

CLAPPERTON 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. Any variations which may occur in name or the spellings of names are recorded as written in the records at the time.

William CLAPPERTON was born circa 1834 in Galashiels, Selkirk, Scotland to **Andrew** and ? **CLAPPERTON**.

William, a labourer, enlisted in the Royal Artillery circa November 1857.

William was married to **Emma MILLERS** 3 May 1876 in Kilburn, London.

On 5 November 1878 **William CLAPPERTON**, of 13 Bullow Road, Lands End, Fulham, Middlesex, England, signed an agreement to proceed to the Falkland Islands as a constable in the Police Force for the term of six years. He was to receive an annual salary of £60, paid at £5 per month, and free quarters and a garden. He would also be allowed to supply himself with free peat from Crown Lands. Passages for himself and his wife would be provided. [T1]

On 7 November 1878 pensioner private **William CLAPPERTON**, Coast Brigade Royal Artillery, was transferred from the West London District to the Falkland Islands District. His rate of pension was 1 shilling and character and habits were described as very good.

In the descriptive return dated 7 November 1878, Private **William CLAPPERTON** 4132, age 44, was described as 5 foot 9 inches tall with brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion. He had been awarded four good conduct badges. His character was very good and he was discharged as he had completed his service. William had served 21 years in the Royal Artillery. During that time he served 3 years and 11 months in Madras. [T1]

William and Emma arrived in the Falkland Islands 20 December 1878 on board the *Black Hawk*. William was sworn in as constable in the Police force 3 January 1879 on an annual salary of £60 and a house rent free.

William CLAPPERTON and his fellow constable, **James PRESCOTT**, were suspended from duty while they were the subject of an investigation. William admitted the whole of the charges preferred against him by Chief Constable McNiece and expressed great sorrow for having been guilty of so many grave offences. Both men were dismissed from the Police Force of the Falkland Islands 29 October 1879. Since his arrival in the Falkland Islands William had been severely reprimanded several times by the Governor. As per the terms of his agreement, his pension was stopped by the Government until the amount paid for the passages of William and his wife and the balance of the advance of £15 paid to him in England, a total of £36-15-0, had been recovered. He was also given notice to quit the Government cottage and garden occupied by him by 8 November 1879. [D18; 306, 307, 309, 310]

William was appointed Government horse keeper and carter 15 July 1883 on an annual salary of £60.

In a notice dated 3 October 1890 no person was allowed to give, sell, purchase or procure any liquor for or on behalf of **William** and **Emma CLAPPERTON** for a period of twelve months. This prohibition was renewed for a further twelve months on 5 November 1891. [R1; 1-2, 45-3]

Emma CLAPPERTON was appointed court keeper 4 June 1892 on an annual salary of £12. This was raised to £18 in 1895. She was appointed caretaker in conjunction with court keeper in 1901 on a total annual salary of £24.

In a notice dated 5 July 1897 no person was allowed to give, sell, purchase or procure any liquor for **Emma CLAPPERTON** for a period of one year. [R7; 92]

William, age 73 and British, died 27 October 1897 and was buried 29 October 1897 in Grave I 632. He has no gravestone but his grave is identified on the cemetery map.

On 13 July 1906 Emma wrote to the Colonial Secretary asking whether arrangements could be made to pay her rent and give her some firing. He replied on 7 August 1906 that once the present Senior School was converted into a Cottage Home accommodation would be offered to her there. [J7; 26:P4; 118]

On 2 October 1906 at a meeting of Executive Council the destitute condition of Mrs Clapperton was discussed and Council recommended that £1 a month was expended in the relief and for the benefit of her until such time as the Cottage Home was ready to receive her. [P4; 124]

On 27 July 1907 at a meeting of Executive Council the Administrator advised that the Colonial Surgeon had reported that Mrs Clapperton was in a precarious state of health that that the allowance of £1 a month towards her maintenance was insufficient to procure for her the many articles of diet of which she stood sorely in need. Council increased the allowance to £2 a month from 1 July 1907. [P4; 158]

Emma, age 82 and British, died 20 July 1919 and was buried 23 July 1919 in Grave Ei 839. She has no gravestone and to date the site of her grave has not been identified.