

O'BRIEN/NILSSON 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.

Edward Nelson O'BRIEN was born off Ramsgate, England to ? and ? **NELSON**. His nationality was Swedish.

The first mention of Nelson found to date is in the Shipping Registers when the 20 ton cutter *Windward* came in to Stanley 9 July 1868 from Island Harbour under Captain Rowland with a cargo of 58 hides and 10 bales of wool consigned for J M Dean & Son. The owners of the *Windward* were recorded as O'Brien and Rowland.

Nelson next shows in the Shipping Register as entering Stanley 13 July 1869 as the master of the 36 ton schooner *Felis* from Kidney Island with a cargo of tussac, the owner being C Hansen.

Nelson O'Brien was recorded 5 August 1869 as the new owner of the schooner *Felis*.

Edward, who had taken the name of **Edward NILSSON**, owner of schooner, born off Ramsgate, England and living in Stanley, was married to **Catherine CASEY**, a spinster of full age from Ireland living in Stanley, 16 August 1870 at Trinity Church Stanley according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by Licence by Charles Bull MA Colonial Chaplain. The witnesses were William Mason, Sarah J Mason, Catherine Elmer and Joseph Alazia. Edward's father was recorded as Unknown Nelson and Catherine's father was recorded as John Casey, labourer.

On 17 December 1870 the *Felis* came in under Nelson O'BRIEN with 3,400 casks of oil. The *Felis* was recorded as coming in again 7 February 1871 with a cargo of cows and bulls and also ironmongery and soap being wrecked goods from the *Vampyre*. She returned on the 28th with a cargo of 945 cattle hides. The *Felis* next came in under Nelson 24 February 1872 with 9 crew and a cargo of oil and seal skins plus two men which they had picked up on Staten Island.

On 3 January 1871 Nelson O'BRIEN, master of the schooner *Feliz*, wrote to Governor D'Arcy wishing to apply for the position of pilot for Stanley and the Falkland Islands. He stated that he was recently married and intended to become a permanent settler in Stanley; that he had been for five years cruising around the Falklands and the coast of Patagonia, and was prepared to furnish references as to character and ability if required. [H29; 27]

On 15 August 1871 Nelson O'BRIEN was granted a licence for £2-10-0 to kill penguins on Steeple Jason between 15 August 1871 and 15 August 1872 as long as he did not kill a greater number than sufficient to yield 2,000 gallons of oil. [E3; 351]

On 5 October 1874 the 90 ton schooner *Tucatuja* came in under Nelson and 5 crew and with a cargo of poles from Staten Island. They had lost the mate overboard.

On 30 June 1874 Nilsson entered into a partnership with William D Benney; purchasing a one third share in Port Egmont Station for £400. [BUG/REG/1; pg 378]

On 11 May 1876 an ordinance was passed granting Edward Nilsson, a native of Sweden, naturalisation.

On 31 March 1883 Edward dissolved his partnership with William D Benney and sold him his one third share in the Port Egmont Station for £3,500. [BUG/REG/3; pg 163]

On 10 July 1883 Edward, a mariner in Stanley, purchased the northern part of Crown Grant 27 from John Casey for £300. On 13 July 1883 J M Dean and Sons transferred "*all our rights and titles together with "Freehold" and "Leasehold" and all deeds and documents belonging to New Island Estate to Edward Nilsson, also all stock of every description and Buildings now upon that Island with the Wool Shed and all material to erect such now lying at Port Stephens, to be landed at New Island free of all charges*" for £2,300. [BUG/REG/3; pg 178; 180]

In January 1892 Catherine was living in Stanley and her brother John Casey had written in his will that she was to inherit the northern portion of lot 2 section 1 containing one rood 38 perches and a house and on her death it was to pass to his nieces Mrs Elizabeth Harrison or Smith and Ann Elizabeth Nilsson.

On 7 May 1896 Edward brought an action against the manager of the FIC for damages to the *Hadassah* by the steam launch *Sissie*. He was awarded £7-17-0. On 17 August 1896 Edward was charged with unlawfully breaking the seal on board the schooner *Hadassah* thereby obstructing the customs officers in the execution of their duty and was fined £20 which he paid. [FIM May 1896: FIM Sep 1896]

Catherine, age about 56, died in Stanley 16 November 1896 from cardiac failure & general debility and was buried in Grave A15. Her headstone records her age as 66. In her will dated 14 October 1894 Catherine left Crown Grant 27 to her nephew John Casey (son of my brother Thomas) and the sum of £50 each to her nephews Pat Casey (son of my sister Bridget Casey) and Thomas Casey (son of my brother Michael) with the remainder of her estate to go to her sister Eliza Casey residing in Buenos Aires. Her nephew John Casey was appointed executor of her will. [BUG/REG/5; pg 187; 204]



On 30 March 1897 Edward was living in Stanley and appointed George Turner to be his attorney. [BUG/REG/5; pg 209] Edward departed 17 April 1897 on board the *Luxor* bound for England. By 1 June 1898, when his attorney sold Crown Grant 27 for £400, Edward was living in Karlsham, Sweden. On 16 August 1898 the southern part of Crown Grant 27 along with the house known as Primrose Villa on Philomel Street was sold by his attorney for £500. [BUG/REG/5; pg 237, 254]

FIRST GENERATION:

Children of Catherine and Nilson O'BRIEN:

1. **Sarah Matilda O'BRIEN** born 18 November 1871 in Stanley. Her father's occupation was recorded as master mariner. **Sarah NILSSON**, age 18 years 3 months and the daughter of Edward, died in Stanley 20 February 1890 from phthisis and was buried in Grave A16. The informant was Edward Nilsson, sheep farmer of Stanley.
2. **Ann Elizabeth "Eliza" O'BRIEN** born 7 September 1873 on Fitzroy Road, Stanley and baptised 9 September 1873 by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as mariner. Ann was baptised **Anna Elizabeth NILSON** 26 October 1876 by St Mary's Roman Catholic Church. **Eliza NILSSON**, age 21, died in Stanley 8 June 1895 from pulmonary phthisis and was buried as Anne Elizabeth NILSSON in grave A17. In her will dated 30 August 1894 Ann left her personal and real estate to her mother. [BUG/REG/5; pg 89]

