

# William H. PEARCE

03/01/2015

## William H. PEARCE

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # ?

Rank: Constable

Stations: Scone, Coopernook, Merriwa

Service: From ? to 13 December 1898 =  
? years Service

Awards: ?

Born: about 1863

Died on: Tuesday 13 December 1898

Cause: Drowned

Age: 35

Funeral date: Wednesday 14 December  
1898

Funeral location: ?

**Buried at:**

**Memorial location: ?**

**[alert\_red] William is  
NOT mentioned on the Police  
Wall of Remembrance \* BUT  
SHOULD BE**

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Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 – 1954), **Wednesday 13  
December 1899**, page 1

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**In Memoriam.**

**PEARCE.**-- In fond and loving memory of my beloved husband, Constable W. H. Pearce, who was accidentally drowned at Merriwa, December 13th, 1898. Inserted by his loving wife and children.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article14219630.txt>

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William H. PEARCE

Constable

Drowned

Merriwa

13 December, 1898

The constable was drowned in the **Merriwa River, Merriwa** after he had jumped into the river to **rescue a drowning boy** named **Thomas Baker**. The boy was also drowned.

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The Maitland Daily Mercury of **14 December, 1898** went into a little more depth.

**“ Sad Drowning Fatality. ”**

**A GALLANT POLICEMAN'S DEATH – MOURNFUL OCCURRENCE AT MERRIWA,**

Merriwa, Wednesday – A sad drowning fatality occurred here yesterday evening. **Constable W. H. Pearce** was returning to town on horseback and after crossing **Merriwa Bridge** his attention was directed to a boy drowning in the river.

Pearce immediately dismounted and jumped into the river without undressing and attempted to rescue the boy, but being a bad swimmer both were, drowned.

The bodies were recovered after being about an hour under water. The funerals will take place this afternoon, also the magisterial inquiry.

Constable Pearce leaves a wife and six children. The boy was a

son of Mr. A. W. Baker, custodian of the School of Arts. “

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The **Goulburn Evening Post** of **15 December, 1898** carried the following very brief account.

**Double Drowning Fatality. – A Brave Man Lost.**

MERRIWA, Tuesday – Constable Pearce and a boy named **Thomas Baker** were drowned in **Merriwa River** this evening. Pearce jumped into the river to rescue the boy. Both bodies were recovered.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/98676053>

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

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Scone Advocate (NSW : 1887 – 1954), **Friday 16 December 1898**,  
page 2

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**Constable Pearce Drowned.**

**BRAVE ATTEMPT TO RESCUE A BOY. BOTH HAVE A WATERY GRAVE.**

A sad drowning fatality occurred at Merriwa on Tuesday evening. **Constable W. H. Pearce** was returning to town on horseback and after crossing Merriwa Bridge his attention was

directed to a boy drawing in the river. Pearce immediately dismounted and jumped into the river without undressing and attempted to rescue the boy, but being a bad swimmer both were drowned.

The bodies were recovered after being about an hour under water. Constable Pearce leaves a wife and six children.. The boy was a son of Mr. A. G. Baker, custodian of the School of Arts at Merriwa.

Residents of Scone and district learn with deep sorrow of the sad, though brave end of Constable Pearce, who was stationed here a few years ago.

It is surprising that a man so smart in other respects should be unable to swim from a small pond such as this must have been. Possibly the brave constable got fastened in some way while under the water.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article156266015.txt>

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The Gundagai Times and Tumut, Adelong and Murrumbidgee  
District Advertiser.

