NICHOLAS JOHN JONES
1825-1910
NICHOLAS J. JONES, POLICEMAN

Nicholas John Jones was born in Ireland in 1825. He came to Savannah, Georgia, in 1870, after having been in this country for some time. He was a private in the Savannah Police Force from 1870 through 1884. He was married twice; his first wife, Mary, died in 1887, and he married his second wife, Annie, the next year. He had no children. Nicholas was by no means a flamboyant man, but he was active in buying and selling property and was quite good at turning a sizeable profit. From 1888 until his death, he lived at 402 East Liberty Street, on the corner of Habersham. He died on June 21, 1910, of kidney disease and is buried in the Catholic Cemetery.
Nicholas John Jones was born in Ireland in about 1835 and immigrated to America sometime in his youth. He did not come to Savannah, however, until the latter part of 1870, when he was 45 years of age. It seems very probably that he was already married when he came to Savannah. His wife's name was Mary A.; she was born in Dublin, Ireland, on October 20, 1842, which meant that she was 27 or 28 in 1870 when they came to Savannah. It is possible that Mary's maiden name was Reynolds; she was related in some way to a James D. Reynolds. Perhaps Nicholas and Mary had children that died before they came to Savannah, but they certainly had none that survived.

By 1871, Nicholas had joined the Savannah Police Force and was living on West Broad Street on the corner of Zubly Street. On May 31, 1871, he bought number 29 Elliot Ward, on the corner or Gwinnett and Burroughs Streets from the firm Ketchum and Hartridge for $974.00. He apparently bought the lot only as an investment; he never lived on it. By 1874, Nicholas was living on the south side of Perry Street, one or two doors west of Houston Street. He was still a private in the police force.

On September 25, 1876, James D. Reynolds' only daughter Ellie, probably Mary's niece, died in the yellow fever epidemic at the age of 6 years, 9 months.

By 1877, Nicholas was living at 37 McDonough Street, though
apparently he never owned the house or lot. He stayed there through the early part of 1880. By June 1880, he had turned the house over to James Reynolds; the Reynolds family lived there through 1886.

Nicholas and Mary were living at 184 South Broad Street by June 1880. The house was on the northeast corner of the intersection with Jefferson Street and was sometimes called 48 Jefferson Street. Mary opened up a second-hand clothing store at that time, in their home. They remained there and Mary ran her store, at least through 1885, and probably through the first half of 1887.

Nicholas was still, in 1880, in the police force, still a private earning $720.00 per year. He missed only 34 tours of duty in 1880, and 32 in 1881. He seems to have been a good policeman, but not a spectacular one. He never got into trouble of any kind, but he almost never got his name in the newspapers. He resigned on December 17, 1884, after 14 years on the force. He was about 59 years of age.

On February 11, 1882, Nicholas J. and Mary A. Jones bought number 43 Crawford Ward, on the south side of Perry Street, between Price and Habersham Streets, from Lucinda J. Buckner for $400.00. The property was subject to an annual ground rent of $19.24. A two-story brick house, 409 E. Perry Street, was built for them on the west half of this lot sometime during 1883. They sold the lot to Patrick H. Coker, M.D., for $850.00,
on July 2, 1884; it was still subject to the same ground rent. 20

On March 15, 1882, Nicholas and Mary borrowed $5000.00
from the Southern Bank of the State of Georgia, at 8% interest,
payable after one year. They gave as security numbers 63 and
64 Crawford Ward, on Liberty Street at the northeast corner of
Habersham Street; each lot was subject to ground rent: 63 to
$19.24, and 64 to $28.84. The loan was paid in full with interest
and the security returned on June 14, 1884. 21 During 1882 and
1883, a row of two-story houses was built for Nicholas and Mary
Jones; quite possibly this was the purpose of the loan. 22 A
year after the first loan was repaid, on September 2, 1885,
they borrowed $1500.00 from the Southern Bank of the State of
Georgia, on the same conditions and with the same security.
This second loan was repaid and the security returned on Septem-
ber 3, 1886. 23 In 1885, three more houses were built for them
adjoining the first group, probably on the money from the second
loan. 24

