

James BEATTY

25/10/2012

James BEATTY

AKA ?

Late of ?

“possible” relation in ‘the job’: ?

NSW Belmore Barracks Class # ? ? ?

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # ‘P’ 1162

For the purposes of this website ‘P’ = represents those Police joining Pre 1 March 1862 before the amalgamated of all other Policing Units in NSW. i.e. Mounted Police, Boarder Police, Native Police, Gold Escort Police, Water Police etc.

Rank: Commenced Training as a Probationary Constable – appointed 5 February 1858 (aged 22 years, 4 months, 15 days)

Constable – appointed 18 February 1858

Constable 1st Class – appointed ? ? ?

Detective – appointed ? ? ?

Senior Constable – appointed 1 June 1869

Leading Senior Constable – appointed ? ? ? (N/A)

Sergeant ~~3rd Class~~ – appointed 1 April 1883

Sergeant 2nd Class – appointed ? ? ?

Sergeant 1st Class – appointed 1 April 1884

Final Rank: = Sergeant

Stations: Darlinghurst (3 Division), Hill End (Mounted Police Gold Escort), Lambing Flat, Parramatta (1st Class Constable), Orderly to the Inspector General of Police – Sydney, Parramatta (Senior Constable), Windsor (O.I.C.), Campbelltown O.I.C., Ryde O.I.C., Penrith O.I.C. (J District)(Easter 1888 – Death)

Service: From 5 February 1858 to 11 January 1890 = 31 years, 11 months, 6 days Service