Tuesday 20 December 1898 page 2 of 4

**Double Drowning Fatality.**— The sad news reached Yass on Tuesday afternoon that Mr. William Pearce, brother of Mr. E. Pearce of Yass, was drowned at Merriwa that day. It appears that Mr. Pearce, who was a mounted constable, was returning

home from day duty and was crossing the bridge at Merriwa when he saw a boy named Thomas Baker drowning in the river. Pearce jumped off his horse and plunged into the water with his clothes on. The boy appears to have got hold of Pearce, with the result that the unfortunate man who was doing a brave act was drowned. Mr. Pearce, who was a native of Yass, was 35 years of age, and leaves a wife and six children. Great regret was expressed in Yass when the news was received, as Pearce was a very popular and well behaved young man. Deceased is a brother of Mr. A. G. Pearce, of Adelong, who was formerly in the employ of Mr. Newman, of Tumut, and was bandmaster of the Tumut band.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/122743356>

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Manning River Times and Advocate for the Northern Coast  
Districts of New South Wales (Taree, NSW : 1898 – 1954),  
**Wednesday 21 December 1898**, page 2

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## **Drowning Fatality at Merriwa,**

### **DEATH OF CONSTABLE PEARCE.**

A sad drowning fatality occurred at Merriwa on Tuesday evening, the 13th instant. **Constable W. H. Pearce** was returning to town on horseback, and after crossing **Merriwa Bridge** his attention was directed to a boy drowning in the river.

Pearce immediately dismounted, and jumped into the river **without undressing**, and attempted to rescue the boy, but being

a **bad swimmer both** were **drowned**. The bodies were recovered after being about an hour under water.

The **funerals** took place the **following afternoon**, also the magisterial inquiry.

**Constable Pearce** leaves a wife and six children.

The boy was a son of **Mr. A. W. Baker**, custodian of the **School of Arts**.

[ Constable Pearce will be remembered as having been stationed for some time at **Coopernook**, in this district, where he made many friends. – Ed. ]

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article171612457.txt>

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Maitland Weekly Mercury (NSW : 1894 – 1931), **Saturday 28 March 1896**, page 10

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### **Singleton District Court and Quarter Sessions.**

The above Court was opened at the Courthouse at ten on Saturday morning before Judge Backhouse. Mr. H. J. Leary, District Court Register, who present. Mr. A. K. Watt was the only member of the bar present. The solicitors in attendance were – Messrs. R. W. Thompson, H. V. Howe, W. W. Robinson, A. B. Shaw, and E. P. Richards.

**BREAKING AND ENTERING.**

William Frost (17) and Joseph Harris (16) were charged with breaking and entering, on the 12th February, the house of Joseph Heath, at Merriwa. Both accused pleaded guilty. **Constable W. H. Pearce**, stationed at **Merriwa**, stated they were swagmen and strangers in his district.

In answer to his Honor, Frost said his people were living in Sydney, and Harris said he lived in Newcastle. His Honor ordered **Senior-Sergeant Moylan** to procure from the accused the address of their relations, and telegraph to them to find out anything connected with them, and then remanded the accused for sentence until next day. In answer to his Honor both the accused said they had given wrong names. Accused Frost said his proper name was William Fury, and Harris that his right name was Walter Hay. His Honor told Fury that from enquiries made he found that he had been convicted of larceny in 1887, and received four days in the lockup. It appeared from that that he was now 17 ; he had started his defalcations rather early. But, however, he would treat them both as being young, and sentence them each to four months' hard labour in **Maitland Gaol**.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article132401406.txt>

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**James MORRISON**

03/01/2015

# James MORRISON

AKA ?

Late of Moama

## New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 'Q' 3661

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 )

Rank: Constable – appointed 15 March 1880

Final Rank = Senior Constable

Stations: ?, Deniliquin – Lockup Keeper ( ? ? ? – 1891 ),  
Moama ( 7 years ) – Death

Service: From ? ? 1880? to 19 January, 1898 = 18 years Service

Awards: No find on It's An Honour

Born: ? ? 1857 – Victoria

Died on: Wednesday 19 January 1898 about 11.30am

Age: 40

Cause: **Illness – Depression – Suicide – Firearm**

Event location: inside Moama Police Station, NSW

Event date: **Wednesday 19 January 1898 about 11.30am**

Funeral date: Thursday 20 January 1898

Funeral location: Moama Cemetery

Wake location: ?

