

BELCHER 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.

Robert BELCHER was married to **Maria ?** (*not in the Falkland Islands*)

Robert was employed as a shepherd by Henry Waldron to work at Port Howard. Robert, Maria and their children Clara, Elizabeth, Emma, Sarah and William arrived in Stanley 3 April 1874 on board the *Lion*. [FIC/C1, desp 465]

Children of Robert and Maria BELCHER:

1. **Sarah BELCHER** born circa 1865 (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Sarah, age 16 and living at Port Purvis, was married to **Richard William Napoleon GOSS**, age 27 and a campman living at Port Howard, 20 February 1881 in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence by Waite H Falkland Islands. The witnesses were Robert John Allan and Emily Jane Allan. Richard's father was recorded as Jacob Napoleon Goss, merchant, and Sarah's father was recorded as Robert Belcher, shepherd. In 1894 Richard left for England with his second son. The rest of the family joined them in 1895 at the public house Richard had found in Belfast. According to her obituary Sarah departed August 1896 in the *Galgorn Castle* bound for Belfast however according to the Falkland Islands Magazine of January 1895 the *Galgorm Castle* departed 7 January 1895 and there is no record of the ship returning to the Falkland Islands. Richard leased the First and Last Hotel in Stanley from 11 April 1895 to 4 July 1895 when he transferred the lease to George Patterson Smith. Richard, age about 56 and a shepherd, died about 12 June 1909 from exposure in Camp and was buried 16 June 1909. He had fallen off his horse. Sarah moved to England where she married **E CROSS**. Sarah died in Reading, England 26 September 1937. [Obituary Penguin 1 Oct 1937]
2. **Emma BELCHER** born circa 1867 (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Emma, age 18 and living at Port Purvis, was married to **Joseph HUTCHINGS**, age 29 and a labourer living at Port Howard, 22 April 1885 in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence by Lowther E Brandon MA Colonial Chaplain. The witnesses were George Hutchings and William Belcher. Joseph's father was recorded as James Hutchings, labourer and Emma's father was recorded as Robert Belcher, shepherd. Lived for some time at Port Howard. Joseph died 2 September 1917 at Barton Lodge Farm, Winkfield, Berkshire, England. [Obituary FIM Sep 1918]
3. **William BELCHER** born (*not in the Falkland Islands*).
4. **Clara BELCHER** born (*not in the Falkland Islands*).
5. **Elizabeth BELCHER** born (*not in the Falkland Islands*).

FIRST GENERATION

Children of Sarah (1) and Richard GOSS:

1. **William Henry GOSS** born 31 July 1881 at Port Howard and baptised 9 May 1882 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as gaucho.
2. **Ada GOSS** born 8 October 1882 and baptised 21 March 1884 by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as gaucho.
3. **Richard William Napoleon GOSS** born 18 October 1884 in Stanley and baptised 11 May 1885 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as shepherd. Richard died 27 May 1940 in England. [Obituary FI Weekly News 20 Jun 1940]
4. **Maud GOSS** born 29 November 1886 in Stanley and baptised 28 December 1886 by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as gaucho. Maud died 1 August 1896, age 9 years, at 26 Lincoln Avenue, Belfast, Ireland.
5. **Ernest Edmund GOSS** born 13 October 1888 in Stanley and baptised 9 December 1888 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as gaucho.
6. **Sydney GOSS** born 2 April 1890 and baptised 5 October 1890 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as publican. Sydney was baptised again by Holy Trinity Church 16 August 1891. Sydney was married to **Anne Maie RICKETTS** 1 February 1919 in St Albans, Brighton, England. Syd, age 54 and a cook, died 11 August 1944 from chronic alcoholism and was buried 12 August 1944 in Grave O1279. Anne, age 53, died 21 September 1943 from uraemia and chronic interstitial nephritis and was buried in Grave O1251.
7. **Victor Emanuel GOSS** born 2 June 1891 and baptised 19 October 1893 by Christ Church Cathedral. His father's occupation was recorded as publican.
8. **Eva Malvina GOSS** born 19 September 1893 (twin) and baptised 19 October 1893 by Christ Church Cathedral. Her father's occupation was recorded as publican.
9. **Stanley Earl GOSS** born 19 September 1893 (twin) and baptised 19 October 1893 by Christ Church Cathedral. His father's occupation was recorded as publican.

Children of Emma (2) and Joseph HUTCHINGS:

1. **Edith Sarah HUTCHINGS** born 10 March 1886 at Port Howard and baptised 10 March 1886 by Holy Trinity Church. The godparents were her father, Ellen Green and Ellen Lee.
2. **Elsie Emma HUTCHINGS** born 17 December 1887 at Port Howard and baptised 21 October 1888 by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as shepherd.
3. **Charles James HUTCHINGS** born 30 March 1889 and baptised 30 March 1889 by Holy Trinity Church.
4. **George HUTCHINGS** born 22 September 1890 at Port Howard and baptised 9 April 1893 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as shepherd. George died 25 September 1890 at Port Howard and is buried there. His cause of death was not recorded.

5. **John Howard HUTCHINGS** born 27 October 1892 and baptised 27 October 1892 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation at birth was recorded as stoker.

DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT & MARIA STILL IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Jane Cameron National Archives