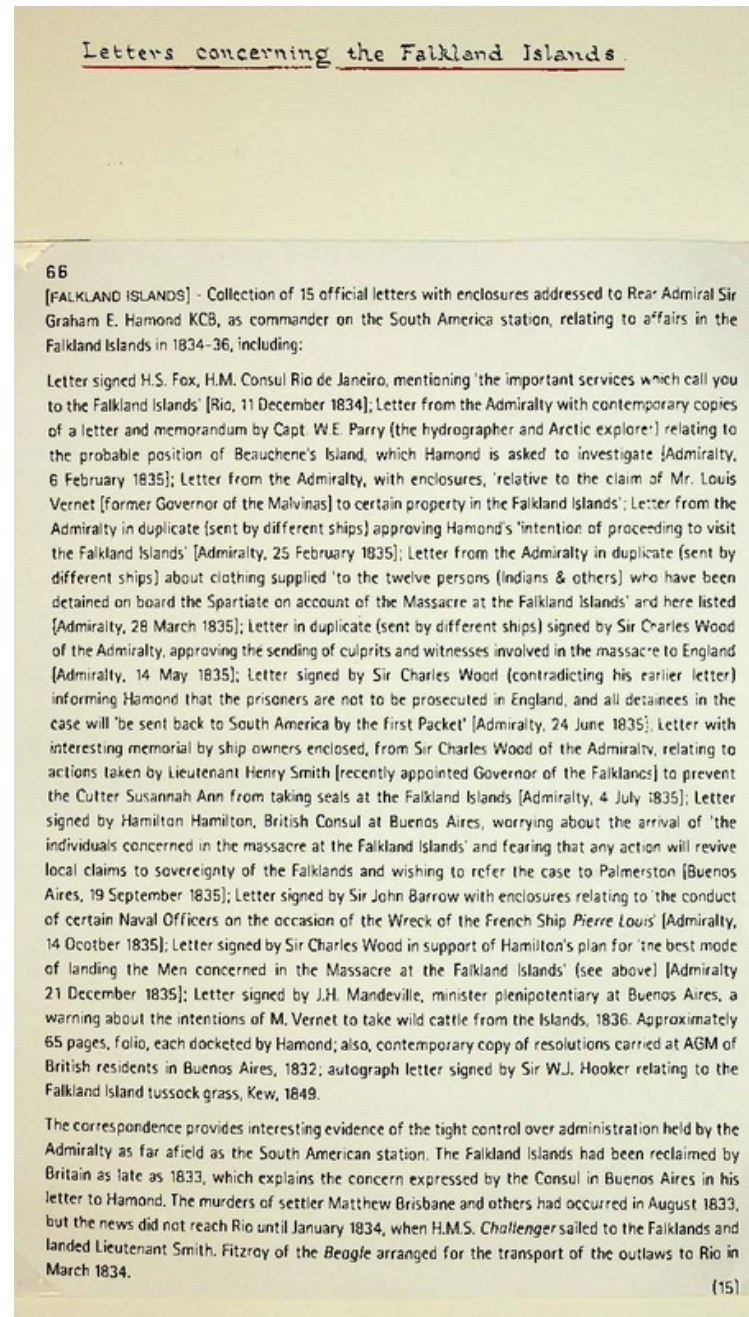
Beyond the murders themselves, I was particularly struck by the depth of privation and the corresponding resilience that characterised the survival of the men, women, and children that escaped Rivero and his bandits. Living in constant anxiety for their safety, the group were forced to stakeout survival on a pair of small islands in Berkley Sound for several months. They faced intense exposure to brutally harsh weather, with little more shelter than a makeshift house “under a peat bank, with [a] boat's sail slanting to the ground for a roof.” The absence of clean drinking water led to widespread illness, and even functional pairs of shoes were a privilege. With scarce provisions, the survivors risked venturing to the mainland, Long Island, and even back into Port Louis settlement, aware that at any moment they could be captured by a band of men who had plainly demonstrated their propensity for violence.

While the history of the Port Louis murders has been explored through the lens of Falkland Islands sovereignty, the sheer tenacity and togetherness of the survivors has perhaps been overshadowed.

I encourage you to read these accounts yourself, including the new accession of Hamond's letters. You can also read about the various subjects discussed by Rear Admiral Hamond around this same period and the Falklands in the 1830s.

The next page provides an example of two of the transcriptions I wrote from the Hamond correspondence, which discusses the fate of those responsible for the murders.

