

Jane Cameron National Archives Newsletter

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Welcome to this, the first issue of our new newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it and please feel free to contact me if you have any queries or comments.

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Introduction

The Falkland Islands Government Archives building was purpose-built to meet the minimum requirements of the National Archives Standard for Record Repositories and was opened late 1998 to house government records. The late Government Archivist, Jane Cameron, was passionate about the history of the Islands and worked to collect a wide variety of non-governmental records. After her tragic death in 2009 the archives was changed to a national archives and re-named the Jane Cameron National Archives in her memory. Since then the National Archivist, Tansy Bishop, has continued to expand the collections and to ensure the preservation and accessibility of records held in order that maximum use can be made of them. The Archives attract researchers globally and deal with a wide variety of research requests each year along with providing a Reading Room for those that choose to visit in person. The Jane Cameron National Archives ensure the long-term survival and easy accessibility of all those records most important to the history and administration of the Falklands and contain records from Governor Moody's arrival in 1842 onwards, Falkland Islands Company Ltd Stanley Office records and a wide range of other documents of family and academic interest.

Maps and Plans

With the arrival of our fourth map cabinet work leapt ahead in listing and storing the remainder of our holdings. Just as an end was in sight we then accessioned a whole lot more maps and plans from the Public Works Department so yet again I have disappeared under a huge dusty pile which require sorting, encapsulating and listing.

A big thank you must go out to Chloe Andersen at this point for all her help while home on holiday from college. Chloe's work experience lately seems to entail a lot of dust and mould but she still manages to look cheerful! You can read more on Chloe in her article on work experience in the Archives on page 5.



Plan of the Secretariat,
Stanley, Falkland Islands
drawn in 1937

Periodicals

The Archives holds a large number of local periodicals and newspapers, commencing with the first local newspaper started in 1889 and these are available in our Reading Room. A number of these collections are incomplete and any donations of originals or copies of missing items are gratefully accepted.

The main collections held are:

The Falkland Islands Magazine and Church Paper

The Falkland Islands Magazine (later called the FI Magazine & Church Paper), was started by Dean Brandon in May 1889. This monthly periodical is a comprehensive record of social history in the Islands covering notable events and a wide range of local news such as baptisms, births, deaths, marriages, bazaars, sports and shipping movements. Photocopies of some of the earliest Magazines are also held in the Community Library and the Museum.

Period Covered: May 1889 to December 1933. Status: Full set.



The Penguin

A daily news sheet issued six days a week, Monday to Saturday, established in 1927 and produced in Stanley under the auspices of the Falkland Islands Government. Began at a time when there was no broadcasting system and few, if any, wireless receiving sets in the Islands. When local radio broadcasts started in 1929 via the re-diffusion system The Penguin also gave notice of programs as well as items of local and international news with an emphasis on international events. Indexing of local news items is currently underway.

Period Covered: 1927 to 30 June 1938. Status: Incomplete set. Missing:

- 1927 - all; 1928 - all; 1929 - Jan-Nov; 23-24, 27-31 Dec;
- 1930 - Jan-Apr; 3, 13-16, 20, 22-28, 30-31 May; 16, 18 Jun; 20, 30 Sep; 4, 13, 17 Oct; 29, 30 Dec; 1931 - 3 Feb; 30 Nov
- 1933 - Feb centenary edition; 1934 - Jan-Mar; 6, 25 Jun; 10 Jul; Aug; 8, 10, 20, 22 Sep; 10, 14, 16-17, 24 Nov
- 1935 - Mar; 6, 16-17 Apr; 14-15 May; 6, 17 Jun; 28 Oct; 1936 - 23 Jun

Falkland Islands News Weekly & Church Bulletin

Weekly newspaper, published on Thursdays, started by the Reverend G Kenneth Lowe, chaplain of the Christ Church Cathedral. In addition to church news it covered local social events, arrivals and departures from the Falklands, and war news.

Period Covered: June 1938 to 30 December 1943. Status: Incomplete set. Missing:

- 1938 - Vol 1, issues 1 & 2; 1939 - Vol 2, issue 25; 1941 - Vol 3, issues 27 & 28; Vol 4, issues 1-6, 8-10, 13-14, 16-26
- 1942 - Vol 5, issues 11 & 13; 1943 - Vol 5, issues 44, 47; Vol 6, issue 15

Falkland Islands Weekly News

A continuation of the FI Weekly News & Church Bulletin but purely a newspaper and started by the Reverend W Forrest McWhan, the Tabernacle minister. Covered local social events as well as Gazette notices, war news and local advertisements.

