

Charles Fraser

19/11/2021

Charles Fraser

AKA

Late of Wallerawang

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

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 1781

Service: From 4 April 1867 to 19 November 1895 = 28
years Service

Rank: Commenced Training at / as ? Police Academy Police
Cadet on ? ? ?

Supernumerary Constable- appointed 4 April 1867

Constable – appointed 1 June 1867

Constable 1st Class – appointed 1 September 1876

Final Rank = Constable First Class

Stations: Forbes, Wallerawang

Awards: National Medal – **granted** ? ? ?

1st Clasp to National Medal – **granted** ? ? ?

2nd Clasp to National Medal – **granted** ? ? ?

Born: 7 October 1836

Died on: 19 November 1895

Age: 58

Cause: Unknown (natural causes?)

Event location: Wallerawang

Event date: 19 November 1895

Funeral date: **Unknown**

Funeral location: Wallerawang General Cemetery

(**click here to see Corona19 Virus Pandemic rules – this will be a limited numbers Funeral**)

(Due to current Govt. restrictions on 'Gatherings' due to Corona19 Virus Pandemic, some families may wish to have a Memorial Service / Wake with friends and family at a later date)

Funeral Parlour: ?

Buried at: Wallerawang General Cemetery

Memorial / Plaque / Monument located at: ?

Dedication date of Memorial / Plaque / Monument: Nil – at this
time (July 2021)

**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

Charles Fraser was born on the 7 October 1836 in Clyne, Sutherlandshire, Scotland. He married Jane Houston in 1866 in Sydney. They had nine children together between 1867 and 1884.

Charles Fraser was sworn in as a Supernumerary Constable of the NSW Police Force on the 4th April 1867. He was confirmed

as a Constable on the 1 June 1867 and promoted to Constable 1st Class on the 1 September 1876.

His first child was born at the Police Camp in Forbes. All of his subsequent children were born at Camp Hill, Forbes. In 1880 his young son and another Constable's son nearly drowned in the Lachlan River. Two employees of the Commercial Bank heard their cries and came to their assistance.

It appears that he spent most of his service at Forbes before moving to Wallerawang.

Constable 1st Class Fraser died on the 19 November 1895 at his residence, Railway Lodge, Wallerawang. He was 58. He was buried in the Wallerawang General Cemetery.

His wife was granted a gratuity of £225 and funeral expenses of £7.

His daughter Flora was buried with him in 1918. His wife Jane was buried with him in 1931. Another daughter, Jane, was buried with him in 1941.

1895 'Family Notices', *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser* (NSW : 1871 – 1912), 30 November, p. 1141. , viewed 19 Nov 2021, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article162669665>

1895 'Family Notices', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 – 1954), 26 November, p. 1. , viewed 19 Nov 2021, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14026423>

1915 'Early Days of Forbes.', *Forbes Times* (NSW : 1899 – 1920), 17 December, p. 8. , viewed 19 Nov 2021, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article100275409>

John HOWARD

19/11/2021

John HOWARD

New South Wales Police Force

Constable

Regd. # 'Q' 6372

For the purposes of this website 'Q' represents those Police joining between 1862 (commencement of NSWPF) – 23 February 1915 (Commencement of NSWPF current numbering system)

Stations: Goulburn, Araluen, Braidwood
Lock Up Keeper – Death

Awards: No find on It's An Honour

Service: From 13 April 1892 to 15
November 1895 = 3+ years Service

Born: ? ? 1870 – Wallsend

Died: Friday 15 November 1895

Age: 24

Cause: Suicide – Firearm – Service issue
– right temple

Event date: Friday 15 November 1895

Event location: Braidwood Lockup Keepers residence

Inquest date: Saturday 16 November 1895 during the afternoon

Funeral date: Sunday 17 November 1895

Funeral location: Graveside service by Rev. J.S. Dobson

Buried at: Braidwood General Cemetery, Uabba Rd, Braidwood, NSW

There are 2 entries in the Braidwood General Cemetery index both with the same date of death. 1st is Constable John Howard, age 24, C of E, Headstone. 2nd is John Howard, age 24, C of E, Unmarked.



