

## MERCER FAMILY

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

**Alexander MERCER** was born circa (*not in the Falkland Islands*).

Alexander was married to **Mary ?** (*not in the Falkland Islands*).

On 7 June 1870 Frederick Cobb wrote to F Coleman in London ‘...and come out by the wool vessel. By the same opportunity please ship the Mercer family. The governor takes the father as gardener, the latter as cook, and will pay the former’s passage; Robert and George Mercer are responsible for the passages of the rest of the family. Mercer’s address is Brown House, Dunse, Berwickshire; but I believe you have communicated with him before.’ [FIC/D2; 539]

Alexander, Mary, their daughters, Jane and Agnes, and son, Alexander, were passengers on the *Chislehurst* leaving London December 1870. He was charged £85 for the passages. [FIC/C1; 414: Is Ledger 3; 83]

Alexander left on board the English barque *Balcarry* in January 1872. Frederick Cobb wrote to London Office in Despatch 166 dated 15 July 1873: “I also want a head gardener Mercer senior having left suddenly in the *Balcarry*, in consequence of domestic differences, his son Robert, who was for some time, and is now in charge of the garden being unfit for the place through an unhappy tendency to epileptic fits and chronic insobriety.”

Alexander, Mary and two children were to leave the UK in August 1873 on the *Governor* but were unable as Alexander was dying. Alexander died between 8 and 11 August 1873 but as per his express wish his widow and two children were to go out on the *Governor* leaving Gravesend 19 or 20 August 1873. [FIC/C1; 455; 456]

Mary, age 68, wife of Alexander Mercer and a native of Scotland, died 8 June 1883 in Stanley and was buried 13 June 1883 in Grave A86. The informant was her son George of Danson Harbour.



In  
affectionate remembrance  
OF  
MARY MERCER  
WIFE OF  
ALEXANDER MERCER  
LATE OF STANLEY  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE, JUNE 9, 1885  
AGED 58 YEARS.

AFFLICTIONS GREAT SHE SUFFERED LONG  
IT PLEASED THE LORD TO CALL HER HOME  
TO HEAVEN. SHE'S GONE TO REIGN ABOVE  
WITH JESUS CHRIST THE GOD OF LOVE