Period Covered: 6 January 1944 to 23 September 1949. Status: Incomplete set. Missing:

- 1945 - Vol 2, issues 1, 18-21; 1946 - Vol 3, issues 2-4, 6, 18-19, 21; 1947 - Vol 4, issue 23;
- 1948 - Vol 5, issues 28, 39, 42-43, 45; 1949 - Vol 6, issue 4

Falkland Islands Monthly Review

Started by Denton Thompson, then Colonial Secretary, and Vernon "Joe" King, Government Printer. The Monthly Review was a four page record of local events and items of general interest which were featured on the front and back pages while the center pages carried local advertisements and one or two feature photographs, usually from overseas. Ceased to be produced in this form when Joe King went overseas on leave early in 1963.

Period Covered: December 1958 to December 1962. Status: Full set.

Falkland Islands Monthly Review (new)

Mr D R Morrison volunteered to take on production of the Monthly Review after Joe King left and from then on it was produced in a smaller roneod format with various editors over its life. Covered local events in more detail than the original Monthly Review.

Period Covered: January 1963 to April 1973. Status: Incomplete. Missing:

- 1970 - April - issue 136

Continued on page 3

Falkland Islands Times & Falkland Islands Monthly Review

Started by the Reverend Robin Forrester, who became the pastor of the Tabernacle in 1971. Later editors included Dave Ryan and Dave Colville. Covered local news and events.

Period Covered: September 1973 to March 1982. Status: Incomplete. Missing:

· 1976 - January; October

Weekly News

Also produced by the Reverend Robin Forrester it was designed to run in conjunction with the Falkland Islands Times & Falkland Islands Monthly Review but ceased production after six news. Covered local & overseas news, travel and passenger details, sports news and local radio programmes.

Period Covered: 21 February 1974 to 29 May 1974. Status: Complete.

Falkland Islands Monthly Review (Mini-monthly Review)

Produced by Wallace and Mary Hirtle. Started as a folded single sheet during 1975 and in 1976 the number of pages increased and the format changed slightly but was still produced by the roneo process. Covered local news, weather and and passenger details.

Period Covered: 4 August 1975 to 6 December 1976. Status: Complete.

Penguin News

Started by Graham Bound and produced at varying intervals over the years, from monthly to weekly, until 1988, in a roneod/Gestetner format. It was produced in proper printed format for the first time in July 1988. Covers mainly local topics with international news, as it affects the Islands.

Period Covered: 3 October 1979 to Current Day. Status: Complete.

Teaberry Express

A weekly publication produced by Juanita Brock. Produced initially in an A5 format it developed a high photographic content. The format later changed to A4. Printed editions ceased in August 1999 and the information was then communicated by the internet. Covered social and cultural events in and around the Falklands.

Snippets from the Past

STANLEY LENDING LIBRARY Open every Friday in the Service Room at 3.30 p.m.

THE FALKLAND ISLAND SOCIAL CLUB AND MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION The Club, which was established in April 1888, meets every Saturday in the "Old Infant School". The door is opened at 7 p.m.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK Opened on Friday, 1st of April 1888, at the Government Office, Stanley.

T ROWELL, Chronometer, Watch and Clock Maker, Jeweller & Optician, Dealer in Fancy Goods and Sundries of all Kinds, Guns and Sewing Machines Repaired.

[Falkland Islands Magazine May 1889]

THE STANLEY BENEFIT CLUB was established in July 1859. It now numbers 116 members. [FIM June 1889]

JOSEPH LELLMAN, Belle Vue House, Stanley. Millinery, Haberdashery, and Fancy Goods. Groceries, Toys, and Musical Instruments. Valparaiso & Monte-Video Produce. Parcels of Watches & Jewellery to repair will be forwarded every Mail to First class house in London. Camp orders will receive special attention. [FIM June 1889]

DESTITUTE POOR FUND Mrs C M Dean, Miss Blake, Rev L E Brandon, Messrs F E Cobb and J J Felton, have formed a committee for the relief of the Destitute Poor. [FIM August 1889]

TO MAKE YEAST

Boil (say on Monday morning) about two ounces of the best hops in four quarts of water for half an hour. Strain it and let the liquor cool to the warmth of new milk, then put in half a pound of sugar, and thicken to the subsistence of this cream: add a few mashed potatoes. Bottle and let stand till Thursday, it will be fit for use. Let it stand in a warm place for one night. Before using shake up the bottle. If kept in a cool place it will remain good for two months. A tea-cupful of this yeast is sufficient for a large shadrol-full of bread.

