

Peelers

Alias:

**"The Blue Devils", "The Raw Lobsters", "The
Bludgeon Men"**



The Police Force under the reign of Queen Victoria

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Introduction

Although entitled "The Police Force under the reign of Queen Victoria", the beginnings of the police force as we know it started under King George III and through the reigns of King George IV and King William IV. The Police Force in Scotland, Ireland and London were well established by the time of Queen Victoria's inauguration in 1837. Two years into her reign many counties of England followed suit and the country was now, to the greater extent, covered by a network of law enforcement. As the majority of the forces established history was during her majesty's reign, I think it fair to refer to

"Peelers" as Victorian Police Officers though I appreciate the beginnings were prior to her coming to the throne.

The main title refers to the names given to the constables of this new force. "Peeler" was an affectionate name and was a derivative of the founder, Sir Robert Peel. "Bobbies" is also a term used from the founder's namesake but there is no evidence it was used until the turn of the century. "The Blue Devils, The Raw Lobsters and The Bludgeon Men" are all derogatory terms used and are known to have been in existence from the outset of the formation of the first police forces in England in the early part of the 19th Century. "The Blue Devils" and "The Bludgeon men" are relatively self-explanatory. The term "Lobsters" was the name given to the soldiers of the period who wore the redcoat - Lobsters being normally red in colour. Despite Robert Peel's vision that the police force should be a-political and have no affiliation to the army, the public viewed the Peelers as none other than an armed force without the uniform (or shell) in other words a "Raw Lobster".

In understanding the formation of the police force it must be recognised that the public, through its elected officials, expressed concern over a national organisation that could be used at the behest of the government or the monarch to turn on its people- a potential force of subjugation. As such the acts that formed the forces were deliberately written so that the counties had control over finances, equipping and deployment of officers albeit within a broad set of guidelines. Therefore Peelers cannot be referred to as a single entity. When discussing uniform or procedural matters it must be understood that information will be with regards to a particular county's police force. When looking at equipment and uniform it would be prudent to bear in mind the establishment and therefore the funds available. In 1829 the London Metropolitan Police consisted of 8 Superintendents, 20 Inspectors, 88 Sergeants, 895 Constables and 5 Clerks for the Commissioner and Receiver. The total staff rose to over 3300 personnel by 1830 - In 1835 Wells City Borough Police (Somerset) consisted of 4 constables!. It doesn't take a financial wizard to figure out that Wells Borough Council would not have gone to the expense of a personally designed uniform and fancy buttons. Therefore in the following text I have discussed uniform and mentioned The London Metropolitan Police (of which there is good information) and a separate note on the counties, quoting a particular county force uniform requirement where possible.

This text only covers the police from its formation and through the Victorian period, therefore I have not covered much beyond 1900. There may be the occasional reference to a later date but this is for interest and explanatory purposes.

As the "Ragged Victorians" Historical group predominately covers the years around 1850 I have concentrated this article around that period.

"Another remarkable fact is, that the London policeman, though their duty brings them constantly in contact with the very scum of the earth, contract none of their habits of rudeness, which appear to be an essential portion of the stock-in-trade of the continental police. One should say, that the "force" in England is recruited from the most meritorious class of society, one in which patience, gentleness, and politeness are hereditary."

"Saunterings in and around London" by Max Schlesinger.



History and Politics

Law enforcement is not a new thing. Rulers make laws and they need a strong arm to enforce them. It is the method and attitude that has changed throughout the centuries fuelled by political beliefs and public acceptance.

The term "Constable" comes from the Latin "*comes stabuli*" (Lit. attendant to the stables) and was the keeper of the horses of a lord or monarch. The title originated during the Roman Empire but by the time of the Norman conquest (1066) the constable was responsible for keeping and maintaining the Kings armaments and those of villages. By the reign of King Stephen (1135-1154) a constable was employed to keep the peace (though confusingly - The Lord High Constable was responsible for command of the army).

One of the first legal descriptions for the duties of a constable comes from Henry de Bracton, a jurist (a person who studies and teaches the theory of law). During 1220-1250 he wrote many dissertations and described the office of constable as:

In whatever way they come and on whatever day, it is the duty of the constable to enroll everything in order, for he has record as to the things he sees; but he cannot judge, because there is no judgment at the Tower, since there the third element of a judicial proceeding is lacking, namely a judge and jurisdiction. He has record as to matters of fact, not matters of judgment and law.

In Bracton's time, anyone seeing a "misdeed" was empowered to make an arrest. The role of the constable in Bracton's description was as the "eyes and ears" of the court, finding evidence and recording facts on which judges could make a ruling. By extension, the constable was also the "strong arm" of the court (i.e., of the common law), marking the basic role of the constable that continues into the present-day.

In 1285, King Edward I of England passed the Statute of Winchester, with provisions which "constituted two constables in every hundred to prevent defaults in towns and on highways".

Records of their narrower area successors, parish constables, appear in the early 17th century in the records of Buckinghamshire; traditionally they were elected by the parishioners, but from 1617 onwards were typically appointed by justices of the peace (magistrates) in each county. They were unpaid and the position was compulsory for a 12 month period. Persons were summoned to the office in a similar principle to Jury selection today.

By the 18th century there was also a trade to be made as a "Thief-taker". These were private individuals who would, for a fee, track down stolen property and the miscreant responsible (perhaps an early private detective!). The most famous of these was Jonathon Wild who operated during the 1720's and was a popular figure. He was, however, discovered to be running the very gangs responsible for the thieving and in order to keep up the pretence he would hand over members of his gang to be hanged. It is often said that he would have a list of gang members and would mark a cross against those he distrusted. 2 crosses and he handed the gang member over to the authorities. It is believed the term "to double cross" came from this practice by Wild. In 1725 he was discovered and hanged for perjury.

In 1737 King George II began to pay for a number of Watchmen around London and Middlesex using tax monies. This was the start of a publicly funded law enforcement group, however, they were not uniformed, untrained and only patrolled at night. There was also no clear definition of their powers and purpose.

In 1749 the author, Henry Fielding, founded The Bow Street Group. They were formally attached to the Bow Street magistrates' office and were paid from central government funds. They are considered the first Police Force, they did not patrol but were responsible for serving writs and arresting offenders on the authority of a magistrate. The public nicknamed them "Bow Street Runners" - a term considered derogatory by the group. The Bow Street Group also incorporated a Bow Street Horse Patrol for serving writs and warrants in the outer lying areas.

In 1754 Stephen MacDaniel was tried for similar offences to Jonathon Wild and the ensuing scandal forced the authorities to consider a publically funded police force.

In 1797 the scottish merchant and magistrate, Patrick Colquhoun, persuaded a group of West Indies merchants to establish a police force at the Pool of London Docks on the River Thames in order to deal with the increasing thefts. The Thames River Police was formed and quickly the thefts abated.

Also referred to as the Marine Police, it was quickly acknowledged by the Government to be a worthy investment and on 28th July 1800 the Marine Police Bill was passed and the government had its first publically funded, uniformed and salaried police force with the agenda to patrol and prevent crime by visible presence and apprehending offenders accordingly.

In the same year The Glasgow Police Act was enacted and in 1800 The City of Glasgow Police was formed and eventually other Scottish towns followed suit.

In 1819 the Peterloo Massacre took place. Members of the Manchester and Salford Yeomanry attacked demonstrators in St Peter's Field, Manchester. 15 protesters were killed and an estimated 700 were injured which prompted more calls for reform.

In 1822 The Irish Constabulary Act was passed which marked the beginning of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

In the same year the new Home Secretary, Robert Peel took up his position. Prior to his appointment a comission had been set up to look at policing in London. Once in office he set up a second and more effective committee.

Royal Assent to the Metropolitan Police Act was given, and the Metropolitan Police Service was established on September 29, 1829 in London as the first modern and professional police force in the world.

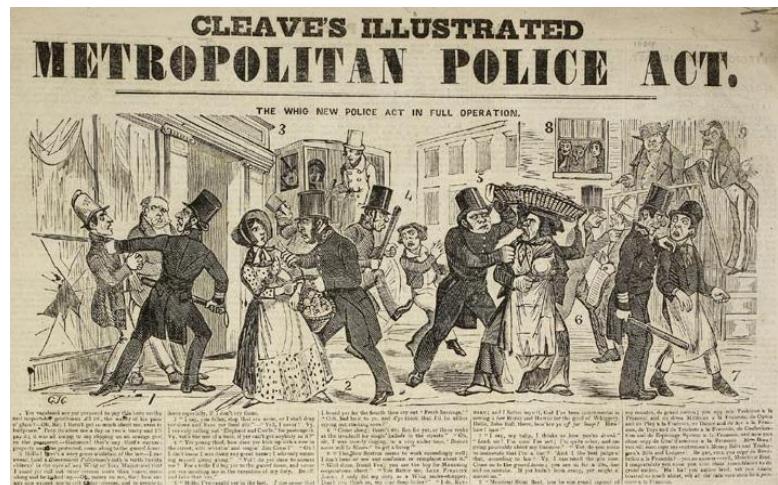
Robert Peel selected a previously private owned residence at No. 4 Whitehall Place as the Headquarters for the new force. The rear entrance backed onto Great Scotland Yard and the name "Scotland Yard" was soon being adopted for the building.

At 6 pm the first officers marched out onto the streets of London. Pay 21 shillings per week. They had been recruited from 21 September. Police Orders of 29 September instructed the Inspectors to take charge of the watch houses from 4pm on Wednesday 30 September, and to await the arrival of the men, who were also instructed in the same Order to acquaint themselves with their beats for the following day. On May 17th 1830 the Watchmen were disbanded.



Sir Robert Peel, widely regarded as the father of modern policing, was heavily influenced by the social and legal philosophy of Jeremy Bentham, who called for a strong and centralized, but politically neutral police force for the maintenance of social order, for the protection of people from crime and to act as a visible deterrent to urban crime and disorder. Peel decided to standardise the police force as an official paid profession, to organise it in a civilian fashion, and to make it answerable to the public.

Due to public fears concerning the deployment of the military in domestic matters, Robert Peel organised the force along civilian lines, rather than paramilitary. To appear neutral, the uniform was deliberately manufactured in blue, rather than red which was then a military colour, along with the officers being armed only with a wooden truncheon and a



rattle to signal the need for assistance. Along with this, police ranks did not include military titles, with the exception of Sergeant.⁵ The senior ranks being "Inspector" and "Superintendent". "Constable" now became the lowest rank.

To distance the new police force from the initial public view of it being a new tool of government repression, Peel publicised the so-called 'Peelian Principles', which set down basic guidelines for ethical policing:

- *Every police officer should be issued an identification number, to assure accountability for his actions.*
- *Whether the police are effective is not measured on the number of arrests, but on the lack of crime.*
- *Above all else, an effective authority figure knows trust and accountability are paramount. Hence, Peel's most often quoted principle that "The police are the public and the public are the police."*

The following nine principles were set out in the 'General Instructions' issued to every new police officer in the Metropolitan Police from 1829. Although Peel discussed the spirit of some of these principles in his speeches and other communications, there is no proof that he ever actually compiled a formal list. It has been suggested this list was more likely authored by Charles Rowan and Richard Mayne, the first and joint Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police.

1. *To prevent crime and disorder, as an alternative to their repression by military force and severity of legal punishment.*
2. *To recognise always that the power of the police to fulfil their functions and duties is dependent on public approval of their existence, actions and behaviour and on their ability to secure and maintain public respect.*
3. *To recognise always that to secure and maintain the respect and approval of the public means also the securing of the willing co-operation of the public in the task of securing observance of laws.*
4. *To recognise always that the extent to which the co-operation of the public can be secured diminishes proportionately the necessity of the use of physical force and compulsion for achieving police objectives.*
5. *To seek and preserve public favour, not by pandering to public opinion; but by constantly demonstrating absolutely impartial service to law, in complete independence of policy, and without regard to the justice or injustice of the substance of individual laws, by ready offering of individual service and friendship to all members of the public without regard to their wealth or social standing, by ready exercise of courtesy and friendly good humour; and by ready offering of individual sacrifice in protecting and preserving life.*
6. *To use physical force only when the exercise of persuasion, advice and warning is found to be insufficient to obtain public co-operation to an extent necessary to secure observance of law or to restore order, and to use only the minimum degree of physical force which is necessary on any particular occasion for achieving a police objective.*
7. *To maintain at all times a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and that the public are the police, the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.*
8. *To recognise always the need for strict adherence to police-executive functions, and to refrain from even seeming to usurp the powers of the judiciary of avenging individuals or the State, and of authoritatively judging guilt and punishing the guilty.*
9. *To recognise always that the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them.*

From their inception the police were not popular. Apart from the obvious despisement from the criminal element of society certain learned members of the country did not trust the police to be the independant body it purported to be. They were viewed as another step towards government control of the people. Despite Robert Peel's attempts to ensure the police were independant of politics it was still the government that had been instrumental in their organistion and anti-police posters like this one, appearing on the streets of London in 1830, were common place.

However despite the public distrust the police proved to be fairly effective and the crime rate in London dropped dramatically. The next stage was to police the outer lying counties and an excerpt from "The Oldest and the Best - The History of Wiltshire Constabulary 1839 - 2003" by Paul Sample gives an example of the rise of crime and the valued assistance of the London Metropolitan Police:

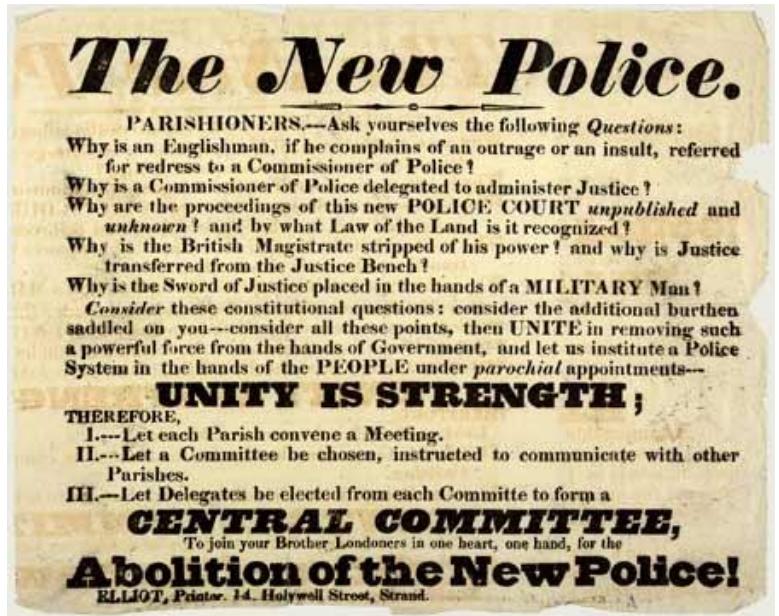
It was the rise of Chartism, however, which was to provide the Commission with the most urgent excuse for reform. The Chartist consisted of a number of political factions united in their support for a six point Charter for Parliamentary reform, including votes for all.

The failure of Lovett's Reform Bill in 1838 was a disappointment to social and political reformers, which led to a further period of violence and unrest reminiscent of the Swing Riots of 1830. The centre of Chartism in the West Country was at Bath. The political message quickly spread to Trowbridge, Westbury, Bradford on Avon, Devizes and Salisbury. The Chartist held torchlight processions and large meetings, attended by as many as 3000 people. Devizes Market Place witnessed several skirmishes between opposing sides.

The Magistrates had difficulty recruiting enough special constables to contain the violence and had to call on troops to restore order. In the first week of May 1839 leaflets appeared which called on Chartists together - with a view to renewing the attack on the town. The Devizes and Melksham Troops of the Yeomanry Cavalry were mobilised and a message was sent to Whitehall requesting help. Almost immediately twenty men from 'A' Division of the Metropolitan Police were dispatched to Trowbridge, under the command of Inspector Partridge. They arrived on 3rd May. Apart from the minute Salisbury City Police, it was Wiltshire's first taste of an organised civil police force. The men from the Metropolitan Police faced a tough task. Within a few days one of the officers engaged in clearing a street was struck on the head by a ball apparently fired from an air weapon.

On 5th June six constables were watching, from the window of their lodgings, as a demonstration was dispersed in the street outside. Without warning, one of the protesters produced a pistol from under his coat and fired at them. The shot missed, and as the man ran off the police leapt out of the window and gave chase. Eventually the man and his accomplices were caught and arrested. As a result of the arrest, one of the officers, (who was a principal witness) PC Benbow, became embroiled in a malicious complaint.

He set off that evening with another officer to escort the prisoners to the newly built Devizes Gaol. Having delivered them safely into custody, the officers stopped at the White Swan Inn for refreshment, during which the two officers indulged in mild horseplay around the kitchen door. Soon afterwards information was laid before the Magistrates by the kitchen maid at the Inn, complaining that Benbow had assaulted her. The Magistrates immediately issued a warrant for Benbow's arrest and Inspector Partridge was summoned to execute it. Accompanied by a special constable, Partridge traveled to Trowbridge, arrested Benbow and escorted him back to Devizes. Rumour had fed upon rumour and as they neared the town an angry mob of Chartists formed with a view to lynch the hapless constable. There was a fight, but the two men were saved in the nick of time by a party of more respectable citizens determined to see justice carried out. At the hearing, Inspector Partridge exposed the girl's evidence as a tissue of lies. The only people who would corroborate her evidence were Chartists whom she had met after the incident and, importantly, none of the witnesses from the Inn were able to substantiate her story. The special constable, who had accompanied Inspector Partridge to Trowbridge for the arrest, it transpired, was another Chartist in disguise! Benbow was acquitted and Inspector Partridge was given a good opportunity to inform the Magistrates that it was not done to issue warrants for the arrest of policemen in the Metropolitan Police District. He said he could guarantee the appearance of any of his men if desired. The Metropolitan Police left Trowbridge in the hands of the military in July 1839. Their ability to control the disturbances without resorting to the use of troops



and the valuable insight they had given into the workings of a police force appears to have greatly impressed the Magistrates. Public concern about law and order was not confined to Wiltshire. As the Commission reported, in Britain's towns and cities – thanks to the social effects of the Industrial Revolution – crime was flourishing. Criminals knew that whatever their offence, because of the lack of an efficient police force, they were extremely unlikely to be brought to book for their crimes.

Parliament had to act. A more efficient form of crime prevention and detection was essential. Punishments more fitting to the crime were required. Above all, Wiltshire – and dozens of other English Counties – needed a regular Force, like the Metropolitan Police. So it was that, later in 1839, the County Police Act was passed authorising the establishment of police forces in the counties. With the additional pressure of social disturbances, the Wiltshire Magistrates seized on the opportunity as soon as they could.



It is interesting to note that incidents like these were not uncommon. The new Poor Law of 1834, with its harsher discipline and grim workhouses created considerable unrest. Some 300 officers were despatched from the London Metropolitan Police every year during the 1830's, peaking to 764 in 1838. The most significant incident being the Chartist demonstrations in Birmingham in 1839 where some 90 officers from various divisions of the London Metropolitan Police were sent to deal with disturbances

at the Bull Ring, backed up by a detachment of the Rifle Brigade and troopers from the 4th Royal Irish Dragoons. No one was killed but injuries were rife and material damage excessive.

In 1835 the Municipal Corporations Act was passed which re-organised the Councils and Boroughs of England. A brief framework outlined in the act encouraged Boroughs and Councils to set up local police forces. Some Boroughs took the opportunity to do so, however it was not taken up by the large proportion of the country and as such Lord John Russell introduced The County Police Act in 1839. The Act was not compulsory, and constabularies were still only established in 22 out of 55 counties (Wiltshire being the first in reaction to that violent Chartist demonstration in May 1839) although a further 7 counties adopted the act for a particular area within their boundaries. Eventually the County and Borough Police Act 1856 made their provision mandatory. The 1856 act also included the right by the Home Office to inspect the Police System of each of the counties. Initially it was opposed on the grounds of interfering with public liberty - a fear that the government inspectors would reduce England to a level of Police States. It was soon accepted following an offer of increased grants. The Act resulted in more uniformity between the different forces, with a more standard approach towards uniform, equipment, conditions of service and policy. It also created more co-ordination between the forces, offering each other assistance and intelligence particularly in the pursuit of offenders of "cross county" crimes.

In 1836 the Bow Street Horse Patrol was incorporated into the London Metropolitan Police and posted to the outer lying divisions though not officially designated as a mounted unit.

In 1839 the remaining Bow Street Group and The Thames River (Marine) Police were amalgamated into the London Metropolitan Police. The City of London, however, had refused to amalgamate and retained watchmen until 1832 where it formed the new City of London Police and acting independently it covered a "Square mile" of the commercial centre of London. It employed 99 officers and covered the day shift only, returning to watchmen at night. In 1838 it re-organised into 6 divisions with its headquarters at Guildhall (moving to 26 Old Jewry in 1842) and policed the city full time with a compliment of 501 officers. The City of London Police Act of 1839 was then enacted and guaranteed its autonomy.

In 1842 the Detective Branch was formed and using plain-clothes officers, their remit was towards investigation of crimes rather than the visible deterrent of their uniformed counterparts. A Police order of June 1846 made it mandatory that there would be 2 plain clothes officers per division, who must make themselves known if "*interfered with in their duties*".

In 1877, however, three high ranking detectives were tried for corruption at the Old Bailey. Due to this scandal the Detective Branch was re-organised in 1878 by C. E. Howard Vincent, and renamed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). This was separated from the uniformed branch and its head had direct access to the Home Secretary, bypassing the Commissioner.

Special Constables were first introduced by the Special Constables Act 1831, empowering Magistrates to appoint ordinary citizens as temporary police officers in times of emergency. In 1834, the Act was extended to allow citizens appointed as Specials to act outside of their Parish area and an Act passed in 1838 enabled Special Constables to be appointed to deal with "*unruly behaviour by employees at public works*" (effectively to act as strike breakers). In 1848, 150,000 Specials were sworn in, to assist regular officers in preventing Chartists from reaching Kennington, and then marching to Westminster. Special Constables were not issued uniforms. They were provided with blue/white armbands with a metal badge affixed inscribed "Special Constable". They were also issued with truncheons and rattles. Interestingly they were not volunteers and were appointed by a magistrate. Much the same as Jury service, it was an offence not to do your civic duty. This was scrapped in 1912 and replaced by the Specials Constables Act 1914 (following outbreak of war). It was soon realised that a permanent "part time" police force would be of benefit to society and the above act was amended by the Specials Constables Act 1923 when only volunteers were accepted into the ranks. The Police Act 1964 was then enacted and covers the legislation required for the special constable of today.

In 1864 all Police Stations (or "Station Houses" as they were called) in England were required to have a Blue Lamp marked "Police" illuminated as a ready sign for the public that "*inside was a place of refuge, safety and help*". The candella Light Co. of Birmingham got the contract and still supplies stations to this day.

The threat of Irish terrorism was combated by the formation of the Special Irish Branch, in March 1883. The "Irish" sobriquet was dropped in 1888 as the department's remit was extended to cover other threats, and became known simply as Special Branch.

During the Victorian period police officers were male and the introduction of female officers (First appearing in the London Metropolitan Police) did not take place until February 1919, however these female officers had no warranted powers, less pay and no access to a pension. They were disbanded in 1922 as part of government budget cuts (known as the "Geddes Axe"). However following several complaints by female officers they were re-instated in 1923, this time with full powers and access to a pension, albeit still with lesser pay than their male counterparts.

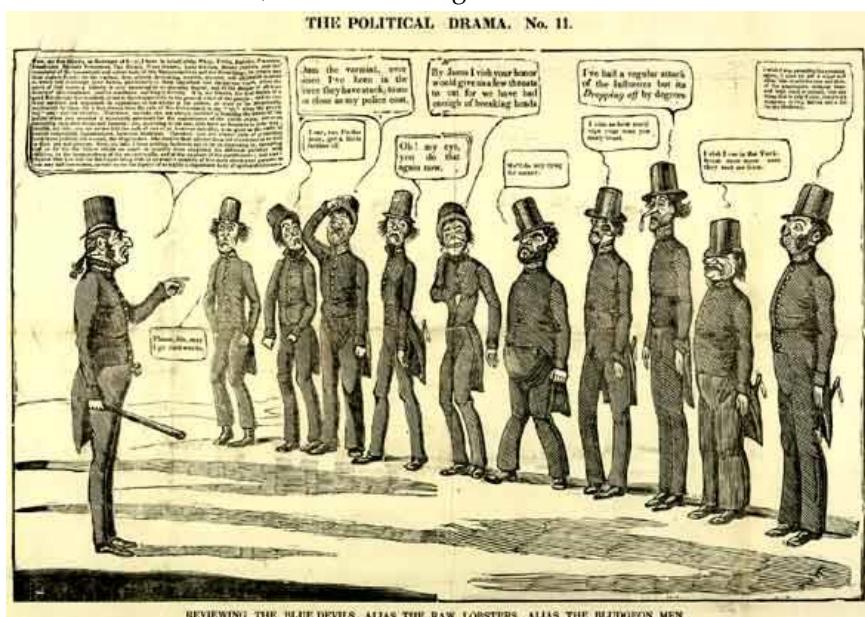
The police in the UK would undergo many changes into the next century, with such things as the introduction of motor vehicles, aviation, serious organised crime etc. Re-organisation followed with the Metropolitan Police Act 1886, The Police Act 1964, The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, The Police Act 1997, The Police Reform Act 2001, The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 and The Police Reform

and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The latter act

interestingly changing control of policing from a Police Authority to an elected Crime Commissioner.

