

## HILL COVE AND SHALLOW BAY OR ADELAIDE STATION, TEAL RIVER, CROOKED INLET, MAIN POINT AND NEW ISLAND

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

**Ernest Augustus HOLMESTED** and **John SWITZER** arrived in the Falkland Islands in 1868. SWITZER had been engaged in sheep farming for 17 years and HOLMESTED had been engaged in sheep farming for 16 years, both in New Zealand.

On 21 April 1868 **Messrs BERTRAND & SWITZER** were granted an occupation licence of Station No 8 West Falkland for £125. Being 150,000 acres more or less bounded *“on the West by King George’s Bay from Stevely Hill in Port North to the mouth of Teal River in Christmas Harbour on the South East by Stations Nos, 6 and 7 to River Harbour. Thence on the North East, North, and North East by Rock Harbour, Port Egmont, and Byron Sound to Lion Point in Byron Sound. On the North West by a line running 2 ¼ miles from Lion Point to Stevely Hill.”* A declaration was to be made every 6 months of the number and description of wild cattle killed by him and payment of 4/- per bull and 16/- for every animal killed for consumption. Any wild cattle captured for taming were free as long as they were branded and a return was made every 6 months of the animals. [BUG-REG-2; 187]

On 7 July 1868 **Messrs BERTRAND & SWITZER** were granted an occupation licence for £17-12-1 of 21,120 acres more or less being *“all that land lying North West of a line drawn from Stevely Hill to West Point Pass, terminating at West Point Pass.”* All terms and obligations as per the licence of Station No 8. [BUG-REG-2; 188]

In October 1868 an Occupation Licence was granted to **Messrs BERTRAND & SWITZER** to occupy Saunders Island *“and the adjacent Island known as Burnt Island, and containing in the whole 21,000 acres more or less. Provided that it shall be lawful for the Governor for the time being to resume possession at six months notice of such portion of the land in the neighbourhood of the old settlement at Port Egmont as may be required for any public purpose or for the formulation or protection of any settlement which may hereafter be established at that place”* for the sum of £17-10-0. They also rented the Tussac Island in Port Egmont for grazing purposes at an annual rent of £1. [BUG/REG/2; 211; 212]

On 21 March 1869 **Messrs BERTRAND & SWITZER** were granted an extension of time on Station No 8 West Falkland to 21 April 1870 for £285-4-0. [BUG-REG-2; 188]

As they have stocked the station under Occupation No 8 and built a house on it **Messrs BERTRAND & SWITZER** were granted Lease 3 on 21 April 1869 for 20 years at an annual rent of £285-4-0. Containing 171,120 acres more or less bounded *“on the South East by Stations Nos. 6 and 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 Hope Point. Thence on the West and South West by the Shores of Port North, King George’s Bay and Christmas Harbour to the Starting point at Teal River”*. A declaration was to be made every 6 months of the number and description of wild cattle killed by him and payment of 4/- per bull and 16/- for every animal killed for consumption. Any wild cattle captured for taming were free as long as they were branded and a return was made every 6 months of the animals. [BUG-REG-2; 223]

In 1869 it was made public that **John SWITZER** left Otago, New Zealand in disgrace due to being involved in an insurance scam in 1867. On 5 June 1869 **John SWITZER** transferred all of his interest in Lease No 3 to **William Wickham BERTRAND**. [BUG-REG-2; 274]

On 5 February 1871 Lease No 3 was annulled and **William W BERTRAND** was granted a new lease, under the 5<sup>th</sup> clause of the Amalgamation Ordinance of the Lease of Crown Lands of 1870, of the 171,120 acres bounded *“on the South East by Stations 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 Hope Point. Thence on the West and South West by the shores of Port North, King George’s Bay and Christmas Harbour to the starting point at Teal River”* also Tussac Island and other small Islands as delineated by a line of demarcation inscribed on a chart recorded in the office of the Surveyor General, for 21 years at an annual rent of £173 for the first 10 years and £287-1-8 for the remainder. [BUG-REG-2; 274]

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 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 HOLMESTED 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 HOLMESTED 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]



**Adelaide Station circa 1878 – Blake Album, JCNA**

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 a 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 sterling, 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 Roy Cove part of the station refer to Roy Cove under West Falkland on the website.**

On 2 March 1872 **Ernest Augustus HOLMSTED** of Shallow Bay in the Falkland Islands sheep farmer entered into partnership with **George Stanley REES** of 9 John Street Adelphi in the County of Middlesex, Architect for a term of 10 years. HOLMSTED contributes £425 and REES contributes £850 to the capital of £1,275. [BUG/REG/1; pg 334]

