

## JOHNSON'S HARBOUR OR BERKELEY SOUND FARM, COW BAY, CAPE CARYSFORT, EAGLE POINT AND VOLUNTEER POINT STATIONS

***NB: Various spellings of names are as written in the records***

Johnson's Harbour was named after **John JOHNSON**, a seaman from Copenhagen known locally as Pirate Johnson and purported to be the sole survivor of a party who buried treasure in Berkeley Sound. In the 1842 census he is recorded as being 23 and from Copenhagen, a seaman on board the sealing schooner *Montgomery*. Berkeley Sound and Cape Carysfort (sic Carysford) were named by Commodore **John BYRON** of HMS *Dolphin* in 1765, after the Earl of Berkeley and Baron Carysford, lords of the Admiralty. Eagle Point was named by the French after the frigate *Aigle* which arrived in 1764. Volunteer Point was named after the *Volunteer* which visited Port Louis in 1815.

On 14 February 1820 the French corvette *l'Uranie* under Captain **Louis de FREYCINET** struck a rock about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile North-East by East of the Volunteer Rocks. The ship was turned around and got off but was leaking fast so they made for land and ran her on shore at Long Island where she fell over on the starboard side. The 160 crew and passengers were rescued by an American vessel the *Mercury*. The rock now bears the name Uranie Rock. [Narrative of a Voyage Round the World in the Uranie and Physicienne Corvettes, 1823: A Voyage towards The South Pole by James Weddell, 1827]

On 31 March 1851 **Messrs MACKINNON, HAMOND and SULIVAN** purchased a 5 year lease of the Mullet Fishery, in Johnsons Harbour, Chabot Creek, and Bougainville Creek in Berkeley Sound for £2. [BUG-REG-2; pg 34]

The 380 ton British barque *Amelia Thompson* under **Captain THOMPSON**, bound for San Francisco from Liverpool, went ashore off Johnson's Harbour and came into Stanley 29 December 1853 for repairs, clearing 17 April 1854. [SHI-REG-1]

The 766 ton British ship *Carlton* under **Captain WILLIAMS**, bound from Swansea to Panama with a cargo of coals, was wrecked at Cape Carysfort at 4am on 9 August 1855. The Captain stayed with the crew at the wreck until the 28th when he came to town leaving his mate & half the crew in charge of the wreck. On 30 August 1855 the 15 ton cutter *Fanny* departed Stanley to go to the wreck of the *Carlton*, returning 31 August 1855 full of cargo, apparel and stores. **John ROSS** and **José FRADA** from Portugal, **Andrew WILLIAMS** from Madeira, and **Henry BOHLEN** from Germany, four aliens and part of the crew of 21 including the captain, were employed by the Falkland Islands Company Ltd and granted permission to remain in the Falkland Islands 6 September 1855. They were offered to ship on a voyage to terminate in the UK. [SHI-REG-1: D7; pg 72: H13; 59]

On 31 March 1856 **Robert Christopher PACKE** purchased a 5 year lease of the Mullet Fishery, in Johnsons Harbour, Chabot Creek, and Bougainville Creek in Berkeley Sound for £2. [BUG-REG-2; pg 34]

The 7 ton cutter *Kate* under **Henry PETTIT** and with two crew departed Stanley 17 October 1859 bound for Cape Carysfort egg collecting; returning 27 October 1859 with 10,000 eggs. [SHI-REG-1]

On 10 May 1864 **Henry PETTIT** was granted a licence for £5 to occupy a station north of Volunteer Lagoon bounded "On the South West by a line running from the head of Volunteer Lagoon to Mount Brisbane two-and-a-half miles from thence by a line running North East four miles to the centre of Cow Bay, on the East by the Sea, and on the South by the shores of Volunteer Lagoon. [BUG-REG-2; pg 142]

On 27 May 1867 **Andrez PETALUGA** was granted a licence for £5 to occupy a station at Cape Carysfort bounded "*on the West by a line drawn one mile to the Eastward of Macbrides Head and running 4 miles due South and from thence to Cow Bay 4 miles East. On the North East by the Sea to the starting point and containing about 6,000 acres.*" [BUG-REG-2; pg 175]

On 15 October 1868 **Timothy ROBSON** was granted a licence for £5 to occupy a station at Eagle Point bounded "*on the West by a line drawn South and by East from Mount Brisbane to the Sea. On the South and East by the Sea Shore. On the North by Volunteer Lagoon and on the North East by a line drawn North West from the head of Volunteer Lagoon to Mount Brisbane.*" [BUG-REG-2; pg 214]