Funeral Parlour: ?

Buried at: Unmarked & Unknown grave location within Moama  
Cemetery

Memorial located at: ?

**JAMES is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance \* BUT  
SHOULD BE**

**JAMES IS mentioned on the Memorial Wall, Deniliquin Police  
Station – 2018**

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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**

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Little is known of the death of Constable Morrison other than the following brief newspaper extracts. The ***Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate*** of **22 January, 1898** printed the following.

***SUICIDE OF A CONSTABLE.***

*A wire from Deniliquin dated Wednesday says, "A telegram was received today announcing the suicide of **Senior Constable Morrison**, of **Moama**. The Small Debts Court was being held when the news was received by Mr. **N. C. O'Neill, P.M.**, and he immediately adjourned the case on account of having to proceed to **Moama** to conduct an **inquest**. The news caused quite a sensation locally, as **Morrison**, who was previously **lockup keeper** at **Deniliquin**, was always regarded as a zealous officer. No cause is assigned for the deed.*

The ***Camperdown Chronicle*** of **22 January, 1898** also reported on

the death, as follows.

### **A CONSTABLE'S SUICIDE AT MOAMA.**

At **halfpast 11 on Wednesday morning** a report reached **Echuca** that **Senior Constable Morrison**, in charge of the **Moama police station**, had shot himself. **Dr. Eakins** was quickly on the spot, but pronounced life to be extinct. Deceased was highly esteemed in the police department, having been 18 years in the force. He was 40 years of age, and had been stationed at **Moama** for **seven years**. He leaves a wife and family of eight children, the eldest being 14 years of age. Deceased was **on duty** in the morning and appeared to be **in good spirits until informed of the terrible accident** which had **befallen Mr. Miller**, manager of the **Bank of New South Wales**, when he seemed **greatly depressed**. He, however, spoke to his wife, appeared rational, and started doing his **office work**. Suddenly his wife heard the report of firearms, and rushing in found her husband lying on the floor, with **his rifle** beside him. The bullet had gone into the mouth and blown the top of the head off.

At the time of his death the constable was aged about 40 years and is **thought** to have joined the New South Wales Police Force about **1880**. He was stationed at Moama.

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So far, I have not found any information as to what the initial 'J' stands for ( in relation to his Christian name ).

In NSW State Archives – Registers of Police, there is a James MORRISON – # 'Q' 3661 who was born in 1857 in Victoria and appointed to the Police on 15 March 1880.

It is very possible that this James MORRISON is the J. MORRISON in this Memorial Post but that, at this time, has not been confirmed.

BUT the below article from the NSW Government Gazette # 558, page 4964, dated Tues 21 July 1896, throws another angle to this story – naming MORRISON as having the Christian name of **William** – 2019

Further research finds an Erratum in the NSW Government Gazette, issue 616, page 5375, dated Fri 7 Aug 1896

New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 – 1900), **Friday 7 August 1896** (No.616), page 5375

#### **ERRATUM.**

WITH reference to notification in Government Gazette of 21st ultimo, appointing Senior-constable William Morrison to act as Clerk of Petty Sessions at Moama, – for Senior-constable “**William**” Morrison read Senior-constable “ **James** ” Morrison.

Department of Justice,

Sydney, 4th August, 1896. T1189]

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/222504923>

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Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW : 1876 – 1954), **Friday 21 January 1898**, page 5

**TERRIBLE DISASTERS. DENILIQUIN , Thursday.**

A serious accident happened **yesterday** to Mr. **Peter Millar**,

manager of the **Bank of New South Wales** at Moama.

He rode a spirited horse across the **Murray Bridge** from **Moama to Echuca Railway Station**, where he saw a friend off by the train. He was about to return to **Moama**, when his horse became exceedingly fractious, and bolted.

