

## CHAPLIN 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.*

**George CHAPLIN** was born circa 1856 (*not in the Falkland Islands*).

George was married to **Agnes SMITH** (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Agnes was born circa 1860 (*not in the Falkland Islands*).

On 10 September 1887 Frederick Coleman advised Frederick Cobb that as Myles, the blacksmith, was leaving they had engaged George Chaplin to fill his place at £9 per calendar month from the date of his arrival in Stanley and passage money to be advanced for himself and family and repaid by monthly instalments of £4 after first month's pay. George, Agnes, his wife, two daughters and an infant were passengers per the *Ibis* departing London September 1887. George was coming down on a five year contract with the Falkland Islands Company Limited as a blacksmith. As his furniture could not go by steamer it was to be conveyed by the first sailing vessel or the schooner *Selembria* which the Company would pay for which they considered fair having engaged a first rate man at moderate wages. [FIC/C2; 35]

In the List of Cases Tried in Police Magistrates Court since the 16<sup>th</sup> April 1891, Williams against Chaplin with a charge of assault, the Court found him guilty and the sentence was a fine of 40/- and 53/- costs and other expenses. [H47; 95]

In his despatch dated 17 August 1892, Andrew Baillon, the manager of the Falkland Islands Company Limited wrote *'I am glad to be able to inform you that Chaplin, the Blacksmith, is quite willing to renew his Agreement with the Company, on the same terms as at present, for another period of Five years from October 16<sup>th</sup> inst. In discussing the matter with me, he only made one request, viz:- that, in case he gives me and the Directors entire satisfaction in the discharge of his duties, etc, during the next five years, the latter would be willing to pay the passages home of himself and family, having in mind his ten years service, and the fact that he paid his own passage out. Whilst on the subject, I have much pleasure in stating the Chaplin's conduct both in and out of the Smithy has lately been everything I could wish; he is working in perfect harmony with Biggs over the extremely heavy work he has in hand for the "Old Kensington", he is comfortably settled in his new house, which is certainly everything he could wish for, and everything points to a period of peace and progress amongst what, as you well know, have been, at times, very troublesome elements.'* [FIC/D8; 711]

In April 1896 George was in debt to the Falkland Islands Company Ltd for £84-4-11. [FIC/C3; 31]

On 12 April 1897 Andrew Baillon wrote to Fred Cobb *'I am pleased to be able to report that Chaplin, the Blacksmith, has signified his wish to terminate his Agreement with the Company and to leave the Colony next March, by which time he hopes to have cleared off all his Store debts and other liabilities - and I trust that he will be able to carry this out.* [FIC/D9; 637]

On 18 May 1897 Fred Cobb noted *'It is satisfactory to hear that Chaplin is leaving next year...are not of the opinion from what they have heard up to the present that the strain which he unfortunately gave himself would give him any legal claim on the Company, although they will be prepared to discuss it with him...there must be some exaggeration in his statement, for if*

*he is only to fit to take work "of a very light nature" it must follow that he has been unfit for his present position for the last two years.'* [FIC/C3; 63]

On 18 October 1897 Andrew Baillon wrote to Fred Cobb 'You will probably be as much surprised as I was, on my reporting to you that the day Chaplin's Agreement expired, he came to me and expressed his willingness to serve the Company for another term of five years, providing that he was put on the same terms as the Foreman Carpenters as regards Ship work...entitled to passages home for himself and family at the end of the 5 years on the same terms as now...His abilities as a mechanic are undoubtedly first-rate, there is absolutely no description of iron, brass or metal work that cannot do, casting and foundry work; in fact he would never send a job away from the smith as being too big or too difficult - qualifications, you will admit, of paramount importance in these days of large iron ships. Against this must be set his violent temper, and, at times, insolent and overbearing manner...'  
[FIC/D9; 756]

On 14<sup>th</sup> December 1897 Fred Cobb wrote to Andrew Baillon 'Certainly it will be a good thing to get rid of Chaplin, and the only wonder is that you entertained for a moment his new proposal. It is strange rather that a man who has posed as an absolute cripple should even suggest his being able to go on working as before, and it throws a good deal of doubt upon what he has previously said...Chaplin should take his departure on the 18<sup>th</sup> March...'  
[FIC/C3; 137]

George, Agnes and their children departed 17 March 1898 on board the *Sakkarah* which was bound for Europe via Montevideo. [FIM Mar 1898]

## Children of George and Agnes CHAPLIN:

1. **Florence Nightingale CHAPLIN** born in 1883 (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Florence came to the Falkland Islands with her family, departing London September 1887. Florence and her family departed 17 March 1898 on board the *Sakkarah* which was bound for Europe via Montevideo. Florence was married to **Archibald Alexander MacGREGOR** 30 June 1904 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Florence, age 86, died in 1969 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. [FIC/C2; 692: FIM Mar 1898: <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LB67-2K8/gordon-cummings-chaplin-1891-1978>]
2. **Grace Darling CHAPLIN** born in 1885 (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Grace came to the Falkland Islands with her family, departing London September 1887. Grace and her family departed 17 March 1898 on board the *Sakkarah* which was bound for Europe via Montevideo. [FIC/C2; 692: FIM Mar 1898: <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LB67-2K8/gordon-cummings-chaplin-1891-1978>]
3. **Herbert CHAPLIN** born in 1887 (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Herbert came to the Falkland Islands with his family, departing London September 1887. Herbert and his family departed 17 March 1898 on board the *Sakkarah* which was bound for Europe via Montevideo. [FIC/C2; 692: FIM Mar 1898: <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LB67-2K8/gordon-cummings-chaplin-1891-1978>]
4. **Lizzie Ellen Smith CHAPLIN** born 18 May 1889 in Stanley. Her father's occupation was recorded as blacksmith. Lizzie and her family departed 17 March 1898 on board the *Sakkarah* which was bound for Europe via Montevideo. [FIC/C2; 692: FIM Mar 1898: <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LB67-2K8/gordon-cummings-chaplin-1891-1978>]
5. **Gordon Cummings CHAPLIN** born 18 May 1889 in Stanley. Her father's occupation was recorded as blacksmith. Gordon and his family departed 17 March 1898 on board the *Sakkarah* which was bound for Europe via Montevideo. Gordon was married to **Nancy MITCHELL** (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Gordon was living in Warren, Tennessee, USA in 1935 and 1940. Gordon, age 86, died 6 May 1978 in Merritt, British Columbia, Canada. [FIC/C2; 692: FIM Mar 1898: <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LB67-2K8/gordon-cummings-chaplin-1891-1978>]
6. **Garnet Henry CHAPLIN** born March 1895 (*no record in the Falkland Islands*). Garnet and his family departed 17 March 1898 on board the *Sakkarah* which was bound for Europe via Montevideo. Garnet was living in Calgary, Alberta, Canada in 1906 and Yale, Fraser Valley, British Columbia, Canada in 1911. Garnet, age 56, died 18 May 1951 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and was buried in Mountain View Cemetery. [FIC/C2; 692: FIM Mar 1898: <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LB67-2K8/gordon-cummings-chaplin-1891-1978>]