INSCRIPTION:

In ?

Constable John HOWARD

Beloved husband of

Lena HOWARD

Died 15 th Nov 1895

Aged 24 years

Line: ?

Line: When love

Line: Tis

Line: ?

Line: Dearest ? ? ? ? laid there

Line: By the ? ? ?

Line: But thy ? will be ?

Line: Till we ?

Line: Erected by his loving wife

[alert_red]John is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance

Grave location: [codepeople-post-map]

The following article appeared in the *South Australian Register* of **16 November, 1895**.

SUICIDE OF A CONSTABLE – Sydney, November 15.

*Constable John Howard **shot** himself at **Braidwood** in unusual circumstances **today**. He was the plaintiff in a slander case against A. Graham and claimed £200 damages. Damages amounting to a farthing were awarded, and **Judge Fitzhardinge** remarked that according to the evidence the plaintiff had no character to lose. Howard at once returned to the barracks and shot himself.*

At the time of his death the constable was stationed at Braidwood.

SUICIDE OF A CONSTABLE AT BRAIDWOOD.

A shocking tragedy occurred at **Braidwood** on **Friday**, when **Constable John Howard** shot himself through the right temple with a **police service revolver**.

Howard was the plaintiff in a slander action against **A. Graham**, which was heard at the **District Court** on the same morning ; £200 damages were claimed.

A large amount of evidence was taken, and the Judge gave a verdict **for the plaintiff**, with **one farthing** damages without costs.

His Honor explained that, although there was **no truth in the particular slander** complained of, he must find for plaintiff. Yet the evidence of another witness, who admitted certain matters in connection with **Howard**, was such that he could not give damages.

After the case **Howard** walked out of the court, and went to the **police barracks**. There he met the **black tracker** in charge of the constables' room, and told him to tell his wife the result of the case.

Howard apparently shot himself immediately afterwards.

On the **black tracker's** return with the message from **Mrs. Howard** to her husband to come to her, he found the constable lying on the floor with the revolver beside him. Death was instantaneous.

Howard had charge of the **lockup**, which is about **seventy-five yards** from the scene of the tragedy.

The affair has created quite a sensation.

Howard leaves a **widow** and **two young children**.

Kiama Independent, and Shoalhaven Advertiser (NSW : 1863 – 1947), **Tuesday 19 November 1895**, page 4

A CONSTABLE SHOOTS HIMSELF.

A painful sensation was caused at **Braidwood** on *Saturday* by the **suicide** of **Constable John Howard** under peculiar circumstances.

At the District Court, before **Judge Fitzhardinge**, **Howard** had sued a local resident for alleged slander, claiming £200 damages.

During the hearing of the evidence some disclosures were made against **Howard**'s character, and his **Honor** commented **adversely** on his conduct.

A verdict for plaintiff for one farthing damages without costs, being returned.

Howard immediately left the courthouse, walked to the barracks, a short distance away and apparently took a loaded **six chambered revolver** from the armoury, and fired it into his temple, blowing out his brains, and dying instantly.

The deceased had sent the black tracker, who saw him last, on a message.

The tracker returned in a few minutes, and found **Howard** lying on the floor dead, with the revolver beside him.

At the **inquest** a verdict of **suicide** was returned.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/100863392>

Horsham Times (Vic. : 1882 – 1954), **Tuesday 19 November 1895**,
page 4

SINGULAR SUICIDES.

Constable John HOWARD shot himself at **Braidwood**, N.S.W. under unusual circumstances on **Friday**.

He was plaintiff in an action for slander against **A. Graham**, and claimed £200 damages. Damages amounting to a farthing were awarded.

Judge Fitzhardinge remarking that according to the evidence the plaintiff had no character to lose.

Howard at once left the court, sent a message to his wife announcing the result of the case and shot himself.