The animal careered madly for some distance, till near the railway crossing, when the saddle shifted to the animal's withers, and the horse plunged and reared, and threw Mr. **Millar** on to the road, his head striking the metal, causing concussion of the brain, internal hemorrhage, and paralysis of the left side.

No hopes are held out for his recovery.

Additional particulars are to hand with reference to the **suicide** of **Senior Constable Morrison**, of **Moama**.

**Yesterday**, on the arrival of the train from **Deniliquin**, he as usual went to the **post office** for the **morning mail** and seemed in the best of spirits. He was **informed** of the accident to Mr. **Millar**, with whom he was a **close friend**, and he **immediately became depressed** and walked into the police station.

He then took down a **Martini-Henry carbine** hanging on the wall, and putting the barrel into his month, blew his brains out.

His wife heard the report, and went into the room, where she found her husband dying on the floor, blood and brains being scattered all around.

Morrison had been at **Moama** for **seven years**, and altogether **eighteen years in the police force**.

Deceased was 40 years old, and leaves a **wife** and **eight** young children.

Riverine Herald (Echuca, Vic. : Moama, NSW : 1869 – 1954; 1998 – 2000), **Friday 21 January 1898**, page 2

## **The Death of Senior-Constable**

**Morrison.**

### **AN OPEN VERDICT RETURNED.**

**Yesterday morning** the inquiry, commenced the **previous afternoon** at the **Police Court building, Moama**, before Mr **N. O. O'Neill, coroner**, was resumed.

On the previous afternoon **Dr. Eakins'** testimony was given.

Yesterday the following evidence was called:

**Janet Morrison, widow** of the deceased, gave evidence to the effect that she last saw her husband alive on Wednesday morning, about 11 o'clock. He was then in the **office at the police station**. He arose that morning at about half-past seven o'clock, but had no breakfast – only a cup of tea. About a quarter past 10 he went out, when he seemed very low spirited. A few minutes before 11 he returned to the office. Witness did not then notice anything peculiar about her husband, except that he was very low spirited. She did not speak to him about it. He seemed to be in trouble, but had made no complaint to her about it.

She left the office to make him a cup of cocoa, leaving him alone. She then heard the **report of a firearm** and, rushing back, found that her **husband had shot himself**.

She ran outside in search of help and saw a man named **Barber**, who accompanied her back to the office. The doctor was then

sent for. There was no domestic unhappiness of any sort. Deceased was a good husband and father. Deceased, who was 40 years of age, left eight children, but was not possessed of any means,

**George Thomas Barber**, a farmer, residing near Moama, stated he had been acquainted with the late **Senior-Constable Morrison**.

On **Wednesday** he was driving past the police station at about 11 o'clock, when he saw **Mrs Morrison** run out. She called out to him, and he sprang over the fence and went in. He found deceased lying on the floor, with the rifle lying alongside of his body. The bullet had passed through his mouth, cutting his lip, and had gone out of the top of his head. Deceased's hat was lying on the floor with the crown blown out, and the **pugaree** lying alongside. Witness ran across and told his mother, who lived nearly opposite, and got her to go down to aid **Mrs Morrison**. He then sent **Henry Howard** for the doctor. As there was no constable at the station he drove over to the look-up and acquainted **Constable Flood**. He had seen deceased several times lately, but he had not seen him under the influence of drink.

**William James Martin, Justice of the Peace**, stated he had seen the dead body of the late **Senior-Constable Morrison**.

He last saw him alive at about 25 minutes to 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning in **Meninya street**, opposite **Chanter, Martin and Co.'s office**. Just as he arrived witness and **Mr Charles Opitz** spoke to him about an accident which had occurred to **Mr Miller**. The deceased seemed to be rather cut up about the accident. They then dispersed, but, later on, witness and **Mr Opitz** again met, when it was remarked that deceased was not looking the same that morning as usual. When he last saw deceased he was going in the direction of the police station.