BELOW: INTRODUCTION TEXT TO REAR ADMIRAL HAMOND CORRESPONDENCE 1834-1836. [JCN.A. N/CUL/GEN/1]



To read the full original source and see transcriptions of all the letters see:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/online-collections/people/culture-and-early-history/general>

*While every effort has been taken to ensure accuracy the Jane Cameron National Archives does not accept responsibility for any errors or omissions in these records.

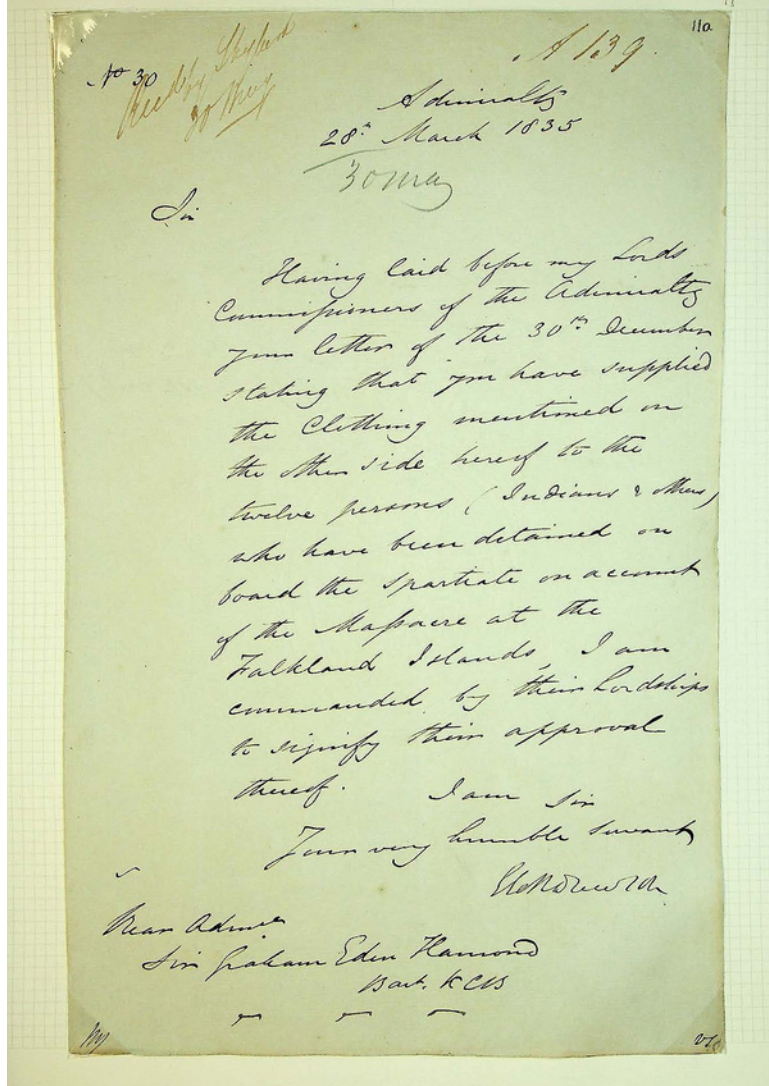
References:

Jane Cameron National Archives. N/CUL/GEN/1. Rear Admiral Hamond Correspondence 1834-1836.

Muffy, John. "Reflexions on 'The Case of Antonio Rivero And Sovereignty Over the Falkland Islands'". *The Historical Journal* 29, 2 (1986): 427-432.

Learning Through Transcription: Deciphering the 1833 Port Louis Murders – By Torin Harte (cont.)

855 (March 28th) Letter re. supplies to 12 'Indians' who had been detained after the massacre in the FI's



1835 (March 28) Letter re. supplies to 12 'Indians' who had been detained after the massacre in the FI's [Falkland Islands].

[No.30]

Admiralty
28 March 1835

Sir,

Having laid before my Lords Commissioners of the admiralty your letter of the 30th December stating you have supplied the clothing mentioned in the other side hereof to the twelve prisoners (Indians & others) who have been detained on board the 'Spartiate' on account of the massacre at the Falkland Islands, I am commanded by their lordships to signify their approval thereof.

