

# John LEPLAW

**John LEPLAW**

aka LIPLAW

Manly's Third Policeman

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # ?

Rank: Senior Constable

Stations: ?, Manly

Service: From ? ? 1879? to 24 June  
1884 = 5 years Service

Awards: ?

Born: 25 May 1855 in Greendale, NSW

Baptised: 24 June 1855 at Greendale

Married: Eliza Johnson on 29 December  
1875 in Bombala, NSW

Died on: Wednesday 24 June 1884 in  
Manly, NSW

**Age: 29**

**Cause: [Typhoid fever](#)**

**Funeral date: Saturday 27 June 1884 @  
2.30pm**

**Funeral location: Congregational  
Cemetery ( Manly Cemetery )**

**Buried at: Manly Cemetery, Plot S.187  
Register page MD17 No headstone**

**Memorial at: ?**



[alert\_yellow]**JOHN** is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance[/alert\_yellow] **\*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**

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John was a policeman stationed at **Manly Police Station**. It was at the corner of **Fountain Street (now Sydney Road) and Market Lane**. A stone building was built, and **opened in 1866**, and was added to in **1889**. This was also his residence.

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The Sydney Morning Herald, Saturday **28 June 1884**, Page 1.

#### **DEATHS.**

**LEPLAW.** – June 27, at his residence, police station, Manly, John Leplaw, aged 29.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article28368668.txt>

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The Sydney Morning Herald, **Saturday 28 June 1884**, Page 20.

#### **FUNERAL NOTICES.**

THE FUNERAL of the late JOHN LEPLAW, Senior Constable, Manly, will move from **his residence, police station, Manly**, at half-past 2 o'clock THIS DAY, Saturday, for the **Congregational Cemetery**.

ROBINS, WAUGH, and CO.,  
Undertakers, Manly.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/28368672>

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### **The Late John Leplaw.**

A meeting of the inhabitants of Manly, convened by the **Mayor**, was held on Tuesday night, for the purpose of relieving the widow and orphans of the late **Senior-sergeant Leplaw**, who died a few day since from an attack of **typhoid fever**. The deceased was a very meritorious officer, and was highly respected by the inhabitants. The Mayor made a brief speech in introducing the subject, and on being called upon the **Hon. W. B. Dalley, Attorney-General**, addressed the meeting as follows: – Mr Mayor,- I feel sure that all here will feel very grateful to you for your invitation to this meeting, by which you enable us to take part in a work of duty and charity. To call our attention to and inspire an interest in deserving objects of relief and compassion – to enable us by our united effort – costing so small an individual sacrifice – to succour the widow and the orphan, is one the pleasures of your office. It is needless to speak of the excellent, meritorious officer who has recently been taken away from us so suddenly. You all know how thoroughly respectable, vigilant, and trustworthy a member he was of that police force of which, happily, in this country we have so much reason to be proud, and on the high character of which our peace and sense of security directly depend. The Mayor pointed out how we may show our appreciation of his humble, honest service, by helping the wife and poor little ones whom he has left to our pity. His former comrades have shown us an admirable example; and for the credit of this little place, for our own happiness, and you may be assured that works like this in which we are asked to take part to-night are the truest and purest sources of happiness – “Thanks to the human heart by which we live. Thanks to its tenderness, its joys, and tears.” Most of the leading inhabitants of the

town were present, and a subscription list was opened, and between £50 and £60 collected in the room. It is anticipated that altogether a sum of £100 or £150 will be obtained.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/13569203>

<https://www.geni.com/people/John-Leplaw/6000000006153051091>

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## **A FRESH FACED BABE**

### **An electronic book on CD**

Snr. Constable John Leplaw

Snr. Const. John Leplaw and Sergeant John Carton

"I hold a thin little book. It's black and bound and some of the colour is worn off from handling by other hands.

On the front cover, pasted upside down, a remnant of newspaper advertises a 'drought resistant strain of Millet which is a splendid fodder plant.' It's available from Anderson and Company, Seedsmen and Plant Merchants of George Street, Sydney. Beneath, an advertisement offers Dinnesford's Magnesia as a cure for Gout and Gravel.