[FIM December 1891]

ODE TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Rocky, rugged, lonely Islands,
In the distant southern seas,
Who would guess the wealth thou bearest.
On thy verdant banks and braes.
Who would guess, while sailing past you,
From your rough forbidding shores;
Inland there were scattered o'er you,
Hospitable and open doors.
Where a kind and British welcome,
Meets a stranger from the sea.
With good chops of tender mutton,
And the flowing bowl of tea.

E.C.A.

[FIM June 1891]

Early Falklands' Families

Readers may be interested to know that the first baby recorded to be born in the Falkland Islands was as early as 1764.

One of the two Acadian families brought to the Falkland Islands in 1764 by Louis BOUGAINVILLE was Augustin BENOÎT, his wife Françoise BENOÎT and their son Jean-Nicholas, age 4. Françoise was recorded as being "pregnant with the first person to be born in the Falklands" – the child was a son called Francois who later married Anne l'Official, a full blooded M'k Maq 20 June 1790 at Sandy Point, Newfoundland. According to records, by the time BOUGAINVILLE returned to Port Louis on 5 January 1765 there had been "one death, two births and one marriage". Francois BENOÎT's sisters, Adeline (1765) and Anne (1767) were also born in the Falkland Islands. (you can read more on the BENOÎT family at gw.geneanet.org/thetardifs?lang=en&p=francois&n=benoit and www.benoitfirstnation.ca/benoit.html). By 1766 there was a settlement of approximately 150 people so it is likely there were more births than just these.

The next baby that I have a record of was born in 1813. The *Isabella* was wrecked 8 February 1813 on Eagle Island (now called Speedwell Island). On board was Joanna-Ann DURIE who was heavily pregnant. Joanna-Ann DURIE gave birth to her daughter in a hut on Eagle Island Sunday 21 February 1813 and the baby was named Eliza Providence DURIE. The castaways were eventually rescued and Eliza lived to adulthood and married. For more on this

Genealogy Service & Research

We can offer a research service for most projects, whether the subject is academic, personal interest or family history. Payment is in advance and research is sent on receipt and clearance of remittance. On receiving details of the type and depth of research you wish to be undertaken the National Archivist can provide an estimate of cost. Alternatively, you may set an amount and research will be undertaken up to that limit.

Charges:

· Hourly Rate: £20 per hour; · Minimum charge: £20; · Small one-off queries: free

Copying:

Copies of records may be made on request for a small charge, subject to the condition of the original. Copies of Government records may be used freely for private research and educational purposes. If material is to be used for commercial publication, exhibition or broadcast the written permission of the Jane Cameron National Archives must first be obtained. Whenever material from the Jane Cameron National Archives is reproduced in any form or in any medium, the user must acknowledge the Jane Cameron National Archives as the source and give all document references. For non-government records it is your responsibility as the user to ensure that copyright is not infringed and any infringement that does occur is your responsibility.

Please note that the quality of copies may vary due to the condition of the originals. Any documents considered too faded or too fragile will not be copied.

Research Facilities

We have a dedicated reading room available to researchers with power sockets available for laptops. Due to space and staffing constraints we do request that all researchers book in advance. This allows us to ensure that best use of your time with us can be made and that there will be space and resources available to you.

All researchers are most welcome to contact us prior to booking to check what records are available in their subject of research.

General Office: - for e-mail and telephone queries

Monday to Friday

- 8.00am to 12.00 noon
- 1.00pm to 4.30pm

Reading Room: - for visiting researchers (by appointment)

Monday to Friday

- 9.00am to 11.30am
- 1.30pm to 4.00pm



Work Experience and Volunteers

As with many Archives we have a small dedicated group of volunteers who give up their free time to either work on projects or to come along and help when extra people are needed such as school or VIP visits. These people provide an invaluable contribution to the Archives and we are very grateful to them. We also often have work experience students, both currently studying and graduates. The graduates tend to work on specific projects while the students act as assistants and learn many varied aspects of working in an archives. One student who has been volunteering here for work experience during her holidays for nearly two years now is Chloe and following is her account of her experiences with us.