Despite the "for and against" arguments, it is still an act which represents the true ideals of Sir Robert Peel who wished nothing more than a Police Force "by the people-for the people".





The Life of a Peeler

"There goes the Peeler with his shiny black hat and his belly full of fat, and his belly full of fat !!"

Popular children's rhyme - around 1830's.

The stipulation for recruits in 1829 was laid down by the secretary of state. Recruits are:

"to be under 40 years of age . To stand 5 feet 7 inches, without shoes. To read and write and keep accounts. To be free from any bodily complaint; of strong constitution and generally intelligent. No person appointed a Superintendent or Constable who shall be a Gamekeeper, Wood Ranger, Bailiff, Sheriff's Bailiff or Parish Clerk or who shall be a hired servant in the employment of any person or who shall keep or have any interest in any house for the sale of beer, wine or spirituous liquors by retail and if any person who should be appointed a Superintendent or Constable, should at any time after such appointment became a Gamekeeper, Wood Ranger, Bailiff, Sheriff's Bailiff or Parish Clerk or shall act in any capacity or shall sell or have any interest in the sale of any beer, wine or spirituous liquor, such person shall thereupon become and be incapable of acting as such Superintendent or Constable and shall forfeit his appointment of Superintendent or Constable and also all salary payable to him as Superintendent or Constable".

On 28 June 1830, Constable 169 Joseph Grantham (Warrant number 3170, "S" division), aged 31, became the first member of the force to be killed in the line of duty when he intervened in a fight between two drunks in Somers Town, Euston. He was beaten to death and the Coroner's Inquest returned a verdict of "justifiable homicide". Grantham was held to have contributed to his own death by "over-exertion in the discharge of his duty" Other indications of the Constabulary's unpopularity of the time, were such nicknames as mentioned in the introduction. Also referred to as 'Peel's Bloody Gang', officers were physically assaulted, others impaled, blinded, and on one occasion held down while a vehicle was driven over them.

On 13th May 1833 PC 95 Robert Culley (Warrant number 1044, "C" division), aged 27, was stabbed to death at a demonstration in Cold Bath Fields, Clerkenwell, again a verdict of "justifiable homicide" was returned. Despite heated exchanges with the coroner the jury stated that :

No Riot Act was read, nor any proclamation advising the people to disperse; that the Government did not take the proper precautions to prevent the meeting from assembling; and that the conduct of the police was ferocious, brutal and unprovoked by the people; and we moreover, express our anxious hope that the Government will, in future, take better precautions to prevent the recurrence of such disgraceful transactions in the Metropolis.

200 police attended Culley's funeral and were jeered by onlookers. A subscription was started for Culley's pregnant wife which reached £188.2s.6d and the Government paid her £200 - a considerable sum as her husband's wages was about £50 per annum. The court of King's bench overturned the verdict but stopped short of calling for a new inquest. The jurors were treated as heroes and were given free dinners across the Metropolis. The *Weekly Dispatch* described Culley as a "Police Soldier" and other participants of the riots who were charged with offences found themselves being acquitted. This included George Fursey who had stabbed Sergeant Brooks in the chest with a brass handled dagger striking the 6th rib and luckily avoiding striking Brooks' heart by the merest of fractions. The jury in this case were not radicals but local business men, the foreman, Samuel Stockton, was a baker and would later become a highly respected vestryman. As such the incident divided public opinion with regards to the new police which would last for decades to come.

This was not the last occasion that a jury manifested its concerns about police behaviour. On 11th July 1833 John Peacock Wood was taken into custody in Shadwell High Street . There was some dispute regarding his involvement in a fight, whether or not he was drunk and over the circumstances of his arrest. He was, however, released after a night in the cells but died shortly afterwards. It was

generally believed he had been the subject of a "police beating" and the jury did return a verdict of "*wilful murder by a policeman of K division of the Metropolitan Police*". Interestingly the foreman did explain that they "*did not object to the police as a whole; The old system was defective, but the new might be most materially improved*".

The police were also a double edged sword when it came to the opinion of the upper classes. In July 1860, a 3 year old called Frances Kent was murdered at Road Hill House, Rode, Wiltshire. Detective Inspector Jack Whicher of the London Metropolitan Police Detective Department was requested to assist with the investigation. He finally charged the stepsister Constance Kent but the case was dropped due to insufficient evidence. The papers supported the upper class Constance throughout the trial. The public were not ready for such an upstanding lady to be dealt with by the working class detective. Years later Constance admitted to the murder but the detective's career had suffered. Whicher has been credited with being the inspiration for Inspector Bucket from Charles Dickens' novel *Bleak House*. Dickens, however, was a fan of the detective branch and would often accompany undercover officers to obtain new material for up and coming novels. It is more likely that Bucket was a composite of many Inspectors and detectives that Dickens had come across.

Being a Peeler was a dangerous and thankless occupation but on the other side of the coin, however, it took some time to establish the standards of discipline expected. In the London Metropolitan Police for example, in 1863, 215 officers were arrested for being intoxicated while on duty. Francis Haley, an Irishman, had been measured for his new uniform in August 1829 but was tried by the magistrates for being drunk and disorderly before he could take up his new post. He never got to wear the uniform - Indeed the first warranted officer, PC William Atkinson

(C Div) who enrolled on 21st September 1829, lasted 4 hours, being dismissed after being found drunk and unconscious in the gutter. The second warranted officer, PC William Alcock (B Div) fared little better, lasting only a day. Most of these insubordinations were down to the harsh working conditions imposed but it did take until 1872 for the first police strike aimed at improving their lot. In fact in the first few days of the London Metropolitan Police many officers were dismissed, either for non-appearance or for drunkenness. Later, when a register (preserved in the National Archives) was set up with warrant numbers, the first 466 numbers were allocated to those who had been dismissed. Of the first 3,247 men recruited in the first six months, no fewer than 1644 (51%) were dismissed, the most common cause being for drunkenness. 149 of these were later re-instated. A system for less serious sanctions such as suspensions, reprimands and fines had apparently not been developed at this stage. 148 resignations were later followed by re-employment, sometimes because the officer had to resign and then re-join if he became ill. 780 men had left the Force in the first six months - In fact the records show that in May 1830 of the supposed establishment of 2,800 constables only 562 remained. This rapid turnover caused Mr Charles Hebbert, the first clothing contractor, to complain to the Receiver about the extra cost involved in altering and re-issuing so many uniforms! An example of one day of dismissals on 5th May 1830, published in Police Orders, gives an insight into the strict disciplines expected of serving officers: (Despite being supposedly detached from the military the officer's are referred to by number and company rather than by letter and division).

William Showger, 1 compy.

For talking to a female when on duty in Whitehall Gardens at half past 11 pm.

James Rogers, 2d compy.

For being drunk and fighting with a woman in Tufton Street and abusing PC 125 Jos. Clark and pulling off his coat to fight him.

Wm. Kendall, 3d Compy.

For being drunk and very disorderly in the station house at one o'clock in the morning

Thomas Tapp, 7 compy.

Brought to the station house yesterday drunk.



GETTY IMAGES

Charles Cooper, 7 company [sic].

For being in a public house with a female when on duty at one o'clock in the morning.

Thomas Vaughan, 7 compy.

Not attending Worship Street Office with a prisoner, afterwards, drunk on duty.

Jos. Lyall, 8 compy.

For being absent from his beat three quarters of an hour and when found was in liquor.

George Mears, 11 compy.

Highly improper as a Police Constable in getting into debt at his lodgings and assaulting the landlord.

Michael Svollard, 14 compy.

For being in liquor when off duty in the streets, and making use of abusive language, and unfit for duty at 12 o'clock.

As well as drunkenness the other bugbears of the commissioners was idle gossip (Police Order - 14/7/1830), speaking with women (Police Order -21/4 and 15/6/1830) and flirting with servant girls (Police Order- 1/11/1830). As such a satirical poem appeared in the popular media:

*I'm one of the new police, egad, the servant maids declare,
There's not a chap in all the force can start with such an air;
My gloves of white, my coat of blue, my dignity increase,
And every gesture shows to you, that I'm one of the new police.*

*I'm partial to an outside beat, for there I feel secure,
Then with the servant maids I romp and play at some back door;
I love to loll in kitchens too, some mutton joints to fleece,
I'm never in the want of prog, 'cause I'm one of the new police.*

The commissioners were also concerned about the allegations of constables attempting to conceal their collar numbers (Police Order- 11/10 and 25/10/1830), becoming angry or officious including the improper use of force or, as they stated, "*using their truncheons in any manner that may cause annoyance or irritation except when absolutely necessary*". They were also concerned at the possibility of bribe taking as this satirical ballad suggests:

*Of the boys, I'd be a terror mind, the fruit stalls, too, I sell 'em,
And disturbance of every kind, I with my staff would quell 'em.
A 'charge' would be as good as pelf [money], my pleasures 'twould increase man,
For I'd make the 'charges' up myself, when I'm a new Policeman.*

Prior to the formation of the Police, prosecutions were normally taken out privately, now the new police seemed to have taken over the role of public prosecutors particularly with victimless crimes such as drunkenness. Many Solicitors disliked the police having such a role. The Attorney General, Sir Alexander Cockburn declared to a Parliamentary committee in 1854:

"One knows perfectly well the class of men from whom policemen are selected. When you get a policeman, you get a minister, though a very subordinate minister, of justice, and you look upon him as a person on whom you rely; and I own it was not until I became a criminal judge that I saw the necessity of extreme watchfulness over them, without importing undue motives to them. I see that they take such an interest in the prosecution, by getting credit for the intelligence, and energy, and skill which they show while getting the witnesses together and bringing them to the court, and bringing the prosecution to a successful issue, that I have become very sensibly alive to the necessity of watching their evidence very carefully."

Pay and conditions varied from force to force but the Metropolitan Police Act and The County Police Act both stipulated a minimum and maximum pay threshold. London Metropolitan Police constables were paid 21 shillings a week, Sergeants were paid 22 shillings and sixpence per week, Inspectors were paid £100 per annum and Superintendents paid £200 per annum. In 1839 the London Metropolitan Police introduced a superannuation scheme and 2.5% of wages were deducted for a pension payable at 60 years of age. A good example of pay and conditions during the 1840's is found from Glamorganshire Constabulary:

The pay then was 18/- for a second class Constable, 20/- for a first class Constable and 22/- per week for Sergeants. The standard rate for a Superintendent was £104 per annum, plus £50 for expenses and the upkeep of a horse.

In 1854, the rates became 20/-, 22/- and 25/- respectively for second and first class Constables and Sergeants, and £130 per annum (plus £50 expenses) for Superintendents.

The rank of Inspector did not appear in Glamorganshire until 1866.

For the first year boots as well as uniform were supplied, but so many complaints were received about the quality and the fitting, that in 1842 the boot allowance was introduced for the Sergeants and Constables (6d a week) and the Superintendents allowed to buy their own equipment, for which a monthly allowance of £1 -1-8d was provided.

The superannuation (pension) fund was started with the force, the weekly subscriptions being according to rank: Superintendents 1/-, Sergeants 6d, first class Constables 5d and second class 4d. Rent allowance was not provided and with the provision of the first police station in 1844, the Chief Constable recommended that every man living in a station should pay 1/- for the accommodation. This rate was changed in 1867 to the following scale based on rank: Inspectors 1/4d., Sergeants 1/-, and Constables 8d a week.

There was no provision for rest days or for annual leave. Conditions of service required the men to devote their whole time to the service of the force, to serve and reside wherever directed, to furnish themselves with new clothes whenever the Chief Constable so directed, and at all times appear in "established uniform".

With regard to sickness, it was determined that the Chief Constable shall exercise his pleasure as to stopping any portion of his pay during this period. These conditions remained for many years, but it soon became the practice to grant occasional leave, on application, provided the Constable was reported efficient and carrying out his work well.

In the 1860s there is ample evidence that the men were being granted one week's leave of absence per annum, and a few hours off now and again for "special reasons", while there is no record of the Chief Constable having "stopped" pay during periods of sickness.

In December 1839 the following advert was placed in the Wiltshire gazette:

WANTED FOR THE CONSTABULARY FORCE *in the COUNTY OF WILTS.*
CONSTABLES.

Their pay to be 17/6d. per week, with clothing. To be under forty years of age. To stand five feet six inches without shoes. To read and write and keep accounts. To be free from any bodily complaint, of strong constitution and generally intelligent.

The form of certificate of character to be signed by one or more respectable persons, who have had personal knowledge of the candidate during the last five years at least, either singly or collectively, may be had by personal application to Captain Meredith at the Magistrates' Office at Devizes on Tuesdays and Friday, until on 31st December instant, between the hours of ten and three o'clock.'

Gloucester Constabulary also stipulated that:

All gossiping, and especially talking to women, was discouraged and although there was no official meal break, officers were invited to use their top hat to carry a snack around.

The Chief Constable introduced the patrol ticket system where an officer left a ticket with trusted farmers and land-owners on his beat who would sign and date it. This ensured that the constable had patrolled where instructed and that prominent members of the community were aware of it.

In the London Metropolitan Police it was ordered that:

Should officers meet on their respective beats they are not to engage in conversation but to nod a greeting and continue on their patrol.

Although in 1853 Max Schlesinger notes:

The streets which skirt the banks of the Thames are most horrible. There the policeman does not saunter along his beat with ease and comfortable air which distinguishes him in the western parts of the town. Indeed, in many instances, they walk by twos and twos, with dirks under their coats, and rattles to call in the aid of their comrades.

Further conditions are found in Gloucestershire Constabulary records:

From Instructions for the Constabulary of the County of Gloucestershire issued by the Chief Constable 1st of February 1840.

Each man shall devote his whole time to the Constabulary Force.

He shall serve and reside wherever he is appointed.

Each man is conspicuously marked with the number corresponding with his name in the books so that he can at all times be known to the public.

A certain number when so ordered by their officer must sleep in their clothes to be in complete readiness when called on.

He shall allow a deduction of one shilling per week to be made from his pay when lodgings are found him.

He shall promptly obey all lawful orders, which he may receive from the persons placed in authority over him.

Each Constable is liable to instant dismissal for unfitness, negligence, or misconduct, independently of any other punishment to which by law be subject. The Chief Constable may also, if he think fit, dismiss him without assigning any reason.

He shall not upon any occasion, or under any pretence whatever take money from any person, also he shall not eat nor drink at the expense or on the invitation of any person, whilst on duty, without the express permission of his superior officer.

From Rules for the guidance of the Rural Constabulary of Gloucestershire issued by the Chief Constable on 22nd of February 1840.

There will be a Daily Parade at nine o'clock in Summer and ten o'clock in Winter when the Superintendent or Constable in charge will strictly inspect the men of the party and see that they are clean and properly shaved and that they never appear out in any other state.

The men are not to be permitted to work at trades nor to engage in private pursuits; their time belongs to the public and is to be devoted to its service

The Sheets are to be changed on the first Monday in every Month; the soiled ones be washed under the directions of the Constable in charge, on the cheapest terms, and the cost paid by the men.

No pigs, dogs or birds are to be kept at any of the Station Houses.

The Diary Books at each Station to be regularly and neatly kept, and filled up at night, and produced when called for.

The Shirt Collars of the men are never to be seen above their Stocks.

The Superintendent, Sergeant or Constable in charge of Stations will be most particular in calling the Roll and seeing that the men are in their Barracks every night, Eight o'clock in Winter and Nine o'clock in Summer, which they are not to quit without permission, unless on duty.

In March 1855, Timothy Cavanagh, the son of an Irish cordwainer (fine leather shoemaker), joined the London Metropolitan Police. He was posted to Stone's End police station in "M" Division. The constables dormitories were directly over the cells and Cavanagh recalls the constant "din" of prisoners arriving and leaving. He also recalled "*Perhaps more annoying, no matter how long a man worked at night, or had spent taking prisoners to court the following morning, he was not allowed to be in bed after 1.00 pm*". But these constables were young and full of enthusiasm and when off duty were likely to be rough and rowdy. Cavanagh recalls constables throwing eggs at each other and being chastised by the magistrates of the neighbouring police court for making too much noise around the station kitchen and interrupting proceedings. Indeed Cavanagh and his mates conspired to strap an unpopular colleague to a bench and douse him under the station pump, while an Irish constable, who fancied himself with the ladies, was drenched with a bucket of whitewash. Self regulation was also the order of the day. Disputes were settled in the mess room. Tables were pushed to one side, seconds appointed and the matter settled by the law of fisticuffs. Rather than reporting any constable to a senior officer for breaking the rules of the barracks an unofficial court of the man's peers would be convened. If found guilty he would be fined - Cavanagh states no man ever refused to pay. In his memoirs Cavanagh also confirmed Max Schlesinger's observations that there were areas that no officer patrolled alone. Indeed he was advised by one Irishman never to venture into Ewer Street and if there was a fight "*It was politic to let them get on with it*".

In 1861 Henry Mayhew commented :

"As regards the police, the hatred of a costermonger (Street seller of fruit or vegetables) to a "peeler" is intense, and with their opinion of the police, all the more ignorant unite that of the governing power. "Can you wonder at it, sir," said a costermonger to me, "that I hate the police? They drive us about, we must move on, we can't stand here, and we can't pitch there. But if we're cracked up, that is if we're forced to go into the Union (I've known it both at Clerkenwell and the City of London workhouses,) why the parish gives us money to buy a barrow, or a shallow, or to hire them, and leave the house and start for ourselves: and what's the use of that, if the police won't let us sell our goods? – Which is right, the parish or the police?" To thwart the police in any measure the costermongers readily aid another. very common procedure, if the policeman has seized a barrow, is to whip off a wheel, while the officers have gone for assistance; for a large and loaded barrow requires men to convey it to the green-yard. This is done with great dexterity; and the next step is to dispose of the stock to any passing costers, or to any "standing" in the neighbourhood, and it is honestly accounted for. The policemen, on their return, find an empty, and unwheelable barrow, which they must carry off by main strength, amid the jeers of the populace. I am assured that in case of a political riot every "coster" would seize his policeman."

In 1835 Wells City Borough Police (Somerset) was formed and employed 4 constables. They were to work 2 shifts (14 hour day shift and a 10 hour night shift). The 2 constables on each shift were to work two beats - the east side and the west side. They were to patrol one hour then return to the station for one hour (staggered so they did not meet). They were to work 7 days a week all year with no leave entitlement and they were each paid £35 per year. Truncheons and even hats were to be shared to cut costs. Needless to say sickness was a little high (though unpaid) and discipline lax, particularly drunkenness. As with most accounts of Peelers life was very boring with the occasional excitement thrown in. Interestingly on one day in 1840 a man was arrested in Wells for committing criminal damage - He had apparently thrown a live hedgehog through a householder's window in Chamberlain street ! Despite some references to the contrary, in most forces officers were to be clean shaven (as can be seen in the rules and guidances above). Indeed this can be seen in the London Metropolitan Police records where on March 30th 1869 new general orders allowed officers to wear beards and moustaches. Prior to this beards and moustaches were forbidden. This did start a craze of long sideburns which were not contravening the regulations and was typical of the rebellious nature of some of the peelers. Despite the parody of many period illustrations, having smart hair, being clean-shaven and with short sideburns was not uncommon.

The police were also the guardians of the law and were not to be assuaged by politics, but they were also citizens, many from the very background of the persons they were now to police. Max Schlesinger writes:

In treating of the functions of the London Police, we ought at once to say, that the police in England is essentially a force of safety, whose functions are limited to the prevention of crime and the apprehension of criminals. All its departments of river, street, and railway police are instituted for the same purpose. There has not hitherto been a political department in Scotland-yard. The police, as at present organised, deals only with the vulgar sins of larceny, robbery, murder, and forgery; it superintends the cleaning of the streets; it prevents the interruption of the street traffic, and it takes care of drunkards and of children that have strayed from their homes. But the political



opinions, however atrocious, if they have not ripened into criminal action, are altogether without the sphere of the English police.

The policeman, as the free citizens of a free country, are perfectly at liberty to have political opinions of their own; they need not modify or conceal their sentiments when they take the blue coat and the glazed hat. They are required to catch thieves as cats do mice. Some of them are ultra-royalists; others are ultra-radicals. Generally speaking, they are not by any means conservatives. The majority of them belong to the poorer and less educated classes; they take their political opinions from the radical weekly papers. They club together as sailors, cabmen, and labourers do, and take in their weekly paper, which they read and discuss all the week through. They quote their paper whenever they talk politics, and this they do frequently, for your London policeman is as zealous a dabbler in politics as any ale-house keeper in Suabia.

Prior to the instigation of a professional police force powers to arrest were given to appropriate persons by means of a written warrant issued by a magistrate. In order for the police to be effective they were sworn in by a magistrate and became "warranted officers". Their details were then recorded under a consecutive number in a warrant register. This was their warrant number, which is not to be confused with their collar number, which was for public identification purposes. Warrant numbers were never re-issued but collar numbers were. However collar numbers were never re-issued from officers killed in the line of duty, a tradition that still stands today. Being a warranted officer gave powers, which were legislated under various Acts such as the Vagrancy Act 1824 and the Town Police Clauses Act 1847. Generally a constable could arrest any person found committing offences under these Acts and convey them to a detention area. Thereupon to be produced at the next available court although the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 did stipulate this must be within "*40 hours at the upmost*".

On 22nd November 1839 the home secretary did give guidance to officers and magistrates regarding general arrest powers:

INSTRUCTIONS respecting the DUTIES and POWERS of CONSTABLES, prepared for the Guidance of CONSTABLES appointed under the Act of 2 and 3 Vict. C. 93



The Constable may arrest one whom he has just cause to suspect to be about to commit a felony. Thus, when a drunken person or a man in a violent passion, threatens the life of another, the Constable should interfere and arrest.

He should arrest any person having in his possession any picklock-key, crow, jack, bit or other implement with intent feloniously to break into any dwelling-house, warehouse, coach-house, stable or out-building, or any person armed with any gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or offensive weapon, or having upon him any instrument, with intent to commit any felonious act.

Every person found in any dwelling-house, warehouse, coach-house, out-house, or stable, or in any inclosed [sic] yard, garden, or area, and being there for any unlawful purpose, may be arrested.

In each of these cases the Constable must judge from the situation and behaviour of the party what his intention is. In some cases no doubt can exist, as when the party is a notorious thief, or acting with those who are thieves, or when the party is seen to try people's pockets in a crowd, or attempt to break into a house, or to endeavour to take property secretly from another. The Constable will not act hastily, in case the intention is not clear, but content himself with watching closely the suspected party, that he may discover his design.

Interestingly these are the early attempts at conferring powers of arresting on "reasonable suspicion" that the party has committed or is about to commit a "felonious" act. Powers that

have been legislated, refined, re-legislated and handed down to our modern police force. Also to note that although "Constable" was a rank it was also a position and the powers and duties were conferred to all ranks.

Once an arrest was made, the culprit was escorted to the nearest "Station House" and incarcerated pending a court appearance. For those unwilling to co-operate, some constabularies issued handcuffs to its constables as well as a truncheon. If help was required then a rattle was issued which when used created sufficient sound for a nearby "comrade" to render assistance. Prison vans, or "Black Marias" as they were known, eventually appeared in London in 1858 (It is believed the nickname derived from Maria Lee, a black boarding house owner in Philadelphia who would often be called on to assist police due to her large size).

Police officers were allocated their areas and normally here they remained. London Metropolitan police officers were expected to cover their beats in a ten to fifteen minute stroll but this was only achievable in the inner city divisions, impossible in those divisions in the outer lying rural areas. Their patrol speed was even regulated and they were to "stroll" at three mph, which was later reduced to 2 and-a-half mph! At the start, in 1829, half the officers were to patrol in the night hours this had increased to two-thirds some years later. They may live in another section of city or county they patrol but they would patrol the same beat in order to build up a knowledge of the area and foster relations with the residents and frequenters.