It's my great grandfather, John Leplaw's 1884 Police Log and, judging from its size, is the one he carried on his person as he did his rounds."

So begins A Fresh-Faced Babe, the story of John Leplaw, Manly's third policeman from 1879 to 1884, when he died of typhoid fever contracted, so the family story goes, while chasing a felon through the Manly swamps.

John's Log, dating from 22nd January to 13th May 1884, gives us a glimpse of Manly's under-belly and the duties of its policeman.

The first 45 pages contain a Census listing names and locations in the Manly Municipality and beyond to The Spit, with the number of people in each establishment.

Log entries make for interesting reading. Manly appeared to be a reasonably orderly place during the week, but weekends and public holidays attracted the worst that Sydney had to offer. On one occasion "there was fully ten thousand people gathered. There was a mixture of the worst class of people in Sydney. Card Sharps and thieves ... I have not got the Town quietened down yet after the great excitement."

A Fresh Faced Babe brings to light previously unpublished aspects of Manly's early history and includes letters, illustrations and Tintype photographs from 1879-1884, Index, Bibliography and a full transcription of the Log and Census in both Location and Alphabetical order – a boon to researchers and lovers of Manly history.

Price is \$30. + \$2. 00. postage

Orders and cheques to D.Coleman

4/44 Pearl Street, KINGSCLIFF NSW 2487

Libraries may order via email and be invoiced

E-mail: [storyteller4@bigpond.com](mailto:storyteller4@bigpond.com)

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New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 – 1900), **Friday 3 May 1889** (No.233), page 3279

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**In the Supreme Court of New South Wales.**

**ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.**

In the lands, goods, chattels, credits, and effects of **John Leplaw**, late of Manly Beach, near Sydney, in the Colony of New

South Wales, policeman, deceased, intestate.

NOTICE is hereby given that after the expiration of fourteen days from the publication hereof in the New South Wales Government Gazette, application will be made to the Supreme Court of New South Wales, in its Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, that letters of administration of all and singular the lands, goods, chattels, credits, and effects of **John Leplaw**, late of Manly Beach, near Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, policeman, deceased, intestate, who died on or about the 28th day of June, 1884, may be granted to **Eliza Leplaw**, of **Candelo**, in the said Colony, **widow** of the said deceased.— Dated at Bega, his 24th day of April, a.d. 1889.

WILL. J. CURTIS,

proctor for said Administratrix,

. Bega.

3679        6s. 6d.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article224324956.txt>

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Bega Standard and Candelo, Merimbula, Pambula, Eden, Wolumla, and General Advertiser (NSW : 1876 – 1884), **Saturday 5 July 1884**, page 2

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## DEATH

**LEPLAW.**- On **June 28th**, at his residence, **Manly Beach Police Station**, John, the eldest and beloved **son of David and Ann Maria Leplaw** of **Corunna**, aged 29 years.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article144377173.txt>

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Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 – 1954), **Saturday 26 July 1884**, page 11

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### NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE inhabitants of Manly have again been giving evidence of their generosity. Three or four weeks ago **Senior-constable Leplaw**, who had for some time past done duty at that watering-place, and was esteemed for many good qualities, and especially for the very efficient manner in which he discharged his police duties, died of typhoid fever, leaving a widow and children almost unprovided for. He was a comparatively young man, and had not had the opportunity of making that provision which it is incumbent upon heads of families to make. A few of his friends moved in the matter, a public meeting was held, Leplaw's excellencies extolled, and a subscription list opened. The result, it will be seen by advertisement, is that a sum of -100 has been collected for presentation to the widow. This is not the first time the inhabitants of " our village " have given substantial assistance to the bereaved family of a police officer.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article13571729.txt>

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New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 – 1900), Tuesday 7 August 1883 (No.329), page 4229

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**Department of Justice,**



**Sydney, 4th August, 1883**

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to appoint the undermentioned members of the Police Force to be additional **Sub-Inspectors under the Licensing Act of 1882**, for the Metropolitan Licencing District.

H. E. COHEN.

Rank and Name\*.