Chloe's Story

During my time back home, from further education in the UK, I have volunteered at the Jane Cameron National Archives. This has been a wonderful opportunity for me to build on my passion and enthusiasm for local history as well as gain valuable work experience. My first day, back in March 2012, was eventful when I experienced a first hand demonstration of the alarm system when it was accidentally set off. In addition to keeping me on my toes this incident strengthened my sense of humour meaning working has been extremely enjoyable and never dull.

As my time spent at the Archives has increased so too has my responsibilities. My roles at the Archives have been varied, from the ordinary job of helping to re-organising files in the Stack to more trustworthy tasks such as helping to encapsulate historical items. However, the smaller jobs like handling some of the frequent telephone enquiries and supporting researchers has been essential to my work experience as it has improved my social skills. While helping one researcher at the Archives I had the opportunity to help collect oral accounts from a handful of local residents making me more confident when I have had to deal with complex tasks. My favourite job so far is the encapsulation of maps as it required exact precision when using the guillotine and the encapsulator in order to create the correct size pocket for each individual map. I was amazed by all the different maps of the Falklands, with some showing the divisions between land and others displaying military barracks, all conveying the transformation of the Islands throughout the years. Another job which I thoroughly enjoyed was the coding of files stored in the Stack. This massive task, despite being very time consuming, gave me a great appreciation of the care taken in databasing every single file at the Archives and this allowed me to contribute to keeping the Archives organised and specialized.



The floor standing guillotine



One of the map cabinets

The chance to work at the Archives has demonstrated to me the importance this building has to the Falkland Islands in preserving key information and other valuable documents. Conservation work, which I have assisted in, is therefore a vital part of Archives and has to be taken seriously and the regulations inside the building have to be enforced. On one occasion I even had to remove my own mother away from files, while she was doing Secretariat filing, after she gave herself a paper cut and was in danger of bleeding on documents. Other conservation work I have assisted in include using a special conservation vacuum cleaner to clean dust ridden documents and carefully using purified water to clean those documents which have been badly damaged before being given to the Archives.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you very much to Tansy for allowing me to undergo work experience at the Archives. She has been a fantastic employer, giving me a wide and varied list of tasks allowing me to learn new and exciting skills and her helpful, bubbly personality has made working extremely pleasant. It has been a privilege to work alongside such as dedicated, hard working person and working with her in a close team has made me to recognize all her hard work in trans-

Shipping—Galgorm Castle

Situated where the Falkland Islands are to the lea of Cape Horn in stormy unpredictable seas they have seen many wrecks and ships in distress in their time, many of which have been recorded but many more are thought to have just disappeared without trace since the days of the sealers in the early 1800s. One vessel which made it to safety, the steel barque *Galgorm Castle*, GRT 1507, was built at Belfast, Ireland in 1892 by Workman, Clark & Company for John Stewart & Company of London. In 1894 she was on a voyage from Blyth to Valparaiso with a cargo of coals when she had to make for the Falkland Islands in distress. The local periodical of the time, the Falkland Islands Magazine in its November edition recorded:

The barque "Galgorm Castle," of Belfast—Captain Bryant—anchored in Port Wanda and Port Stanley on November 2nd. When off the Plate cargo heated slightly, its temperature being E. of 91 degrees—crew wished to put into Monte Video, but Captain Bryant did not consider this an alarming temperature. Passed through the Straits of Le Maire, 63 days out. On the night of October 24th, in Latitude 56.10 South, Longitude 80 West, strong gale blowing, with high sea, the ship made some fearful lurches and shifted her cargo at 11 P.M. By midnight she was completely over at a list of 47 degrees to starboard. Tried to get her off before the wind, but failed. Trimmed coal for 18 hours continuously, weather moderating. On the 25th main hatch burst in, also forward sleeping apartments, apprentice quarters, Captain's room and pantry—fore-ner gutted, latter with 4 feet of water. Much water getting into ship, the starboard side being perfectly swept, life-boat, gig, and davits being all gone, deck beams and side-stringers straining badly and leaking all over—cut away topmasts; the vessel righted about 7 degrees. On the 26th the ship's list was 27 degrees and a ship coming in sight the crew desired to abandon the ship at once. The barque "Rajore" stood by the ship at Captain Bryant's request. Volunteers having been called for, 10 of the crew offered to stand by the ship, the rest then consented to do the same. At 4 P.M., with the wind on the starboard quarter made for the Falkland Islands.