### Children of Alexander and Mary MERCER:

1. **Robert Pringle MERCER** born circa 1847 (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Robert, age 19, was a passenger on board the *West* leaving Cardiff 27 August 1866. [H22] Robert worked for the Falkland Islands Company Ltd in their Camp from August 1867 to July 1868. [FIC/IW1; 490] Robert worked at San Carlos from August 1874 to 23 February 1875. [N/FAR/SAN/5] Robert then worked for the Deans. He may have gone to the UK with his brother in 1882. He returned with his brother on board the *Neko* leaving 27 September 1882. [FIC/C1; 608, 615, 612, 619] Robert, a watchmaker, departed Stanley for Punta Arenas circa March 1889 with **Mary Ann PETERSON**, formally **SUMMERS**, and her son **James KELWAY** or **PETERSON**. Robert and Mary Ann died in Punta Arenas 8 November 1889 and left two young children totally unprovided for. Dean Brandon arranged for the eldest child, James, to be brought back to the Falkland Islands and he was brought over by James GREENSHIELDS, arriving 27 April 1890 on board the *Isis*. [FIM Feb 1890: Jun 1890: D21; 82: H44; 235]
2. **George MERCER** born circa 1849 (*not in the Falkland Islands*). George, age 17, was a passenger on board the *West* leaving Cardiff 27 August 1866. [H22] George worked for the Falkland Islands Company Ltd in their Camp from November 1866 to June 1882 when he was granted £11 for his passage home on board the *Neko*. In 1870 he was living in Hope Cottage near Kelp Harbour. George applied to be re-engaged in 1882 but was not hired. He returned with his brother who worked for the Deans on board the *Neko* leaving 27 September 1882. [FIC/C1; 608, 615, 612, 619] George was later employed by the FIC and worked from 1 April 1884 until 13 February 1897. In December 1889 he was living at North Arm. [H44; 235] George was married to **Isabella BELL**, of Summerhill Lodge, Maxwelltown, Scotland, 29 November 1900 in Dumfries, Scotland. [FIM Apr 1901] George, age 57, died 28 November 1906 in Dumfries, Scotland. [FIM Feb 1907]
3. **Jane MERCER** born 16 August 1852 in Scotland. Jane, living in Stanley, was married to **William Maynard Davis BENNEY**, widower and sheep farmer living at Port Egmont, Saunders Island, 3 April 1878 in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence by Lowther E Brandon MA Colonial Chaplain. The witnesses were Robert Mercer and Agnes Mercer. William's father was recorded as James Benney, engineer, and Jane's father was recorded as Alexander Mercer, gardener. William, age 63, died 20 September 1898 in Lowestoft, England. Jane emigrated to England, leaving 1 April 1924 on board the "Oriana". Her daughter, Annie, travelled with her. Jane died 30 December 1938.
4. **Agnes MERCER** born circa 1855 (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Agnes, living in Stanley, was married to **Alexander McIntosh PITALUGA**, camp man living in Stanley, 18 September 1878 in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence by Lowther E Brandon MA Colonial Chaplain. The witnesses were W K Cameron and George Mercer. Alexander's father was recorded as Andres Pitaluga, sheep farmer, and Agnes' father was recorded as Alexander Mercer, gardener. Agnes, age 48, died 11 June 1903 from chronic hypostrophy and was buried in Grave A23. Alexander re-married (*not in the Falkland Islands*) and in March 1944 his widow was living at 1454 Balfour venue, Shaughnessy, Vancouver BC, Canada. [FIC/EF/]



Jane in 1920

5. **Alexander MERCER** born 1 November 1856 in Terraughtie, Scotland. Alexander, manager of stock, Saunders Island, was married to **Margaret Bruce CLARK** 3 August 1900 in the Parish Church according to the Rites & Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence by Edwin Coupland Aspinall Canon & Assistant Colonial Chaplain. The witnesses were Alexander Pitaluga and Agnes Pitaluga. Alexander's father was recorded as Alexander Mercer, gardener, and Margaret's father was recorded as James Clark, dairy keeper. Margaret was born 2 May 1878 in Edinburgh, Scotland. In December 1889 Alexander was living on Saunders Island. [D21; 82] Alexander, age 74 and a carpenter, and Margaret, age 53, went to the UK on holiday in 1931. Alexander was recorded as being 5' 6" tall with blue eyes and grey hair and Margaret as being 5' 3" tall with blue eyes and grey hair. In 1932 Margaret was living at 32 Stapenhill Road, North Wembley. [FIC/EF/5]