Manly ..... Senior-constable John Leplaw.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article221656657.txt>

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Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 – 1954), **Wednesday 27 August 1884**, page 2

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**PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT.**

The Widow of the late Senior-constable Leplaw desires to render her moat earnest and heartfelt thanks to the residents of Manly, also to the Officers and Members of the Police Force, who have aided her in her late bereavement, by so generously and liberally subscribing towards the relief of herself and little children.

August 14, 1884 (Signed) ELIZA LEPLAW.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article13561286.txt>

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### **WATER POLICE COURT.**

**Antonio Amaral** was charged with having, on the 6th July, stolen a cow, the property of **John Farrell**.

**Mr Lowe** appeared for the prosecutor, and **Mr Coonan** for the defendant.

The proceedings were initiated on the 9th July, and the hearing of evidence has occupied portions of six days.

Eighteen witnesses were examined, an equal number being called by each side.

It appeared that the prosecutor resided at Manly, and the defendant resided near the same place.

A man named **Thomas Lovett**, residing at Penrith, purchased 20 head of cattle from the defendant, paying him at the rate of 35s. each.

On the 6th July Lovett, assisted by **Thomas Antonio Amaral**, son of the defendant, was driving those cattle along the **North Shore-road**, when he was met by **Thomas Farrell**, father of the prosecutor.

Farrell pointed to a black and white cow, which he said was his son's property. The cow was, it was alleged, left at the prosecutor's place on the morning of the 7th July, and the defendant was arrested the next day by **Senior-constable Leplaw**.

The defence was that the cow in question was the property of the defendant, and that a mistake had been made with regard to the identity of the animal.

The defendant was committed for trial. Bail was granted, the defendant being required to enter into his own recognisance for £50, and to find two sureties in the sum of £25 each.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article13540598.txt>

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Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW :  
1843 – 1893), **Thursday 22 February 1883**, page 5

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### A TROUBLESOME CUSTOMER

A stabbing affray between a **Queensland black** and a **police-constable** occurred **in the bush, near Manly** on Sunday morning (says the Herald).

**Senior-constable Leplaw**, who is stationed at **Manly**, received information on Saturday evening that two Queensland blacks were wandering about **in the bush close by in a nude state**, and on the following morning, accompanied by two civilians, he set out in pursuit of them, with a view of ascertaining how and in what condition they were living.

Having discovered their whereabouts he approached them, and by means of certain signs endeavoured to make them understand that he would give them some clothing and also food if they would accompany him. One of them wore **a shirt only**, whilst the other was going about **perfectly naked**. The former made some remark in his native tongue to the latter, who thereupon bolted off, but he was pursued and quickly overtaken by the two civilians who accompanied **Senior-constable Leplaw**.

The officer, thinking that the other would also attempt to run away, kept very closely to him, and immediately he **drew a knife**, which he had concealed about his shirt, and with it he rushed at the officer, making a blow. The latter, in endeavouring to ward it off, received a **nasty gash on the back**

of the left hand, near the thumb.

A lively tussle ensued between **Leplaw** and **the black**, who fought most desperately, but the officer, notwithstanding that he **lost a large quantity of blood**, at length secured his assailant, handcuffed him, and brought him along with his mate to **Manly**.

Leplaw then escorted them by the **s.s. Fairlight** to **Sydney**, and had them locked up.

The wound on the officer's hand was dressed at Manly. Although a very ugly one, it is not likely that it will have any serious results.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article867414.txt>

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Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW : 1876 – 1954) , Thursday 22 February 1883, page 3

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### **BARNUM THE SHOWMAN AGAIN.**

The two **Queensland 'blacks'** who were arrested by **Senior-constable Leplaw**, near Manly, on Sunday morning, and one of whom **stabbed the officer in the hand**; were brought before **Mr. Marsh, S.M.**, at the **Water Police Court Sydney**, on Monday ( says the S. M. Herald ) and on the application of the police they were remanded for a week.

**Mr. Cunningham**, an agent for the well known **Barnum show**, appeared in court, and he informed **Mr. Marsh** that the prisoners formed part of a contingent of **nine blacks** which he

had recently **procured** in Queensland for the purpose of forwarding to **Mr. Barnum** to add to his list of **curiosities**. He had been instructed by Mr. Barnum to obtain **six or more** Queensland blacks, and with a view of carrying out his directions **Mr. Cunningham** proceeded to a camp in Queensland some few weeks ago, and after making **certain offers** to the nine in question they were **induced** to accompany him.