Captain Bryant of the barque "Galgorm Castle" wishes to give public expression to his thanks for the timely and skilled assistance rendered to his ship by Captain Inglefield R. N., the officers and crew of H. M. S. "Acorn." The "Galgorm Castle" was anchored in a disabled state having lost all her spars except the lower masts and in dangerous proximity to the Billy Rock, Port William. Though half of the "Acorn's" crew were ashore on leave and it was late when the hawsor was made fast the "Acorn" towed the "Galgorm Castle" into the Harbour of Stanley and enabled her to anchor at about 9 P.M. on November 2nd.

Mr A E Baillon, the Colonial Manager of the Falkland Islands Company Ltd reported to his London Office on 3 November 1894: "The Bk "Galgorm Castle", Bryants, from Blyth to Valparaiso with a cargo of steam coals put back here from about 80° West, having sustained the following terrible damages:- totally dismasted except the lower-masts and her fore and main yards, her hull is severely strained, her cargo after shifting (the primary cause of the disaster) became considerable heated, she lost a complete suit of sails, her starboard side was swept and she lost two boats, her decks are badly strained and leaky, her decks and waterways will have to be caulked and her steering gear is slightly injured. A survey on the ship and cargo will be held on Sunday and I may be able to give you the substance of the report, should the "Tanis" not have left. I much fear that the Cargo may have to be con-

demned, as the Master seems somewhat afraid to proceed with it. I shall, of course, do my utmost to avoid such a step being taken. The Master has made up his mind to go up to Montevideo by the November mail in order to place himself in telegraphic communication with his Owners, who I trust will receive the Master's telegram to write him by the mail leaving London on November 19th. This vessel had to bring up in 22 fathoms of water, in dangerous proximity to the Seal rocks, but, fortunately, in accordance with the Master's request, HMS "Acorn" at once went to her assistance and towed her safely to an anchorage in Stanley Harbour by about 1pm yesterday. From what the Master says the ship is insured, mostly in Clubs, but for a certain amount, he thinks, at Lloyd's. Her value he estimates to be £16000. Mr Valentine, the father of the Managing Owner is I am told a Director of the Northern Banking Co Ltd, Belfast, & they are also Underwriters."

On 4 November 1894 he further reported: "The "Galgorm Castle" is now alongside the "J P Smith" in order to discharge about 1000 tons of her cargo into that hulk. As Biggs is extremely busy on the North Arm Wool box and the repairs to the "Fair Rosamond", the ship's carpenter is fitting up the men's bunks in the fore-castle which were gutted out, but no other repairs will be commenced on her until Captain Bryants has communicated with his Owners from Montevideo. He told me yesterday that he thought it just possible that his Owners might decide upon having the vessel towed home; an operation which would cost about £2500, but before that it would be absolutely necessary to effect certain repairs on her. For your information I send you herewith a copy of the first Report of Survey—and also

a photo of her as she appeared the day after being towed in by the "Acorn". Biggs thought at first that the masts of the "J P Smith" might possibly have done for her, but on measuring them, they are found to be 15 feet short, and a difference of 6 ins in the size of the caps. Chaplain is indenting for a sufficient quantity of heavy iron, in case these latter have to be made here. The blacksmiths have still a great deal of work to be done for the "Speke", the Master of which vessel does not expect to get away much before December 20th.

On 17 December 1894 Baillon reported: "The "Galgorm Castle" has discharged between 1000 and 1100 tons of coal into the "J P Smith", and we are now anxiously awaiting the actions of Captain Bryant from Montevideo and news as to the ves-



Galgorm Castle in Stanley Harbour, 1895

sel's probably fate. I am afraid that I omitted to inform you in my last Despatch that Mr Schlottfeldt and Biggs had, at the Master's request, valued the ship as she now is at £4000 and Biggs estimates the probably cost of the repairs on her at not less than £12000! She would hardly cost £16000 new, would she?

