

BENNEY 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.

William Maynard Davis BENNEY was born in 1836 in Landrake, Cornwall to **James** and **Anne BENNEY**.

In 1851 William was living with his mother at East Cowes, Isle of Wight. <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Lighthouses/Keepers>

William was married to **Ann Elizabeth BLACK** (*not in the Falkland Islands*).

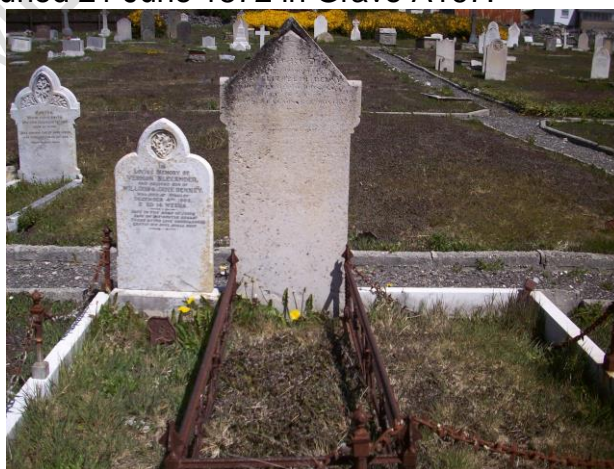
In 1861 William was a lighthouse keeper at Mucking, Essex, England.

William was appointed principal light keeper in the Falkland Islands by Trinity House Department of Board and Trade 1 July 1865 on an annual salary of £150 and a house allowance at Cape Pembroke Lighthouse. [S20] William, age 30, and Ann, age 29, left London at 12 pm, 21 July 1865 on board the *Julie Tatham* which arrived in Stanley 22 September 1865. They travelled intermediate class and paid their own way.

On 27 April 1870 an Occupation Licence was granted to William Davies BENNEY 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. [BUG/REG/2; pg 250]

George BROWN took over as lighthouse keeper at Cape Pembroke in May 1871. [S26]

Ann, age 34 years & 6 months and from Aberdeen in Scotland, died in Stanley 18 July 1872 from bronchitis and was buried 21 June 1872 in Grave A167.



Ann's grave in Stanley Cemetery. Vernon Benney is buried beside her

On 28 July 1872 William was granted a twenty-one lease of Saunders Island and Burnt Island, totalling 21,000 acres, under the Amalgamation Ordinance for the rent of £21 per annum for the first ten years and of £35 per annum for the remainder of the term. [BUG/REG/2; pg 346]

On 30 June 1874 William entered into a partnership with Nillson O'BRIEN called Benney and O'Brien, farmers, and sold one third of his share in Port Egmont Station to Nillson O'BRIEN for £400. [BUG/REG/1; pg 378]

William, a widower and sheep farmer living at Port Egmont, Saunders Island, was married to (2) **Jane MERCER**, living in Stanley, 3 April 1878 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 Robert Mercer and Agnes Mercer. William's father was recorded as James Benney, engineer, and Jane's father was recorded as Alexander Mercer, gardener.

On 31 March 1883 the partnership between William Davies BENNEY and Edward NILSSON formerly known as Nilsson O'BRIEN is dissolved and Edward sells his third share of the Station back to William D BENNEY for £3,500. [BUG/REG/3; pg 163]

1888 Oct 13 William D Benney is granted 560 acres being the compulsory purchase of land in Saunders Island Station under the terms of the lease dated 28 July 1872 for the sum of £56. [Crown Grant 335]

On 1 July 1889 William BENNEY advised the Colonial Secretary that in the house he occupied was also E SUMMERS, wife and three children and that William shared a bedroom with A MERCER. The other house was occupied by J PERCICH, wife and child. Two single men, James WINTERS and Juan ECHANDI, had one of their bedrooms. William was building a house for SUMMERS and his family to move into and as soon as he could afford it he would get another house for the single men. [H44; 235]

William departed 13 June 1890 on board the *Abydos* and arrived back from England on the same ship 20 December 1891. William arrived from Saunders Island on the *Fair Rosamond* 11 May 1894 and departed for Europe on board the *Denderah* 18 May 1894.

