

John McCROHON

27/04/2018

John McCROHON

Late of ?

Grandfather of NSWPF member – Ernest Edward McCrohon – # 'Q' 9403

Great Grandfather of NSWPF member – Victor Harry McCROHON – # 5009

Great Great Grandfather of NSWPF member – Vicki McCROHON – Police Woman 0123 who rejoined as Police Woman 0202

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # ?????

Rank: Chief Constable – appointed 9 March 1836 – Resigned 10 October 1837

Reappointed, in place of Constable James Jordan, in July 1838 & served until May 1839

Chief Constable – appointed 23 July 1838 until 6 May 1839

Stations: ?, Paterson (1836 – 1837) & (1838 – 1839)

Service 1: From 9 March 1836 to 10 October 1837 = 19 Months Service

Service 2: From 23 July 1838 to 6 May 1839 = 10 Months

Service

Total Service: 2 years 5 months

Awards: No find on It's An Honour

Born: ? ? 1795 – Limerick, Ireland

Died on: Monday 6 May 1839

Age: 44. (Other sources have him aged 39 at time of death
which makes his birth 1800)

Cause: Fall from his horse whilst ON Duty

Event location: Between Maitland & Paterson, NSW

Event date: Monday 6 May 1839

Funeral date: ? ? ?

Funeral location: ?

Funeral Parlour: ?

Buried at: Unmarked grave, Glebe Cemetery, George St, East
Maitland, NSW

Memorial located at: ?

JOHN is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance *

BUT SHOULD BE

**FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE,
THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.**

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

May they forever Rest In Peace

The Sydney Herald **Friday 10 May 1839** page 3
At **Paterson**, on the **6th instant**, Mr. **John McCrohan**, late **Chief Constable** there, in consequence of a **fall from his horse**, when **proceeding on duty to Maitland**, leaving a wife and seven small children, nearly destitute, to deplore his loss.

The deceased, by his vigilance and good conduct, had gained the confidence and respect of the magistracy and settlers of the district, as he previously had done that of the Officers of the 4th of **King's Own Regiment of Foot**, from which corps he honorably retired as **Quarter-master Serjeant (sic)**, in the enjoyment of a pension which ceases with his demise.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12858096#>

John McCROHON

 1795 – 1839 (44 years)

Name	John McCROHON	
Born	1795	Limerick, Ireland 
Gender	Male	
Occupation	07 Aug 1838	Paterson, New South Wales, Australia 
	• Appointed chief constable 1838	

Died	06 May 1839	Paterson, New South Wales, Australia  [1, 2]
	• The Sydney Herald (NSW : 1831 – 1842), Friday 10 May 1839, page 3http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12858096At Paterson, on the 6th instant, Mr. John McCrohan, late Chief Constable there, in consequence of a fall from his horse, when proceeding on duty to Maitland, leaving a wife and seven small children, nearly destitute, to deplore his loss. The deceased, by his vigilance and good conduct, had gained the confidence and respect of the magistracy and settlers of the district, as he previously had done that of the Officers of the 4th or King's Own Regiment of Foot, from which corps he honorably retired as Quarter-master Serjeant, in the enjoyment of a pension which ceases with his demise.The Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser (NSW : 1838 – 1841), Monday 13 May 1839, page 3http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article32164046At Paterson, on the 6th instant, Mr. John McCrohan, late Chief Constable there, in consequence of a fall from his horse, when proceeding on duty to Maitland.	

Notes	Irishman of the 4th Regiment of Foot in either England, Ireland or France. John was born 1795 Limerick, enlisted at Cueta as a 15 yr old, 25/5/1810. His service was 3 yrs in Portugal & Africa, 2 years in France, 6 yrs 391 days in West Indies (5/4/1819 – 1/4/1826), Married at Chatham in June 1826 and then served 1 year and 3 months in Portugal (where son John born) and then 3 years 6 months in NSW. After resigning from the Regiment, John joined the Police Force at Paterson in NSW where he was killed in a horse accident on 6/5/1839.	
Person ID	I20751	Rossow-Beitzel
Last Modified	9 Oct 2017	

<http://www.rossow-beitzel.com/getperson.php?personID=I20751&tree=First>

No find on NSW BDM.

The Gympie Researcher
Gympie Family History Society Inc
Nov 2014 No. 77

Researcher Article for November Issue 2014

My name is Jennifer Chantrill. I was born in Adelaide in 1955

.....

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My paternal grandmother **Veronica Hunt** also hailed from interesting stock. She was the great-great granddaughter of **Sgt John McCrohon** and his wife **Amelie Ducroix**; John had served in **France** and **Portugal** during the **Napoleonic wars**, and their **first child** was born in **Portugal**. John discharged from the **Kings Own 4th Regiment** in **Sydney** and became the **Chief Police Constable** at **Newcastle (NSW)**.

Their descendent **Maxwell McCrohon** went to **America** as a **foreign correspondent** for the **Sydney Morning Herald**; he stayed and eventually obtained the post of **Chief Editor** of the Washington

Post in the time of **President Ronald Reagan**.

Death Cert Emily McCROHON 1891

« on: **Saturday 25 March 2018 06 07:24 GMT (UK)** »

I have an unwanted Death Certificate of **Emily McCrohon** who was the daughter of **Sydney Peter McCrohon** NSW and **Sarah Tindel** of Ireland. **Emily** was born in **1868 Rockhampton Qld**.

She unfortunately **died** aged **23 years** in **1891 Petersham NSW**.

I had been trying to obtain the **death cert of her grandmother**, also named **Emily McCrohon** alias **Amelia McCrohon nee Du Croix**.

<http://www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php?topic=142438.0>

View Full Version : John Patrick McCrohon

Ammanda Schutz

26-11-10, 21:33

Name – **John Patrick McCrohon**

Date and place of birth: **May 1795**, St John's Parish, Limerick, Ireland

Names of parents: John McCrohon and Margaret Unknown

Date and place of baptism – Unknown

Details of each of his or her marriages – married **Amelia (Emily) du Croix** at St Thomas, Winchester Hampshire (Unconfirmed)

Date of marriage: **23/06/1826** (Unconfirmed)

Occupation(s) – **Sergeant Major; 4th Regiment of Foot, Lancaster King's Own Regiment**: Served in Portugal and occupied France after Waterloo. Regiment posted to garrison duty in NSW

1832 – 1837 (Some researchers claim he was a Quartermaster. Not easy to verify as the regimental records were largely destroyed.)

NSW Constabulary: 1837-39. Appointed **Chief Constable at Paterson NSW**, 23/7/1838

Addresses where they lived: **East Maitland, NSW**

Date, place and cause of death: **May 6, 1839**, thrown from his horse on the road **between Maitland and Paterson**, NSW while **on duty**.

Date and place of burial. **Buried at Glebe Cemetery**

Details of will / administration of their estate – Unknown

Memorial inscription – Unknown

tenterfieldjulie

26-11-10, 22:08

Ammanda, I have John's Military Service Records – he enlisted at Cueta, Africa 25 May 1810 at 15 years of age. His service ended on 8 Feb 1837 in Australia. From 5 April 1819 until 1 April 1826 he served in the West Indies. He was a Sergeant for 8 years and 55 days and Quarter Master Sergeant for 5 years and 106 days.

I was looking for their marriage in Portugal/France, so that information, although unsubstantiated, is news to me. ☐ Thanks Julie

Ammanda Schutz

27-11-10, 13:29

Julie: The information was given to me by a Cantwell researcher. They did not give me any documentation so I cannot verify. According to the researcher John was posted back to England, a base in Hampshire, and he and Emily were married there.

I would be glad of a copy of his service record. Thanks, A
btw did you get my email with the copy of the church register for the Gray/Dillon marriage?

Merry

27-11-10, 16:03

That marriage date would appear to be for this entry, from the

FS pilot site:

Groom's Name: John Mccrohon

Groom's Birth Date:

Groom's Birthplace:

Groom's Age:

Bride's Name: Emily Banham

Bride's Birth Date:

Bride's Birthplace:

Bride's Age:

Marriage Date: 23 Jun 1826

Marriage Place: Saint Thomas, Winchester, Hampshire, England

Groom's Father's Name:

Groom's Mother's Name:

Bride's Father's Name:

Bride's Mother's Name:

Groom's Race:

Groom's Marital Status:

Groom's Previous Wife's Name:

Bride's Race:

Bride's Marital Status:

Bride's Previous Husband's Name:

Indexing Project (Batch) Number: M13675-1

System Origin: England-ODM

Source Film Number: 1041222

Reference Number:

Collection: England Marriages, 1538–1973

but the bride has a different surname. Might she have been previously married?