**Robert BLAKE** arrived in the Falkland Islands in 1873 with his sister **Emily** and her husband, **Frederick COBB**.

On 31 January 1874 **George Stanley REES** sold his half share of the stock and plant on Adelaide Station and New Island to **Robert BLAKE** for £3,000 sterling and on 6 July 1874 the partnership was dissolved between **Ernest Augustus HOLMSTED** and **George Stanley REES**. [BUG-REG-1; 383: BUG/REG/1; pg 381]



**Cookhouse on Adelaide Station circa 1878, Mr Holmsted's & Mr Blake's  
– Blake Album, JCNA**

On 10 February 1874 **Ernest Augustus HOLMSTED**, a sheep farmer of Shallow Bay, entered into partnership with **Robert BLAKE** of Stanley for a term of 14 years to carry on the business



of sheep farmers &c at Shallow Bay and New Island under the name of Holmsted and Blake with each contributing £3,000 for a capital of £6,000. [BUG-REG-1; 383]



**Shallow Bay 21 June 1882 by Dora Blake – Falkland Watercolours © with her family**

During 1874 the settlement was moved to New House Cove. A new stone house was built and in May was roofed with corrugated iron. A stone jetty was built by the place proposed for the new woolshed. The old wooden house at Dip Creek was pulled down and re-erected as a storehouse near the jetty. By October 1874 the settlement buildings had been re-erected near the stone house in an improved and enlarged form. [Falklands Heritage, Mary Trehearne]

On 29 June 1875 **Holmsted & Blake** transferred their interest in the lease of New Island to **J M Dean & Son**. On 1 July 1875 Holmsted & Blake, sheep farmers of Shallow Bay, sold Crown Grant 140 to J M Dean & Son for £500 being: *All that parcel of Land in the Falkland Islands situate in Tigre Bay, New Island, West Falkland Islands containing 160 acres. Is bounded on the east by Tigre Bay and a line running north 370 links, on the north by a line running west to the sea 75 links on the west by the sea 4600 links, and on the south by a line running East to the starting point 4120 links, also all houses, outbuildings & machinery erected thereon.* [BUG/REG/3; pg 5]

In May 1876 **Robert BLAKE** went to live for a while in the house at Main Point and started ditching operations. A workshop was built at Shallow Bay. [Falkland Heritage by Mary Trehearne; 74]

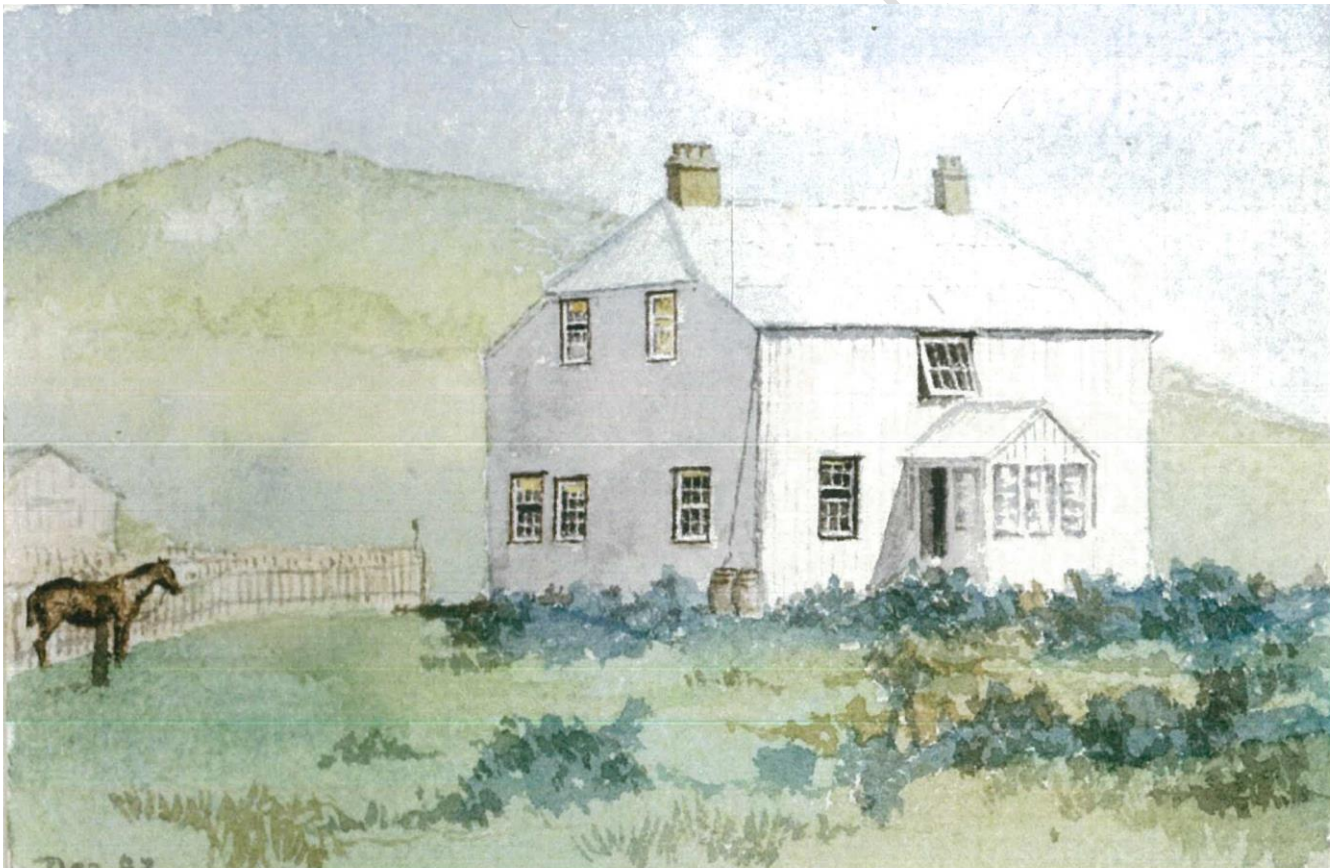
In 1879 **Robert BLAKE** starting building a new wing onto the stone house at Shallow Bay consisting of a bedroom, dressing rooms and storeroom. [Falkland Heritage by Mary Trehearne; 85]





