

WHAITS 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.

Robert WHAITS was born ? (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Robert was married to **Marion** ? (*not in the Falkland Islands*).

Robert was appointed catechist and in charge of the orphanage at the Ushauia Mission from 1874 to 1886 and Marion was appointed the matron of the orphanage from 1874 to 1884.

Robert, wife, girl & boy; Carpenter for the South American Mission Society, passengers per *Sparrowhawk*, leaving England December 1874 [FIC/C1, desp 482] The *Sparrowhawk*, schooner of 97 tons with 8 crew and 11 passengers, 64 days out from Falmouth, arrived in Stanley 6 April 1875.

While in Tierra del Fuego Robert collected a number of objects from the Yaghan people. Robert was friends with Ernest Holmsted and appears to have given him some of the objects as Ernest donated objects from Tierra del Fuego to a number of museums in England including around 20 items to the British Museum.

Robert was the farm manager on Keppel Island for SAMS from 1886. Robert, Marion and all the Fuegian Indians left Keppel Island 21 April 1898 on board the *Allen Gardiner* bound for Tekeneka. Robert was hoping to get sheep down and start industrial farms among the Fuegians. [FIM May 1898]



Marion, age 60, died 18 September 1898 at Tekeenika, Tierra del Fuego. Robert was also ill and only had Agnes Fletcher with him. [Obituary FIM Nov 1898]

Robert married (2) **Agnes F FLETCHER**. Agnes had gone out to Ushuaia from the UK in 1895 to work at the Tekenika Mission. Agnes retired in 1899 due to bad health.

Keppel Island was sold to John Dean in 1911 and Robert retired to England. Robert and Agnes arrived in Stanley 27 July 1911, departing 9 August 1911 on board the *Orissa* bound for Liverpool. [FIM Sep 1911]

Robert died Saturday 26 March 1921 in the UK. [FIM Aug 1921]

FIRST GENERATION

Children of Robert and Marion WHAITS:

1. **Annie WHAITS** born ? (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Annie was an assistant helping in the orphanage at Ushuaia between 1877 and 1883.
2. **William Henry "Willie" WHAITS** born ? (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Willie was an assistant at the Ushuaia Mission from 1877-1878. Willie was married to **Florence Susan MATTOLICH** (*not in the Falkland Islands*). Florence, age 45 and a widow, died 20 June 1912 at 27 Northumberland Road, Clifton, and was buried Tuesday 25 June 1912 at Arno's Vale.
3. **Elizabeth "Lily" WHAITS** born 14 August 1860 in Bristol, England. Elizabeth, age 24 living at Ushuaia, Beagle Channel, was married to **Arthur Ernest FELTON**, age 31 and a sheep farmer on West Point Island, 31 July 1884 in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence by Lowther E Brandon MA Colonial Chaplain. The witnesses were James Lewis and Alice Felton. Arthur's father was recorded as Henry Felton, sergeant major 2nd Life guards, and Elizabeth's father was recorded as Robert Whaits, joiner and catechist. Arthur moved to Stanley from West Point Island 25 December 1932. Arthur, age 78 and a sheep farmer, died in Stanley 10 June 1933 and was buried 13 June 1933. [Obituary FIM Jul 1933; Penguin 12 Jun 1933] Elizabeth, age 76 and a widow, and Alice departed 27 April 1937 on board the *Lafonia* bound for Montevideo. Elizabeth was recorded as being 4' 10" tall with grey eyes and dark hair.



SECOND GENERATION

Children of William (2) and Florence WHAITS:

1. **William Robert WHAITS** born 31 December 1887 and baptised 10 June 1888 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as carpenter. William attended the Bristol Grammar School.



Children of Elizabeth (3) and Arthur FELTON:

1. **Alice Emma FELTON** born 28 July 1886 at Roy Cove. Her father's occupation was recorded as sheep farmer. Went to England with her father Monday 28 May 1906 on board the *Gaelic*, arriving 26 June 1906. Alice, age 50 and single, emigrated to the UK in 1937. Alice was recorded as being 5' 5" tall with grey eyes and brown hair turning grey.

