

HAIGH 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.

Joseph William Watson HAIGH was born circa 1812 in England.

James, a ship carpenter, was sworn in as jury on the inquiry into the ship *Galen* stranded at Fox Bay 18 June 1846. [H4, 137]

Joseph was not recorded in the census taken 12 October 1846 so may have been at sea.

On 16 January 1847 Joseph purchased part of Crown Grant 8 for £5-8-4. Joseph was recorded as a private in the Militia Force of the Falkland Islands in December 1847 and was still part of the force in November 1848. [E2; 150, 188, H6]

Joseph sold his portion of Crown Grant 8 on 8 February 1853 for £5.

Joseph is listed in the 1851 census as being age 39 and a carpenter from England.

Joseph, a widower, was married to (2) **Ellen READY (REDDIE)**, widow, 24 March 1851 in the Parish of the Holy Trinity by Banns by James Leith Moody, Colonial Chaplain. The witnesses were Edward McMurray and William Rutter.

Ellen, age 30 and living in Stanley, died 1 October 1852 from dropsy and was buried 3 October 1852.

Joseph, a widower living at Hope Place, Lafonia, was married to **Ellen FLEMING**, widow, 7 October 1857 by Henry Martyn Faulkner, Colonial Chaplain in Holy Trinity Church by Banns. The witnesses were Thomas Rolon and Ellen Rolon. Ellen, Thomas and Ellen all signed with a X. Neither Joseph or Ellen's occupations or fathers were recorded on the marriage certificate.

In November 1858 Joseph and his wife were living in the FIC dairy at the head of Brenton Loch on the isthmus. Joseph and his wife and a young man were solely occupied with the cows and butter and had applied for another assistant having 26 cows in milk. Joe worked for the Falkland Islands Company Ltd in Camp until June 1860. [FIC/E3]

On 29 December 1860 Joseph was sentenced to 3 weeks hard labour, one week to be in solitary confinement for drunkenness. This was a heavy punishment due to the fact that he was in the constant habit while intoxicated of violently assaulting his wife. Ellen would not give any information that might lead to a conviction for a very brutal and unmanly assault. So that a great scoundrel should not escape punishment altogether he was given the highest penalty permitted by the Colonial Ordinance for habitual drunkenness. [H17; 369]

On 9 February 1861 Charles Bull wrote to Governor Moore recommending that in consideration of his good conduct during the term of his imprisonment that he should be discharged from Monday so that the three days solitary confinement to which after that date his sentence subjected him to may not be carried out. He also stated that a repetition of the prisoner's offence would of course be visited by the heaviest punishment the law would allow. [H17; 412]

On 11 February 1861 a note was sent to the gaoler telling him to release Joseph Haigh in consideration of his good conduct during the term of his imprisonment after the day's work was finished that day. [D10; 6, 7]

Ellen, age 44 and a native of Tullamore, Ireland, was murdered in Stanley by her husband striking her on the head with an iron bar 28 February 1861 and was buried 3 March 1861 in Grave B 228. Joseph was confined to gaol as a criminal lunatic for her murder. [H18; pg 447: D10; pg 271]

On 2 March 1861 Arthur BAILEY, the coroner, informed Governor Moore that he had committed Joseph HAIGH to gaol under a Coroner's Warrant charging him with having murdered his wife, Ellen HAIGH, in her own house in Stanley on the night of 28 February 1861 by striking her on the head with a bar of iron, which caused a mortal wound, and that they were of the opinion that it was committed while in a state of Temporary Insanity. [H17; 433, 443]

On 11 June 1861 Captain Molony, as Deputy Chairman of the Magistrate's Court, advised Governor Moore that after an hour's consideration the jury returned a verdict of 'not guilty' believing that Joseph to have been in a state of insanity during the commission of the act. There was no medical testimony to warrant such a verdict however the Bench had no other course left to them but to order his detention as a criminal lunatic. He also urged the governor *'to pass without the slightest delay an ordinance which has been drawn up by Revd C Bull for the more effectual suppression of Drunkenness in this place, and for the punishment by public whippings of those cowards who assault females. Unless some such steps be taken great Evils may arise from the issue of this trial.'* [D10; 27:H17; 532, 558]

