

Shackleton Scholarship Award

Report On Visit by

Edward Walsh

to

The Falkland Islands

21 October - 4 November 2006

64 Kitchener Road, Walthamstow, London 17 4LL
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1. By letter of 12 May 2006 David Tatham advised me of the award of a Shackleton Scholarship to visit the Falkland Islands on a project to undertake research study into the Catholic Church in the islands.
2. I departed London on Wednesday 18 October, staying over night in Madrid before flying by Lan Chile to Santiago, Chile, on Thursday 19 October.
3. I Stayed over night in Santiago and then on Saturday 21 October by Lan Chile to Mount Pleasant via Puerto Mount and Punta Arenas.
4. Transport from Mount Pleasant to Stanley on the bus had been arranged for me by Theresa Lang.
5. During my time in Stanley I stayed with the parish priest Fr Peter Norris at St Mary's.

6. Apart from one day which I took off to visit the camp, I worked every day (including Saturdays and Sundays) at either the Government Archive or St Mary's Archive.

7. In the course of ten working days I read and worked my way through fifty one (51) registers. This brought to light previously unknown letters from Fr James Foran the first resident Catholic priest in the Falklands 1875-1886, and included finding the only known surrendered and cancelled Crown Grant dated 1888.

8. Also discovered were previously unknown letters from Irish Salesian priests Fr Patrick Joseph Diamond and Fr Patrick O' Grady.

9. Correspondence from successive Colonial Chaplains; the Rev.Charles Bull, Rev.Henry Coulson Lory as well as from Dean Lothar Brandon and Bishop Waite Hockin Sterling also came to light.

11. A photo portrait of the Colonial Chaplain the Rev. Charles Bull was discovered in the vestry of Christ Church. The Rev.Kathy Biles was unaware of the provenance of this portrait. Subsequent investigation revealed that the original is kept at Holy Trinity Church, Belevdere, Plattenberg, South Africa.

12. The Bull/Governor D'Arcy and Lory/Governor D'Arcy correspondence provides another insight into the 1872 pastoral visit of Irish priest Fr William Mason Walsh to the

Catholic community and the problem which arose from that visit. Significantly the hostility of Colonial Chaplains to the Catholic Church ceases when two Irish clergymen take charge of the different communities - the RC priest James Foran and COE vicar Lother Brandon.

13. Other previously unknown letters found in registers in the Government Archive included letters from correspondents in the Irish counties of Meath, Westmeath and Longford seeking "lost" family members and claiming inheritances. Also found were similar letters from Irish residents in Buenos Aires city and province likewise seeking "lost" family members and also claiming inheritances. It is interesting to note that Meath, Westmeath and Longford were the counties with the highest number of emigrants to Argentina.

14. Registers read and consulted at the Government Archive are as follows :

Misc.Letters etc. Outward July 1848/Aug 1850	D4
Outward Despatches Sept 1849/Sept 1861	B7
Outward Despatches Oct 1851/June 1854	B8
Outward Despatches July 1854/Nov 1855	B9
Outward Despatches Nov 1855/Dec 1858	B10
Outward Despatches Jan 1859/July 1861	B11
Despatch Book Outward Jan 1859/Nov 1852	G4
Outward Despatches Sept 1861/Nov 1862	B12
Outward Despatches Sept 1862/July 1866	B13
Outward Despatches July 1866/March 1870	B14

Outward Despatches April 1870/March 1872	B15
Outward Despatches Oct 1872/Jan 1875	B16
Despatch Book Inward Dec 1873/June 1857	F7
Confidential Despatch Book May 1854/Oct 1865	F8
Despatch Book Inward June 1857/Sept 1858	F9
Despatch Book Inward Apr 1858/Aug 1860	F10
Despatch Book Inward Aug 1860/Feb 1863	F11
Despatch Book Inward Jan 1863/Nov 1865	F12
Despatch Book Inward Nov 1865/Dec 1868	F13
Misc.Letters etc. to Gov.* July 1856/May 1858	H14
Misc.Letters etc. to Gov. Dec 1857/June 1859	H15
Misc.Letters etc. to Gov. June 1859/May 1860	H16
Misc.Letters etc. to Gov. May 1860/Sept 1861	H17
Misc.Letters etc. to Gov. Mar 1861 /Dec 1862	H18
M i sc. Letters etc. to Gov. Jan 1863/Dec 1864	H19
Legal Letters to Gov. Oct 1863/May 1869	H20
Misc.Letters to Gov. Mar 1864/April 1865	H21
Emmigration Commissionaires Reports 1864/77	H22
Misc.Letters to Gov. May 1865/Feb 1866	H23
Misc.Letters to Gov. Jan 1866/Dec 1866	H24
Letters etc. to Gov. Jan 1867/Jan 1868	H25
Letters etc. to Gov. Jan 1868/May 1869	H26
Letters etc. to Gov. Jan 1869/July 1870	H27
Letters etc. to Gov. Mar 1870/Dec 1870	H28
Letters etc. to Gov. Nov 1870/Dec 1871	H29
Letters etc. to Gov. Aug 1871 /Aug 1872	H30
Misc.Letters to Gov. Aug 1873/Oct 1874	H31
Letters etc. to Gov. Dec 1874/May 1875	H32
(Burned) Letters Inward 1875/1876	H33
Letters Inward 1877/1878 (Fire Damaged)	H34
Misc.Letters etc. to Gov. Jan 1879/Mar 1880	H35
Misc.Letters etc. to Gov. Jan 1880/Dec 1882	H36