**North view of the first house Hill Cove by Dora Blake  
– Falkland Watercolours © with her family**

In November 1881 building materials brought out from England were delivered to Hill Cove to build a small wooden house for **Robert BLAKE** and his new wife **Dora** to live in. Robert and Dora moved into the house 9 February 1882. [Falkland Heritage by Mary Trehearne; 93, 94]



**The New House Hill Cove December 1883 by Dora Blake  
– Falkland Watercolours © with her family**

In February 1882 the foundations of a larger house, store, peat house, riding gear house, calf shed, hen house and carpenter's shop were marked out at Hill Cove. The new house was finished June 1883. [Falklands Heritage, Mary Trehearne; 95, 100]





Farm boundaries 1883 – part of Hudson Chart, JCNA

In 1884 there was a gauchos' house at Teal River measuring about 14' x 11' 6". [Falklands Heritage, Mary Trehearne; 95, 121]

In April 1887 the Teal River house was framed on the Chartres boundary and Hill Cove house by the Roy Cove boundary. [Falklands Heritage, Mary Trehearne]

On 20 June 1888 Crown Grant 332 was issued to **Holmsted and Blake** for £296 being the compulsory purchase of two lots on Adelaide Station at Hill Cove and Shallow Bay containing 2,960 acres, Section 3A. [CG 332]

On 5 February 1889 there were 6 houses in the Hill Cove and Shallow Bay settlements and about 30 inhabitants. The Teal River house was built on rising ground and had 2 adults and 3 children. The Crooked Inlet house was built in a hollow among hills and had 2 adults. The Main Point house was built on the northern coast overlooking the sea and had 2 adults and 2 children. [H43; 52]

On 1 March 1892 an Occupation Licence was granted to **Messrs HOLMSTEAD & BLAKE** for £368 to occupy section No 3 Adelaide Station containing 109,720 acres more or less and bounded "on the South East by Station Nos. 6 & 7 **Nos. 2 & 5** from Teal River to River Harbour. Thence on the North & 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 together with Tussac Island & 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.” [BUG/REG/2; 277]*

In 1905 **HOLMESTED & BLAKE** applied to purchase Hill Cove Station. [P4; 72]



**Hill Cove – cutting oats – FIC Collection, JCNA**

Experiments in grain cultivation were carried out at Chartres, Hill Cove and on West Point Island. The wheat and oats were sown at Hill Cove in September 1911 and the oats were cut on 1 March 1912. [FIM Jun 1912]

**Ernest HOLMESTED**, age 70, died in England 27 May 1916. [FIM Oct 1916]

Hill Cove was sold by **Holmsted Blake & Co Ltd** to the **Falkland Islands Government** 1 April 1987 for £500,000 and subdivided into eight sections in 1988:

- Teal River East 10,405 acres;
- Teal River West 14,065 acres;
- Crooked Inlet 13,925 acres;
- Mount Donald 10,340 acres;
- Hill Cove;
- West Lagoons 17,200 acres;
- Shallow Bay 12,405 acres;
- Main Point 17,170 acres.