Max Schlesinger writes:

The London policeman, on the other hand, knows every nook and corner, every house, man, woman, and child on his beat. He knows their occupations, habits, and circumstances. This knowledge he derives from his constantly being employed in the same quarter and the same street, and to-and surely a mind on duty bent may take great liberties with the conventional moralities—that platonic and friendly intercourse which he carries on with female servants of the establishments which it is his vocation to protect. An English maid-servant is a pleasant girl to chat with, when half shrouded by the mystic fog of the evening and with her smart little cap coquettishly placed on her head, she issues from the sallyport of the kitchen, and advances stealthily to the row of palisades which protect the house. And the handsome policeman, too, with his blue coat and clean white gloves, is held in high regard and esteem by the cooks and housemaids of England. His position on his beat is analogous to that of the porter of a very large house; it is a point of honour with him, that nothing shall escape his observation.

In 1851 the Great Exhibition was held at Joseph Paxton's elegant Crystal Palace in Hyde Park. Inspector William Edwin Fairbrass was given the task of drilling and equipping the 1000 new men recruited to the London Metropolitan Police to ensure order and decorum at this great Victorian celebration (The London Metropolitan Police now numbered 5551 in total).

Fairbrass had been a Sergeant at the riots in the Bull Ring, Birmingham in 1839 and the success of the exhibition was in no small part to the excellent policing of the event. Many visitors were from across the sea and it was proudly seen by many Englishmen as a demonstration of the superiority of London's new police. An article appeared in the *Edinburgh Review* explaining how "each day there were 400 police patrolling inside the Crystal Palace and 250 outside; and there were only eight cases of pick-pocketing and ten of pilfering - and all of the stolen property was recovered".

Fairbrass and several other officers were given a gratuity of £5 at the beginning of 1852 in thanks for their service at the Exhibition. The public were finally coming around to the idea of Police! Two years later Inspector Fairbanks retired with an annual pension of £67, moving to North Yorkshire where he died in November 1876.





Uniform

"When I looked at myself in the glass with the uniform on for the first time, I wondered what could have led me to take the final step of becoming a 'Peeler'. I had to put on a swallow tail coat, and a rabbit-skin high top hat, covered with leather, weighing eighteen ounces; a pair of Wellington boots, the leather of which must have been at least a sixteenth of an inch thick, and a belt about four inches broad, with a great buckle some six inches deep.... My hat was slipping all over my head; my boots which were two sizes too large, were rubbing the skin off my heels; and the stock was a thick leather one, and four inches deep; was nearly choking me. I would have given all I possessed to have got back into my ordinary clothes".

Letter from an U/K peeler - Devon and Cornwall Police museum.

Uniform issue was obviously one of cost and perhaps a little individualism on behalf of the counties, and occasionally the officer himself. The London Metropolitan Police then, as with now, was flush with funding and was the first official force. In 1840 it cost £6 to fully equip a police officer. The following text shows the research with regards to the London Metropolitan Police Force, followed by SOME examples of other county forces if available. Generally the counties did follow the example of the London Metropolitan Police but for specific counties further research may have to be carried out by the reader. When the explanation indicates number of items issued this refers to an annual issue unless otherwise stated, however often the annual issue was deferred if the item was still in a serviceable condition. Please also note that the date of uniform changes are when the item was authorised for issue it is likely that the change may have taken many months if not a couple of years to take effect. Image references in bold refer to photographs on page 31.

Hat

London Metropolitan Police:

Officers were issued a straight sided top hat of about 8 inches in height. (**images 13, 22, 64**) This was not an annual issue and replacements were only issued when the hat became unserviceable (in 1840 the cost was 12 shillings). Due to the straight sides and height it was often referred to as a "stovepipe". It was black in colour and was tarred for weather proofing and durability. The rim was fairly flat with a slight upturn at the edges, civilian hats tended to have a more upturned and "dandy" shaping to the brim. The hat was re-enforced with a circle of bamboo on the top and 2 strips of bamboo down either side. The entire top and the 2 side strips were then covered with leather and a decorative band of black ribbon circled the base. The bamboo was added for strength and provided the wearer with some protection against a blow, however, contrary to popular myth it was not strong enough for a person to stand upon "to see over walls". There are some articles that state metal hats were issued but there is no provenance for this. I can confirm that Peelers were often given instructions not to return to the station (unless with a prisoner) during their patrol and that packed lunches were placed in their hats for later consumption. Photographs of senior officers seem to show a more stylish civilian style being worn (**image 4**). The custodian helmet with badge was then introduced in 1863 to the inner divisions and eventually to the outer divisions by 1864 (**image 31**). The original custodian seemed to appear as a tall bowler hat with a comb at the rear and was known as a "Cockscomb". The badge was a wreath design with the words "Metropolitan Police" around the edge and the officer's number and division in the centre (see coat and tunic section). The modern day version of the "Brunswick Star" appeared in 1875 and the modern day style of the custodian helmet was introduced in the late 1870's (**image 34**).

County Constabularies:

Many photographs show a variety of hats worn, some as per the London Metropolitan Police Force (**images 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 24, 25, 33**), but many were just civilian style with no obvious re-enforcing

and some shorter in height (**images 5, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 26, 27, 28**). During the transition to custodian helmets some photographs show a variety of headgear. Wiltshire Constabulary with "stovepipes" bearing force badges (**image 16**), Northamptonshire constabulary with tall bowler style hats and no force badge (**image 10**) and Monmouthshire and Kent Constabularies adopting the Shako with force badge (**images 8, 18**). It seems that by 1870 most counties had adopted the custodian helmet with force badge such as Hampshire and Bristol (**images 32, 37**).

Coat (Tunic)

London Metropolitan Police:

Officers were issued one coat (in 1840 the cost was £1. 5s. 6d and the collar 2s 6d). The coat was of dark blue wool. In 1829 it was swallow-tailed with a straight front fairly high on the waist. It had a high collar (about 1 ½ inches high) and had a single line of 8 buttons down the front (**images 1, 22**). There were also 2 decorative buttons to the rear just above the tails on the seaming. These buttons were of "gilt" (no further description but assumed to be gold) bearing the words "**Police Force**". The Victoria Crown was added to the centre in 1837 (**image 46**), prior to this it is unknown whether there was central scroll or crown to represent King George IV or King William IV. In 1844 these buttons were changed to hollow domed white metal pressed onto a brass backing with eyelet. They also bore the Victoria Crown but with the words "**Metropolitan Police**" circled the crown in a belt motif, the tongue and buckle of the belt hanging at the bottom of the button design (**image 47**). Senior officers of Inspector and above had 3 smaller buttons in a vertical line on each sleeve. The design was similar to the above but they measured ½ inch in diameter (**image 4**) In 1829 the coat was plain but in 1842 the coat had false pocket flaps added to either side), which can be seen on closer inspection of the cover photo and in a satirical Punch cartoon dated 1855 (**image 20**) regarding the new proposed marking scheme for uniforms. Also it is noted that there was a new issue coat in 1844 (along with the change of buttons). As there were no photographs prior to this date we can only go on illustrations. Many illustrations show a lighter blue coat and this may have been the case (**images 58, 65**).

Some early illustrations show the London Metropolitan Police with a collar lace design (**image 58**) and occasionally not (**image 65**). The design is as per the diagram in "county constabulary" below. No photograph shows this design on the London Metropolitan Police coat, though a change of uniform is mentioned in 1844, and as no photographs exist before this date, this may have been a transition from collar insignia with lace to ones without. Certainly after 1844 the collar merely bore the ID number of the wearer followed by a "full stop" followed by the letter of the division he was assigned to (**images 1, 13, 22**). The ID number was unique only to the division the officer was assigned to, therefore "A.189" and "B.189" would be different officers. As such numbers would be three digits maximum as there were never more than 999 officers per division. The letter was always positioned rearmost so, for example, the wearer's left collar read "189.P" and the right read "P.189". The numbers and letters were white metal and ⅜ inch high with twin eyelets at the rear for fixing to the collar. Each number/letter was individual, they were not issued as one on a strip or bar. From the outset it appears collar numbers were issued on an ad-hoc basis and were not "Rank Specific". It wasn't until the 1880's when collar number configurations related to the rank of the wearer. At this time single digits related to an Inspector and double digits to a Sergeant, leaving all constables with triple digits. As the years progressed and numbers of ranking officers increased the policy, with respect to number range, changed accordingly and still exists today. A Metropolitan Police report of 1946, however, stated that Sergeants were issued numbers "up to 16" from 1829 though this cannot be confirmed. The Divisional Map of 1837 can be found in (**image 35**).

In 1829 The divisions were as follows (alternatives names in brackets) with station locations:

A - Westminster then **Whitehall** at Gardeners lane, Westminster (later in 1847 - Kings Street).

B - Chelsea (Westminster after 1847); at Walton Street, Brompton.

C - Mayfair and Soho (St James); at Little Vine Street, Piccadilly.

D - Marylebone; at Marylebone Lane.

E - Holborn; at Bow Street

F - Covent Garden; at Covent Garden. - *disbanded and combined with "E" division in 1869.*

Re-instated as Paddington Division, (Paddington Green) in 1886.

M - Southwark; at Blackmen Street.

Then in 1830 the following were added:

G - Kings Cross (Finsbury); at Kings Cross Road.

H - Stepney (Whitechapel); at Leman Street

K - West Ham (Bow); at Bow Road - Parts of Middlesex incorporated in 1859 to create the first subdivision of "K" (Essex).

L - Lambeth; at Lower Kennington Lane.

N - Islington; at Stoke Newington High Street.

P - Peckham (Camberwell); at High Street, Peckham.

R - Greenwich; u/k - Blackheath Road from 1836.

In 1841 it incorporated the newly formed Dockyard Police and as at 1871:

1 - Woolwich Dockyard,

2 - Portsmouth Dockyard,

3 - Devonport Dockyard

4 - Chatham Dockyard,

5 - Pembroke Dockyard

S - Hampstead; at Albany Street, Regent's Park.

T - Hammersmith; at Broadway, Hammersmith.

V - Wandsworth; at West Hill, Wandsworth

In 1865 three more divisions were created,

W - Clapham; at Brixton Road

X - Willesden (Kilburn); at Carlton Terrace, Harrow Road.

X division was also given temporarily to the policing of the second Great International exhibition at South Kensington from 1st May - 1st November 1862.

Y - Holloway (Highgate), at Kentish Town Road.

And then in 1886,

J - Bethnal Green; at Bethnal Green Road.

Needless to say over the Victorian period the boundaries were under constant revision and thus were changed to react to crime needs and level of officer cover.

Sergeants do not appear to have any rank insignia until 1835 when they were issued an armlet consisting of two narrow blue and three wide white stripes worn on the right arm instead of the duty band (see below). Photographs of Shropshire sergeants wearing sloping armbands on the right arm may possibly be what was worn by Met sergeants. (**images 18, 26**). In 1864 the sergeants were issued rank badges of three white chevrons on each upper arm of the coat (**image 31**) and they resumed the wearing of the duty band on the left lower sleeve. In 1875 the rank of Station Sergeant was introduced which consisted of 4 chevrons (replaced by 3 chevrons and a crown in 1921).

Inspectors and Superintendents were still required to display an ID number though this was discontinued at the turn of the century. There is no evidence as to Inspectors rank insignia other than the sleeve buttons (Modern day insignia is two "pips") but Superintendents had the rank insignia of a Victoria Crown (with possibly a velvet backing) on the collar (Similar to modern day). Senior officers up to Superintendent were to wear the same uniform as the constables but likely they were more tailored, a cost met by the wearer.

In 1864 the swallow tailed coat was replaced by the frockcoat but the insignia and button configuration/design remained the (**images 4, 13, 31**). In 1895 loops were added to the sleeves above the cuff in order to accommodate the duty band. In 1897 the coat was redesigned and referred to as a tunic, it now had 5 buttons down the front and 2 outside chest pockets with three-pointed pocket flaps bearing a small button on the centre point (**image 34**). The 1864 uniform, however, was still worn for night duty and winter wear until sufficient stocks of the new uniform were available.

The rear inside tails of the swallow tail uniform had two pockets sewn within for the truncheon and the rattle to be carried. Illustrations vary as to the location of the truncheon pocket and perhaps pockets were placed in either tail and the choice of pocket the truncheon or rattle was carried was at the wearers discretion. In 1863 truncheon cases were introduced for carrying on the belt (**image 32**) and when the new frockcoat was introduced in 1864 no truncheon or rattle pockets were included in the tails.

County Constabularies:

Some counties appear to have had a lighter coloured blue for the swan tailed coat such as a museum example of Glamorganshire Constabulary (**image 12**), though photographs suggest dark blue coats (**images 3, 27**). However, the majority of forces seem to have adopted the dark blue material.

Photographs of Gloucester Constabulary seem to suggest a slightly lighter blue coat with dark blue collar though this difficult to fully establish from a black and white photograph (**image 7**). It seems all county forces adopted the swallow tail coat and the transition to frock coat seems again to have followed the London Metropolitan Police at around 1864.

In the majority of county forces the number of buttons seem to have mirrored the London Metropolitan Police at 8 for the front and 2 to the rear. Montgomeryshire Constabulary (now Powys Police) seem to have had 9 buttons to the front as did Glamorganshire Constabulary (**image 12**) although this force also had uniforms with 12 buttons to the front (**image 3**) and then 8 buttons upon the transition to frock coats. Northamptonshire seem to sport 10 buttons to the front of their frockcoats, however (**image 10**). Button design again mirrored the London Metropolitan Police being white metal and having the county name followed by "constabulary" around a Victoria Crown.

Unofficially it was decided that large towns would have forces referred to as "Police" and more rural counties referred to as "Constabulary". This was discontinued with the modern Police Act of 1964 and all were to be referred to as "Police" though many forces retained the "Constabulary" as a bit of tradition. Interestingly Liverpool City Police adopted brass buttons with the words "Constabulary Force" around an image of the famous Liver Bird (**image 48**), including a Liver Bird badge on the collar (**image 45**) and Essex Constabulary displayed the 3 scimitars of their coat of arms on their buttons. City of London Police managed to remain detached from the London Metropolitan Police and adopted similar uniform but the buttons and collar insignia were of brass (as they still are today), the buttons bearing the crossed shield badge. City of London Police also had 6 divisions by in 1838. These stations were numbered (1-6) and it is not known if a divisional number was included in the collar insignia.

- 1 Cripplegate** at More Lane
- 2. Snow Hill** at Snow Hill
- 3. Bridwell Place** at Bridwell Place
- 4. Cloak Lane** at Queen Street
- 5. Tower Street** at Seething Lane
- 6. Bishopgate** at Bishopgate Street

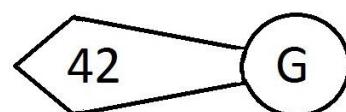
Divisional letters in the City of London Police did not appear until 1914 when the force reduced to 4 divisions (A-D).

Collar insignia again followed the London Metropolitan Police with white metal individual numbers. It is unsure if any other city had divisions (and therefore possibly divisional letters) but photographs of Manchester Police with later style frock coats seem to show a divisional letter (**image 24**). Some counties affixed the capital letter of their force again divided by a full stop. Gateshead Borough Police (**image 17**), Glamorganshire Constabulary (**images 12, 21**) and Gloucester Constabulary (**image 7**) appear to have affixed a "G" to the collar and Monmouthshire Constabulary (now also South Wales) affixed an "M" (**image 8**).

Collar braiding or "tress" can often be seen and appeared quite popular in the counties though seems to have fallen out of favour by the end of the century. One picture shows braiding around the entire edge of the collar (**image 9**) but all other examples show a diamond and circle shape on each side of the collar (**images 6, 11, 14, 15, 25, 29, 33**). The ID number placed in the diamond section and the county letter (or blank) in the circular part. The braiding appears to be silver with either white metal numbers or what possibly appears to be embroidered numbers. Photographs of the braided design can be seen on tunics for Manchester Police, Gateshead Borough Police, Surrey Constabulary, Guildford Constabulary, Wiltshire Constabulary and Taff Vale Railway Police. Glamorganshire Constabulary seems to have had gold braiding with gold embroidered numbers and letter "G".

(**image 12**) and Birmingham City Police seem to have thin braiding. (**image 30**) In most cases the shape of the design is identical as per this example though some give a more fluted design to the sides of the diamond shape (**image 17**).

Rank insignia again seems to follow the London Metropolitan



Police although not all forces had all ranks, due to cost or insufficient numbers to justify. Some forces dispensed with sergeant rank, some with all senior ranks, however in these cases senior constables were appointed. If ranks were appointed then the use of chevrons, sleeve buttons and collar crowns seems to have been the accepted way to designate rank. A photograph of a parade of peelers from the Manchester Police (**image 11**) clearly shows constables to the rear without sleeve buttons with senior ranks to the front with sleeve buttons, though there seems also to be a civilian in the photograph standing to the front and left. However, in some limited cases there may have been a drift from the accepted national practice. A photograph exists of an Essex Peeler (**image 23**) with a crown affixed to the collar. Museum archives state he is a constable so either Essex Constabulary bucked the trend or it is a mistitled picture of a Superintendent. All photographs show constables of most county forces without sleeve buttons unless with the rank of Inspector or above. Interestingly a photograph taken in 1842 of Constable 1.G John Hope of Gateshead Borough Police shows him wearing a coat with sleeve buttons (**image 17**), however it is believed that the size of the force probably precluded any senior ranks. PC 225 William Spire of Gloucestershire Constabulary also seems to have large sleeve buttons (**image 27**) although on closer inspection the photo appears to have been edited, certainly the collar insignia is interesting.

Trousers

London Metropolitan Police:

Officers were issued 2 pairs of winter trousers and 2 pairs of summer trousers upon enlistment and it is assumed these are replaced following wear and tear (in 1840 the cost was 14s 6d for "dress trousers" and 9s 3d for "undress trousers"). Although it has been stated that only dark blue were issued and white cotton duck trousers were to be privately purchased, I believe this may be a confusion with county forces.

The winter trousers issued to the London Metropolitan Police were of the same dark blue wool as the coat. They were of a single fly and possibly had pockets though this cannot be confirmed. They were high waisted and supported by Braces (or as often referred to as "suspenders") which were private purchase. Initial descriptions stated the trousers were "strapped" over the shoes which implies a loop fitted at the bottom of the trouser legs which looped under the shoe just in front of the heel. However it cannot be confirmed in illustrations or photographs, so how they are attached is not known, certainly buckles are not visible. The majority of photographs show the winter wear trousers being worn. (**images 20, 22,**)

The summer wear trousers were of white cotton duck and appear to be of standard military style with a flapped or "drop" front secured by three buttons. They are also high waisted and secured by braces but do not appear to have pockets. It is also stated that they are strapped over the shoes like the winter issue pair. They were abolished in 1861.

County Constabularies:

Much the same as the London Metropolitan Police although it appears most county forces only issued the dark blue pair (lighter blue with lighter blue uniforms). Gloucester Constabulary only mention issuing 2 pairs of dark blue trousers - one pair for the first year of service, the second pair issued upon start of the second year of service. Wiltshire Constabulary adopted the same issue although Captain Samuel Meredith RN (The first chief constable of Wiltshire Constabulary) did instruct his officers that "*Two pairs of white military duck trousers were to be purchased for the summer months*" (possibly a compulsory request!). I can only find two photographs of white trousers being worn by Glamorganshire Constabulary, though it is not mentioned in any uniform issue (**image 3**), and Taff Valley Railway Police (**image 15**) - Of note is that the latter does not appear to have loops.

Greatcoat/Cape

London Metropolitan Police:

No mention is made of greatcoats or capes being issued but many illustrations show officers wearing a style of Coachman's coat which is double breasted (**image 66**). (in 1840 the cost was £1. 15s 5d and

the collar insignia was 8d). A staged photo exists but this could be actors (**image 64**). It is assumed that the buttons are the same as the coat design and that collar insignia is the same. It does appear from illustrations that there are 12 buttons in two rows at the front. These coats appear in photographs up to the 1930's and just appear to have the addition of epaulettes on the shoulder (**image 67**). At the end of this article is a quote by Max Schlesinger who notes an oilskin cape. (in 1840 the cost was given 5s. 6d).

County Constabularies:

No mention is made generally about the issue of greatcoats except in Wiltshire Constabulary where officers were issued a greatcoat and a cape. No description is given, however.

Glamorganshire also mention the issue of an oilskin cape that could be folded and placed in the belt of the wearer when not in use.

Boots

London Metropolitan Police:

From the outset one pair of leather wellington boots were issued to each officer (**image 63**). (in 1840 the cost was 12 s. 6d). They were very unpopular and many officers purchased their own boots or shoes. In 1864 the wellington boot was withdrawn as part of the uniform and other boots were issued, however it is not known what style they were. The issue boots were still unpopular and in 1897 they were withdrawn and officers were granted a boot allowance (which continued until the late 1990's!). Boots or shoes purchased were to be smart and black in colour. They were also hobnailed to reduce wear though this did nothing to assist the officer in sneaking up on any miscreant.

County Constabularies:

Most county forces state that the wellington boot was the standard issue and again was unpopular. Some forces such as Glamorganshire Constabulary withdrew the issue in first year and then paid an annual boot allowance from then on much was the contempt by the officers for this style of footwear. As per the London Metropolitan Police the boots or shoes were required to be smart in appearance and black in colour.

Wiltshire Constabulary seem to have issued each officer two pairs of footwear - one pair of boots and one pair of shoes.

Shirts

London Metropolitan Police:

Shirts were not an issue item and regulations stated that the shirt was not to be visible above the stock. As it was not visible and uniform regulations demanded the wearing of the tunic in all temperatures then it is assumed that any civilian shirt could be worn.

County Constabularies:

As per the London Metropolitan Police. One photograph exists of peelers from the Manchester Police Force, at rest, smoking pipes. One fellow has his lower tunic buttons undone, as was the fashion, and a white shirt can be seen (**image 14**).

Duty Band

London Metropolitan Police:

When the force was formed in 1829 officers were given strict instructions regarding behaviour when on duty. Officers were to wear their uniforms at all times during waking hours in order that the public would not accuse them of "sneaky" undercover investigations. (This practice ceased in 1869 and officers were allowed to wear civilian clothes when off duty). The police were there to prevent crime not so much to detect crime, a matter which was given a re-think with the formation of the detective branch in 1842. However, it became evident that the public were not aware when the officer was or was not on duty and whilst off duty the officer could relax and engage in the social niceties of

life, such as visiting an alehouse, something he was not allowed to do ordinarily except in the course of his duties. In 1830 the duty armband was introduced which was to be worn on the lower left sleeve when on duty and removed when off duty. This was to apply to all Constables and Sergeants.

However in 1835 sergeants were issued with a new armlet to be worn on the right arm and this became their badge of rank and duty armlet. The design is not given a full description and it appears it consisted of 3 wide white stripes and 2 narrow blue stripes (which seems to be the same as the duty band anyway -unless it was angled). Chevrons were introduced in 1864 and Sergeants returned to wearing the duty band on the lower left sleeve as per the constables.

The band was made of wool/cotton base, 18 inches (46cm) long and $1 \frac{6}{8}$ inches (4.5cm) wide, white base with two thin blue horizontal stripes - the blue stripes being part of the weave. One end of the band was angled slightly to form a tongue and the other end sported a thin white metal double pronged buckle (**image 52, 54**). Some illustrations show three horizontal stripes (**image 65**) but most illustrations and all photographs show 2 blue stripes. In 1886 the duty band was redesigned to equal size white/blue horizontal striping on the same size armband with the same buckle type (**image 53**). As was mentioned with the description of the coat in 1895 loops were added to the sleeves above the cuff in order to accommodate the duty band.

Special constables were not issued uniforms but were temporarily issued duty bands (**image 51**). These were identical to the regulars armbands except that a 2 inch x 3 inch slightly curved white metal plate was slipped over the band. The plate had the raised wording "Special" at the top and "Constable" at the bottom and a raised unique ID number in the middle. The background was often painted black in order to accentuate the lettering. It is assumed the armband design changed in 1886 as per the regulars.

The duty band for regulars and special constables was withdrawn in July 1968.

County Constabularies:

It appears that all counties adopted the same duty band scheme and the design and sizing appears to be the same. Photographs exist of a removable armband worn on the right sleeve of sergeants from Shropshire Constabulary (**image 18, 26**). The armband is sloping and removable and it is likely this was the armband issued to Sergeants of the London Metropolitan Police Force though this cannot be confirmed. The transition to horizontal banding also seems to be at the turn of the century for most counties. Although most bands have the 2 blue stripes of the London Metropolitan Police (**images 9, 18,**), Manchester Police appear to have 3 blue stripes. One is central and the other 2 are on the outer edge- It actually appears to be blue with two white stripes (**images 11, 14, 24**), however, the buckle still appears to be the same style.