At the **inquest** the **following letter**, written by the deceased just before he died, was read :

“To My Darling Wife, Children, Mother, and all at Home. – I cannot face the world after what has come out today. Forgive me for what I am about to do. Good-bye to all. J.H.”

A very **high character** was given to the deceased by his **superior officer**, and no complaints have (says the *Argus*)

ever been made against him here.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/75263157>

Goulburn Evening Penny Post (NSW : 1881 – 1940), **Saturday 16 November 1895**, page 2

Suicide of a Constable at Braidwood.

BRAIDWOOD, Friday. – A shocking tragedy occurred here to-day, when **Constable John Howard** shot himself through the right temple with a **police service revolver**.

Howard was the plaintiff in a slander action against **Albert Graham** (*a local resident*), which was heard at the **District Court** this morning; £200 damages were claimed.

A large amount of evidence was heard.

His Honor explained that, although there was no truth taken, and the Judge gave a verdict for the plaintiff, with one farthing damages without costs, in the particular slander complained of, he must find for plaintiff. Yet the evidence of another witness, who **admitted certain matters** in connection with **Howard**, was such that he could not give damages.

After the case **Howard** walked out of the court, and went to the **police barracks**. There he met the **black tracker** in charge of the **constable's room**, and told him to go and tell his wife the result of the case.

Howard apparently shot himself immediately afterwards. On the

black tracker's return with the message from **Mrs. Howard** to her husband to come to her, he found the **constable** lying on the floor with the **revolver beside him**. Death was instantaneous.

Howard had **charge of the lookup**, which is about **seventy-five yards from the scene** of the tragedy. The affair has created quite a sensation.

Howard leaves a **widow and two young children**.

[Deceased was stationed in **Goulburn** about **two years ago**, and married a **Miss McKenzie**, who was employed at **Bryant's Hotel**.]

An **inquest** was held **this evening** by **Mr. J. W. Bunn**, the **coroner**, on the body of **Constable Howard**.

The jury returned a verdict that the **deceased shot himself while temporarily insane**.

In his pocket was found the following letter written previous to his **committing the rash act** :- "*To my darling wife and children, mother, and all at home. - i cannot face the world after what has come out to-day. Forgive me for what I am about to do. Good.bye to all. - J.H.*"

A **very high character** was given him by his **superior officers**, and **no complaints** were ever made against him **during the four years** he was in the **police force**.

It was **mentioned in the evidence** that **deceased** was of a **very sensitive disposition**.

He was a native of **Newcastle**, where his parents reside.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/98554907>

Braidwood District Court – Slander

Tuesday 19 November 1895

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/98551607>

Evening News (Sydney, NSW : 1869 – 1931), **Friday 22 November 1895**, page 4

Constable John Howard, who shot himself at **Braidwood** on Friday, was a native of **Wallsend**, where his parents still reside.

Prior to joining the police, a little over three years ago, he assisted his father, who is a dealer, and was also a member of the **4th Regiment**.

He had an unblemished record, and in a measure owed his appointment to the **police force** to the excellent recommendation given by **ex-Sergeant Grennan** (*Regd # Q 1350*), the officer then in charge of the **Wallsend station**.

The officer under whom he served also gave him a very high character, stating that no complaints were ever made against him during the time he was in the force.

At the inquest which was held by Mr. J. W. Bunn, the coroner, the jury returned a verdict of **suicide while temporarily insane**.

The following pathetic note was found in the deceased's pocket : " *To my darling wife and children, mother, and all at home. I cannot face the world after what has come out to-day. Forgive me for what I am about to do. Good-bye to all. J.H.* "

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/108085753>

Goulburn Evening Penny Post (NSW), **Thu 21 Nov 1895**,
Page 2

The Funeral of the late Constable Howard.

The funeral of **Constable Howard** took place on Sunday afternoon last. No better indication of the esteem in which the deceased was held in the town and the deep sympathy which was felt for his widow and children in their terrible bereavement could be found than the large attendance which assembled to pay their last tribute of respect to his remains.

The gathering was representative of every interest in the community. Not alone in this direction did public feeling find expression, but numerous wreaths and crosses were forwarded by many people in the town whose pulse had been deeply moved by the distressing circumstances under which the deceased met his death.

