

John GRICE

10/05/2024

John GRICE

AKA ?

* Nickname: ?

Late of Sofala, NSW

Relations in 'the job':

"possible" relation in 'the job': ?

~~NSW Police Training Centre — Redfern / Goulburn Police
Academy / Police Training College — Penrith / Belmore
Barracks — Class # ? ? ?~~

New South Wales Gold Police Force

Regd. # ????

Rank: Probationary Constable — appointed ? ? ?

Constable — appointed ? ? ?

~~Constable 1st Class — appointed ? ? ?~~

~~Detective — appointed ? ? ?~~

~~Senior Constable — appointed ? ? ?~~

~~Leading Senior Constable — appointed ? ? ?~~

~~Sergeant 3rd Class — appointed ? ? ?~~

Chief Constable — appointed ? ? 1852

Sergeant Major of the Gold Police Force — appointed ? ? ?

Final Rank: = Sergeant Major

Stations: ?, Sofala Gold Police — Death

Time employed (Paid) with NSW Police: From: ? ? ? to 6
September 1852 = ? years,

Service (From Training Date) period: From ? ? ? to 6
September 1852 = ? years, Service

Retirement / Leaving age: = ?

Time in Retirement from Police: ?

Awards: No Find on Australian Honours system



Born: ? ? 1810 / 1811

Died on: 6 September 1852 during the morning

Age: 41 years,

Organ Donor: N/A

Cause: ?

Event location: Sofala Police Barracks, ?, Sofala, NSW

Event / Diagnosis date: ?

Funeral date: 7 September 1852

Funeral location:

Funeral performed by: H. A. PALMER

LIVE STREAM ?

Wake location: ???

Wake date: ???

Funeral Parlour: ?



Buried at: Christ Church Cemetery, 10 Hargraves St, Sofala,
NSW

Grave Location: Section: Row: ? Plot: ?
Grave GPS: ?, ?

Memorial / Plaque / Monument located at: ?

Dedication date of Memorial / Plaque / Monument: Nil – at this
time (May 2024)

JOHN is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance *NEED
MORE INFO

**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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AustralianPolice.com.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NSWFallenPolice/>

Australian Police YouTube Channel

People's Advocate and New South Wales Vindicator (Sydney, NSW
: 1848-1856),

Saturday 18 September 1852, page 14

DEATHS.

At the Barracks, Sofala, on the morning of Monday, the 6th instant, **John Grice, Sergeant-Major of the gold police**, aged 41.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/251530739>

Bathurst Free Press and Mining Journal (NSW : 1851 – 1862;
1872; 1882; 1885 – 1897; 1899 – 1904),

APPOINTMENTS. – Mr. **James Purslow** has been appointed **chief constable** of **Hartley**, and **Sergeant-Major John Grice**, of **Sofala**, Turon

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/62519062>

* Story behind any Nickname:

Nothing further, than what is recorded above, is known about this person at the time of publication and further information and photos would be appreciated.

Cal

10 May 2024

John WATSON

10/05/2024

John WATSON

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # **????**

Rank: Constable

Stations: ?, City Police (Sydney)

Service: From ? ? ? to 25 October 1852 = ? years of Service

Awards: ?

Born: ? ? ? about 1827, Downpatrick, Co. Down, Ireland.

Event date: Saturday 14 February 1852

Event location: outside of the Horse and Jockey Hotel, Hunter St, O'Connell St, Sydney @ 9pm

Event type: Assault – kicking

Died on: Monday 25 October 1852

Place of death: ?

Cause: Illness – Tuberculosis

Age: 26

Funeral date: Wednesday 27 October 1852

Funeral location: ?

Buried at: St John's Anglican Cemetery, Menangle Rd, Camden

Grave location: very end of Row E, Plot 107

Memorial at:



Inscription:

In Memory Of John WATSON who died 25th Oct
1852. Aged 26. At Rest ??????



**JOHN is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall
of Remembrance**

*** BUT should be**

Sergeant John Watson was born c1827, Downpatrick, Co. Down,

Ireland.

He, along with his wife Susan Watson (nee Gillespie) 1830-1912, arrived in Sydney 15/10/1851 aboard the "Earl Grey". During the voyage his wife gave birth to a son John Watson, 1851-1918. Sergeant Watson died 1 year and 10 days after arriving in Sydney.

He is buried in the St. Johns Anglican Church cemetery, Camden, NSW.

Buried at the very end of Row E, plot 107.

♥ Kevin Bannister 041120

Sergeant Watson is thought to have died on **25 October, 1852** as a result of the **onset of tuberculosis** following **an assault by a prisoner** he was escorting to a **police station**.

