

# Matthew James EVERINGHAM

23/10/2012

**Matthew James EVERINGHAM**

**New South Wales Police Force**

**Regd. # ?????**

Rank: District Constable – appointed ? ? 1816

Stations: ?, Portland Head ( Hawkesbury area )

Service: From ? ? 1816 to 25 December 1817 = 1 year  
Service

Awards:

Born: 12 July 1768 London, Middlesex, England

Died on: 25 December 1817

Cause: Drowned

Event location: Hawkesbury River

Age: 48

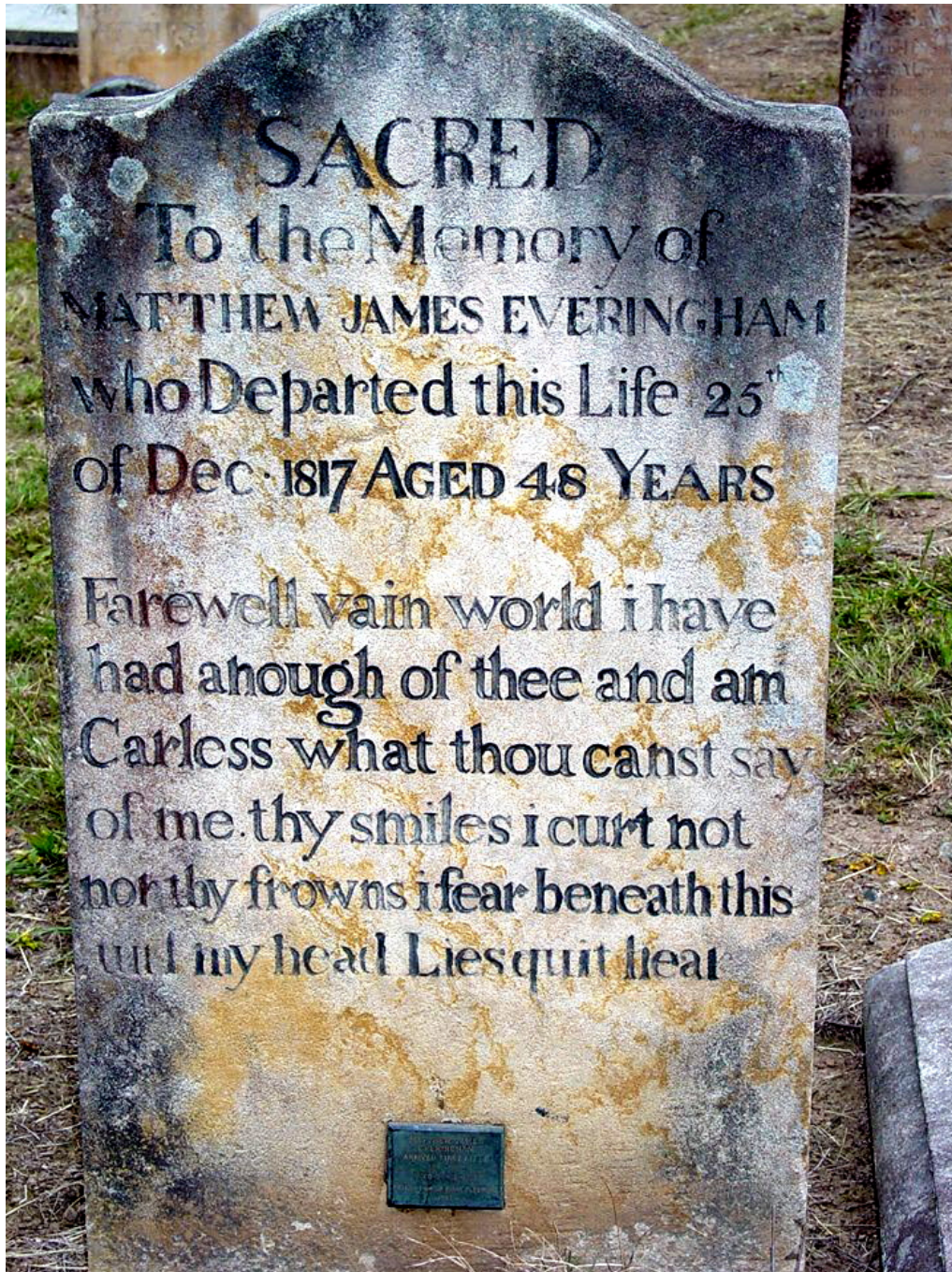
Funeral date:

