

PEARCE 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.

John K PEARCE was born 19 September 1865 on Tresco Island, Scilly Islands.

John was assistant keeper at Wolf Rock from 1888 to 1890.

John was married to **Isabella GREY** circa 1890 in Anglesey. Isabella was born 26 March 1867 in Warkworth, Northumberland, England to **James** and **Elizabeth GREY**. Her father's occupation was lighthouse keeper on Coquet Island, Farne Islands, England.

John was assistant keeper at Skerries, Anglesey from 1890 to 1892.

John was assistant keeper at South Stack, Anglesey from 1892 to 1900.

John was assistant keeper at South Foreland, Dover from 1900 to 1902.

In December 1901, Trinity House recommended to the Board of Trade the appointment of John, one of the assistant keepers at South Foreland Lighthouse, as principal light-keeper at Cape Pembroke, Falkland Islands. John was due to sail for the Falkland Islands 20 February 1902 on board the ss *Iberia* from Liverpool for Stanley. [F29; 206, 224]

John, Isabella and their two children, arrived 22 March 1902 on board the *Iberia* from Liverpool.

John was appointed principal light keeper at Cape Pembroke by the Board and Trade 22 March 1902 on an annual salary of £150 and a house allowance at Cape Pembroke Lighthouse. [S57]

From 1908 John was given a house allowance of £36 a year. [S63]

In 1912 John's salary was increased to £165 per annum but his house allowance remained at £36 a year. From 1 November 1914 his salary was to rise to £180. [S67; S68]

On 30 April 1912 John was a witness to the wedding of Ernest WOOD and Margaret MITCHELL.

In 1912 Isabella was a member of the Girl Guides Committee. [FIM Feb 1912; 125]

Isabella and her daughters participated in many church and community activities during their time in the Falkland Islands. [FIM 1902-1924]

F. I. MAGAZINE AND CHURCH PAPER.
LINES WRITTEN AFTER PAYING A VISIT TO
CAPE PEMBROKE LIGHTHOUSE. MAY 30TH. 1912.
Inscribed (without permission) to JOHN PEARCE, by "CINCH RING".

My throne is on the Living Rock, a nimbus round my head,—
I was born of the men who rule the waves, yet who feed the sea with their dead ;
And ever and aye as the years roll by, and ever and aye it shall be,
It is nothing but meet that for aye at my feet, shall obeisance be made by the sea.

While the fragrant glow of the peat-fed fire gives to the shepherd ease,
I keep my vigil ceaselessly and sweep the smoking seas.
My glance no man dare disregard, no matter who he be,
Whether walty whaler from the South or swift P. S. N. C.

In the gorgeous summer twilight when the winds are soft and low,
In the icy gloom of the winter night and the shrieking Southern blow,
Be it homeward bound New Zealander or outward German barge,
To sail and steam my guiding gleam goes wheeling through the dark.

I cheered the lame "Columbus" when she staggered in from the West,
I saw the "Richard" with 'verted flag and bade her do her best ;
I point the way from the close of the day until the purple dawn
To stately Liner, Gunboat, Tug, or Cripple from round the Horn.

"Thrice welcome" I give to our brothers, from Old Britain over the foam,
And my lantern flashes out "God-Speed!" to those returning home ;
From my gaunt head-land, head erect, I link with bonds of fire,
This rock-bound, sea-girt land of ours with every British Shire !

FIM August 1912

HOW DOES THE CONTINUOUS FLASHING of the Lighthouse work ? This question was recently asked, and an ingenious answer was made. "Why, Mr. John Pearce has to spend the whole of the night walking round the gallery holding a black cloth in front of the light as he goes !!! And see, there he is !" true enough, Mr. Pearce was on the upper platform at the time, but whether he was carrying the black cloth, could not be seen. Still, the questioner believed the solution offered !

FIM September 1914

In the Falkland Islands Magazine of October 1915 it was reported that *'The many friends of our ever popular Mr John Pearce, will regret to hear that he has been incapacitated this past month, but we are glad to be able to state that he is well on his way to recovery.'*

Isabella was the lead of The Bandage Club in 1917 and 1918. [FIM Jan 1918]

In December 1919, John, who was renting Admiralty Cottage from the Falkland Islands Government, applied to be provided with a wash house. A lean-to was built against an existing shed and finished by early February 1920 at a cost of £7-5-6. [BUS/RRW/1#1]