On 2 April 1869 **Robert CLETHERO** was granted a licence for £5 to occupy a station at Cow Bay bounded "*on the North by the South boundary of No 43. On the North West by a line running South West 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles from the South West angle of No 43 to the head of Chabot Creek. On the South by the North boundary of the Station at Johnsons Harbour in the Occupation of W A Hilton. On the South East by the North West boundary of the Station at Volunteer Point in the occupation of Thomas Aldridge; and on the North East by the Shores of Cow Bay.*" [BUG-REG-2; pg 222]

As he has built a house on the station at Cape Carysfort and stocked it **Andrez PETALUGA** is granted a lease on 9 May 1868 for 10 years at an annual rent of £10 in advance. [BUG-REG-2; pg 197]

On 15 October 1868 **William Alexander HILTON** was granted a licence for £5 to occupy a station at Johnson's Harbour bounded "*on the North by a line drawn East from the head of Chabot Creek to Mount Brisbane. On the East by a line drawn South and by East from Mount Brisbane to the Sea. On the South by the Shores of Berkeley Sound and Johnson's Harbour to the starting point to the head of Chabot Creek.*" [BUG-REG-2; pg 213]

On 15 October 1868 **Timothy ROBSON** was granted a licence for £5 to occupy a station at Johnson's Harbour bounded "*on the West by a line drawn South and by East from Mount Brisbane to the Sea. On the South and East by the Sea Shore. On the North by Volunteer Lagoon and on the North East by a line drawn North West from the head of Volunteer Lagoon to Mount Brisbane.*" [BUG-REG-2; pg 214]

On 15 October 1868 **Thomas ALDRIDGE** was granted a licence for £5 to occupy a station at Volunteer Point bounded "*on the North West by a line running North East from Mount Brisbane to the Sea at the Southern part of Cow Bay. On the North East by the Sea to Volunteer Point. On the South by the Volunteer Lagoon, and on the South West by a line running from the head of Volunteer Lagoon to Mount Brisbane; exclusive of those portions of the land comprised in this station on which Penguin Rookeries are now or may be hereafter situated, to which Rookeries Government and the inhabitants generally, having permission of the Government, are to be at all times allowed free access.*" [BUG-REG-2; pg 215]

As he has stocked the station at Johnson's Harbour and built a house on it **William Alexander HILTON** is granted a lease on 13 October 1869 for 10 years at an annual rent of £10 in advance. The station contains 6,000 acres. This lease is later transferred to Reverend **Charles BULL** who then transfers it to **Timothy ROBSON** and **Thomas SHARP** before 31 December 1870. [BUG-REG-2; pg 232]

As he has stocked the station at Volunteer Point and built a house on it **Thomas ALDRIDGE** was granted Lease 51 on 22 December 1869 for ten years at an annual rental of £10 in

advance. The penguin rookeries are again excluded from the lease. The station contains 6,000 acres. This lease is later transferred to Thomas Sharpe. [BUG-REG-2; pg 236]

On 26 February 1870 **Andrez PETALUGA** was granted a licence for £5 to occupy a station at MacBrides Head bounded "*On the East by the West boundary of Station No 43 running 3 miles South from the sea and MacBrides Head. On the South East by a line drawn 4 miles South West by West. On the West by a line drawn 3 miles North to the sea, and thence on the North by the sea to the starting point at the North West angle of Station No 43, as aforesaid.*" [BUG-REG-2; pg 240]



**Remains of stone house at Diamond Cove with the Diamond Cove Shanty in front, 1997 – photo Don Aldiss Collection, JCNA**

As he has stocked the station at Eagle Point and built a house on it (the house was built on Section 50 Johnson's Harbour by arrangement to serve as a house to this lease) **Timothy ROBSON** was granted Lease 52 on 27 April 1870 for ten years at an annual rental of £10 in advance. The station contains 6,000 acres. [BUG-REG-2; pg 248]

On 31 December 1870 **Thomas SHARPE** and **Timothy ROBSON** were granted a new lease, under the Amalgamation Order of the Leases of Crown Lands No 6 of 1870, of Lease 50 Johnsons Harbour, Lease 51 Volunteer Point, and Lease 52 Eagle Point, containing 18,000 acres more or less. The new lease of Berkeley Sound Station was granted for 21 years at an annual rent of £18 for the first ten years then £30 a year for the remainder of the term. All previous reservations were renewed. [BUG-REG-2; pg 286]