The City of London Police adopted the same scheme and their duty band appears to have been the same size and design though the striping was in red rather than blue. Again the change to horizontal striping possibly came about in 1886 as per the London Metropolitan Police. Unlike the other forces, however, the City of London Police still wear their armband today as a mark of tradition.

The special constable system appears to also have mirrored the London Metropolitan Police. The duty band for other county forces seem also to have been withdrawn in 1968

Stock

London Metropolitan Police:

Officers were issued with a 4 inch high thick leather stock to be worn about the neck. It was secured with a brass buckle to the rear. The thick leather stock was to prevent garrotting and was a commonly purchased item by rich civilians worried about attack when walking in less salubrious areas. The stock was reduced to 2 inches in height in 1859 and was discontinued in 1880. A very unpopular item of uniform and very uncomfortable to wear.

County Constabularies:

No reference is made in any county records other than stocks were issued to be worn as per the London Metropolitan Police.

Gloves

London Metropolitan Police:

2 pairs of gloves were issued as from 1830. One pair for the winter which were black worsted wool gloves and a pair for the summer which were white cotton. The white cotton ones were very popular and were worn at every opportunity, even during the winter. Max Schlesinger noted the fact that white gloves were worn despite the dirty conditions that officers were expected to work in. A police order of 8th October 1868 issued officers with a pair of leather gloves for protection when seizing dogs. It is unknown when white gloves discontinued, Black leather and wool gloves continued to be issued into the next century.

County Constabularies:

It is unknown to what degree county forces issued gloves as per the London Metropolitan Police. Certainly Gloucestershire Constabulary mention one pair of gloves issued but not what type. Wiltshire Constabulary makes no mention of gloves issued as does Glamorganshire Constabulary but many illustrations and some photographs seem to show white gloves being worn - such as Manchester Police (**images 11, 14**), Taff Valley Railway Police (**image 15**), Gateshead Borough Police (**image 17**), Surrey (**image 29**) and Birmingham City Police (**image 30**).

Belt

London Metropolitan Police:

Belts were not issued to officers until 1853. No details are given but some photos show a wide black leather belt (approximately 2 to 2½ inches wide) with a standard slip through buckle made of white metal (**images 13, 20, 64**). In 1862 a 2½ inch wide black leather belt was issued with a snake-type clasp (**image 31, 60**). In 1864 a double thickness belt was issued complete with a hook to carry the new truncheon case. No mention of the buckle is made.

County Constabularies:

Some counties followed the example of the London Metropolitan Police. Wiltshire Constabulary and Gloucestershire Constabulary makes no mention of belt issue but some, such as Glamorganshire Constabulary state that a belt was issued yet photographs do not bear this out and it is likely that this was a later issue. Generally belts seem to have been issued on later uniforms, particularly when frockcoats were issued. Some belts such as Gloucester, Montgomeryshire and Glamorganshire Constabulary were simple slip through buckles (**images 3, 25, 27, 28**), some forces used circular buckles with a motif consisting of the name of the constabulary around a county coat of arms such as Bristol, Essex and Monmouthshire Constabulary (**images 8, 17, 19, 23, 30, 59**). Some used a large square buckle, again with a motif consisting of the name of the constabulary around a county coat of arms such as Manchester Police (**images 11, 14, 24**). The snake clasp belt appears on the uniforms of Hampshire Constabulary, the Taff Valley Railway Police and Northamptonshire Constabulary (**images 10, 15, 32**).



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Equipment

Truncheon

London Metropolitan Police:

Upon formation of the new force it was understood that some form of defensive weapon would be required. This came in the form of the all too familiar truncheon. An item that was still issued up until the mid 1990's and replaced by the side handled baton (familiar in the USA) and the ASP. The first issue truncheons were 20 inches long and made of bamboo or lancewood, with a leather lanyard (wrist loop) and a turned handgrip. In order to show their "authority", parish constables had been issued with tipstaves (or tipstaffs) (**image 44**). These were short batons (of wood or metal) and were painted with the relevant royal emblem. These were not defensive weapons but merely the "warrant card" of the time. Rather than issue a tipstave and a truncheon it was decided to paint the truncheon with the relevant royal emblem and the tipstave was only issued to Inspectors and above. In 1842, with the introduction of the detective branch, detectives also carried tipstaves for identification purposes. They were withdrawn in 1887. Truncheons were painted with the "WR", followed by the "GR" scroll, then later (in 1837) with the Victoria Crown. Generally they were painted base black and the designs were in gold, sometimes accentuated in red. Those reserved for issue to Special Constables were marked "Special Constable". In 1846 it was required to mark the truncheon with the owners ID number and divisional letter. In 1856 new truncheons were issued which were 17 inches long and made of hardwood. In 1863 following the issue of snake clasp belts, a Police Order of 21st October issued leather truncheon cases which were attached to a hook on the belt. In 1887 a Police Order of 11th January required the issue of new truncheons which were 15 inches long and the truncheon cases were abolished. The new truncheons were carried in an inside pocket in the trousers (which remained the standard location up to the mid 1990's).

The majority of truncheons were made from hardwood but Max Schlesinger writes in 1853:

It is, however, a mistake to believe, as some persons on the continent actually do, that the London police are altogether unarmed and at the mercy of every drunkard. Not only have they, in many instances and quarters, a dirk hidden under their great-coats, but they have also, at times, a short club-like staff in their pockets. This staff is produced on solemn occasions, for instance, on the occasion of public processions, when every policeman holds his staff in his hand. The staves have of late years been manufactured of Gutta Percha, and made from this material they are lighter and more durable than wooden staves. In the name of all that is smashing, what a rich full sound does not such a gutta percha club produce when in quick succession it comes down on a human shoulder.

Truncheons were often referred to as "Billy Clubs". In 1848 a popular urban dictionary defined this term as a "Burglars Crowbar", by 1856 the term was in the dictionary as a "Policeman's club". The truncheon was also not to be visible if possible, although the longer truncheons did poke out of the coat tail on the early swallow tailed jackets, it was not to be carried in the hand as though "ready for use". Many photographs show peelers with it in their hands and of course this is a pose for the camera though at public processions it was often produced and held upright in the right hand as a salute - often referred to as "producing appointments". Often when parading for duty the Inspector would request the producing of appointments which would include pocket books and handcuffs as well as the truncheon. A practice which continued into the 1980's and still rears its head occasionally with an enthusiastic inspector.

County Constabularies:

Much the same as the London Metropolitan Police. Designs varied widely and the painting upon them signified the county they originated from along with a "GR" scroll or Victoria Crown as appropriate. Most surviving examples have the ID number of the owner painted on. Most are hardwood and painted base black though later examples at the turn of the century have no base colour but the wood is stained dark and varnished. (**images 43, 44**)

Handcuffs

London Metropolitan Police:

There is no mention of handcuffs being issued to officers on an individual basis though this may have occurred, certainly by the end of the century it appears that it may have been standard issue. No photographs exist of early peelers with handcuffs but they were certainly in existence and may have been issued on a patrol basis. Handcuffs of the time consisted of a loop of metal. one end was hinged onto a metal tube (called the barrel) and the other end was marked with 3 notches and pushed into the other end of the tube. A key was placed into the end of the barrel. The key was not a unique key but rather a screw device. When the key was in place the cuff loop would open on the hinge. When the key was removed then an actuator engaged into one of the grooves of the metal loop and it would not open. Two of these loop/barrels were then joined by a small 3 or 4 link chain to make the pair of handcuff restraints (**image 40**). It is believed that this style of cuff continued well into the early 20th century when at some point it was replaced by a ratchet system which resulted in a quicker application of the cuffs onto the miscreant.

County Constabularies:

Again, no mention is made specifically of handcuffs being issued as per the above comments. Interestingly there was a device at the time known as a "Snitch" or "Come along" which was a loop of rope through a wooden handle. The loop could be placed over one or two hands and the wooden handle pulled down the rope thus tightening it rendering the person unable to pull his hands free. The applier of the device can then grab the handle part and manoeuvre the person to the desired location without fear of being assaulted. A cheap and easily manufactured pair of "handcuffs". Whether these were used by officers it is not known but should the expense of handcuffs be too far reaching for the particular county I would imagine that these were probably a suitable alternative.

Rattle/Whistle

London Metropolitan Police:

In order to summon assistance, officers were issued with rattles. The rattles were made of wood and often weighted with metal. The standard issue was a folding type (**image 42**). The handle incorporated a one way hinge which folded in on itself but when in use the centrifugal force pushed it against the hinge stop thus retaining its structure. However it appears that several different types were issued and would suggest a change in supplier through the years (**image 41**). The rattle was placed inside one of the tail pockets of the swan tailed coat when not in use. It has been stated that rattles were carried in a breast pocket as some documentation indicates that the rattle protected the wearer's heart should he be stabbed. I believe that there was no breast pocket and that officers merely tucked the rattle inside the breast of the tunic to gain quicker access and the "anti stabbing" effect was merely an added bonus.

Where it was carried when the new frockcoats were issued is not known and likely tucked in an inside pocket somewhere or in the trouser pocket. In 1883 the home office approved the new whistle as a replacement and a Police Order of 10th February 1885 replaced the rattle for the whistle on day patrol. Once new stocks were received a Police Order of 25th June 1887 replaced the rattle with whistles on night patrol also. The original whistle was conical in shape (**image 57**) and affixed to the coat or tunic by a chain, later the whistles became more fluted in appearance (**image 61**). The single tone was retained as it was more distinguishable from the warbled tone of the "pea" whistle as used by referees today. The whistle remains an item issued to all London Metropolitan Police officers up to present day. With the advent of radios it is more an issue to do with tradition.

County Constabularies:

As per their London counterparts, though a rattle in the rural areas would be more to summon assistance from members of the public rather than colleagues. Rattle shapes varied with supplier as did whistle design though the single tone note remained distinctive (**image 56**).

Lamp

London Metropolitan Police:

Police Order of 30th May 1840 issued each officer with a Bullseye Pattern Oil Lantern (**image 62**). Due to cost (7 shillings a lamp in 1840) this practice ceased and the lamps were issued to stations and leased from the manufacturers at 6d per week (including fuel). These were the general issue torches of the day and were seen in the hands of many civilian night workers such as railway workers etc. They were made of metal and painted black. The front had a "bulls eye" lens which swung open to reveal the small removable oil burner inside. The burner had an adjustable wick which could be trimmed when charred. The top of the lantern had several downward facing holes in order to dissipate the heat. This top section was connected to a separate internal cover which could be swivelled around and block the light without having to extinguish the flame. The rear had 2 swing out loops of metal which formed a carrying handle. These loops could be swung back into place to reveal a hook for hanging onto a belt. These lanterns were standard issue well into the next century and were replaced upon the advent of the electric battery torch.

County Constabularies:

No mention is made of torches being issued as equipment to officers in other forces but it is assumed that this was the case and as the Bullseye Pattern Oil Lantern was the torch of the day it is likely the counties were issued as per their London counterparts.

Firearms

London Metropolitan Police:

The force did not routinely carry firearms, although Sir Robert Peel authorised the Commissioner to purchase fifty flintlock pocket pistols for use in exceptional circumstances, such as those which involved the use of firearms. Later, the obsolete flintlocks were decommissioned from service, superseded by early revolvers. At the time, burglary (or "house breaking" as it was then called) was a common problem for police. "House breakers" were usually armed. It was then also legal for members of the public who were Protestants, as most were, to own and use firearms. Following the deaths of officers by firearms on the outer districts of the metropolis, and public debate on arming the force, the Commissioner applied to Robert Peel for authorisation to supply officers on the outer districts with revolvers. The authorisation was issued on the condition that revolvers would only be issued if, in the opinion of the senior officer, the officer could be trusted to use it safely and with discretion. From then, officers could be armed. The practice lasted until 1936, although the vast majority of the system was phased out by the end of the 19th century.

During the 1860s, the flintlock pistols that had been purchased in 1829 were decommissioned from service, being superseded by the purchase of 622 Adams revolvers firing the .450 cartridge which were loaned from the army stores at the Tower of London following the Clerkenwell bombing. In 1883, a ballot was carried out to gather information on officers' views on whether they wished to be armed, and 4,430 out of 6,325 officers serving on outer divisions requested to be issued with revolvers. The now obsolete Adams revolver was returned to stores for emergencies, and the Bulldog 'Metropolitan Police' revolver was issued to officers on the outer districts who felt the need to be armed. On the night of 18 February 1887 PC 52206 Henry Owen became the first officer to fire a revolver while on duty, doing so after he was unable to alert the owners of their premises being on fire. Following the Siege of Sidney Street, one thousand self-loading Webley & Scott pistols were purchased and in 1914 the Bulldogs were withdrawn from service and returned to stores. Lord Trenchard standardised the issue of pistols among divisions with the size of the area depending on the amount of firearms; ten pistols with 320 rounds of ammunition were issued to divisional stations, six pistols with 192 rounds per sub-divisional station, and three pistols with 96 rounds to each section station. In 1936 the authorisation to carry revolvers on outer districts was revoked.

County Constabularies:

There is nothing specifically stated about the issue of firearms in county forces though this was obviously an issue. West Sussex requested funds for firearm issue in 1844 but was turned down. The force then issued cutlasses instead (see below). It was the right of every Protestant man or woman to carry and use firearms and therefore an officer could supposedly carry one as his right as a member of the public. In Wiltshire Constabulary it was standard practice for officers to purchase their own firearms for protection, something that the Chief Constable, Captain Samuel Meredith RN, drew attention to. He warned officers of the dangers of the weapon possibly being seized and used against the officer, however nothing indicates that the practice was stopped.

PC 245 Joseph Peacock , who served with Gloucester and Birmingham Constabularies, carried a personal issue firearm on duty. The pistol has been handed down and is now in the possession of the Peacock family ([image 38](#)).

Cutlasses

London Metropolitan Police:

Cutlasses were a military item and designed to kill. They were generally viewed as more offensive than firearms. Death from the single discharge of a small pistol was not common place whereas a person could easily be hacked to death by a military sword designed specifically for that task. Firearms could be concealed, cutlasses could not and therefore the Government and Commissioners were not eager to see their "civilian" police force openly armed and appearing as the "Police Soldiers" the public were referring to them as. Cutlasses were therefore not an individual issue but rather issued to divisions. They were retained at stations and only to be issued in times of emergency and on the authority of two justices of the peace. It is unsure how many cutlasses were issued to each division at the outset of the Force's formation but a Police Order of 1st July 1885 limited each division to 10 cutlasses from this date onwards. Generally the cutlasses are only seen worn at riots and major disturbances. As there were a limited number issued they tended to be issued to sergeants and senior officers, and other more senior constables who could be trusted to wield them wisely. There were requests to issue them at night to officers patrolling the more unruly areas, however this does not appear to have been authorised and officers were permitted to patrol in pairs. Being the dense areas of London, help from another Peeler was never far away unlike their rural counterparts who often patrolled without the possibility of assistance from any quarter. The style of cutlass is unknown and it is likely the military cutlass of the day was purchased. There is no evidence that cutlasses were specifically designed for police use ([image 55](#)).

County Constabularies:

Generally cutlasses were only issued in cases of emergency. In Wiltshire Constabulary cutlasses were only issued as per the requirements above. Occasionally some county forces allowed the issue at night particularly in areas of high instances of serious assaults against officers.

The following is a typical example of the restrictions regarding the issue of Cutlasses in the counties:

Glamorganshire Constabulary- A constable's staff is to be supplied to each constable and a small Cutlass may be supplied to any constable who is so situated that, in the opinion of two Justices of the Peace of the County, it is necessary for his personal protection in the performance of his duty. The Cutlass to be worn at night only or at times when rioting or serious public disturbance has actually taken place, or upon orders by the Chief Constable who shall, on each occasion of giving such order, report the same and the reason for such order, to any two Justices of the Peace for the County, as soon afterwards as is practicable, who shall immediately transmit the said report to the Secretary of State.

Chief Constable, Glamorganshire Constabulary 1839

However on 30th July 1844 in rural West Suffolk, PC James McFadden confronted three burglars at Gisleham near Lowestoft. One of the Burglars was a William Howell, who wore a Peeler's hat (a trophy from an earlier skirmish with the law). Howell shot the constable in the thigh and the burglars then proceeded to kick McFadden as he lay on the ground. McFadden died of his wounds but not

before he had identified his assailants. Howell was executed and his abettors were transported. The Chief Constable subsequently requested firearms for his officers, the Home Office refused but henceforth all Suffolk officers patrolled at night armed with cutlasses. They were not at all reticent in using them and after many instances of suspects sustaining severe injuries, the regional HM Inspector of Constabulary, Major General Cartwright sent critical comments to the county regarding the fact that the issue "*was not in accordance with the legislation regarding county police*". There is no evidence to suggest that the magistrates and the Chief Constable ever discussed the matter or issued any orders changing the situation.

As the use of cutlasses may be a necessity all officers in the counties and the London Metropolitan Police Force were required to undergo cutlass training ([image 37](#)).

Other

London Metropolitan Police:

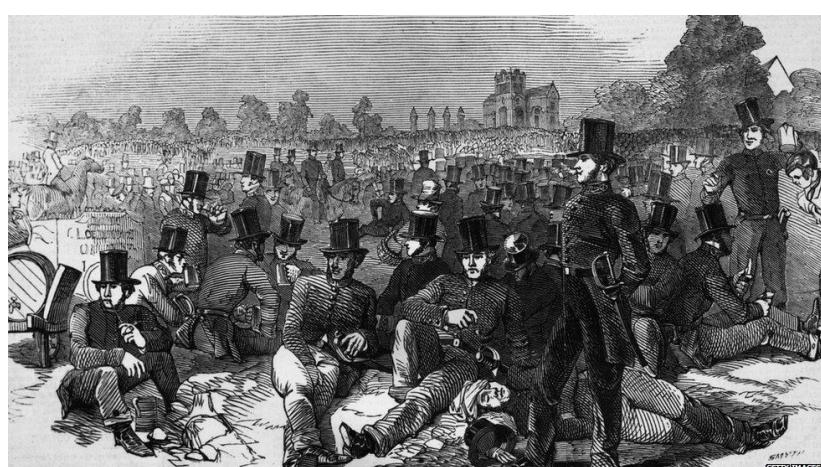
Police Order of 17th October 1829 requested the Metropolitan Police book to be issued to all officers. This outlined the rules and regulations of being a peeler along with the explanation of the general police powers and conditions of service ([image 36](#)). No mention is made of notebooks being issued but some evidence exists of entries made into personal books regarding incidents. It is assumed then that they were either issued or personally purchased. Part of a police officer's role is to recall facts for evidence although early on many breaches of the law were dealt with by magistrates within hours, or certainly a day of the offence having been committed. No lengthy court paper preparation for the early police officer it seems ! However the recording of routine checks and noteworthy incidents would have been made for future reference and it seems from records that the officer would report to his station house at the end of the shift and make notes in a station register.

Umbrellas were carried by many officers and it seems that this became an issue as a Police Order of 19th August 1859 forbade the carrying of umbrellas. Umbrellas were not an issue item and would have been purchased by the officer privately.

Another item that seems routinely carried is the military "swagger stick". Not quite long enough to be a useful walking stick but carried by NCOs in the military as a symbol of their rank. It is likely that many peelers were ex military and liked the air of authority the swagger stick gave. Swagger sticks were generally a straight wooden stick with a pommel at the end. They could either be simple and of one piece of polished wood or could be lacquered wood with a silver/brass pommel bearing the insignia of the regiment the peeler may have belonged to. It is also seen that some officers carried walking sticks of all kinds which were probably gave the same authoritative air as the swagger stick and possibly as it gave the appearance of a gentleman.

County Constabularies:

Much the same as their London counterparts although Glamorganshire Constabulary mention issuing umbrellas.





Photographs

There are many illustrations and drawings of Peelers throughout history. Peelers generally being at the forefront of newsworthy items meant that newspapers were keen for descriptive (and generally dramatic) illustrations. Though they can be a good source of information I would view them with some scepticism. The subject matter will normally be exaggerated and therefore uniform discrepancies are common with artistic licence. It is also worth noting that many illustrators did not live in the area they were artistically representing and it is likely that the illustrator used his local "peeler" as his source for his illustration.

The uniform and equipment section is referenced with the following photographs which are the best source material available.



1. PC 128.L - London Metropolitan Police - Pre 1864.



2. Peeler from u/k force wearing Swallow Tail Coat.



3. Glamorganshire Constabulary u/k date.



4. Superintendent Walker and Inspectors Baldry Swanson and Denning - A Division, London Metropolitan Police. Epsom Races post 1864.



5. Ipswich Borough Police - frock coats - u/k date



6.. PC Joseph Peacock - Birmingham Constabulary 1844 - 1850. (Formerly PC 245 of Gloucestershire Const.)
- Swallow tail coat.



7. Peelers - Gloucestershire Constabulary at Northleach
1850 - Swallow tail coats.

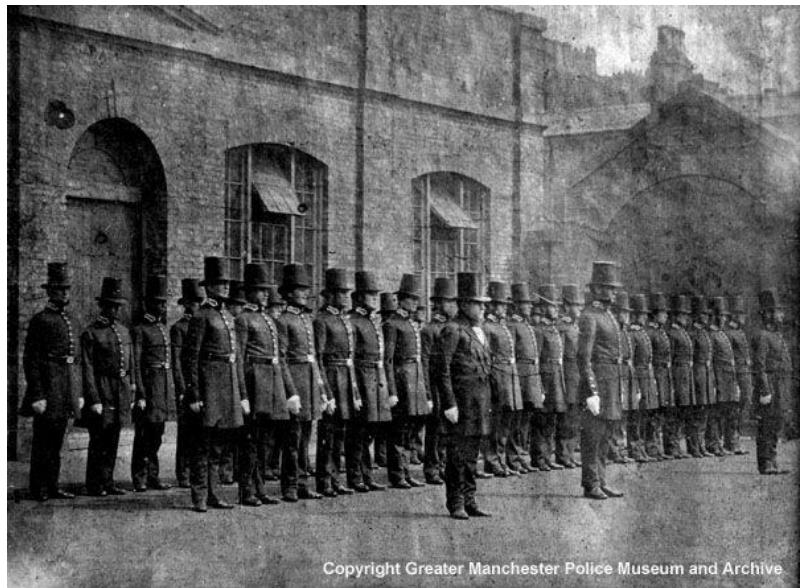


8. PC 61.M - Monmouthshire
Constabulary 1870.

9. Peeler u/k Force dated 1854



10. PC 89 Northamptonshire
Constabulary - 1860



Copyright Greater Manchester Police Museum and Archive

11. Senior officers, Sergeants and Constables of the Greater
Manchester Police parade at Albert Street Police Station.
Sometime in the 1850's.



