

HOUSTON 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.

James HOUSTON was born circa 1875 in Kilbarchen Renfrewshire, Scotland to **James & ? HOUSTON**.

James arrived on the *Orissa* 7 August 1915 and took up his duties as assistant manager. [FIC/D12; 902-16]

James, manager, was married to **Mary Bell NIVEN** 1 December 1917 at Christ Church Cathedral by Banns by J Stanley Smith, Clerk in Holy Orders. The witnesses were L V Oswald and J Robert Crawford. James' father was recorded as James Houston, builder and contractor, and Mary's father was recorded as William Niven, motor agent. [Account of wedding FIM Jan 1918]

In 1917 James was appointed a Commissioner of Currency and provisionally as Consul for Norway, Chile and Italy. [FI Gazette 1917; 35; 43]

On 12 February 1918 James, assistant manager for the Falkland Islands Co Ltd, signed a four year contract to be their Colonial Manager on an annual salary of £800 commencing 1 March 1917 plus a commission of £1 per centum on all dividends declared by the Company during the term of his management. He also resided in Stanley House rent free. [FIC/IC4/1#6] On 28 February 1917 he out-going manager, W A Harding, handed over management to James. [FIC/D13; 171-17]

In 1918 James was appointed a Lieutenant in the FI Volunteer Force and a Justice of the Peace. [FI Gazette 1918; 27; 93]

In 1919 James was appointed a Member of the Committee of the Public Library & Museum, a Member of the Board of Health and a Visiting Justice of the Gaol. [FI Gazette 1917; 15; 31; 54]

On 20 January 1920 James wrote to the secretary of the Falkland Islands Co Ltd in London saying that as Mr Dean had proposed that he should take a vacation home that year that he had booked passages on the *Orcoma*. [FIC/D13; 506-5] In despatch 1200 dated 25 February 1920 James was informed that the Directors granted him leave of absence as recommended by Mr W M Dean and Mr Goddard and assumed that he would leave by the *Orita*. [FIC/C8; 1200]

James, Mary and Alexander departed 9 April 1920 on board the *Solstrief* to Montevideo to connect with the *Andes* for onward voyage to Liverpool. [FIM May 1920] They arrived in Southampton 29 May 1920. [FIC/C8; 1204]

On 21 July 1920 London Office advised Mr Gresham that the Board of Directors had accepted the resignation of James as Colonial Manager from the termination of his present agreement on 28 February 1921. [FIC/C8; 1205] On 20 August 1920 Mr Gresham noted that the Board had accepted James' resignation and that Mr Harding was coming out to take charge until his successor was appointed. [FIC/D13; 562-11]

Mary Bell NIVEN was born circa 1888 in Edinburgh, Scotland to **William & ? NIVEN**.

On 30 March 1916 Mary was informed that subject to being passed as physically fit for service and obtaining the certificate at the CMB examination to be held on 10 April 1916 she was selected to be nurse-matron at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Falkland Islands on an annual salary of £90 a year for a contract term of three years with a free first class passage to England at the end of her contract. In a despatch dated 26 April 1916 Secretary Bonar Law advised Governor Young that he had selected Miss M B Niven for appointment as nurse-matron at the King Edward Memorial Hospital in the Falkland Islands. Mary was provided with a free first class passage on the steamer leaving England 11 May 1916 and an advance of £7-10-0 to be repaid in instalments. [224/16]

Mary arrived 1 July 1916 and was appointed nurse-matron of the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital with effect from 1 July 1916. [FI Gazette 1916; 89]



Mary circa 1919

FIRST GENERATION:

Children of James and Mary HOUSTON:

1. **Alexander James HOUSTON** born 12 March 1919. His father's occupation was recorded as manager Falkland Islands Co Ltd.