

# Josiah Podgers VIZZARD

08/11/2020

## Josiah Podgers VIZZARD

AKA ?

Late of Mulbring, NSW

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 'Q' 1638

For the purposes of this website 'Q' represents those Police joining between 1 March 1862 ( commencement of NSWPF ) – 23 February 1915 ( Commencement of NSWPF current numbering system )

**Rank:** Probationary Constable- appointed 17 February 1866

Constable – appointed ? ? ?

Constable 1st Class – appointed ? ? ?

Detective – appointed ? ? ?

Senior Constable – appointed 1 September 1892

Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed ? ? ?

Sergeant 2nd Class – appointed ? ? ?

Sergeant 1st Class – appointed ? ? ?

**Final Rank** = Sergeant

**Stations:** Wagga Wagga ( Albury District ), Corowa, Newcastle, Copeland ( Sgt – transferred to Copeland in Feb 1880 ), Lambton, and latterly he has been at Mulburing ( Maitland district ). Maitland – Retirement

**Service:** From 17 February 1866 to ? April 1896 = 30 years Service

**Awards:** No Find on Australian Honours system – although Awarded the Crimea Medal and Awarded the Turkish Medal

**Born:** ? ? 1837, Jersey, England

**Died on:** Monday 21 September 1896 @ 2.30pm

**Age:** 61

**Cause:** Illness – pneumonia

**Event location:** West Maitland, NSW

**Event date:** ?

**Funeral date:** Tuesday 22 September 1896 @ 3pm

**Funeral location:** ?

**Funeral Parlour:** ?

**Buried at:** Morpeth Cemetery, Butchers Lane, Morpeth, NSW

**Grave Location:** RC, Section 1, Plot ?, Type: Monumental, Levels: Double, Status: Occupied





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

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

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

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**May they forever Rest In Peace**

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

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

**Australian Police YouTube Channel**

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Josiah **Pedgers** Vizzard – Note difference in spelling of middle name – as seen on <https://myhorison.maitland.nsw.gov.au>

Name of grave stone is definitely spelt **PODGERS**

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Evening News (Sydney, NSW : 1869 – 1931),

**Tuesday 22 September 1896, page 5**

**Death of a Police Officer.**

**A CRIMEAN VETERAN.**

WEST MAITLAND, Tuesday.— **Sergeant Josiah Vizzard**, aged **62 years**, died at **Morpeth** yesterday after a brief illness.

The deceased, after having **served 30 years in the N.S.W. police force**, retired recently on a pension.

The sergeant served in the **Crimean War**, and fought in the battles of Alma, Inkerman, and Sebastopol, with the Grenadier Guards, for which he received medals.

He afterwards went to Canada as instructor to the military for a number of years.

He was stationed at Wagga Wagga, Copeland, Lambton, and latterly he has been at Mulburing, in this district.

22 Sep 1896 – Death of a Police Officer. – Trove

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Maitland Weekly Mercury (NSW : 1894 – 1931), **Saturday 26**

**September 1896**, page 4

**Local News of the Week.**

**Death of a Crimean Veteran.** – **Sergeant Josiah P. Vizzard**, late of Mulbring, died at Morpeth on Monday, after a brief illness, of pneumonia.

He leaves a wife and five children ( four sons and one daughter ), all grown up.

The death is surrounded with painful associations, for **Sergeant Vizzard**, after **serving over thirty years** in the **service of the colony**, only retired on a well-deserved pension at the **beginning of April last**.

Lately he proceeded to **Morpeth**, and purchased a house with the object of spending the declining days of his life in a peaceful manner.

He was in Morpeth making arrangements about the removal of his family when his death occurred.

He was sixty-two years of age.

**Sergeant Vizzard** had the distinction of having served in the **Imperial army** through the **Crimean War**.

In the ranks of the **Grenadier Guards** he was present at the engagements of Alma and Inkerman, and at the siege of Sebastapol, and he **held the Crimea and Turkish medals**.

He was afterwards sent to Canada as instructor to the military.

When he joined the **New South Wales police force** he acted as **sergeant instructor at the depot for some time**, under **Captain Clancy**.

He was afterwards in charge of various stations. In each of

the places in which he was stationed, **Sergeant Vizzard** was greatly respected, especially among the better class of the community.