Retirement / Leaving age: = 54 years, 3 months, 21 days

Time in Retirement from Police: Zero

Awards: No Find on Australian Honours system

Born: Monday 21 September 1 835 Enniskillen, Northern

Ireland

Died on: Saturday 11 January 1890

Age: 54 years, 3 months, 21 days

Organ Donor: N/A

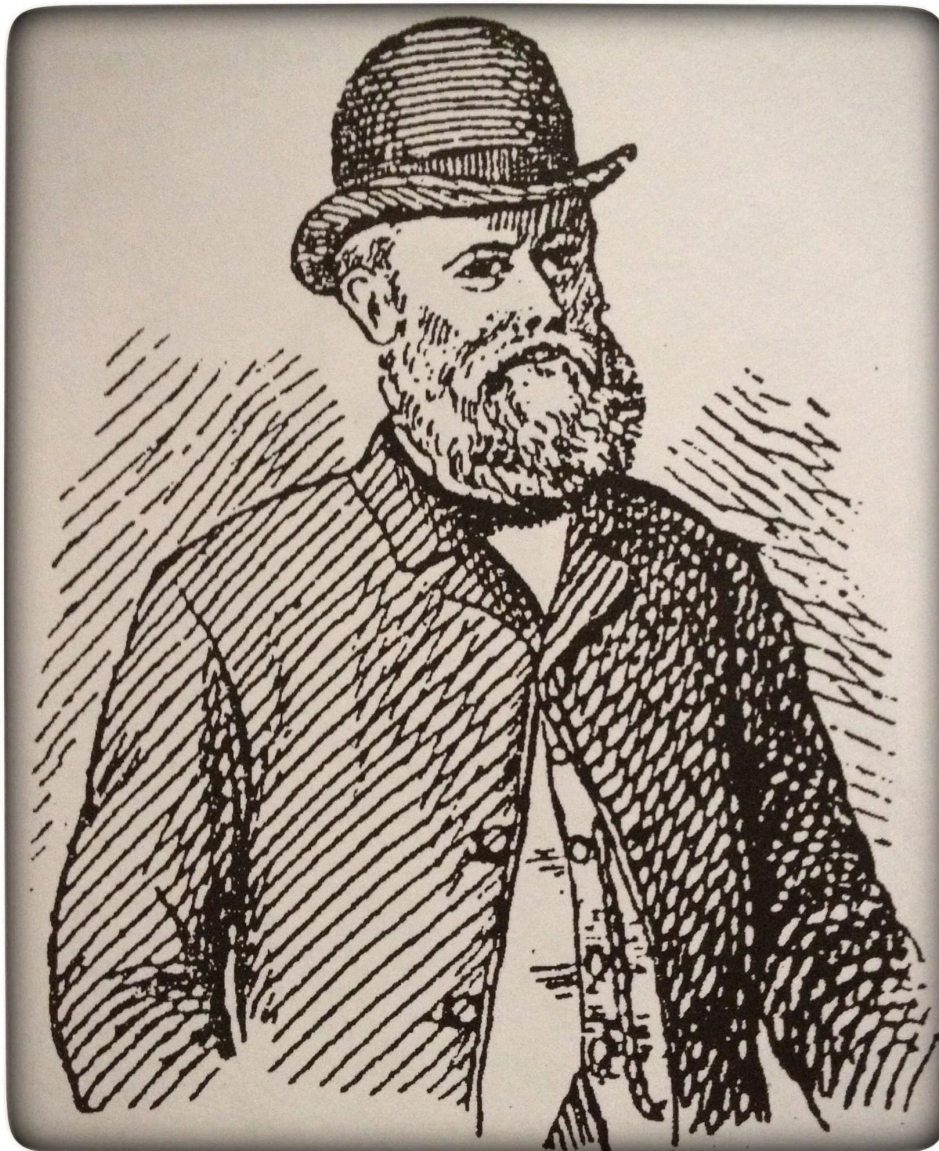
Cause: Murdered – Stabbed – On Duty

Event location: Outside of Penrith Police Station, NSW (site
of the current Station)

Event date: Saturday 11 January 1890

Funeral date: ? ? ? **TBA**

Funeral location: ? **TBA**



Courtesy of Beyond Courage.

Funeral Parlour: ?

Buried at: St Stephen's Anglican Cemetery, High St, Penrith,
NSW

Grave location: Plot K18

Grave GPS:



Memorial / Plaque / Monument located at: Penrith Police
Station, Penrith, NSW

Dedication date of Memorial / Plaque / Monument:



James BEATTY Memorial plaque attached to Penrith Police Station, NSW.

Photo taken by Bruce TURNER AM on Wednesday 191022.

JAMES IS mentioned on the National Police Wall of Remembrance
– Canberra

**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

On **11 January, 1890** outside the **Penrith Police Station**, the sergeant had occasion to speak to an Indian vagrant whom he had earlier asked to leave town.

The man suddenly leapt at **Sergeant Beatty**, stabbing him five times.

Local people and **Constable William Moseley** then pursued the offender and cornered him however the man threw a brick which struck the constable in the chest.

Constable Moseley then drew his service revolver and shot the offender, wounding him.

The constable and locals then threw themselves on the offender and he was arrested.

The offender died later that night.

Unfortunately, the wounds inflicted upon **Sergeant Beatty** also proved to be fatal.

The sergeant was born in 1835 and joined the police force on 5 February, 1858. In 1862 he became a member of the newly-formed New South Wales Police Force. At the time of his death he was stationed at Penrith.

Source: Beyond Courage:

James BEATTY's mother died five days before his own demise.

James had previously suffered a knife wound to the head during

the course of the Gold Field Riots at Lambing Flat, NSW.



Sgt Beatty's grave, photo courtesy of Windy Gale
– FB

The *Launceston Examiner* of 11 January, 1990 provided the following news of the tragedy.

*TERRIBLE TRAGEDY. A terrible tragedy was enacted this afternoon at **Penrith**. A coloured man, a stranger in the town, was observed by **Sergeant Beatty** to be throwing stones at*

passers-by.

*The officer warned him to desist, and was in the act of arresting him when he drew a knife and stabbed **Beatty** in the chest, the weapon going completely through his body.*

***Beatty** called out, and **Constable Mosley** came to his assistance, armed with a revolver.*

***Mosley** [**Moseley**] fired at the coloured man, who was in the act of running away, but missed. A second shot, however, took effect, and the fugitive reeled and was about to fall, when a young man named **Zolliner** [**John Zahnliter**] seized him.*

*Both men rolled over on the street, and the coloured man drew the knife again and stabbed **Zolliner**.*

He was ultimately seized and taken to the lock-up.

