

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

Francisco BRUNEL, age 29 and Oriental Banda, arrived 31 August 1855 from Montevideo on board the *Victoria*. He brought with him as his wife **Soyla FRANCO**, two of their children, **Hypolita BRUNEL**, age 7, and **Regustiano BRUNEL**, age 3, and two of her children, **Panchita YLLESCUS**, age 4, and **Soa ZAPATA**, age 3 months. Francisco was brought down by the Falkland Islands Company Ltd. [H14, pg 128, 131; H8]

In the 1851 census they are listed as Panchu Brunal, age 37, gaucho & Spaniard, Soila Brunal, age 28, wife & Spaniard, 2 children Spaniards.

In July 1855 Francisco was given notice that he must avail himself of the right to a free passage to Montevideo or forfeit that right. [H13, pg 30] Francisko Pancho BRUNEL, native of Montevideo, wife & 4 children were recorded on the List of Registered Aliens returned 14 Sep 1855. [H8]

In December 1856 **Loyla FRANCO** applied to the Stipendiary Magistrate for help as the Falkland Islands Company had removed **Celestino ZAPATA**, recognised as her husband for some time, from her house and she was destitute. On 5 December 1856 she stated that her and her 3 children were in a state of destitution. The Governor ordered that Zoyla be provided with 4 shillings a day relief. The Manager of the FIC described Soylo as being a person of notoriously dissolute character and unfit to have charge of children. He further stated that as Soylo neglected the children morally and physically an arrangement had been previously made, with the wish of Francisco Brunel and the consent of all parties that the godparents take charge of the children. Accordingly Hypolita and Panchita were placed with Inocencia Yllescas and his wife; Regustiano was placed with Jose Arguello whose wife Pancha took good care of him and Soylo retained Soa. This arrangement was ended shortly before December 1856 by an order of the Stipendiary Magistrate who ordered the two elder children returned to Soylo. The FIC manager stated that Celestino Zapata was an esteemed servant of the Company and that he had found him in a room that contained no furniture lying on the wet floor on a mattress covered by his poncho and wholly neglected by Soylo. He also stated that Soylo had not asked for more than who would pay the rent on the house she was in. [H14, 106, 108, 128: D7; 208,216]

Celestino, age 30, died in Stanley and was buried 15 December 1856 by Holy Trinity Church (*no grave number recorded*).

On 2 January 1857 the Manager of the FIC gave Soylo and her 4 children notice to return to Montevideo by the schooner *Victoria* which was due to sail 19 January 1857. On 16 January 1857 he informed the Governor that Soylo would only be taking three of her children as she had agreed that Regustiano would remain behind with Jose Maria Arguello. [H14, pg 137, 150]

A receipt was issued to Thomas Havers, Colonial Manager of the Falkland Islands Company Limited, 23 March 1857 by Governor Rennie for £3-9-10 being the amount expended in the relief and maintenance of Celestino Zapata, Soylo Franco and family. [E3]

Children of Soyla FRANCO:

1. **Hypolita BRUNEL** was born circa 1848 (*not in the Falkland Islands*) to Soyla Franco and Francisco Brunel and arrived 31 August 1855 from Montevideo on board the *Victoria*, age 7. [H14, pg 131] **Ypolita BRUNEL** was baptised 10 March 1854 by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as labourer and her parents were recorded as Pancho & Zoila Franca Brunel, living at Hope Place. Hypolita was fostered for a time by Inocencio Yllescas before being ordered to be returned to her mother by the Stipendiary Magistrate. [H14, pg 129] Hypolita was given notice by the Falkland Islands Company Ltd to return to Montevideo on board the *Victoria* 19 January 1857. [H14, pg 137]
2. **Panchita YLLESCUS** was born circa 1851 (*not in the Falkland Islands*) to Soyla Franco and Raimundo Yllescus and arrived 31 August 1855 from Montevideo on board the *Victoria*, age 4. [H14, pg 131] **Pancha BRUNEL** was baptised 10 March 1854 by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as labourer and her parents were recorded as Pancho & Zoila Franca Brunel, living at Hope Place. Panchita was fostered for a time by Inocencio Yllescas before being ordered to be returned to her mother by the Stipendiary Magistrate. [H14, pg 129] Pancha was given notice by the Falkland Islands Company Ltd to return to Montevideo on board the *Victoria* 19 January 1857. [H14, pg 137]
3. **Regustiano** was born circa 1852 (*not in the Falkland Islands*) to Soyla Franco and Francisco Brunel and arrived 31 August 1855 from Montevideo on board the *Victoria*, age 3. [H14, pg 131] **Robustiano BRUNEL** was baptised 10 March 1854 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as labourer and his parents were recorded as Pancho & Zoila Franca Brunel, living at Hope Place. Regustiano was given notice by the Falkland Islands Company Ltd to return to Montevideo on board the *Victoria* 19 January 1857. Regustiano was left behind in the Falkland Islands by his mother with his godfather Jose Maria Arguello who, with his wife Pancha, was fostering the child. [H14, pg 129, 137, 150]
4. **Soa ZAPATA** was born circa June 1855 (*not in the Falkland Islands*) to Soyla Franco and said to be the son of Celestino Zapata and arrived 31 August 1855 from Montevideo on board the *Victoria*, age 3 months. [H14, pg 129, 131] Soa was given notice by the Falkland Islands Company Ltd to return to Montevideo on board the *Victoria* 19 January 1857. [H14, pg 137]