

MURRAY 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. All variations in spelling of surnames is how they were recorded in the records.

Christopher MURRAY was married to **Mary BELTON** (*not in Falkland Islands*). **Christopher** and **John MURRAY** appear to have arrived some time after the 1843 census. Neither Christopher's wife **Mary MURRAY**, daughter **Ellen MURRAY** or his sister **Mary MURRAY** appear in the 1846 census so they must have arrived in the Falkland Islands sometime after that census and before the 1851 census.

- 1846 Apr 03: **Christopher MURRAY** and **John MURRAY** are selected from the List of Constables for preservation of the Queen's Peace. [H5]
- 1846: **Christopher MURRAY**, Stanley resident & first-keeper, and **John MURRAY**, Stanley resident & second-keeper, names to form Militia under Ordinance of 11th Victoria No 3 Sess 2. [H6]
- 1846 Apr: **Christopher MURRAY** and **John MURRAY** are members of a group sent on the *Despatch* to arrest 3 men. [D2, pg 67]
- 1846 May: **Christopher MURRY** and **John MURRY** are issued with clothing from the Government Store. [H3]
- 1846 Jun 27: **Christopher MURRAY** and **John MURRAY** sign a memorial. [B3, pg 347, 349]
- 1846 Oct 12: (Census): **Christopher MURRAY**, age 25, labourer .
John MURRAY, age 20, labourer [D2, pg 233]
- 1847 Dec 01: **Christopher MURRY**, headkeeper living in Stanley, purchases Crown Grant 7, land and buildings on Ross Road for £200. [Reg: Vol I, pg 1]
- 1847 Dec 30: **Christopher MURRY**, corporal, and **John MURRY**, private, Company of Infantry of Military Force of the Falkland Islands. [E2, pg 150]
- 1848 May 01: **Christopher MURRY** purchases Crown Grant 11 being twenty four poles and including a cottage for £20. [Reg: Vol I, pg 57]
- 1848 Nov 06: **Christopher MURRY**, corporal, and **John MURRY**, private, Militia force of the Falkland Islands required to meet at the Flagstaf. [E2, pg 188, 189]
- 1849 Jan 25: **Christopher MURRY** sells Crown Grant 11 with the house now built on for £15. [Reg: Vol I, pg 57]
- 1849 Aug 02: **John MURRAY**, age 22 years, height 5 feet 8 ¼ inches with dark hair, is certified a native of the County of Longford. [E2, pg 253]
- 1850 July 15: **Mary MURRAY**, of full age, is married to **Jergen Christian DETTLEFF** in the Parish of the Holy Trinity by Banns by James Leith Moody, Colonial Chaplain. The witnesses were William Downie and Christopher Murry. (*Mary is the sister of Christopher Murray*).

- 1851: (Census): **Christopher MURRAY**, age 30, storekeeper from Ireland
Mary MURRAY, age 28, wife from Ireland
Ellen MURRAY, age 10, child from Ireland
- 1851: **Christopher MURRY**, colonist, no record of nationality, is convicted of permitting drunkenness on his property and fined £10 with costs of 16 shillings and sixpence. [H9]
- 1855 Jan 24: **James MURRY**, age 19, and **Michael MURRY**, age 18, arrive in Stanley on board the *Highland Mary*. Both are agricultural labourers and the emigration certificate was granted to Thomas Havers, of the Falkland Islands Company Ltd. (*Most likely brothers to Christopher and John*). [E3, pg 82]
- 1856 Apr: **Mike MURRY** and Chimoro are recorded as lost. They had gone to Anson in a cutter 15 April 1856 for geese and rabbits and were “*seen in Port William returning on the 18th was suddenly missed and nothing more has been heard of either boat or men*”. [Ship Reg Vol I]
- 1856 Aug 02: **John MURRY**, publican of Stanley, purchases Crown Grant 4 for £7. [Reg: Vol I, pg 140]
- 1858 Aug 27: **Christopher MURRAY** murders **Mary MURRY**. Mary was born in County Longford, Ireland; her father’s name was **John BELTON**.
- 1856 Aug 27: **Christopher MURRY**, a publican, sells Crown Grant 9, fronting on John Street, to **John MURRY**, bachelor of Stanley for £200. [Reg: Vol I, pg 145]
- 1858 Aug 31: **Mary MURRY** is buried in Grave E433.
- 1858 Sep 07: **Christopher MURRY** appoints William H Smyley his attorney. William Smyley then sells Crown Grants 7, 9 and 53 to James (*Jergen*) Dettleff for £63. (*Jergen Dettleff is his brother-in-law*). [Reg: Vol I, pg 186]
- 1858 Sep 16: **Christopher MURRAY** is charged with the wilful murder of his wife. He pleads not guilty and is sentenced to transportation for 14 years for the manslaughter of his wife 20 September 1858. His five children are placed under the guardianship of their uncle, Jergen Dettleff, by the Supreme Court.
- 1859 Jun 18: James Lane, Colonial Manager of the Falkland Islands Company Ltd writes in a despatch to London “*The coroners Inquest which sat upon Mr Murry the day after his arrival brought in a Verdict of wilful murder against the Husband, but on trial he was found guilty of Manslaughter & sentenced to “transportation” for life. He was always a bad fellow & no one doubts he murdered the woman to whom he always behaved brutally it is said. There are no means of transportation – I believe he will be sent to England in charge of McLauchlan formally in the Coys employment.*” [FIC: Des 23, par 27]
- 1858 Oct 30: A petition asking that **Christopher MURRAY** is released so that he can care for his children and that they all be sent from the Colony is given to the Governor. It was started by Christopher Murray’s brother and brother-in-law (*signed by J C Dettleff and James Murry*). [D8, pg 132-133; PRO: CO78/37]
- 1858 Nov 08: The petition to free **Christopher MURRAY** is declined by the Governor. [D8, pg 132-133]