I am Sir
Your very humble servant

Rear admiral
Sir Graham Eden Hamond

LEFT: 28 MARCH 1835 LETTER. [JCNA. N/CUL/GEN/1]

RIGHT: 14 MAY 1835 LETTER. [JCNA. N/CUL/GEN/1]

1835 (May 14) Letter to Rear Admiral Hamond approving his action on sending the prisoners concerned with the massacre on the Falkland Islands back to England.

[No.44]

The Admiralty
14 May 1835

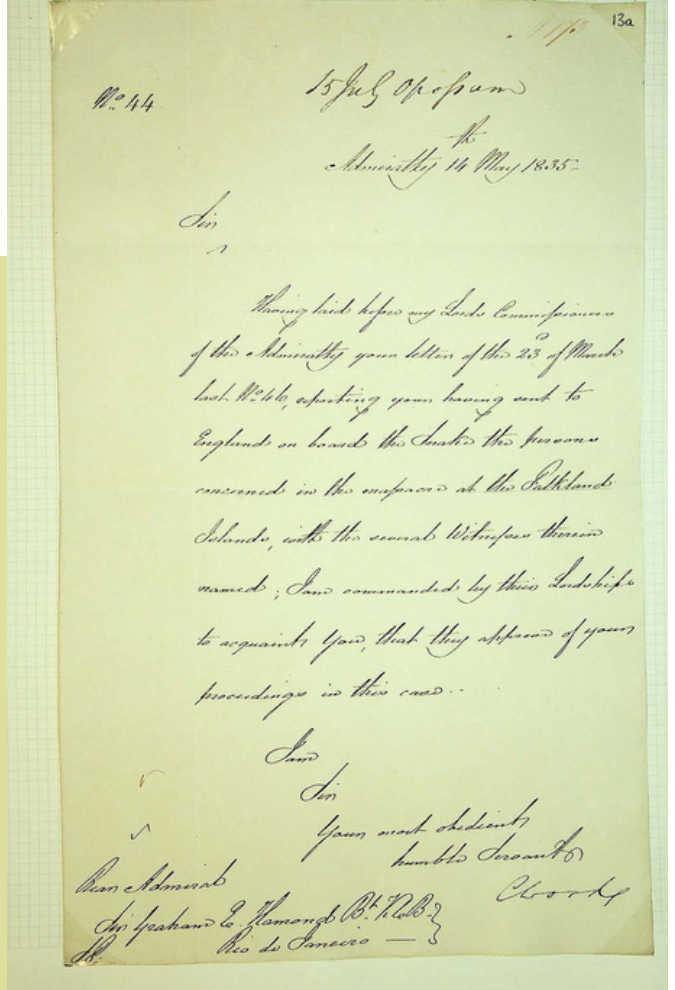
Sir

Having laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 23rd of March last No.46, reporting your having sent to England on board the 'Snake' the prisoners concerned in the massacre at the Falkland Islands, with several witnesses therein named; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that they approve of your proceedings in this case.

I am Sir
Your most obedient humble servant

Rear Admiral
Sir Graham E. Hamond

(May 14th) Letter to Rear Admiral Hamond approving his action on sending the prisoners concerned with the massacre on the Falkland Islands back to England.



Falklands On Record: Snippets from the Archives

Date	Diary Entry - Darwin Camp Manager, Thomas Slaughter TABLE: FARM DIARIES - DARWIN CAMP MANAGER 1924, [JCNA. FIC/FS/DAR/10]
Mon 4 April 1924	Shipped remainder of sheep for Swan Island and left for Darwin with Barton arriving for lunch. Cold rotten day, N. E. wind and rain.
Mon 14 April 1924	Put some rams on boat using raft boat. Motor broke down so could not work in afternoon blowing too hard
Tues 15 April 1924	Finish loading rams in boat and left for Egg Harbour arriving about 6pm. Blowing gale from S.
Wed 16 April 1924	Landed rams and loaded ewes for Speedwell. Missed tide and had to wait until 3pm to get off.
Thurs 17 April 1924	Arrived Speedwell about 9am. Landed ewes and cargo by about 4pm Filthy day, rain nearly all day Cutter over to Darwin for Doctor
Sat 19 April 1924	Loaded lambs 353, ewes 355 and arrived Egg Harbour at night
Mon 16 June 1924	Taking off rams at Hope Place Went out with Stock Inspector - liked ewes very well but no use for the English rams Snow in morning - cold but fine
Thurs 14 Aug 1924	To Stanley, crossing over to Bluff Cove in boat Blew a gale all afternoon
Wed 20 Aug 1924	Stanley. To look at stuff suitable for Bodie Creek Bridge
Mon 25 Aug 1924	Left Stanley about 10 and arrived about 6 at Mount Pleasant. Horse tired about an hour from Mount Pleasant
Thurs 28 Aug 1924	J Coutts of Lively [Island] married in afternoon at Hall - dance in evening, nearly all of Lafonia there
Sun 21 Sept 1924	Men working at Bodie Creek Bridge getting remainder of Cook House to site
Tues 7 Oct 1924	Carpenters finished at Cook House at Bodie Creek Motor back at night from Samuel with beef



