

McNICOLL 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.

James M McNICOLL was born 6 May 1873 in Glamis, Scotland. James was married to **Isabella YORKSTONE** (*not in Falkland Islands*). Isabella was born 31 August 1875 in Markle, Preston Park, Scotland.

James, Isabella and four children arrived 25 August 1908 on board the *Oronsa* from Liverpool. James had come down to work as a blacksmith for the Falkland Islands Company Limited.

James, age 54 and a blacksmith, travelled to Scotland via Montevideo on important business with Isabella, age 53, and their four youngest children in the first half of 1929. James had gone away for an operation. James arrived 15 October 1929 on board the *Orita* from the UK. Isabella, age 53, died Thursday 13 March 1930 in Glamis, Scotland. [Obituary Penguin 15 Mar 1930]

OBITUARY.

Mrs. McNicoll.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mrs. Isabella McNicoll who passed away at Glamis, Forfarshire, Scotland on Thursday at the age of fifty-three years. Mrs. McNicoll went Home accompanied by her husband Mr. James McNicoll of Stanley, about twelve months ago in ill health and after her arrival spent some time in Edinburgh Infirmary. Lately she had seemed to be making some progress and the news of her death came as a great shock to Mr. McNicoll to whom our deepest sympathies are extended. It was only in October last that Mr. McNicoll returned to the Colony. Mrs. McNicoll is mourned not only by her husband and two daughters in Stanley - Mrs. E.G.J. Biggs and Miss Ellen McNicoll - but three daughters and one son at Home. Mr. and Mrs. McNicoll have been associated with the Islands twenty one years.

James resigned November 1933 and was awarded a pension of £52 a year by the FIC. James, age 60 and a blacksmith, departed on the *Lafonia* for Montevideo Sunday 24 February 1934 and then on to the UK on board the *Alcantara*. Also on board was **Anastasia Ruth DAVIS**, age 32 and a maid, whom James later married.

- 2 - Wednesday, 23th February, 1934.

PRESENTATION TO MR J. MCNICOL.

Farewell To Former Volunteer.

A large number of members of the Defence Force gathered in the Club Room on Thursday evening last when a Farewell Smoker was given to Mr J. McNicol, a former member of the Old Volunteers who left Stanley for Britain by the s.s. Lafonia on Sunday last. The chairman was Lieutenant W.M. Allan (Adjutant) who was supported by Captain D.R. Watson.

During the course of the evening Mr McNicol was the recipient of a wallet of treasury notes presented "by the Members of the F.I.D.F. as a token of respect on his departure from the Colony on the 24th of February, 1934."

In making the presentation Mr Allan expressed the hope that Mr McNicol would buy something suitable with the money when he arrived Home and have it inscribed.

The chairman remarked that Mr McNicol had served for nearly twenty-five years with the Falkland Islands Company as blacksmith and during the earlier part of his service in the Colony he had been a very active volunteer. He joined the Force in 1908 and served continuously up to 1919. He was all out for re-organisation and was very much a live member of the Old Volunteers, retiring with the rank of Corporal.

Previous to coming to the Colony Mr McNicol had served with the Forfar Volunteers which are now the Black Watch, and the Angus Volunteers, having joined in 1890. In conclusion Mr Allan said: "Mr McNicol, I hope you will accept this from the members of the Falkland Islands Defence Force as a token of their esteem and respect for your long service in the Volunteer Force and here's to your health and a long life." Loud applause greeted these remarks and the guest of honour was heartily toasted in an appropriate fashion and with "For he's a Jolly Good Fellow."

Mr McNicol who was obviously and feelingly affected thanked the Defence Force for its very generous and kind gift and said how pleased he would be to get something and inscribe it as they wished. It would always bring him memories fresh of the Falkland Islands and for that reason he would value it more than ever. He then regaled his hearers with reminiscences of his early Volunteer days - they were, he said, the most glorious times of his life.

A very jovial programme of songs and music had been arranged and was carried out, Mr McNicol himself contributing one or two of the old favourites which at similar gatherings in the past had helped to cement his popularity with the Defence Force. Before Smoker ended Captain Watson and Mr W.J. Grierson, also former Volunteers, associated themselves with Mr McNicol and in touching words bade their former comrade farewell.

Children of James and Isabella McNICOLL:

1. **Mary Greenhill McNICOLL** born 21 January 1898 in Dundee, Scotland. Mary, a British schoolteacher, was married to (1) **Alfred Charles SMITH**, mariner, 9 October 1917 at the Registrar's Office, Stanley by M Craigie-Halkett, Registrar General. The witnesses were G J Meierhofer and Winnie M Biggs. Alfred's father was recorded as Edwin John Smith, shepherd, and Mary's father was recorded as James McNicoll, blacksmith. Mary, divorced, was married to (2) **James BLYTH**, labourer, 4 November 1933 at the Registrar's Office, Stanley by Special Licence by A B Hoare, Ag Registrar General. The witnesses were A J Blyth and Helen Biggs. James' father was recorded as John Blyth, blacksmith, and Mary's father was recorded as James McNicoll, blacksmith. James, age 50 and a blacksmith, and Mary, age 54, went on holiday to the UK in 1952.
2. **Murray McNICOLL** born circa 1905 (*not in Falkland Islands*). Murray, age 22, died 17 June 1927 from pulmonary tuberculosis and was buried in Grave J962.
3. **Joseph Greenhill McNICOLL** born circa 1909 (*not in Falkland Islands*). Joseph, age 19, went to the UK in 1921.
4. **Helen MacNICOLL** born 19 September 1907 in Dundee, Scotland. Helen was baptised by St Mary's Roman Catholic Church 7 February 1928. Helen was married to **Eric George John BIGGS**, labourer, 8 February 1928 at St Mary's Roman Catholic Chapel, Stanley by Banns by Mario Louis Migone, Priest in Charge. The witnesses were B C Biggs and P MacNicoll. Eric's father was recorded as George Patrick Biggs, deceased, and Helen's father was recorded as James MacNicoll, blacksmith. Helen, age 41, went on holiday to the UK in 1949. Eric, age 53 and a dairyman, emigrated to the UK in 1955.
5. **Margaret Yorkstone "Peggie" McNICOLL** born 30 September 1909 in Stanley. Her father's occupation was recorded as blacksmith. Margaret, age 19 and a cook, went to Scotland via Montevideo in 1929. By September 1936 Peggie was married with one son and lived in Glamis. [Penguin 2 Sep 1936]
6. **Jessie Hogg McNICOLL** born 16 December 1911 in Stanley. Her father's occupation was recorded as blacksmith. Jessie, age 17, went to Scotland via Montevideo in 1929. By September 1936 Jessie was married and lived in Fifeshire. [Penguin 2 Sep 1936]
7. **Jean Souter McNICOLL** born 30 April 1914 in Stanley. Her father's occupation was recorded as blacksmith. Jean went to Scotland via Montevideo in 1929.
8. **Ernest Shackleton "Shack" McNICOLL** born 3 June 1916 in Stanley. His father's occupation was recorded as blacksmith. Ernest went to Scotland via Montevideo in 1929. He was still alive in June 2008.