Alexander and Margaret in 1931

## FIRST GENERATION:

### Children of Jane (3) and William BENNEY:

1. **Annie Louisa BENNEY** born 29 May 1879 on Saunders Island. Married **George GREENSHIELDS**, farmer and JP of Douglas Station, 25 October 1916 at Christ Church Cathedral by Governor's Special Licence by J Stanley Smith, Clerk in Holy Orders. The witnesses were Fred G Langdon, Miss Alice Pitaluga and Miss Vi Lellmann. George's father was recorded as Robert Greenshields, farmer. George died 16 December 1917 in hospital at Valparaiso, Chile [CM Jan 1918]. In 1920 Annie is recorded as living temporarily at 12 Holles Street Cavendish Square, London, England. Annie emigrated to England, leaving 1 April 1924 on board the "Oriana". Her mother travelled with her.
2. **William George BENNEY** born 30 March 1881 on Saunders Island. William travelled to Liverpool on board the "Oropesa" 17 April 1912. Married ? in England? William and his wife were on board the "Oravia" 12 November 1912 when she stranded on the Billy Rocks (no lives lost), coming from Liverpool. In June 1939 William was residing at Newlands Farm, Dunmow in the County of Essex and was a sheep farmer. In May 1940 he was residing at "Glanfields" Stortford Road, Dunmow in the County of Essex and was a sheep farmer.
3. **Vernon Alexander BENNEY** born August 1882 on Saunders Island. Died 4 December 1882 from convulsions, age 3 months and 15 days, and is buried in Grave A168.
4. **James Egmont BENNEY** born 29 December 1883. Married **Rose Elizabeth WINTHER** 21 December 1912 at the Parish Church, Norbury, near Stockport. Rose was the only daughter of the late Captain Winther of the Falkland Islands. James and Rose arrived with one child 27 December 1916. Left for Liverpool with their two children 2 April 1922 on board the "Orcoma".
5. **Percival Stanley "Percy" BENNEY** born ? (*not in Falkland Islands*). Arrived from Liverpool 1 October 1903 with his brother William on board the "Orita".

### Children of Agnes (5) and Alexander PETALUGA:

1. **Mary PETALUGA** born 28 August 1879 at St Salvador. Mary was married to **George Isaac TURNER**, widower and clerk, 6 September 1909 in Christ Church Cathedral by Special Licence by Edward J Seymour, Chaplain & Hon Canon. The witnesses were Andres Pitaluga, Nellie Pitaluga and Isabella Atkins. George died 7 April 1937, age 60, and is buried in Grave J1107. In December 1941 Mary was living at 5 Roughdown Villas, Hemel Hempstead. [FIC/EF/] Mary died 26 May 1954 and is buried in Grave Q1535.
2. **Margaret "Madge" PITALUGA** born 13 August 1881 at St Salvador. Madge was married to **Daniel LEHEN**, shepherd at San Salvador, age 29, 13 August 1901 in the Parish Church according to the Rites & Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence by Lowther E Brandon MA Dean & Colonial Chaplain. The witnesses were Andreas Pitaluga and Mary Pitaluga. Margaret was living at San Salvador at the time. Margaret died 21 November 1916 in child birth and is buried in Grave I814. Daniel died 9 June 1946 and is buried in Grave N1323.
3. **Andreas Donald PITALUGA** born 6 December 1883 and baptised 29 November 1884 by Holy Trinity Church. Andreas, a sheep farmer, was married to **Rose PITALUGA** 22 September 1926 at the Registrar's Office, Stanley by Special Licence by M Craigie-Halkett,

Registrar General. The witnesses were M Kelway and A I Fleuret. Andreas' father was recorded as Alexander McIntosh Pitaluga, deceased, and Rose's father was recorded as James Pitaluga, deceased. Andreas, age 52, died 25 February 1936 and was buried 28 February 1936 in Grave A1091. [Obituary Penguin 26 Feb 1936, pg 1; 27 Feb 1936, pg 1; 3 Mar 1936, pg 1-2] Rose emigrated to England in 1937 but her ashes were returned to the Falkland Islands and buried in her husband's grave.

4. **Agnes PITALUGA** born 19 October 1886 in Stanley. Agnes was married to **Albert Edward SMALL**, labourer of Stanley, 22 December 1908 at the Registrar's Office, Stanley by Special Licence by G Hurst, Registrar General. The witnesses were George William Harrison and Ernest Robert Gleadell. Agnes died 30 September 1912 from natural causes and is buried in Grave li751.