***Sergeant Beatty**, who is not expected to recover, has had his dying depositions taken. **Zolliner**'s wound is not serious.*

www.ccansw.org.au/index.php/newspublicblog/news/blogs/102-general-/1494-sergeant-james-beatty



As seen by Col Colman on **Friday 28 August 2020**

Col Colman

Also visited **St. Stephens. Anglican Church High Street Penrith** and the Cemetery at the rear to visit the grave site of Police Officer **James Beatty**. Site was cleaned in 2012 by Police and Penrith Council and is in reasonable condition did a little weeding.

In 1890, sad history was made

Penrith officer's murder serves as reminder more than 120 years later

There were emotional scenes this week when Penrith paid tribute to its first fallen police officer, who was stabbed in 1890 in the Penrith CBD.

CASSANDRA O'CONNOR

Until this week, the story behind Sergeant James Beatty was long buried in archived police gazettes and the every-day grass of St Stephen's Anglican Church Cemetery.

On Monday, Penrith's first fallen police officer was commemorated and his grave site returned to serve as a tragic yet heroic reminder of the difficult duties police officers face every day in their line of work.

"He was on duty on Friday, January 10, 1890. Little did he know that later that day he would suffer fatal stab wounds at the hands of a 24-year-old Cingalese immigrant named James," explained Penrith Local Area Commander, Ben Fenczuk.

During the previous week James had made threats against a local publican for refusing to serve him liquor and pulled a knife on a local farmer.

When Sergeant Beatty saw James whilst on foot patrol, he asked him to move on several times.

"The offender stood up and without warning produced a sheath knife which was thrust at the Sergeant striking him in the chest. This occurred about 1.30pm. The Sergeant attempted to disarm the offender and after a short struggle, the Sergeant disengaged given the infliction of a serious wound to the chest," Mr Fenczuk said.

Physicians threw rocks at James and one good Samaritan, a wood stater by the name of John Zahnleiter, was also stabbed in the neck. Constable William Moseley then arrived on scene and fired two shots, which fatally wounded James.

Sergeant Beatty was taken to his horse where he was treated but died from his wound on the evening of January 11, 1890.



Penrith police chief Ben Fenczuk with members of James Beatty's family at his restored grave site. Photo: Melinda Jane

Over 1,500 people came to pay their respects at Sergeant Beatty's funeral - one of the largest funerals in that era.

On Monday, Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione and Mr Fenczuk laid wreaths at the Sergeant Beatty's grave in front of 100 fellow officers and community members. Sergeant Beatty's grave was restored for the occasion by Penrith City

Council, who tidied the cemetery and provided new fencing and gravel.

"We have been honouring the bravery of officers both past and present... That risk and level of commitment to their duties is the same now as it was in 1890," Mr Scipione said.

"We thank Penrith City Council for funding the restoration of the site. Their

help has played big part in making sure that in this city his contribution will never be forgotten."

The family of Sergeant Beatty, including great, great grand niece, Joan Cramet, also attended. "Policing really is about the people and to have the grave restored for the celebrations of the Police Force's 150th anniversary is just lovely," she said.

SERGEANT JAMES BEATTY

Published on Friday, 14 September 2012 06:52 | Written by Mary Thorne | |

✘ On 10th January 1890 Sergeant James Beatty, a long serving officer in the NSW Police Force was fatally stabbed in High Street Penrith. Sergeant Beatty was buried with full police honours in St Stephen the Martyr churchyard cemetery, Fulton Lane, Penrith.