12. Swallow tailed coat from Glamorganshire
Constabulary - dated 1840's.
(South Wales Police museum)



13. PC Tom Smith- London Metropolitan
Police - dated post 1864.



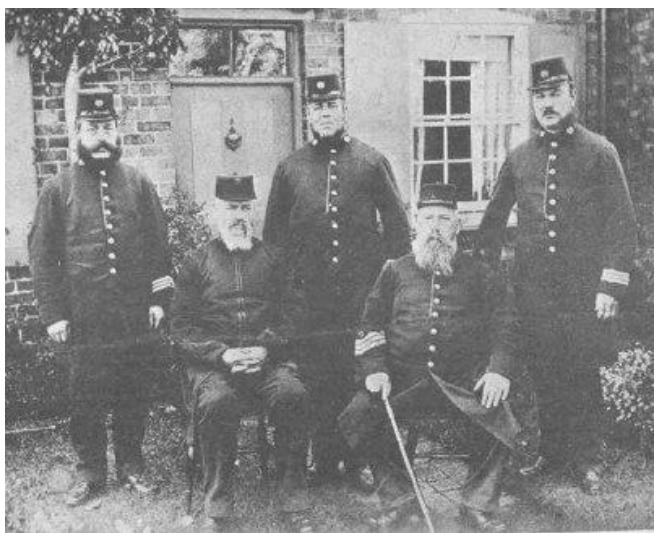
14. Manchester Peelers - Given as 1840's



15. PC John Wallbrid - Taff Valley Railway Police (Cardiff) 1849/1850



16. Wiltshire County Constabulary - Bridewell Square, Devizes. Date given as mid 19th Century.



18. Chief Constable, 3 senior officers and a Sergeant - Shropshire Constabulary - 1850



17. PC 2 John Hope, Gateshead Borough Police.- 30th August 1842.



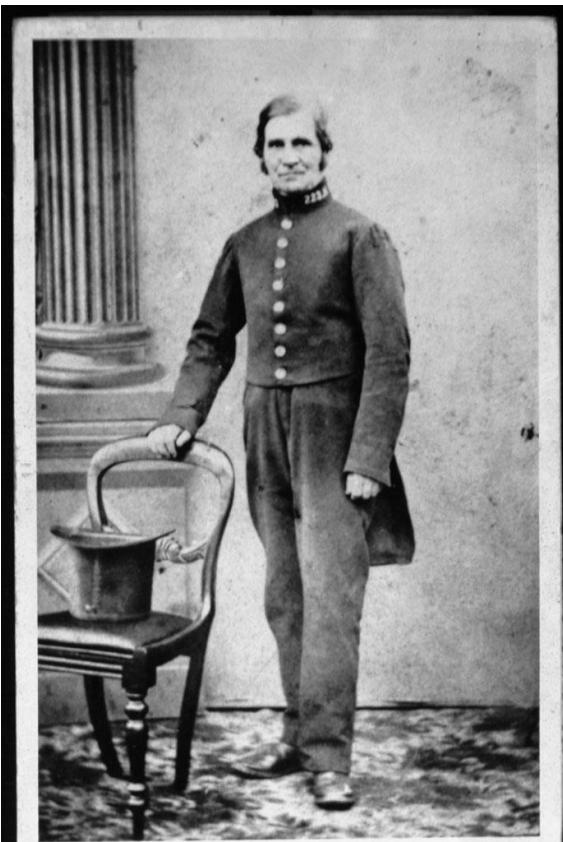
19. U/K Force - dated as 1850



20. Punch cartoon - 1850's. Satirical look at new proposals for increasing the visibility of the ID number



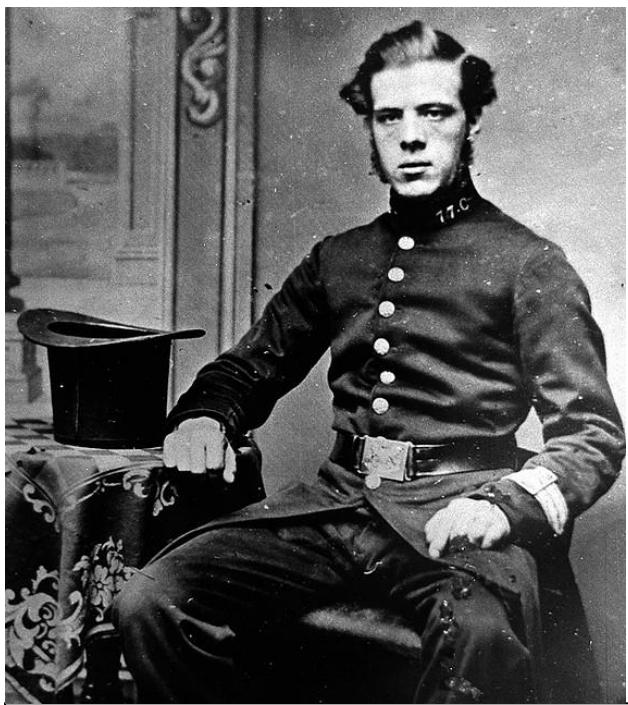
21. Uniform for PC G.95 James Glamorganshire Constabulary - dated as 1857



22. PC 223 Richard Clarke, London Metropolitan Police. Division u/k.- Date u/k



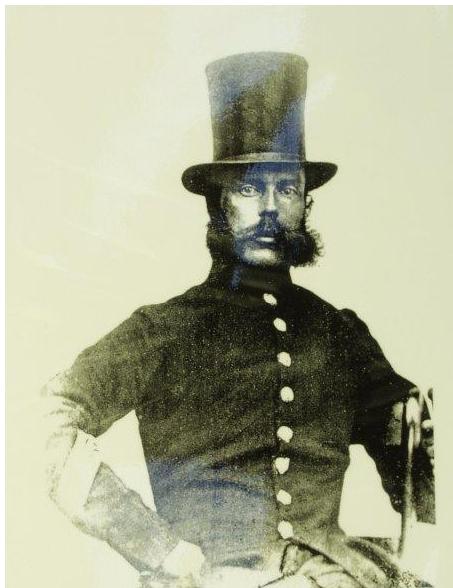
23. PC 39 - Essex Constabulary - Date u/k



24. PC C.77 - Manchester Police - 1860



25. PC 67 Ephraim Watkins, Bridgend, Glamorganshire Constabulary - 1856



26. Sergeant - u/k date
Shropshire Constabulary



27. PC 225 William Spire - 1840
Gloucestershire Constabulary



28. Montgomeryshire
Constabulary - u/k date.



29. PC Carpenter - 1857 - Surrey area



30. Birmingham City Police -
1839 - West Midlands Police
Museum.



31. Sgt John Augustus Smith
London Metropolitan Police
1864



32. PC John Higman, Hampshire
Constabulary - 1870's



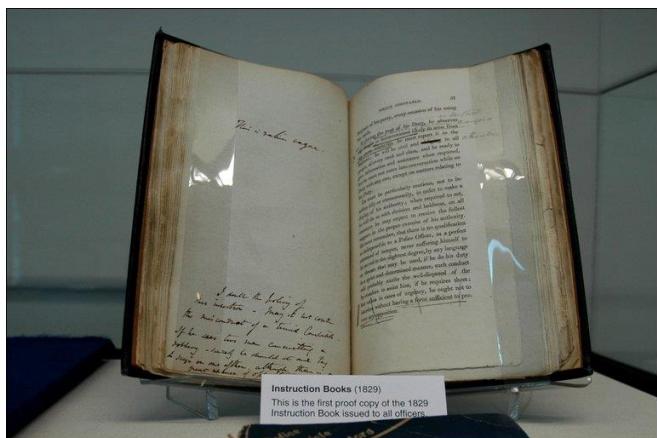
33. PC Mandeville - Surrey
Guildford Constabulary



34. London Metropolitan Police -
post 1897.



35. London Metropolitan Police - Divisional Map - 1837



36. First edition issue - 1829 Instruction book for London Metropolitan Police. Met Police Museum.



37. Cutlass Training - Bristol Constabulary officers at Bridewell Police Station - 1870's



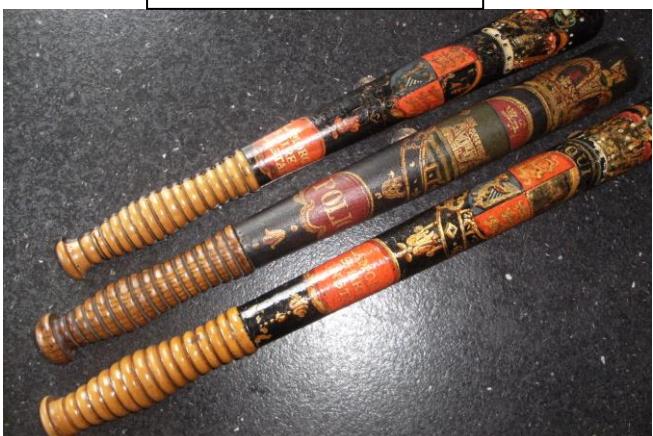
38. Pistol belonging to PC Joseph Peacock
(See Image 6)



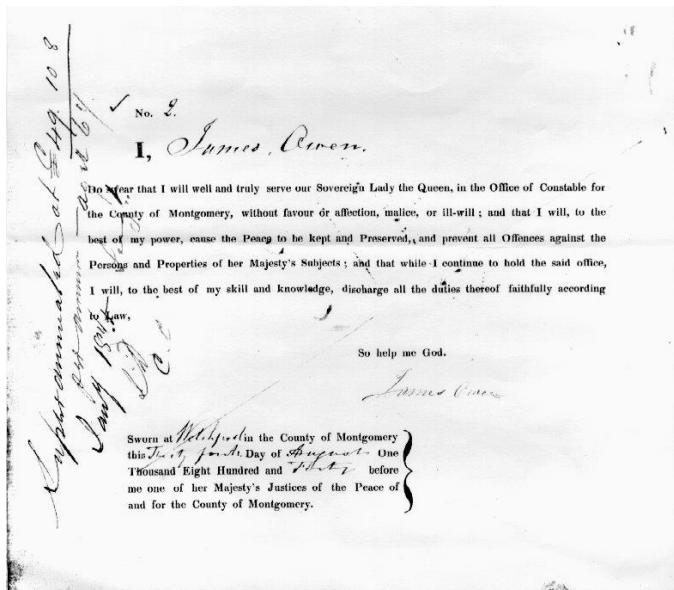
40. Handcuffs dated as 1840



42. Folding Rattle - 1850



43. Truncheons - Mid Victorian - Sothebys



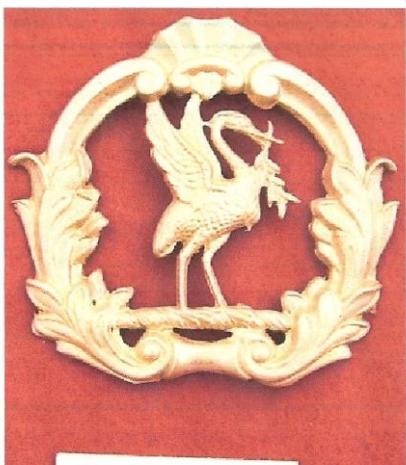
39. The Oath and Warrant for PC James Owen- dated 24th August 1840 - Montgomeryshire Constabulary



41. Police issue rattle - u/k date or force.
non-folding



44. Truncheons and Tipstaves - Mid Victorian



45. Liverpool City Police
- Collar Badge - dated 1837



46. Police Button - u/k date found in Kent.



47. 1" London Metropolitan Police coat
button - 1850 - Author's Collection.



48. Liverpool City Police coat button
dated 1836.



49. Coat button - Somersetshire
Constabulary - Mid Victorian.



50. Coat button - Nottinghamshire
Constabulary - Mid Victorian



51. Duty Band - Special Constabulary - u/k force - pre 1886



52. Duty Band - Regular Force - pre 1886



53. Duty Band - Regular Force - Post 1886



54. Duty Band - Regular Force - pre 1886



55. Cutlass from mid 1800's - Marked K.C.C. - Believed used by Kent County Constabulary



56. Liverpool City Police whistle - 1890's



57. London Metropolitan Police Whistle - Post 1885, pre early 1900's.



58. 1830 Illustration. Location reads "Calthorpe Street" (G Div).



59. Bristol Constabulary buckle - Given as "Victorian period."



60. One half of a snake clasp belt. Given as Police issue - Mid Victorian.



61. London Metropolitan Police Whistle - Post early 1900's to present day.



62. Two examples of a mid Victorian Bullseye lamp



63. Wellington Boots dated 1849



64. Peeler in Greatcoat - Staged shot - possibly stage actors.
u/k date.



65. Illustration dated 1830



66. Punch Cartoon dated 1850's. A caricature of beard styles.



67. Officers from Unknown force
wearing Victorian style greatcoats.
(1930's).



London Metropolitan Police Timeline

Courtesy of www.metpolicehistory.co.uk

1829

John WRAY appointed Receiver.

Ellis and Ellis appointed Police Solicitors (until 1874).

Pawnbrokers lists commenced.

Last Execution for forgery (abolished 1832).

Capital punishment for burglary abolished.

Bridewell New Prison erected (Demolished 1864).

Metropolitan Police Divisions 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E' and 'F' established.

Truncheons for the Metropolitan Police were made of Bamboo on lancewood and 20" long.

Scotland Yard - 4 Whitehall Place (until 1890).

Establishment of the Metropolitan Police:

- 8 Superintendents
- 20 Inspectors
- 88 Sergeants
- 895 Constables
- 5 Clerks for the Commissioner and Receiver

Apr 15 - Sir Robert PEEL introduced the Metropolitan Police Bill.

Dec - 'M' Division established.

Jul 4 - George Shillibeer's omnibuses appeared.

Jul 7 - Colonel, Sir Charles ROWAN and Richard MAYNE appointed as Justices of the Peace and joint Commissioners in charge of the force.

Jun 19 - Royal Assent given to Metropolitan Police Bill.

Oct 12 - Metropolitan Police Instruction Book issued. (Police Order 17 Oct 1829).

Sep 17 - First Police Orders issued - in manuscript.

Sep 30 - At 6 pm first Metropolitan Police Officers marched out onto the streets of London.

Pay 21 shillings per week. They had been recruited from 21 September. Police Orders of 29 September instructed the Inspectors to take charge of the watch houses from 4pm on Wednesday 30 September, and to await the arrival of the men, who were also instructed in the same Order to acquaint themselves with their beats for the following day.

Uniform: Blue single-breasted swallow tail coat, 8 gilt buttons down front (each with Victoria Crown and words 'Police Force'), 4" Leather Stock fastened at the back with brass clasp, Blue trousers (white in summer), strapped-over boots, black leather top hat.

Other rates of pay:

- Superintendent: £200 pa; Inspector: £100 pa;
- Sergeant: 22 shillings and 6 pence per week.

1830

Population of London 1,200,000.

Peasant's Revolt.

Post of Chief Medical Officer for the Metropolitan Police created.

'G', 'H', 'K', 'L', 'N', 'P', 'R', 'S', 'T', and 'V' Divisions established.

Uniform: Sergeants and Constables issued with gloves - white for summer, black worsted for winter.

Mar - Uniform: Armlets introduced - worn on left arm to indicate that they were on duty (withdrawn July 1968).

Jun - 17 Divisions completed; strength 3,350, 164 per Division; 8 Sections; 8 Beats. 17 Superintendents, 68 Inspectors, 323 Sergeants, 2,706 PCs.

Jun 28 - PC Joseph 169 'S' Division, GRANTHAM (Wt No 3170), kicked in the head while attempting to arrest a drunken man at a disturbance in Somers Town.

Aug 18 - PC LONG (Wt No 1715), 'G' Division, stabbed to death (by SAPWELL) when he challenged three suspects near Grays Inn Lane.

Dec 17 - Last pirates executed at Execution Dock, Wapping, (George James DAVIS and William WATTS).

May 17 - Night-watchmen ('Charlies') disbanded.

1831

Tothill Fields Prison rebuilt.

London Hackney Carriage Act.

Further riots. A crowd attacked Apsley House, home of the Duke of Wellington, and break all windows. The police eventually restored order.

Italian Boy murder committed, linked to illegal provision of bodies for medical students.

Reform Bill riots at Bristol.

First edition of 'Confidential Informations'.

Oct 15 - Special Constables Act. Two or more JPs empowered to appoint specials upon information on oath that disturbance exists or is feared.

1832

Richard MAYNE, the Commissioner, tried to clarify the roles of the Magistrates and the Commissioners as the Bow Street Runners continued their existence.

Attempted assassination of King William IV.

Sir Richard BIRNIE, Chief Magistrate, died.

Capital punishment for forgery abolished (Last execution in 1829).

First stage Carriage Act.

Last two men gibbeted (William JOBLING and James COOK).

Dissection of murderers' bodies made optional (abolished 1861).

Parliamentary Commission set up to enquire into rioting.

Apr - Cholera outbreak in London.

1833

Parliamentary Committee on Police as Spies. Popay Case. (Police Officer William POPAY (Wt No 6778) accused of 'spying' - working in plain clothes).

Parliament agreed to part of police cost being borne by the Exchequer.

Station Officers deprived of power to dismiss drunks.

The Lighting and Watching Act - parishes empowered to elect inspectors and appoint watchmen.

Jan - The London Fire Engine Establishment formed.

May 13 - Coldbath Fields Riots (Grays Inn Road)) A major crowd disturbance was dealt with by the Metropolitan Police with controversial use of force. PC Robert CULLEY, 95 'C' Division (Wt No 1044), stabbed to death at this event and the jury returned a verdict of Justifiable Homicide.

1834

The Select Committee designated with the task of enquiring into the state of the Police of the Metropolis reported that 'the Metropolitan Police Force, as respects its influence in repressing crime and the security it has given persons and property, is one of the most valuable modern institutions'.

Bow Street officers still investigating cases, Henry Goddard being called to investigate a fore in Oare, Wiltshire. Mr Richardson's murder in Surrey investigated by both Metropolitan Police and Bow Street.

Hansom Patent Safety Cab introduced.

Poor Law Act created united workhouses.

During hot summer - Cholera and Typhus outbreak killed 5 police officers.

Alfred Swaine Taylor appointed Professor of Medical Jurisprudence at Guy's Hospital.

Hanging in chains abolished.
Central Criminal Court Act.
Destruction of both Houses of Parliament by fire.

1835

Uniform: Sergeants issued with a new Armlet containing two narrow blue and three wide white stripes worn on the right arm.
Highway Act - Introduced Rule of the Road (Section 78 - that carriages and animals shall be driven on the left or near side of the road) and Furious Driving.
Bow Street's Henry Goddard solves firearms case in Southampton by comparing ammunition made from the same mould.
Reform Act.
Gas installations at Police Stations.
Municipal Corporations Act - Established Borough Police Forces.
Metropolitan Police Officers sent to provinces to deal with riots against Poor Law.
The Municipal Corporations Act required every Borough to appoint a watch committee with a duty of maintaining a police force.
Oct - A fire broke out at the Millbank Penitentiary and 400 Metropolitan Police officers and a detachment of Guards were called to restore order. This prompted the press to call for the police to be put in command at all large fires.

1836

The Bow Street Horse Patrol placed under authority of Commissioners of Police.
James Greenacre convicted of the murder of Hannah Brown.
Royal Commission on Police (1836 - 38).
Counsel for prisoner accused of felony first permitted to address jury on behalf of prisoner.
Feb - London's first railway open between Spa Rd, Bermondsey and Deptford.
Oct - Bow St Horse Patrol attached to the Metropolitan Police.
Dec - London and Greenwich Railway extended to London Bridge.

1836

Sep - Blackheath Road Police Station opened (R Division).

1837

Queen Victoria succeeded William IV.
Select Committee appointed to look into the affairs of the police offices. They also proposed that the City of London be placed under the control of the Metropolitan Police.
Sergeant Charles Otway assists Uxbridge magistrates with the murder of John Brill, an early example of assistance with investigations outside London.
Jul - London and Birmingham Railway opened from Euston Square to Boxmoor.

1838

Select Committee reported and recommended incorporating the Marine Police and the Bow Street Runners into the Metropolitan Police and the disbandment of the Bow Street Office and other offices. These were all agreed and put into effect.
Office of Registrar of Metropolitan Public Carriages established. Drivers and Conductors first licensed - duties transferred to Commissioners in 1850.
Coronation of Queen Victoria.

1838

Jun - Great Western Railway open to the Public.

1839

The two Justices of the Peace, ROWAN and MAYNE were termed 'Commissioners' by the Metropolitan Police Act 1839. Enlargement of the Metropolitan Police District by the Same Act.
Captain William HAY appointed Inspecting Superintendent.

Authority to extend the Metropolitan Police District. Creation of statutory Street offences with power of arrest.

S 52 Traffic Regulations on special occasions.

First superannuation scheme established - 2.5% deduction. Pension at age of 60.

Metropolitan Police Courts Act. Office of Receiver of Courts amalgamated with Receiver of Police.

County Police Act. Justices of Quarter Sessions empowered to establish police.

Nelson's Column begun in Trafalgar Square (completed 1842).

Jun - Eastern Counties Railway opened - Mile End to Romford.

London & Croydon Railway opened over former Croydon Canal.

Aug 31 - Thames Marine Police incorporated in the Metropolitan Police.

Sep 24 - Candidates Class established. 3 weeks drill.

Sep 30 - PC William ALDRIDGE (Wt No 13759) 'R' Division died from a fractured skull after he was stoned by a mob during an arrest at Deptford.

Nov - City of London Police formed.

Nov 17 - Bow Street Horse Patrol incorporated in Metropolitan Police, and 'Runners' (ie investigating officers) abolished.

1840

Marriage of Queen Victoria to Prince Albert.

Metropolitan Police Courts Act.

GOULD Interrogation case in which Police Sergeant Charles OTWAY (Wt No 9211) attempted to induce self-incrimination in the accused, which was immediately discountenanced by the courts and Commissioner Richard MAYNE.

Lord William Russell's murder (solved) creates a cause for campaign by The Times for specialist detectives.

Jan 13 - Metropolitan Police District extended to six times original size.

May - Bullseye Pattern Oil Lantern issued to officers (Police Order 30 May 1840).

Jun 10 - Attempted assassination of Queen Victoria by Edward OXFORD at Constitution Hill. Transportation (legalised in 1597 during reign of Elizabeth I) to New South Wales ended.

1841

Apr - Formation of the Dockyard Division of the Metropolitan Police comprising Deptford and Woolwich dockyards and placed under 'R' (Greenwich) Division.

Hertfordshire Constabulary formed.

Aug - Fenchurch Street Railway Terminus opened.

Oct 3 - PC James CARROLL (WT No 17546) 'H' Division, attacked by a mob and struck with his own truncheon while making an arrest in Shoreditch.

1842

Chartist riots.

Police prosecutions in hands of Treasury (until 1887).

Post of Surveyor for the Metropolitan Police created.

Uniform: Flaps sewn down either side of tunic, but no pockets.

Jan - PC 114 V Charles NICHOLLS found dead in suspicious circumstances near Vauxhall Turnpike.

May 5 - PC Timothy DALY (Wt No 5277), 'N' Division, shot dead by Thomas Cooper while attempting to arrest a man for highway robbery at Highbury.

May 30 - Assassination attempt on Queen Victoria by John FRANCIS in Constitution Hill.

Jul 3 - Attempt on life of Queen Victoria by John BEAN.

Aug 15 - Detective Branch established in the Metropolitan Police (2 Inspectors and 6 Sergeants) after newspaper criticism of the failure to catch Daniel Good for murdering Jane Good at Roehampton in March 1842. Good was arrested 6 weeks after the crime.

1843

Woolwich Arsenal became part of the area to be patrolled by the Metropolitan Police.

London Hackney Carriage Act. Commissioner empowered to appoint cab ranks.

Mar - Brunel's Thames Tunnel opened between Rotherhithe and Wapping.

1844

Richard MAYNE, Commissioner, called to give evidence to the Select Committee on Dogs. He stated that in the Metropolis there were a rising number of lost or stolen dogs. In the preceding year over 600 dogs were lost and 60 stolen. He declared the law to be in a very unsatisfactory state as people paid money for restoration of dogs. 'People paid monies to parties whom they have reason to believe have either stolen or enticed them away in order to get the reward...'. MAYNE believed it to be organised crime.

Trafalgar Square Act

Uniform: New pattern with white buttons bearing words 'Metropolitan Police'.

Henry SOLOMON (Chief Constable of Brighton) murdered by LAWRENCE.

May - 'Bricklayers Arms' terminus (off Old Kent Road) opened by the South-Eastern Railway Company to relieve congestion at London Bridge.

1845

Telegraphy first used to assist apprehension of a criminal (John TAWELL).

The Commissioners, in returns to the Home Office, stated that the aim of the Force was to have one policeman to 450 head of population.

Cottage Road (Gerald Road) Pimlico police station opened on 'B' (Westminster Division).

1846

Plain clothes officers were frequently used at this time, but a June order made clear that two officers per division would be employed on detective duties, but that police in plain clothes must make themselves known if interfered with in their duty.

Truncheons marked with divisional letter and number.

Jan - Last Royal Mail Stage-Coach taken off the Brighton Road -'Killed by the Railways'.

Mar - Clapham Police Station opened.

Mar 7 - PC James HASTIE (Wt No 21237) 'R' Division, died from head injuries after being assaulted by several men in a street disturbance at Deptford.

Jun 29 - PC George CLARK (Wt No 22098) 'K' Division, brutally beaten and stabbed to death while on night duty at Dagenham.

Jul - London & South Western Railway extended to Richmond.

1847

Transportation Act.

Town Police Clauses Act.

Statistics for the year were: 14,091 robberies; 62,181 people taken in charge; 24,689 of these were summarily dealt with; 5,920 stood trial and 4,551 were convicted and sentenced; 31,572 people were discharged by the magistrates.

The Metropolitan Police were still, despite their good record on crime prevention, facing discipline problems amongst their own officers on the 18 divisions, with 238 men being dismissed in the year.

Dec - Gardners Lane Police Station, Westminster replaced by King Street (A Division)

1848

PC Daniel Harker MONK, (Wt No 24816) 'E' Division, struck with his own truncheon by a man attempting to free a prisoner at St Giles.

May - London & Southampton Railway opened from Nine Elms to Woking Common

Jun - Special recruitment of 600 men into the Metropolitan Police and large scale enrolment of 200,000 Special constables to assist the police in controlling the Chartist demonstrations. Mass meeting at Kennington.