William died 20 September 1898 in Lowestoft, England, age 63. In his will dated the day of his death, William appointed his nephew George William Benney and, on reaching 21, his son William George Benney executors and trustees of his will. He left to them all of his estate to carry on the business of sheep farming. As long as she remained his widow Jane was to be paid £400 a year during her lifetime, out of which she was to maintain and educate his children, other than William. [BUG-REG-5; 274]



Jane in 1920

Jane and Annie arrived from Liverpool on board the *Oravia* 30 October 1901 and departed for Saunders Island with William 7 November 1901. Jane emigrated to England, leaving 1 April 1924 on board the "Oriana". Her daughter, Annie, travelled with her. Jane died in England 30 December 1938.

FIRST GENERATION:

Children of William and Jane BENNEY:

1. **Annie Louisa BENNEY** born 29 May 1879 on Saunders Island and baptised 29 June 1879 by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as sheep farmer. Annie was married to **George GREENSHIELDS**, farmer and JP of Douglas Station, 25 October 1916 at Christ Church Cathedral by Governor's Special Licence by J Stanley Smith, Clerk in Holy Orders. The witnesses were Fred G Langdon, Miss Alice Pitaluga and Miss Vi Lellmann. George's father was recorded as Robert Greenshields, farmer, and Annie's father was recorded as William Davies Maynard Benney, deceased farmer. [Account of wedding FIM Dec 1916] George died 16 December 1917 in hospital at Valparaiso, Chile [FIM Jan 1918]. In 1920 Annie was recorded as living temporarily at 12 Holles Street Cavendish Square, London, England. Annie, age 44, emigrated to England, leaving 1 April 1924 on board the "Oriana". Her mother travelled with her.



Annie in 1919

2. **William George BENNEY** born 30 March 1881 on Saunders Island and baptised 5 June 1881 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as sheep farmer. William arrived from England on board the *Itauri* 22 September 1898. William travelled to Liverpool on board the "Oropesa" 17 April 1912. William departed for Liverpool on board the *Liguria* 2 June 1903, returning with Percy 1 October 1903 on board the *Orita*. William was married to ? in England? William and his wife were on board the "Oravia" 12 November 1912 when she stranded on the Billy Rocks (no lives lost), coming from Liverpool. In June 1939 William was residing at Newlands Farm, Dunmow in the County of Essex and was a sheep farmer. In May 1940 he was residing at "Glanfields" Stortford Road, Dunmow in the County of Essex and was a sheep farmer.
3. **Vernon Alexander BENNEY** born August 1882 on Saunders Island. Vernon, age 3 months and 15 days, died 4 December 1882 from convulsions and was buried 10 December 1882 in Grave A168.



4. **James Egmont BENNEY** born 29 December 1883 and baptised 24 March 1884 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as sheep farmer. Married **Rose Elizabeth WINTHER** 21 December 1912 at the Parish Church, Norbury, near Stockport. Rose was the only daughter of the late Captain Winther of the Falkland Islands. James and Rose arrived with one child 27 December 1916. James and Elizabeth left for Liverpool with their two children 2 April 1922 on board the "Orcoma".



James and Rose in 1922

5. **Percival Stanley "Percy" BENNEY** born ? (*not in Falkland Islands*). Arrived from Liverpool 1 October 1903 with his brother William on board the *Orita*. Percy departed for Liverpool on board the *Ortega* 21 April 1908.

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SECOND GENERATION:

Children of James (4) and Rose BENNEY:

1. **Child BENNEY** born ? (*not in Falkland Islands*).
2. **Annie Elizabeth BENNEY** born 17 January 1919 and baptised 14 June 1920 by Christ Church Cathedral. Her father's occupation was recorded as sheep farmer.

JANE CAMERON NATIONAL ARCHIVES