On October 20, 1882, James Reynolds' son, John M., probably
Mary's nephew, married Miss Mary E. Harney. They later had
three or four daughters, only one of whom married, and one son,
who died in 1900 at 13 years of age. 25

James D. Reynolds died on October 30, 1886, of heart disease.
He was 62 years old, still living at 37 McDonough Street. He
left a wife, Ellen M. and one son, John, as well as Mary Jones,
who was probably his sister. 26

On June 20, 1887, Mary A. Jones died at their home on South
Broad Street of "fatty infiltration of the heart." 27 She was 44 years old. The funeral was held on June 22 at their home with services at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist at nine o'clock. She was buried in the Catholic Cemetery. 28

Mary's second-hand clothing store must have done well, for at her death she possessed real and personal property worth $4000.00. She had a bank account in her own name. It became necessary for Nicholas to withdraw money from this account and he filed for letters of administration for her estate on the 21st, the day after her death. James J. McGowan became his bondsman for $1500.00. He was relieved of the bond on October 11, 1887, when Nicholas was made temporary administrator of her estate. He was her only heir. 29 Nicholas' need for such a large sum as $1500.00 so soon after Mary's death and also the two day delay between death and burial, would seem to indicate that her death was unexpected (she was only 44) and that Nicholas had to buy a cemetery lot as well as pay the funeral expenses.

By the beginning of 1886, Nicholas had gotten rid of the house on South Broad Street and was boarding at 46 Liberty Street. 30 On February 8, 1888, he married again, a widow named Mrs. Annie McCabe. 31 He was about 53; she was about 43, two or three years younger than Mary.

Mrs. Annie McCabe seems to have been a very interesting personality. On January 28, 1874, Miss Annie C. Kelly, as she then was, had married Alexander F. McCabe, 32 a clerk from Albany,
New York. They lived at 146 1/2 Bryan Street, with a family named Moriarty. Patrick Moriarty kept an apparently prosperous saloon at that address and the family must have lived over it or behind it. Patrick had a wife named Eliza (they were married April 25, 1866), and had two children: a daughter, Elizabeth A., called Lizzie, born about 1868, and a son, John F., born in the first part of 1871. There was definitely a connection between Annie and the Moriartys, but the nature of the connection is unknown.

Alexander McCabe died on July 9, 1874, of "continued fever"; he was 33 years old. He and Annie had only been married for six months. Annie was a few months pregnant at the time of his death. The baby, Alexander E., was born on about November 24; it only lived for three weeks. It died December 15, 1874, and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery with its father. Annie had gone to live with her sister and had the baby there.

Annie's sister was Mrs. Susan G. McVeigh; her husband was Edward McVeigh, a saloon-keeper, apparently a very upright man. (But oddly enough, this so highly esteemed man left his wife so badly off that she had to petition the court for a year's support.) Susan was a few years older than Annie; she was born in about 1850 and married Edward McVeigh on December 29, 1870. They lived over or next to his saloon at 81 Bay Street. Annie stayed with them for 12 years, from her husband's death in 1874 until Edward McVeigh's death. He died on September 24, 1886, at home, of dysentery. Susan
moved to a house at 12 Abercorn Street; Annie went with her. 46

Then Nicholas and Annie married in 1888. They moved
into Nicholas' house on the corner of Liberty and Habersham
Streets, number 48 Liberty Street, later renumbered to 402 E.,
which had been vacant. Lizzie and John P. Moriarty moved in
with them. 47 Their father, Patrick Moriarty, had died on
July 10, 1879, at 40 years of age, of unknown causes, at his
saloon (known as Our House) on Bryan Street. 48 Their mother
Eliza died on October 4, 1882, of anemia, at their home at
57 Broughton Street. Edward McVeigh, a friend, was named
administrator of the estate. Lizzie and John, still minors,
apparently went to live with the McVeighs and Annie. 49