Ammanda Schutz

28-11-10, 00:56

As far as I know Emily was not previously married. It seems to me that the other researcher has made an error. McCrohon is not a common name but one branch of the family moved to England, and still lives there, and this John is probably one of from that group.

Thanks for looking, Merry, and clearing up that question. Back

to the drawing board.

tenterfieldjulie

28-11-10, 07:59

Merry, From the marriage register, would it be possible to see the original entry, or would you need to buy a certificate, in case there is a mistake with transcription of Emily's surname?

As he was in the military from age 15, would he have needed Official Permission to marry? Would there be records?

Thanks Ammanda have received the Gray cert I will pm you.
Julie

Merry

28-11-10, 11:18

It's too early for a civil certificate (1837+) but you could get a copy of the Parish Register entry from the Hampshire RO, for a fee!

Otherwise, you should also check the Chaplains Returns marriages (overseas ones and I think they may include some UK army marriages as well) if you haven't already (they are on FMP 1796-1880, but you'll need a sub) and bear in mind both their surnames are open to being listed under different letters of the alphabet!!

I'm not sure about the permission bit. Certainly at various times one needed permission from a commanding officer to marry, but I think sometimes it made a difference what rank you were and at what time in history you were marrying. Plus of course, needing permission didn't mean that permission was always sought!

Merry

28-11-10, 11:21

As he was in the military from age 15, would he have needed Official Permission to marry? Would there be records?

Ammanda, I have John's Military Service Records

If there was a record of permission, his army papers would be the place to look, so if it's not there.....

Ammanda Schutz

28-11-10, 13:05

I found a record of the birth of one child to John McCrohon and Emily

Henry William Mccrohon

11 Apr 1832

St. Mary's, Chatham, Kent, England

There may be more but it was late when I found this one.

It seems that there was a John and Emily in England and they were still there in 1832.

Thanks for the help. A

Merry

28-11-10, 15:43

I found a record of the birth of one child to John McCrohon and Emily

Henry William Mccrohon

11 Apr 1832

St. Mary's, Chatham, Kent, England

There may be more but it was late when I found this one.

It seems that there was a John and Emily in England and they were still there in 1832. When did yours go to Australia? I had assumed Henry Wm was theirs, particularly being born in Chatham. Amelia (Emily) du Croix Do you have her birthplace or parentage?

Ammanda Schutz

28-11-10, 21:16

Merry, their first child, John McCrohon Jr, was born in Portugal in 1827.

After that there are two children born, according to one researcher, in England. William Denis McCrohon and Jeremiah Joseph McCrohon. Both of these children are said to have died in 1834. John Sr and his family went with his regiment to NSW in 1832/33.

Therefore the two boys would have died in NSW and I can find no evidence of this in the NSW records after trying all the variations of the spelling of the name McCrohon that I can think of nor can I find any record of their births in England. The next child was born in NSW in 1833, Sidney Peter.

It is possible, I suppose, that the birth of two boys were recorded in some military records.

Seems kind of speculative to me, but once we start looking

back in time it is all a bit foggy. Like my brain.

Ammanda Schutz

28-11-10, 21:22

Oh, forgot to respond to the second part of your question. Amelia/Emily du Croix is a bit of a mystery; could be French, maybe from Belgium, no-one knows for certain. No date of birth just a C1798 for the year. Her parents are said to be Sidney Pierre du Croix and Sarah Unknown. That a lot of help, isn't it?

tenterfieldjulie

28-11-10, 22:02

According to John's Service Records from the National Archives, it was noted that he served in the West Indies from April 1819 to April 1826. (I think this is noted because in his pension? they were only allocated half pay). The next positive fact is when John Junior is born in Portugal as Ammanda says. John and Emily therefore could have been married in the West Indies, England, Portugal, France or Belgium – if you can find the marriage Merry, you are an absolute genius.

tenterfieldjulie

28-11-10, 22:06

The two boys I believe had headstones in Sydney in an early burial ground , but I think the cemetery has since disappeared. I think someone sent me some details, I'll email them when I find them Ammanda.

tenterfieldjulie

29-11-10, 06:31

Amanda I will email you.

I found listed in Monumental Inscriptions at Bunnerong (the headstones etc were moved here after the Elizabeth & Devonshire Street Cemeteries were cleared.) Grave No. 1409: William Denis and Jeremiah Joseph McCROHON the sons of Quarter Master Serg't John & Emily McCROHON of the 4th or Kings Own Reg't, the former died 18th February 1834 aged 4 years and 10 months, and the latter died 15th June 1834 aged 4 years and 5 days. In 1969 the Headstone was Upright and the Condition Good.

So William was born April 1829 and Jeremiah born June 1830, what a tragedy.

Ammanda Schutz

30-11-10, 02:41

Julie: Thanks for the information. Wonder why there are no records for the deaths. I can't find their births in England either. More mystery. A

kiterunner

30-11-10, 07:56

Not really a mystery, Ammanda – they were born before civil registration started in the UK and died before civil registration started in NSW, weren't they?

tenterfieldjulie

30-11-10, 09:12

Yes 1856 in Australia. I compiled a pre-compulsory-registration BDM register for Tenterfield from church records, newspapers, family bibles and family traditions. The earliest being 1844, this area was only opened up in the late 1830s. Seeing as how the priest/minister carried his notebook in his saddlebag and the areas were huge, it is simply amazing that any records survived. Tenterfield Catholic records were found in Grafton, Armidale and Ipswich.

Ammanda Schutz

01-12-10, 14:24

Now that I have John's service record (thanks to Julie) and seeing where the Regiment was deployed I have doubts that he met Amelia du Croix in France. He was not at Waterloo and so she probably is not from Belgium. On the other hand there is a prodigious length of time from his deployment with the Army of Occupation in France, 1815 through part of 1818, until his first child is born in 1827.

It seems more likely to me that he met her in the Caribbean where he served for almost seven years; the entire time the Regiment was deployed there. The 4th then came back to England for a short time in 1826 and went straight on to Portugal from December 1826 to July 1827. John Patrick was born there July 27, 1827.

Perhaps we should be looking for Amelia and a marriage in the French West Indies. That covers a lot of islands but at least we can rule out Haiti.

I have given it a go but no joy yet.

tenterfieldjulie

12-03-11, 04:45

Ammanda I was looking through some photos that I took at the Gray reunion at Elsmore. There were printed sheets on the

walls on the McCrohons. Some of these sheets were hard to photograph because they were covered in plastic.

Under UK Military Records it had: John McCrohon joined 3rd/East Kent Regt 1806. Lieutenant 1808. Retired injured as captain on half-pay. Father of John & William? Have you heard anything of this? This could explain how John born 1795 Limerick, ended up enlisting at Cueta aged 15, if his father was in the military based in England.

It also had that the second child of John & Emily, William Dennis was born in Scotland April 1829 and third child, Jeremiah Joseph, born England 10 June 1830.

tenterfieldjulie

20-03-11, 08:46

Well you just think you know something and they something else crops up.

Tonight talking to a relie she tells me that she has a record someone gave her from the IGI for John McCrohon's baptism (from his military records he was born 1795 in Limerick) it is RC Crondon Park, Essex Name John McCrohon (not sure if the surname is spelt like that) parents John and Margaret, baptism 1 March 1807. All I can think is that either he hadn't been baptised or they didn't have a record of his baptism for his confirmation. Can anyone view the original record and see if it gives his age?

HarrysMum

20-03-11, 08:53

Is there some way you can connect the Limerick John with Essex John?

tenterfieldjulie

20-03-11, 08:59

Parents names are the same, John and Margaret. There also was a John McCrohon who was in the East Kent Regiment at that time. I haven't followed through with checking, but I feel this could be why John Junior was enlisting at Cueta aged 15. I just hoped that the baptism register of this John might say his age which the IGI doesn't.

