

## WEST POINT OR ALBATROSS ISLAND OR CLIFTON STATION

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

During the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century West Point Island was known as Albatross Island by the sealers who frequented West Falkland. [Upland Goose Mar 2003]

In March 1820 the American sealer *General Knox* was based at West Point Island. It spent nearly two years moored in the harbour. The sealers established gardens and built fish walls in the harbour (*still visible just below the shearing shed*). [West Point Island: Realms & Islands The World Voyage of Rose de Freycinet 1817-1820]

On 14 February 1866 **Charles WILLIAMS** was granted an occupation licence for £5 of the whole of West Point Island. [BUG-REG-2; 160]

On 5 February 1872 under the 10<sup>th</sup> clause of the Amalgamation Ordinance of the Lease of Crown Lands of 1870 **William Wickham BERTRAND** transferred the portion of land bounded lying South East and East of a line drawn from Hill Cove to the North East arm of Crooked Inlet containing 109,720 acres more or less to **Messrs HOLMSTED and REES** whereby the acreage of his land was reduced from 171,120 acres to 61,400 acres making his rent £61.8/- stg. The Islands of West Point, Rabbit and Hammond were added to the Lease at a rent of £3.12/-, making the annual rent £65. Bense Island was also included in the lease. [BUG-REG-2; 276]

On 5 February 1872 under the 10<sup>th</sup> clause of the Amalgamation Ordinance of the Lease of Crown Lands of 1870 **William Wickham BERTRAND** transferred the portion of land bounded “on the South East by Station Nos. 6 & 7 from Teal River to River Harbour. Thence on the North and North East by the shores of River Harbour, Rock Harbour, Port Egmont and Byron Sound to Hill Cove. Thence by a line running South 39° West to the North East arm of Crooked Inlet, and containing 109,720 acres more or less, together with Tussac Island and Middle Island, and other small islands as delineated by a line of demarcation inscribed on the Chart recorded in the office of the Surveyor General” to **Messrs HOLMSTED and REES** who were granted a lease for 21 year from 5 February 1871 at an annual rent of £111 for the first 10 years and £184 for the remainder. [BUG-REG-2; 277]

On 2 March 1872 the partnership between **William Wickham BERTRAND** and **Ernest Augustus HOLMSTED** of Shallow Bay West Falklands sheep farmers was dissolved upon the following terms.

1. *The sheep male and female to be equally divided.*
2. *The horses, mares, foals, tame cattle to be equally divided.*
3. *The houses, corrals, fixtures, boats, plant of every kind at Shallow Bay and New Island, and the freehold at New Island to become the property of the said Ernest A Holmsted upon payment to the said William W Bertrand of the sum of Two hundred pounds Sterling.*
4. *The leasehold property known as the Shallow Bay Estate to be divided as follows – 60,000 acres or thereabouts commencing from West Point and running Eastward to belong and be transferred to the said William W Bertrand and 110,000 to 120,000 acres taking the Shallow Bay house and improvements, and New Island to belong and to be transferred to the said Ernest A Holmsted.*

*The debt due to the Falkland Islands Company to be equally shared, Mr William W Bertrand to find satisfactory security for the payment of his share, and to pay wages to Arthur Felton and Herbert Felton amounting to about £100. Mr Ernest A Holmsted agrees to pay wages to Robert McLean to about £30 sterlg, and liquidate fully the debt due to John Switzer amounting to £100 Sterling.*

*It being fully understood that Mr Bertrand has the privilege to run his stock free of charge at Shallow Bay with the exception of paying his share for a shepherd, wool bales, and Mr Bertrand to assist in the shearing and land cutting. [BUG/REG/1; pg 333]*

**NB: For further information on the Hill Cove part of the station please refer to the Hill Cove section under West Falkland on the website.**