He brought them to **Sydney**, and the **two prisoners deserted**, thus accounting for their presence in the bush near Manly.

**Mr. Marsh** replied that it appeared to him as if the case partook very much of the **character of kidnapping**, and legal proceedings might in consequence be the result at any moment. He added that the matter should be **thoroughly inquired into** by the police, and he was informed that it would be.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article137091137.txt>

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Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 – 1954), **Saturday 24  
February 1883**, page 11

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#### **NEWS OF THE DAY**

AT the Water Police Court yesterday, "**Jimmy**," a Northern Queensland aboriginal under engagement to **proceed to America** to join **Barnum's show**, was again brought up on a charge of having **unlawfully and maliciously stabbed Senior-constable Leplaw**. **Sub-inspector Atwill** stated that he had **not been able** to secure the services of **any person** who would be able to **interpret** the language spoken by the accused, and that he had

not been able to even secure the services of any one who would be able to make the accused **under stand the nature of the offence** with which he had been charged. Under these circumstances **he desired to abandon the prosecution**. The accused was thereupon **discharged**.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article13529183.txt>

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Evening News (Sydney, NSW : 1869 – 1931), **Monday 7 August 1882**, page 3

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### **Row at Manly Beach**

The recent disturbances at **Manly Beach** formed the subject of investigation again on Saturday, at the **Water Police Court**, before **Mr. Buchanan, S.M.**

**Adam Fraser**, who was brought up on **three charges** of assaulting **senior constable Leplaw**, resisting the police, and assaulting **constable Minogue**, was fined £5 or the alternative of one month in gaol.

**John Lewis**, who was also similarly prosecuted by the same officers, was discharged, the case against him not being substantiated.

This matter will come on again at the Court on Tuesday afternoon, there being still two cases to be dealt with by the bench.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article108208553.txt>

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Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW :  
1843 – 1893), **Thursday 22 June 1882**, page 6

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### **Charge of Arson.**

( From the Echo. )

The hearing of a charge of arson preferred against one **Robert Burman** was concluded at the **Water Police Court** on Saturday, before **Mr. Buchanan, S.M.**

The prisoner was charged with having on or about Monday, 5th instant, wilfully set fire to a dwelling house at **Manly Beach**, the property of **Mr. T. Stonier**.

**Sergeant Higgins** deposed that when he arrested the prisoner at 5 o'clock on the evening of Friday, 9th instant, and informed him of the nature of the charge, he said "I do not know how I did it ; there is no use blaming anyone else for it ; I must have been drunk when I did it ; I have no recollection of how it was done ;" witness had seen the prisoner on the 7th instant, when a conversation took place concerning a robbery, which, it was alleged, occurred at the prisoner's place some time before the fire, and also with respect to a bullet which prisoner had previously stated had been fired at him ; prisoner on this occasion said that the robbery was genuine, but that he fired the shot himself; he also stated that on the morning of the fire he was sleeping at Mr. Littlejohn's house, and that about 2 o'clock he was awakened by hearing an explosion of cartridges and the barking of dogs ; he found that his place was in flames, and that the two back rooms were burnt ; he had lost everything by the fire, and did not know who had done it ; on the 7th instant prisoner was in a house which was situate about 220 yards from that which had been destroyed by fire ; when witness inquired about the shot,

prisoner showed him a window through which he said the shot had been fired ; witness asked him how it occurred, and whether he knew who did it, when he made a statement to the effect that about two o'clock in the morning he heard a voice saying, " Are you asleep ?" that was the way in which his master used to call him – when he (prisoner) opened the door, and looked out, and saw a man standing about 10 yards off ; the man ( prisoner stated ) said to him " I thought I roasted you the other night, take that," at the same time firing a shot from a pistol ; he pursued the man over the rocks towards the Quarantine Ground, where he missed him ; the prisoner showed witness some tracks, which he said were made by the man ; prisoner also stated that he knew the man, whose name was Carl Endersen, and that he had previously known him in Victoria, where they quarrelled ; that Endersen threatened to have revenge, and that he believed it was he who had set fire to the house ; subsequently, in the course of conversation, the prisoner stated that it was he (prisoner) who had fired the shot, and that he had never known a man named Carl Endersen ; witness had made inquiries, but had not been able to find any such man.

