

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 was born ? in England.

George was married to **Sarah HARRIS** (*not in the Falkland Islands*).

George, a farm labourer from Old Basing, England, his wife and three children were passengers on board the *Victoria Tatham* which left London December 1869 and arrived in Stanley 61 days later on 22 February 1870. [FIC/C1; desp 397]

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.

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/IW2; 202-203, 236]

On 5 March 1870 Frederick Cobb wrote to F Coleman in London with regards to the voyage of the *Victoria Tatham*, '*Mrs Cooper was hardly expected to live out the voyage at one time, but managed to pull through*'. He went on to write '*Of the labour as from Old Basing we have now sufficient, they are excellent in their way, say for digging peat, quarrying stone, sod work, and all rough jobs, but have no knowledge of sheep.*' [FIC/D2; 435, 443]

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/D3; desp 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.*" [FIC/D3; desp 205, 16 August 1875]

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.

FIRST GENERATION

1. **William COOPER** (*not born in the Falkland Islands*).
2. **James COOPER** (*not born in the Falkland Islands*).
3. **Henry 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. George was recorded in the UK census of 1881 as living in Basing, Hampshire. According to family history he married in 1907 and emigrated to Perth, Western Australia in 1913. George, age 58 and a widower, died 3 January 1930 and was buried in Section Ea Grave 686, Karakatta Cemetery, Western Australia.
5. **Agnes Jane COOPER** born 30 September 1872 at Darwin Harbour and baptised 27 November 1872 by the Bishop of the Falkland Islands². 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.

² No godparents were recorded in the baptism register.