On 12 June 1861 Charles Bull wrote to Governor Moore on the detention of Joseph Haigh in Stanley Gaol as a Criminal Lunatic *'It would be so prejudicial to the public peace if the supposed lunatic were so completely to escape the punishment he richly deserves...by keeping Joseph Haigh as if he were condemned to hard labour. I am further led to say this because the labour to which he would be subject would be far from excessive: & would really be necessary for his general health...Joseph Haigh will be entitled to no wage for such labour as he may be required to perform. I may add my conviction that Joseph Haigh is not now insane, whatever may have been his mental state at the time of the commission of the offence. The greatest publicity should be given to the proposed treatment of a man who so cruelly killed his wife, and it should be widely known in the Colony that Criminal Lunatics, even only insane during the commission of a crime, are liable to be detained in safe custody for Life.'* [H17; 560:D10; 76]

On 18 October 1861 the Chief Magistrate wrote to Governor Moore on the subject of prison accommodation and that *'one may be considered as permanently occupied by the criminal lunatic Haigh...'* [H18; 49]

On 5 May 1862 the Chairman of the Magistrate's Court wrote to Governor Moore in the matter of Joseph Haigh stating that after careful consideration his case appeared to warrant the exercise of clemency on his part. *'It appears that the prisoner Haigh killed his wife on the night of Feb 28, 1861, in a fit of intoxication & at the trial, the Jury thought fit to return a Verdict, entirely unsupported by medical testimony, of 'Not Guilty on the ground of Insanity'. In the absence of properly qualified legal assistance this Verdict was recorded, & there being no lunatic asylum, the man Haigh has been ever since lodged in the Gaol without a warrant. It is sufficiently obvious that the Verdict was a highly improper one; that the alleged criminal lunatic is perfectly sane, (I may mention incidentally that he has been employed throughout his confinement for Government at his trade of a carpenter) & that his present condition is at once a considerable & irregular burden, as well as a most pernicious example to a small & growing*

colony. Under these circumstances, & having frequently conversed on the case with you I have communicated with Capt H Dearborn of the US Clipper Ship Wizard, bound for Acapulco at the end of this week, who will permit the man Haigh to work his passage thither, under a proper agreement so that he may have an opportunity under God's favour of retrieving his character & again becoming a reputable member of society. I may add, of my own knowledge after a month's intimacy with Capt Dearborn, that I consider him a most kind & humane person, & if you should think fit to extend the power vested in you, in favour of the alleged criminal lunatic, the story of the latter's unhappy antecedents will be kept in such a manner that they will not easily be raked up against him in future.' [H18; 444]

On 9 May 1862 the Chairman of the Courts wrote to Governor Moore informing him that *'the man Haigh who has been confined for the last twelve months in the Gaol as a criminal lunatic, that the Gaoler Hocking has reported to me his departure (I cannot call it escape) from the Gaol this day. It appears that Hocking under the peculiar circumstances of the case, has never had a Warrant for the Detention of Haigh since the Verdict of the Jury June 10th 1861 & after an examination, I cannot credit the Gaoler to blame in the matter. I am going myself into the Camp at once, & will lose no time in reporting any traces of the fugitive, but whether he be in the Camp, or the Settlement he cannot escape the vigilance of the proper authorities.'* [H18; 362]

On 14 May 1862 Governor Moore wrote to the Chairman of the Magistrate's Court regarding his letter of 9 May reporting the escape of the Criminal Lunatic Haigh from the Gaol and bringing to his notice the fact that he had been confined for more than twelve months without any warrant. That he was sure that every necessary step would be taken to recover him and that his escape was a further reason for recommending the erection of a more secure building than the present Gaol. [D10; 271]

FIRST GENERATION

Children of Joseph and Ellen HAIGH:

1. **Sarah Ellen HAIGH** born circa January 1852 and baptised 23 April 1852. Ellen, age 9 months & 24 days, died in Stanley 14 October 1852 from atrophy and was buried 14 November 1852 (*there is obviously an error in either the death or burial date here but not sure whether in the civil records or the Church records*).