As he has built a house on the station at McBrides Head and stocked it **Andrez PETALUGA** was granted a lease 26 February 1871 for 21 years at an annual rent of £6 in advance for the first ten years and £10 a year for the remainder. The station contains 6,000 acres. [BUG-REG-2; pg 285]

On 29 May 1871 **Andrez PETALUGA** was granted a new lease of Station No 43 Cape Carysfort under the fifth clause of the Amalgamation Ordinance of the Leases of Crown Land in the Falkland Islands No 6 of 1870 for 21 years at an annual rental of £6 for the first 10 years and £10 a year for the remainder of the lease bounded "*On the West by a line drawn one mile to the Eastward of MacBride's Head and running due South four miles and from thence to Cow Bay four miles East; On the North East by the sea to the starting point.*" [BUG-REG-2; pg 354]

On 16 March 1872 **Timothy ROBSON** and **Thomas SHARP** are granted a licence for £15 to occupy Cow Bay Station (Sections 63, 64 & 65) bounded "*On the N by a line starting from the North East corner of Station No 33 running due East to the centre of Cow Bay – on the S E by Station No 51 on the s by Station Nos 50, 14 and land in the occupation of Mr R Greenshields to the starting point reserving one acre at the head of Chabot Creek and containing 18,477 acres more or less.*" [BUG-REG-2; pg 316]



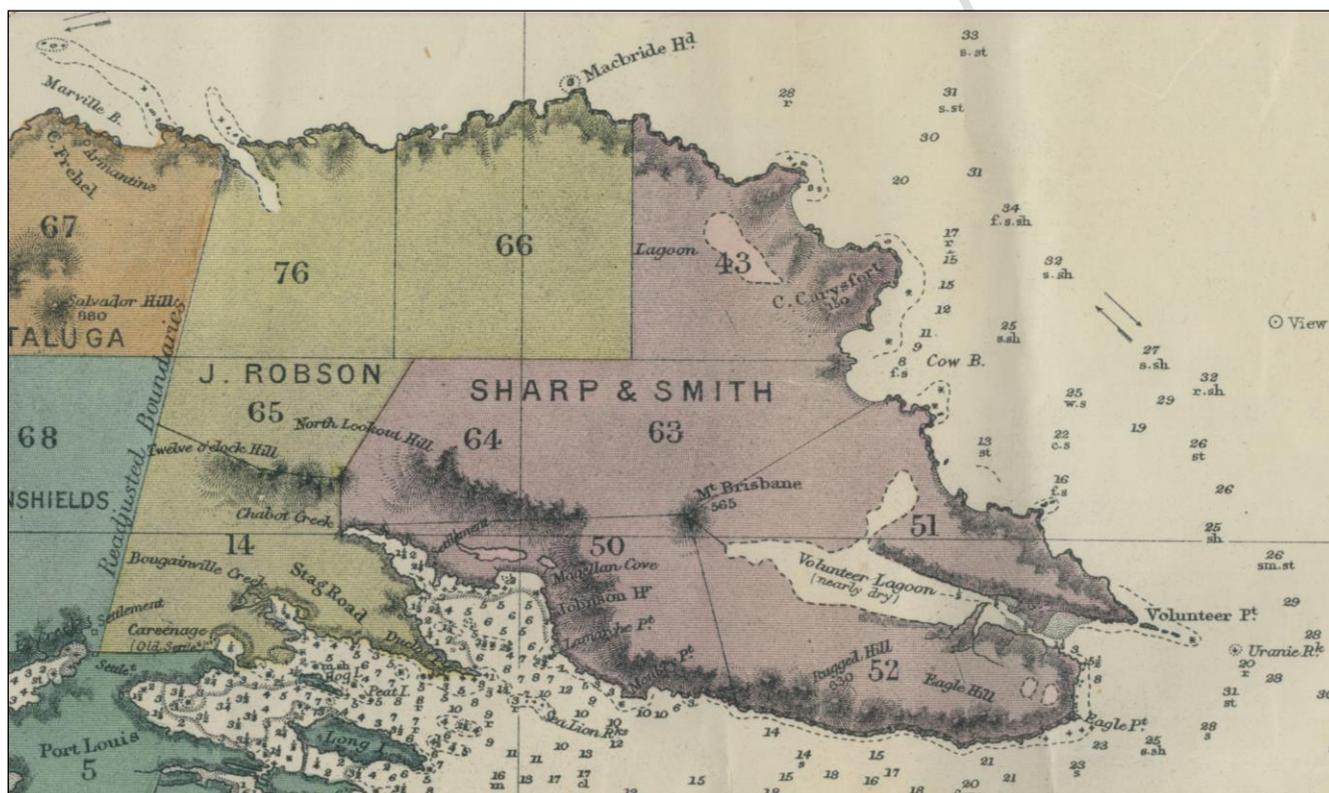
**The Lochhead Shanty which was originally built from the wreck of the *Carlton* at Cow Bay and later dismantled and rafted up Loch Head Pond and re-erected as a boundary rider's house by George Patterson SMITH – photo JCNA**