Then, after Edward McVeigh's death in 1886 and Annie's marriage
to Nicholas in February 1888, Nicholas was appointed Trustee
and guardian of the Moriarty children on August 1, 1888, and
they came to live with Nicholas and Annie. He sold on their
behalf, for $2780.00 on August 9, the property on Broughton
Street that their father had bought in trust for them and
their mother. The proceeds of this sale, minus liabilities,
constituted their inheritance, of which each was entitled to
half when they reached 21 years of age. Lizzie's half, amount-
ing to $1108.68, was paid to her on January 16, 1889. Nicholas
invested John's share at an interest rate of 8% per year.
Both John and Lizzie went on living with Nicholas at 48 Liberty
Street; John paid a certain amount of board, since he already
had a job. He came of age and received his share, a total of
$1012.82, on April 4, 1892. Within a year after that, he seems to have left Savannah. Lizzie continued to live with Nicholas and Annie. 50

On November 12, 1888, Nicholas sold number 29 Elliott Ward, the property on Gwinnett Street he had purchased in 1871, for $3000.00, $2026 more than he had paid for it 17 years before. 51

In August 1889, or thereabouts, Susan McVeigh appointed Nicholas her attorney in fact, to execute all her legal functions for her. 52 On September 6, 1889, he sold for her the lot on Tybee Island where she and her husband had apparently built a restaurant or saloon of some kind. Susan had purchased the lot, number 33 on the Strand, in 1878 for $75.00; Nicholas sold it for $2600.00, with improvements, 11 years later. 53 Susan seems to have come to live with Nicholas and her sister Annie when her husband died. She was residing there by 1897 and died there on August 2, 1899. 54

Nicholas was very active in buying and selling property in 1890. On January 7, he carried out two transactions: he bought for $590.00, from John J. Brewer, 14 lots in an area of Chatham County called Jonesville, and sold to the same man, for $1050.00, 50.4 acres of a tract known as the Carruthers tract, two triangles on each side of the City and Suburban Railway, subject to a $550.00 mortgage to D. R. Dillon. 55

On April 2, Nicholas bought from Daniel R. Dillon 15 3/4 acres of the Carruthers tract (different from the land sold in January)
between the old Casey Canal and the C&S Railway for $600.00. He sold this land just a week later, on April 9, to Charles C. Ely and Mary C. LaRoche for $1575.00, a profit of $975.00. During that week, on April 4, he bought lots 50 and 51, between Second and Third Avenues in the White Bluff District, from James P. Williams for $925.00. On April 24, he paid a balance of $339.90 to the Mayor and Aldermen of Savannah and received free title to 64 Crawford Ward, the lot he lived on at 48 Liberty Street, later 402 Liberty Street, East. On June 30, he bought lots 1 and 4 of the "Cattle Park" tract on the Skidaway Shell Road from Alfred L. Hartridge for $425.00. On August 12, he bought the east part of lot 40 and the west part of lot 41, Screven Ward, on the north side of Bolton Street, west of Cuyler Street, at the auction of the estate of Daniel D. Walthour for $675.00. He sold this property five months later, on January 15, 1891, to Henry D. Osborne for $925.00, a profit of $250.00.

On September 6, 1893, Nicholas gave, in effect, two of his fourteen lots in Jonesville to Annie's friend Mrs. Cornelia Petrinovich and her baby daughter Annie Ruth, Annie Jones' godchild, then around one year old. He gave the lots to them for $5.00 and specified which of the two lots belonged to each. Annie, in 1912, made provision in her will for leaving her godchild Ruth $200.00, but revoked the bequest in the codicil of 1919 because of Ruth's death in 1916. Ruth had married Homer Allen Rawls on January 25, 1916, but died a few months later on September 1, 1916, at her home on Bolton Street, at the age.

Probably in 1898 or early 1899, Nicholas signed a petition of property owners asking for a 30 foot wide public road through his two lots in the Cattle Park tract. On September 22, 1899, he sold those lots to Margaret Valentine for $600.00. The property was subject to a 30 foot right of way for the planned road, which would revert to Nicholas if the plans fell through, but the road seems to have been built as planned. He sold his two lots in the White Bluff District to William H. Turner on May 14, 1902, for $900.00.