On 1 July 1875 **William Wickham BERTRAND** entered into partnership with **John James FELTON** under the name of Bertrand and Felton under the following terms: *“The said William Wickham Bertrand hereby agrees to sell one Third (  $\frac{1}{3}$  ) share of his station or property situated in the West Falkland Island comprising an acreage of sixty one thousand four hundred acres, commencing from West Point and running Eastward to Hill Cove, together with the Islands belonging thereto, including stock, comprising sheep, horses, cattle, houses, sheds, boats and all permanent fixtures belonging thereto with the benefit of the full period of Lease granted by the Colonial Government and subject to the terms contained in the Land Amalgamation Ordinance of this Colony, and according to the line of boundary determined by the Surveyor General and defined on the Government Chart of this Colony: upon the said John James Felton paying fully and entirely unto the said William Wickham Bertrand or John M Dean and Sons his Agent in Stanley, Falkland Islands the sum of one thousand (£1000) pounds sterling with interest accruing thereto; such amount being placed to the credit of the same William Wickham Bertrand on the books of the said Messrs J M Dean and Sons Stanley, Falkland Islands. Be it further known and understood between the said William Wickham Bertrand and John James Felton the wool clip now sent to England per “Sea Witch” also the entire amount realised from all produce up to the First of July 1876 together with the whole amount placed to the credit of William Wickham Bertrand on the books of Messrs J M Dean and Sons shall be used to pay and liquidate all debts which have been contracted or may be contracted by the said William Wickham Bertrand up to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 1876; further any balance left, it is to be used for the purchase of land and cattle connected with the within mentioned Station as herein expressed. Upon Messrs J M Dean & Sons placing the sum of one thousand (£100) Sterling upon their books to the credit of William Wickham Bertrand; and the said John James Felton giving good security, and guaranteeing to pay Messrs J M Dean and Sons the within mentioned (£1000) Sterling together with all interest accruing thereto; the said John James Felton shall become entitled to one third of the said station, stock, improvements and profits relating thereto, on the other hand the said John James Felton shall pay yearly & every year and from time to time One Third (  $\frac{1}{3}$  ) of all expenses connected with the said Station or property herein described. Be it now clearly and distinctly understood that the said William Wickham Bertrand reserves unto himself absolutely and entirely the first and prior right of selecting his share of the said land or station and to determine the boundaries of the said during any period of the lease as he may deem necessary upon paying unto John James Felton one third (  $\frac{1}{3}$  ) share of the assessed value of all improvements, or freehold in or upon the block he may select. Again it is further understood John James Felton shall pay unto the said William Wickham Bertrand Two thirds (  $\frac{2}{3}$  ) share of the assessed value of all improvements or freehold or in or upon the block of land defined unto the said John James Felton, such provision being made in case either party should desire to sell or retain their share of the said Station separately hereafter. In such case, the partner who first desires to sell guarantees to give his partner the first refusal of purchase. It is hereby understood between the contracting parties the said Station herein described shall pay for the comfort assistance also maintenance and support of the said William Wickham Bertrand his wife and children yearly and every year he may manage the said Station for the benefit of both parties herein expressed; but with the stipulation that the said William W Bertrand shall not demand payment for his services during any period of his management. The said John James Felton guarantees unto the said William Wickham Bertrand the sole and absolute management of the said station or property for their mutual benefits and shall be kept*

fully and faithfully informed of all and every transaction connected with the said estate, station or property.

All payments of money or monies received for stock or produce shall be paid to their credit to their agent Messrs J M Dean and Sons, either in London or Stanley, Falkland Islands the lawful agent of the said W W Bertrand & said John James Felton.

All sales, purchases & insurances connected with the said station or property to be effected in the name of Bertrand and Felton for their joint benefit and protection.

Any breach of the conditions herein aforesaid shall be lawful for either or both contracting parties to annul, determine and make void this agreement.” [BUG-REG-3; 9]

**Arthur FELTON**, brother of **John James FELTON**, leased West Point Island from Roy Cove Station in 1879. He lived in a small stone hut built by the sealers while he built the sheep shearing shed. He started framing the Big House circa 1880. He called his station Clifton Station. [FI Journal 1970: Upland Goose Mar 2003]



Farm boundaries 1883 – part of Hudson Chart, JCNA

In 1898 at the extreme North West corner of the Island there were the remains of a house and a fire place where seal blubber and penguins were tried for oil. A small garden had been cleared in the tussac and veronica and potatoes were still growing. [FIM Oct 1898]

In 1901 **Arthur FELTON** extended the Big House doing most of the work himself.