HarrysMum

20-03-11, 09:00

Do you know what IGI search it was??? I can't find anything.

tenterfieldjulie

20-03-11, 09:04

No I don't unfortunately I tried too. M. isn't computer literate and said it was from the IGI and what did that mean!! The problem with McCrohon is spelt in all sorts of funny ways – I've seen McCrone, McCrohan, even Crone and that is in Australia!!

HarrysMum

20-03-11, 09:14

There are 10 people with John McCrohon born 1795 Limerick in ther GR trees. Have you contacted any of them?

tenterfieldjulie

20-03-11, 09:16

No I should but I get a bit wary after what people have said about the unsubstantiated records that people put on there. I think Ammanda has as she has quoted from Allycat.

HarrysMum

20-03-11, 09:19

Some of the same people have Thomas Gray so probably rellies you already know. Any results you get from anyone are unsubstantiated until you've found them yourself so that's not really a problem.

It's only an issue when you take what others say as gospel without double checking.

That's from experience...lol

tenterfieldjulie

20-03-11, 09:22

Yo. When I get to the library I will look see. If Jan H. is on there, I was in correspondence with her years ago and she was very good. As are Ian M and Marcel.

HarrysMum

20-03-11, 09:23

I'll have a look.....are you a paid member??? I don't think you can send messages unless you are.

tenterfieldjulie

20-03-11, 09:26

No I'm not. If I look it at the Library and see what is on there and who is saying it, I can probably get in contact. Especially as there is a reunion at Easter.

HarrysMum

20-03-11, 09:27

One is a McCrohon and one is a Gray who have John McCrohon.

I can send them a message.

tenterfieldjulie

20-03-11, 09:38

Thanks Lib, I will talk to you tomorrow. A bit too tired now to think up what to say lol

kiterunner

20-03-11, 15:58

That baptism on the IGI is an "extracted record" and it gives his age at baptism as 1.

tenterfieldjulie

20-03-11, 20:21

When he enlisted on 24 August 1810 it gave his age as 15 and under age (he officially didn't get a pension until he turned 18). It gave his date and place of birth 1795 Limerick and this is on the original handwritten records. On the extracted baptism record if he is "our" John McCrohon his age should read 11 not 1?

HarrysMum

20-03-11, 20:40

It does say 1 Julie. You could always order the original from LDS and have a look.

Did I ask before.....do you know if John had any siblings?

tenterfieldjulie

20-03-11, 20:42

Yes it is worth a try. How did they spell McCrohon please?

How it could be disproved if a marriage could be found in Essex.

HarrysMum

20-03-11, 20:47

McCrohon. There aren't any others in that batch, but that's only baptisms and that one could be on the changeover year for that batch...

Have you looked for a marriage in England?

Ammanda Schutz

20-03-11, 21:36

I looked and found nothing.

According to our Brisbane researcher there was a brother William McCrohon, 1807 but no place of birth. It seems that this is a real connection as William also joined the 4th and went to NSW with his family.

There was a John McCrohan born at Colchester 1814, I think. Fairly close by but I don't know the significance, if there is one. Perhaps the same family and the younger John died.

McCrohan and McCrohon are always being mixed up so the spelling doesn't signify.

There is a family tree on Ancestry that has a Margaret Manning married to a John McCrohon at about the right time but I can't link them to us.

Julie, MS gives the marriage for Emily and John at 1818, no documentation.

HarrysMum

20-03-11, 21:52

Oh Ammanda...don't you just hate it when someone gives you some info and can't give you the source????? lol

I've had so many on my tree particularly from one person who is determined to connect us to royalty I'm sure. She has this beautiful tree without any sources and that's because they're aren't any.....lol

I think you need to contact the brisbane person and ask for all the sources. Anybody who has done a tree would expect to be asked for that so I can't see a problem. Then you need to check all their sources yourself.

I've been caught badly by not rechecking another person's work.....

Ammanda Schutz

20-03-11, 23:40

Tell me about it. Down the garden path and back again. I am such a believing soul, gullible is probably a better word, that I have had to be burned really badly to learn the lesson. Julie knows him and he probably will be at the reunion in April so she can talk to him first hand. However, I take your

point. If I can find an email address I will whisk one off.
I sound confident but some folk don't like their research challenged so I have to tread carefully especially as this is the 'definitive' work on the McCrohons.

The good thing about the family is that the name is uncommon. The rotten part is that it is spelled in every conceivable way and then some.

HarrysMum

21-03-11, 01:10

Thanks Ammanda.....not sourced at all really is it???

The index list is just that...I'd like to see some certs and PRs before I'd say anything.

So John and Amelia marry in 1818.....where was that supposed to be??? If John was in the army, why didn't he need permission to marry??? And if he did marry without permission, wasn't he supposed to re-marry??

Has anyone found his actual records??? That should have exactly where he was and when.

There's a 9 year gap between the marriage and the first child. Not sure of the significance of that yet...

A lot of the historical parts are general history. I've got very similar in my book on the Moores from Ireland.

I'll print it out and highlight the parts I'm not sure about I think the I might get a better idea.

Ammanda Schutz

21-03-11, 01:56

Well, you have hit upon some of the issues and in short order. We have his complete military record and can trace him from his earliest date in Ceuta.

I think he chose the 1818 because it was at the end of the time that John was in France with the occupation army. However, the rest doesn't make any sense to me. Why wouldn't she go with him to the West Indies? If she was outcast from her family where else would she go?

If the other marriage, Emily Banham, is anything to go by they started having children right away, as any Catholic couple would. Well, not just Catholic at that time. I think Emily had 9 children with John so there was no time to waste.

I had thought that if Emily DuCroix was on one of the French Islands in the Caribbean, after all they French had lost the war and control of their islands, at least nominally, then he could have met and married her there. I found no records to that end.

When the record in Winchester came to light I thought it more than probable. All the elements fit; John was at Chatham after returning from the West Indies and in between being sent back to Portugal. Their first child was born in Portugal in just over a year.

Also, even if Emily Banham was a widow and DuCroix was her maiden name, as the daughter of 'some high official' wouldn't she be educated. She could not sign her name on the register but marked it with an X.

I also wonder how John got to Ceuta? He was obviously educated, could read and write and was a Quarter Master Sergeant. Maybe his father was already in the Military and the reference Julie found to a John McCrohon in the East Kent 3rd Regiment may be right on. The 3rd fought in Spain and Portugal during the war with Napoleon and perhaps his son was with him. Perhaps at Gibraltar just across from Ceuta. Ceuta is still a Spanish enclave in Morocco and was always an occupied military port.

Well, I am raving now. Off to bed.

Thanks for taking a look.

The

tenterfieldjulie

21-03-11, 02:51

Most of "MS" "History of the McCrohon Family in Australia" is I believe based on documentation, but the sources are not quoted. (He refers to study at State Librarians, LDS, State Archives etc) The part about the runaway marriage is I think is a family story, how they supposedly met her in France and had a runaway marriage. We know now that John McCrohon, 4th Foot, married a Emily Banham at St. Thomas Winchester 23 June 1826 (have copy of the marriage registration). Their son John was supposedly born in Portugal 25 July 1827 according to MS,

which would fit with the marriage. Whether the birth information was recorded in a Family Bible, we hope to find out. We have the TNA records of John's Military Records – when, where he joined 4th Foot etc, his ranks and times and places of service, including seven years in West Indies. Some of this MS seems to refer to, but I can see some errors in assumption. I think it would be better to speak to MS privately. I think he is an older person who did this out of respect for an elderly uncle who was related to him by marriage. He has very generously made this information available with no copyright claimed and fair use for non-profit purposes is permitted. His History comprises over 40 pages and so there is a lot of time and effort put into the McCrohon story.

HarrysMum

21-03-11, 03:03

I think talking to him about his sources would be a good idea Julie. Getting info from LDS is a bit dodgy unless you see the actual film. I must admit to not know about submitted entries when i started this lark and that gave me all sorts of trouble.

I've also got bad info from the State Library by using others' trees and stories. One has a bit of wrong info and the next embellishes it and it goes on.

I wonder if the Ducroix story was along the lines of a tryst rather than an actual marriage. Those things can grow legs if people start talking....lol.

I don't think Amelia DuCroix and Emily Banham are the same person. Of course I can't prove that but there are many things pointing that way.

My ggg grandfather's marriage of 1818 is documented in his records. He was a sergeant at the time. The records also tell when he took leave etc. Although he was in the WI and other places, he managed to get home to 'pro-create' every couple of years.

