

DOWERS 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.

Thomas DOWERS was born 10 April 1812 in Ireland to **Robert DOWERS** and **Martha DOWERS** formerly **NEATE**. Thomas was married to **Ann DAINES**, age 26 and widow of Thomas, 31 December 1844 in Marlborough, Wiltshire, England. Ann was born 1 June 1824 in Burbage, Wiltshire, England to **Isaac & Charlotte SMITH**.

Thomas and Ann arrived in the Falkland Islands on board the Barque *Victory* 13 October 1849 as part of a group of military pensioners commanded by Captain James Reid, a total of 122 people including women and children. Their period of enrolment in the Falkland Islands was seven years, ending in July 1856.

In the February 1851 census the **DOWERS** family are listed as:

Thomas DOWERS, age 36, (*military*) pensioner, Irish

Ann DOWERS, age 25, wife, Irish

On 6 February 1857 Thomas, a pensioner, purchased Crown Grant 90 & Crown Grant 91 for £110. On 29 June 1857 Thomas & Ann, both of Stanley, sold Crown Grant 90 for £112. [Reg Off: Vol I: 157; 175]

In December 1858, Thomas, the landlord of the Stanley Arms, purchased upwards of £130 of goods; chiefly spirits and beer, from Dean. [FIC/E1: 32]

On 18 May 1859 Thomas was recorded as the publican of the Stanley Arms. [D8]

Thomas, age 45 and a publican, died 10 December 1859 in Stanley from an abscess in the brain and was buried 17 December 1859 (*no grave record – possibly buried in Section B, Catholic Section*).

On 2 March 1860, Ann, a widow, sold Crown Grant 91 for £6. Early March 1860 she deposited £300 in the Colonial Chest. She also left £262 in John Dean's hands. [Reg Off: Vol I: 213; H17, 326]

Ann and her children, Charlotte and Ann, departed on the British barque *Sunrise* 31 March 1860 which had arrived 8 February 1860. Ann died at sea 10 March 1860 *NB: As the vessel definitely left 31 March 1860 this appears to be an error in the probate and should probably read 10 April 1860.* [England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration) 1861-1941] According to the Directors Minutes of the Falkland Islands Company Ltd "...the *Sunrise* from Stanley with Produce for the Company has been heard of, she put into Pernambuco for medical advice required by the Passengers, one of whom a Mrs Dowers had died. The vessel got away again on the 9th May & may therefore be expected in England about the middle of this month." [FIC/MA3; 7 May 1860], Family history says that Ann was robbed and murdered on board.

On 27 November 1860 Ann was recorded as being late of Stanley and now deceased and had a deposit in the Colonial Chest of £300. [B11: 357; D11: 176; H17, 326]

In the probate of 24 June 1864 George SMITH of Burbage was listed as the uncle and guardian of Charlotte and Ann DOWERS, minors. [England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration) 1861-1941]

Children of Thomas and Ann DOWERS:

1. **Charlotte Emily DOWERS** born 1 November 1850 (twin) in Stanley (*not in birth registers*) and baptised 21 December 1850 by Holy Trinity Church. Charlotte, age 4 ½, was recorded on the return of the Government School dated 1 April 1855. [H8] Charlotte and Ann travelled to the USA with their uncle James SMITH and his wife Maria, departing from Liverpool in 1868 on the *Constitution*, arriving 6 August 1868 in New York. They then travelled west to join the John Gillespie wagon train; a group of 566 people and 50 wagons which left Benton, Wyoming 23-24 August 1868, arriving 15 September 1868. Charlotte, age 18, was married to **William Carrol HUDSON** 16 March 1869 in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. William's parents were Samuel L Hudson and Nancy G Hudson formerly Bellah. William died in a snow slide in Moab, Utah in 1904. Charlotte died 4 October 1919 in Snowville, Box Elder, Utah, USA.
2. **Martha Anne DOWERS** born 1 November 1850 (twin) in Stanley (*not in birth registers*) and baptised 21 December 1850 by Holy Trinity Church. Martha, age 3 weeks, was buried 24 December 1850 in Stanley Cemetery (*no grave record*) – *possibly buried in Section B, Catholic Section*).
3. **Ann Jane DOWERS** born 29 November 1855 in Stanley and baptised 6 January 1856 by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as labourer. The informant, her mother, signed with a X. Ann and Charlotte travelled to the USA with their uncle James SMITH and his wife Maria. Ann was married to **Arthur BURNINGHAM** 6 January 1873 in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. Arthur, age 85, died 16 July 1931 in Bountiful, Davis, Utah, USA. Ann, age 76 and a widow, died 24 June 1932 in Bountiful, Davis, Utah and was buried 26 June 1932 In Bountiful Memorial Park.