Nicholas, Annie and Lizzie Moriarty went on at 402 Liberty Street, East, living pretty well but unostentatiously. Nicholas made his will on March 7, 1907, when he was about 82 years of age; it is very simple, straightforward and impersonal, as if the legal clerk in the Court of Ordinary wrote it for him. It only provided that his debts be paid, left everything to Annie, and appointed Annie Executrix. It was witnessed by T. J. Mooney, J. A. Stegin, and Joseph Molina, the clerk of Ordinary.

Nicholas died during the morning of June 21, 1910, at his home, of chronic nephritis (kidney disease). He was 85 years old and had been ill for some time. The funeral was held at nine o'clock the next morning at his home, with services at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. He was buried in the Catholic Cemetery with his first wife Mary. The pallbearers
were P. Gecron, J. W. Joyce, P. P. Curry, Dan Connors, E. P. McCabe, and T. J. Evans. Annie petitioned to be named execu-
trix; the witnesses deposed that Nicholas had been “of sound
and disposing mind, memory and understanding” when he made
his will, and Annie’s request was granted on June 24, 1910.
She petitioned to be released as Executrix, after the estate
was settled, on October 30, 1911; Letters Dismissory were
issued by the court on December 6, 1911.67

Annie continued living at 402 Liberty Street, East,
with Lizzie Moriarty. Lizzie had worked as a clerk, cashier
and bookkeeper with various Savannah companies ever since
1888; she never married. She continued to work at least
until 1921, when she would have been in her fifties.68

Annie made her will on March 19, 1912. This is a very
curious document, that sounds as if she dictated it herself,
word for word. She left $5.00 a month for five years after
her death to the Roman Catholic Bishop in Savannah for masses
to be said “for the repose of my soul, and the soul of my
deceased husband, W.J. Jones, and the soul of his deceased
wife Mary Jones.” She left money for the maintenance of her
cemetery lots and monuments. She left legacies to various
friends, and $300.00 “to the Rev. William Quinlan of the
Church of Immaculate Conception, Atlanta, Georgia, for his
own personal uses and to do with as he pleases.” The house
and grounds at 402 Liberty Street, East, the furniture, books
and bookcases she left to Lizzie Moriarty. The house next
door, number 404, she left to her friend Stella Molina, the
wife of Joe Molina, and her two daughters. All the rest of
her estate she wanted divided equally between the St. Mary's
Orphan Home for girls on Habersham Street and the St. Joseph's
Male Orphanage at Washington in Wilkes County, Georgia. She
named her "friends Victor G. Schreck and Fred A. Cler" execu-
tors and "relieve them from giving bond...as I have the fullest
confidence in them and want to save them all the trouble and
inconvenience I can," Annie added a codicil on February 20,
1919. This left money for a monument to be erected in her
memory, and altered some of the legacies. She amended the
bequest to Rev. Quinlan "by directing that the said legacy
be paid to him right away after my death." She added that
"absolutely all of my money and personal property" after the
other bequests was to go to Lizzie Moriarty and that the
charitable institutions were only to inherit after the death
of Lizzie and Mrs. Molina and her children. She also named
Lizzie executrix, and Schreck and Cler after her death. She
signed the document with her mark, as if she could not write
well or was too feeble to write; in 1919 she was about 74
years of age. Both will and codicil were witnessed by E.
Carmel Murphy, Rufus G. Richards, and R. R. Richards.69

Annie had a stroke about midnight on June 20/21, 1920,
and died 36 hours later at noon, June 22, 1920, at her home.70
She was 75 years old. The funeral was held the next afternoon
at 4:45 PM at her home with services at the Cathedral of St.
John the Baptist. She was buried in the Catholic Cemetery with her first husband Alexander McCabe, her infant son, and her sister and brother-in-law, the McVeighs. 71

Daniel Joseph Roche and Elizabeth Jane Roche were Annie's heirs at law (their relationship to her is unknown), but they could not be found and on August 3, 1920, the will and codicil were allowed by the court. Annie left a sizable estate; the lots in Jonesville, and 63 and 64 Crawford Ward with their six houses, which had been left to her by Nicholas, amounted to $10,000.00. The rest of her assets totaled a little more than $2400.00 and, minus liabilities, her net estate was $11,795.91. Money and property worth $8,728.91 went to Lizzie Moriarty, after the other legacies had been paid. 72

