

RICHERS 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.

Sidney Herbert RICHERS was born 14 October 1871 in St Mary, Newington, London, England to **Charles** and ? **RICHERS**.

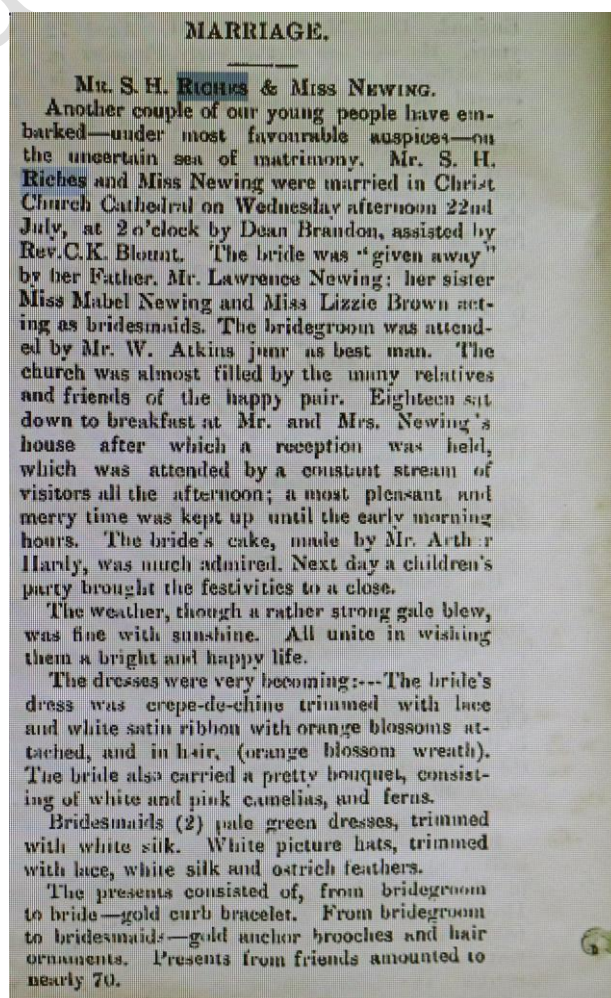
Sidney served in the forces for over ten years, over eight of which were foreign service, six of which were spent on the East and West coasts of Africa where he saw considerable active service having served with the Naval Brigade during the River Gambia Expedition, West Africa 1894, the Gunjora Expedition, East Africa in 1895 and the operations in and around Melinda, East Africa 1895-96 before finally quitting the Imperial Service with the highest abilities and character. [G7; 86]

Sidney, a Corporal of Marines, joined the Falkland Islands Police Force 6 October 1897 from one of HM ships which was lying in Stanley Harbour (*HMS Beagle?*). On joining he was sent to the West Falkland where he remained for over three years during which time he performed the postal and other duties for nine months after Mr Hurst's withdrawal. He was then ordered to Stanley. [G7; 86]

Sydney was appointed a Constable 6 April 1900 on an annual salary of £72 with a house, uniform and 54 loads of peat. [S63; 68]

Sydney Herbert RICHERS, police constable from England, was married to **Annie Maud NEWING** 22 July 1903 in the Parish Church according to the Rites & Ceremonies of the Established Church after Banns by Lowther E Brandon MA Dean & Colonial Chaplain. The witnesses were M E Newing and W Atkins. Sydney's father was recorded as Charles Riches, stonemason, and Annie's father was recorded as Lawrence Newing, blacksmith.

On 14 October 1907 Sidney, a police constable, wrote to the Colonial Secretary with regards to the approaching termination of his service in the Falkland Islands and requesting help in obtaining further employment in another Colony. Governor Allardyce wrote to the Secretary of State forwarding Sidney's letter advising that he had brought with him an excellent character and that he had always found him to be trustworthy, energetic, capable and painstaking with many of the qualifications necessary for police work. Sidney, along with his wife and child, was entitled to a free second class passage to England in April 1908. The Secretary of State replied 10 December 1907 that vacancies of that kind were normally filled up locally without reference to him. [G7; 86; F35; 180]



Sydney, Annie and their daughter departed 11 May 1908 on board the *Lima* bound for London. They arrived back 21 October 1908 on board the *Ortega*.

Sydney was appointed a Constable 26 October 1908 on an annual salary of £72 with a house, uniform and 54 loads of peat. [S64; 72]

Sydney was appointed Assistant Customs Officer, Stanley, 2 December 1912 on an annual salary of £84 plus uniform. He also received £24 per annum as Inspector of Nuisances and the same as Sanitary Inspector. [S67; 70]

Sydney went down south as Assistant Customs Officer in 1919. [DEP/WHA/4-4]

Sidney was appointed a Whaling Officer at the South Shetlands during the 1923/24 whaling season and the 1924/25 whaling season. [DEP/WHA/4-4: R32; 136: R33;127]

Sidney, Assistant Customs Officer, was appointed acting Customs Officer from 24 January 1927 to 6 May 1927 and 3 July 1927 to 2 January 1928. [R36; 30, 114, 137: R37; 15]



Sidney, age 57, and Annie, age 47

Sidney, age 57 and a customs officer, and Annie, age 47, went to the UK on holiday with their family in 1929. Sidney was recorded as being 5' 9" tall with brown eyes and grey hair and a

tattoo of a woman's bust on his left forearm and an Indian dagger on his right forearm. Annie was recorded as being 5' 3" tall with grey eyes and dark brown hair.