Funeral location:

**Buried at:** ( St John's Cemetery ) Wilberforce Cemetery, Old  
Sackville Rd, Wilberforce, NSW

( approx. 600 mts east of the Putty Rd )

**Grave Location:** right section, Row 7, Plot 20



## MATTHEW is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance

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The Sydney Gazette dated **3 January, 1818** reported that *“On Friday last Mr. Matthew Everingham, **settler and district constable** at **Portland Head**, fell overboard from a Hawkesbury boat, and was unfortunately drowned. On the finding of the body an Inquest was convened, who returned a Verdict Accidental Death. He leaves a large family to deplore his premature destiny.”*

Constable Everingham was still news well over a century after his death. The *Barrier Miner* of **4 June, 1929** reported the following story.

***Matthew James Everingham** arrived in **Sydney** on the ship **Scarborough** in **1788**. In **1791** he was married at **Parramatta** to **Elizabeth Rhymes** by the **Rev. Samuel Marsden**. In the same year he was granted **50 acres of land**, then described as *“at the Ponds two miles N.E. of Parramatta”*. Later he settled on the **Hawkesbury River**, on the farm afterwards known as **Andrew Everingham’s Farm**. He also became the owner of land at *“Richmond Hills”*, believed to be now in the **Kurrajong district**. He was **appointed and remained district constable** till his death in **1817**. In that year he was drowned in the **Hawkesbury River** and was buried at **Wilberforce**, where his grave can still be seen.*

At the time of his death the constable was stationed at

Portland Head (Hawkesbury).



Photos by cple7 on 8 January 2016





Wm. Mackenzie  
Deceased  
Departed this life  
Nov 28 1822  
Aged 80 Years & 8 Months

S.M.P.D.  
In the Memory of  
JAMES EVENDEN  
who departed this life  
of Dec 1874 Aged 48 YEARS  
Farewell vain world I have  
had enough of thee and am  
Careless what thou canst  
do for me thy smiles I court not  
nor thy frowns I fear beneath this  
will my lie of Lies rest

Small rectangular plaque with illegible text.





Wife to Matthew Everingham



147A

NSW BDM = Death: 3920/1817 V18173920

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**EVERINGHAM, MATTHEW JAMES** (1769-1817), settler, was convicted in **London** on **7 July 1784** and sentenced to transportation for **seven years**. Shortly before his conviction he was employed as a '**servant**' by an **attorney of the Middle Temple**, hence the subsequent references to him as '**attorney's clerk**'. Allegedly 'in great distress' he had obtained two books by false pretences from the servant of another attorney, and these he had offered for sale.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/people/1465540?q=Matthew+James+EVERINGHAM&c=people>

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## "MURDERED?"

MATTHEW JAMES EVERINGHAM

HOW PIONEER MET HIS DEATH

ROMANTIC HAWKESBURY STORY

**M**ANY stories have been told as to how Matthew James Everingham met his fate at Sackville on Xmas Day, 1817, and in view of the further investigations that are to be made to recover the huge fortune that is said to exist in England for the relatives of the pioneer, some additional information may prove interesting.

ACCORDING to Mr. Matthew W. Woodbury, of Medora-street, Inverell, the pioneer was, as district constable, searching a boat at Sackville suspected of smuggling when he was knocked on the head, thrown overboard and drowned. Actually, he was murdered?

WRITING to Mr. Geo. G. Reeve under date of January 22, 1932, Mr. Woodbury tells a romantic story regarding the pioneer Everingham. Mr. Woodbury, who is over 75 years of age, says his grandmother was the eldest daughter of the Everingham family and was born at Parramatta. Her sister, Elizabeth (Mrs. Joseph Ladd), he can recollect very well, as he was a good deal of his time living with his grandmother when Mrs. Ladd used to stay with her.

Mr. Woodbury says he has heard it stated that "Betsy" Everingham was married five times, but he could not say whether that was true. Her last husband, however, was Joseph Ladd (the first).