Lizzie went on living in the house at 402 Liberty Street, East, which had been left to her, until 1950. On the evening of March 17, 1950, she fell off a chair and fractured her pelvis. She was put in St. Joseph's Hospital and died there two weeks later, on March 31, 1950, of heart disease, complicated by secondary anemia and the broken bone. She was 82 years old. She was buried the next day in the Catholic Cemetery. She left no will. 73
NOTES


2. Obituary, and the fact that he is not listed in the census taken in June 1870 or in the 1870 Savannah City Directory.

3. His age is an indication, and the fact that there is no record of a marriage license in Chatham County makes it pretty sure, but there is no direct proof.

4. Tombstone, Lot 70, Section N, Catholic Cemetery.

5. Reynolds is mentioned in the invitation to Mary's funeral as if he were a close relative. Savannah Morning News June 22, 1887, p. 2, col. 6.

6. There is not the slightest mention of children anywhere: the 1880 census, either of their obituaries, the wills, death certificates, or cemetery index.

7. Savannah City Directory, 1871. Listed alphabetically.


10. Savannah City Directory 1874 has two listings: one as Nicholas and one as N. J. Jones; Directory 1871, p. 376, and 1879, p. 31.

11. Obituary, Reynolds, Savannah Morning News, September 27, 1876, p. 3, col. 1; Catholic Cemetery Index, Vol. 1 (listed alphabetically); Chatham County Death Certificate (on file cards, alphabetically by year).

12. Savannah City Directories 1877/78-1880; there is no deed in his name for this lot.

13. 1880 Census, Enumeration District 19, p. 10; Reynolds, in Savannah City Directories 1881-1886.

14. 1880 census; Jones, Nicholas and Mary, in Savannah City Directories 1881-86. There is no record in the Deed Books of Nicholas ever owning this property.

15. Savannah City Directories; 1879 p. 31 and 1884 p. 8; Municipal Reports, City of Savannah: 1880 p. 43, 1881 p. 71.
Municipal Reports 1873-84; Savannah Morning News July 28, 1879, p. 3, col. 4.

Municipal Reports 1884 p. 54.


Crawford Ward Book, Lot 43.

Deeds, Book 5W, Folio 196-197.

Deeds: Book 5D, Folio 45-49, and 5D Folio 45 (crossed). There is no deed for the original purchase of either of these lots.

Numbers 402, 404, and 406 E. Liberty St. (corner Habersham St.) Crawford Ward Book, Lot 64.


Catholic Cemetery Index Vol. 1; Death Certificates (file card); Savannah Morning News Digest 1886, p. 240.

Death Certificates (file card). There are two cards for Mary A. Jones; one gives June 20 as the date of death; the other gives June 21. The estate information (file 194) says June 20. The Catholic Cemetery Index says June 21 and inexplicably gives her residence as "Brady Street." Her tombstones, the most reliable source, says June 20.

Lot 70, Section N, Catholic Cemetery; Funeral Notice, Savannah Morning News June 22, 1887, p. 2, col. 6.

Chatham County Estate Records, File No. 194.

Savannah City Directory 1888.


Savannah City Directory 1874; Death Certificates (file card).

Savannah City Directory 1974.


Estate Records File 689; 1880 Census, Chatham County, Enumeration District 27, p. 21.

Death Certificate (file card); Catholic Cemetery Index, Vol. 1; Funeral Invitation, Savannah Morning News July 10, 1874, p. 2, col. 6. and July 15, 1874, p. 3, col. 3. McCabe's tombstone (Lot 23, Section G, Catholic Cemetery) gives his dates as 1845-1885, but according to all these sources he died in 1874, not 1885, and was 33 when he died, so was born in about 1841, not 1845. This tombstone was only put up after Annie's death, almost 50 years after Alexander's death, according to Item 1 of the codicil to Annie's will (Estate Records File 440).

Catholic Cemetery Index Vol. 1; Death Certificate (file card).


Estate Records File 660; Savannah Morning News December 7, 1886, p. 9, col. 3.

Chatham County Death Register 1890-1960 (alphabetically).

Marriage License Vol. 1865-73, Folio 155.