Having **served** in the **hospital army corps** he was possessed of considerable **surgical and medical knowledge**, and this proved of great value in the small country towns to which he was appointed.

His death, so soon after retirement on a pension, throws upon it a certain element of sadness, apart from other considerations.

It is somewhat remarkable that **since July** there have been **no less than nine deaths among pensioners** from the **police force**.

26 Sep 1896 – Local News of the Week. – Trove

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Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW : 1876 – 1954),

**Saturday 26 September 1896**, page 4

**Death. VIZZARD** – At Morpeth N.S.W., on September 21st, 1896, from pneumonia, **Josiah P. Vizzard**, formerly of Grenadier Guards in the Crimea, and late **Sergeant of Police in Maitland and Albury districts**; aged 61 . Jersey (Channel Islands) papers please copy.

26 Sep 1896 – Family Notices – Trove

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Nothing further, than what is recorded above, is known about this man at the time of publication.

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8 November 2020

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**FORD**

08/11/2020

**FORD**

**New South Wales Police Force**

**Sub-Inspector**

**Attempt Suicide – firearm**

## ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

### Sudden Death of a Sub-Inspector's Wife.

#### Attempted Suicide of the Husband.

Sydney, Monday.

Barrier Miner ( Broken Hill ) Monday 20 July 1896 page 2 of  
4

A telegram from Orange reports that at the police barracks there Mrs. Ford, wife of Sub-Inspector Ford, who was suffering from an affection of the heart, was suddenly seized with a fit. Doctor Crase was called in and found that the patient had become nearly exhausted by violent spasms. He went for some chloroform to be administered to her, but on his return, after only a few seconds absence, he found that Mrs. Ford had died from syncope in the interim. Inspector Ford had been sent for and arrived a few minutes before his wife's death. He was distracted with grief and fired three shots from his revolver in an attempt to take his own life. One shot struck him in the jaw but inflicted no serious injury ; the others missed. The inspector, however, lies seriously ill from grief and shock.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/44135896?searchTerm=sub%20inspector%27s%20suicide&searchLimits=l-australian=y>

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# James SMITH

08/11/2020

# James SMITH

## New South Wales Police Force

### Sub Inspector

Joined the NSW Police Force in 15 January 1868 – Mounted  
Police

Previously stationed at: Maitland ( 2 years ), Singleton,  
Wollombi as Senior Constable,

Muswellbrook as Sergeant

April 1883 – promoted to Senior-Sergeant

1891 – promoted to Sub-Inspector

27 years Service

**Illness – Suicide – Firearm**

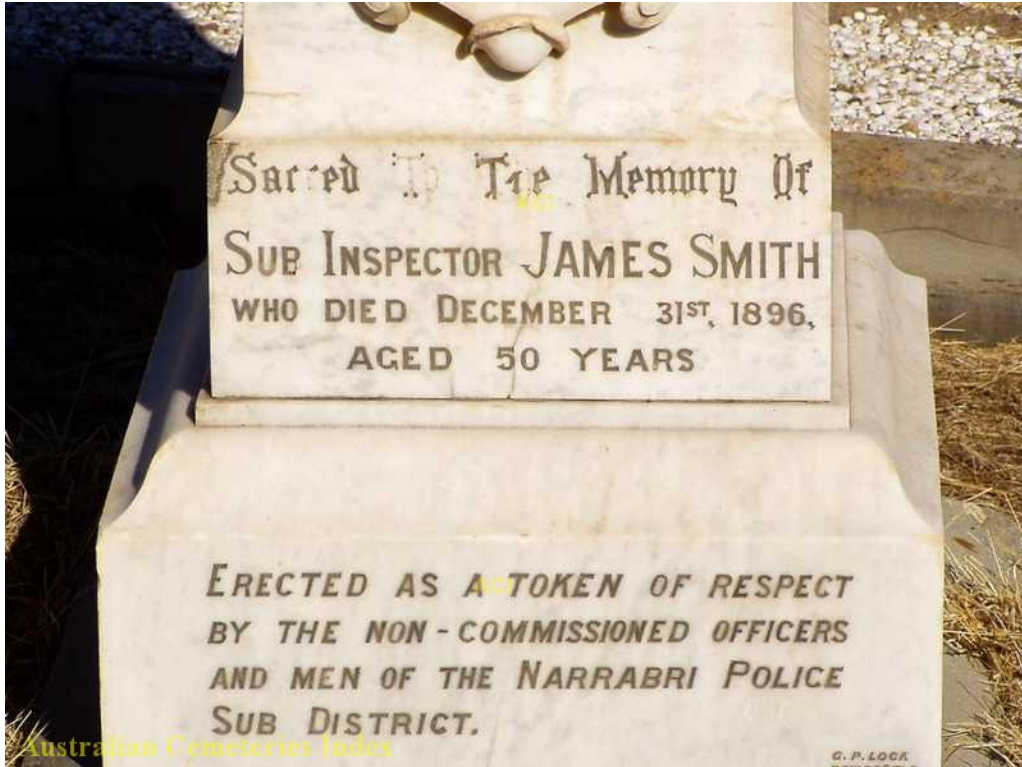
Born 1846 ??