July - Waterloo Station opened

1849

Authorised strength 5,493. In reality 5,288 were available for duty. The population at that time in London was 2,473,758.

Aug - The Bermondsey Murder occurred on M Division, The victim, Patrick O'Connor, was identified partly because of his false teeth.

1850

Charles DICKENS' 'Modern Science of Thief-Taking' published in 'Household Words'. Dartmoor, formerly prisoner of war camp, taken over as convict prison.

Jan 5 - Sir Charles ROWAN retired. Captain William HAY appointed Joint Commissioner.

Mar 25 - Duties of Metropolitan Public Carriages transferred to the Commissioner.

May - Attack on Queen Victoria by Robert PATE.

May 8 - Capt Douglas Labalmondiere appointed Inspecting Superintendent.

Jul 7 - Sir Robert PEEL died after riding accident

1851

Jan - Great Exhibition in Hyde Park with its special crowd problems forced the police temporarily to form a new police division. The total manpower of the force at that time was 5,551, covering 688 square miles.

Surrey Constabulary formed

May 5 - PC Henry James CHAPLIN (Wt No 24774), 'L' Division, attacked and struck with bricks by a disorderly crowd at Vauxhall Walk.

1852

Strength of force 5,652.

Feb - Great Ormond Street Hospital for sick Children opened.

May 8 - Colonel, Sir Charles ROWAN, first Joint Commissioner died. In his obituary note of May 24, The Times wrote: 'No individual of any rank or station could be more highly esteemed or loved when living, or more regretted in death.'

Richard Mayne knighted KCB.

Oct - Great Northern Railway extended from temporary terminus at Maiden Lane to Kings Cross.

Nov Lying in State and funeral of Duke of Wellington - 3 people crushed to death. High Feeling against police. Order restored by police.

1853

Lord Dudley STUART, MP for Marylebone and a persistent critic of the police, suggested in Parliament that the police were not worth the money they cost. He recommended that they be reduced in numbers and a higher class of officers be recruited to control the constables.

Uniform: - Official issue of a belt to be worn with tunic.

London Hackney Carriage Act.

Select Committee formed to consider expediency of adopting more uniform system of police in England, Wales and Scotland. Chairman - Edward Royds RICE.

Penal Servitude Act. Transportation to Tasmania ended. Limited to Western Australia and gradually ceased.

1854

Out of 5,700 in the Metropolitan Police, 2.5% were Scottish, 6.5% Irish. The Commissioner was not happy about employing these officers in areas of high Scottish or Irish ethnic concentrations.

Jan - The second Paddington Terminus opened by the Great Western Railway Company, replaces original station of 1838

1855

Metropolitan Police Act. Strength of force 7-8,000.

6 Pillar Boxes introduced in London

Metropolitan Management Act.

Jul 1 - Clash in Hyde Park between unemployed and police.

Aug 27 - Sir Richard MAYNE became sole Commissioner on death of Captain HAY.
London General Omnibus Company Launched.

County and Borough Police Act. Counties and Boroughs compelled to appoint paid forces and furnish the Home Office with annual crime statistics. Home Office Inspectors of Constabulary Formed.

Detective Branch at Commissioner's Office increased temporarily by 1 Inspector and 1 Sergeant (Made permanent in 1864).

Murder of John Cook by Dr William Palmer causes public hostility and new Act allows for such cases to be transferred for trial in different part of the country.

New truncheons - 17" long

Jan - Metropolitan Police Act established one Commissioner instead of two.

Mar - Carter Street Police Station opens.

Last gibbet in England demolished at Jarrow.

Mar 3 - First two Assistant Commissioners appointed (Captain Labalmondiere and Captain HARRIS).

Aug - Railways opened to Caterham and Loughton.

Nov - Parochial Cage or Lock-up removed at Beckenham.

Railway extended to Crystal Palace.

1857

Penal Servitude Act abolished Transportation but still continued until 1867.

The Commissioner, Sir Richard MAYNE, is paid a salary of £1,883, and his two Assistant Commissioners are paid salaries of £800 each.

Metropolitan Police Act. Rating etc. for building and improving stations etc.

Jan - Kent Constabulary formed.

Jun 11 - persons killed in Lewisham train crash.

Sep 1 - Metropolitan Police Orders, Instructions and Pawnbroker list first issued in printed form (Printed by Harrison & Co, St Martin's Lane (previously in manuscript)).

1858

William HERSCHEL used fingerprints in India.

PC Henry MORGAN (Wt No 36449) 'K' Division, died from injuries received when attacked while making an arrest during an affray at Stepney.

First acquisition of Police van for conveying prisoners. These were horse-drawn and known as 'Black Marias'.

Mar 31 - First estimate for English police for year ending - £145,980 (including salaries in Inspectors of Constabulary).

Apr - Queen Victoria opened Chelsea Suspension Bridge

Chelsea Watch House given up (from 1825)

1859

Police Orders of 6 January stated 'It is a great gratification to the Commissioner that the number of police guilty of the offence of drunkenness during the late Christmas holidays has been much lower than last year.... In A, F and R Divisions only one man was reported in each and in H Division not one man was reported in the present or last year...'

William Herschel uses fingerprints in India.

Uniform: 4" leather stock worn by police officers around their necks reduced to 2"

Discontinued in 1880.

Mar 31 - Estimate for English and Scottish police for year just ended - £214,200.

April - Part of Bow and Poplar Sub Divisions (Middlesex) amalgamated to create the first West Ham Sub Division (Essex) - K Division.

Aug 19 - Uniform: Metropolitan Police Order published forbidding carrying of umbrellas on duty. (Police Order 19 August 1859)

1860

Constance KENT case in Wiltshire/Somerset, in which Jonathan Whicher is criticised for his arrest of Constance Kent, who, 5 years later, confessed to the murder of her young brother.

Age for joining Metropolitan Police: Minimum - 18 years, Maximum - 35 years (until 1890).

Police began the use of the 'Bischoffsheim Hand Ambulances' for injured, sick or drunk people. In use until 1938.

Maurice DRUMMOND appointed Receiver.

Oct 3 - Metropolitan Police Act. Metropolitan Police took over Woolwich, Portsmouth, Chatham, Devonport and Pembroke Dockyards.

1861

Police Orders on the 25 January made allowance for one third of the Metropolitan Police Officers in Dockyards 'to be relieved each Sunday, to give them opportunity of attending Divine Service.'

The Metropolitan Police acted as firemen at the British Museum. The Superintendent in charge said of them, 'From their manner of doing the work, I should be inclined to place considerable confidence in these men in an emergency'.

Dissection of murderers' bodies abolished.

Capital Punishment - Only four offences punishable - Murder, Treason, Piracy with Violence and setting fire to arsenals and/or dockyards.

Uniform: Duck Trousers as part of the uniform abolished.

Last execution for attempted murder (Martin DOYLE).

Metropolitan Police Act (Pensions).

Metropolitan Police (Receiver) Act.

City of London coal posts removed from a 20 mile radius around the Metropolis to the MPD boundary under Act of Parliament.

Mar 23 - Trams first introduced in London. Removed in 1862 owing to inconvenience to other road users. Re-introduced May 9 1870.

Dec - 'Police not to borrow money from publicans' (Police Order 12 December 1861).

1862

Second Great International Exhibition at South Kensington Formation of a new temporary 'X' Division to police the Exhibition.

Superannuation Fund of 1839 found insolvent. 50ths substituted for 30ths. Discontent led to strike in later years.

Strength of Force 7,112. Population 3,110,707.

Uniform - Official Belts issued to all ranks, 2.5" wide, leather with snake-type clasp.

May - Lambeth Suspension Bridge replaces former Horse-Ferry.

Nov - Outbreak of garrotting in London.

The present Westminster Bridge opens to replace the original 1750 structure

1863

PC William John DAVEY, (Wt No 27702) 'T' Division, shot through the head on his doorstep by a man whom he was investigating for a crime at Acton.

Drunkenness was still a problem in the force and in this year 215 officers were dismissed for this reason.

Victoria Embankment constructed.

City of London Police nearly taken over by the Metropolitan Police after failure to keep order for passage of Princess Beatrice through the city.

City of London Traffic Regulation Act.

Uniform: Top hat replaced by helmet originally in the inner divisions and then in the outer divisions (1863 - 1864).

Jan - Metropolitan Railway opens the world's first underground Railway between Bishop's Road, Paddington and Farringdon Street.

Oct - Uniform: Truncheon cases introduced to be carried on waist belt. (Police Order 21 October 1863).

1864

Uniform: Wellington Boots abolished as part of the uniform. Tunic replaced the swallow-tail coat (Tunic had eight white buttons down front and two at rear until 1897). Plain stand collar with letters and numbers.

Uniform: Helmet completely replaced the Top-Hat.

Uniform: Belts issued to Constables to Inspectors worn with tunic, double thick right side with hook to carry truncheon case.

Uniform: Sergeants issued with badge of rank of three Chevrons.

Bridewell Prison demolished.

Metropolitan Police Act (Street Music).

Execution of 5 pirates of the ship 'Flowery Land' at Newgate. The Metropolitan Police supplied nearly 800 officers to keep the peace.

Detective Branch strength - 3 Inspectors and 12 Sergeants.

Jan - Charing Cross Railway terminus opened by the South-Eastern Railway Co (SER) on land formerly occupied by Hungerford Market.

Mar 11 - Classes I - IV for Constables and I - II for Sergeants created (Abolished 1890 vide Police Order dated 8 December 1890).

Uniform: Sergeants change Armlets from right arm to left arm (see 1835).

July - Thomas Briggs murdered in a North London railway compartment near Hackney Wick by Franz Muller - the first Railway murder. Muller hanged on 14 Nov 1864.

1865

Further extensions of the Metropolitan Police District in terms of the area patrolled in north east London.

Locomotives Act required every powered vehicle had to be preceded by a man on foot with a red flag.

Oct 21 - 'W', 'X' and 'Y' Divisions established.

Dec 4 - Educational examination for promotion instituted.

1866

Agitation over Reform Bill.

3,200 police under the command of Commissioner Richard MAYNE were used to control a serious riot in Hyde Park. 28 police officers were permanently disabled and MAYNE was hit by a stone which cut his head open. He was forced to call in the Military to restore order.

The Duddlewick murder case, investigated by Inspector Richard Tanner, uses evidence about blood from Professor Taylor.

Jan - Metropolitan Fire Brigade established.

Jan 23 - PC William FITZGERALD (Wt No 36371), 'F' Division, died from injuries when violently assaulted by a drunken prisoner in Drury Lane.

Mar - Paddington Police Station opened.

Jul 2 - Reform League meeting in Trafalgar Square.

Jul 23 - Reform riots in Hyde Park for several days. 265 officers injured including Commissioner Sir Richard Mayne.

Aug - Wood Green Police Station opened.

Sep - Cannon Street Railway Terminus opened.

Dartford Loop Line via Sidcup opened.

Oct - Mile End Gate and other East End Turnpikes demolished.

1867

Detective Branch Chief Inspector appointed at Commissioner's Office. Establishment raised to 3 Inspectors, 11 Sergeants and 1 Clerk Personal Secretary.

The Metropolitan Police were severely criticised after commissioner Richard MAYNE ignored a warning about the Clerkenwell Bombing by the Fenians. MAYNE offered his resignation, but it was refused.

Enrolment of Special Constables following Clerkenwell explosions.

Metropolitan Police Street Act (Special Limits). Authorised Shoeblock standings.

Metropolitan Police (Receiver) Act.

Truncheons: Plain clothes officers issued with brass tipstaves.

Jan - 40 killed in Regents Park Ice disaster.

April - Hyde Park and Green Park policed by Met.

Sep - Station Codes introduced for telegraphic communication based on the first two letters of the station.

Oct - All Divisional HQ Stations equipped with telegraph codes, eg AD = King Street.

Dec 13 - Clerkenwell explosions (Fenians) PS BRETT shot dead whilst trying to rescue Fenians from mob.

1868

Special recruitment of 1,200 men.

Transportation to Western Australia ended.

Police Rate Act.

Metropolitan Fairs Act.

Last public execution in Scotland (Mary REID).

PC Joseph EITE (Wt No 41044) 'V' Division, died from injuries received by being kicked by a drunken man in Wandsworth.

May 6 - Report of Departmental Committee on Metropolitan Police.

May 26 - Last public execution in England (Michael BARRATT - Fenian). (Outside Newgate Prison).

Jun - Officers granted one days leave per week (Police Order 17 June 1868) (Prior to this officers had one day off per fortnight).

Jun 2 - Insp Daniel BRADSTOCK (Wt No 20585), 'A' Division, stabbed by an insane prisoner at King Street Police Station.

Aug 13 - First 'private' execution (Thomas WELLS). (Maidstone).

Oct - Leather gloves issued to police for seizing dogs (Police order 8 October 1868).

St Pancras Railway Terminus opened.

Dec 9 - Experiments in traffic control signals outside House of Commons, in Bridge Street, New Palace Yard. (Designed by John Peake KNIGHT 1828-1886) PC injured when one exploded.

Dec 26 - Sir Richard MAYNE died. Colonel Douglas Labalmondiere appointed Acting Commissioner.

1869

Habitual Criminals Act introduced Habitual Criminals Register.

Metropolitan Public Carriage Act. Public Service Vehicles.

Licensed by the Commissioner. Standard of fitness. 1500 carriages removed unfit in first year.

Uniform: Wearing of plain clothes when off duty allowed.

Four Districts introduced each under command of a District Superintendent. (Police Order 27 Feb 1869).

Feb 13 - Lt-Colonel Sir Edmund HENDERSON appointed Commissioner.

Mar 30 - Metropolitan Police permitted to wear beards and moustaches.

May 15 - Chief Inspector WILLIAMSON promoted Superintendent in Detective Branch.

Jul 26 - Detective force formed to cover whole of the Metropolitan Police District. Divisional detectives appointed.

Oct - 'F' (Covent Garden) Division combined with 'E' (Holborn) Division.

Nov - New Blackfriars Bridge and Holborn Viaduct opened.

Dec - East London Railway opened through Brunel's Thames Tunnel.

1870

The standard height for Metropolitan Police officers was raised to 5ft 8ins, except for Thames Police where it was 5ft 7 ins. (Police Order 3 January 1870).

Truncheons: Tipstaves bore words "Metropolitan Police Constable" in plain clothes.

Prisons became the responsibility of the Home Secretary.

Register for Habitual Criminals now has space for photograph.

Jan 1 - Metropolitan and City Police Orphanage established.

May 9 - Trams re-introduced.

Jun - Annual Reports of Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis started as official Command papers (first one published 1869).

Jul - Reserve Police Force formed (Police Order 2 July 1870).

Dec - Fixed points established. (Police Order 5 December 1870).

1871

Prevention of Crimes Act gave responsibility for keeping the Habitual Criminals Register for England to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

Introduction of the Chief Inspector and Station Police Sergeant ranks to Uniform grades.

Location of Divisions:

- A - Whitehall
- B - Westminster
- C - St James
- D - Marylebone
- E - Holborn
- G - Finsbury
- H - Whitechapel
- K - Stepney
- L - Lambeth
- M - Southwark
- N - Islington
- P - Camberwell
- R - Greenwich
- S - Hampstead
- T - Kensington
- V - Wandsworth
- W - Clapham
- X - Paddington
- Y - Highgate
- 1 - Woolwich Dockyard
- 2 - Portsmouth Dockyard
- 3 - Devonport Dockyard
- 4 - Chatham Dockyard
- 5 - Pembroke Dockyard

Jan - 'Police not to borrow money from publicans' - (Police Order 1 January 1871).

Public Carriages- new metal tickets. (Police Order 24 January 1871).

Apr - Police suspended through Venereal Disease - reports to be made (Police Order 3 April 1871).

Apr 21 - As a result of frequent larcenies of linen, the Commissioner, Edmund HENDERSON said, 'Constables are to call at the houses of all persons on their beat having wet linen in their garden and caution them of the risk they run in having them stolen..'

May - Dogs Act 1871 - stray dogs to be seized by police and sent to Battersea Dogs Home (Police Order of 26 May 1871).

June - Albert Hall opened.

1872

Parish Constables Act (Referred to PCs as titheingmen, headboroughs and borsholders).

Lantern supplied to each sergeant and constable on night-duty (Police Order 6 January 1872).

Licensing Act - see Police Order 8 October 1872 for exemptions.

Pedlars Act.

Parks Regulations Act. Regulations enforced by the Metropolitan Police on duty within the parks (Police Order 9 October 1872).

Metropolitan Police Minstrels formed by ten police officers attached to Cannon Row, supported the Metropolitan and City Police Orphanage and raised thousands of pounds for charities. Disbanded 1933.

A Map of the Meropolitan Police District issued to every police station (Police Order 6 January 1872).

Aug - Abolition of parish constables appointments.

Nov - Police strike for the first time (180 men involved). Various men were disciplined or dismissed, although these latter were later allowed back in to the force.

Dec 25 - Murder of Harriet Buswell and arrest of Gottfried Hessel creates a cause celebre on identification evidence and identification parades.

1873

Mr BELT wrongly arrested for drunkenness. Clashes between police and officers of the Life Guards outside Argyll Rooms.

The Metropolitan Police acquire 9 new stations: North Woolwich, Rodney Road (Lock's Field), Chislehurst, Finchley, Isleworth, Putney, South Norwood, Harrow and Enfield Town. Legal advisors to the Commissioner appointed.

'No candidate for the Metropolitan Police can be recommended to the Secretary of State for appointment if he have more than two children depending on him for support' (General Orders).

Feb - Kew Bridge freed of toll between Middlesex and Surrey.

1874

Red adopted for pillar boxes (previously various colours).

A survey of recruiting over a 2 year period showed that of those who had joined the force, 31% came from land jobs, 12% from military services and 5% from other police jobs. The remainder mostly from manual jobs. The majority of recruits and serving officers came from outside of London.

Feb - Liverpool Street Terminus opened by the Great Eastern Railway Co (GER).

Waterloo Pier floating Police Station (Thames) created, replacing the ship 'Royalist'.

Oct - The barge 'Tilbury' laden with gunpowder explodes on the Regents Canal under the Macclesfield Road Bridge

1875

3 Detectives attached to Thames Division.

Crime Museum started, based partly on powers in Prisoners' Property Act. (Police Order 25 Aug 1874). Before long dubbed 'The Black Museum' by Press.

Metropolitan Police Magistrates Act.

Uniform: Rank of Station Sergeant introduced with four-bar chevron (Replaced by three chevrons and a crown in 1921).

Metropolitan Police Staff (Superannuation Act).

Oct 4 - New police offices at Great Scotland Yard are taken possession of by the Detective Department and the Public Carriage Department.

Dec - Chimney Sweeps Act 1875 required all Chimney Sweeps to be issued with a certificate by the Police (Police Order 22 December 1875).

1876

Jan - Waltham Abbey Police Station opened.

Jan 8 - The following order was released: 'Relief from duty during severe weather - during the present severe weather as much indulgence as possible is to be given to the men on night duty, due regard being had to public safety...'

Mar - Tottenham Court Road police station opened. Commercial Street Police Station opened, replacing Church Street, Bethnal Green.

Apr - East London Underground Railway opened Shoreditch to New Cross.

Jul - Staines Police Station opened.

Aug - PC COOK murdered by Charles PEACE.

Dec - Sunbury and Notting Dale Police Stations opened.

1877

Metropolitan Board of Works Act.

Clerkenwell House of Correction/Detention closed down.

Aug 13 - Departmental Committee appointed on State, Discipline and Organisation of the Detective Force of the Metropolitan Police (Report published Jan 25 1878).

Oct 24 - Trial of the Detectives, or 'Turf Fraud Scandal' exposed corruption within the force.

1878

Fenian Bomb outrages.

Mar 6 - Charles Edward Howard VINCENT appointed Director of Criminal Investigations, the reformed Detective Branch, which became known as the C.I.D.

Apr 8 - C.I.D. re-organised.

Aug 7 - Departmental Commission appointed on State, Discipline and organisation of the Metropolitan Police.

Sep 3 - Pleasure Steamer 'Princess Alice' disaster on Thames. 640 people lost their lives when struck by the 'Bywell Castle' of Galleons Reach. (Police Order 9 September 1878 refers) .

Sep 12 - Cleopatra's Needle erected on the embankment.

1879

First telephone exchange installed in Coleman Street.

Henry Faulds solves a burglary case in Tokyo by comparing two suspects' fingerprints with a mark left at the scene.

Feb 25 - Charles PEACE executed.

May - Lambeth, Vauxhall, Albert, Battersea and Chelsea Bridges now Toll-Free.

May 27 - Report of Departmental Committee on State, Discipline and Re-organisation of the Metropolitan Police (other than the C.I.D.) published.

Jun 7 -Initial rules for dealing with murder cases stated, 'the body must not be moved, nor anything about it or in the room or place interfered with, and the public must be excluded'.

Jul - Metropolitan District Railway extended to Ealing Broadway.

Jul 29 - Execution of Kate WEBSTER. (Wandsworth Prison).

1880

Sir William HARcourt at Home Office. Improved Police Stations.

Titley Case (Agent Provocateur).

Convict Supervision Office formed for the assistance and control of convicts discharged upon licence.

Forged reprieve in attempt to stop execution of Charles SHURETY

1881

First public telephone lines to Scotland Yard tried out but discontinued after a short while owing to trivial calls.

Treasury special contributions in respect of mounted and river police ceased.

Mar - Police Stations where dogs are detained to requisition Drinking Troughs for Dogs (Police Order 4 March 1881).

Apr 4 - Old Bow Street Office replaced by new police station and court.

Sep 23 - PC Frederick ATKINS (Wt No 61462), 'V' Division, shot three times and fatally wounded when he disturbed an unknown burglar at Kingston Hill.

Oct 12 - Lost Property Office opened at 21 Whitehall Place, S.W.1.

1882

Phoenix Park (Dublin) Murders.

Riots at Bolton.

The growth of London and the area needing policing was illustrated in Tottenham, ('Y' Division) when 8 miles of new streets were formed in a year with nearly 4,000 houses on them.

The Metropolitan Police at Devonport Dockyard illustrated the diversity of the role of the force as the Police Fire Brigade had its busiest year since formation with 6 major fires. The Municipal Corporations Act repealed and replaced the 1835 Act.

May - Queen Victoria declares Epping Forest 'Free to the public for ever'.

Dec 1 - PC George COLE (Wt No 65227), 'N' Division, shot in the head attempting to arrest a burglar (ORROCK) at Dalston.

1883

Uniform: Supply of Police whistles received Home Office approval.

Sir (Alfred) Richard PENNEFATHER appointed Receiver.

Receiver entitled to wear a civil court dress.

Police Gazette transferred from Bow Street to Scotland Yard.

Irish (Special) Branch formed.

Oct - Dynamite explosions on the underground near Charing Cross and Westminster Bridge

1884

Metropolitan Police Act - Assistant Commissioner appointed in charge of Civil business.

James MONRO appointed Assistant Commissioner in charge of Detective Division.

May - Scotland Yard Police HQ and Nelson's Column dynamited by Fenians. The Special Irish Branch attacked.

Oct - Inner Circle Underground Railway completed, including the Whitechapel branch.

1885

Uniform: Rattle replaced by whistle on day patrol. (Police Order 10 February 1885).

The strength of the force in this year was 13,319, but statistics show that only 1,383 officers were available for beat duty in the day. The population of London at this time was 5,255,069.

Public outraged at the explosions at the Tower of London and Houses of Parliament. Two men were sentenced to penal servitude for life as a result.

Site on Embankment purchased for Metropolitan Police.

In the execution of Robert GOODALE, head severed from body.(Norwich) In the execution of John LEE, trap door failed three times.

Metropolitan Police Streets Act.

Steam launches introduced in Thames Police.

Inspr Thomas Simmons of Essex Constabulary shot dead by burglars near Romford

Jan - Attempt to blow up Westminster Hall averted by action of PC COLE who was awarded Albert Medal for bravery.

Attempt to blow up London Bridge.

Jul - Cutlasses reduced in number to 10 per division (Police Order of 1 July 1885).

1886

Metropolitan Police Act.

Uniform: Ps/Pcs issued with new pattern armlets of blue and white stripes of equal length.

Riot (Damages) Act.

Special Irish Branch became known as the Special Branch

Feb 8 - Black Monday. Riots in Trafalgar Square, Pall Mall and Oxford Street.

Mar 26 - Trafalgar Square riots forced the resignation of Commissioner, Sir Edmund HENDERSON.

Mar 29 - Sir Charles WARREN appointed Commissioner.

Apr - New 'F' or Paddington Police Division formed.