ABOVE: ORIGINAL NORTH ARM WOOLSHED. THOUGHT TO BE ABOUT TIME OF STEAM DRIVEN SHEARS - 1890. [JCNA. FC/004/0007]



ABOVE: ENGLISH ROMNEY SHEEP DARWIN. JCNA FC/004/0021]
BELOW: SHEEP COMING DOWN GOOSE GREEN JETTY. [JCNA. FC/004/0106]



BELOW: HILL COVE - HAY MAKING. [JCNA. FC/004/0010]



Falklands On Record: Snippets from the Archives

Noah's Ark – By Helen McShane

Whilst searching through Archive records to decide what I would like to write about, a reference to a 'Noah's Ark' project piqued my interest, bringing back faint childhood recollections of being told the tale of how a menagerie of farm animals were brought to the Falklands on a boat after the 1982 Conflict; consequently, providing me with an interesting topic to explore further.

An Ambitious Idea...

Numerous letters were sent to the London Office from across the United Kingdom during the final days and aftermath of the 1982 Conflict, offering material or financial support as part of the nationwide efforts to raise funds for the Falkland Islands. Several independent farmers and farming organisations wrote directly to Sir Rex Hunt or to the Falklands Appeal, (a fund established in Britain to support the Falkland Islands and administered by the London Office) wishing to donate, or to assist with the selection and shipment of replacement livestock, farming materials and equipment.

Such an example was a letter dated 14 June 1982 from The Romney Sheep Breeder's Society, offering a small gift of breeding stock which could be selected for shipment to the Islands. The possibility of sending over samples for artificial insemination was also discussed, however due to the likely complications and constraints around transportation and cold storage in the months after the Liberation, it was asked whether this proposal could be kept "on ice" for the time being.

Letters were also received from New Zealand and Australia offering donations of livestock (some letters included mention of Trevor Halliday, an Islander living in Tasmania, who had reached out to the Australian Government). Whilst I could find little indication that this avenue was viable in terms of the Noah's Ark project, an article in the Falkland Newsletter in February 1985 indicates that the Falkland Islands Company later went on to independently source replacement sheep and thoroughbred horses from South Island, New Zealand.

On 30 July 1982 a request was issued on Falkland's radio for farmers to contact the Agricultural Research Centre [later renamed Agriculture Department] in the coming months, in the hopes of providing the Agricultural Officer with some idea of the extent of the losses of animals and livestock suffered, and to develop a rudimentary plan of what to do next.

The General Manager (FIC) Brooke Hardcastle wrote that Goose Green was estimated to have lost at least 576 sheep, as well as 39 pedigree rams and pedigree breeding ewes from Burnside (as Argentine troops had camped in the Burnside paddocks, it was supposed that most of these pedigree sheep had been killed for eating). Claude Molkenbuhr of Murrell Farm also detailed severe losses; 907 sheep, 49 of 71 cattle, 9 of 12 pigs, and 112 of 117 poultry owned prior to the invasion.

These reports from farm managers highlighted heavy losses, as well as detailing the extent of damage to fencing, which had resulted in the wide dispersal of sheep, cattle, and horses. In his letter, Brooke Hardcastle wrote that some Goose Green horses were found as far afield as the Sussex Hills following the Liberation.

Correspondence between Steve Whitley the Island's Veterinary Surgeon, and a veterinary colleague in the UK from November 1982 also indicated that farmers were having to contend with the weather on top of these difficulties. He described the late winter as having a "terrible" impact on the lambing season, concluding:

"The extent of this difficulty on top of previous ones will probably never be known."

On 4 November 1982, Steve Whitley wrote to the Governor Sir Rex Hunt, detailing his proposal for the importation and rehabilitation of livestock, nicknamed 'Noah's Ark':

"I would like to suggest that the Rehabilitation Committee consider the possibility of financing a Livestock ship to not only act as the means of conveying this assortment of animals from U.K. to the Falklands but also to act as a quarantine station should there be any need for one."