Maybe if you tell him, you've been trying to find certain records and ask if he'd help you, at least you'll know where he got them from.

tenterfieldjulie

21-03-11, 03:35

Well I found my buried records.

Death Registration of John McCrohon 20 June 1900 at Tingha NSW Born Portugal in Aust 58 years, Parents John McCrohon Quartermaster Sergeant in the army, Mother Emily Ducroi (x, more like t, possibly c). When this John's son (another John died) his obit said he was the son of Mr. & Mrs. Patrick McCrohon who had migrated to Australia from Ireland.

Then the youngest child of John and Emily – Louis Estall died 3 May 1924 parents John McCrohon Miner and Agnes Decrow? (informant his son)

No wonder things are confused...

I.M. another researcher says in 2000: John – Born St. John's Parish, Limerick July 1795, Brother William born Jan 1807 Crondon Park, Essex. John christened son of John and Margaret Crondon Park Rc 1 March 1807. Military Service – Returned Winchester 1 April 1826. Emily Ducroix Born France ca 1800 Seamstress in Parish at time of British occupation 1816. First marriage to – Banham? John and Emily married 23 June 1826 at St. Thomas Rc Winchester.

Ammanda Schutz

21-03-11, 12:23

My head is swimming! Lots of information and I wonder where it leads.

Thanks for digging it out of the coffins Julie. lol

<http://www.genealogistsforum.co.uk/forum/archive/index.php?t-7228.html>

<http://www.genealogistsforum.co.uk/forum/showthread.php?t=7228>

Peter PROSSER

27/04/2018

Peter PROSSER

AKA ?

Late of ?

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # Not listed on NSW State Govt.
Archives – Registers of Police

Rank: Patrolman – appointed 6 August 1834

Conductor – appointed 1 January 1835

Conductor – Dismissed

Patrolman – appointed 1 April 1835

Conductor – appointed 12 July 1835

Inspector – appointed ? ? ?

Final Rank = Inspector

Stations: ?, Sydney Police

Service: From ? ? ? to 23 January 1839 =

? years Service

Awards: No find on It's An Honour

Born: ? ? 1812 – 1813?

Died on: Wednesday 23 January 1839

Age: 26

Cause: Murdered – Clubbed to death with a Nulla Nulla (Waddy) * see below

Event location: Phillip St, Sydney

Event date: Monday 21 January 1839

Funeral date: Friday 25 January 1839

Funeral location: ?

Wake location: ?

Funeral Parlour: ?

Buried at: Devonshire St Cemetery,
Sydney – January 1839.

In 1901 his remains were exhumed to make space for **Central Railway Station** and re-interred, with thousands of others and 2285 tombstones of the first settlers in Australia, at the new cemetery at **La Perouse**, named **Bunnerong Cemetery**.

In 1976, the Botany Cemetery Trust destroyed most of these historic monuments by creating a new, low maintenance lawn

area. The remaining 746 headstones were reinstalled in concrete strips, unrelated to the graves below them. The new lawn was named **Pioneer Memorial Park**.

The words recorded as being on his original tombstone are "Peter, the son of Edward and Mary Ann PROSSER, who was struck by John PENDER; in the execution of his duty 25th January 1839 which caused his death in 48 hours. He was an Inspector in the Sydney police and an Active officer. also sisters Adeliza and Jane, passengers in the ship 'Fairlie'.

Adeliza buried at the Cape in October ????. Jane aged 16 years. Adeliza aged 29 years. Peter aged 26 years".

Memorial located at: ?

[alert_green] **PETER IS mentioned** on the Police Wall of Remembrance[/alert_green]

FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE, THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

May they forever Rest In Peace

On the afternoon of **21 January, 1839** a man named **John Pender** (known to Sydney police as "**Jack the Waterman**") was behaving in an indecent manner in **Raynor's Public House, Sydney**. As a result of his behaviour he was arrested by **Inspector Prosser** who began to march him to the **Sydney Police Watch-house**.

En route they passed **Pender's** home in **Phillip Street** where a mob attacked the inspector and dragged his prisoner into the house. **Prosser** clung to his prisoner desperately however, until he received a blow from a club to the back of his neck, which resulted in **his death a few days later** in hospital. **Pender** was quickly apprehended and charged with **murder**, while five others were also charged in relation to the riot.

The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser of **24 January, 1839** reported the incident in some detail.

BRUTAL MURDER.

On **Monday afternoon** a man named **John Pender**, well known about the town as the driver of a water-cart, and a bad character, went into the public-house of **Mr. Rayner** at the corner of **Hunter and Phillip-streets** and in the absence of the landlord was guilty of much indecent behaviour.

He was remonstrated with by the **landlady**, but this seemed to have the effect of urging him on to still farther excesses. He approached **Mrs. R.**, who was behind the bar, when **she took up a New Zealand waddy** to defend herself; this the brute wrested from her, and after having struck her he left the house, flourishing the weapon over his head and making a great noise.

He was perceived at the time by **Inspector Prosser**, who was

approaching **alone**. **Prosser** came up behind him unperceived and **took the waddy** from him, and desired him to accompany him to the **watch-house**.

Pender accompanied the **Inspector** a **short distance**, when, stopping suddenly, he turned round and struck **Prosser** a violent blow **on the face with his fist**, which **knocked him down**. While he was on the ground, the man stooped down and snatched the **waddy from the hands** of the **Inspector**, and as the latter was **rising to his feet** he struck him a tremendous blow with it on the **back of his neck**, and then ran into his **own house** which was close at hand.

"A mob of **blackguards**, as usual on such occasions, soon assembled on the spot, and although they witnessed this unprovoked outrage none among them were inclined to render the poor fellow any assistance, but rather endeavoured to screen the villain and hasten his escape. After a few moments **Prosser** was seen to get on his feet with difficulty and move on towards the **watch-house**, holding his hands to his head. He shortly afterwards met **Sergeant Kilpatrick**, and desired him to go and apprehend **Pender** who, he said, had **murdered him**.

Kilpatrick hastened to the **station-house** for assistance, and procured that of the **two keepers**, the only persons present, and **the three** then returned to **Phillip-street**.

In the meantime, the **wounded Inspector** got to the **watch-house**, and was shortly afterwards found by **Sergeant Partington** lying across one of the benches, **nearly dead**; he called for assistance, and **Mr. Driver**, the **publican**, attended and with **vinegar** attempted to revive him.

Dr. Whittle, who was near the spot, was then sent for; he immediately attended and by **copious bleeding** restored animation, but **Prosser** continued in such a dangerous state that his **immediate removal** to the **Hospital** was recommended and performed.

The Police had in the interim secured **Pender** and **five or six other persons** who appeared to take a prominent part in the **mob assembled in Phillip Street.**"

The *Sydney Morning Herald* dated **25 January, 1839** printed the following brief account of the inquest into **Inspector Prosser's** death.

*An inquest was held at the same place the same day, on the body of **Peter Prosser**, lately an **Inspector of the Sydney Police**. The evidence was very lengthy but the substance was very simple, viz, that **Prosser** had a man named **Pender** in custody, and that **Pender** in order to make his escape struck the deceased a blow on the head with a **New Zealander's waddy**, which was so violent as to cause an extra vasation of blood on the brain, from the effects of which **Prosser** died. The Jury returned a verdict of **willful murder** against **Pender**, who was committed on the Coroner's warrant.*

At the time of his death the inspector was aged **26** and was attached to the **Sydney Police**.

Judging by newspaper accounts of the time, he was a courageous and energetic policeman who seemed to have worked tirelessly against violent offenders in the inner city of Sydney. He is not listed in the official New South Wales Police Honour Roll.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/514697128544865/permalink/2504303562917535/?comment_tracking=%7B%22tn%22%3A%220%22%7D



A 'waddy', it is believed, is similar to an Aboriginal nulla nulla. A waddy is a heavy club constructed of carved timber and could also be a walking stick. No doubt, the 'green stone' referred to, was attached to the end of the Nulla Nulla and held in place with tree resin.



It would appear that the Rank structure of this period (1835) was:

Patrolman –

Constable –

Conductor –

Inspector –

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW : 1803 – 1842), **Saturday 9 August 1834**, page 4

Government Gazette

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6.