On 13 January 1902 Crown Grant 358 was issued to **Bertrand and Felton** for £9,533 being the purchase of 63,535 acres on Section 3 Roy Cove, bounded on the north east by Byron Sound,

on the south west by King George's Bay, on the south east by a line running south 39° west from Hill Cove to the north east arm of Crooked Inlet, which line separates Section 3 from Section 3A; including West Point Island, Bense Island, Rabbit Island and Hummock Island containing 3,900 acres more or less, not including Cliff Island. [CG 358]

**John James FELTON**, age 69, died 14 February 1911 in Weymouth, England and left his share in Roy Cove Station, known as Westbourne Station, equally to his seven children Evelyn Mary Cochrane, Lilian Gertrude Oswald, Nellie Irene Packe, Viola Constance Bolus, George John Felton, Malvina Nathalia Lawson and Roy Stanley Felton. [BUG-REG-9; 372]

**Bertrand & Felton Ltd** was formed with a nominal capital of £30,000 divided into 20,000 A shares and 10,000 B shares all £1 shares. On 31 December 1940 the **Bertrand and Felton Trustees** sold the freehold farm and lands together with all assets and liabilities to the company with £16,500 in respect of land, buildings and fencing; £7,000 in respect of live and dead stock, cash, equipment and furniture; and £500 in respect of book debts and goodwill. To be paid by 16,000 fully paid A shares and 8,000 fully paid B shares and the residue to pay, satisfy, discharge and fulfil all the debts, liabilities, contracts and engagements. Station described as *"1733 1/3 acres more or less and described as Roy Cove Station in Crown Grant No 333 dated the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 1888 or other the land comprised in such Grant. All that Lot or Parcel of Land situate in West Falkland (Section No 3) containing 59666 2/3 acres more or less and bounded on the north east by Byron Sound on the South West by King George's Bay on the South East by a line running South 39° west from Hill Cove to the North East arm of Crooked Inlet which line separates Section 3 from Section 3A and also the Islands of West Point, Bense, Rabbit and Hummock containing 3900 acres more or less all which are described in Crown Grant No 358 dated 30<sup>th</sup> January 1902, or other land and Islands comprised in such Grant."* [BUG-REG-11; 258; 350]

Arthur moved to Stanley from West Point Island 25 December 1932. Arthur, age 78 and a sheep farmer, died in Stanley 10 June 1933 and was buried 13 June 1933. In his will dated 16 September 1918 Arthur left the permanent lease of West Point Island in trust to his daughter **Alice Emma FELTON**. The Island was managed for Alice by **Herbert M NAPIER**. [Obituary FIM Jul 1933; Penguin 12 Jun 1933; BUG-REG-10; 293; FI Journal 1970]

**Alice FELTON** gave up the lease in 1936 and **Herbert NAPIER** continued to manage the Island for **Bertrand & Felton Ltd**. [FI Journal 1970]

In 1942 **Mrs Gladys "Muzzie" NAPIER** leased West Point Island from **Bertrand & Felton Ltd**. [FI Journal 1970]

In January 1959 **Bertrand & Felton Ltd** sold West Point Island to **Mrs Gladys NAPIER** and she gave it to her son **Roddy NAPIER**. [FI Journal 1970]

On 7 February 1968 the Chilean cruise ship *Navarino* visited West Point Island. The first time a farm settlement was visited by a specially chartered vessel. [FI Journal 1970]

In 1970 there were three occupied dwelling houses on West Point Island and a fourth house used by the travelling teacher. [FI Journal 1970]



**Manager's House West Point – Felton albums**



**West Point Island Settlement – FIC Collection, JCNA**