

# Christopher McKENNA

19/05/2017

## Christopher McKENNA

Late of ?

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # ????

Rank: Constable

Stations: Sydney Water Police

Service: From ? ? ? to 9 December  
1848 = 6 years Service

Awards: ?

Born: ? ? 1826?

Died on: Saturday 9 December 1848

Age: about 22?

Cause: Drowned off Police Schooner ' Satellite '

Event location: South West shore of  
Bradley's Head, Sydney Harbour

**Event date:** Saturday 9 December 1848

Drowned body located on Sunday 10  
December 1848

**Funeral date:** ? ? ?

**Funeral location:** Devonshire St  
Cemetery, Roman Catholic Section Row:  
1889 Cemetery Plot U-P

**Buried at:** ?

**Memorial located at:** ?

Three Constables of the Sydney Water  
Police drowned in this 'on duty' event on  
the 9 December 1848.

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

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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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Nothing found on NSWBDM for this name and year date.  
V18482110 116/1848

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**Further follow up articles to include:**

Death of Cst Hugh CRAILL – Sydney Water Police

Death of Cst ? VINCENT – Sydney Water Police

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Moreton Bay Courier (Brisbane, Qld. : 1846 – 1861),

**Saturday 30 December 1848, page 2**

**LOSS OF THE GOVERNMENT SCHOONER " SATELLITE. "**

We regret to announce the loss of the **police schooner Satellite**, during the gale of **Saturday night**.

She had started in the forenoon on a **pleasure-trip** down the harbour, having on board the Colonial Secretary, Captains Browne, Innes, and Batty, Mr. Mann, and several other gentlemen. On returning from the Heads, about dusk, having to beat up against a westerly wind, these gentlemen left her in the hands of the crew, three in number, and came up to Sydney in Captain Browne's boat.

A few minutes before the gale commenced, the schooner was observed by some parties standing across from Bradley's Head to Clarke's Island, and it is supposed that almost instantly

after she must have capsized and gone down, as no trace whatever can be found of her. The names of the unfortunate men who have thus met with a watery grave are **Crawell**, **McKenna**, and **Vincent**.

The **Water Police boats** were all over the harbour on **Sunday morning**, and finding no vestige of the vessel, they commenced dragging for the bodies of **Crawell** and **Vincent**, that of **McKenna** having been found on the rocks near Bradley's Head. The bodies of the other two had not been found.

The telegraph mast at **Fort Phillip** has also been carried away by the gale. The inconvenience to the public will be very considerable unless the Government speedily erect another.

By the assistance of **two punts** the **Satellite** was floated **yesterday**, and towed into **Woolloomooloo Bay** : From all the circumstances of this melancholy case, we think that a considerable degree of blame is attached to the parties who left the schooner in the hands of three men only, two of which were, we understand, **totally unacquainted** with the **duties of a seaman** ; more especially us, from the general appearance of the weather during the day, an experienced seaman like **Captain Browne** might reasonably have anticipated a storm about sun-down.

One of the bodies of the unfortunate men was found yesterday evening.

People's Advocate, Dec 16.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/3713357>

**The Loss of the Satellite.**

A most unjustifiable attack on the **Colonial Secretary** was given to the world, or, more correctly speaking, to that very circumscribed portion of it with which the "**Atlas** " is connected, in the columns of **that journal** on **Saturday last**.

The penman of the vituperative article would appear to be either of very recent importation, and consequently incompetent to treat of the conduct of the local Government and its officers, or, ( which is equally creditable to his impertinence ) has taken no pains to arrive at the truth of the accusation so unblushingly levelled at a gentleman whose public and private career has till now escaped the foul mouthed abuse of the slanderer.

Our present purpose is merely to rebut the calumny, and, if possible, shame the calumniator by the simple declaration that **Mr. Thomson** did **NOT** form one of the party on board the ill-fated "**Satellite** " on the **pleasure trip** which resulted in so melancholy a loss of life.

With respect to the alleged **mal-appropriation** of the **Water Police Schooner by her commander**, in occasionally entertaining a party of friends on board, and indulging in a cruise about the harbour, we can see neither impropriety nor " disgrace " in so natural a proceeding. As well might the "**Atlas** " arraign every Post Captain in the British Navy, for, with few exceptions, our gallant tars do not scruple to appropriate H. M.'s. boats to the occasional entertainment of their friends in harbour, and this without risk of rebuke from the Admiralty, or the censure of any, save, perhaps, that of some expuseyite canting print whose ruling principle, like that of the termagant on the eve of matrimony, is avowedly", " to find fault where there is no occasion."