HIS Excellency the GOVERNOR has been pleased to approve of the following Alterations in the Police of the Colony, namely

SYDNEY.

APPOINTMENTS

John Price, free, to be **Conductor**, from the 18th June.

To be **Patrolman** – James Woodward, free, from the 25th June; John Murray, free, from the 5th July ; **Peter Prosser, free, from the 8th ultimo**; John Gorman, free, from the 14th ultimo ; Edward Tierney, free, and John McCarthy, free, from the 15th ultimo ; Bryant Naughton, free, from the 16th ultimo ; Michael Armstrong, free, from the 17th ultimo, and James Cook, free, from the 18th ultimo.

Thomas McConnell, free, to be Constable at the North Shore, from the 16th June, and James Woodward, free, to be Constable of the Water Police, from the 5th July.

RESIGNATION

John William Smith, **Constable**, North Shore, on the 15th June.

DISMISSALS

Patrolmen – John Sullivan, on 24th June ; Patrick Muleady, on the 7th ultimo; James Drew and Patrick Dougharty, on the 13th ultimo ; David Leighton, on the 14th ultimo , George Stewart, on the 15th ultimo; and Patrick Curran, and John Sheehy, on the 17th July.

Water Police Constable – Alexander Lee, on the 4th July,

STRATHALLAN.

William Berry, free, to be **Constable** in the room of William Carroll, resigned.

MAITLAND.

Edward Gaynor, holding a Ticket-of-Leave, to be **Constable**, from the 14th ultimo, in the room of Daniel McFarlane, resigned.

PORT STEPHENS.

Michael Cotton, holding a ticket-of-Leave, to be **Constable**, in the room of John Jagers, resigned.

By His Excellency's Command,

ALEXANDER McLEAY.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2216810>

New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 – 1900), **Wednesday 21 January 1835** (No.151), page 45

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Sydney, 20th January, 1835.

HIS Excellency the GOVERNOR has been pleased to approve of the following alterations in the Police of the Colony ; namely,–

SYDNEY.

To be **Conductors**.– Edward Rollins and **Peter Prosser**, raised from **Patrolmen**, from the 1st instant.

To be **Patrolmen**.– William Elkins, and to be Market Constable, from the 1st instant ; Mark Gilmore, Michael O'Neal, William Howarth, Thomas Barrett, James Carwell, and William Barnett, from the 1st instant ; James Matthews, Robert Lodge, John Hundley, and James Kennedy, from the 9th instant ; and John McCarthy, from the 13th instant.

Conductors Dismissed.– William Barnett, reduced to Patrolman.

Patrolmen Dismissed.– George Brereton, Market Constable ; Herbert Green, James Matthews, John Cummings, James Carwell,

John Smith, Peter Butler, Peter Christie, and Peter Colgan.

By His Excellency's Command,

ALEXANDER McLEAY.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230654664>

New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 – 1900), **Wednesday 29 April 1835** (No.165), page 257

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Sydney, 28th April, 1835.

HIS Excellency the GOVERNOR has been

pleased to approve of the following alterations

in the Police of the Colony, namely :—

SYDNEY.— To be **Wardsman** : George Mitchell, from the 6th instant.

To be **Conductors** : Philip Boyce, from the 1st, John Moore, from the 7th, William Hanson, from Joe 14th, and John Matthews, from the 20th of April.

To be **Patrolmen** : **Peter Prosser**, James Shaw, Archibald Kelley, and Dennis Connelly, from the 1st instant ; Thomas Kinchela, from the 14th instant, ; John Thorn, John Pendar, James

Jackson and William Troop, from the 16th instant ; John Price, and William Vernon, from the 17th, and Patrick Galvin, from the 20th of April.

Wardsman resigned : John Skinner.

Conductors Dismissed : **Peter Prosser**, Patrick Ogan, and John Price.

Patrolmen resigned : William Howarth, John Gorman, James Tobin.

Patrolmen dismissed : Robert Grindle, James Cone, John Carey, John Connor, James Wells, Patrick Fitzpatrick, and L. Walsh.

LIVERPOOL.— George Harvey, holding a Ticket-of-leave, to be Constable, from the 20th Instant, in the room of Denis McCarthy, resigned.

PENRITH.— John Baxter, free, to be Constable, from the 26th Ultimo, in the room of John Brown, dismissed.

BONG BONG.— John Coffee and Lawrence Larken, free, to be Constables— the former in the room of, James Harper, resigned, and the latter from the 20th Instant, in the room of William Austin, dismissed.

YASS.— James Donald, free, to be Constable, from the 20th of February last.

MERTON.— Jeremiah Burns, holding a Ticket-of-leave, to be Constable, from the 6th Ultimo, in the room of Thomas Boline, resigned.

PORT STEPHENS.— John McCarthy, free, to be Constable, in the room of Edward Frost, resigned.

By His Excellency's Command,

ALEXANDER McLEAY.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230655286>

New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 – 1900), **Wednesday 29 July 1835** (No.178), page 518

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, **28th July, 1835.**

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor has been pleased to approve of the following alterations in the Police of the Colony, viz. :—

SYDNEY.

To be **Wardsman**.— William Abbott, from the 1st instant.

To be **Conductors**.— Matthew Thomkins and John Price, from the 1st instant ; James Shaw, from the 4th instant ; **Peter Prosser**, from the 12th instant.

To be **Patrolmen**.— Patrick Conner, William Moore, William Cox, John Kelly and Stephen Bunen, from the 1st instant ; Thomas Lynskey, from the 4th instant ; Timothy Foley and Andrew White, from the 8th instant ; James Pearson, Samuel Deacon, and Samuel Freebury, from the 12th instant.

Wardsman resigned.— William Small.

Conductor resigned.— Constantine Molloy.

Conductor Patrick Reid, reduced to Patrolman on 30th ultimo.

Wardsman dismissed.— William Abbott.

Patrolmen dismissed.— William Brown, William McCready, James McGruggan, William Noop, Patrick Petty, Thomas Phillips, John Hauley, Michael Armstrong.

LIVERPOOL.

Daniel McCarthy, holding a Ticket-of-leave, to be Constable, from the 18th instant, in the room of James Silvester, resigned.

PENRITH.

William Rossborough, holding a Ticket-of-leave, and Thomas Shuttleworth, also holding a Ticket-of leave, to be Constables, in the room of Ralph Hodgson and Henry Workman, dismissed— the former from the 10th and the latter from the 30th ultimo.

PATRICK'S PLAINS.

Constable John Brest, dismissed on the 20th instant.

By His Excellency's Command, ALEXANDER McLEAY.

Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser (NSW : 1838 – 1841),
Wednesday 13 February 1839, page 2

Before Mr. Justice Willis and a Civil Jury.

John Pendar, alias “**Jack the Waterman**” was tried yesterday for the **murder of Inspector Prosser**.

The case occupied **Mr Justice Willis** and a **civil Jury** up to half-past nine o'clock, when the **Jury** returned a **verdict of manslaughter**.

Mr Windeyer was counsel for the **defence**, and raised **three objections** – which were,

that there was **no proof of drunkenness** to warrant the **deceased** in **taking the prisoner into custody**,

that the **prisoner** would have **been justified in using force** to any degree **to expel the constable**, who was in fact **transgressing on his premises**, and

lastly the **learned gentleman** relied upon a **statute** ; which he believed was in force, as far back as Henry the Eighth (which had never been repealed ; **rendering fatal any indictment** not drawn up in **intelligible English**, and

contended that “ **Waddy**” was **not an English word**, and **therefore fatal** to the indictment.

These **objections** were reserved and the **prisoner remanded for sentence**.

The court was crowded during the whole time.

Commercial Journal and Advertiser (Sydney, NSW : 1835 – 1840),
Wednesday 20 February 1839, page 2

James Pendar alias **Jack the Waterman**, for the **manslaughter** of **Inspector Prosser**, was brought up for **sentence yesterday**, and ordered to be **transported for the term of his natural life to Norfolk Island**.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/226457240>

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW : 1803 – 1842), **Thursday 21 February 1839**, page 2

Supreme Court.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1839.

(Before their Honors the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Willis.)

On this day there being no cases ready for trial, the prisoners remanded during the Sessions were brought up for sentence.