*"About 1.30pm on 10 January 1890, Sergeant James Beatty had occasion to interact with an itinerant Cingalese named **James** in High Street, Penrith outside the **Convent of the Sisters of St Joseph**. During that interaction the **Sergeant** was stabbed in the chest.*

*In the meantime, the offender was contained by townspeople pending the arrival of **Constable Moseley** who shot the offender. A*

*good Samaritan named **John Zahnliter** was also stabbed during the melee. **Sergeant Beatty** died of his wound on the evening of **11 January 1890**. He was survived by his widow Margaretta, four sons and two daughters."*



St Joseph's Convent, High Street Penrith (now Officeworks)

Penrith City Council Library Local Studies collection

On **3rd September, 2012**, as part of the 150th Anniversary of the NSW Police Force, a commemorative service was held at Sergeant Beatty's gravesite to honour his sacrifice, the event a joint venture between Council and Penrith Local Area Command.



Sergeant Beatty's monument was in a dilapidated and damaged state. Council arranged and funded the restoration of the monument to its former glory by master stonemasons, Monuments in Memoriam who are based at Rookwood Necropolis. All restoration work was in accordance with the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation, the Burra Charter and Penrith City Council's LEP.

Since 1982, Penrith City Council has been the trustee of this significant churchyard cemetery which dates from 1838 with full responsibility for its care and maintenance. The Public Domain Amenity and Safety two man cemeteries crew, maintain five cemeteries, Penrith, St Marys, Emu Plains, Castlereagh and St Stephens.

In preparation for the occasion an intensive clean up of the cemetery took place with staff from the City Presentation Group – Parks, Public Domain and Cemetery Operations spending a day in the cemetery. The heritage nature of the cemetery and fragility of the monuments meant that whipper snipers could not be used and all trimming around and inside monuments was by hand.



Fragile heritage cemeteries are protected by the grasses that grow around and inside the monuments. Plans of Management are currently being prepared for the cemeteries under Council's control and the consultant's recommendation for St Stephens is that we should avoid

overly detailed or manicured works. The Cemetery should look old, avoid pristine maintenance and maintain the wild character of the grasses within the grave enclosures.



The commemorative service to honour the memory of Sergeant James Beatty was attended by Andrew Scipione APM, Commissioner of Police, Nick Kaldas APM, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Field Operations), Ben Feszczuk APM, Local Area Commander, former Commissioner of Police, Tony Lauer APM, Hon David Bradbury MP, Stuart Ayres MP, Beatty family descendants, Councillor Greg Davies, Mayor of Penrith, Councillor Ross Fowler OAM, Alan Stoneham, General Manager, Barry Husking, Director, David Burns, Group Manager – City Presentation, managers Yvonne Perkins and Barbara McGee, council officers and police personnel.

Mary Thorne, Cemeteries Project Officer

Nepean Times (Penrith, NSW : 1882 – 1962),

Thursday 12 February 1948, page 6

Old Tragedy Recalled

DAUGHTER. OF SERGT. BEATTY PASSES.

Miss Alicia Beatty (68), who died on 2nd inst. and was buried in **St. Stephen's cemetery, Penrith** on 3rd, was the **daughter of Sergt James Beatty**, who was **fatally stabbed** by a **Cingalese** in **High Street, Penrith**, on **January 10, 1890**, an incident that is often referred to by the older generation of the district.

The story, briefly told, is that the Cingalese had been

prowling around the town for a few days and on the day of the tragedy was " moved on " by the Sergt, who followed him for some distance. The man then sat down on the pavement near the Convent and Sergt. Beatty, not liking his appearance, again ordered him to clear out.

The Cingalese started to his feet and, without any warning, drew a sheath knife and, rushing in, stabbed the Sergeant in the chest.

A man named John Zahnliter tried to disarm the assailant and was stabbed in the side.

The Cingalese was shot by Constable Moseley.

Sergt Beatty and the Cingalese died subsequently of their wounds, and Zahnliter recovered, though he suffered severe physical disability, for which he received a pension, till his death many years afterward.

Miss Beatty was buried alongside her late father and mother, in the old St. Stephen's cemetery. Mrs. Beatty died on August 12, 1916.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/117908662>