It seemed to him (witness) that deceased had a worried look. He was not so bright in conversation, and seemed dull. He had

known deceased for nearly seven years. Of late – during the past 12 months – he had not been so steady in his habits as previously. It was even more noticeable during the past three months. To his (witness') knowledge deceased had been drinking more than he should have during the past week. Other wise he bore a very good reputation. He knew of no domestic troubles and, speaking from outside judgement, he never saw a father who seemed to look after his family better. He did not know anything about his financial position.

**Constable Schweicher**, stationed at **Moama**, said he last saw deceased alive near the **Federal store, opposite the Bridge Hotel**, shortly before eleven o'clock. Witness spoke to him when he appeared to be despondent on account of **Mr Miller's** accident.

When he left witness deceased went towards the police station. During the past few days witness noticed that deceased was worrying or fretting over something. He was not quite positive on this point, but he imagined that there was something peculiar about him. Usually he was of a distant and reserved disposition. After parting company with deceased witness proceeded on his way collecting returns. Half an hour afterwards he received a message to go to the barracks and he immediately went then. On arrival he saw the body lying on the floor of the office. Deceased was lying fully dressed, with his head against the wall and with fresh blood on his hands and face. **Dr Eakins** was then present.

The regulation rifle ( produced ) was lying on his right side. It had stains of blood on it. The empty cartridge ( produced ) had been taken out of the rifle by **Dr Eakins** and it was lying alongside the weapon. The hat ( produced ) with the top blown out, was also found on the floor. The bullet had, apparently, gone through the ceiling of the office.

He had known deceased for the last three years, but had only known him intimately for the last eight months – since he had

been stationed at **Moama**. He searched the body and the office, but found nothing leading to the belief that suicide was contemplated.

This concluded the evidence and the **coroner** found that deceased met his **death by injuries to the brain and skull inflicted by a bullet**.

**Yesterday afternoon** the remains of the deceased were **interred in the Moama cemetery**, when a large number of citizens of **Echuca and Moama** paid a last tribute to one who had been held in such great respect in life. The **Rev. J. C. Johnstone, M.A.**, conducted the funeral ceremony, and, in speaking of deceased at the grave, referred to his good qualities in life. The utmost sympathy was felt towards the bereaved widow and family.

One of the most painful features of the sad case is that the widow and family have been left without adequate means of support. The **Mayor of Moama ( Ald W. J. Martin )**, who was an intimate friend of the deceased, on finding out the condition of affairs, at once took steps to help the bereaved family in their misfortune and has inaugurated a **subscription fund**. It is his intention to appeal to the country friends of the deceased as well as to those who reside in Echuca and Moama. The following donations have already been made :- **Chanter, Martin and Co.**, £2 2s; **Dr. Eakins**, £2 2s ; **C. L. Blair**, £1 1s; **W. Milledge**, £1 1s; **D. McLaren, senr.**, 10s 6d ; **P. Mackey**, 10s 6d. The **Mayor of Moama** will be pleased to take charge of further subscriptions..

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/114959946>

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2/1/2019, Deniliquin Times.

**Eight honoured on police memorial wall' –**

Seven former local police officers and a former police chaplain were honoured during a police reunion in **Deniliquin**. They were the first to be added to the police memorial wall at the **new Deniliquin police station**.

Honoured were

Constable Charles Chapman (died 5/3/1866),

Senior Const James Morrison (19/1/1898),

Senior Const Thomas Smith (19/4/1910),

Superintendent Henry Grugeon (10/1/1911),

Sergeant George Thomas Whiteley (25/3/1931),

Detective Senior Const Risto Vic Baltoski (2/1/1989) and

Senior Const Jennifer Louise Edgerton (August 2015) and

Rev David Bond.

# Eight honoured on police memorial wall

Deniliquin Pastoral Times 20 Feb 2018

+1 more

Seven former local police officers and one former police chaplain were remembered as part of a reunion in Deniliquin at the weekend.