Mr. Howard, senr., who resides at Wallsend, in the Newcastle district, where he is in business, and a sister and two brothers of Mrs. Howard were the chief mourners.

They arrived in town on Saturday morning, and, as may readily be imagined, were deeply shocked at the distressing nature of the tragedy which had cast such a gloom over the town.

The coffin was borne to and from the hearse by two of Constable Howard's late comrades, who by the way selected the site for the grave in the Church of England portion of the cemetery.

The Rev. J. S. Dobson conducted the service at the grave in a most impressive manner, and at its conclusion briefly addressed the large assemblage, referring to the exceptionally sad circumstances under which they had met together, and expressing his warmest sympathy with the heart-stricken widow and fatherless children in their sad bereavement.

The rev. gentleman dwelt warmly on the circumstances which led to Constable Howard's death. He said he owed his death to the vile breath of slander, which had blasted more reputations and caused more misery and heartburnings than could ever be repaired.

He earnestly exhorted those present to keep their tongues from lying and slandering and their minds from evil thinking, in other words, he said, people should mind their own business.

If every one of them, he added, had every one of their little errors and sins they had committed placarded on their backs or proclaimed from the housetops, there were none who would not hang their heads in shame. The rev. gentleman went on to refer to the deceased as a capable and zealous officer, a man who always did his duty, however unpleasant it might be to his feelings, fearlessly and intelligently, and had earned for himself not only the respect of his superior officers, but the esteem of all respectable townsmen.

He had made a mistake-and all were liable to make mistakes-but he would say to them in the words of our Blessed Master when He was rebuked by the multitude for speaking words of comfort to the adulteress, "Let him who is himself without sin cast the first stone."

The stone at the grave was a most impressive and pitiful one.

The widow of the deceased utterly collapsed, and during the course of the church service and Mr. Dobson's subsequent remarks, numbers of women wept freely, while tears bedimmed the eyes of not a few of the male portion of the large crowd, whose hearts were touched by the inexpressibly sad circumstances under which John Howard parted with this life.

The members of the deceased's family must have derived a large amount of satisfaction-if indeed it is possible to experience such a feeling under circumstances of such a melancholy character-from the fact that they unquestionably had the heartfelt sympathy of the large crowd assembled round the grave.

-Braidwood Dispatch.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/98546142>

SUICIDE OF CONSTABLE HOWARD.

IN addition to the particulars given in our last, we gather the following details from the **Braidwood Dispatch**.

The action in the district court tried on Thursday before his **Honor Judge Fitzhardinge** was brought by deceased, **John Howard**, constable of police, stationed at **Braidwood**, to recover from **Albert Graham** the sum of £200 damages for slander.

Mr. Ross for plaintiff and Mr. Davidson for defendant, who pleaded not guilty and justification.

The **slander** consisted of statements alleged to have been made to the effect that the **plaintiff** had **pulled a girl about** and that he had had to square the matter with her father for £10. In **her evidence** the girl denied that this had occurred, and plaintiff also denied it.

Statements in relation to **plaintiff's conduct towards other girls** came out in evidence, but formed no portion of the charge of slander.

One of these girls, **aged sixteen**, admitted that **Howard** had **seduced her**; this he denied.

The **judge** in giving his verdict said he was quite satisfied that the evidence of the **witnesses** in **Araluen** as to the statements **Graham made** concerning plaintiff and the girl **Casey** were **substantially correct**.

Nothing had been shown in the evidence that defendant's statements were true, and consequently it could not have been in the public interest for Graham to retail this spicy gossip to a meeting of ladies in Araluen.

He consequently had to find a verdict for plaintiff.

With regard to the question of the damage which plaintiff's character had sustained by the **publication of this scandal**, he regretted that he had no hesitation in **coming to the conclusion from the evidence** of the girl Carlon, which **was to be believed** and which had to be forced from her, that plaintiff had no reputation.

