

WEIR 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. All variations in spelling of names is how they were recorded in the records.

David Samuel Angus WEIR was born 24 October 1894 in Millers Flat, Central Otago, New Zealand to **David** and **? WEIR**. [Tuapeka Times, birth notice]

David was married to **Josephine FORDE** in New Zealand. Josephine was born 25 October 1898 in Glenavy, Central Otago, New Zealand.

In September 1935 the Colonial Office sent a memorandum to the New Zealand Government requesting the services of a Stock Adviser from the South Island for a period of three years. The New Zealand Government recommended David who was seconded for a period of three years, commencing from arrival in the Falkland Islands, with an annual salary of £700 payable from date of sailing, free furnished quarters, lighting, first class passages and travel expenses. David was a senior inspector of stock in the Department of Agriculture stationed at Blenheim. He was considered to be a highly capable, keen and dependable officer who had held the position of inspector of stock with experience in various parts of the South Island including Central Otago and the Lakes District with a special interest in animal husbandry. [Article: Penguin 23 Apr 1936]

David and his family departed Wellington 7 July 1936 on board the RMS *Makura* for London via San Francisco. They travelled on train from San Francisco to New York where they travelled on board the HMS *Queen Mary* to Southampton. They departed 15 August 1936 from London for Montevideo, Uruguay on board the ss *Highland Brigade* and then on to the Falkland Islands on board the ss *Lafonia*, arriving in Stanley 10 September 1936. A Government Notice was issued advising the commencement of his appointment. [Penguin 23 Apr 1936]

David organised a paper chase on horseback to be held Saturday 6 February 1937. [Penguin 3 Feb 1937]

In March 1937 David, as Agricultural Adviser, and Bertie FLEURET, common ranger, departed on board the ss *Lafonia* for Lively Island en route to Magallanes, Chile in connection with shipments of sheep from the Falkland Islands to Chile. They arrived back on the *Lafonia* 4 April 1937.

Due to a vacancy on the Executive Council David was appointed a provisional member 21 May 1937. [Penguin 31 May 1937]

On 18 March 1938 Josephine advertised for sale blankets, feather mattresses, bicycles and toys. [Penguin 18 Mar 1938] Josephine applied for a passport 7 April 1938; she was recorded as 5' 4" with grey eyes and fair hair. Josephine and her sons departed at 2pm 10 April 1938 on board the ss *Lafonia* bound for Montevideo. They departed Montevideo 14 April 1938 on board the *Highland Patriot* bound for the UK. The boys were boarded in the Finchley Catholic Grammar School, Woodside Lane, North Finchley, London. Josephine arrived back at 4.30pm 27 July 1938 on board the ss *Fitzroy*. She travelled first class both ways.





L-R: Beryl SHAW, Tom BEATY, Greta PITLUGA, David WEIR, Marce MALLAS – Beaty Collection

David's secondment was due to be completed 10 September 1939. He wrote that as he would have just finished a Falkland Islands winter, then would go to the UK where most of his six months leave would be spent during the UK winter then returning to a New Zealand winter he requested that his term be changed so it was extended with the new termination date being 10 March 1940. He was replaced by another New Zealander, J G Gibbs.

On 2 September 1939 David was appointed a captain in the Falkland Islands Defence Force and the Director of Public Works. As acting Director of Public Works he received half the salary of the Executive Engineer in addition to his own salary.

David and Josephine departed 21 February 1940 for Montevideo on the ss *Lafonia*. They travelled across to Buenos Aires, Argentina and departed 15 March 1940 on board the ss *Argentina* bound for New York. They arrived 1 April 1940 and stayed in the Hotel Governor Clinton. Their sons arrived 17 April 1940 and on 20 April the family departed by train for San Francisco. On 23 April they departed on board the ss *Monterey* for Auckland, New Zealand.

Children of David and Josephine WEIR:

1. **David Robert John WEIR** born 15 August 1923 in New Zealand. Arrived with his family 10 September 1939. Attended the Roman Catholic School in Stanley. Departed 10 April 1938 to attend the Finchley Catholic Grammar School, Woodside Lane, North Finchley, London. Travelled with his brothers to meet their parents in New York to continue on back to New Zealand.
2. **James Bruce "Bruce" WEIR** born 6 April 1926 in New Zealand. Arrived with his family 10 September 1939. Attended the Roman Catholic School in Stanley. Departed 10 April 1938 to attend the Finchley Catholic Grammar School, Woodside Lane, North Finchley, London. Travelled with his brothers to meet their parents in New York to continue on back to New Zealand.
3. **William Douglas "Douglas" WEIR** born 5 August 1927 in New Zealand. Arrived with his family 10 September 1939. Attended the Roman Catholic School in Stanley. Douglas was confirmed 23 May 1937 by St Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Departed 10 April 1938 to attend the Finchley Catholic Grammar School, Woodside Lane, North Finchley, London. Travelled with his brothers to meet their parents in New York to continue on back to New Zealand.