**Constable John Leplaw** deposed that at about half-past five o'clock on the evening of the 5th instant prisoner came to him at Manly, and stated that his house was burned down by fire at ten minutes past two o'clock that morning ; in reply to enquiries, prisoner stated that he was sleeping at Mr. Littlejohn's, about 200 yards from the house which had been destroyed, and that his wife and family were away at Marrickville, at Mr. Stonier's place ; prisoner said he first saw the fire himself, having been awakened by crackers and barking of dogs, that he had 40 cartridges in the house, and that the place had been wilfully set on fire. This witness, having described other conversations which took place between him and the prisoner, said he made a search in the house occupied by the prisoner since the fire, and found a leaden bullet (produced), and on the bed in the bedroom occupied by



prisoner, he ( witness ) found a loaded pistol ; prisoner then said, " Don't go any further in this case, I'm the man you're looking for;" witness asked him what he meant, and he replied, " I'm the man that's done the whole of it, do what you like with me, I will make a full confession ;" prisoner also said, " I fired the shot into the room on the morning of the 7th, and I don't know there is such a man as Carl Endersen, for whom I got a warrant, alive ;" witness asked him why he had done it, and he replied, " I was afraid that I would be blamed for the burning of the house, I was trying to make up a scheme to get out of it ;" witness asked him whether he knew anything about the burning of the house, and he paused for a moment and then said, "No, I do not;" witness then asked him how he accounted for the footprints, and .... could show him ( witness ) the .....belong to another party; I put them on to lead you astray; you will find the boots in Littlejohn's house, in the largo room;" in consequence of that conversation witness arrested prisoner, and afterwards went to Mr. Littlejohn's house and found the boots which corresponded with the tracks which prisoner had pointed out ; the house which was destroyed seemed to be scantily furnished. Other witnesses were called, and their testimony tended to show that prisoner was the first person seen near the house when it was discovered by some neighbours to be in flames ; that the building consisted of four rooms, and was constructed of weatherboard ; that it was the property of **Mr. Thomas Stonier**, of Marrickville ; that prisoner had arranged to purchase it for £500, the purchase money to be paid in weekly instalments of £1 ; that he had made four payments ; and that the building was insured by Mr. Stonier in the London and Lancashire office for £100, and that Mr. Stonier had made a claim on that policy.

The prisoner, having been cautioned in the usual way, made a statement to the effect that he had been drinking on the Saturday and Sunday preceding the fire, and that he went home at 8 o'clock on Sunday night, and could not remember anything more than that the house was in flames when he awoke next

morning.

The prisoner was committed for trial at the next Court- of Quarter Sessions. Bail was granted, the prisoner being required to enter into his own bond of £100, and to find two sureties in £50 each.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article853714.txt>

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Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 – 1954), **Thursday 22 July 1880**, page 3

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#### **WATER POLICE COURT.**

Yesterday, Messrs Brown, Greville, and Captain Edwards, Js P were on the bench in the Charge Court.

**Matthew Regan**, on remand, was convicted of resisting **Constable Leplaw** while in the execution of his duty, and ordered to pay a fine of **20s** , or go to **gaol for seven days**.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article13464494.txt>

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Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 – 1954), **Wednesday 30 June 1880**, page 6

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## WATER POLICE COURT.

Yesterday, the bench in the Charge Court was occupied by Messrs. Reading, Penfold, and Cock, and in the Summons Court by Messrs. Hunt and Jenkins.

**Michael O'Hare** was fined in the sum of 40s. for **assaulting Constable Leplaw** in the execution of his duty, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment. A further charge of wilfully damaging the constable's uniform was preferred against the prisoner, for which he was ordered to pay the amount of the damage – namely, 45s., or to suffer an additional term of imprisonment for one month.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article13463154.txt>

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Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 – 1954), **Saturday 31 January 1880**, page 7

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## POLICE.

At the **Central Police Court**, yesterday, the Police Magistrate was assisted in the Crime Court by Messrs. Jolly, Reading, Thomas, Skerratt, and Carpenter; and in trio Summons Court, by Messrs. Neale, Ridge, Barden, and Blair.