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Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW :  
1843 – 1893), **Wednesday 20 December 1848**, page 2

The water police schooner **Satellite** was, late on Saturday night, recovered, and has been towed into Neutral Bay, where she now lies. She was found with all her sails set, and not a rope misplaced. She has sustained no damage worth speaking of, or at all events, not beyond what a few pounds will cover.

The body of one of the two missing policemen, a man named **Craill**, was found on Friday night, at Potts's Point, lying between two rocks. It was in a fearful state of decomposition, and could with difficulty be identified. An inquest was held on Saturday. The evidence adduced was precisely the same as that given at a former inquest held on the body of the man named McKenna, and a finding of death from accidental drowning was recorded.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/706976>

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Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW :  
1843 – 1893), **Wednesday 20 December 1848**, page 2

THE "**SATELLITE**" – Early yesterday morning, two punts is attached to the dredging machine proceeded to the spot where the police schooner **Satellite** had been found, near **Bradley's Head**, in thirteen fathoms of water, and by means of the ?, she was towed into shallow water near **Garden Island**.

The body of the water policeman **Craill** was found yesterday on **Potts' Point**, and brought to the **Water Police Office**, on which was ? ? will be held this day. We are as ? to state that all expenses incurred in getting up the schooner, and giving her the necessary repairs, will be borne by the party who were pleasuring in her on the day of the unfortunate disaster occurred. – Dec 16.

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 – 1954),

**Tuesday 19 December 1848**, page 2

The police schooner **Satellite** having been towed into shallow water near **Garden Island** on **Friday last**, was **yesterday morning** got up, and the water being pumped out of her, she was towed into **Hulk Bay**, having sustained **little or no damage**.

The vessel when got up had **every sail and rope set**, which shows that she must have been beating up against a westerly wind, when the southerly squall caught her, and capsized her.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12907465>

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Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer (NSW : 1845 – 1860),

**Saturday 16 December 1848**, page 2

#### **LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.**

Loss OF THE **WATER POLICE SCHOONER, "SATELLITE."** – On **Saturday last**, a select party of gentlemen, accepting the invitation of **Captain Browne**, proceeded down the **harbour** on a **pleasure cruise** in the **Satellite**.

On their return **about 7 p m., towards Sydney**, the wind which had been variable, and blowing in sudden gusts, veered ahead, on which the party determined on leaving the schooner, and pulling to the wharf in Captain Browne's boat.

Previous to quitting the **Satellite**, positive instructions were given to the three men left on board, to take in the main-top-sail, but it would stem as though they had utterly mistaken the order, as the boat had not proceeded many hundred yards before they perceived the schooner's top-gallant-sail hoisted, and all sail set. The boat, on nearing the shore, suddenly encountered a heavy squall, which nearly capsized her, and it

is presumed that the **Satellite** must have been struck and overwhelmed by the same, as no tidings of the unfortunate vessel could be gleaned on the following morning.

On search being made, the body of **McKenna**, one of the crew, was discovered cast up on the **rocks** near **Bradley's Head** ; the bodies of his shipmates, **Crawell** and **Vincent**, have not yet been recovered.

The Schooner was subsequently found sunk, in **fourteen fathoms** water, and immediate steps will be taken to raise her.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/59767379>

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Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer (NSW : 1845 – 1860),

**Saturday 16 December 1848**, page 2

COXSWAIN – We believe the Colonial Secretary did not form one of the party on board the **Satellite** schooner.

We shall be happy to refer J.A. to our Solicitor, should he require further explanation in the matter.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/59767385>

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Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List (NSW : 1844 – 1860), **Saturday 16 December 1848**, page 301

We are sorry to have to announce the loss of the **Police schooner Satellite**, during the gale of Saturday night.

She had started in the forenoon on a pleasure trip down the harbour with the Colonial Treasurer, Captains Browne, Innes, and Batty, Mr. Mann, and others.

On returning from the heads, about dusk, having to beat up against a westerly wind, these gentlemen left her in the hands of the crew, three in number, and came up to Sydney in Captain



Browne's boat. A few minutes before the gale commenced the schooner was observed by some parties standing across from Bradley's Head to Clarke's Island, and it is supposed that almost instantly after she must have capsized and gone down, as she has since been found in that part of the harbour.

The names of the unfortunate men who have thus met with a watery grave, are **Craill**, **McKenna**, and **Vincent**.

The **body of McKenna** has been found on the **rocks** near **Bradley's Head**, and that of **Craill** on **Potts's Point**.

We are authorised to state that all expenses incurred in getting up the schooner, and giving her the necessary repairs, will be borne by the parties who were pleasuring in her on the day the unfortunate disaster occurred.

During the same gale a small coasting vessel of about ten tons, was driven ashore on the rocks near George's Head, but fortunately no lives lost. The telegraph mast also at Fort Phillip, has been carried away by the violence of the gale.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/161167776>

Inquest on the body of **Hugh CRAILL**, whose body was taken to the Water Police Office, was held at the Hooper's the King's Head, Lower George-street on Saturday 16 December 1848.