He was **buried at Camden on 27 October, 1852** at which time his **residence** was recorded as **Sydney**.

Few details are yet known of the incident, however the ***Sydney Morning Herald*** of **24 May, 1860** when reporting on the death of **Inspector Alexander McGee**, included the following clue.

*We are happy to say that we have been informed by the **superintendent of Police** that a pension to the widow [of McGee] of " £50 can be afforded out of the Police Fund. It is a somewhat singular coincidence that this will be the second instance of relief from the Police Fund which **Mrs. McGee** will receive. She was formerly married to a man of the name of **Watson**, in the police force, who, **while conveying a prisoner to the watchhouse**, was so **seriously kicked in the back** that **consumption was induced**, and he **speedily died**. On that*

occasion the donation of " £100 was paid to the widow out of the Police Fund. Still we think that some testimonial from the citizens in token of their approval of the gallant conduct of McGee is eminently due.

The sergeant was aged 26 years when he died and was apparently stationed in the Sydney Metropolitan Area.

Empire (Sydney, NSW : 1850 – 1875), **Tuesday 17 February**
1852, page 2

SYDNEY POLICE COURT. – Saturday (Before the Police
Magistrate, and J. McLerie, Esq., J.P.)

ASSAULTING A CONSTABLE.- A well-dressed young man, named **William Byrnes**, was charged with **assaulting Constable Watson**, in **O'Connell street**, at **nine o'clock** on **Saturday night (14 February 1852)**.

It appeared from the evidence that some man, whose name is unknown, assaulted the defendant, and knocked him down. The **constable** interfered for the defendant, and **apprehended his assailant**, in return for which the **defendant struck the constable several blows**, and also **kicked him in the stomach**.

The defendant did not deny the assault, for which he expressed his contrition. The bench sentenced the defendant to pay a fine of 2/., and 2s. 6d. costs, in default to be imprisoned during fourteen days.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article60127917.txt>

Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer (NSW : 1845 – 1860), **Saturday 21 February 1852**, page 3

THE POLICE REGISTER.

The Height of Ingratitude. – **Police constable Watson** answered in the most lively and sonorous manner to his name when called upon **to give evidence** against **William Byrnes**, a stiff built **nautical**, for having **inflicted divers kicks** upon witness whilst engaged in affording him the protection of the law.

At the late hours on **Saturday night Watson** was doing **his duty in O'Connell-street**, when he saw the defendant levelled to the earth by a human fist.

Witness took the offender into custody; whereupon up rose **Byrnes**, and most ungraciously pitched into his Indigo friend, from whose grasp he rescued his antagonist. " I am naturally mild," cried **Watson**, " but human flesh and blood cannot stand this. Come to the watchhouse." " Not I." replied **Byrnes**, " take me if you can."

Watson sounded his **whistle shrilly**, but the **Royal Civils** did not start up around as did the clansmen – of Roderick Dhu – **Watson** was left alone with a very pretty little piece of work cut out for him. However, he tightened his belt, and went at **Byrnes** like a hero, and after a struggle of **half an hour** placed him carefully under lock and key.

The defendant had nothing to offer in explanation of his conduct but the police office cuckoo note – I was uncommon drunk – knew nothing of it – dare say he's right – a man don't like to be pulled and hauled about – did my best to prevent it, no doubt.

This plea was held insufficient by the P.M., who fined him in

forty shillings and costs for base Ingratitude to his protector.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article59774081.txt>

The Empire (Sydney, NSW) **Wednesday 5 May 1852** p 3

PUBLICANS' ANNUAL LICENSING MEETING,

The Court of Petty Sessions for considering applications for Publicans' Licenses, adjourned from the 30th of last month, resumed its sittings yesterday.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor presided, and was assisted by the following Justices. The Police Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police, Messrs. Allen, Hill, Chambers, Moriarty, Mitchell, Brenan, Grant, and Brown.

George Snell Clark, applied for license for the **Horse and Jockey**, in **Hunter-street**. **Mr. Cory** appeared for the **applicant**, who was opposed by **Inspector Holmes**, for having, on the **14th of February**, **refused to assist a constable in the City Police**, named **John Watson**, who had a **prisoner in custody at the time**, and **which prisoner was rescued from his custody** by a person **who assaulted constable Watson**, and **inflicted severe injuries** upon him. The objection further alleged that when a pair of handcuffs were handed to **Mr. Clark** to assist in securing the **prisoner**, he threw the handcuffs down on the ground.

