Three decades after surrendering the Falkland Islands (In Spanish, Malvinas) to the United Kingdom, offshore oil discoveries led Argentina to renew its sovereignty claim. In response, the Falkland Islanders held a referendum on self-determination, voting 99.8% in favor of remaining British, with just three naysayers among 1,517 valid votes. Argentina’s government recognizes the Islanders’ “interests,” but refuses to accept their wishes or “desires” (deseos) to produce oil. Through construction of oil infrastructure, settlers are reinventing themselves as “natives,” in a permanent frontier with no historical evidence of a pre-colonial indigenous population. Built to accommodate drilling, the “Noble Frontier” temporary dock facility materializes desires for commercial oil production. However, its provisional nature limits possibilities for cementing peoplehood, as represented in mired plans for a permanent port. The research incorporates participant observation, analysis of colonial reports, and interviews collected during 20 months of fieldwork in the Falklands/Malvinas, Argentina and the United Kingdom.