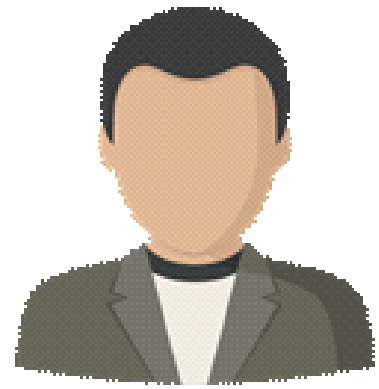


Life Story of John McKinlay (1834-1865)



11 CITATIONS

Printed 27-Jun-24

1834 Birth Leith, Midlothian, Scotland

John was born to unknown parents at Leith near Edinburgh in the historic county of Midlothian.

References (see end of Story for details): 1956 1958

**30 Mar 1851 Residence Glasgow, Scotland
17 Yrs**

Awaiting trial

The Scottish census of 1851 was held on Sunday 30 March and records John's age as 17 and occupation as Baker. He was in North Prison (Bridewell Prison in Duke Street which is no longer) in the parish of St Mungo in Glasgow awaiting trial for theft.

References (see end of Story for details): 1958 1956

**23 Apr 1851 Convict record Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland
17 Yrs**

Tried and convicted

John was tried and convicted of theft and sentenced to 10 years. His age was 17, occupation baker, living at Main Street, Gorbals, Glasgow, Lanarkshire.

References (see end of Story for details): 1958

**8 Aug 1855 Convict record Woolwich, Middlesex, England
21 Yrs**

On a hulk

John was recorded in *UK Quarterly list in prisons and on hulks* living as a convict on a hulk* at Woolwich awaiting departure for Australia. The record was for the three months ending 13 September 1855. He was discharged with license on 8 August 1855 but to where is unknown.

* Incarceration in the hulks - prison ships moored in rivers and estuaries - was a major feature of the punishment of felons between 1776 and 1857. The hulks were run by private contractors, who were paid by the Treasury, on condition that the contractors provided regular returns listing the convicts on board. The primary purpose of these records was to ensure that the prisoners were properly kept track of, and that contractors were correctly paid.

References (see end of Story for details): 4128

**11 Jun 1856 Departure Plymouth, East Sussex, England
22 Yrs**

Bound for Australia

John was sent to Plymouth where he was recorded before setting sail for Western Australia. Built in Sunderland in 1854, the 720 ton ship *Runnymede II* - embarked 248 male convicts and soldier families at Plymouth on 15 June 1856.

References (see end of Story for details): 1960 1959

**7 Sep 1856 Arrival Swan River Colony (Perth), Western Australia, Australia
22 Yrs**

After a passage of 84 days, all embarking passengers on *Runnymede II* landed at Fremantle on 7 September.

John was recorded as McKinley, convict 4216 from Plymouth, age 21. McKinley was also recorded as his daughter

Jenny's name on her 1888 marriage certificate and is most likely a spelling error which was common at the time.

His record also shows: height 5' 7¼", hair colour sandy, eyes grey, oval shaped face with fair hair and slight build with no markings, occupation pastry-cook.

References (see end of Story for details): 1961

11 Sep 1856 Convict record Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia
22 Yrs

Received and recorded

The *Character Book* record of his arrival in Western Australia showed John Mckinley was received on 11 September 1856 from *Defence Prison*, age 18 (incorrect as it was 21), protestant, trade baker, single, reads and writes.

He was entitled to a Ticket of Leave on 11 January 1858.

References (see end of Story for details): 1963

15 Sep 1856 Convict record Fremantle Gaol, Western Australia, Australia
22 Yrs

Reported sick

John was allocated to the bake house, but soon after, reported sick. He was recorded as John McGinley, but his convict number proves he was indeed John McKinlay. He wished to have a body belt restored, but that was not recommended by the surgeon.

References (see end of Story for details): 4130

4 Dec 1857 Convict record Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia
23 Yrs

Ticket of Leave

John received his Ticket of Leave on 4 December 1857.

References (see end of Story for details): 1963

9 Jan 1861 Marriage Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia
27 Yrs

Marriage to Spouse Jane Tapping

John McKinlay, age 25, a bachelor living in Fremantle, occupation baker, father Thomas McKinlay, occupation surgeon*, married Jane Tapping, age 19, a spinster living in Fremantle, occupation domestic servant, father Thomas Tapping, occupation baker, at the Congregational Chapel in Fremantle. The witnesses were Jane's uncle Samuel Caporn and her cousin James Caporn.

The connection could be John's occupation and he was probably employed by Thomas Tapping.

* The likelihood of a convict with John's record having a father who was a surgeon takes a stretch of imagination. Either he was lying or the transcription from the original document is incorrect.

References (see end of Story for details): 1952 1953

Oct 1861 Birth Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia
27 Yrs

Birth of Daughter Jenny McKinlay

1865 Death Perth, Western Australia, Australia
31 Yrs

Possibilities

When Jane McKinlay remarried, her status was widow, so it is assumed John either died or deserted his family and disappeared before September 1865. He may have returned to Scotland. No record has been found to shed light on this mystery.

Thomas McIntyre

John's accomplice in crime in Glasgow, Thohn's McIntyre, arrived as a convict on ship *York* on 24 April 1861, prisoner 6679. He was in trouble with the law and was gaoled on at least five occasions. On 11 November 1903, he was sentenced to 3 years for stealing and died in hospital in Fremantle on 13 October 1905 aged 72.