"Most I know about the Everingham affairs," says Mr. Woodbury, "I got from my grandmother. She told me that her father (Matthew James Everingham, the pioneer) was district constable at the Hawkesbury (Sackville) when there was trading on the river between Windsor and Sydney which was suspected of smuggling grog.

"The pioneer was exciseman and went on board a vessel to conduct a search. Whilst engaged in looking over the ship he was knocked on the head and his body thrown overboard and drowned, so he was really murdered.

"One of 'Betsy' Everingham's husbands was on board at the time and saw him 'knocked overboard,' but would not tell the authorities. However, he must have been telling the account to someone he knew and it got to the ears of the court people. They had him arrested and tried to make him disclose the names of those who had done the deed, but he refused to do so. So the Judge put 'Betsy' Everingham's husband in the murderer's place and sentenced him to be hanged. Then he began to tell, but the Judge told him it was too late, as he had taken the other man's (the murderer's) place."

Mr. Woodbury says that his grandmother (nee Sarah Everingham) had told him that her father had some property in England and that her brother, Matthew James Everingham (II), had in his possession the papers belonging to the estate. Many years later there was a man, supposed to have been a ship's officer, who came from England to see her brother. They became very "chummy" and the alleged ship's officer persuaded Matthew James Everingham (II) to let him have the papers stating that he would get everything "fixed up." But her brother heard nothing further about the property in England.

"There is no doubt in my mind," adds Mr. Woodbury, "that this man was sent out to get the Will of M. J. Everingham (I) from his eldest son, and the Everingham claimants are only throwing away good money after bad. I will never put sixpence into it until the claimants' secretary can produce a copy of Matthew James Everingham's father's will.

"The complainants have no claim whatever, and I will be pleased to meet any of them who may wish to have a talk about the matter."

[Mr. Matthew W. Woodbury's grandmother (nee Sarah Everingham) married Richard Woodbury (I).—Ed. "G."].

**Windsor and Richmond Gazette, NSW. Friday 5  
February 1932 page 6 of 12**

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/8914125?zoomLevel=3&searchTerm=Matthew%20James%20EVERINGHAM&searchLimits=>

# TO THE EVERINGHAMS, WOODBURYS & LADDS

## DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF PIONEER MATTHEW JAMES EVERINGHAM ON THE SUPPOSED ENGLISH FORTUNE

(For the "Windsor and Richmond Gazette")

(By GEO. H. REEVE)

CONCERNING some statements made in your widely circulated journal of January 16, 1926, by a Mr. George Chaseling, as First Flaxter Matthew James Everingham and his wife (née Elizabeth Rhymes), and recently repeated again through the columns of the Sydney Press by Messrs M. C. Odess and Roger, solicitors of Sydney, under the guise of a search for certain descendants who are named, I desire to make some comments.

As a student of Hawkebury families in their genealogical descent, and as one who has in possession some 200 accurate copies of marriages, deaths, etc., of the Hawkebury Everinghams who branched off in other districts of the State let me say, Mr. Jetter, that if the alleged fortune, said to be in English Chancery due to the rightful claimants bearing a descent in the direct line from the Everingham couple, is not founded on more reliable facts than Mr. George Chaseling's and Messrs Odess and Company's statement that the Rev. Samuel Marsden was the officiating clergyman at the marriage ceremony of M. J. Everingham and Elizabeth Rhymes on March 13, 1841, the alleged claim will be futile. Rev. Samuel Marsden did not arrive in New South Wales until three weeks later—17th.

I wish to state further that the Chaselings do not come into the picture at all. Mr. G. Chaseling's assertions to that effect are merely phrasal and "fill" in fact the respectable folk who get into his experience. These were constituted some hundreds of pounds seeking to send an Adventurer to England on behalf of the Indian House estate and various funds, were not yet 2000 after the funeral of the man who grew rich a week, and who, on returning to Sydney, never even gave a respectable standard a hearing.

For the exact benefit of the families in descent from the first M. J. Everingham, I see the Editor is publishing an accurate and true copy of the marriage entry, which is as follows:—

(At Home's Barramatta)

The Permission of Arthur Phillip, Governor.  
(These words are written on top of the first page of a collection of fragmentary leaf documents, with ragged edges bound together in a book at St. John's Church, Parramatta.)