Savannah City Directories 1871-1886.

Death Certificates (file card); Chatham County Index Vol. 1.

Savannah City Directory 1888.

Savannah City Directory 1888, p. 436, and 1889. This was one of the houses built on Lot 64 Crawford Ward in 1882-83.

Tombstone, Lot 34, Section G, Catholic Cemetery; Catholic Cemetery Index; Death Certificate (file card); Name of Saloon, Savannah Morning News, September 8, 1875, p. 3, col. 2, et al. There is an interesting account of his death in the Savannah Morning News, July 12, 1879, p. 3, col. 4. Most sources give his age as 47 years, but his tombstone says 40, and since the inscription says the marker was
"erected by his beloved wife Eliza Moriarty," it is probably the most reliable.

49 The Catholic Cemetery Index and Death Certificates, both have a Mary Moriarty, not Eliza, but the dates and address are correct for Eliza; perhaps her name was Mary Elizabeth and she used Eliza. Estate Records File 504; Deed Book 6L, Folio 31-33; Savannah City Directory 1886-1888.

50 Estate Records File 689; Deeds: Book 6L, Folio 31-33 and Book 4S, Folio 153-155; Savannah City Directories 1889-1894.

51 Deed Book 6L, Folio 187-188; See n. 8 above.

52 Deed Book 60, Folio 387-389.

53 Deed Book 6P, Folio 32-33 and Book 4V, Folio 423-424; Pavilion; Savannah Morning News, May 1, 1882, p. 4, col. 2; also Savannah Morning News April 15, 1880, p. 3, col. 8.

54 Savannah City Directories 1897-1899; she is not mentioned in any directories between 1888 and 1897, so apparently was not living alone as a head of household. Death Register; Catholic Cemetery Index, vol. 1.

55 Deeds: 6Q, Folio 338 and 6Q, Folio 350-361. There are some peculiarities in the first transaction, with a reference to a deed which is not in the place named (Book 6D, Folio 250) and has not been found.


57 Deed 6S, Folio 228-229.

58 Deed 6T, Folio 230-231; Savannah City Directories 1899-1910.


60 Deed 6U, Folio 389-391 and 6W, Folio 314-316.

61 Deed 7H, Folio 213-214; Estate Records, File 440; Marriage License, Vol 28, Folio 286; Catholic Cemetery Index; Death Register; Death Certificates, Vol 92, p. 1195.

62 Deed 8B, Folio 361.

63 Deed 8B, Folio 471 and Historical Map Book 2, p. 48.

64 Deed 8M, Folio 229-231.

65 Directories 1899-1910; Estate Records File 440, inventory
of Annie's personal property.

67 Death Certificate; Obituary and Funeral Announcement, Savannah Morning News June 22, 1910, p. 5, col. 5, and p. 2, col. 3; Catholic Cemetery Index; Tombstone, Lot 70, Section N, Catholic Cemetery, Estate Records File 337.

58 Savannah City Directories 1888-1921.

69 Estate Records File 440.

70 An interesting fact about the dates of the Jones' deaths: Mary died on June 20 (1887), Nicholas died on June 21 (1910), and Annie died on June 22 (1920).

71 Obituary and Funeral Announcement, Savannah Morning News June 23, 1920, p. 14, col. 4, and p. 2, col. 1; Death Certificate number 1296; Catholic Cemetery Index vol. 1; Tombstone, Lot 23, Section O, Catholic Cemetery, Savannah City Directory 1921; Estate Records File 440.

72 Estate Records File 440.

73 Death Certificate Vol. 121, p. 359; Estate Records File 440; Savannah City Directories 1920-1950.
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Chatham County Death Records (certificates and Death Register); at Chatham County Health Department.

Chatham County Deed Books and Historical Map Books; at Chatham County Court House, Superior Court.

Chatham County Estate Records; at Chatham County Court House, Court of Ordinary.

Chatham County Marriage Licenses; at Chatham County Court House, Court of Ordinary.

Crawford Ward Book; at Georgia Historical Society.

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Savannah Morning News, as cited in notes; on microfilm at Georgia Historical Society.

Tombstones, Catholic Cemetery; named in notes.