John Pender was next placed at the bar. The prisoner had been **tried** for the **wilful murder** of **Peter Prosser**, a policeman, and had been found guilty of **manslaughter**.

Mr. Justice Willis, before whom the case was tried, said to the prisoner that the **mercy of the Jury** had **saved his life** in finding him guilty of manslaughter – the **manslaughter** was of a **more aggravated nature** than he had ever known or heard of.

The police must be protected in their duty, and should be protected.

His sentence was that he should be **transported for life**.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2548134>

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW : 1803 – 1842), **Saturday 26 January 1839**, page 2

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Coroner's INQUEST. –

On **Thursday morning** at nine o'clock an **Inquest** was held upon the body of **Prosser**, the late **Inspector of Police**, who **died** in the **General Hospital** on the **preceding day**. The Jury assembled at the sign of the **Bunch of Grapes (King St)**, whence they proceeded to the **Hospital** to view the body, and then returned to the **Jury room**, where the following evidence was taken :

John Pender, the man charged with the murder, being in custody.

Jane Rayner, of **Phillip-street**, being sworn stated, I knew the deceased **Peter Prosser**, and the **prisoner** before the Court (**John Pender**); I keep a **public-house**.

On **Monday afternoon** the **prisoner** came into my house **very tipsey**; he made use of very bad language to me, and I refused to serve him, telling him if he could not use better language to me he should leave the place; he then turned round and exposed his naked person to me twice ; I took up a jug of water and threw it over him, and desired him to be off about his business for an impudent blackguard ; that appeared to enrage him the more ; he turned towards me as if he would strike me; I took up a **New Zealand waddy** to defend myself as he was making to me ; he snatched it from me, and struck me a blow across the shoulder, and afterwards made several blows at me with the **waddy**, which I avoided ; I thought he would kill me, and I sent my little girl to the **watch-house** for a **constable** ; the prisoner then went into the street making a noise, and flourishing the **waddy** ; in the mean time **Prosser** came up, and seeing how badly the prisoner behaved, who was storming violently, and flourishing the **waddy**, he approached him, and I cautioned him of the weapon the prisoner held in his hand ;

Prosser came up behind the **prisoner**, and took the **waddy** out of his hand ; and collared him ; the **prisoner** forced himself into my house in the custody of the **deceased**, and said he would not go to the **watch-house**; I told the **deceased** of his bad behaviour, and said I would appear the next day against the **prisoner**;

the **deceased** then told him he must go to the **watch-house** ; the **prisoner** tried to get away by the back door, but the **deceased** stopped him ; at this time a mob of persons had come into the house ; with some difficulty the **deceased** induced the **prisoner** to go quietly with him ; they left the house together; I cannot say which of them had the **waddy** as I was so confused ; I did not leave the place to look outside to see which way they went, but I saw that they turned towards the **watch-house** ; they had to pass the **prisoner's house** on their way there; the **deceased** had much difficulty with the **prisoner** in the

house ; I cannot say whether the **prisoner** was struck ; the **deceased** had to scuffle with him to make him submit and go with him ; I am dull of hearing, and cannot say whether the **prisoner** made use of any threatening language to the **deceased**, but they struggled a good deal with each other ; I saw nothing after they left the house.

By the Prisoner. – I cannot say that I saw any blows struck ; there was much struggling; several people were in the house; **Mr. Roberts' servant** was there.

George Clark, free, was then sworn. I recollect seeing the **deceased** and **prisoner** in **Mrs. Rayner's** house on Monday last; I saw **Mrs. Rayner** point out and give charge of the **prisoner** to **deceased** ; **Prosser** came behind him, snatched the **waddy** out of his hand, and dragged the **prisoner** towards the **watch-house**; the **prisoner** struggled, and seized hold of a **fence**, on which the **deceased** pushed at him with the **staff or waddy** ; they both got back to **Rayner's** ; I looked in and saw a struggle ; the **prisoner** attempted to get out by the back door and the **deceased** either struck or knocked him down ; he was down ; they had some high words in the house, and the **prisoner** took the **staff from Prosser**, on which the latter attempted to get it again ; the **prisoner** refused to let him have it, and said he should not have it, but he would go to the **watch-house** ; they then went quietly that way, the **prisoner** holding the **staff**;

I stood at the corner to watch them ; as they passed the **prisoner's house** the **prisoner** forced himself in ; they had a scuffle ; I went down to them, and saw that **Prosser** had got the staff from him, and was shaking the **prisoner** to get him to the **watch-house**; the **prisoner** refused, on which the **deceased** struck him a blow on the head ; the **prisoner** refused to go to the **watch-house**, and wanted to get into his own house; I cannot say what occurred immediately in the house ; in about a minute I saw **Prosser** staggering out holding his hands to his head ; I could not tell whether he said any thing, as there

was such a noise at the time; a young man had the **waddy** in his hand, and said, "*that shall not be used again.*"

No one else came out of the house but the **deceased** ; **Prosser** went towards the **watch-house**; he continued reeling as he walked along the street as far as four or five houses; I was not exactly opposite the **prisoner's** house, and could not see into it ; the young man before mentioned was in the yard of the **prisoner** about a minute after the deceased came but ; the deceased was then going out of the yard, and the **prisoner** was in his own house; I saw some blood coming down the head of the **deceased**, but I saw no mark upon his face ; I did not notice the young man who had the **waddy** until after **Prosser** came out of the house ; if he had come out of the house I must have seen him ; I walked out of the yard after the deceased into **Phillip-street**, as I thought he would fall, and I did not return ; **Prosser** was coming out of the **prisoner's** house when I arrived ; he had no hat on ; I heard no noise of blows when I came to the door ; I should know the person of the young man who had the **waddy** if I were to see him again; the **prisoner** and the **deceased** struggled very much for about **seven or eight minutes** before they went into the house ; they remained in **about three or five minutes**; I did not see **Prosser** fall, nor did I observe any marks of a fall upon his clothes; in about **three minutes** after I lost sight of **Prosser** while I was conversing with **Mr. West** opposite **Pender's** house ; I saw the **prisoner** standing opposite his fence going down the street, and **two constables** running round him to get in front of him ; the prisoner got over his fence, and was defending himself with the **waddy**, and the **constables** striking with their staves.

By the Prisoner.- I saw the **deceased** hit you several times; there were several marks upon you.

William Badcock examined- I recollect on Monday last, seeing the **prisoner** and the **deceased** in **Phillip-street** ; I saw the **prisoner** before he was in custody and afterwards ; I saw the struggle, and saw **Prosser** lay hold of the prisoner's hair, and

endeavour to knock his head against the door of **Mr. Rayner's** house; I also saw him endeavour to kick him, which the **prisoner** prevented by holding up his leg ; the **prisoner** got up and said he wished to speak to **Prosser**; they went quietly along **Phillip-street**, till another came up to the assistance of the **deceased** ; when opposite the **prisoner's** house a scuffle ensued ; I can't say whether it was occasioned by the violence of the **other constable** or a desire of the **prisoner** to get into his house ; the **other constable** was **evidently drunk**, and struck the **prisoner** with his staff on the head ; the **prisoner** got to his own door, and **Prosser** sent the **other constable** away for assistance; the **deceased** had the **waddy** in his hand when he entered the house; I did not see the **deceased** strike **prisoner** any blows in the struggle that took place as they entered the house ; there was blood on the **prisoner's** face and shirt, which was produced by the blow of the **drunken constable** ; they entered the house and I followed them ; they were struggling on the bed, the **deceased** being uppermost ; **Prosser** was holding the **prisoner's** shirt collar with one hand, and thrusting his knuckles into his throat ; in my opinion with the intention of strangling him, and with the other arm trying to hold the **waddy** from the prisoner; in the struggle the **prisoner** succeeded in getting the **waddy** out of **Prosser's** hand, and the deceased held his hand upon the arm of the **prisoner** that had the **waddy** in it ; it was then the **prisoner** struck the **deceased** with the flat part of the **waddy** upon the top of his head ; he did not fall from the blow, but he put his hand to his head and cried "oh," and walked out of the house and down **Phillip-street** as far as I then could see him ; he went away without his hat; I did not see the **deceased** strike the **prisoner** with the **waddy** ; I do not believe he struck him at all ; the **prisoner** was very drunk ; after the **drunken constable** had been despatched for assistance, the **prisoner** continued his resistance and violence to **Mr. Prosser**; I did not consider he intended to injure **Mr. Prosser** ; he was very lenient to him, and it was only on the **deceased** taking him by the throat, as I thought to strangle him, that he struck him ; I did not hear

the sound of the blow, but it evidently stunned him ; I was so interested in the proceeding that I noticed only the actions of the parties; there was no other person in the house ; after the **deceased** left the house the **prisoner** pulled off his shoes and stockings, brandished the **waddy**, and was more violent than ever ; he only struck one blow ; he appeared stupidly as well as furiously drunk ; when in liquor he appeared almost mad ; I did not hear **Prosser** say anything to the **prisoner** in the house, he attempted to conquer him by force.