"The solemnization of matrimony by Divine Rites between Matthew James Everingham and Elizabeth Rhymes, and inserted this 13th day of March, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one (1841)

By Mr. Richard Johnson, Clergyman

"This marriage was solemnized between us  
(Matthew Everingham  
(Elizabeth Rhymes)

)

"In the presence of ) Thomas Erskine  
) Peter Stewart,  
Witnesses."

A remarkable thing about the pioneer Everingham's marriage was the fact that the solemnization was made by two witnesses—Kerby and Hewart—both of whom were males. I have seen scores of scores of marriages, but never previously have I seen other than male and female witnesses to all such attestations.

The older child of the marriage was Mary Everingham, born at Parramatta on December 28, 1841. As a young woman she married Mr. Richard Woodbury, an Englishman, who, in the year 1871, was a brewer in conjunction with Henry Kahn & Co. at Windsor.

The second child was a son, Matthew James Everingham II, who married Miss Anne Chaseling and had an issue of sons and daughters. Mr. M. J. Everingham II, married, secondly, a widow, Mrs. Isabella Cotton (formerly Mrs. Bowen). There was no issue from the second marriage.

William Everingham was the next son of the pioneer couple. He married Miss Jane Chaseling, the issue being six sons and two daughters. On the death of Mrs. Jane Everingham, her husband married a second time, a widow by the name of Mrs. Frances Napthali. There was no issue from the second marriage.

George Everingham, who married Miss Kerby's Erskine, one of the daughters of the Commandant pioneer, William Erskine, was the third son, and there was a numerous family in that descent.

Then James Everingham, who married firstly Miss Collins-Goddard, with a numerous family resulting upon his widow's death married secondly Miss Louisa Stanger, who, in turn, bore a large family. This made two descents from James Everingham I, who died on July 28, 1894, aged 54 years.

There was a son named John Everingham of the pioneer Everinghams but that gentleman remained unmarried. He is interred at "Kerby's Retreat Farm," Jackville, in the family vault of his brother, M. J. Everingham II, and his kindred.

The second daughter of the pioneer Everinghams married, at womanhood, Mr. Thomas Ladd, who was drowned at Cuthberton swamp near Ellalong. A grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Ladd is resident at Hornsby. Mrs. Elizabeth Ladd returned to live in the locality of her young womanhood, near Wynnman's Ferry, where she is reputed to have married on the second occasion.

This daughter was always spoken of as "Betty" Everingham before her marriage to Mr. Thomas Ladd.

As I have here given the direct descendants, how is it possible for any of the Chascelings, as Chascelings, to come in for any of the fortune spoils, even should it eventually by any miracle come to light? Perhaps some members of this very old Hawkesbury family will oblige with an answer.

In conclusion I may state that Mrs. Hannah Everingham (nee Kruss), of Droydon, Sydney, widow of the late Mr. Harvey Everingham, solicitor, has in her solicitor's possession the original Family Bible containing the entries of names and dates of births, etc., of all the family of pioneer Matthew James Everingham, the former London attorney's clerk who came by the Scarborough, one of the ships of the First Fleet, in 1788.

Windsor and Richmond Gazette NSW

Friday 21 June 1929

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Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW : 1888 – 1954),

Friday 23 August 1929, page 7

### THE EVERINGHAM FORTUNE?.

#### NEWCASTLE CLAIMANT

**NEWCASTLE** has produced a claimant for the Everingham millions in Mr. **Ernest Edward Chaseling**, who declares that he is a direct descendant of **Matthew James Everingham**.

He says that his **grandmother, Ann Everingham**, was a daughter of **Matthew**. She married **John Chaseling** in **1818**, and his father, **Joshua Watford Chaseling**, was a **son** of that union. Mr. Chaseling has two brothers and two sisters.

**Matthew Everingham**, history tells, was **drowned** in the **Hawkesbury River** before he could leave for **England** to claim **£200,000**. That was in the early part of last century. Interest on the money has accumulated until the sum of **eleven million pounds** is said to be now awaiting its rightful claimant.