Died Thursday 31 December 1896 around 8am

50 old

Funeral 2 January 1897

leaves behind a wife & 7 children



Grave of Sub-Inspector James SMITH



## Grave of Sub-Inspector James SMITH

### Narrabri Cemetery

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[google-map-v3 shortcodeid="6blaaeab" width="350" height="350"  
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  directionhint="false" language="default" poweredby="false"  
  maptypecontrol="true" pancontrol="true" zoomcontrol="true"  
  scalecontrol="true" streetviewcontrol="true"  
  scrollwheelcontrol="false" draggable="true"  
  tiltfourtyfive="false" enablegeolocationmarker="true"  
  enablemarkerclustering="false" addmarkermashup="false"  
  addmarkermashupbubble="false"  
  addmarkerlist="-30.316353,149.792236{}catholicgrave.png"  
  bubbleautopan="true" distanceunits="km" showbike="false"  
  showtraffic="false" showpanoramio="false"]
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James Smith was a brother of Mr. G. Smith of Oak Farm, Rosemonte, near Goulburn, NSW, and his father, who died a few years ago, was a well-known gardener of that place.

Father's name: George

Mother's name: Isabella

The Sydney Morning Herald ( NSW ) Friday **1 January 1897**  
page 5 of 8

### **SUICIDE BY A SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE.**

#### **NARRABRI, Thursday.**

This morning Sub-inspector James Smith, the **officer in charge** of the **Narrabri police district**, was found dead. A report of a shot was heard and deceased's son, who rushed into the room, found his father lying on the bed with a **revolver** on his breast. From appearances that weapon had exploded in the

mouth and the bullet had passed into the brain. During the past fortnight Mr. Smith had been indisposed, and it is stated that when unwell he always became very despondent and developed symptoms of melancholia. Only one chamber of the revolver was discharged, and death was apparently instantaneous. Deceased was 50 years of age. He joined the police force 27 years ago, and, beginning as a constable, worked his way up to his present rank. During the past **six years** he has had charge of the **Narrabri police district**. Deceased leaves a widow and seven children. An inquest was opened at the courthouse this morning and adjourned till Monday.

Later particulars of the death of Sub-inspector Smith show that the deceased **left three letters**, one addressed to his wife, the second to Mr Kenyon, P. M., ( Police Magistrate ) and the third to Mr A. R. Stafford, of Barry and Stafford. In one letter he stated that he felt his **mind** was **becoming unhinged** and preferred death to living the remainder of his life in an asylum. The deceased had arranged all his affairs, leaving everything provided for. The Masons will accord the deceased a Masonic funeral, which takes place tomorrow morning. The family are left provided for.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/14082580#pstart1362053>

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Singleton Argus ( NSW ) Saturday **2 January 1897** page 2 of 6

### **The Late Sub-Inspector Smith.**

Many old residents of Singleton will regret to hear of the

death of Police Sub-Inspector James Smith at Narrabri, an account of whose tragic end is published in another column. Sub-Inspector Smith joined the police force about 1868, and after doing duty at Maitland for about two years he was transferred to Singleton, where he remained for some time under Inspector Thorpe, and afterwards he was stationed at Wollombi with the rank of senior-constable.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/83250054?searchTerm=sub%20inspector%20james%20smith&searchLimits=l-australian=y#pstart8378896>

