

COOPER 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 in spellings of names are recorded as written in the records at the time.

George COOPER, a farm labourer from Old Basing, England, his wife **Sarah COOPER** formerly **HARRIS**, and their three children came to the Falkland Islands on board the *Victoria Tatham* which left London December 1869 and arrived in Stanley 61 days later on 22 February 1870.

The *Victoria Tatham* was a British Barque of 307 tonnage with 11 crew under William Macey. She was chartered by the Falkland Islands Company Ltd and carried general cargo. [FIC Archives, LO-Stanley 1867-1877, Despatch 397; Shipping Register]

George came down under contract to the Falkland Islands Company Ltd and started work for them at Darwin Harbour in February 1870 on a monthly wage of £3-15-0. [FIC Archives, Camp Diary, pg 202-203, 236]

George requested a payment of £4-0-0 to **Charlotte COOPER** of 41 Temple Street, Stroud, Kent, England through the Falkland Islands Company Ltd in May 1875. [FIC Archives, Stanley-LO 1872-1875, Despatch 202, 15 May 1875]

George COOPER, his family and another employee of the Falkland Islands Company Ltd, G Tigwell, returned to England on board the *Frederica*. The Colonial Manager of the Company at the time, F E Cobb, wrote of the two employees "*The passengers per Frederica were G Cooper and family, and G Tigwell, none of which I wish to see again. Upon the arrival of the vessel from Darwin, Cooper wished me to keep him at the Company's expense while in Stanley, this I refused but offered him and his son work at 5/- per day each to enable them to keep themselves without loss, they worked for a short time but were actually too lazy to keep at it, and not only did they throw away between £5 and £6 but Cooper was quite insolent to me and said he would complain of his hard usage when he got home.*"

The *Frederica* was a British Barque of 384 tonnage which arrived in Stanley 15 April 1875 with 12 crew under J Press carrying cargo for the Falkland Islands Company Ltd. The *Frederica* departed Stanley on the 19 July 1875 and arrived in London, England 29 September 1875. [FIC Archives, Stanley-LO 1872-1875, Despatch 205, 16 August 1875; Shipping Register]

FIRST GENERATION

1. **Child COOPER** (*not born in the Falkland Islands*).
2. **Child COOPER** (*not born in the Falkland Islands*).
3. **Child COOPER** (*not born in the Falkland Islands*).
4. **George Edward COOPER** born 15 September 1871 at Darwin Harbour and baptised 12 March 1872 by Charles Bull, Colonial Chaplain. His godparents were Sarah Paice¹, his parents and José Maria. His father's occupation was recorded as shepherd.
5. **Agnes Jane COOPER** born 30 September 1872 at Darwin Harbour and baptised 27 November 1872 by the Bishop of the Falkland Islands. Her father's occupation was recorded as labourer.
6. **Elizabeth COOPER** born 21 April 1875 at Darwin Harbour. Her father's occupation was recorded as labourer.

¹ Sarah and her husband Nathaniel Paice were also from Old Basing and came down under contract with the Coopers. Their descendents are still in the Falkland Islands to date.