A "special shipment" had been determined as the best viable option for transporting livestock, due to MOD

Noah's Ark – By Helen McShane (cont.)

rules and regulations forbidding the carriage of livestock on MOD transport planes. Whitley presented potential options and considerations relating to the proposal, concluding with:

“The scale of the project is somewhat daunting but if it materialises, we have the opportunity not only to assist those farmers who have lost so much but also extend the pool of genetic material in the Islands and complement the existing healthy livestock population.”

Whilst records did not provide an official approval document of the scheme, logistical correspondence continued to progress, and the project go-ahead was announced publicly on the radio on 14 December 1982. Farmers were suitably informed that the Agriculture Department would begin contacting them to determine needs, livestock wish lists, etc.

Preparations and Logistics:

During the months that followed, a great deal of co-ordination was required to organise the logistics of not only determining the needs of the farmers', selecting UK suppliers, debating costs, and arranging shipping to the Falkland Islands, but ensuring that prior to arrival that animals were assigned to farms who were willing and able to accept them; particularly rare breeds, or those not previously farmed in the Islands. Apparently, there was some contention with Executive Council at the time over the introduction of goats to the Falkland Islands, with Steve Whitley conveying his concerns to Sir Rex Hunt about the Councillor's “unwarranted prejudice against goats”. Whilst goats ultimately did make it over, the outcome of this debate was not included in further correspondence in the Noah's Ark records... so perhaps an amusing aside for a future article...

Steve Whitely largely co-ordinated matters on Islands, whilst Major General Alan (AOG) Mills (Honorary Director of the Falklands Appeal) managed the logistical aspects from the United Kingdom. The Falklands Appeal also requested the Crown Agents to act as their representatives, sourcing a suitable ship, ordering the animals by specification and number, and arranging collection and carriage of to dock. There was much to-ing and fro-ing of correspondence between all parties involved, through letters and telexes, which at times became quite confusing due to time-lag caused by

delayed letters and caused some miscommunication and frustration at both ends at various stages.

The Falklands Appeal had agreed to pay ancillary costs and freight charges for the project, covering the cost of any animals in direct replacement of those lost during the invasion which were not being donated. As the number of animals grew to include animals which were not direct replacements, the Appeal were also able to offer these extra animals for farmers to purchase at ex-farm prices.

Initially there was some discussion over how the animals would be quarantined prior to departure however, it was determined that this was not necessary, so long as the animals did not arrive earlier than six weeks of leaving their original locations, and the ship left directly from the United Kingdom without calling at any foreign ports before reaching its destination. Each animal required a detailed health checks and extensive documentation organised prior to travel, to eliminate risk of bringing diseases into the Islands.

Below is an example of paperwork details which accompanied one of the horses:

COLOUR	SEX	YEAR OF BIRTH	BREED	NAME
BAY	MARE	1978	Welsh Cob	PENWITH POPPY

HEAD
 BOUNDARIES OF HEAD AND NECK, CONTAINED BY FORELEGS, TO FURN MARK LARGE UP, BE DRAWN BY MIDLINE AND TO LEFT OF FORELEGS.
 NONE
 LF WHITE OUTLINE (SHAPES) OF HEAD.
 RF WHITE MARKS (SHAPES) OF HEAD.
 LH WHITE MARKS (SHAPES) OF HEAD.
 RH WHITE MARKS (SHAPES) OF HEAD.

LIMBS
 WHITE MARKS (SHAPES) OF LIMBS.
 NONE MARKS (SHAPES) OF LIMBS.

BODY
 WHITE MARKS (SHAPES) OF BODY.
 NONE MARKS (SHAPES) OF BODY.

ACQUIRED MARKS
 (Scars, Tattoos etc.)

INSTRUCTIONS - Mark the diagram with the exact position of any distinguishing marks, scars or brands. Brands to be drawn in position. Scars to be marked and indicated with an arrow (→). Scars or brands on the face and any other marking to be drawn in on the diagrams showing position and shape as accurately as possible. Whorls should be marked with a cross (x). If no markings - this fact should be stated.

ABOVE: EXCERPT FROM HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR WELSH COB MARE, PENWITH POPPY. [JCNA. AGR/LIN/2/3]

Timing can be a particularly problematic consideration when co-ordinating large-scale projects; and the Noah's Ark project was no different. Suppliers needed sufficient time to secure numbers of specific breeds to meet the requirements of the farmers, including at least six weeks' notice of the departure date to ensure animals would not end up in breach of quarantine regulations.