On 18 August 1923 the Colonial Secretary sent a telegram to the Assistant Secretary of the Marine Department of the Board of Trade informing him that John was suffering from a serious form of diabetes and requested a supply of insulin. On 28 April 1924 the Colonial Surgeon reported that treatment had been discontinued as a great improvement in his health was apparent. [SHI/CAP/1#12]

On the 24 September 1924 John wrote to advise that owing to the death of his daughter he felt that he must leave Admiralty Cottage. He advised that he spent eight months of the year at Cape Pembroke Lighthouse and that he did not think it wise for him to leave his wife alone in Admiralty Cottage for such a long time with her memories and that she would go and live with his married daughter, Edith HARDY, in Stanley. He handed over the keys 2 October 1924. [BUS/RRW/1#9]

John finished work in 1926 and returned to England on pension circa April 1926. Isabella accompanied him. John, age 60 and a lighthouse keeper living at Cape Pembroke Lighthouse, was recorded as being 5' 10" tall with blue eyes and fair hair. Isabella, age 58, was recorded as being 5' 6" tall with grey eyes and brown hair going grey.



John and Isabella in 1926

John, age 66, died 5 December 1931 in Dover, England.

Isabella arrived with her daughter, Edith, son-in-law and grandson, Thursday 11 October 1934 on board the Lafonia. [Penguin 12 Oct 1934]

Isabella, age 78, died 11 February 1946 at River, Dover, England.

FIRST GENERATION:

Children of William and Jane BENNEY:

1. **Elizabeth Mary 'Lily' PEARCE** born circa 1895 in Holyhead, Wales. Elizabeth arrived 22 March 1902 with her family on board the *Iberia* from Liverpool. On 1 November 1906 Lily and Edith performed a piano duet at the Band of Hope meeting in the Assembly Rooms. [FIM Dec 1906; 3] At the annual prize giving for the Government School held 22 December 1910 Lily received a silver hunting watch for becoming second for her English composition. [FIM Jan 1911] Elizabeth was employed as an Acting Lady Assistant in the Post Office in 1913 and 1914 and was required to sign a security bond of £20 as she might handle sums of money during her employment. [S68; S69; BUG-REG-7; 135] Lily departed 16 April 1919 on board the *Svend Foyn* bound for England. The Falkland Islands Magazine of May 1919 reported that '*Miss Lily Pearce has gone to England to be married to Mr Roper. In her official capacity Miss Pearce helped to maintain that reputation for courtesy and affability which is enjoyed by the ladies of our Post Office.*' Lily was married to **William James ROPER** 10 June 1919 in London. William arrived 18 September 1912 and had worked as Junior and Chief Clerk to the Colonial Secretary. The Falkland Islands Magazine of March 1920 reported that he had been promoted to a good position under government in Nyasaland.

WEDDING.

On the 10th June a pretty wedding took place in London at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Smith Square, Westminster, when Miss Lily Pearce of Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, was married to Mr. W. J. Roper of Westminster, London. The ceremony was performed by the Revd. Lindsay F. Browne. The bride arrived at the church punctually at 12 o'clock by motor car, in which she had travelled from her aunt's house at Upminster where she had been staying since her arrival in England on 3rd June. She wore a charming simple frock of draped white crepe de chine with a large white chiffon covered picture hat and carried a bouquet of white carnations. Her bridesmaids were dressed in soft blue frocks, large black hats and black shoes, and they carried bouquets of sweet peas. The bride was given away by her uncie, Mr Alfred Irlam of Upminster

After the completion of the ceremony a reception of friends was given by the bride's aunt at Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria Station, and later the happy couple left for a short honeymoon at Crowborough, in Sussex.

[FIM Oct 1919]

2. **Edith Isabella 'Edie' PEARCE** born 21 June 1897 in Holyhead, Wales. Edith arrived 22 March 1902 with her family on board the *Iberia* from Liverpool. On 1 November 1906 Edith and Lily performed a piano duet at the Band of Hope meeting in the Assembly Rooms. [FIM Dec 1906; 3] At the annual prize giving for the Government School held 22 December 1910 Edith came first in Standard VI and for the girls of 12 years. [FIM Jan 1911] Edith was appointed Pupil Teacher 1 March 1912 on an annual salary of £24, rising £3 a year. [S67] The Falkland Islands Magazine of April 1916 expressed regret that Edith had resigned the post of teacher in the Government School which she had held for the past four years. The Falkland Islands Magazine of February 1917 reported that Miss E Pearce had been appointed as Governess to the children of J G Felton at Teal Inlet and was leaving Stanley for her new duties toward the end of the month. Edith was married to **Arthur Leslie "Les" HARDY**, baker, 21 June 1922 at Christ Church Cathedral by Banns by J Stanley Smith, Clerk in Holy Orders. The witnesses were John Pearce and A I Fleuret. Arthur's father was recorded as Arthur Hardy, deceased baker, and Edith's father was recorded as John Pearce, light keeper. Edith, age 30, went on holiday to England in 1928. She was recorded as being 5' 8 ½ " tall with grey eyes and auburn hair. Edith, her husband, son and mother, arrived Thursday 11 October 1934 on board the *Lafonia*. [Penguin 12 Oct 1934] Arthur, age 64 and a general merchant, Member of Legislature Council and Justice of the Peace OBE, BEM, died in Stanley 6 February 1962 at Stanley and was buried in Grave S 1712. Edith, age 70 and a widow from Wales, died in Stanley 8 February 1968 and was buried in Grave S 1776.



