MORRISON FAMILY (3) VERSION: 1 September 2021

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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 MORRISON:

Alexander MORRISON was born circa 1866 on Scalpay, Harris, North Scotland to **Alexander MORRISON**.

Alexander, a shepherd from the Isle of Harris, signed an agreement as a shepherd with the Falkland Islands Company Ltd 16 September 1886 and his pay started 21 October 1886. His brother, **Donald MORRISON**, **Kenneth MORRISON** and **Norman McLEOD** also signed up as shepherds the same day. All four men were from the Isle of Harris and travelled on the Kosmos steamer *Setos*. [FIC/C2; 677] The *Setos*, a 1234 ton steamer with 39 crew, arrived in Stanley 21 October 1886.

Alexander, a Scotch shepherd living at North Arm, was married to **Helen Haining McCALL**, of full age and living at North Arm, 22 October 1889 at North Arm in Mr McCall's house according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of Scotland by Governor's Licence by William Hill Philip Minister. The witnesses were James Fell and James Rae. Alexander's father was recorded as Alexander Morrison, crofter, and Helen's father was recorded as George McCall, shepherd.

Alexander finished working for the Falkland Islands Company Ltd at North Arm 13 February 1892. Alexander departed 16 February 1892 for Sandy Point (*Punta Arenas*) on board the *Neko*. [FIM Mar 1892]

Helen and John may have departed for Sandy Point in February 1893.

Alexander was a rancher at Rio Penitente, Magallanes.

Alexander, age 63, died in 1929 and was buried 7 May 1929 in Punta Arenas.

Helen died 2 August 1949 and was buried in Punta Arenas.

DONALD MORRISON:

Donald MORRISON was born circa? on the Isle of Harris.

Donald, a shepherd from the Isle of Harris, was a passenger on board the *Sparrow Hawk* leaving England December 1874. He was coming out on contract to the Falkland Islands Company Limited. [FIC/C1; 482]

Donald was recorded as being employed in the Company's Camp 31 December 1876 and that he had no wife or children. [FIC/D4]

On 27 February 1886 Frederick Cobb wrote to London Office 'Donald Morrison, a shepherd per Sparrow Hawk, goes home this mail, and will return on his own account, as I am keeping his place open. He is a good simple creature and a great favourite with the men. I hope he will be seen safely through London, where he is in great dread of being robbed." [FIC/D6; 935]

Donald deposited £100 with the Bank of England on 16 September 1886. He signed a power of attorney to the London Office of the Company to collect his band dividends. [FIC/C2; 687, 679]

Donald, a former employee returning to the Falklands, signed an agreement as a shepherd with the Falkland Islands Company Ltd 16 September 1886 and his pay started 21 October 1886. His brother, **Alexander MORRISON**, **Kenneth MORRISON** and **Norman McLEOD** also signed up as shepherds the same day. All four men were from the Isle of Harris and travelled on the Kosmos steamer *Setos*. [FIC/C2; 677] The *Setos*, a 1234 ton steamer with 39 crew, arrived in Stanley 21 October 1886. [FIG Shipping Register]

On 18 January 1887 Donald deposited £40 with the Bank of England. [FIC/C2; 687]

By January 1908 Donald was living in Nelson, British Columbia, Canada.

ng, sm ships carpenters 3 to 4 dols, house carpenters 4 dols, masons 5 dols, bricklayers 6 dols, labourers from 2 50 to 3 50 per day, stone masons and bricklayers eight hours a day, carpenters and smiths nine hours a day.

Work is vary gagage, this winter on account. 'he following extracts from a letter from British Columbia may be of interest to some of our readers. Nelson, B. C. Canada. January 29th, 1908. Dear Brother, Work is very scarce this winter on account of the mines and smelters closing down, nearly all the mines and smelters in British Columbia I may inform you that I am doing fairly well since I came to this county, I have been lucky enough to get steady work ever since I came. Of course I had to put up with a great deal of hardship at first all the mines and smelters in British Columbia are closed down in the beginning of winter. It has left close on two thousand men out of employment, and they will not start in full swing again until the spring.

