

## MULLET CREEK

Mullet Creek was included in the Suburban Lands of Stanley.

Corral on the south side of Sapper Hill. *“This corral is situated in a valley on the south side of Sappers Hill. It is built of stones laid dry in an oval form. The wall measures 742 feet in length. There is a ditch on the inside. A wide gateway is left. The wall is 6 feet wide thick at the base, 3 feet at the top and 7 feet high. The corral is calculated to hold 1000 head of cattle. There are no fixtures in it – nor any poles for the gateway. It is in very good repair. The site of it is marked D on the Chart of the Falkland Islands. 16 September 1848.”* [E1; 154]

Corral on the south side of Sapper Hill. *“In good repair. October 1852.”* [E1; 154]

Corral on the south side of Sapper Hill. *“Although included in the Land known as the Peninsula Farm, it is not chargeable with rent by the Tenant...It is in good repair. May 1855.”* [E1; 154]

The Western Boundary Wall. *“This wall extends, broken only by impassable stone runs, from the Bridge at the West end of Stanley Harbour over the south summit of Mount William to Port Harriet, a distance of [space] miles and [space] yards. It is for the most part constructed of turf 6 feet wide at bottom and 6 feet high, in the stone runs of stone walls 5 feet high and 3 feet thick and in water-runs of posts and rails. The present condition of the wall, although the subject of controversy, is believed to be generally good. Nearly on the top of the North end of Mount William is a small cottage for the herdsman, the expense of which is included in the wall. The chargeable cost of the wall is 610£. May 1855.”* [E1; 127]

On 17 June 1875 **Jeergen Christian DETTLEFF** was granted a 21 year lease at an annual rent of £40 payable in advance of a portion of suburban land bounded *“On the East by the entrance of Mullet Creek and a line running from thence in a northerly direction one a half miles or thereabouts to the foot of Sapper’s Hill. On the North by Sapper’s Hill and a line running West to Mount William until it cuts the first wall. On the West by the said first wall to the shore of Port Harriet. On the South by Port Harriet from the first wall to the starting point viz:- Mullet Creek”*. The lease did not preclude the general public from using the Government Stone Corral and the waste land known as Goose Green and all the land lying to the eastward up to the Peninsula Farm fence or the Government horses grazing on the leased land. [BUG-REG-2; 350]



Farm boundaries 1883 – part of Hudson Chart, JCNA

In December 1885 the lease was renewed in the name of **Mary DETTLEFF**, widow of **Jergen Christian DETTLEFF**, for three years commencing 16 December 1885 at an annual rental of £40 subject to the land being securely fenced, the Government stone corral to be for the use of the public when required and all Government horses to be allowed to graze on all of the land. The area was increased from 3,521 acres to 4,500 acres. Mary continued in occupation of the land until 15 August 1894 without the lease being renewed but the annual rental was increased to £50 from 16 December 1892. [BUG/GEN/1#18]

Mary, age 66, died 24 June 1897. **Benjamin BROWNING** appears to have taken over or administered the lease around that time and a new lease was granted to him for three years from 16 December 1904 subject to the stone corral being used by the inhabitants of Stanley for capturing stock and that four government horses were allowed to graze on the land. The area covered by the lease was 4,521 acres. [BUG/GEN/1#18]

On 15 June 1900 **William DETTLEFF**, administrator of the estate of the late **Mary DETTLEFF**, sold the lease of Mullet Creek and all the stock thereon to **Frederick BROWNING** (son of Benjamin who was in partnership with his father) for £500. BUG-REG-5; 314]

When the lease was renewed for three years from 16 December 1907 additional conditions were added: that the carrying capacity of the farm was restricted to 1,200 sheep unless a larger number was sanctioned by the Government; that discretion be used when burning off the land; that burning off only took place in the Spring and not later than 1 November; and that the introduction of new stock and the improvement of the breed continued in accordance with the advice of the Chief Inspector of Stock. The lease was renewed under the same conditions in 1910, 1913, 1916, 1919, 1923 and 1924. [BUG/GEN/1#18]

The lease was renewed for three years from 16 December 1924 subject to the conditions: that the number of sheep would not exceed 1,000; a fresh stock of ewes and rams would be introduced to the satisfaction of the Chief Inspector of Stock; unless permitted the pasture would not be burnt; the stone corral may be used at any time by the inhabitants of Stanley for collecting stock; all fences to be maintained in good condition; four Government horses were allowed to be grazed on the land; and the right to cut and take peat, prospecting, winning and taking oil, killing and taking seals reserved to the Government. [BUG/GEN/1#18]

In 1927 the lease was renewed in the name of Mrs **Fanny Elizabeth BROWNING**, widow of **Frederick BROWNING** for three years. [BUG/GEN/1#18]

Fanny died 14 November 1931 and in the Executive Council meeting held 11 December 1931 it was agreed that a certain area of the lands should be allotted to the Stanley Common and the remainder leased to **W J HUTCHINSON** for three years at an annual rental of £50. One hundred and sixty inhabitants of Stanley petitioned Government on 8 February 1932 for the whole or part of Mullet Creek Farm to be made part of Stanley Common and at a meeting of Executive Council held 22 March 1932 it was agreed that the east section of the farm comprising of 1,000 acres between the existing Common Fence and the first divisional fence running north to south through the farm be added to the Stanley Common and the remaining some 3,500 acres, including those on which the existing buildings stood, be offered for sale by public auction. After a public meeting a petition signed by 152 persons was forwarded to Government 3 April 1933 stating that they were quite willing for the **BROWNING** family to continue farming Mullet Creek Farm but if they should give up the lease the whole of the farm should be added to Stanley Common. On 27 April 1933 the lands were leased to **Henry Stanbury BROWNING** for a period of 3 years with effect from 1 January 1933 at an annual rental of £55. [BUG/GEN/1#18]

On 9 November 1933 **William Charles BROWNING**, **John Benjamin BROWNING**, **Frederick BROWNING**, **James Samuel BROWNING**, **Benjamin BROWNING**, **Elizabeth Susan BROWNING**, **Joseph BROWNING**, **Fanny Stanbury BROWNING**, **Leonard David BROWNING**, **Mary Helen BROWNING** and **Annie Eliza BROWNING**, being beneficiaries under the wills of **Benjamin BROWNING**, **Frederick BROWNING** and the estate of **Fanny Elizabeth BROWNING**, conveyed their interest in the property known as Mullet Creek Farm, being one wool shed and shanty, fencings, press and implements, materials on hand, livestock and produce, to **Henry Stanbury BROWNING**. [BUG-REG-10; 305]

On 2 July 1935 **Henry BROWNING** sold a half share in Mullet Creek Farm to **John Wright McGill** for £500 and they entered into an equal partnership. [BUG-REG-11; 92]

A new dwelling house was erected on the farm in 1937. [BUG/GEN/1#18]



**Walrus plane in Mullet Creek – Joe King Collection, JCNA**

In March 1942 the Walrus W2837 plane, which did evening and dawn patrol around the Islands, had to attempt an emergency landing as the engine cut out shortly after take-off and flipped over on its back and broke up in Mullet Creek.

**Henry BROWNING**, age 39 and a farmer, died 15 June 1943 from cardiac weakness and exposure and was buried 18 June 1942 in Stanley Cemetery.

**Benjamin BROWNING**, age 75 and a farmer at Port Harriet, died 17 March 1986 and was buried 20 March 1986 at Mullet Creek.

**James Samuel BROWNING**, age 82 and a retired labourer, died 26 September 1989 and was buried 29 September 1989 at Mullet Creek.