They were the first to be added to a police memorial wall installed at the front of the new Deniliquin Police Station in Charlotte St. →



**Police Chaplain Rev Wayne Sheean, Deniliquin Police Commander Superintendent Paul Condon and Edward River Council Mayor Norm Brennan dedicate the memorial wall on Saturday morning.**

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New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 – 1900), **Tuesday 21 July 1896** (No.558), page 4964

**[633] Department of Justice,**

**Sydney, 20th July, 1896.**

HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the

Executive Council, has been pleased to appoint the undermentioned Officers of the Police Force to act as Clerks of Petty Sessions at the places specified in connection with their respective names, namely:—

Sergeant Charles Earskin Parker, Camden;

**Senior-constable William Morrison, Moama;**

Sergeant James McIntosh, Murrumburrah

Senior-constable Thomas Johnson, Nundle;

Sergeant Alfred Percy Young, Nymagee

Senior-constable John McNeely, Richmond;

Senior-constable Henry Edgar Ferris, Trunkey,–

to take effect from the 16th instant.

Senior-sergeant Alfred Amos Sykes, Berrima;

Sergeant William Tennent Moss, Crookwell j

Senior constable William Payne, Swamp Oak,

– to take effect from the date of commencing duty.

ALBERT J. GOULD.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/222503675>

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Riverine Herald (Echuca, Vic. : Moama, NSW : 1869 – 1954; 1998  
– 2000), **Friday 19 June 1896**, page 2

### **A TRAVELLER SEVERELY INJURED.**

About four o'clock yesterday morning **Senior-Constable Morrison**, of **Moama**, brought to the hospital a man named **John Turner**, who was suffering from severe burns.

**Dr. Smith** was quickly in attendance and he found that the patient had been burned along the right arm, the hip, and side, whilst his face was also badly seared. He stated that he

went to sleep by a fire at his camp, close to the **Murray bridge**, and during the night a log from the fire rolled on him. His cries attracted attention, and **Senior-Constable Morrison** was informed. He found **Turner** in great pain and with the least possible delay had him placed under medical care. The wounds, though not dangerous, are of a most painful character, and will be some time before the man can leave the hospital.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/114992170>

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Age (Melbourne, Vic. : 1854 – 1954), **Friday 19 April 1895**,  
page 6

### **CHARGE OF HORSE STEALING.**

**ECHUCA, Thursday.**

A man named **McKenzie**, alleged to be an old offender, was arrested by **Senior Constable Morrison**, of **Moama**, yesterday, on a charge of horse stealing. **McKenzie** called at the police station and offered to sell the constable a fine looking draught horse for 30s. The price asked was so low that **Morrison** became suspicious, and having read an account of a similar animal having been stolen from a Mr. **Patrick O'Loughlin**, of **Myers Flat**, near **Bendigo**, he detained the vendor.

Sending a telegram to **Eagle-hawk**, he soon after received a reply giving a description of the horse stolen. As this tallied with the appearance of the horse in the yard, he arrested **McKenzie**, and soon found that he was an old offender, well known to the police, having served several sentences for similar offences.

His last appearance was before the **Echuca court**.

**McKenzie** was brought before the **Moama court** this morning and

remanded to **Eaglehawk**.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/193463565>

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Riverine Herald (Echuca, Vic. : Moama, NSW : 1869 – 1954; 1998 – 2000), **Saturday 25 April 1891**, page 2

## **MOAMA.**

**Constable Thomas Foss**, ( 'Q' 5448 ) who has been stationed at **Moama** for a long time, has received promotion, and it is expected that he will leave **Moama** on Thursday next. **Constable Foss** will take charge of a station at **Hatfield**, near **Balranald**. During his stay in **Moama** he has gained many friends.

A little boy, a **son of Senior-constable Morrison**, of **Moama**, met with a serious accident on Thursday. Whilst playing in the yard the little fellow fell, striking his forehead against a piece of wood. No particular notice was taken of the accident at the time. Towards Friday morning, however, the condition of the child became worse, necessitating medical assistance.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/114686753>

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