

HUNTER FAMILY (1)

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.

Robert Laing HUNTER was born circa 1850 (*in Dumfries, Scotland?*¹).

Robert, age 20, was a passenger on board the *West* which departed Cardiff 27 August 1866; arriving in Stanley 24 November 1866. Also on board was **William HUNTER**, age 24, and **Elisa HUNTER**, age 24. [H22: CRAIG family]

Robert worked for the Falkland Islands Company Ltd in their Camp Establishment from November 1866 to 7 May 1868. On 18 May 1868 Frederick Cobb reported to the London Office *"I have been obliged to discharge a young man named Robert Hunter for drunken and disorderly conduct. I sent him the enclosed note: Robert Hunter, you are dismissed from the Company's service for repeated drunkenness and disorderly conduct, your account will be settled by Mr Greenshields and you will leave at once. Fred E Cobb Colonial Manager Stanley 7 May 1868 - and I understand that Mr Greenshields, with his usual folly, told him he was sorry he was leaving although he was one of the idlest, most troublesome men in the Camp. To prevent his falling on the Government, for he is too well known to get work here, I have offered him a passage to Monte Video per Louisa and to give him £5 to keep him before he gets employment there."* [FIC/IW1; 458]

There was some talk that Robert was going to bring action against Frederick Cobb but thought better of it. By July 1868 Robert had gone to work for Captain Packe. [FIC/D2; 4]

William HUNTER left Darwin 30 July 1868 to go to Stanley. [FIC/IW1; 482]

Robert worked at San Carlos for John Bonner from 23 October 1873 to 6 September 1877. [N/FAR/SAN/5]

Robert was married to **Jemima WAUGH** 28 September 1880 at Irongray, Kirkcudbright, Scotland.

Robert worked at San Carlos for John Bonner from 21 October 1881 to 31 December 1884. [N/FAR/SAN/5]

Jemima, age 44, died 25 March 1899 on Saunders Island and was buried on Keppel Island 3 April 1899. [See letter from R L Hunter FIM May 1899] The Coroner's Jury returned a verdict of natural causes. Her gravestone on Keppel reads *"Sacred to the memory of Jemima Waugh the wife of Robert Hunter who departed this life at Saunders Island 25th March 1899 aged 44 years. Christ will gather in his own to the place where he is gone."*

Robert and his family arrived in Stanley from West Falkland 22 May 1900 on board the *Fortuna*.

Robert departed for Liverpool 15 June 1910 on the *Oropesa*.

Robert, age 66, died 2 September 1916 in Dumfries, Scotland.

¹ In February 1868 Robert sent a remittance of £4 through the Falkland Island Co Ltd to **John HUNTER** of Gatend, New Abbey, Dumfries. [D1]

FIRST GENERATION:

Children of Robert and Jemima HUNTER:

1. **Robert James HUNTER** born 24 April 1882 at Port Sussex and baptised 26 September 1882 at Port Sussex by the United Free Church (Tabernacle), Darwin. His father's occupation was recorded as shepherd. Robert and Thomas departed for Liverpool 25 May 1904 on board the *Victoria*. Robert returned 28 September 1904 on board the *Orepesa* and departed for Fox Bay 5 June 1909 on board the *Rapida*. In 1924 Robert was working on Sea Lion Island for Henriette Ricketts and departed for Scotland 1 April 1924 on board the *Oriana*, returning 2 July 1924 on board the *Ortega*. In February 1925 Robert arranged for £40 sterling to be sent from his wages on Sea Lion Island to his sister Mrs Brown at Lower Stepford, Holywood, Dumfries Shire, Scotland. Robert advertised for a wife in Dumfries and selected Lizzie Murdoch from the applicants. [FIM Jan 1928] Lizzie was born 19 May 1893 in Kirkinner, Wigstownshire, Scotland and arrived from the UK on board the *Laguna* 21 August 1927 with her daughter.

WIDOW MARRIES A
LONELY MAN.

Life on Island with Post
Twice a Year.

Married 8/10/27. Hunter.

This cryptic radiogram, sent from Port Stanley, in the Falkland Islands, to Mr. L.S. Montgomery, bookseller and shipping agent, of High-street, Dumfries, is the key to a delightful romance.