Accidental drowning

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12907477>

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Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW :  
1843 – 1893), **Saturday 16 December 1848**, page 2

## **SYDNEY NEWS**

( From our Correspondent )

**Sydney, Thursday Evening.**

**THE WATER POLICE SCHOONER** – No attempt could be made for the recovery of the **Satellite** yesterday, in consequence of the boisterous weather that prevailed.

The diving bell and the punts belonging to the dredge left Sydney before daylight this morning to make the attempt.

The bodies of the **two other missing water police** have not yet been recovered.

The government, I am informed, have resolved that as the boat at the time of the occurrence was out on a **pleasure party**, and not **on " duty "** the water police magistrate shall pay for her loss.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/707039>

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Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 – 1954),

**Wednesday 13 December 1848**, page 2

The **police schooner Satellite**, which has been dragged for during the **last two days**, was **yesterday afternoon** **fell in with** near **Bradley's Head**, in between **ten and twelve fathoms water**. The steam dredge and diving bell were to proceed at daylight this morning for the purpose of recovering her. **Neither** of the **bodies** of the **police constables Craill and Vincent** had, up to yesterday evening, been found.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12910815>

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Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 – 1954),

**Tuesday 12 December 1848**, page 2

**INQUEST.** – An inquest was held yesterday by **Mr. Ryan Brennan**, at **O'Dowd's, the Forbes' Hotel, King and York streets**, on view of the body of **Christopher McKenna**. then lying dead at the **residence of his mother, in York-street**. The deceased was one of the **three Water Police constables** who were on board the **Government schooner Satellite**, when she was lost in the

harbour during the sudden squall of Saturday night.

Mr. **T. H. B. Venour**, clerk of the **Water Police Court**, deposed to the finding of the body of the deceased late on **Sunday afternoon**, lying on the rocks on the **south-western side** of **Bradley's Head**.

**Captain Browne, P.M.**, stated that on **Saturday** the schooner had been down the harbour, and on returning to Sydney, at about **seven o'clock** in the evening, when off **Clarke's Island**, the wind falling light, he (Captain B ) with others quitted the vessel, leaving her **in charge** of the **deceased** and two others of the constabulary named **Craill** and **Vincent**.

On leaving the vessel a caution was given to these parties to mind the southerly wind and have their sails taken in. They were directed to work up to Sydney. Captain B. and his party then pulled up, but within the succeeding twenty minutes were caught by the squall, and from its violence experienced great difficulty in reaching Sydney.

Finding on yesterday (**Sunday**) morning that the schooner had not come up, he proceeded down the harbour, and found **on the rocks near Bradley's Head** the **Satellite's** main hatch gratings, and a table which he ( Captain Browne ) knew to be aboard of her when he quitted her, as also a hat belonging to the deceased.

Every possible enquiry had been made respecting the schooner, but although it appears she was seen shortly previous to the coming of the squall, no person could be found who had seen her struck by it.

The **deceased**, who was **about twenty-two** years of age, had been **four years** in the service, and a high encomium on his conduct during that time was passed by Captain Browne.

The deceased and the other men, at the time the schooner was left in their charge, were perfectly sober.

The jury returned a finding of **accidental death by drowning**.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12908510#>

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Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 – 1954),

**Monday 11 December 1848**, page 2

We are sorry to have to announce the **loss of the Police schooner Satellite**, during the gale of **Saturday night**.

She had started in the forenoon on a pleasure trip down the harbour with the Colonial Secretary, Captains Browne, Innes, and Batty, Mr Mann, and others.

On returning from the heads, about dusk, having to beat up against a westerly wind, these gentlemen left her in the hands of the crew, three in number, and came up to Sydney in Captain Browne's boat.

A few minutes before the gale commenced the schooner was observed by some parties standing across from **Bradley's Head** to **Clarke's Island**, and it is supposed that almost instantly after she **must have capsized** and gone down, as no trace whatever can be found of her. The names of the unfortunate men who have thus met with a **watery grave**, are **Crawell**, **McKenna**, and **Vincent**.

The **Water Police boats** were all over the **harbour** yesterday morning, and finding no vestige of the vessel, they commenced dragging for the bodies of **Crawell** and **Vincent**, that of **McKenna** having been found on the rocks near **Bradley's Head**.

During the same gale a small coasting vessel of about ten tons, was driven ashore on the rocks near **George's Head**, but fortunately no lives lost.

The telegraph mast also at **Fort Phillip**, has been carried away by the violence of the gale. It is to be hoped the government will lose no time in repairing this latter damage, as the loss will be a great inconvenience to the public.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12913509>

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