Things weren't any further on when on 12 February 1895 Mr Baillon reported: "I very much regret that you are still unable to give me any definite information as regards the repairs, etc, to the "Galgorm Castle", the delay being altogether incomprehensible both to Captain Bryants. He had not so much as a line from his Owners by this mail; and all I have had from the Salvage Association is a telegram dated January 8th, which reached me per "Sirius" on January 26th, asking me to cable them "the best price you can get in case we have to sell". My reply by this mail is the Lloyd's code word "Hoashound" - meaning that there is no market here for that class of coal. As Captain Bryants received a letter by the yacht "Catarina" from Captain Ridges, dated Montevideo, February 9th, in which he states that nothing definite is settled yet, I am not likely to hear anything further before I leave, as I see the supplementary mail left Lisbon on February 2nd. Mr Harding will, of course, follow your instructions as regards securing the advances. Captain Bryants has just started taking back the coals from the "J P Smith".

Four long letters later on 13 May 1895 W A Harding reported: "Captain Adam Smith arrived by this steamer with instructions to commence jury-rigging the "Galgorm Castle" to enable her to proceed to England. Work was commenced this morning. He and Captain Bryants propose to rig topmasts with upper and lower topsail yards, which they consider will suffice. There will be very little Blacksmith's work, the bulk being woodwork, and I have taken the opportunity of again impressing upon Biggs the necessity for despatch..."

In his next letter on 19 June 1895 he reported: "The work on the "Galgorm Castle" is proceeding satisfactorily. Captain Smith is having as little ironwork done as possible, but the blacksmiths have been fully occupied so far. On the foremast the jury topmast and upper and lower topsail yards have been fitted up. The sails are being made by their own crew. It is too soon to forecast when she will be ready for sea;..."

On 24 July 1895 W A Harding reported: "I am very glad not to have received a telegram from you prohibiting me from purchasing a further quantity of coal from the "Galgorm Castle". I have increased the purchase to 1000 tons at 15/- per ton...I have sold 110 tons to the Government at 31/- net..."

In his next letter on 16 August 1895 W A Harding reported: "The "Galgorm Castle" has got out to Port William everything being completed with the exception of trimming the Cays, I enclose a Draft at 60 days upon Charles E Allen Esq for the balance of her account. I had a very pleasant settlement with Captain Smith who leaves by this mail for England. I suggested that he should call on you as I venture to think that from his large experience of ship repairing in all parts of the world his opinion of the Falkland Islands will be worth listening to. He is inclined to think that the place has been decried unreasonably.

Finally on 5 September 1895 W A Harding reported: "The "Galgorm Castle" sailed on August 21st for Belfast. I have explained on a separate sheet the circumstances under which the new main topmast was condemned and my reasons for compromising the matter with Captain Smith.

The "Galgorm Castle" does not show in the Falkland Island Shipping Registers again but appeared to continue with her South American trade as on 27 February 1917 she was heading to Queenstown, Ireland from Buenos Aires when she was shelled by a German submarine 90 miles west of Fastnet. Eleven of her crew of 24 died, four from drowning and seven from exposure.

Falkland Islands Company Limited Accession

The Archives relies heavily on donations of material to increase our holdings and each year we tend to have a regular trickle of reference books both from authors and purchased for us, periodicals, records, maps and plans. Nothing, however, could compare with this year's accession of the remainder of the records from the Stanley Office of the Falkland Islands Company Limited. The sheer volume of material required a military style operation being put in place to ensure the safe relocation of the records. A big thank you must go out to Terry and Mark Spruce, Nigel Bishop and Codey Bishop-Newman (thank goodness for tall men when having to maneuver items through the hatch in the floor) and the staff and vehicles lent free of charge from NCB Solutions Ltd, who all very patiently assisted Joan Spruce and I with the big move. Finally, a thank you must also go out to Roger Spink, for making the accession possible, and the other staff members at the Crozier Place offices who had to put up with Joan and I tramping back and forth past (and in James' case through) their offices while we were organising the initial move.

Following is Joan's account of the history of the FIC Archives and the removal to the Jane Cameron National Archives.

Joan Spruce

My interest in the FIC's archive material dates back about 30 years to when I was a clerk with the Company in the Crozier Place offices. Office stationery was kept in part of the attics shared by dusty old leather bound volumes of FIC history, which I found absolutely fascinating, often to the degree that I forgot what I had gone up to the attic for. Since this material, including many files and packages, dated back to the beginnings of the Company I soon realized that it was extremely valuable.