Sidney was appointed Whaling Officer with the vessels operating pelagically on the Eastern edge of the Falkland Islands sector of the Dependencies with effect from 5 October 1930.

Sidney arrived from the South Shetlands on board the *Maudie* 9 April 1931.

On 29 September 1931 the Secretary of State approved of the retirement of Sidney, the assistant customs officer, as from 1 May 1932 and the payment to him of a pension of £117-10-10 per annum from that date. Sidney had applied for an addition to his pension on the ground of deafness caused by his service as a whaling officer in the Dependencies but the medical officer advised that was not specifically attributable to the nature of his duties. His post was abolished on his retirement. [F76; 224: G26; 194]

Sydney and Annie departed with their daughter Constance 17 March 1932 on board the *La Paz* bound for England. [Penguin 18 Mar 1932: FIC/EF/5]

On 21 September 1932 J M Ellis, the Colonial Secretary, wrote to Sydney, care of the Crown Agents, to congratulate him on him being awarded the Imperial Service Medal and to say that it gave His Excellency great pleasure to know that his long and devoted service under the Crown had been recognised. [K14; 401: S87; 102]

On 22 September 1932 Sydney, who was living in Belton House, 33 Dolphin Road, Slough, Bucks, offered his services as Whaling Officer with the Whaling Fleet during the forthcoming service to the Secretary of State. He pointed out that he had had four seasons' experience in this work before his retirement from the Falkland Islands Civil Service. [F77; 254]

FIRST GENERATION

Children of Sidney and Annie RICHES:

1. **Dorothy Maud RICHES** born 8 July 1904 in Stanley. Her father's occupation was recorded as police constable. Dorothy was appointed an assistant teacher in the Government School 22 August 1925 on an annual salary of £80. [S80; 82] Dorothy, age 24 and a school teacher, went to the UK in 1929 with her family, returning 15 October 1929 on board the *Orita*. She was recorded as being 5' 4" tall with brown eyes and dark brown hair. Dorothy, a schoolteacher, was married to **Frederick Basil DIXON**, painter, 31 May 1930 at Christ Church Cathedral by Banns by F S Vaughan, Clerk in Holy Orders. The witnesses were Ernest V Dixon and V Riches. Frederick's father was recorded as William Basil Dixon, deceased, and Dorothy's father was recorded as Sidney Herbert Riches, customs officer.



Dorothy, age 24

2. **Reginald Lawrence RICHES** born 21 January 1909 in Stanley. His father's occupation was recorded as police constable. Reginald, age 20 and a farm labourer, went to the UK in 1929 with his family, returning 15 October 1929 on board the *Orita*. He was recorded as being 5' 7 ½" tall with grey eyes and brown hair. Reginald escorted his sister Vera to South Georgia in 1932 so that she could be married. He then proceeded to the UK. [FIC/EF/5] According to the Penguin of 4 November 1936 Reginald was employed by the Imperial Chemical Industries Company.



Reginald, age 20

3. **Vera May RICHS** born 24 January 1912 in Stanley. Her father's occupation was recorded as police constable. Vera was appointed Junior Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office 1 January 1930 on an annual salary of £54. [S85; 74] Vera, age 20 and a civil servant, applied for a passport to go to the UK in 1932. She was recorded as being 5' 5" tall with grey eyes and fair hair. Vera, a civil servant, was married to **Alfred George Nelson JONES**, civil servant, 12 March 1932 in the Deputy Registrar-General's Office South Georgia by W Barlas, Deputy Registrar. The witnesses were L H Hansen and R Riches. Alfred's father was recorded as Lewis Tom Jones, mechanical engineer, and Vera's father was recorded as Sydney Herbert Riches, civil servant. Vera resigned as Junior Clerk with effect from 1 April 1932. In September 1936 the family were living in Langley Road, Slough, Buckinghamshire, England. [Penguin 17 Sep 1936; 1]



Vera, age 20

4. **Constance Annie 'Connie' RICHS** born 6 June 1921. Her father's occupation was recorded as customs officer. Constance went to the UK on holiday with her family in 1929. Constance departed with her parents 17 March 1932 on board the *La Paz* bound for England. [Penguin 18 Mar 1932] According to the Penguin of 4 November 1936 Connie was studying secretarial work at Slough.