

WILLIS FAMILY (2)

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.

John Charles Thomas WILLIS was born 21 February 1842 at Little Charlotte Street, Portsea, near Portsmouth to John **WILLIS**, ropemaker, and Eliza Willis formerly **HABGOOD**.

John, a mariner in the merchant service, was married to (1) **Hannah Jane WILLIAMS** 12 July 1870 in Wesley Chapel, Stanhope Street, Toxteth Park, Liverpool. Her father was recorded as William Williams. Hannah died June 1871.

John, captain of the *Cornwall*, was married to (2) **Fanny Mary PARSONS** 24 February 1874 in Glenville Place Chapel, Clifton, Bristol.

John was appointed captain of the new mission vessel *Allen Gardiner*, reg 68338, and joined the ship in Plymouth 31 January 1875, sailing 6 February 1875 arriving in Stanley 24 May 1875.

Fanny, the wife of the captain of the *Allen Gardiner*, was a passenger on board the *Guadiana* leaving England September 1875. [FIC/C1; 494]

On 16 June 1884 John was one of the witnesses at the marriage of Fanny's brother **Francis PARSONS** in Congresbury, Somerset. In 1884 Captain Willis brought out the new *Allen Gardiner*, a 50 ton steamship, departing from Plymouth 19 November 1884.

The Falkland Islands Magazine of April 1891 reported that "*Captain and Mrs Willis of the Mission Schooner "Allen Gardiner", also leave for England, via Sandy Point, after 15 years commendable service in the Mission.*"

John and his son arrived from London on board the *Ammon* 3 February 1899. Fanny and Hannah arrived from London on board the *Thetis* 18 January 1900.

In 1905 John became hulk master at Punta Arenas for the Pacific Steam Navigation Company living on board the *Serena*.

John was presumed drowned 18 August 1908 when he disappeared off the *Serena*. [FIM Oct 1908]

Fanny, age 78, died 29 June 1917 from shock caused by swallowing her false teeth. She was buried 1 July 1917 in Grave I 818. [Obituary FIM Jul 1917] In her will dated 2 February 1911 she left her property Belmont House, furniture and all property and money in her name in the National Provincial Bank at Poole, Dorset, England, with the exception of £100 which she left to her stepdaughter Hannah Mary Eliza Willis, to her son John Allen Gardiner Willis. She later revoked the £100 as Hannah had received the same in November 1913. [BUG/REG/8; 250]

FIRST GENERATION

Children of John and Hannah WILLIS:

1. **Hannah Mary “Pollie” WILLIS** born 27 June 1871 in Liverpool, England. Hannah was married to **William WADE**, mariner, 20 April 1911 in Christ Church Cathedral after Banns by Edward J Seymour, Dean & Colonial Chaplain. The witnesses were Isabella Phoebe Atkins, John Allan and Gardiner Willis. William’s father was recorded as Thomas Wade, blacksmith, and Hannah’s father was recorded as John Charles Thomas Willis, master mariner. [Account of wedding FIM May 1911] Hannah had a shop in her home at Bleak House, St Mary’s Walk, Stanley and in the FIM of April 1915 it was described as “*our only Newspaper Shop*”. Her shop was originally on Fitzroy Road in the old Pink Shop premises. Hannah and William departed 17 July 1930 for the United Kingdom on board the *Loriga* with her brother Allen. Hannah was recorded as being age 58, 4’ 10” tall with grey eyes and grey hair. Her husband was recorded as being age 75 and a labourer, 5’ 5 ½” tall with blue eyes and white hair, born 25 May 1855 in Belfast, Ireland.

Children of John and Fanny WILLIS:

1. **John Allen Gardiner “Allen” WILLIS** born 15 October 1876 on Keppel Island. His father's occupation was recorded as master of the Mission Yawl *Allen Gardiner*. Joe King described him as an adult as being “*quite a tall thin chap wearing a mackintosh. He used to deliver the Church Magazines. He was a very nervous man – especially of horses and cattle.*” He lived with his half-sister and her husband. On 29 October 1924 Allen, a caretaker, transferred half of Belmont House to his sister. On 25 April 1934 Allen and his sister sold Belmont House for £700. [BUG/REG/9; 234; BUG/REG/10; 125] Allen departed 17 July 1930 for the United Kingdom on board the *Loriga* with his sister and her husband. He was recorded as being age 53 and a caretaker, 5’ 9” tall with blue eyes and white hair.