- 1858 Nov 12: **Christopher MURRAY** attempts to escape from gaol. [D8, pg 154-155]
- 1858 Nov 15: **Christopher MURRAY** to be kept in irons from 6am until night. [D8, pg 156]
- 1859 Dec 07: **Christopher MURRAY** writes to the governor asking that his chains be removed. [H16, pg 391-392]
- 1860 Feb 25: **Christopher MURRAY** is prepared for transportation to England. [H16, pg 487-488]
- 1861 Aug 29: **John MURRY** of Buenos Ayres, and Mary his wife, sell Crown Grants 4 and 9 for £250 to Jergen Dettleff. [Reg: Vol I, pg 233]
- 1861 Sep 26: In a letter to the Governor from the Chief Magistrate **Christopher MURRY** is described as a ferocious and brutal ruffian who beat his wife to death. The facts were hushed up by his sister and other women who removed the more obvious signs of struggle and burnt bloodstained clothes to remove the evidence of how his wife came to her death. It was also noted that **Christopher MURRY** had comparatively wealthy connections who influenced some of the Jury and others to present a memorial for clemency. [H17, pg 671]
- 1861 Sep 30: **Christopher MURRAY** is transported to Western Australia from the UK, one of 306 convicts transported on the *Lincelles*.
- 1868 May 06: The children of **Christopher MURRAY**, Mrs Thomas Fox (*Ellen*), Christopher Murray and Thomas Murray write to the governor requesting that he pay all money due to them to their father. [H26]
- 1868 May 29: **Christopher MURRAY** returns to the Falkland Islands with a conditional pardon. Jergen Dettleff requests that all monies and responsibility for his children be given to Christopher Murray. His children by now are all living on John Fox's estancia close to the Capilla del Senor, Argentina. [H26, pg 85-91]
- 1868 Jun 25: **John MURRAY**, the brother of **Christopher MURRAY** has purchased a house, land and sheep near Buenos Aires for the sole use of Christopher Murray's children. Jergen Dettleff requests the release of £200 to compensate John Murray for the purchase. [H26, pg 92-100]
- 1869 Census of Exaltacion La Cruz, Buenos Aires, Argentina lists **Christopher MURRAY** as a widower from Ireland, age 50, cattle rancher, can read & write. [Murray FT]
John MURRAY was born in Ireland in 1826 and is estanciero at Capilla del Senor.
- 1872 May 22 James (*Jergen*) Dettleff, as guardian to the children of **Christopher MURRAY** requests the sum of £200 to be withdrawn from the money held for their benefit to be divided between the three children for farming affairs. [H30, pg 140]
- 1875 Mar 20: **Ellen MURRAY** writes to the governor from Cappielie Del Senor, Buenos Ayres about her deceased father, **Christopher MURRAY**'s estate and requests that it is sold and the proceeds owing to her and her brother **Thomas MURRAY** be sent to them. She advises that her brother **Christopher MURRAY** has gone to

the Falkland Islands and that he considers himself the sole heir of their father's estate. [H32]

1878 Jan 04: According to "The Southern Cross" **John MURRAY** is the owner of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a league of land, a house, woodland and 20,000 sheep.

1883 Feb 08: **Christopher MURRY** (junior) sells Crown Grant 7 containing half an acre and a dwelling house and erections to **Jergen Christian DETTLEFF** for \$940 in gold. [Reg: Vol II, pg 165]

1904 Apr 30 **John MURRAY** dies at Capilla del Senor. [Coghlan Vol 2 pg 720, 721]

FIRST GENERATION:

Children of Christopher and Mary MURRAY:

1. **Ellen MURRAY** born circa 1841 in Dublin, Ireland. [Census 1851; Murray FT] Ellen was married to **Thomas FOX**, 20 March 1863 in Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay. Thomas was the son of John Fox and Anne Fox formally Murray. Ellen was a widow by 1869. [Murray FT]
2. **Christopher MURRAY** born ? *(no date of birth recorded in registers)* and baptised 22 April 1852 by Holy Trinity Church.
3. **John MURRAY** born 19 April 1853 in Stanley. His father's occupation was recorded as publican and storekeeper. No further mention after September 1858.
4. **Mary Ann MURRAY** born 19 June 1854 in Stanley and baptised 2 July 1855 by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as publican and storekeeper. Mary died 6 July 1855 from inflammation of the bowels and was buried 7 July 1855 in Grave E407.
5. **Thomas MURRY** born 17 December 1855 in Stanley. His father's occupation was recorded as publican and storekeeper. Thomas was married to **Ellen FOX** 7 February 1882 in the Church of Our Lady of Mercy. Ellen was the daughter of John Fox and Anne Fox formally Murray. In the 1895 census in Pergamino, Buenos Aires, Argentina Thomas is listed as married, British, age 40 and a rancher, orphan. Thomas murdered Ellen 1 August 1898 and was sent to prison in Ushuaia. After his release he was apparently killed by members of his wife's family on his release. [Murray FT: Edward Walsh/Coghlan]
6. **Mary Jane MURRY** born 20 January 1857. Her father's occupation was recorded as publican and storekeeper. *(Died in infancy?)*
7. **William George MURRY** born 4 August 1858 in Stanley and baptised 3 October 1858 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as publican and storekeeper. William died 30 October 1858 from inflammation of the bowels and was buried 31 October 1858 in Grave E688.