Noah's Ark – By Helen McShane (cont.)

Issues around shipping regulations also meant that most of the horses needed to be shipped separately from the cattle; ultimately resulting in the Civil Commissioner and Falklands Appeal moving towards the possibility of multiple consignments to transport the full contingent. It was also decided that the Collie dogs and puppies were to be shipped separately, so that the noise would not alarm the livestock. The cattle carrier the *Dina Khalaf* was chosen as the ship which would bring the majority of the livestock to the Falkland Islands, the rest following in military vessels *Andalucia Star*, *AES*, *Romney* and *Sand Shore*. In the end, it took six consignments between 1983-84 to deliver the animals, four of these arriving after the *Dina Khalaf*.

There was also some consideration around suggested discharge points for animals, to ensure ease of collection and onward journey for animals going to Camp locations across East and West Falkland. In August 1983 the agreed discharge points were Stanley, (for Green Patch subdivisions, Port Lois, Johnson's Harbour, Teal Inlet, Bluff Cove, Rincon Grande, Douglas, and onward shipping to Sealion Island) Port San Carlos, (for Goose Green, Lively Island, North Arm, and San Carlos) and either Port Howard or Fox Bay East for West Falkland locations.

In December 1982 it had been estimated that the sailing date for shipments would be mid-February 1983, though in reality it took another seven months for animals to complete the journey, starting with the budgerigars and cats on 13 September 1983 aboard the *M.V Andalucia Star*.

The Journey:

The *Dina Khalaf* departed Poole on 26 September 1983 carrying a compliment of 220 sheep, cattle, pigs, horses, and goats from across the United Kingdom. The consignment included sheep provided by the Romney Sheep Breeder's Society, and cattle from the Ayrshire Cattle Society. A confirmation broadcast of the vessel's departure was broadcast on Falkland radio two days later.

According to the subsequent journey report written for the Falkland's Appeal Trust by the veterinary surgeons aboard the vessel, (Graham Joss and Roger Mason) the *Dina Khalaf* was 'a fitted cattle carrier of 521 tons deadweight' and "the animals were housed in pens and stalls on two decks under cover". The vessel carried 650 bales of wood shavings to keep the animal passengers comfortable, as well as 113 tonnes of water

and 6,050 kg of assorted animal feed. A range of veterinary equipment (some kindly donated to the Appeal) was provided to anticipate any medical requirements, and two desalination plants were also fitted to process sea water during the journey. The Appeal had also been supplied with an 'Ecogras' machine that was able to supply a small amount of green barley grown from seed during the voyage.

"After a remarkably smooth start, some slightly rough weather was encountered on the tenth day. During the last week gale force 8 conditions were encountered for 36 hours."



ABOVE: ARAB MARE JOZANNAH AT FITZROY (RON BINNIE).
[JCNA. AGR/LIN/3/020]

Remarkably, none of the animals were reported to show signs of sea sickness, and perhaps even more remarkably, only two casualties were experienced during the voyage. These were a Romney Marsh ram, which on its death was discovered to have an undetectable, pre-existing internal ruptured diaphragm, and a heifer who was believed to have been fatally injured in an accident involving the 3-year-old Arab filly Jozannah, who was believed to have escaped her tether and landed on the cow whilst leaping over the fence of her pen into the neighbouring one. Steve Whitley later described the incident as "an extraordinary occurrence which could not have been predicted".

Other than the accident with the heifer, no further difficulties were reported, except for an unpredicted stop off the coast of Salvador, Brazil to pick up spare parts for a broken desalination plant and take on 90 tonnes of water. This stop delayed the voyage by two

Noah's Ark – By Helen McShane (cont.)

days and risk the quarantine status of the vessel. Fortunately, the crew were able to strictly maintain their quarantine procedures, ensuring that any risk of infection to the animals was prevented during the delay.

Correspondence was maintained with the Crown Agents during the voyage to document progress. A telex dated 17 October confirmed that priority berthing against the Falkland Islands Company (FIC) jetty had been arranged so that the animals could be walked off the vessel as they had been walked on originally; a suggestion being made that this should be done “two by two”.

The *Dina Khalaf* arrived in Stanley at 0745 on 28 October carrying six extra passengers; as five calves had been born on route, with the sixth being born on arrival into Stanley Harbour.