Part of the attic in the FIC Crozier Place office building

Archivist Meg Laver, from South Africa, had carried out a huge amount of sorting and labelling in the 1960s and later I made it my business to carry on her work to the best of my ability. Though certainly not an archivist, somehow I found myself drifting into the position of voluntary 'keeper of the archives' putting files in order, sorting, wrapping and labelling parcels of paperwork, and trying to store a by now enormous collection salvaged from all over the office.

The war in 1982 saw the attics relatively untouched, though some material was damaged and contained large boot prints. Due to office modernization after 1982, I moved the entire archive to the West end of the attic, where the old West Store shelving was installed. Galloping up and down the length of the attic space resulted in a svelte figure and muscular arms! Since by then I had stopped working I could pretty well give a great deal of time to the continuing sorting

ing, labelling and to a degree, indexing. Empty Carlsberg cartons from the West Store which I colour coded and labelled proved ideal for storing files,¹ I was regularly seen with the back of my little jeep full of Carlsberg cartons which caused some curious glances.

The attic was cold and dusty, so a programme of shrouding racks in polythene (intended for wrapping blocks of squid and fish) was carried out. Though not ideal for the purpose, it did a great job of protecting from dust.

Since the attic was really not suitable for the collection, it was agreed between the late Jane Cameron, Roger Spink (Manager of the Company in the Islands) and myself, that I moved a great deal of the collection to the Falkland Islands Government Archives (now the Jane Cameron National Archives) at that point.

More modernization of the office this year meant the remaining collection had to be moved to the National Archives rather earlier than I had intended. Tansy Bishop and I commandeered sons and husbands with vehicles to action the 'great move'.

This last sentence in no way captures the scene where parcels, ledgers, cartons, rolls of plans and maps were lowered through the trap hatch into the old 'Booze Locker' below (where whisky and rum in barrels used to be siphoned into bottles for sale in the West Store), and into the now carpenters workshop. Loaded in vehicles, the contents were ferried to the other end of Stanley into the care of Tansy. This was exhausting and dusty work and consequently Tansy can barely move in her Workshop for stacks of cartons and packages.



Part s of the JCNA workshop after completion of the removal of the FIC records to the Archives



The collection will be further sorted, boxed in archival storage boxes, labelled and listed before being moved to permanent storage. This will be time consuming but has to be carried out before researchers can make use of the material.

I am very happy that this valuable history of the Islands will become available for public research and thank Roger Spink for purchasing suitable archival boxes and a fireproof steel cabinet for the fascinating collection of maps and plans.

F I C Archives Released to Date

- Despatches: London Office to Stanley Office—8 Feb 1867 to 13 Nov 1931
Numbered Despatches bound with cord loose in boxes
- Despatches: Stanley Office to London Office—29 Feb 1868 to 12 Dec 1938
Numbered Despatches in manuscript books—some volumes also contain sundry letters to various people outside of FIC
- Correspondence: other—13 Sep 1858 to 1 Sep 1929
Various miscellaneous correspondence. A good source of social and farming history
- Contracts
Loose foliated pages in polyester folders, boxed. Term contracts signed by employees, including some certificates of service—incomplete collection
- Estates administered by FIC
Loose foliated pages in polyester folders, boxed. Social and farming history—some include farm inventories
- Wage and employee records—1 Oct 1858 to 30 June 1873 and 1 Jan 1881 to 31 Dec 1929
Mainly Camp employees
- Photographs and paintings
NB: Permission to reproduce or copy photographs or paintings must be obtained in writing from the Managing Director of the Falkland Islands Company Ltd, Stanley.
- Other Ventures — Butchery 1 Jul 1908 to 31 Jan 1931
Lists the names of customers in Stanley, their purchases and payments. Source of people and vessels
- Shipping
Contain: crew lists; passenger lists; export of wool, skins, tallow, etc. Good source for genealogy & social history.
- Passenger Lists—10 May 1931 to 12 Jan 1971
Lists passengers on FIC vessels, some gaps
- Log Books—Darwin (1957-1970) Monsunen (1972-1992) Forrest 1988-1992
Chief Officers logs
- East Jetty Diaries
Details of weather, shipping movements, cargo, etc - incomplete set