Constable Watson related the facts of the case, and said that **he had been unwell ever since the night the assault was**

committed upon him. In reply to a question put to him by **Mr. Cory, Watson** admitted that **Mr. Clark** had picked up his **truncheon** for him, **Mr. McLerie** stated that no complaint was made against the manner in which the applicant had hitherto conducted his licensed house, and he would therefore consent to withdraw, the objection, which had been raised to let publicans plainly understand that they were **bound when called** on in similar cases to **render aid to the Police**. The objection was then withdrawn, and the license granted.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article60130047.txt>

NSWBDM = John WATSON. Death registration # 1131/1852
V1852113138B age 26

Camden General Cemetery is located on the corner of Cawdor and Burragorang Rds, Camden & was established in the late 1800's.

The above information may have been contaminated with some of the below dates.

Further investigation needed. (**Cal** 27 Oct 2016)

Danny WEBSTER has a person by the same name recorded as thus (2016)

Sergeant John WATSON

St James Police Station

Assault Injuries – 25 October, 1852

Resting Place – St John's Anglican Cemetery, Camden

Sergeant Watson is thought to have died on 25 October, 1852 as a result of the onset of tuberculosis following an assault by a prisoner he had removed from a hotel in Sydney.

On or about the 21 January, 1852 Sergeant Watson and Constables Clifford and Clarke attended the Lemon Tree Hotel and were asked by the proprietor to remove a man from the premises after he had refused to leave until he was served another drink.

The police were forced to drag the man from the premises and a hostile crowd soon formed outside to witness the ensuing brawl.

The Empire of 25 January, 1852 reported on the incident.

ASSAULTING THE POLICE

Robert Thompson appeared to answer the charge preferred against him by Sergeant Watson, for assaulting him in the execution of his duty, in Phillip-street, between the hours of nine and ten o'clock, on Wednesday evening. The defendant bore evident marks of ill-usage, his eyes being severely bruised.

Mr. Cory appeared for the prosecution, Mr. G. Wright, as amicus curia attended on behalf of the defendant.

It appeared from the evidence of Watson and two other constables that the son of Mr. Tuohy, a publican in Phillip-street, called at the St. James' station-house, requesting the police to eject the defendant from his father's house, as he was conducting himself in a disorderly manner.

Sergeant Watson went with two constables to Mr. Tuohy's house,

and defendant was ordered to quit, which he refused to do.

The policemen then ejected defendant from the house, and ordered him to go home. He refused, and caught hold of Watson by the legs, and endeavoured to throw him down.

The two constables released the sergeant from the defendant's grasp, and he then kicked the sergeant in the breast.

The sergeant then said, "Take him to the watch-house." The defendant was in liquor, and his conduct was very violent while being conveyed to the watch-house.

Several witnesses were called for the defendant, who testified that the policemen ill-used the defendant after the arrest, and that they beat him while conveying him to the watch-house.

The defendant was fined one shilling, and half-a-crown costs, which he immediately paid.

The offender later took civil action against the three police officers, who were defended in court by a Mr Nichols, who said in their defence, "The constables were human beings, and situated as they were, with a mob of upwards of one hundred people surrounding them, and calling out to them to let the man go, must naturally have been excited..

One witness had sworn that a constable waved his stick, and threatened a person in the crowd, but he would call a witness to prove that that constable had no stick with him..

The now complainant had been charged with assaulting a constable, one of the now defendants, and has been convicted and fined..

In conclusion, I would remark that the defendants were duty bound to apprehend the complainant, and they used no more violence than was necessary to take him."

The hotel proprietor, a Mr Tuohy gave the following evidence during the hearing.

I am a publican residing in Phillip-street. On the night of the late Mayoral election the complainant was in my house between the hours of eight and nine o'clock.

I saw the constables, the three defendants, at my house.

My son went for them, in consequence of Mr. Thompson using threatening language, and saying that he could beat me, and my whole family.

Sergeant Watson told the complainant to go home with his wife. Complainant asked the sergeant if he knew his duty, and told him that his duty was outside instead of inside. I desired the constables to put complainant out of the house, as I was in dread of him. They again requested him to go home, which he refused to do. I was afraid he would do me some injury, because I had refused to draw more liquor for him, and again told the constables to turn him out. They took hold of him quietly, and he rushed against them, and tried to shut the door. They forced him outside, and then twice told him to go home. He replied, that he would remain there as long he liked. When down, he took the sergeant by the legs and the constables tried to loosen his hold. The sergeant caught hold of one of the verandah posts, to save himself from falling.

Thompson's conduct was violent. I saw him kick when down outside my door. I could not say who he kicked at. I do not think the constables used more violence than necessary during the time I saw them."

The matter was dismissed by the magistrate.

The sergeant was aged 26 years when he died and was stationed at the St James Police Station.

He was buried at Camden on 27 October, 1852 at which time his residence was recorded as Sydney.

He is not listed in the official New South Wales Police Honour Roll.
