

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 to **James McNICOLL**, shoemaker, and **Mary McNICOLL** née **GREENHILL**.

James was married to **Isabella YORKSTONE** 4 December 1896 in Gladsmuir, Haddingtonshire, East Lothian. Isabella was born 31 August 1875 in Markle, Preston Park, Scotland.

In a despatch to W A Harding, Manager of the Falkland Islands Company Ltd, Stanley dated 1 July 1908, London Office advised 'As a successor to Blyth I think we have got a man in which are concentrated all the virtues that it is possible to focus in a single Blacksmith. His name is McNicoll; he is 34 years of age, a total abstainer, trained in the country, and a good horse-shoer. About 18 years ago he went to Dundee, where he has been employed in various Engineering and Shipbuilding Establishments. The foreman Blacksmith of the Caledon Shipbuilding and Engineering Co gives him a splendid character as a tradesman and a man, and the Secretary of the Blacksmiths' Association cannot say too much for him. He has had experience in tempering tools, and all his references confirm the fact of his being a total abstainer. I have engaged him on the same terms as Blyth but I forget whether the higher wages cover all or any portion of the extra pay that used to be given on shipwork; on this point you will have to come to an understanding, for if we give him high pay all the year round, we ought to retain a portion of this. He will leave by the boat at the end of this month.' [FIC/C5; 1047, par 10]

James, Isabella and four children arrived 25 August 1908 on board the *Oronsa* from Liverpool.

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 was recorded as being 5' 8" tall with blue eyes and dark brown hair and Isabella was recorded as being 5' 5" tall with grey eyes and fair hair. James had gone away for an operation as he was very badly ruptured from where he was operated for appendicitis some 3 years previously. James arrived back 15 October 1929 on board the *Orita* from the UK.

Isabella, age 53, died Thursday 13 March 1930 in Glamis, Scotland and was buried in Glamis Churchyard.

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.

[Penguin 15 Mar 1930]



James and Isabella in 1929

James asked to resign in November 1933 and his resignation was accepted and passages were booked for him on the *Lafonia*, due to leave 26 February, then onwards per the *Alcantara*. James, age 60, resigned early as the wound from his operation in 1929 occasionally troubled him although he wore a belt and he felt that he could not longer continue with heavy work. He had nearly 25 ½ years' service and although he hadn't completed the necessary 30 years to be eligible for a pension in both his and the Company's interests, he was awarded free passage, half pay on the voyage home, three months leave on full pay and a pension of £52 a year thereafter. [FIC/D15/367]

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.

- 2 - Wednesday, 28th 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.

James was married to **Anastasia Ruth 'Ruth' DAVIS** in 1934 in Rescobie, Angus, Scotland.

James, age 87, died 20 April 1962 in Glamis, Angus, Scotland and was buried in Glamis Churchyard. His mother, who died 28 February 1905, was buried there and his father was buried there in February 1921.

Anastasia, age 82, died 16 April 1984 in Hampshire, England and was buried in Glamis Churchyard, Glamis, Angus, Scotland.

FIRST GENERATION:

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. James was recorded as being 5' 6" tall with brown eyes and grey hair and Mary was recorded as being 5' tall with blue eyes and brown hair.



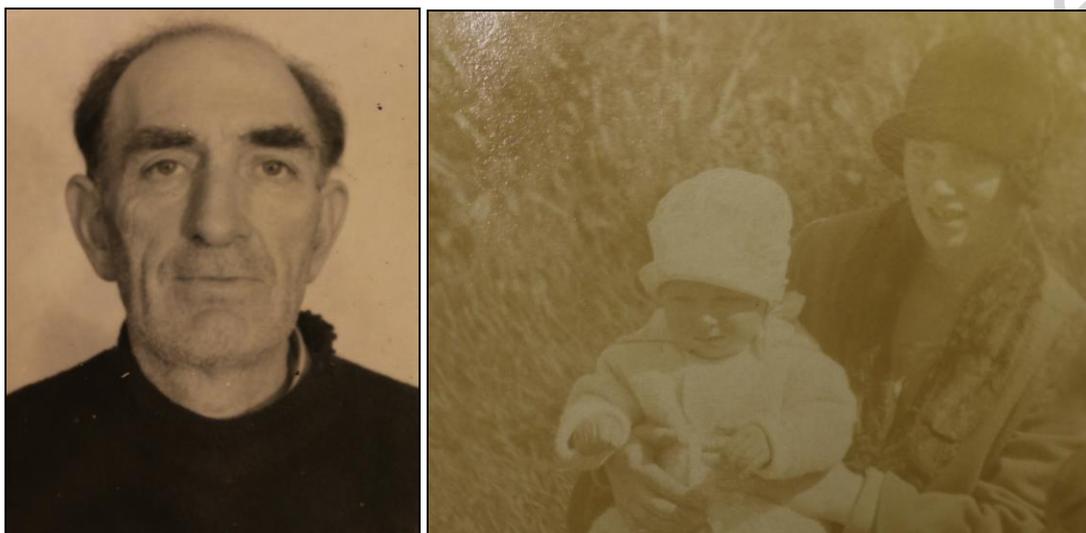
James and Mary in 1952

2. **William Yorkston McNICOLL** born 1900 in St Mary, Dundee, Scotland. William died in St Mary, Dundee in 1902 and was buried in Glamis Churchyard, Glamis, Angus, Scotland.
3. **Murray McNICOLL** born circa 1905 in Dundee, Scotland. Murray, age 22, died 17 June 1927 from pulmonary tuberculosis and was buried in Grave J 962.
4. **Joseph Greenhill McNICOLL** born circa 1909 in Dundee, Scotland. Joseph, age 19, went to the UK in 1921. By 1922 Joseph was in the USA. He married in Detroit, Michigan. James died in Detroit, Michigan in 1969.



Joseph in 1921

5. **Helen 'Ellen' MacNICOLL** born 19 September 1907 in Dundee, Scotland. Helen was baptised by St Mary's Roman Catholic Church 7 February 1928. Helen, age 22, went to the UK in 1930 on vacation. She was recorded as being 5' 7" tall with blue eyes and fair hair. 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. He was recorded as being 6' 1 ½ " tall with blue eyes and fair hair.



Eric in 1955 and Helen and Ian in 1930

6. **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. She was recorded as being 5' 7" tall with blue eyes and brown hair. Margaret was married to **William Paton WALKER** 31 December 1931 in the Glamis Parish Church. By September 1936 Peggie was married with one son and lived in Glamis. [Penguin 2 Sep 1936] William, age 72, died 28 March 1977 and was buried in Glamis Churchyard, Glamis, Angus, Scotland. Margaret, age 83, died 2 November 1992 and was buried in Glamis Churchyard with her husband.



Margaret in 1929

7. **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. She was recorded as being 5' 6" tall with blue eyes and dark brown hair. By September 1936 Jessie was married and lived in Fifeshire. [Penguin 2 Sep 1936]



Jessie in 1929

8. **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. Jean was married to **Alexander BRYMER** in 1936 in Glamis, Scotland. Alexander, age 58, died 9 March 1970 and was buried in Glamis Churchyard, Glamis, Angus, Scotland. Jean, age 87, died 21 July 2001 and was buried with her husband.
9. **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.

Children of James and Anastasia McNICOLL:

1. **Nesta J McNicoll** born 1936 in Glamis, Scotland. Nesta was married to **McDONALD** (*not in the Falkland Islands*).