Arrival in the Falklands and What Happened Afterwards:

The next day, on 29 October the animals disembarked on to dry land. Steve Whitley and the two vets who had accompanied them on the voyage, began to organise distribution of the animals to their allotted homes (those destined for the West aboard the *Forrest*).

A telex sent by Steve on 24 November 1983 confirmed that the last of the animals aboard the *Dina Khalaf* had been delivered safely to their destinations by the 14 November 1983:

“All well and everyone very repeat very pleased. Vet exhausted exclaim. Can I have a holiday?”



The dogs and collie puppies arrived in 1983 and 1984 aboard military vessels *Romney*, *Sand Shore* and *AES*, the latter also carrying the two pet dogs, Peanut (a cocker spaniel) and Brock, (a daschund) and the long-awaited Arab stallion Taluqdar, who was very happily received by Heather Pettersson.

A year after the arrival of the *Dina Khalaf*, Major General Alan Mills visited the Islands to see how the Noah's Ark animals were faring. His detailed account of the trip was published in the Falkland's Newsletter in May 1985 (No.23) and August 1985 (No.24) respectively, sharing highlights of his adventures in Camp and reports of how particular animals were faring in their new homes.



ABOVE: MURRELL. LEE MOLKENBUHR WITH ROMNEY EWES. [JCNA. AGR/LIN/3/045]

BELOW: BLUFF COVE. BELTED GALLOWAY BULL, COW AND CALF. [JCNA. AGR/LIN/3/049]



LEFT: LIVESTOCK DISEMBARKING THE DINA KHALAF, 1983. [HTTPS://WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/26502588@N02/2831727552]

Noah's Ark – By Helen McShane (cont.)

Neil Pullan - the Government Veterinarian who took over the project after Steve Whitley's departure from the Islands - carried out farm visits, and the Veterinary Department sent out questionnaires in 1984 to gain some feedback on the progress of the animals. Initial feedback concerning the condition of the animals was largely positive, however in feedback over subsequent years, increasing losses were documented; particularly of the Romney sheep, who seemingly struggled to successfully adapt to the Falklands environment and maintain good condition.

Whilst there is an understandable a degree of loss to be expected due to the harsh realities of farming, matters were likely not helped by a winter in 1984 described in an agricultural report at the time as "the hardest, wettest and longest winter since 1944".



ABOVE: SAUNDERS ISLAND. SUZAN POLE-EVANS WITH OXFORD SANDY BLACK. [JCNA. AGR/LIN/3/069]

BELOW: SALVADOR 8/9 NOVEMBER 1984. ROBIN PITALUGA WITH SCOTTISH COLLIE BITCH NESS. [JCNA. AGR/LIN/3/146]



Although, for every unfortunate ending reported, there were also positive beginnings; with many of the Noah's Ark project animals breeding and raising their offspring successfully.

Feedback received from Farmer's between 1984, 1986 provided notification of these births, with some also detailing where the progenies ended up after being distributed to other farms on East and West Falklands.

In response to a questionnaire in 1986, Bill Luxton (Chartres) reported that the tomcat Smokey Joe - received from the *Andalucia Star* consignment in September 1983 - was "battle-scarred but undefeated" and making a "contribution to the Falklands [that] can only be described as prolific."

BELOW: CHARTRES. BILL LUXTON WITH TOMCAT SMOKEY JOE. [JCNA. AGR/LIN/3/077]



Whilst I doubt records were kept documenting the family trees as far back as almost forty years, it would be interesting to know how many working animals and pets residing in the Islands could still trace their lineage back to their intrepid predecessors; perhaps even my own collie Max could be descended from the original Welsh or Scottish collie dog stock sent to Port Howard [I also strongly suspect and hope that a few descendants of the battle-scarred Smokey Joe may still be roaming their territory across West Falklands!].

On a more serious note, regardless of whether the Noah's Ark project arrived at successful outcomes for all in the long-term, it is fair to say that the undertaking of such an endeavour during the upheaval and turmoil of the aftermath of the invasion was no mean feat. It could not have been achieved without the kindness and generosity shown from afar, and the determination of all involved who turned an idea into a reality.

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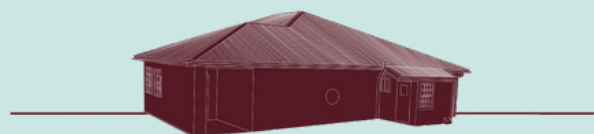
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