Mr. **John Chaseling**, son of **Thomas Chaseling I.**, who married Miss **Ann Everingham**, one of the three daughters of pioneer **Matthew J. Everingham (obit. 1817)**, is interred, as also is his wife, Mrs. **Ann Everingham Chaseling**, in the ***private vault*** of **Matthew James Everingham II.**, which is situated at 'Knight's Retreat Farm,' near **Sackville**, on land **specially set aside** by the will of **second Matthew James Everingham** as a burial place for any of the Everinghams in descent, or kindred. – "MARMINGA."

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article85>

## Everingham, Matthew James (1769–1817)

by A. J. Gray

Matthew James Everingham (1769-1817), settler, was convicted in London on 7 July 1784 and sentenced to transportation for seven years. Shortly before his conviction he was employed as a 'servant' by an attorney of the Middle Temple, hence the subsequent references to him as 'attorney's clerk'. Allegedly 'in great distress' he had obtained two books by false pretences from the servant of another attorney, and these he had offered for sale.

He arrived in the First Fleet transport *Scarborough* and was employed by Assistant Commissary Zachariah Clark. On 13 March 1791 Everingham married Elizabeth Rymes of London, who had arrived in the *Neptune* on 28 June 1790 and in July he settled on a 50-acre (20 ha) grant near Parramatta. In December Watkin Tench noted that 'the Attorney's Clerk' appeared to find the cultivation of his own land 'not half so easy a task as he formerly found that of stringing together volumes of tautology to encumber or convey that of his neighbours'; but for once Tench was unjust. Far from being 'out of his province' Everingham succeeded as a settler. In 1800 he signed the address to Governor John Hunter setting out 'the grievous and intolerable burdens' under which the settlers at the Field of Mars had long laboured; soon afterwards he disposed of his grant to Andrew Hume and like many of the early grantees moved to the Hawkesbury where farming prospects were better. By 1803 he was well established at Portland Head, but in 1804 his home

and farm buildings were burned by natives and he, his wife and servant were speared, though happily their wounds were not fatal. In 1816 he acquired 130 acres (53 ha) at Richmond Hill, and became a district constable. A year later, on 25 December 1817, he was accidentally drowned in the Hawkesbury. In a memorial to the colonial secretary in 1825 his widow claimed, apparently without financial result, that he had died while in the execution of his constabulary duties.

Everingham was survived by five sons and four daughters, and was buried in St John's cemetery, Wilberforce. His career was not spectacular, but over a long period he discharged his duties faithfully and worked steadily as a pioneering settler.

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/everingham-matthew-james-2030>

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Matthew married Elizabeth Rimes on 13 March 1791 and from that union they had 11 children.

1. Mary (23 December 1791–24 January 1792)
2. Sarah Elizabeth (9 June 1793–29 March 1874)
3. Matthew James (10 May 1795–22 November 1884)
4. William (6 August 1797–6 September 1859)
5. George (9 December 1799–15 April 1881)
6. Ann (7 November 1802–19 March 1849)
7. Elizabeth (10 June 1805–24 June 1879)
8. John Rymes (October, 1806–?)
9. James (25 December 1809–25 July 1895)
10. Maria (6 August 1811–24 February 1835)
11. John (20 July 1814–29 May 1875)

Matthew passed away Hawkesbury River, New South Wales~

Matthew James Everingham (1768-1817), settler, was born in

London on 25? July 1768, son of Joseph Everingham and his wife Mary.

He was convicted in London on 7 July 1784 and sentenced to transportation for seven years.

Shortly before his conviction he was employed as a 'servant' by an attorney of the Middle Temple, hence the subsequent references to him as 'attorney's clerk'. Allegedly 'in great distress' he had obtained two books by false pretences from the servant of another attorney, and these he had offered for sale.

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Birth

**12?** July 1768

London, Middlesex, England

Death

25 December 1817

Wilberforce, New South Wales, Australia

Cause of Death

drowned

Cultural Heritage

English

Religious Influence

Anglican

Passenger Ship

Scarborough (1788)

Occupation

convict

emancipist

farmer

police officer

Key Events

First Fleet (1788)  
settler/indigenous contact

by A. J. Gray

From the Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 1, 1966

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/63359906/matthew-james-eve-tingham>

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