May - St Pauls Railway Station opened (now Blackfriars).

Jul 19 - Report of Committee on Administration and Organisation of the Metropolitan Police Force.

Aug - New 'J' or Bethnal Green Division formed.

Sep - Wanstead Police Station opens.

Oct - The four District Superintendents re-designated Chief Constables. (Police Order 27 October 1886).

1887

Queen Victoria's Jubilee and Dynamite plot.

Sub-Divisional Inspector rank introduced.

Sheriffs Act.

Legal Advice by solicitors instead of legal advisor. Police prosecutions taken over by WONTNERS.

Uniform: Rattle replaced by whistle on night patrol. (Police Order 25 June 1887).

Police Disabilities Removal Act.

Metropolitan Police Act.

CASS case leads to overthrow of government.

Jan - New Truncheons 15" long. (Police Order 11 January 1887). Truncheon cases abolished and tipstaves abolished.

Feb - West Dulwich police station opened.

Jun - Appointment of Captain G. H. DEAN and Captain A. C. KNOLLYS as Assistant Chief Constables (Police Order 15 June 1887).

Police Golden Jubilee medal approved.

Oct - North Fulham police station opened.

Nov - Upper Holloway and Thornton Heath police stations opened.

Nov 13 - Unemployment riot in Trafalgar Square, known as Bloody Sunday, the first test for the new Commissioner. Guards called out. Sporadic rioting continued until 2 December.

1888

London County Council established.

Local Government Act. Joint local authorities responsible for police instead of Justices.

Sir Robert ANDERSON appointed Assistant Commissioner C.I.D.

Dynamite plots.

Sep - Murder of Catherine Eddowes - the only Whitechapel Murders victim to be killed in the City of London (Jack the Ripper).

Dec 1 - Commissioner, Sir Charles WARREN resigned following criticism by Home Office.

Dec 3 - James MONRO appointed Commissioner.

1889

Great Dock Strike.

Council park keepers took over London parks (except Hyde Park).

Apr - New County of London (LCC) created out of parts of Middlesex, Kent and Surrey.

May 11 - MAYBRICK Case.

Jul 17 - Arguably the last of the so-called 'Whitechapel' murders was discovered with the death in Castle Alley of Alice McKENZIE.

Opening of the new headquarters at the Norman Shaw building on the Embankment known as New Scotland Yard.

Police strike at Bow Street Police Station.

1890

Motor cars first seen on roads.

Police Act - First statutory pensions.

Move from Great Scotland Yard to New Scotland Yard on embankment (the Norman Shaw Building).

London County Council (General Powers) Act.

Police Pay - 25 - 35 shillings per week.

Post of Engineer for Heating and Lighting for the Metropolitan Police created.

Mar - Metropolitan and City Police Convalescent Home opened at 51 Clarendon Villas, West Brighton, Sussex.

Jun 21 - James MONRO resigned, stating his belief that police pensions were insufficient.

Jun 23 - Sir Edward BRADFORD appointed Commissioner.

Jul - Police Strike at Bow Street (only a few officers involved).

Dec 8 - Rank of Sub-Inspector abolished.

Dec 10 - Move from old premises to New Scotland Yard (except C.I.D. who moved on Dec 22).

1891

The body of Frances Coles found mutilated beneath railway arches near Leman Street police station starts new 'Jack the Ripper' scare.

Tickets introduced on buses and trams - leading to strike of drivers and conductors.

Mar 21 - The Public Carriage Office and the Lost Property Office move from Great Scotland Yard to the new offices at New Scotland Yard. Other branches move later in the year. (Police Order 20 March 1891)

1892

DS Joseph JOYCE (Wt No 52406) shot twice and fatally wounded when arresting a burglar at Charing Cross Road.

Juan Vucetich in Argentina solves child murder case by comparing fingerprints of a suspect and the children's mother.

Feb - Over 1050 officers on duty between the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington Butts and West Norwood Cemetery for the funeral of the Rev C. H. Spurgeon.

May - The last Broad-Gauge train departs from Paddington for Penzance.

Jul 21 - Dismissals and Rank and Pay deductions were common at this point, and the case of PC 379'A' BEST whose resignation on this day illustrated how the Metropolitan Police attempted to keep its men in order. He was 'in possession of a tea-can, the property of another constable, obliterating the owner's number and substituting his own name and number, telling a deliberate falsehood in connection therewith and considered unfit for the police force.'

1893

Blood Test discovered by BORDET.

Police Disabilities Removal Act.

Police Authorities Protection Act.

PC George COOK (Wt No 73717) a serving officer, was convicted for murder and hanged.

1894

The BERTILLON anthropometric system adopted for 6 years as result of a Home Office Committee which also considered fingerprints.

Feb - Greenwich Bomb Outrage. Anarchist (Bourdin) blew himself up.

Jun 30 - Tower Bridge opened by the Prince of Wales.

1895

To join the Metropolitan police, the following qualifications were necessary:

- be over 21 and under 27 years of age
- stand clear 5ft 9ins without shoes or socks
- be able to read well, write legibly and to have a fair knowledge of spelling
- be generally intelligent
- be free of any bodily complaint

The bodily complaints for which candidates were rejected included flat foot, stiffness of the joints, narrow chest and deformity of the face.

Uniform: Armlet loops added to sleeves above the cuff.

Steam launches introduced for Thames Police.

Metropolitan Police (Receiver) Act. Post of Deputy Receiver for the Metropolitan Police created.

Galton's fingerprint system tentatively introduced.

Thames Division Police Station at Blackwall opened.

Apr 3 - Trial of Oscar WILDE at the Central Criminal Court.

Dec 16 - Adolf BECK - first conviction of a series of frauds on identification and handwriting evidence. Wrongly convicted (See 1904).

1896

Amalgamation of Home Office Habitual Criminals Registry and Convict Supervision Office at New Scotland Yard.

The Public Carriage Office and the Lost Property Office amalgamated under the designation 'Public Carriage Branch'.

Apr - Kentish Town Police Station opened.

Jul - Kenley Police Station opened.

Sep - St Mary Cray Police Station opened.

Nov - Locomotives on the Highway Act.

Speed limit raised to 14 m.p.h. from 4 m.p.h. (in 2 towns).

Man with red flag walking in front of vehicle dispensed with.

Lamp and bell or horn to be used as a warning instrument.

Dec - Sir Edmund HENDERSON, former Commissioner, died.

Goffs Oak Police Station opened

1897

The Metropolitan Police Officers were granted a boot allowance instead of being supplied with boots. Police boots at this time were loathed, only Sir Edward Bradford, the Commissioner, believing them suitable.

Uniform: New style tunics - Blue serge, single-breasted had five white Victoria Crown buttons down front (until 1934). Two outside pockets with three pointed flaps, one small white Victoria Crown on each. (1864 tunic retained for night and winter wear).

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Metropolitan Police (Borrowing Powers) Act.

Police (Property) Act.

Edward HENRY studied fingerprints in Bengal.

May - Pinner Police Station opened.

Blackwall Tunnel opened.

Jul 16 - Appointment of two matrons at Bow Street Police Station to attend to female prisoners.

Nov 5 - First few electric cabs licensed.

First Electric Buses

1898

Oct - After a series of assaults and the murder of PC James BALDWIN (fatally stabbed when attempting to arrest a drunken man for causing a disturbance in a street at Hoxton) there were calls for the Metropolitan Police to be armed with revolvers.

Waterloo and City Railway opened ("The Drain").

1899

Electric trams and motor buses first seen.

5,000 horse-drawn buses and trams in London.

Taximeters first appeared on horse cabs.

Metropolitan Police Act.

Start of Boer War.

High rate of suicides among officers. This was blamed by certain commentators on harsh discipline and insensitive handling of the men.

As the century drew to a close it was worthy of noting that the Metropolitan Police on formation in 1829 had a force of about 3,000 men and by 1899 had 16,000. The population of London had grown from 1.5 million to 7 million.

Feb 25 - First Driver to lose life in Road Traffic Accident - Mr E. R SEWELL (MP Journal, April 1994).

Mar - Marylebone Main Line Railway Terminus opened.

Oct - First petrol driven Daimler bus runs between Kennington Gate and Victoria.

Boer War Commences. London Omnibuses sent to the front.



POLICEMEN IN MID NINETEENTH CENTURY WHITECHAPEL (By Jill Waterson)

Introduction

Much has been written about the policing of Whitechapel at the time of the Jack the Ripper murders in 1888, and later incidents. This paper focuses on an earlier period, and considers what it was like to be a policeman in Whitechapel in the mid nineteenth century. Issues examined include the background of the men who joined the police, the nature of their work, and what happened to them. This is done primarily through an analysis of 1851 census records of policemen resident in Whitechapel Registration District, surviving police records of H Division, and court reports. The life stories of 2 of the policemen are also presented, selected to show different starting points and outcomes.

H Division in the Mid Nineteenth Century

H Division, which served Whitechapel, was formed on 1st February 1830. By August 1830, it consisted of a Superintendent, 4 inspectors, 18 sergeants, and 168 constables, making a total of 191.¹ The boundaries of H Division were “north along th e City of London boundary line to Hackney Road, east to White Street, south through Charles Street into New Road, Cannon Street Road, Old Gravel Lane to the riverside at Wapping, then westwards to the Tower of London and back along the City Boundary.”²

In 1831, H Division was using the old Watch Houses at Denmark Street (now Crowder Street) and Spitalfields as police stations, and 26, Leman Street and 75, Bethnal Green Road as section houses.³ In 1847, another police station was constructed at 37-39, Leman Street, which on census night 1851, contained 64 policemen, all but 2 of whom were single, and 19 prisoners. There was also still a police station in Spitalfields,⁴ which on census night 1851, contained 9 married policemen and their families, and 8 prisoners.

Records

The earliest H Division Register that still exists was started c.1858.⁵ It includes many policemen who joined much earlier – as far back as 1830 – but only if they were still serving in H Division in 1858. This Register is extremely valuable because of the information it contains about early members of H Division, but it needs to be used with caution, because of its incompleteness.

Appendix 4 gives information about all policemen included in the Register who were serving on 30th March 1851.⁶ This date has been chosen to coincide with the 1851 census. However, it must be remembered throughout, that policemen who were serving on 30th March 1851, who left H Division before 1858, are not included in the Register. Where possible, the missing information has been supplemented from other records, particularly the 1851 census. Appendix 3 gives information about policemen resident in Whitechapel Registration District in 1851, taken from the 1851 census, and shows whether they are recorded in the earliest surviving H Division Register.⁷

¹ Wilkinson VL and Marrion, ‘Their Uniforms’, in ‘H’ District Commemorative Concert, 1829-1979 , 1979, p.52

² Ashley and Marrion, ‘Its Buildings’, in ‘H’ District Commemorative Concert, 1829-1979 , 1979, p.37

³ Ibid

⁴ In the 1851 census, the address is given as 1, Church Passage

⁵ H Division Register, 1-270, book number 650, continued in H Division Register, 1-307, book number 648

⁶ Only policemen with H numbers are included, ie not Inspectors, because those listed as Inspectors in the H Division Register were not Inspectors in H Division in 1851.

Background of Whitechapel Policemen

Places of Birth

Table 1 shows the places of birth of Whitechapel policemen serving on 30th March 1851. The information has been derived from the H Division Register and from 1851 census records.

It can be seen that the majority of the policemen came from outside London. This reflects the preference of the authorities for rural recruits, who were considered to be physically and temperamentally better suited to becoming reliable policemen.⁸ It can also be seen that 23% of the men came from Ireland, which highlights the fact that recruitment was a matter of supply as well as demand, and that the decision to be a policeman was related to the availability of alternatives.

Table 1: Places of Birth of Whitechapel Policemen, who were serving on 30-3-1851

Place of Birth	Policemen in H Register, who were serving on 30-3-1851	Resident at Whitechapel Police Stations, 1851 [not in H Register]	Resident Elsewhere in Whitechapel, 1851 [not in H Register]	Total
Middlesex	6	8 [6]	8 [7]	19
Surrey	5	2 [2]	3 [2]	9
Kent	8	12 [7]	3 [0]	15
Other South East Counties	15	9 [5]	5 [1]	21
South West	19	11 [5]	8 [2]	26
East Anglia	15	9 [6]	8 [5]	26
Midlands	6	2 [1]	4 [2]	9
North	2	0 [0]	0 [0]	2
Ireland	16	19 [15]	16 [10]	41
Scotland	2	1 [0]	1 [1]	3
East Indies	1	0 [0]	0 [0]	1
Not known	0	0 [0]	5 [5]	5
Total	95	73 [47]	61 [35]	177

⁷ Some H Division policemen lived in other Registration Districts, primarily St George in the East, but not all policemen who lived there were in H Division, and most H Division policemen lived in Whitechapel.

⁸ Shpayer-Makov, Haia, *The Making of a Policeman: A Social History of a Labour Force in Metropolitan London, 1829-1914*, 2002

Previous Occupations of Recruits

Table 2 shows the previous occupations of policemen in the H Division Register, who were serving on 30th March 1851. It can be seen that the largest occupational group was that of 'labourer', and this has also been found to be the case in other Metropolitan Police Divisions.⁹ Again this reflects supply as well as demand. Labourers had fewer alternatives available, particularly ones that offered the possibility of security of employment and a regular income. It has been found that this relative lack of alternatives made labourers not only more likely to want to join the police in the first place, but also less likely to leave.¹⁰

Table 2: Previous Occupations of Policemen serving on 30-3-1851, who are in the H Division Register

Occupation	Number	%
Labourers	42	44%
Bricklayers	4	
Craftsmen - masons, potter, weaver, silversmith, blacksmith, carpenters	9	
Gardeners & Grooms	6	
Servants	8	
Other 'servers' - waiter, porter	2	
Makers of Clothes & Shoes	6	
Butchers, Bakers & Grocers	9	
Other Shopkeepers	3	
Mariners	2	
Clerks	1	
Other (miner, moulder, paper maker)	3	
Total	95	

Previous Occupations of Men Promoted to Inspector

Although labourer was the most common occupation of the recruits, this was not the case for those who were later promoted to Inspector. 3 of the men in the H Division Register, who were serving in 1851, were later promoted to Inspector. None of them had been labourers. William Moloy had been a linen draper, with 7 years service in the Army; John Cleary had been a grocer; and Samuel Egerton had been a potter. In addition, 2 other men, who were recorded as sergeants, resident in Whitechapel, in the 1851 census became H Division Inspectors by 1858.¹¹ Neither of them had been labourers either. Thomas Constable had been a traveller; and Thomas Weakford a farrier.

⁹ Emsley, Clive, *The English Police: A Political and Social History*, 1991, p.192

¹⁰ Shpayer-Makov, Haia, 'The Making of a Police Labour Force', *Journal of Social History*, vol 24, no 1, Autumn 1990, p.121

¹¹ They are listed in the H Register as Inspectors, but in 1851 they were sergeants.

Nature of the Work

Working Conditions

The main advantage of being a Metropolitan policeman was that it offered security of employment and a regular income, as long as dismissal for misconduct could be avoided.¹² The disadvantages were that the pay was low, discipline strict, and the work demanding, both physically and mentally.

The physical hardships included walking “twenty miles a night, in all weathers, seven days a week. A constable might have to attend court after being on the beat all night, lose his sleep and still have to patrol the following night as usual. Until the year 1900 there were no official break times allowed during a beat, and no hot meals. If a man became soaked and frozen at the beginning of a winter night, then he usually stayed that way until dawn. Nineteenth century London was a very unhealthy place in which to work. Open sewers and impure water led to cholera and many other diseases. Men had little resistance to chest diseases; tuberculosis killed more policemen than any number of thugs...Constant patrolling in heavy, unsuitable boots injured the feet and legs.”¹³ In 1856, the City of London Police Surgeon reported that policemen were being worn out by the job, suffering premature aging, defective physical strength, and other bodily infirmities.¹⁴

As well as the physical difficulties, “the mental strain of police work was great, especially when the policeman was ‘alone at night’, when ‘arresting armed burglars, assisting in the extinction of fires, rescuing the drowning, stopping runaway horses, or dealing with the drunken and disorderly’ and when ‘facing hostile crowds’”.¹⁵ There was also the risk of being assaulted, and in 1870, the Superintendent in charge of H Division reported that “Assault on Police was more frequent on this than any other Division.”¹⁶

Type of Work

Table 3 shows Old Bailey Trials attended by H Division policemen between 30th March 1851 and 30th March 1852. It can be seen that the most common type of offence was theft. This included violent theft, theft from a specified place, pick-pocketing, and stealing from master. The next most common type of offence was breaking the peace and wounding. Appendix 2 gives extracts from 2 of these trials, plus another which occurred on 4th March 1850. These show some of the sorts of situations and areas that H Division policemen had to deal with.

¹² Shpayer-Makov, Haia, ‘The Making of a Police Labour Force’, *Journal of Social History*, vol 24, no 1, Autumn 1990, p.112

¹³ Wilkes, John, *The London Police in the Nineteenth Century*, 1977, p18

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Shpayer-Makov, Haia, ‘The Making of a Police Labour Force’, *Journal of Social History*, vol 24, no 1, Autumn 1990, p.119. This refers to a later period, but applies equally well to the mid nineteenth century.

¹⁶ Ashley, J, ‘A Short History of ‘H’ the Tower Hamlets Division, the Metropolitan Police’ in ‘H’ District Commemorative Concert, 1829-1979, 1979, p.13

Table 3: Old Bailey Trials attended by H Division Policemen, 30-3-1851 – 30-3-1852

Date	Offence	H Policeman involved in case	H no
1851			
April 7 th	Theft, stealing from master	WELSH John	H 46
April 7 th	Breaking peace, wounding	WEAKFORD Thomas	H 5
April 7 th	Violent theft, robbery	KELLY Thomas WIGLEY Edward	H2 H 141
April 7 th	Theft, pickpocketing	GIFFORD William KELLY Thomas	H 155 H 2
May 12 th	Theft, pickpocketing	GARRATT Gideon MALIN Thomas	H 213 H 74
June 16 th	Breaking peace, wounding	ASTBURY William	H 151
July 7 th	Violent theft, robbery	KELLY Thomas	H 2
July 7 th	Theft from a specified place	HOLAN Patrick KELLY Thomas	H 13 H 2
July 7 th	Theft from a specified place	HOLMES John	H 202
July 7 th	Violent theft, robbery	DAMARELL Samuel	H 140
Aug 18 th	Theft, stealing from master	DODD William	H 57
Aug 18 th	Breaking peace, wounding	PEARCE William Horrell	H 154
Aug 18 th	Breaking peace, wounding	KING William	H 22
Oct 27 th	Coining offences	GREEN Thomas MACINTOSH David	H 136 H 9
Nov 24 th	Coining offences	WEBB William	H 42
1852			
Feb 2 nd	Deception	EGERTON Samuel	H 193
Feb 23 rd	Theft, burglary	ARMSTRONG James	H 87

The case which came to trial on 4th March 1850, involved the wounding of an H Division policeman, Joseph Smalley, whose story is told in more detail later in this paper. Joseph Smalley's account of what happened is revealing: " On 10th Feb., at half-past twelve at night, I was in Rosemary-lane, and while talking to a person named Lynch, a person came behind me and struck me a violent blow between my eyes, and knocked me down and ran away – there had been a disturbance between a man and woman, and I had got them away – there was a great crowd, which I was trying to get away – I could not tell who struck me; but a person ran after him and held him, and the prisoner is the person I secured – I was in the act of taking him to the station, assisted by Duffy; and one of the mob took Duffy's staff away from him, and I was beaten with it, but I cannot tell by whom – I got three cuts in my head, and was rendered insensible..."

The policemen often had to intervene in altercations of various kinds. Sometimes violence and weapons were involved, as in the second case shown in Appendix 2, which occurred in Mill yard, Whitechapel. William Astbury, the policeman involved, said "Mill's-yard is one of the lowest courts in London, and there are very often rows there – there are several brothels in it." Sometimes, the cases were more mundane, like the third example shown in Appendix 2, which involved a complicated dispute over a pawn ticket.

Causes of Leaving the Police Force

There were 4 ways of leaving the police force – resigning, being dismissed, being pensioned, or dying in service. Appendix 4 contains information taken from the H Division Register about policemen who were serving on 30th March 1851, which includes information about the cause of leaving the police force for 81 of the 95 men.¹⁷ However, it is important to reiterate that this Register does not include policemen who left H Division before 1858. The sample is therefore unfortunately skewed towards long-servers, and this must be taken into account when considering the results. In addition, the vast majority of policemen are recorded in the Register simply as having resigned, and the very small number of men explicitly recorded as being dismissed or pensioned, suggests that others are hidden in the resignations category. This is confirmed by examination of other records.

Pensions

Before 1890, pensions were discretionary, and only awarded to policemen with at least 15 years service, who were shown by a medical certificate to be unfit for further service, unless they had reached the age of 60.¹⁸ The maximum amount of pension that could be awarded depended on length of service.

Only 5 of the men are explicitly recorded in the H Division Register as having been given pensions. However, examination of other pension records shows that 56 of the 64 men recorded in the H Division Register simply as having resigned, also received pensions.¹⁹ The 61 men who received pensions had an average length of service of 22.3 years. 2 other men, William Harbar and Thomas Jones, received gratuities, and were reported to be “worn out”,²⁰ after nearly 15 years and 9 years service respectively.

Dismissals

Only 4 of the men, serving on 30th March 1851, are explicitly recorded in the H Division Register as having been dismissed. They were aged between 31 and 41, and had an average length of service of 13.7 years. However, policemen could also be compelled to resign for misconduct, as in the case with William Lowe, who was forced to resign in May 1862 for being “inside a public house while on duty”.²¹ He had served for 12 years.

Table 4 shows the reasons for dismissal of the 4 men, serving on 30th March 1851, who were explicitly recorded in the H Division Register as being dismissed.²² Two of the men were dismissed for being drunk, which was a common cause of dismissal from the police force in the early years.

¹⁷ The others were transferred.

¹⁸ Shpayer-Makov, Haia, ‘The Making of a Police Labour Force’, *Journal of Social History*, vol 24, no 1, Autumn 1990, p.113

¹⁹ National Archives, MEPO 21; and *Police Orders*

²⁰ *Police Orders*, 24 May, 1859

²¹ *Police Orders*, 15 May, 1862

²² Reasons for dismissal given in *Police Orders*

Table 4: Reasons for Dismissal of Policemen serving on 30-3-1851, who are recorded in the H Division Register as being Dismissed

Name	H No	Date of Dismissal	Length of Service	Reason for Dismissal
COX George	138	Dec 29 th 1863	17 years	Neglect of duty in not removing a costermonger barrow, receiving money from the man in charge of the barrow while on duty.
FOWLER Robert	115	Oct 18 th 1858	13 ¾ yrs	Drunk on duty 28 th report.
HALL Alfred Alexander	127	Oct 17 th 1862	15 years	Refusing to attend Thames Police Court to identify a prisoner when ordered to do so.
HODGE John	94	Nov 21 st 1859	9 years	Drunk coming off duty.

Deaths in Service

8 of the men included in the H Division Register, who were serving on 30th March 1851, are recorded as dying in service. All these men died from natural or environmental causes, rather than as a result of injury. John Greathead and Robert Saunders died of dropsy, Michael Duffy of consumption, Porter Dunaway of disease of the heart, Thomas Wells of disease of the liver, Edward Howland of cholera, Richard Oliver of fever, and Richard Burgess of gradual exhaustion.

Richard Burgess died in 1880, after 46 years of service. His story is told in more detail later in this paper. The other 7 men died between September 1860 and May 1873. They were aged between 33 and 48 when they died, and had an average length of service of 17 years, all but 2 of them with lengths of service of 15 years or more.

To supplement the information contained in the H Division Register, Appendix 1 gives the causes of death of all H Division policemen who died in service between 30th March 1851 and 30th June 1861. 25 men from H Division died in service during this period. The vast majority of the men died from natural causes, the most common cause being consumption. Two died from “bursting a blood vessel”.

The 2 H Division policemen who died from non-natural causes in this period were James Denyer in 1857, and Samuel Hawes in 1861. Samuel Hawes “died in a lunatic asylum from the effects of a head injury received on duty in Whitechapel.” ²³ James Denyer died when “after checking a suspicious light on a boat in London Docks he fell in the water and drowned.” ²⁴ James Denyer was not the only policeman to drown in the London Docks. At least 3 other policemen from H Division drowned there between 1840 and 1843, while on night duty. They were said to be accidents.

²³ Metropolitan Police Service, *Book of Remembrance*.