As they have stocked the station and built a house on it **Timothy ROBSON** and **Thomas SHARP** are granted a lease on 16 March 1874 of Cow Bay Station (Sections 63, 64 & 65) for twenty-one years at an annual rent of £18 for the first ten years and £30 a year for the remainder. Bounded "*On the North by a line starting from the North East corner of Station No 33 (Rincon Grande) running due East to the centre of Cow Bay; on the South East by Station No 51 (Volunteer Point); on the South by stations No 50 (Johnson Harbour) and No 14 in the occupation of the Falkland Islands Company; on the West by land in the occupation of Robert Greenshields to the starting point, reserving one acre at the head of Chabot Creek and containing Eighteen thousand 18,000 acres more or less.*" [BUG-REG-2; pg 330]

On 1 January 1875 **Andrez PETALUGA** transferred Station No 43 Cape Carysfort, leased by him 29 May 1871, to Messrs **Thomas SHARP**, **Timothy ROBSON** and **George Patterson SMITH** for £200. [BUG-REG-2; pg 355]

On 16 March 1878 **Messrs SHARP & ROBSON** transferred Section No 65 (part of Cow Bay Station) to **Timothy ROBSON** for the remainder of the term of the original lease at an annual rental of £6 for the first ten years (from 16 March 1874) and £10 a year for the remainder of the term. Bounded "starting from N E corner of Section 33 (Rincon Grande) on the North by a Line running East Six Miles and Three quarters, on the East by Section 64 running South 2 ½ miles to the top of a hill 1 ½ miles East from Twelve O'clock Hill, from thence to Twelve O'clock Hill 1 ½ miles, thence to starting Point 5 ½ miles and containing 6000 acres more or less." [BUG-REG-2; pg 398]

The British barque *C A Belyea* from Rio in ballast under **Captain HAMILTON** was wrecked on the Uranie Rocks on the night of 16 September 1882 and washed ashore in Berkeley Sound. The ss *Ranee* under **A J WINTHERS** went to the wreck 18 September 1882. The vessel was sold at auction for £5-10-0. The master and fourteen of the crew were sent to Punta Arenas to be forwarded on to England. [SHI-REG-2: B20; pg 268; D19; pg 47, 51: FIC/D6; pg 89]



Farm boundaries 1883 – part of Hudson Chart, JCNA

On 13 June 1883 **Timothy ROBSON** assigned all his rights, title and interest in Berkeley Sound Farm to John Markham Dean and Sons. [BUG-REG-3; pg 177]

On 8 September 1885 Crown Grant 277 was issued to **George Patterson SMITH** and **Thomas SHARP** for £64 being the compulsory purchase of 320 acres being Sections 63 & 64 Cow Bay. [CG 277]

On 7 April 1887 **George Patterson SMITH** and **Thomas SHARP** entered into a partnership of the farm known as Berkeley Sound Farm being Sections 43, 50, 51, 52, 63 and 64

containing 36,000 acres more or less; the farm to be carried on in the name of Smith and Sharp under the superintendence of George Patterson Smith. [BUG-REG-3; pg 426]

On 1 March 1892 **Timothy ROBSON** was granted an occupation licence of Section No 66 McBrides Head bounded "*On the east by the west boundary of Station No 43 running three miles south from the sea and McBrides Head; on the south by a line drawn four miles south west by west; On the west by a line drawn three miles north to the sea and thence on the north by the sea to the starting point at the north west angle of station No 43 as aforesaid and containing 6,000 acres more or less, (which section of land was transferred to the said Timothy Robson on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May 1883 for remainder of the unexpired term of twenty-one years under lease dated the 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 1871 and which lease expired on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February ultimo), at the yearly rent of £20.*" [BUG-REG-2; pg 285]