(**Constable Bradley** being produced, was identified by him as having struck the prisoner on the head.)

Sergeant (William) Kilpatrick of the Police was next examined.- He stated, on Monday last I was in the **station-house** when **Bradley** came in, between **one and two o'clock**, and said that a number of persons had assembled in **Phillip street**, and that **Mr. Prosser** was beaten and wanted assistance; I went there immediately with **Bradley** ; I met the **deceased** about **fifteen or twenty yards** from the **prisoner's** house ;

he held both his hands to his head and had his handkerchief to the left side of his face, where a scar appeared ; he turned round and pointed to the **prisoner**, who was in view with blood upon his shirt, and said, "**there's the man, Kilpatrick, that struck me, take him into custody** ;" he then walked on towards the **watch-house** ; I went in pursuit of the **prisoner**, who had a **waddy** in his hand and put himself in a posture to attack me; I secured him in his own house ; **Bradley** was with me, he struck the **prisoner** in my presence; he was **perfectly sober**.

(The witness here observed that **almost immediately** afterwards **Bradley** came to him in the **watch-house** and said that he **heard that a charge of drunkenness** had been preferred against him, and he wished him to **smell his breath** to see if he could distinguish any smell of liquor, he did so but could discover none.)

Bradley struck the **prisoner** so did **I** ; I made several blows at his hand with my staff to make him drop the **waddy** ; **Bradley** was not violent but **cool and deliberate** ; the **prisoner** did not say anything respecting **Prosser**; he was intoxicated and very violent; he made one determined blow at me with the **waddy** which I caught on my staff, the dent occasioned by it still remains ; I afterwards saw **Prosser** in the **station-house**, he seemed feeble and **almost dead**. (The prisoner put a few unimportant questions that did not affect the evidence.)

One of the **Jurymen**, **Mr. Driver**, here stepped forward and observed to the **Coroner** that he saw **Constable Bradley** about ten minutes after the transaction, and he was then **perfectly sober**.

Dr. Robertson certified that the **deceased** was received into the **Hospital** about **ten o'clock** on **Monday evening** in a state of insensibility. There was a small scar of recent formation on his left cheek. On a post mortem examination of the body, he found on opening the skull a large quantity of extravasated blood on the back part of the brain, and the whole of the back part of the brain appeared to have been in a violent state of inflammation, sufficient to produce death. The effects, he was of opinion, were such as would have been produced by the blow of a flat, heavy instrument applied violently, such as a waddy. The **extravasation** and inflammation consequent thereon **produced death**.

Dr. Whittel corroborated the evidence of the other **Doctor**, as to the appearances on the post mortem examination. He in addition, stated that he had been called to attend the **deceased** shortly after he received the blow ; he bled him and recommended his removal to the Hospital.

The **Coroner** had commenced summing up the evidence, when it was intimated that a young man was present who was there at the time the blow was given.

He was called in and examined. He stated that his name was **Manuel Josephson**, and that he arrived at **Pender's** house when the deceased held the **prisoner** against the wall of the house. On their entering the house he could not tell which carried the **waddy**, but when they were inside (the witness having followed them) he saw the **waddy** lying on a chest beside the bed. As soon as **Prosser** observed it there he took it up to secure it, on which the **prisoner** snatched at it ; they struggled and the **deceased** got **Pender** down on the bed, but the **prisoner** succeeded in getting possession of the instrument with which he struck the **deceased** on his naked head.

Prosser arose from the bed after receiving the blow, and, uttering a cry, he staggered out of the house ; and shortly afterwards **Pender** was apprehended. He added, that in his opinion the **deceased** used no unnecessary violence in securing the **prisoner**.

The **Coroner** having summed up the evidence and explained the distinctions between **manslaughter** and **murder**, pointed out the fact of the **prisoner** being in the commission of an **unlawful act**, was given into the custody of a **peace-officer**, whose attempts to take him to the **watch-house** he resisted with a **deadly instrument**.

The **jury**, after a short consultation, returned a **verdict** of **wilful murder** against **John Pender**, who was forthwith **committed** on the **Coroner's warrant**.

The **prisoner** is a man of low stature but of great apparent strength of body and very muscular, whereas the **deceased** was a man of very delicate habits of body.

The enquiry lasted seven hours.

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW : 1803 – 1842), **Saturday 1 August 1835**, page 4

By His Excellency's Command,

ALEXANDER McLEAY.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney,

28th July 1835.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to approve of the following alterations in the **Police of the Colony**, vis –

SYDNEY.

To be **Wardsman** – **William Abbott**, from the 1st instant.

To be **Conductors** – **Matthew Thompkins** and **John Price**, from the 1st instant ; **James Shaw**, from the 4th instant ; **Peter Prosser**, from the 12th instant.

To be **Patrolmen** – **Patrick Connor**, **William Moore**, **William Cox**, **John Kelly**, and **Stephen Bunen** from the 1st instant ; **Thomas Lynskey**, from the 4th instant ; **Timothy Foley** and **Andrew White**,

from the 8th instant ; **James Pearson**, **Samuel Deacon**, and **Samuel Freebury**, from the 12th instant.

Wardsman resigned – **William Small**.

Conductor resigned – **Constantine Molloy**

Conductor Patrick Reid, reduced to **Patrolman** on the 30th ultimo.

Wardsman dismissed – **William Abbott**.

Conductor dismissed – **Henry Ball**.

Patrolmen dismissed – **William Brown**. **William McCready**, **James McGruggIn**, **William Noop**, **Patrick Petty**, **Thomas Phillips**, **John Hanley**, **Michael Armstrong**.

LIVERPOOL.

Daniel McCarthy, holding a Ticket-of-Leave, to be **Constable**, from the 18th instant, in the room of **James Silvester**, resigned.

PENRITH.

William Rossborough, holding a Ticket-of-Leave, and **Thomas Shuttleworth**, also holding a Ticket of Leave, to be **Constables**, in the room of **Ralph Hodgson** and **Henry Workman**, dismissed-the former from the 10th and the latter from the 30th ultimo.

PATRICK'S PLAINS.

Constable John Brest, dismissed on the 30th instant.

By His Excellency's Command,

ALEXANDER McLEAY.

Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser (NSW : 1838 – 1841),
Friday 26 April 1839, page 2

Perjury

Joseph Cutts , a free man, in the service of **Mr. Thompson** of **Phillip-street**, was charged by **Constable Callaghan** with assaulting him in the execution of his duty.

Callaghan deposed, that as he was passing a dray standing in Phillip-street, about half past seven on Monday evening, a dog under the dray (chained) flew at him.

He struck it in return. The prisoner said, he might as well strike him as strike his dog, and he would serve him as **Prosser** had been served by **Jack the Waterman**, and immediately struck him, the witness.

The drayman had a child in his arms, which he gave to a woman to hold, while he struck witness. He then made into his master's house, and witness followed him, and struck him with his **staff**. He also **sprang his rattle**.

The **prisoner** denied having struck the **constable**, and called witnesses. –

Mary Mahany, a soldier's widow, residing opposite the master of the **prisoner**, in **Phillip street**, deposed, that a person left a loaded team standing opposite her door, with a dog on the chain to guard it, while he went over the way to get tea, and she promised to mind it.

The **constable** came up **drunk**, the dog barked, and the **constable** began to irritate it with his staff, and said, if he had it off the chain, he would knock its brains out.

Witness told him, he had better let the dog alone, and go about his business. He called her **a dirty w—**.

The **prisoner**, who was by with his child in his arms, said, he ought to be ashamed to make use of such language to the mother of children. He immediately ran over and knocked **prisoner** down twice with his child in his arms, and began **springing his rattle** and making a disturbance.