It announces that Mr. Robert Hunter, of Sea Lion Island, has married Mrs. Lizzie Murdoch, a widow, formerly of Dumfries, who was chosen from the host of applicants who responded to Mr. Hunter's advertisement for a wife.

Mr. Hunter wrote and asked Mr. Montgomery to find him a wife and send £50 for her passage, as a proof of good faith.

"This island is very lonely at first," added Mr. Hunter, "but she will get used to it."

A notice was put in the local Press and in Mr. Montgomery's shop window.

Mrs. Murdoch was put in touch with Mr. Hunter, letters and photo graphs were exchanged, and an agreement reached.

The courtship was prolonged by the fact that Mr. Hunter only gets his letters about twice a year.

Arrangements were completed in July, and Mrs. Murdoch sailed for the Falkland Islands, about 300 miles from the southernmost part of South America.

[FROM THE DAILY CHRONICLE 12/10/27.]

Mr. and Mrs. Hunter were married in the Registrar's Office, Stanley on 8th. October 1927.



Robert, a farm manager, was married to **Lizzie MURDOCK**, divorced machinist, 8 October 1927 at the Registrar's Office, Stanley by Special Licence by M Craigie-Halkett, Registrar General. The witnesses were Ellen Berntsen and John Davis. Robert's father was recorded as Robert Laing Hunter and Lizzie's father was recorded as Robert McClure, farmer. Lizzie, age 39 and living on Sea Lion Islands, and her daughter Lily departed for Dumfries 1 May 1929 on board the *Orita* visiting home and for health reasons. Lizzie was recorded as being 5' 4" tall with brown eyes and hair. Lizzie returned 15 October 1929 on board the *Orita* with her daughter. Robert, Lizzie and Lily arrived from Fox Bay on board the *Lafonia* 6 July 1936. Robert and Lizzie emigrated to Chile 22 July 1937 on board the *Fitzroy* looking for employment. Robert was buried 5 May 1940 in Patagonia. He was living at Pedro Montt 980, Punta Arenas at the time.



Robert, age 32



Lily, age 10 and Lizzie, age 39

2. **John HUNTER** born 3 February 1884 at Port Sussex and baptised 18 May 1884 at Port Sussex by the United Free Church (Tabernacle), Darwin. His father's occupation was recorded as shepherd. John, age 17 months and 18 days, died 21 September 1884 at Port Sussex of a general weakness and was buried at Port San Carlos.

3. **Thomas "Tom" HUNTER** born 23 June 1885 and baptised 27 September 1885 at Stanley by the United Free Church (Tabernacle), Darwin. His father's occupation was recorded as shepherd. Thomas and Robert departed for Liverpool 25 May 1904 on board the *Victoria*. Thomas departed for Punta Arenas on board the *Oravia* 1 June 1910, returning 11 June 1913 on board the *Orissa*. Thomas departed for the UK on board the *Corcovado* 29 April 1921, returning 19 October 1921 on board the *Orita*. Thomas, age 35 and a farm labourer, travelled to Buenos Aires via Montevideo 1 April 1924 on the *Oriana* for medical treatment. He was recorded as being 6' 5" tall with hazel eyes and brown hair. Thomas left for Magallanes 3 July 1928 on the *Bogota*.



Thomas, age 32

4. **Mary Ann HUNTER** born 16 February 1888 and baptised 23 January 1889 at Port Louis Station by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as shepherd.
5. **Agnes Jane "Sissie" HUNTER** born 29 October 1890 and baptised 7 April 1891 in Stanley by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as labourer.

SECOND GENERATION:

Children of Lizzie HUNTER:

1. **Lily MURDOCH** born 22 October 1918 in Maxwelltown, Scotland. Lily arrived from the UK on board the *Laguna* 21 August 1927 with her mother. **Lily Murdock HUNTER** and her mother departed for Dumfries 1 May 1929 on board the *Orita*. **Lily MURDOCH** returned 15 October 1929 on board the *Orita* with her mother. **Lily MURDOCH**, age 19 and a housemaid, emigrated to Chile for employment 22 July 1937 on board the *Fitzroy* with her parents. She was recorded as being 5' 2" tall with brown eyes and hair.



Lily, age 10



Lily, age 19

JANE CAMERON