On 31 May 1893 Section No 66 McBrides Head was transferred to **Timothy ROBSON** for the remainder of the unexpired term of 21 years under the lease dated 26 February 1871. [BUG-REG-2; pg 285]

**Thomas SHARP** retired to Scotland; leaving on ss "Ammon" with his son, **Thomas SHARP, Jr** 22 February 1900. [FIM Mar 1900]

The 1707 ton Danish barque *Sixtus* went ashore in a fog a little to the north of Volunteer Point at 10.30pm on Friday 27 July 1905 and filled with water in about 15 minutes. Although the vessel was a total wreck on the Volunteer Rocks all of the crew were saved. [B26; pg 272;SHI-REG-3]

The Danish Barque "Sixtus", 1707 tons register, Captain Eriksen, which left Barry on May 17<sup>th</sup>, with a cargo of coal and coke, for Valparaiso and Iquique struck on the North Side of Volunteer Point at 10. 30 p.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> inst,

The Captain had not been able to get any observation during the day; the wind was blowing a stiff breeze from the N. N. W., and it was very foggy. According to his last observation and the course he had steered the vessel should have cleared the Falklands easily. Land was seen a few minutes before they struck and an attempt was made to put the vessel into the wind, she would not however come round sufficiently and struck on a rock, filling in 15 minutes. The crew took to the boats at once, and had no time to save clothes or ship's papers. They remained in the boats to the North of the ship all night, and in the morning landed on Volunteer Point, where they found the two sealers from Stanley. Axel Nilsson directed them where to steer for Stanley Harbour, but in the course of the afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup> they were met by the "Fortuna." Captain Rowlands took them all on board and brought them into Stanley about 5 p.m.

[FIM Aug 1905]

**George Patterson SMITH** died 20 June 1909. [FIM Jul 1909]

On 13 October 1910 **Thomas SHARP** sold all his rights and interests in Berkeley Sound Farm or Johnsons Harbour Farm to **Mary Ann SMITH** for £5,500. [BUG-REG-6; pg 394]

On 17 July 1911 **Mrs M A SMITH & Sons** purchased the land leased to **Messrs SHARP & SMITH**, being Cape Carysfort (Lease 43 – 6,000 acres), Berkeley Sound (Leases 51, 52 & 53 – 18,000 acres) and Cow Bay (Leases 63 & 64 – 12,000 acres) Stations for £5,352 with £535-4-0 to be paid on 31 December 1911 and the balance in 30 annual instalments. [31/46]

The 3,161 ton Norwegian steamship *Guvernoren* with a cargo of coal and whaling gear was bound for the South Shetlands via Stanley. On Tuesday 29 November 1921 at 10.55pm in a high sea from the north the ship struck near Cow Bay off Cape Carysfort. Shortly after she struck the No1 hold filled with water and as the ship was shaking so much the crew were ordered to the lifeboats and the accompanying whalers were signalled to come and save the crew. At about 2am everyone had been transhipped to the whalers by four lifeboats. The officers and crew, 88 in total, were able to convey themselves and a few of their personal belongings to the three attendant catchers and reached Stanley the next day. Seventy of the crew were shipped home, departing on the *Orcoma* 1 December 1921. The *Guvernoren* was abandoned to the underwriters by the owners and Captain **John E BERGGREEN**, first mate **Amandus HANSEN**, **H SYVERTSEN**, chief engineer **Louis SKARRE**, **E BERGER**, **A WAARDAHL** and able seaman **Hans BERTELSEN** departed 18 January 1922 on board the *Orita* which was bound for Liverpool. The three catchers, *Odd*, *Odd I* and *Odd III*, were given permission to proceed to the South Shetlands and work in connection with the floating factories *Ronald*, *Pythia* and *Falk* and departed 22 December 1921. A number of items were salvaged from the wreck including a motor boat, open boat, lifeboat, wireless plant, furniture and harpoons. [1129/21: 66/22: C3/1922: SHI-REG-4: FIM Dec 1921; Jan 1922; Feb 1922]



**Johnson's Harbour settlement 1941 – Tony Carr Collection, JCNA**

On 31 December 1944 the final instalment for the purchase of the farm known as Johnson's Harbour was paid. Due to the war Crown Grant 506 in favour of Messrs **SMITH BROTHERS** wasn't issued until October 1946. [31/46]