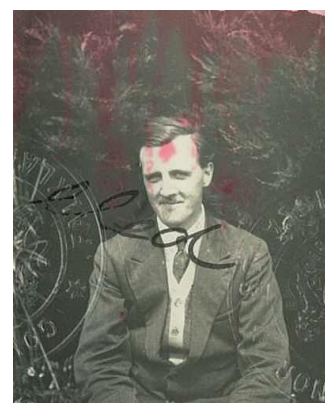
5. **Ellen PITALUGA** born 16 November 1888 at Salvador. Ellen was married to **Reginald Patrick "Regie" WHITE**, stockman, 12 February 1912 at Christ Church Cathedral by Edward J Seymour, Dean & Chaplain. The witnesses were Alice Pitaluga, Alex Pitaluga and Murdo McLeod. They held their wedding reception in the Rose Hotel. Ellen and Regie left for Liverpool on board the *Orcoma* 21 February 1912. They intended emigrating to Australia. [CM Mar 1912, pg 141, 144]

6. **Alexander PITALUGA** born 6 July 1891. Sheep farmer. Alexander was married to **Eva Amelia HANSEN**, age 22, 7 January 1914 at Christ Church Cathedral by Banns by C McDonald Hobley. Chaplain. The witnesses were William John McAtasney and Maggie McAtasney. Alexander died 7 January 1958 at Stanley and is buried in Grave Q1605. Eva died 2 October 1970 at Stanley and is buried in Grave Q1796.

7. **Alice PITALUGA** born 29 March 1894. Alice was married to **William HARVEY**, foreman, 27 September 1917 at Christ Church Cathedral by J Stanley Smith, Clerk in Holy Orders. The witnesses were J W Etheridge, Adele G Aldridge and Andres Pitaluga. William died 13 August 1965 at Stanley and is buried in Grave T2028. Alice died 3 May 1975 at Stanley and is buried in Grave T2029.

#### Children of Alexander (5) and Margaret MERCER:

1. **Alexander MERCER** born 29 June 1901 at Hill Cove and baptised 16 January 1902 by Christ Church Cathedral. His father's occupation was recorded as foreman of works on Saunders Island. Alexander, a wireless operator, was married to **Winifred Beatrice DIXON** 11 October 1930 at Christ Church Cathedral by Banns by F S Vaughan, Clerk in Holy Orders. The witnesses were J Mercer and M Mercer. Alexander's father was recorded as Alexander Mercer, carpenter, and Winifred's father was recorded as William Basil Dixon, mariner. Alexander, age 32 and a W/T operator, and Winifred, age 30, went to the UK and Norway in 1933 for a visit. Alexander, age 58 and a civil servant, and Winnifred, age 57, went to the UK in 1960.



Alexander , 1933

2. **John MERCER** born 16 December 1903 in Stanley and baptised 28 February 1904 by Christ Church Cathedral. His father's occupation was recorded as labourer. John, age 27 and a wireless operator, went on holiday to the UK in 1931. He was recorded as being 5' 8" tall with grey eyes and dark brown hair. On 16 February 1932 John sent £10 instead of £15 to his mother. From March he sent her £14 a month. [FIC/EF/5] John, a civil servant, was married to **Mona Elfreda GLEADELL**, cashier, 22 August 1932 at Grytviken, South Georgia by Special Licence by A G Nelson Jones, Deputy Registrar. The witnesses were Vera M Jones and George T Lanning. John's father was recorded as Alexander Mercer, retired carpenter, and Mona's father was recorded as Edward John Gleadell, labourer. Mona, age 36, went to Uruguay for medical treatment in 1944. John, age 42 and a radio operator, went on leave to the UK in 1946.



**John, age 27 in 1931, and Mona, age 27 in 1935**

3. **Marjorie Beryl MERCER** born 5 October 1908 in Stanley and baptised 20 December 1908 by Christ Church Cathedral. Her father's occupation was recorded as labourer. Marjorie worked as a cashier in the FIC retail store from January 1929 until she went to England with her family. [FIC/EF/5] Marjorie, age 22, went on holiday to the UK in 1931. She was recorded as being 5' 5" tall with blue eyes and light brown hair. In 1936 she was working for the Post Office in Greenford, Middlesex. [Penguin 16 Sep 1936, 1]