British Columbia is a very poor place for a married man raising a family, that is if he is without any capital or property of his own of some sort. I mean a man that depends absolutely on his day's wages, if he is a month out of work he begins to think that it will be hard for him to make two ends meet at the end of another month, because everything that a man, woman or child requires is so dear, that it runs away with his wages as fast as he earns it.

John Morrison, my cousin, has been on one I came. Of course I had to put up with a great deal of hardship at first.

About a week after I landed in Nelson I started to work in a smelter, *I worked for about a month, wages 2 dollars, 50 cents per ten hours day. Well, I did not like the work, so I left. In a couple of days after I started in a saw mill, at which I stayed for three weeks, the wages were too small, so I left. I took train out about twelve miles from Nelson and struck another twelve miles from Nelson and struck another job there which was newly starting. They were putting up new buildings, and putting in machin-John Morrison, my cousin, has been on one of the steamers ever since he came out. The wages on the steamers is 34 dols. a month and ery, which they call in this country Electric Power plant. It is situated alongside a river at the bottom of a big falls, and the machinery is worked by water power. It supplies the city wages on the steamers is 34 dols. a month and board, it is not big wages but it is steady all the year round.

I have given you 'some idea of the scale of wages in B. C. I shall now try to give you an idea of the cost of ilving.

Board and lodging in Hotel is 30 dols. a month, not including laundry, and in some places as high as 40 dols.

Beef and mutton from 15 to 20 cents a pound, butter 4° cents, and all kind of provisions are according in price. A suit of clothes made to measurement, from 30 to 40 dols, one could get it in the old country for less than half the price.

Now I think I have told you all. with electric light. It was a pretty rough place the first winter I put in, I lived in a tent, paying twentysix dollars a month for board, that is equal to five pounds, four shillings, or there about. I worked there till the job was finished, about eighteen months, since then I am working in a ship yard. Angus McLeod is working with me, we are the only Harris men on the job, we are living to-gether in a small house, paying five dollars a month rent, and boarding ourselves. Now I think I have told you all. Tradesmen earr. good wages in this country, Your loving brother DONALD MORRISON.

[FIM June 1908]

FIRST GENERATION

Children of Alexander and Ellen MORRISON:

- 1. **John MORRISON** born 24 October 1889 at North Arm House and was baptised 15 December 1889 by the United Free Church. His father's occupation was recorded as shepherd. John, age 4 months and 12 days, died at North Arm 5 March 1890 from congestion of the brain and was buried 7 March 1890 at North Arm.
- 2. **John Kenneth MORRISON** born 14 November 1891 at North Arm House and baptised 8 May 1892 by Christ Church Cathedral. His father's occupation was recorded as shepherd. John died 1 April 1952 and was buried in Punta Arenas.
- 3. **George McCall MORRISON** born 1893 (not in the Falkland Islands) and baptised 22 April 1894 by Christ Church Cathedral.
- 4. **Archie McCall MORRISON** born 15 January 1895 in Punta Arenas, Chile and baptised 23 June 1895.



Archie in 1921

- 5. **Alexander Donald McCall MORRISON** born 29 August 1897 in Punta Arenas, Chile and baptised 26 September 1897.
- 6. **Catherine Ann McCall MORRISON** born 27 October 1900 in Punta Arenas and baptised 16 January 1901. The family were living at Rio Penitente at the time.

7. **William McCall MORRISON** born 27 January 1903 in Punta Arenas, Chile and baptised 13 December 1904. The family were living at Rio Penitente at the time.



William in 1922

8. **Wilfred Cave Magellan MORRISON** born 27 May 1907 and baptised 13 December 1904. The family were living at Rio Penitente at the time.