

ANDERSON 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.

Alexander Thomas ANDERSON was born 27 September 1844 in Ham, Surrey, England to **Alexander ANDERSON** and **Anne PAYNE**.

Alexander was married to **Eliza Jane FORBES** (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Eliza was born circa 1847 (*not in the Falkland Islands*).

An agreement was signed between Alexander Thomas Anderson of 4 Square, Huntly, Banffshire, Aberdeen and the Crown Agents for the Colonies on 26 March 1883. Alexander was appointed Medical Officer of the West Falkland Islands for a period of three years and was to be provided with a free first class passage to the Falkland Islands by the Mail Steamer appointed to leave Dartmouth on the 2nd May 1883. First class passages were also to be provided for his wife and family within a year of his leaving England. [T1]

Dr A T Anderson was a passenger on the *Menes*, departing May 1883. He was accompanied by five cases of private effects. His wife and four children were to follow when he had arranged for a house. [FIC-C1; desp 623, par 20] The *Menes* arrived in Stanley 3 June 1883 and he was to proceed as soon as possible to West Falkland to assume his duties. [B20; 332]

On 12 November 1883 Fred Coleman wrote to Frederick Cobb, Colonial Manager of the Falkland Islands Company Ltd, that Dr A T Anderson of West Falkland had written to him that his Government pay was collected monthly by Frederick Cobb and that his brother would call at the London offices for cash for furniture that he required and that his brother had been advanced £60. It was also arranged that the London Office would pay £14 on the 1st December and first of every subsequent month for Dr Anderson's wife and family. [FIC-C2; desp 633, par 18]

On 14 January 1884 Governor Kerr, on behalf of Alexander, wrote to the Secretary of State requesting a short extension of the period within which his family would be entitled to a free passage to the Falkland Islands. As a house had had to built at Fox Bay for him he did not have place for his family. [B21; 4]

In 12 May 1884 Fred Coleman wrote to Frederick Cobb that Mrs Anderson's thirteen packages of furniture and private effects were on board the *Kambyses* for delivery to Port Howard and that he had forwarded in charge of Mrs Anderson a small box of specie. [FIC-C2; desp 642, par 5, 7] The *Kambyses* arrived in Stanley 15 June 1884.

In January 1886 Alexander was exposed to severe weather in an open boat when returning from visiting a patient on Beaver Island. This accelerated his lung disease which led to his death. [B21; 296]

Thomas, age 42 and a doctor, died 20 May 1887 from consumption. The informant was L A Baillon. He was buried at Doctor's Creek at Fox Bay East in the valley below where Marnon House was. He also has a headstone on Grave I 601 in Stanley Cemetery.



Headstone in Stanley Cemetery from both sides



Grave and headstone at Fox Bay

According to an account in the Falkland Islands Magazine, Eliza said that, when he grew ill, Alexander had been examined by Dr Barrington of HMS *Ready* who told her that with rest her husband may recover but that work or exertion meant death. A shepherd's wife needed his services and he rode forty miles with the shepherd and he saved the woman's life. The shepherd brought him back almost dead and he died four days later. [FIM Dec 1898]

Eliza and her children were to leave West Falkland on the *Granville*, a merchant steamer, which was to sail directly to England. Eliza was in straitened circumstances and was to return to her father who was a sheriff's clerk of Banffshire. [B21; 296]

Eliza was unable to obtain a passage by the *Granville* so had to move into Stanley with her children until 24 August 1887 when they embarked on the steamer *Selebria* for London. While she was in Stanley she received news of the death of her father. Governor Kerr wrote on her behalf requesting sanction of the payment of her passage out of the funds of the Falkland Islands and for the Crown Agents to pay it to her at her address, which was that of her mother at 44 High Street, Banff. [B21; 317]

On 22 December 1887 Governor Kerr wrote to Frederick Cobb informing him that the Secretary of State had authorised the Crown Agents to pay Mrs Anderson the sum of £54 being the cost of her passage from West Falkland to Stanley and then to England. [FIC-EG-2#2; 19]

Eliza died in 1903 (*not in the Falkland Islands*).

FIRST GENERATION:

Children of Alexander and Eliza ANDERSON:

1. **Alexina ANDERSON** born 4 June 1876 in Banffshire, Scotland. Her father's occupation was recorded as doctor. Alexina was married to **William James Brebner WALKER** 17 November 1897 (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Alexina, age 80, died 11 March 1957 in Forfar, Angus, Scotland.
2. **Sarah Campbell ANDERSON** born in 1878 (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Sarah died in 1951 (*not in the Falkland Islands*).
3. **John Alexander Forbes ANDERSON** born in 1880 (*not in the Falkland Islands*). John died in 1950 (*not in the Falkland Islands*).
4. **James Payne ANDERSON** born ? (*not in the Falkland Islands*).
5. **Frank Campbell ANDERSON** born 9 May 1885 at Marnon House, Fox Bay and baptised 14 May 1885 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as Assistant Colonial Surgeon.
6. **Robert Blake ANDERSON** born circa 1887 (*no record in the Falkland Islands*). Robert died in 1940 (*not in the Falkland Islands*).