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Singleton Argus ( NSW ) Saturday 2 January 1897 page 6 of 6

### **SUICIDE OF A SUB-INSPECTOR.**

Sub-Inspector James Smith who has had charge of the division at Narrabri aged 50 years, committed suicide on Thursday. He got up as usual, and went round the barracks, and at 8 o'clock went back to his bedroom. A few minutes later Senior-Sergeant Thomas Clarke, hearing a report of firearms rushed into the bedroom, and found the sub-inspector stretched on his bed with a bullet wound in his head. Death was instantaneous. The revolver was quite hot when the sergeant took it from the dead man's hand. The only cause that can be assigned for the terrible deed is that the sub-inspector had been ailing for the last three weeks, and his wife has also been ill for some time, and is at the present moment in a very bad condition.

Great surprise was expressed locally at the news, and also regret. Sub-Inspector Smith was well liked both in his

official and private capacity. He was a member of the Masonic order, and also the M.U. ( Manchester Unity ) Order of Oddfellows. The deceased inspector joined the mounted police on **January 15, 1868**. On leaving the depot in Sydney he was sent to the north-western district, being first stationed at Maitland. From that place he was transferred to Muswellbrook as sergeant, and was promoted to senior-sergeant in **April, 1883**. In **1891** Mr Smith attained the rank he held at the time of his death, and was appointed to the Narrabri sub-district.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/83250061?searchTerm=sub%20inspector%20james%20smith&searchLimits=l-australian=y#pstart8378900>

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The Maitland Weekly Mercury ( NSW ) Saturday 2 January 1897  
page 3 of 16

### **Suicide of Sub-Inspector Smith at Narrabri.**

Narrabri, Thursday

Great excitement prevailed in town this morning when a report became current that police Sub-Inspector James Smith had committed suicide at his residence between 8 and 9 o'clock by shooting himself through the head with a revolver, death being instantaneous. The report was immediately confirmed, and the particulars furnished go to show that the Sub-Inspector had been suffering from some slight illness for the past week, and had been subject to fits of melancholia for some time previous, but the commission of such a rash act was never dreamed of by his friends. The greatest sympathy is felt for

his wife and family. An inquiry will be held during the day. A later telegram states that Mr. Smith got up as usual, and went round the barracks. At 8 o'clock he went back to his bedroom, and a few minutes later Senior-Sergeant Clarke, hearing the report of firearms, rushed into the bedroom and found the Sub-Inspector stretched on his bed with a bullet wound in the head. Death had been instantaneous, and the revolver was quite hot when the Sergeant took it from the dead man's hand. The only cause assigned for the terrible deed is that the Sub-Inspector has been ailing for the last three weeks, and his wife had also been ill for some, and at the present moment is in a very bad condition. Great surprise is expressed in town at the news, also regret. Mr. Smith was well-liked both in his official and private capacity. He was a member of the Masonic Order, and also of the Manchester Unity Order of Oddfellows. The late Mr. James Smith, or "Long Smith" as he was generally called by other members of the force to distinguish him from another officer of the same name, was well-known in the Maitland district, where the news of his death will create some excitement. Mr. Smith joined the police force about the year 1868, so that he had served 28 years and would in the natural course of events have retired in a couple of years' time. In the 70's he was stationed at Singleton under Inspector Thorpe, who has since retired, and later with the rank of senior-constable he was in charge at Wollombi. He was also stationed at several other places, and for a number of years prior to 1896 he was a senior-sergeant at Muswellbrook, in which year he was superseded by Senior-sergeant Cowan, now of East Maitland. Mr. Smith then went to Narrabri, with the rank of sub-inspector in charge of the sub-district of Narrabri, which is a most important one, including as it does Moree. During the miners' strike at Greta, Mr. Smith was one of the officers engaged there. He was 50 years of age, and, as stated in our telegram, leaves a wife and family. Mr. Smith was a fine soldierly man in appearance, and was a noted strict disciplinarian.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/126319284?searchTerm=sub%20inspector%20james%20smith&searchLimits=l-australian=y#pstart13710107>

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