

# THE BIOGRAPHICAL SHEET REVEALED

The Biographical Sheet is a tool prepared by HBCA Archivists to provide basic information on HBC and NWC employees.

Name spellings weren't always consistent - it pays to look at alternate spellings!

The employee's place of origin, or the place where he signed on with the company. If "Native," the person was born in the Company's territory.

**NAME:** BALLANDEN, James (ALSO BALLANTINE) **PARISH:** [QUOY], Evie, ORKNEY Stromness, ORKNEY **ENTERED SERVICE:** 19 March 1838 **DATES:** b. 1 April 1817 fl.1838-1852

## Appointments & Service

Outfit Year*	Position:	Post:	HBCA Ref
1838-1843	Labourer		A.32/21
1843-1846	Middleman		B.239/u/1 #
1846-1848	Middleman	Cowlitz	B.239/g/26
1848-1849	Middleman	Colville	B.239/g/28
1849-1852	Farmer	Valley Depot	B.239/g/29
1851-1852	Discharged		B.239/g/32

Regional districts included many posts; often the specific post of employment is hard to find.

b. = "born"  
d. = "death"  
ca. = "circa," or approximate date  
fl. = "flourished," the period during which the person was active with the Company.

See reverse for more detail.

Check out the post maps at:  
[http://www.gov.mb.ca/hbca/resource/cart\\_rec/postmap/hbc\\_c.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/hbca/resource/cart_rec/postmap/hbc_c.html)

These are the documents where the information was found. In most cases, all of the relevant information is captured on this sheet.

The Document Number Revealed:  
**B.59/d/2**  
B. - Post record  
59 - Post number  
d - Account Book  
2 - Volume/File

Parents: [John Ballantine and Mary Linklater, m. 19 February 1816]  
Brother: [Jacob Ballantine, b. 10 July 1819] possibly the same Jacob Ballenden employed 1842-1849 in HBC

Information in square brackets provided by T.R. McCloy, August 1995, from a manuscript in the Orkney Archives, Ballendens or Ballantynes of Orkney.



Personal/Genealogical information found in archival or bibliographic sources or in research correspondence. This type of information is not available for every individual.

## Occupational Groups in the HBC

**Boote:** a collective term for the skilled positions of bowsman and steersman in a canoe or boat.

**Bowsman:** the crewman in the bow of a canoe or boat; a skilled position.

**Chief Factor:** the highest ranking Commissioned Officers, under the Deed Polls of 1821 and 1834; entitled to slightly less than one per cent of the fur trade profits in each outfit; usually in charge of districts; had the right to sit at the annual meeting of the council and to vote on promotions for clerks and Chief Traders.

**Chief Trader:** the lower of the two ranks of Commissioned Officers under the Deed Polls of 1821 and 1834; the fourth rank under the Deed Poll of 1871; share of profits half that of a Chief Factor; could take charge of districts but sometimes served under other Commissioned Officers, either at the second post of a large district or in charge of an important branch of business in a depot.

**Clerk:** title used in NWC and HBC for the employees one step below the partners (NWC) or officers (HBC); varied in salary and responsibility

**Factor:** a term used to describe a man in charge of an HBC post; under the 1871 Deed Poll, factors were the third rank of

Commissioned Officers.

**Freeman:** employee who had completed contract and was 'free' of obligation to the HBC; often continued to trade with HBC and to work as casual labour.

**Furlough:** leave of absence usually granted to employees after the termination of one contract, before beginning a new contract

**General Charges:** not yet assigned to a particular post

**Guide:** a person employed to conduct people through unfamiliar territory - often associated with interpreter; presided over brigades of two to five craft (generally working as steersman in his own boat but also commanding all servants in the brigade).

**Inland Trader:** an 18th-century term for a man in charge of an inland post.

**Interpreter:** an employee who could speak the local language, which in many cases would have been his mother tongue, so he could help the man in charge of the post conduct the trade; could also be in charge of a post.

**Labourer:** an unskilled employee (often used interchangeable with 'middleman').

**Master:** an 18th-century term for the man in charge of a post.

**Master & Trader:** an 18th-century term for the man in charge of a post.

**Master of Schooner:** officer in charge of a

sloop or schooner.

**Middleman:** a crewman in the middle of a boat or canoe, an unskilled position (often used interchangeably with 'labourer').

**Postmaster:** most were Scottish, Canadian or Métis labourers and tradesmen who had risen from the ranks to clerical or junior managerial posts; others were the native sons of Commissioned Officers.

**Servant:** employees of the HBC.

**Slooper:** crewmen on HBC 'decked vessels' or schooners on Hudson Bay (not on Lake Winnipeg).

**Sloopmaster:** officer in charge of a sloop or schooner.

**Steersman:** the crewman in the steer of a canoe or boat, responsible for guiding the boat; a skilled position.

**Trader:** typically stationed in outposts, did much of their work outside of the forts negotiating and dealing with Indians in their camps (also called runners); often not permanent servants.

**Tradesman:** men skilled in a particular trade, e.g. carpenter, cooper, blacksmith, stonemason, boatbuilder, tinsmith, joiner, etc.

**Writer:** an early term for a clerk (also used by East India Company).

(information taken directly from Philip Goldring, *Papers on the Labour System of the Hudson's Bay Company*, volumes 1-3; and Elizabeth Briggs and Anne Morton, *Biographical Resources at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives*)