**Mark Tierney**, butcher, was proceeded against on a charge of cruelly ill-treating three calves. It appeared that the defendant was driving the calves in a cart up **Oxford-street, to Paddington**, on Thursday night, when the attention of

**Constable Leplaw** was attracted to the condition of the animals in the vehicle. The cart was too small for the purpose, and the calves were huddled together in such a manner that they were almost unable to move, while their legs were tied so tightly that the rope cut through the skin.

The Bench fined the defendant in the sum of 20s., with 21s. complainant's' costs ; or, in default, seven days' imprisonment.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article13449937.txt>

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**NSWBDM – Birth = V18553187 42B/1855**

**NSWBDM – Death = 5921/1884**

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**Christina DORMAN – wife of  
Walter**

**Christina DORMAN – wife of Walter**

**New South Wales Police Force**

**Regd. # ?**

**Rank: ?**

**Stations: ?, Bungonia**

**Service: From ? to ?**

**Awards: ?**

**Born: ?**

**Died on: ?**

**Cause: ?**

**Age: ?**

**Funeral date: ?**

**Funeral location: ?**

**Buried at: ?**

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**Funeral location:**

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Goulburn Evening Penny Post

**Tuesday 29 January**

**1884**

page 4 of 4

**ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING.** IN our last issue we reported the accidental shooting of Mrs. Dorman, wife of Constable Dorman,

of Bungonia.

News was brought into town on Friday evening that the unfortunate young woman had died early that morning. The following is a report of the inquest held by Mr. Betts at Constable Dorman's residence, Bungonia, on Saturday, touching the death of the late Mrs. Dorman, the finding of which was "that the said **Christina Dorman** died from injuries caused by a shot from a revolver fired by **Walter Dorman**, and that such firing was purely accidental."

**Walter Dorman** deposed; The body just viewed by the coroner and jury is that of my wife, Christina Dorman ; I am a **mounted constable** stationed at Bungonia ; I have been in the force **about two years**, and I have been living at **Bungonia** about **three months** ; deceased was 23 years of age last February ; we had been married about **nine months** ; the day before yesterday, the 24th instant, about half.past 11 am, I went out with a man of Mr. Styles' to inquire as to a fire which had occurred at Mr. Chas. Styles' place ; from there I went to Woods, and then came home ; I found deceased at home and two of the Miss Broadheads' were with her ; I came inside ; after having my dinner I came into the sitting room and sat down at the table ; I took a pair of handcuffs from my pocket and laid them on the table ; the oldest Miss Broadhead said "you have not much use for them here;" my wife said " no, this is a very quiet station ;" each of them took the hand cuffs and put them on their wrists and tried to get them on and off while locked ; my wife then said "show the Miss Broadheads your other instruments, Walter – your sword and revolver;" I said "all right;" I went into the bedroom and got the revolver ; I came to the table ; there were six cartridges in the revolver, that is one in each chamber ; I emptied four chambers and then went on talking ; I was in the act of preparing to take the fifth cartridge out when deceased said " Oh, don't you remember you have only four in it ?" : I said "Oh yes, you're right;" ; I then closed the stem and closed the cap and reversed the

