

McNIECE 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. Any variations which may occur in name or the spellings of names are recorded as written in the records at the time.

John McNIECE was born circa 1835 in Ireland.

John enlisted in the Royal Artillery in October 1856.

John was married to **Mary Ann MOORE** (*not in the Falkland Islands*).

On 30 October 1878 **John McNIECE** of 64 Clifden Road, Clapton, Middlesex, England, signed an agreement to proceed to the Falkland Islands as chief constable in the Police Force for the term of six years. He was to receive an annual salary of £100, paid at £8-6-8 per month, and free quarters and a garden. He would also be allowed to supply himself with free peat from Crown Lands. Passages for himself and for his family would be provided. [T1]

On 7 November 1878 pensioner **Sergeant Major John McNIECE**, Royal Artillery 11th Brigade, was transferred from the West London District to the Falkland Islands District. His rate of pension was 2 shillings and 6 pence and character and habits were described as very good.

In the descriptive return dated 7 November 1878, Sergeant Major **John McNiece** was described as 5 foot 6 ¼ inches tall with brown hair, grey eyes and a fair complexion. He had been awarded a Crimean, a Turkish and a good conduct medal, his character was good and he was discharged as he had completed his service. John had served 21 years and 11 months in the Royal Artillery. [T1]

John and Mary arrived in the Falkland Islands 20 December 1878 on board the *Black Hawk*. John was sworn in as chief constable in the Police force 3 January 1879 on an annual salary of £100 and a house rent free.

On 3 February 1885 John was reported as suffering from laryngeal phthisis, possibly contracted by exposure in the performance of his duties, and that it was likely to be fatal if he stayed in the vigorous climate of the Falkland Islands. It was advised that he returned to England by the mail steamer of 10 March 1885. He was described as a highly intelligent and meritorious officer. John and his family were provided with second class passages on the Kosmos steamer *Totmes*, which sailed 11 March 1885 for Dartmouth. [B21; 110, 116]

Children of John and Mary Ann McNIECE:

1. **Ellen McNIECE** born 25 February 1880 in Stanley and baptised 4 April 1880 by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as chief constable.
2. **Hannah Alice McNIECE** born 1 December 1881 in Stanley and baptised 20 December 1881 by Holy Trinity Church. Her father's occupation was recorded as chief constable.
3. **John Higginson McNIECE** born 11 April 1883 in Stanley and baptised 2 May 1883 by Holy Trinity Church. His father's occupation was recorded as chief constable.

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