John Thomas, a dealer, deposed, that the **constable** was **drunk**, and corroborated the evidence of the last witness, as far as it went.

The **constable** also **spit in witness's face**, and would have taken witness to the **watch house**, had he, witness, not got out of the way. (When the last witness went into the box, he asked the **constable** if he had any recollection of him? He denied ever having seen his face before. *I thought so*, said the witness, *you were too drunk.*)

Case dismissed.

The constable was ordered **to be reported**.

Such is the case, as handed to us by our reporter.

We are surprised that men of such tact as **Messrs. Windeyer** and **Innes**, did not either order the **witness** into the box for **gross perjury**, or the **constable**; for **grosser and more malicious impudent lies**, were never told in a court of justice, than what must have been told by one or more of these opposing witnesses.

If **Magistrates** and **Judges** will not take the trouble to **prosecute for perjury** so glaring and open, as that which has evidently been committed by one or other of the witnesses in

this case, the land will never be purged of this abominable and daily committed crime.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/32163822>

Smith's Weekly (Sydney, NSW : 1919 – 1950), **Saturday 17 November 1928**, page 16

The WAR CLUB of DOOM

A Sailor's Crime in Old Sydney Town

by The Man in the Mask

CALLOUSLY ATE PEARS IN THE DOCK



JOHN PENDER was an ardent collector of curios. In his rough, ignorant fashion, he expressed his love of the beautiful by picking up, from all the seaports of the world, things that were odd and rare, and fetching them to his bachelor home on the **Strawberry Hills** in

Sydney.

Of the hardy sea-faring men of the '**thirties** he was one of the most adventurous. Wanderlust had taken him back and forth over the seven seas, to strange ports and strange lands. His little

cottage was a veritable museum of curiosities, a centre of attraction for half the population of Sydney when the owner was ashore after one of his exciting voyages.

Pender, as is not uncommon with men of his calibre and peculiar mental composition, was loquacious concerning his exploits, and insistently eager to confirm the impression that he was more than an ordinary being.

Towards the **end of 1838**, **Pender** landed in **Sydney** after an adventurous trip to **New Zealand**, bringing back with him a large collection of **Maori weapons**, including a **huge club** with a **greenstone head**, taken by him in single-handed fight with a tattooed chief of the savages.

This curiously carved weapon was regarded by the sailor as the gem of his collection. He never tired relating the story of the fight that made it his, and day by day, he grew more boastful about its alleged intrinsic value.

Throughout the **Christmas festivities**, he paraded the street with the club over his shoulder, chanting war songs in outlandish tongue, and generally making a nuisance of himself to the more peaceably inclined citizens.

Inspector Peter Prosser, of the **Sydney Police Force**, did not look with any favor on **Pender** and his boisterous ways. On several occasions he reprimanded the sailor sternly for his obstreperous behaviour, once or twice driving him off the streets when his boasting and warlike antics with the greenstone club terrified passers by.

Pender was more disturbed than he showed by this unceremonious treatment at the hands of a high officer of the law. Having come to believe that his prowess gave him the right to swagger and riot through the streets of any sea-port town, he bitterly resented that his inclinations should be frustrated. In the place where he had made his home, and on Monday, January 21, he was very much in evidence, parading the streets with the

club in his hand and a Maori rug tied about his shoulders, loudly proclaiming that he was afraid of no man.

His **eccentric behaviour** did not seriously impede Sydney's general affairs during the forenoon, and **Inspector Prosser** not being about, he progressed from inn to inn accumulating large quantities of spirits. During early afternoon he wandered into the bar of **Mrs. Jane Rayner's Inn** in **King Street**, and, thumping the counter with his club, called for drinks for those assembled. The loungers about the place were only too willing to partake of his hospitality, but as the audience was too insignificant for the sailor, he visited the various parlors and tap-rooms and extended his invitation to the occupants. In this way he gathered another eight men into the bar, but at one parlor his peremptory invitation to drink was as peremptorily refused.

Three squatters from the interior, discussing a matter of important business, so resented his intrusion on their privacy that they threatened stern measures if he did not take himself off.

Pender was not far enough gone in drink to be thoroughly quarrelsome, but nevertheless he expressed his opinion of the squatters with such disgusting profanity that they rose to their feet. One of them rushed the sailor, and, taking him by the shoulders, thrust him down a passage into the street. Then he returned and, calling on his friends, left the house; Before going, however, he informed the **landlady** that neither he nor any of his associates would patronise the tavern again.

Loss of Profits

Mrs. Rayner was considerably put out at losing such profitable customers, and upbraided **Pender** in vigorous terms when he re-entered the bar a minute later. The **seafarer**, now furious and irresponsible, threatened to smash up the bar if anything more were said. The **landlady** was **just as brave** and determined as

the sailor.

Seizing the war-club, which was lying on the counter, she brought it down with a heavy thwack on **Pender's** shoulders and threatened to crack his skull if he did not leave the premises. From her fortress behind the bar, the landlady whirled the **stoneheaded weapon**, striking at **Pender** whenever he attempted to seize it.

The half-crazed man was shouting loudly, and using dreadful language as he rushed about the room, creating such an uproar that a crowd quickly gathered in the street. When the disturbance was at its height, **Inspector Prosser** entered the bar. Taking in the situation **at a glance**, he **rushed at the sailor**, grasped him about the middle, and hurled him through the door. While **Pender** was attempting to rise, the **inspector** rushed him again and tried to **handcuff** him. Both men were of like build, and both in perfect physical condition. The **sailor**, despite the quantity of drink he had absorbed during the morning, was not greatly affected by his libations, and began to fight for his liberty. For **half an hour** the pair **struggled and fought** in the Street, none of the crowd offering to interfere.



Prosser, a skilful boxer, plied his **fists vigorously**, battering his antagonist's face until it was a mask of blood, **Pender**, employing tactics of the sea-front, used his feet and hands impartially, but with scant

success.

At length **Prosser**, planting a blow on **Pender's** jaw, felled him insensible to the ground.

When the sailor recovered he was manacled and helpless.

Signifying his intention to proceed quietly to the **watch-house**, he was permitted to rise, and, held by **Prosser**, moved down the street. Over his shoulder the **inspector** carried the **war-club**. As they were walking along, the sailor informed his captor that he would like to visit his home before going to prison, there being **two cats and several birds** in the house he desired to liberate.

Prosser, yielding to persuasion, diverted his progress towards **Strawberry Hills**, and a **quarter of an hour later** entered the **sailor's cottage** with his prisoner. At the door the **inspector**

was seen to **unlock the handcuffs** on the sailor's wrists, a proceeding that many of those among the crowd that followed considered a dangerous proceeding.

No warning of this was shouted to the **police officer**, but when a few moments later he came reeling out through the door to **collapse on the ground**, those present realised that something tragic had occurred. In the **Inspector's** head was a ghastly wound, clearly caused by a **blow from the war-club**.

Two men, **George Clark** and **Richard Roberts** -rushed into the house. On the floor of the front room they found the **blood-stained club**. **Pender** they beheld escaping through the gate at the rear.

Sergt. W. Kilpatrick and **Constable Boadley** were soon in pursuit of the murderer. Through the streets they chased him, **Pender** running at a **tangent**, and screaming insanely of **men he had killed** in other parts of the world. People dashed from his path and took shelter in the houses. Doors were slammed in his face, but none attempted to lay hold of him. The police took him at last near the **Hyde Park Barracks**. He had turned at bay, **producing a long sailor's knife**, with which he menaced his pursuers. The **constables**, however, furious at the death of their superior, **braved the maddened seafarer**, and overwhelmed him with their **truncheons**.

They battered him into unconsciousness and then, securing a **wheelbarrow**, trundled him to the **Watch-house** where he regained his senses.

At his **trial** some months later, **Pender** was the **most unconcerned** man in the court. He sat in the dock **eating pears from a bag and spitting out the skin at the constables**.

He **refused to plead**, or give any explanation of the tragic happening in the cottage, **a course which decided his fate**.

The **Judge** had nothing else to do but to **order his execution**.

The **green-stone war-club** was given to **Mrs. Jane Rayner** by a **formal order of the court**, for **what reason** was **not apparent**, and her descendants may have it to this day. .



"The Man in the Mask"

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/234383166>