Misc.Letters etc. to Gov. Jan 1883/Dec 1884	H37
Misc.Letters etc. to Gov. Aug 1884/Dec 1885	H38
Misc.Letters etc. to Gov. Jan 1885/May 1886	H39
Letters etc. to Gov. June 1886/July 1887	H40
Letters etc. to Gov. July 1887/Dec 1888	H41
Letters etc. to Gov. Jan 1889/July 1889	H42
Letters etc. to Gov. July 1889/Dec 1890	H43
Misc.Letter Book June 1890/Mar 1891	H44

*Gov = Government.

15. I was given unrestricted access to the parish archive and records at St Mary's by Fr Peter Norris the parish priest.

This archive contains the Madge Biggs Papers - a unique collection of photos of Biggs family members, photos of Stanley, 4" x 4" glass slides and personal papers. Many of these family photos were taken by Madge's father William Biggs. Just one photo from the 4" x 4" glass slide collection has been published. This collection has been scanned and is now on disk.

St Mary's Archive also contains the original baptism, marriage and burial registers brought by Fr Foran from the UK when he arrived in the Falklands in 1875.

16. An article entitled The Archive of St Mary's, Stanley, Falkland Islands (complete with photos from St Mary's

Archive and the National Archives, Kew) has been prepared and accepted for publication by the editor of The Catholic Archives Journal and will be included in next edition of that journal which will appear some time between January and March 2007. A copy of the above mentioned article is enclosed with this report.

17. Was interviewed by the editor of Penguin News Jenny Cockwell on Wednesday 27 October. This resulted in an item titled Shackleton Scholar delves into Catholic archives in the 27 October issue of Penguin News (V 18, No.26, p.3) Copy enclosed with this report.

18. Had an interview with Stacey Bragger of FIBS on Thursday 2 November.

19. A meeting with the Governor Alan Huckle was scheduled take place on Friday 27 October but was cancelled and subsequently took place on Friday 3 November. Arrangements for this meeting were made by Mrs. Helga Burroughs. Mrs. Annie Gisbie and Lt Cdr John Maskell-Bott were also present at this meeting. During the course of an hour a very friendly and lively discussion took place with the Governor enquiring about the exact and precise area of research being undertaken. Questions, and queries were all addressed followed by a short exposition to outline the scope of this study, starting point, and the current direction of investigation, the documents and photos discovered in the Government Archive, followed by a description of the Rev. Bull/Governor D'Arcy and the

Rev. Lory/D'Arcy controversy arising out of the visit of the Irish priest Fr William Mason Walsh to the islands in 1872.

20. As per David Tatham's suggestion I also met up with Ms. Juanita Brock to discuss the purpose of my visit to the Falklands.

21. Tuesday 31 October was my one day off from work and I was accompanied by Gerald Cheek to go out to the camp visiting San Carlos, and the Military Cemetery; there was an opportunity to meet farmer Terence McPhee and his wife Shiela in their home and to chat over a cup of coffee. Subsequently visited Darwin and Goose Green as well as the Argentine Cemetery and then on to Mare Harbour on the return trip to Stanley. It was a beautifully warm sunny day with little if any cloud so views of West Falkland and Mount Osborne were spectacular.

22. At both the Government and St Mary's Archives many documents and letters were either hand copied and written up in a notebook or photocopied. It will be necessary to sort all these documents, put them up on computer, analyse, interpret and prepare them for publication. Further research will need to be undertaken to follow up documentary leads at the National Archives in Kew, Lambeth Palace Archive, London, and the archive of Propaganda Fide, Rome.

23. It would be very remiss of me were I not to thank those individuals whose help and assistance made my stay in the Falklands such a memorable one. Jane Cameron for her

unselfish help and assistance in making registers available to me at the Government Archive. Fr Peter Norris for his friendship and hospitality as well as giving me unstricted access to St Mary's Archive.

24. Departed the Falkland Islands on Saturday 4 November by Lan Chile flight to Santiago via Punta Arenas and Puerto Montt. Stayed over night before departing Santiago on Sunday 5 November for Madrid by Iberia. Arrived in Madrid on Monday 6 November to catch an Iberia flight back to London.

25. Enclosures :

(a) The text of The Archive of St Mary's, Stanley, Falkland Islands submitted to the editor of The Catholic Archives Journal and accepted for publication in the next number, scheduled to appear some time between January and March 2007. See No.16 above

(b) Shackleton scholar delves into Catholic Archives, photocopy of a news item in the 27 October 2006 Penguin News, (p.4, V 18, No.26.) See No.17 above.

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