Arthur in 1920 and Edith in 1928

3. **Ines Grey PEARCE** born 13 December 1903 at Cape Pembroke Lighthouse and baptised 3 February 1904 by Christ Church Cathedral. Her father's occupation was recorded as Principal Lightkeeper, Cape Pembroke. Ines was a member of the Christ Church Cathedral choir for many years. Ines, age 20, died in Stanley 6 September 1924 from pulmonary tuberculosis and tubercular meningitis and was buried 8 September 1924 in Grave K 907.

Local Notes.

The death of Miss Ines Pearce on 6th September came as a shock to most people.

It was known that she had been in indifferent health for some months but few realized the possibility of so sudden a termination to her illness.

The funeral service on the following Monday afternoon was attended by a large number of friends anxious to shew their sympathy with the mourners, and their respect for the deceased.

Mr. & Mrs. Pearce received many letters of condolence, and a number of beautiful wreaths were also sent. In acknowledging with gratitude all these many marks of kindness Mr. and Mrs. Pearce feel that they must make special mention of Doctor Deane and Miss Wright of the Hospital Staff, Captain and Mrs. Howatt and Mrs. G. Kelway.

—o—

FIM October 1924

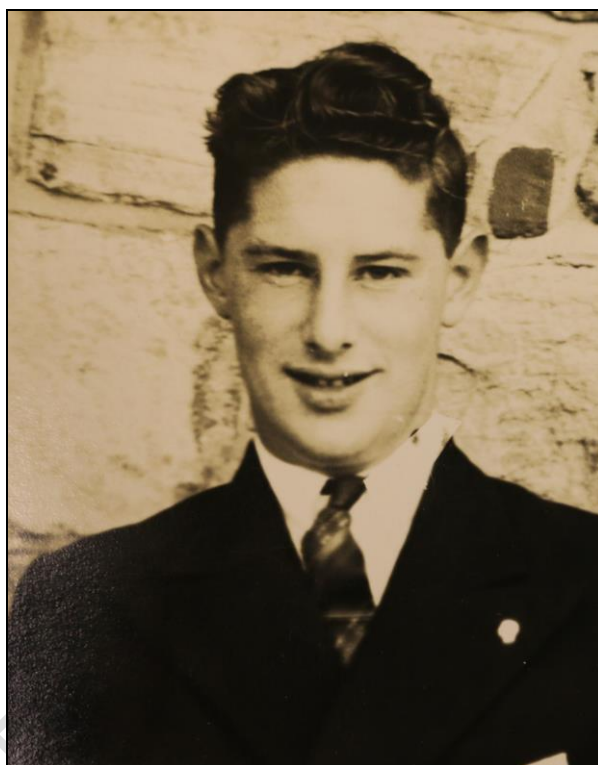


Ines' grave in Stanley Cemetery

SECOND GENERATION:

Children of Edith (2) and Arthur HARDY:

1. **Jack Arthur "Tony" HARDY** born 15 December 1926. His father's occupation was recorded as storekeeper. Jack, a shop assistant, was married to **Doreen Mary SEDGWICK**, clerk, 2 March 1949 at St Mary's Catholic Church, Stanley by John Kelly, Priest-in-Charge, St Mary's Mission. The witnesses were Sheila Sedgwick and William Cletheroe. Jack's father was recorded as Arthur Leslie Hardy, merchant, and Doreen's father was recorded as Bertrand Arthur Sedgwick, mechanic. Jack, age 17, and his mother went on holiday to Montevideo in 1944. Jack was recorded as being 5' 9" tall with grey eyes and brown hair. Jack, age 47 and a general merchant, died 16 April 1974 in Comodoro Rivadavia and was buried in Grave U1822.



Jack in 1944