

DOWERS 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.

Thomas DOWERS was born 10 April 1812 in Ireland to **Robert DOWERS** and **Martha DOWERS** formerly **NEATE**.

Thomas was married to **Ann DAINES**, age 26 and widow of Thomas, 31 December 1844 in Marlborough, Wiltshire, England. Ann was born 1 June 1824 in Burbage, Wiltshire, England to **Isaac** and **Charlotte SMITH**.

Thomas and Ann arrived in the Falkland Islands on board the Barque *Victory* 13 October 1849 as part of a group of military pensioners commanded by Captain James Reid, a total of 122 people including women and children. Their period of enrolment in the Falkland Islands was seven years, ending in July 1856.

In the February 1851 census the **DOWERS** family are listed as:
Thomas DOWERS, age 36, (*military*) pensioner, Irish
Ann DOWERS, age 25, wife, Irish

On 23 July 1856 Crown Grant 106 was issued to **Thomas DOWERS** for services performed, being Pensioners Cottage Allotments 5 containing 24 poles and measuring 60 links x 250 links. [CG 106]

On 6 February 1857 Thomas, a pensioner, purchased Crown Grant 90 & Crown Grant 91 for £110. On 29 June 1857 Thomas and Ann, both of Stanley, sold Crown Grant 90 for £112. [Reg Off: Vol I: 157; 175]

In December 1858, Thomas, the landlord of the Stanley Arms, purchased upwards of £130 of goods; chiefly spirits and beer, from Dean. [FIC/E1: 32]

On 18 May 1859 Thomas was recorded as the publican of the Stanley Arms. [D8]

Thomas, age 45 and a publican, died 10 December 1859 in Stanley from an abscess in the brain and was buried 17 December 1859 (*no grave record – possibly buried in Section B, Catholic Section*).

On 2 March 1860, Ann, a widow, sold Crown Grant 91 for £6. Early March 1860 she deposited £300 in the Colonial Chest. Ann left £200 in John Dean's hands. He collected debts of £112 on her behalf giving a total held by him for her of £312. Shortly before sailing Ann withdrew £50 from Mr Dean leaving a balance with him of £262. [Reg Off: Vol I: 213; H17, 326; B14, 229]

Ann and her children, Charlotte and Ann, departed 31 March 1860 for England on the British barque *Sunrise*, which had arrived 8 February 1860. Ann died at sea 10 April 1860. [B14, 229] According to the Directors Minutes of the Falkland Islands Company Ltd "*...the Sunrise from Stanley with Produce for the Company has been heard of, she put into Pernambuco for medical advice required by the Passengers, one of whom a Mrs Dowers had died. The vessel got away again on the 9th May & may therefore be expected in England about the middle of this month.*" [FIC/MA3; 7 May 1860], Family history says that Ann was robbed and murdered on board.

On receipt of a Power of Attorney from **George SMITH**, Ann's brother and administrator of her estate, a Government Bill for the £300 deposited in the Colonial Chest was forwarded to Mr Holloway, George's solicitor in England, on 22 June 1861. [B14, 229]

On 27 November 1860 Ann was recorded as being late of Stanley and now deceased and had a deposit in the Colonial Chest of £300. [B11: 357; D11: 176; H17, 326]

In a letter dated 26 December 1863 George SMITH stated that Mr Holloway received the £300 and that he had dishonestly appropriated it. [B14, 231]

The balance left with Mr Dean was rendered on 1 February 1864 and forwarded to the Secretary of State accompanied by Bills of Exchange for £290. [B14, 229]

In the probate of 24 June 1864 George SMITH of Burbage was listed as the uncle and guardian of Charlotte and Ann DOWERS, minors. [England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration) 1861-1941]

On 17 August 1864 **Arthur BAILEY**, Surveyor General of Stanley, granted to **Henry WHITE**, mariner of Stanley, Pensioners Cottage Allotments No 5 containing 24 poles "*Together with the dwelling houses thereon erected*" for £60. [BUG-REG-1; 265]

The £60, plus £5 of rent, was forwarded to the Crown Agents 1 July 1867. [B14, 230]

On 12 August 1868 Governor Robinson stated that he feared that Mrs Dower's children had been robbed of £300 but not by anyone in the Falkland Islands. [B14, 230]

Children of Thomas and Ann DOWERS:

1. **Charlotte Emily DOWERS** born 1 November 1850 (twin) in Stanley (*not in birth registers*) and baptised 21 December 1850 by Holy Trinity Church. Charlotte, age 4 ½, was recorded on the return of the Government School dated 1 April 1855. [H8] Charlotte and Ann travelled to the USA with their uncle James SMITH and his wife Maria, departing from Liverpool in 1868 on the *Constitution*, arriving 6 August 1868 in New York. They then travelled west to join the John Gillespie wagon train; a group of 566 people and 50 wagons which left Benton, Wyoming 23-24 August 1868, arriving 15 September 1868. Charlotte, age 18, was married to **William Carrol HUDSON** 16 March 1869 in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. William's parents were Samuel L Hudson and Nancy G Hudson formerly Bellah. William died in a snow slide in Moab, Utah in 1904. Charlotte died 4 October 1919 in Snowville, Box Elder, Utah, USA.
2. **Martha Anne DOWERS** born 1 November 1850 (twin) in Stanley (*not in birth registers*) and baptised 21 December 1850 by Holy Trinity Church. Martha, age 3 weeks, was buried 24 December 1850 in Stanley Cemetery (*no grave record*) – *possibly buried in Section B, Catholic Section*).
3. **Ann Jane DOWERS** born 29 November 1855 in Stanley and baptised 6 January 1856 by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as labourer. The informant, her mother, signed with a X. Ann and Charlotte travelled to the USA with their uncle James SMITH and his wife Maria. Ann was married to **Arthur BURNINGHAM** 6 January 1873 in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. Arthur, age 85, died 16 July 1931 in Bountiful, Davis, Utah, USA. Ann, age 76 and a widow, died 24 June 1932 in Bountiful, Davis, Utah and was buried 26 June 1932 In Bountiful Memorial Park.