revolver ; I then held the revolver pointing towards the floor and looked through to see if it was empty ; I could see nothing and thought it was empty : I then raised it and said " Now, I have got you all;" I pointed the revolver first at the wall and then at one of the Miss Broadheads and passed it round, pulling the trigger ; after I pointed it at the second Miss Broadhead my wife said, "Oh, don't point it at anybody ;" just as she said this I was in the act of pointing it at her ; the revolver went off and I saw my wife sinking back in her chair ; the next instant I saw blood coming from the side of her neck, and I said "Oh, good God, I have shot my wife ; " I ran to her assistance ; I felt her neck where the blood was spurting from it ; I could feel the bullet under the skin ; the Miss Broadheads ran out crying, and I called to them to bring in Mr Armstrong ; I worked the bullet out with my thumb from where the wound was and I now produce it ; the bullet is considerably out of shape and appears to .have come in contact with some hard substance ; I afterwards saw a hole in my wife's dress below the elbow ; I pulled up her sleeve and found there was a wound as if the bullet had passed through the flesh of the arm ; the wound on the neck was on the right side about two inches below the ear ; at the time I pointed the revolver at deceased she put up her arm, and it was just at that instant the revolver went off ; I was sitting on a chair at the time I fired, and the other three was sitting also ; I stopped the bleeding as well as I could until Mr. James Armstrong came in ; I told him I had shot my wife, and asked him to send for a doctor ; Joseph Armstrong was at once sent to Goulburn for a doctor, and I told them the horse was fit to travel, and not to spare him ; I remained with my wife, supporting her on an easy chair, until the doctor arrived – in about three hours and three quarters afterwards ; my wife appeared to be insensible for about a quarter of an hour after receiving the shot ; she then called and spoke to me ; Dr. McKillop remained about an hour, and then came again in about another hour and stayed until about eleven o'clock, when he returned to Goulburn; he gave me directions what to do ; he

told me it was a very dangerous case, and that there was paralysis of the lower parts, but that with great care deceased might pull through ; I asked him if he need come out again, but he said not unless we noticed any change, and that I could send in to him and report ; I attended to deceased all night ; at about midnight Sub-inspector Fenton arrived, and he remained with me some time ; he took a statement from my wife ; she was quite sensible and conscious at the time, and knew perfectly well what she was saying ; about 3 am deceased said she felt a curious sensation in her throat ; I gave her some essence of lemon in some water, which seemed to relieve her a little, and after this she became feverish ; she complained again several times about her throat ; about half past nine deceased's father and mother and sister arrived ; I took them in to see deceased; she recognised them all ; deceased's mother was very excited, and made a great noise ; deceased asked me what the noise was, and said she felt so frightened ; she then sank back upon her pillow and never rallied ; she died at ten minutes past eleven on Friday morning : about a fortnight since I loaded the six chambers of the revolver, and the same day I fired two shots at a native bear ; after I came home I put the revolver in the bedroom, and my wife must have seen that there, were only four cartridges in it, or I may have told her that I had fired two shots at the bear ; I usually had the six chambers loaded ; a day or two after shooting at the bear, I came across two loose cartridges in my box, and put them in the revolver, but I had forgotten that I did so, and when my wife said " Don't you know there are only four cartridges in it," and I believed that it was so ; when I pointed the revolver at the Misses Broadhead and my wife I fully believed it was empty ; my wife and I lived very happily, and had no quarrel ; I was perfectly sober, and had not tasted anything in the way of drink that day ; the paralysis of deceased's body extended all below the breast, and it continued up to the time of her death ; my wife saying there were only four cartridges in it put me off my guard, and if she had not said so I should have examined the revolver



more carefully.

**Ellen Broadhead** deposed: I am the daughter of William Broadhead, and live at **Brisbane Meadow**; on Thursday last about four o'clock I and my sister Sarah came to see Mrs. Dorman ; in a quarter of an hour afterwards her husband came home, and we were sitting in the room ; after Dorman had his dinner he came and sat in the same room with us ; he put a pair of handcuffs on the table, and after we had looked at them Dorman went out of the room ; he returned with a revolver in his hand; he handed it to me ; I saw it was loaded, and told him to take it back ; he said, " I'll unload it for you, then, and you can have a look at it;" he then kept hammering it on the table, and took some cartridges out ; I asked him if it was a six chambered revolver, and just then the fourth cartridge dropped out ; Mrs. Dorman then interrupted him, and she said, "o, don't you remember there were only four in it ; " Dorman said, " O, yes, you are right " Dorman gave the revolver two or three raps more on the table, and seemed to be looking through it ; he then said, " I'll show you now that's there's none in it, " and he pointed into the corner of the room, and snapped the trigger ; he then pointed the revolver at my sister, and snapped the trigger again ; then the same with me ; and then he did the same at the deceased ; the revolver went off and immediately afterwards Dorman said, "O, she is shot;" just as the revolver went off the deceased put up her arm and said, " O, don't ;" I saw blood coming from the deceased's neck she sank back in her chair; and did not speak; Dorman said, " O, run for Mr. Armstrong, " and my sister and both ran out.