Though he would have to find a verdict for plaintiff he would allow only one farthing damage, without costs.

The following are the particulars of the tragedy itself :

The court was occupied till **about half-past eleven o'clock** bearing the suit. After the judge gave his decision **Howard** walked to **his quarters** at the **lockup** at the **rear of the courthouse**.

His **wife**, who had been suffering **great mental anxiety** over the case, was lying on her bed taking a rest. **Howard** sat down beside her. They commenced talking about the case, **Howard** informing her that the case had gone against him and that he was surprised at the result.

Howard, taking hold of her hand, kissed it, and getting up kissed her face. He then walked out, **Mrs. Howard** being under the impression that he had gone back to the courthouse. Instead of that he walked to the **barracks**, some sixty yards away. On **Joe Alick, the blacktracker**, following him into the room a minute or two subsequently, he found **Howard** sitting on the corner of the table in the room. **Alick** spoke to him about the case, and **Howard** asked him to go and see how his **wife** was getting on. **Alick** saw **Mrs. Howard**, who asked him to go back and tell her husband she wanted him. **Alick** on his return was horrified to find **Howard** lying on the floor, apparently **dead**, with a revolver beside him.

He rushed out and told **Constable Clemensha** (*most probably Constable Wordsworth CLEMESHA # 'Q' 4655*) of the occurrence.

Dr. Llewellyn, who happened to be passing was called in and found **Howard** was dead.

He had evidently taken one of the revolvers from the stand, and placed the muzzle against his right temple, pulled the trigger, and blown out his brains. The bullet entered the temple passed clean through his head and lodged in the wall at the back of him. Death must have been instantaneous.

The following note was found in his waistcoat-pocket:— *To my darling wife, children, mother, and all at home, I cannot face the world after what has come out today. Forgive me for what I am about to do. Good-by to all. J.H.*

The writing gives a fair indication of the great mental struggle which must have been agitating his brain, and it was not written in nearly so good a hand as he usually writes.

The news created a profound sensation throughout the community.

When the judge was giving his verdict, **it could readily be seen** that deceased felt his position, **keenly-being a sensitive and impulsive man** he naturally would-but when he walked out of the **Court** he did not present the appearance of a man who was going to meet his doom.

The **only reasonable assumption** is that he became **temporarily insane** after leaving his wife, and **hastily** decided to take the course he did.

Universal regret was expressed for **Mrs. Howard** and her **two children**, of whom all those who are in a position to know join in saying he was very fond.

The terrible agony **Mrs. Howard** suffered on hearing of the dreadful occurrence may be more readily imagined than described — also was almost demented, and could not be pacified till she had learned all there was to know.

Howard had been stationed at **Braidwood** for **about fifteen months**, coming from **Araluen**. He was a most painstaking officer, assiduous in the performance of his official duties, courteous and obliging to everyone.

Sub-inspector Langworthy (*possibly William – # Q 1291*) says that a more zealous officer he had never had under him.

An inquest was held on Friday before the coroner, when a verdict of suicide while laboring under a temporary fit of insanity was returned.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/101111190>

Goulburn Evening Penny Post (NSW : 1881 – 1940), **Tuesday 12
May 1896**, page 4

BRAIDWOOD.

At the Small Debts Court, on Wednesday, **Mrs. Howard**, widow of the **late Constable Howard**, was summoned by Malone Brothers for 30s, coach hire for four passengers to and from **Araluen**, for which defendant's **husband** was alleged to be liable, and through him defendant as **executrix of the estate**.

A verdict was given for the amount, with 10s costs.

The amount of the claim was defrayed immediately afterwards by a subscription list.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/98568405>

New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 – 1900), **Tuesday 10 April 1894** (No.218), page 2355

THE Bench of Magistrates at Araluen have this day appointed **Constable John Howard** Bailiff of the Small Debts Court at that place, vice G. Taylor, deceased,— from 2nd instant.

WILLIAM CLARKE, P.M.,

Pro Bench of Magistrates.

Araluen, **2nd April, 1894**. [2552]

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/222330860>