Battle Day - 100th Anniversary

Next year, 2014, marks the 100th anniversary of the attempted capture of Stanley by the Germans during World War I. Battle Day is commemorated every year in the Falkland Islands on 8 December and with next year being the 100th anniversary there are many events planned to mark this milestone. Here in the Archives we have many records to do with World War I from general files to files covering such topics as prize court vessels and the role of the Falkland Islands Volunteers (the precursor to the Falkland Islands Defence Force), letters to and from the Secretary of State, and reports in the local periodical of the time. The Falkland Islands Magazine. We also hold a small selection of maps and plans including my favourite, "Harry's Battle Map", a plan by Harry Sarney hand drawn in pen on the back of a roll of wallpaper showing his recollection of the Battle of the Falkland Islands. You can see a copy of part of this plan below and the whole plan will be on display in the Archives next year.

Battle of the Falkland Islands

In the aftermath of the naval action off Stanley the following despatch dated 10 December 1914 was sent by Governor Allardyce to Lewis Harcourt, Secretary of State for the Colonies:

"In the amplification of my cipher telegram of yesterday's date I have the honour to report that on the morning of the 7th instant a British cruiser squadron under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee arrived at this port. The squadron consisted of the following ships:- HMS "Invincible", HMS "Inflexible", HMS "Carnarvon", HMS "Cornwall", HMS "Kent", HMS "Glasgow", HMS "Bristol" and the auxiliary cruiser "Macedonia".

2. Shortly after daybreak on the following morning the look-out on Sapper's Hill reported the approach of enemy cruisers from the south-west. The hostile squadron numbered five cruisers, two of which were some miles in advance of the remainder, while still further to the south-west three colliers or armed transports were visible.

3. The two foremost vessels (the "Gneisenau" and the "Nurnberg") came on a north-easterly course, and on approaching the Wolf Rock trained their guns on the Wireless Station which was then abandoned by the operators and the Volunteer guard stationed there, the time being about 9am. A few minutes later HMS "Canopus", at anchor in the harbour and out of sight of the enemy, opened fire with her 12-inch guns whereupon the enemy cruisers veered rapidly round and steamed in a southerly direction, coming round again when out of range of HMS "Canopus"'s guns. The whole of the enemy squadron then proceeded due east at full speed.

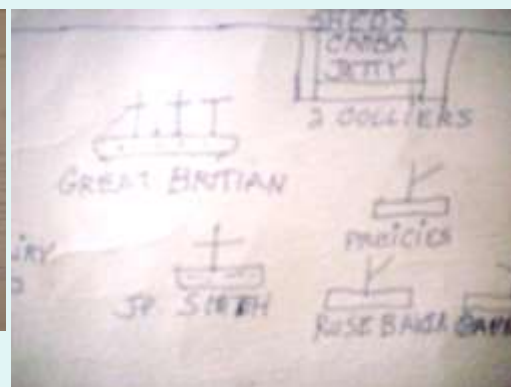
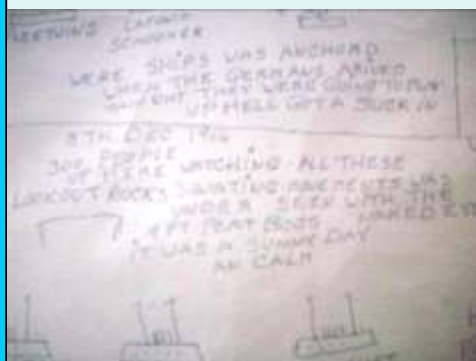
4. The British Admiral immediately gave chase with all his ships with the exception of HMS "Bristol" and the "Macedonia" which were detailed to attack the armed transports or colliers which were then opposite Fitzroy Harbour.

5. Heavy gunfire was heard in Stanley between the hours of 3.45pm and 5.30pm, and during the evening it was authoritatively stated that the German cruisers "Scharnhorst" "Gneisenau" and "Leipsic" had been sunk.

6. Yesterday afternoon (9th December) HMS "Kent" returned with the news that she had sunk the "Nurnberg". She had been unable to report her success before owing to the fact that her wireless apparatus had been shot away.

7. The cruiser "Dresden" escaped at the beginning of the action, and one armed merchantman is still at large, but the pursuit of these vessels is still being carried on.

8. This morning the Admiral made the following signal by wireless to all stations:- "German cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Nurnberg, Leipsic, sunk by British squadron, December 8th."



Parts of Harry Sarney's battle map