Acting Sub-Inspector Fenton deposed: On Thursday night last I came to Bungonia, and arrived at the Police station at about half-past 11 pm ; I previously saw Dr. McKillop at Garard's public house ' from what he told me I concluded he had but little hopes of the deceased recovering ; I then came to Constable Dorman's residence at the Police station ; I saw him and he showed me into the room where his wife was lying in bed ; she seemed very weak, but was able to speak and was

conscious ; she made some statement to me in the presence of her husband as to how she received the injury ; I asked her if it would distress her to make a statement to me which I could take down in writing, and she said " No;" she then, in her husband's presence, made a statement which I reduced to writing and now produce; I read it over to her after taking it; she replied it was right; Dorman was present the whole time, and I invited him to sign it, which he did. and I also signed it; deceased was not fit to sign it and I knew that her arms were paralysed (statement read to the jury): Constable Dorman made no remark after the statement was read, but he subsequently told me he was glad it had been taken. James Armstrong, of Bungonia, was also examined. 'The following is the statement of Christlina Dorman as given in Acting Sud. Inspector Fenton's evidence -" I am very ill, but I hope I shall get better; I have been married to my present husband, Constable Walter Dorman, about nine months, and during that time we have lived happily together; about noon yesterday, the 24th day of January, 1884, my husband went away on duty and returned soon after 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and on his return the two Miss Broadheads were with me ; my husband's dinner was ready for him, and after having his dinner he joined the Miss Broadheads and myself in the parlour ; he then took his handcuffs out of his pocket and placed them on the table; I do not know the Miss Broadhead's christian names, but one of them remarked that he had not much use for them here (meaning Bungonia) ; we all tried the handcuffs on; I then told my husband to bring his sword and other instruments, and he brought his revolver from the bedroom, and unloaded four chambers of it ; I then said I thought that was all that was loaded ; he then looked into the revolver and said he believed that was, and then laughingly' said, "Now I have got you all," and pointed the revolver at one of the Miss Broadheads and then at the other, and each time snapped the revolver, and the third time he snapped it at me, and as he was pointing it I said don't point that at anybody, and at the same time I held up my arm (my right arm) ; I then heard the discharge of the

revolver but felt nothing and immediately after I saw I was bleeding from the neck, I then heard my husband say, 'Oh, my God, I have shot my wife,' and he asked the Miss Broadheads to go for Mr. Armstrong and began to cry, and he extracted the bullet from the right side of my neck and was trying to stop the bleeding and I became faint and was unable to speak for some time ; my husband was soon afterwards assisted by Mr. James Armstrong and others who remained with me off and on till Dr. McKillop arrived ; 'I never knew my husband to present his revolver at anyone before yesterday ; he was then perfectly sober, as he is now, and I am satisfied the wounding of me was purely an accident, and that he believed, as I did, that there were only 4 chambers of his revolver loaded, in fact I saw a few days ago that there were only four of the chambers loaded, and that was why I remarked when he took the four bullets out of the revolver that was all there was in it ; I am perfectly sensible, but I have no feeling in my arms or lower part of my body.' .

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/98430953?searchTerm=bungonia&searchLimits=l-title=368||l-decade=188||l-year=1884||l-month=1#pstart9755887>

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Goulburn Evening Penny Post

Thursday 31 January 1884

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BUNGONIA. THE peacefulness of our little township has been greatly disturbed by a series of melancholy events which have taken place during the last week.

On Tuesday last, a son of Mr. James Armstrong's tripped while running, and falling on one arm broke it at the elbow. The little fellow was immediately taken to Goulburn, where the limb was set by Dr. Morton, and I am pleased to say the

patient is progressing favourably.

The fatal gun accident which happened to Mrs. Dorman, an accurate account of which was given in your edition of Saturday last, continues fresh in the minds of the people here, and everyone sympathises with Mr. Dorman in his sad bereavement. On Sunday morning about 11 o'clock an infant daughter of Mr. James Armstrong, died. The poor child was six weeks of age and had been ailing almost since her birth. Owing to the continued dry weather and scarcity of good water, many persons here are suffering from diarrhoea ; colds also are prevalent in consequence of the sudden change which took place in the atmosphere.

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