²⁴ Ibid

CASE STUDIES

The two men whose stories are told below were similar in that they both joined the police force in 1834, and had previously been labourers. However, they differed in their origins and outcomes. Joseph Smalley, was born in a village in Nottinghamshire, and resigned with a pension after nearly 25 years service. Richard Burgess, was born in Whitechapel, and died in service after 46 years in the police force.

**Joseph Smalley, born 1796, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottinghamshire. Warrant Number 10,091.
Divisional Number H 175.**

Joseph Smalley was baptised on 10th October 1796 in Radcliffe on Trent, a village in Nottinghamshire. His mother's name is given as Mar y Smalley, but there is no mention of his father, so he was probably illegitimate. Before joining the police, Joseph worked as a labourer, and spent 16½ years in the army. According to the H Division Register, he joined the police on 19th December 1834, at the age of 36. His warrant number was 10,091, which was issued in 1834, but by the time of his joining, he would actually have been 38.

At the time of the 1841 census, Joseph was living in Colchester Street, St Mary Whitechapel, with his wife Louisa, aged 27, and their daughter, Elizabeth, aged 3. Joseph was then recorded as being aged 44.

Joseph Smalley appeared regularly as a police witness in Old Bailey Trials. These reveal some of the sorts of situations that he was involved in policing. On 3rd February 1840, Joseph, police constable H 175, was a witness in the trial of Mary Baker, who was charged with stealing 1 half-crown and 3 shillings from the person of Samuel Adams. Samuel Adams had gone with Mary to a room in Caroline Street, Hackney Road, and had paid her a shilling before going in, although he claimed to have "taken no liberties with her at all". 17 year old Mary was found guilty, and transported for 10 years.

On 13th June 1842, Joseph was a witness in the trial of Matilda Connolly, who was charged with stealing a watch, guard chain, and handkerchief from the person of William Sprake. Matilda, aged 30, was found guilty and imprisoned for 4 months. On 1st March 1847, Joseph was a witness in the trial of Thomas Dockery, who was charged with assaulting John Harrington, an 11 year old boy, cutting and wounding him with a knife. Thomas, aged 12, was found guilty, recommended to mercy, and confined for one month.

On 4th March 1850, Joseph was both witness and victim in the trial of Thomas Geary, who was charged with assaulting Joseph on 10th February, cutting and wounding him on his head. Joseph told the court that he had been dealing with a disturbance between a man and woman, and a large crowd which had gathered, when he was assaulted. Thomas Mears, the surgeon for H Division, reported that Joseph "had two severe contused wounds on the top of the head; they were bleeding profusely at that time – the longer wound was about two inches long, and struck to the bone – that was by the force of the blow, I should imagine – the other was a smaller wound – a severe blow from a policeman's truncheon would produce such a wound – it was such a wound as would make a man insensible – he has since been very ill – he has not done any duty up to the present time – it has shaken his nervous system, and made him generally ill."

Nevertheless, Joseph was soon back on duty. For on 12th March 1850, he was involved in policing an incident which came to court on 8th April, where he was again a witness. This was the case of Susan Ebbs, who was charged with stealing 1 'visite' and other items to the value of 3l. from her master, a solicitor, for whom she washed and charred. Susan Ebbs, aged 39, was found guilty, recommended to mercy, and confined for one month.

At the time of the 1851 census, Joseph was still a police constable, now aged 56, living at 12, Stewerd Street, Old Artillery Ground, Whitechapel, with his wife Louisa, aged 37, and daughter, Caroline Elizabeth, aged 13.

Joseph resigned on 17th May 1859, after nearly 25 years service. He was said to be "worn out" and was awarded a pension of £36. His conduct was reported to have been good for the last 9 years.²⁵ At the time of the 1861 census, Joseph was described as a superannuated policeman, aged 66, living in Gloster Street, Mile End Old Town, Stepney, with his wife Louisa, 47, and daughter, Caroline Elizabeth, aged 23. Joseph died in Mile End, quarter ending September 1869, aged 74.

Richard Burgess, born c.1815, Whitechapel. Warrant number 9,843. Div. number H 165.

Richard Burgess was born in Whitechapel c.1815.²⁶ Before joining the police he was a labourer. According to the H Division Register, he joined the police on 30th October 1834, at the age of 22. His warrant number was 9,843.

Richard married Charlotte Ann Boyce on 15th September 1834. Their first child, Richard Cragg Burgess, was baptised on 3rd April 1835, at St Mary Whitechapel, so Charlotte was already pregnant when they married. Perhaps it was his new family responsibilities that prompted Richard to join the police force.

By the time of the 1841 census, Richard and Charlotte had 3 children – Richard, now aged 6, Sarah, aged 4, and Mary, aged 2. Charlotte and the children were living in Whitechapel Road. Richard was not with them on census night. Perhaps he was on night duty.

On 10th May 1847, Richard Burgess, police constable H 165, was a police witness at the Old Bailey in the trial of Thomas Stowell, who was charged with unlawfully giving a false answer regarding a seaman's register ticket. Richard told the court that "I took the prisoner—I asked him where his ticket was, he said, "On board the 'Lively'" —I went on board the "Lively," a merchant ship, and the master gave it me up—(it is No. 29,608)—I took him on the 16th March—he was taken before the Lord Mayor on the 17th." Thomas, aged 23, was found guilty and confined for 3 months.

At the time of the 1851 census, Richard was recorded as being a 36 year old policeman, living at 6, Vine Court, Whitechapel, with his wife, Charlotte, aged 36, born in London City, and their children, Richard, 16, Sarah, 14, Mary, 12, and Alice, aged 6, all born in Whitechapel.

In 1861, Richard, now said to be aged 48, was still a policeman, living at 6, Vine Court, with his daughter Alice, aged 15, his 2 year old granddaughter, Sarah A Young, and a 50 year old female lodger. Living in the same house, but in a different household, were Sarah Scott, aged 40, and her 15 year old daughter, Mary Ann. Richard was recorded as being married, but Charlotte was not there. Richard and Charlotte's son, Richard, a dock labourer, was living at 8, Green Street, Whitechapel, with his wife Emma.²⁷ He died in 1868, aged 33.

In 1871, Richard, still a policeman, was recorded as being a 57 year old widower, living at number 13, Vine Court. Also resident in the household were Sarah Scott, aged 50, said to be Richard's servant, and Mary Ann Scott, aged 25, who was visiting. Meanwhile, Richard's daughter, Alice, had married Cornelius Young in 1862, and in 1871, was living with Cornelius, a licensed victualler, and their 3 children in Hackney. Visiting them was a married Charlotte A Boyce, aged 55.

Richard Burgess died in service on 14th April 1880 of "gradual exhaustion". He was recorded as being aged 65 when he died. He had served in the police force for 46 years. This was an exceptionally long time, given that the majority of Metropolitan policemen at this time were worn out before reaching 25 years service.²⁸ On 15th April, Police Orders stated simply: "Death – H. PC 165 Burgess; after a long and faithful service of 46 years; pay to 14th." On 28th April 1880 Richard Burgess' will was proved by Sarah Scott, the sole executrix. He had a personal estate of under £100.

²⁵ *Police Orders*, 16th and 17th May, 1859

²⁶ Different records give years of birth ranging from 1812-1815. A Richard Burgess, son of Sarah and Richard Burgess, a victualler, was born 25th Oct 1815, and baptised 1st Feb 1816, St Mary Whitechapel. A sister, Sarah, was baptised 18th September, 1817.

²⁷ Living in the same house was Sarah Olney, née Burgess, aged 42, and family, probably Richard senior's sister. In 1841, Sarah was a live in servant in the household of Richard Cragg, publican, in Whitechapel. The name Cragg is used as a middle name by several members of the Burgess family.

²⁸ Monro, J, 'The story of Police Pensions', *The New Review*, 3 (Sept 1890), p.202-3

²⁹ Formerly the Metropolitan Police Historic Collection

APPENDIX 1: DEATHS IN SERVICE OF H DIVISION POLICEMEN, 30-3-1851
- 30-6-1861

DATE	NAME	CAUSE OF DEATH
1851		
April 14	SHEPHERD Thomas	Erysipelus
Oct 31	COX James	Inflammation of lungs
Dec 20	MOLOY Maurice	Consumption
1852		
Feb 24	HUGHES William Edw	Pulmonary Consumption
1853		
April 23	CORKIDELL John	Consumption
Sept 5	KELLY William	Consumption
Nov 6	CONWAY Edward	Consumption
1854		
May 9	WHITE James (Inspector)	Typhus Fever
June 26	GREEN William	Diseased Heart
Sept 9	CHECKLEY Robert (Sergeant)	Consumptive fever from cholera
Dec 19	FITZGERALD William	Bursting a blood vessel
1855		
Feb 19	PAGER George	Dropsey
Sept 1	BULLEN Charles	Bursting of a blood vessel
1856		
Mar 18	SMITH Richard	Consumption
Oct 3	HUSSEY Charles (Sergeant)	Dropsey
1857		
Jan 9	GIBBS John	Consumption
Feb 5	NEWCOMBE Daniel	Consumption
June 7	EVANS Samuel	Consumption
Aug 18	DENYER James	Drowned in London Docks
Aug 21	BOOTY William	Pleurisy
1858		
Mar 15	CAMERON James	Consumption
1859		
Aug 8	FROST Thomas	Fever
1860		
Sept 15	DUFFY Michael	Consumption
1861		
Mar 1	SAUNDERS Robert	Dropsey
June 10	HAWES Samuel	Died in Lunatic Asylum, Colney Nat

APPENDIX 2: EXTRACTS FROM OLD BAILEY TRIALS ATTENDED BY POLICEMEN FROM H DIVISION

1. Case of Breaking Peace, Wounding (of Police Officer), Mar 4th 1850

524. THOMAS GEARY, feloniously assaulting Joseph Smalley, and cutting and wounding him on his head, with intent to resist and prevent his lawful apprehension and detainer. 2nd COUNT, with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

JOSEPH SMALLEY (*policeman, H 175.*) On 10th Feb., at half-past twelve at night, I was in Rosemary-lane, and while talking to a person named Lynch, a person came behind me and struck me a violent blow between my eyes, and knocked me down and ran away—there had been a disturbance between a man and woman, and I had got them away—there was a great crowd, which I was trying to get away—I could not tell who struck me; but a person ran after him and held him, and the prisoner is the person secured—I was in the act of taking him to the station, assisted by Duffy; and one of the mob took Duffy's staff away from him, and I was beaten with it, but I cannot tell by whom—I got three cuts in my head, and was rendered insensible—the prisoner was rescued from us—the prisoner then had a short white slop on, what they call a *jumper*, and when I was taken to look at him on the Sunday he was in a blue shirt...

MICHAEL DUFFY (*policeman, H 85.*) I saw Lynch and Smalley both holding the prisoner—I assisted in taking the prisoner to the station—the mob so thronged us that we could not get him out of the mob, and I just took my truncheon out to move the mob to give us room to get him out—some person came behind me and wrenched my truncheon out of my hand and gave it to the prisoner, and told him, "Now you have got the b—s *lay it into them*"—the prisoner then struck Smalley with my truncheon—I rushed on him to take the truncheon from him—he had on a white smock frock which came down to about his middle, and a white straw hat—the prisoner got away at the time—about two hours afterwards I met him in Glasshouse-street, and there apprehended him—he was then differently dressed, but I can speak positively to him—I knew his face directly I saw him, and I knew his voice—I can positively say that he is the person that struck Smalley with the staff—the change of dress makes no difference o n that subject—wherever I saw him I should know his face—I have no doubt on the subject ...

THOMAS MEARS. I am surgeon to the *H* division of police. The prosecutor was brought to me—he had two severe contused wounds on the top of the head; they were bleeding profusely at that time—the longer wound was about two inches long, and struck to the bone—that was by the force of the blow, I should imagine—the other was a smaller wound—a severe blow from a policeman's truncheon would produce such a wound—it was such a wound as would make a man insensible—he has since been very ill—he has not done any duty up to the present time—it has shaken his nervous system, and made him generally ill—that would be the tendency of a blow on the head under ordinary circumstances...

GUILTY . Aged 22.— *Confined Eighteen Months.*

2. Case of Breaking Peace, Wounding, June 16th 1851

1344. MARTIN MACKIE , feloniously cutting and wounding John Farrell; with intent to do him grievous bodily harm...

JOHN FARRELL . I live at 7, Mill-yard, Whitechapel, which is a brothel. On Monday, 26th May, about 12 o'clock at night, the prisoner came there with a woman, and went to a room on the second-floor—after they had been there a quarter of an hour, I saw the prisoner coming down again—the woman I live with was in the middle room; I saw her come sliding down-stairs—I got between the prisoner, who was at the bottom of the stairs, and the street-door (the stairs come into the lower room)—I found I had a knife put into my right side, without my saying a word—after I felt it, I saw a knife in the prisoner's hand, and I called out that he had a knife in his hand, and that I was stabbed—I got out at the street-door, held it by the knocker, and called "Police!"—the prisoner pulled the door off its hinges, and ran away—I followed him, calling, "Police!" and Button, who was in my house, followed also—after following him about 100 yards, Astbury stopped him—I said he bad stabbed me, and Astbury said to the prisoner, "Have you a knife?"—he laid he had not one, and that he had not stabbed any one—he spoke good English—I afterwards heard a knife drop, which Astbury picked up—I was taken to the London Hospital, and remained there a week, and I feel the effects of the wound now...

WILLIAM ASTBURY (*policeman, H 151*). On the night of 26th May I was on duty near Mill-yard, and heard a cry of "Police! stop him;" and I stopped the prisoner, who was running, followed by Farrell and Button—when Farrel l came up, he said, "Hold him fast, for he has stabbed me"—I said to the prisoner, "Have you stabbed this man?"—he said, "No, I have not stabbed any one, and have not got a knife about me"—while Farrell was showing me the place, the prisoner put his hand into his left-hand pocket, pulled out this knife (*produced*), and flung it down just behind him—I picked it up , and there was a kind of little stain upon it—I said, "This is the knife you flung down"—he said nothing to that—he was not drunk—he did not complain of being ill used—he said nothing—I took him to the station—Farrell was bleeding, but not much, and was taken to the hospital.

Cross-examined. Q. Did the prisoner appear to have been drinking? A. He was excited, but I cannot say he was drunk—there is no spring to the knife—the prisoner's mouth was bleeding, his lip swollen, and he looked as if he had been injured—he seemed put about, and hardly to know what he was doing—Mill's-yard is one of the lowest courts in London, and there are very often rows there—there are several brothels in it—I know Callaghan by sight.

THOMAS MADDAULD BRUSHFIELD . I am one of the house-surgeons of the London Hospital. The prosecutor was brought there on the night of 26th May—he was in a faint condition—I found blood on his shirt, and a punctured wound on the right side of the abdomen, in a slanting direction, such at would be inflicted by a knife of this kind—it was considered dangerous at first; he remained seven or eight days in the hospital.

Cross-examined. Q. Will not a most trifling wound become dangerous from erysipelas? A. Yes; I have no idea of the depth of the wound, as I did not probe it—it must have been more than half an inch, or it would not have bled so much. (*The prisoner received an excellent character.*)

NOT GUILTY .

3. Case of Deception, Feb 2nd 1852

248. JOHN HOLMES, unlawfully making a false declaration.

JAMES SHACKLE . I am assistant to Mr. George Attenborough, a pawnbroker – on the morning of 2nd of Jan. the prisoner made application to me about a clock, which had been pawned with me – I had not known him before – he stated that he had lost the ticket of the clock, and he asked for the form of declaration – he stated that his name was John Holmes, and the clock had been pawned by his wife, Ann Holmes, who was since dead – he gave me the date of the ticket, and I ascertained that a clock had been pawned on that day – I gave him the form, and he came back the same day and brought this declaration – I said that a party had applied for the clock by the duplicate, and I gave him the name and the address of the party, Rhoda Chaplin – he did not say anything...

SAMUEL EGERTON (*policeman, H 193*). The prisoner was given into my custody at the pawnbroker's shop – Mrs. Chaplin said, "This man sold me a duplicate for 4s. and then got a declaration" – the prisoner said, "I never sold the duplicate, nor received 4s. from her" – I said I must take him to the station – when we got out he said, "I did offer to sell it for 5s. and she would not buy it – I went again this morning, and sent the duplicate up to her, and then I went up to her, and she gave me 4s.; but I did not sell the duplicate, I got the 4s. for washing she owed me; I saw the duplicate on the table and took it up, and she must have taken it out of my pocket when I went to wash my hands.

Prisoner's Defence. I went to her house on the Wednesday evening to see if I could get any money for my wife's washing; she began to plead poverty; I had two duplicates in my pocket, and I asked her what it was besides the shirt that was on one of them; I thought it was a shift, and I asked her whether she would buy it or not; she told me she had sold a clock the other day, and she asked me if I had sold mine; I said no, it was in pawn; she said, "Perhaps I could sell that for you, will you come to-morrow, my mother will then be here, she wants to know where a person lives that lodged with you?" I went at two o'clock, her mother was not there; she said, "My husband told me to offer you 4s. for the ticket of the clock;" I said no. I would sooner burn it than take that; it was worth 16s. or 18s.; she asked me to come in the morning, and she would go and get some money from her mother that night, or in the morning, and she would pay me part of the money for that bill; she could not pay me all, for the lodger in the front room owed her three weeks, and the other lodger a month; I came away, and went the next morning; I waited while she had her breakfast, and we went down Whitechapel together, and she gave 4s. off the 7s2d. that she owed me.

GUILTY . Aged 44. – *Confined Six Months*



**APPENDIX 3: POLICEMEN RESIDENT IN WHITECHAPEL REGISTRATION
DISTRICT, 30-3-1851**

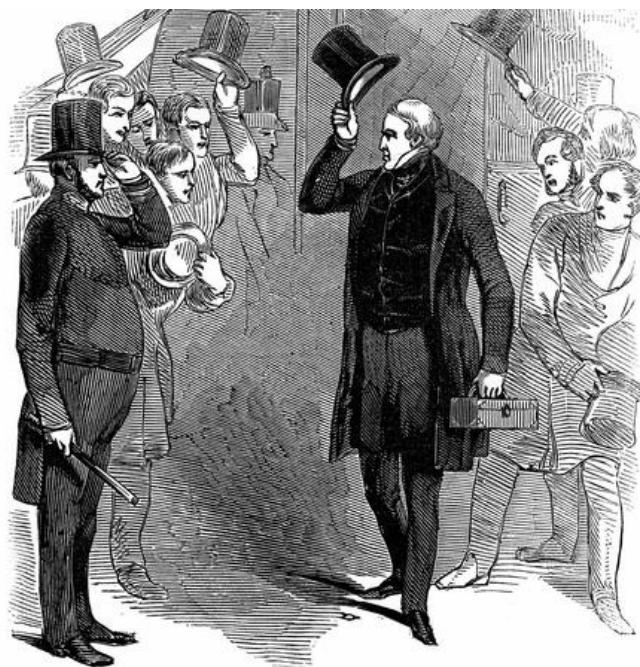
NAME	YEAR & PLACE OF BIRTH	NUMBER IN H REGISTER
RESIDENT AT LEMAN STREET POLICE STATION		
ANDREWS Jas	1831, Wilts (Red Linch)	
BALL James	1829, Devon (South Milton)	
BARHAM Frederick	1829, Mdx (Ratcliff)	
BARNES Thos	1820, Beds (Eaton)	10
BOUCHER Charles	1827, Lincs (Luton)	
BRYANT John	1828, Sussex (Framfield)	
BULLEN Charles	1822, Surrey (Albury)	
BUTTON Daniel	1820, Berks (Reading)	
BYRNE James	1820, Ireland	
CLEARY John	1812, Ireland	8
COCKIDELL John	1817, Ireland	
COTTON Henry	1801, Mdx (Kensington)	
CONDON John (Police Sergeant)	1804, Ireland	
CREEs Robt	1823, Devon (Dartmouth)	37
DARAMEL Samuel (Policeman)	1821, Devon (Exeter)	140
DUFFY Michl	1827, Ireland	85
DUNN John	1828, Ireland	
ELLNER John	1830, Kent (Ramsgate)	
FARRALL Wm	1822, Kent (Tunbridge)	176
FENN Robt	1829, Norfolk (Turlingham)	23
FISHER William	1827, Norfolk (Brownstead)	
FITZGERALD William	1811, Ireland	
GIFFORD William	1828, Ireland	
GREATHEAD John	1825, Kent (Erith)	31
HAGARD John	1831, Somerset (Temple Coombe)	
HAWKS William	1827, Cambs (Hober)	
HOWLAND Edward	1830, Kent (Deal)	89
HUESTON John	1819, Ireland	191
HUGHES William	1829, Kent (St Nicholas)	
HUSSEY Charles	1826, Sussex (Midhurst)	
JONES Thos	1831, Herts (Tring)	174
KELLY William	1818, Ireland	
KNAELTON Chas	1821, Mdx (Southgate)	209
LOUIS Alexander	1826, Kent (Chatham)	
LOWE, William	1829, Leic (Branstone)	152
McAULIFF Edward	1813, Ireland	
McCARTER Charles	1824, Ireland	

MEADS James	1826, Ireland	
MILTON James	1830, Hants (Albotsley)	
NICHOLAS Nathan	1827, Sussex (Cuckfield)	36
NORMAN William	1830, Dorset	171
OLOGTEN Charles	1827, Ireland	
ORRIS Samuel	1812, Suffolk (Hutustine)	
PAGES George	1825, Mdx (Harrow)	
PAINE Robt	1826, Dorset (Blandford)	198
PLAYLE Horatio	1828, Essex (Stamford Rivers)	
POPLE John	1822, Somerset (St James)	
ROSS Thomas	1828, Ireland	
ROWLEY Skelton	1822, Mdx (Bloomsbury)	
ROYAN Peter	1825, Ireland	
SAVAGE William	1831, Bucks (Woburn)	212
SEMPLE Charles	1830, Ireland	
SMITH William	1829, Essex (Leighton)	
STANBROOK Wm	1830, Hants (Southampton)	
THOMAS Wm	1826, Cornwall (St Austell)	11
TOWNSEND Thos	1828, Oxford (Milton)	6
TREMONGER Thomas	1828, Kent (Milton)	
WAISHFORD Walter	1824, Devon (Exbourne)	
WALSH Patrick	1824, Ireland	123
WELLS Thomas	1830, Kent (Foscray)	144
WHITAKER Thomas	1829, Mdx (Marylebone)	
WHITBREAD William	1826, Suffolk (Stoke Heath)	
WILLIAMSON William	1823, Scotland	173
YOUNG Robt	1827, Kent (Woolwich)	204
RESIDENT AT SPITALFIELDS POLICE STATION		
CLARKE George (Police Officer)	1816, Mdx (Stoke Newington)	
CONSTABLE Thomas (Sergeant)	1814, Surrey (Croydon)	[Inspector]
CULMER John	1814, Kent (Canterbury)	
DOUGHTY Richard	1825, Kent (Margate)	
EDWARDS James	1822, Somerset (Bristol)	16
HOGAN William (Police Officer)	1805, Ireland	
HUDSON Henry (Police Officer)	1826, Sussex (Arundel)	78
SAUNDERS Joseph	1818, Mdx (St Lukes)	17
SMALLWOOD William (Police Officer)	1823, Kent (Malling)	
RESIDENT ELSEWHERE IN WHITECHAPEL		
BALL George (Sergeant)	1812, Norfolk (Brunstead)	
BATTEN Edward (Policeman)	1791, Mdx (Marylebone)	
BENDEL Thomas (Police Officer)	1821, Wilts (Bradford)	

BLAKE William	1826, Ireland	
BREWSTER William (Policeman)	1815, Suffolk	
BURGESS Richard (Police man)	1815, Mdx (Whitechapel)	165
CHILDS Charles	1831, Herts	193
COSIER Jonathan	1826, Herts (Tring)	203
COX James (Policeman)	1822, Surrey	
DODD John (Policeman)	1809, Kent	45
DUNAWAY Porter W	1824, Sussex (Earnly)	129
EGERTON Samuel (193 H)	1821, Staffs (Stoke on trent)	24
ELLIS Thomas (Inspector of Police)	1803, Surrey (Gt Bookham)	
GALLOVAN Michael (Policeman)	1820, Ireland (Bury)	110
GOWLEY John	1825, Ireland	
GREEN Samuel	1801, Warwicks (Chilworth)	
GROVES Henry	1825, Sussex	72
GUNTON Abraham	1815, Essex (Feering)	142
HALL Alfred A	1826, Kent (Canterbury)	127
HARBORN William Jas	1827, Kent (Bromley)	208
HARRIS Henry (Inspector of Police)	1807, Mdx (Hopton Iven)	
HILL James	1815, Ireland	
HODGE John (Policeman)	1829, Devon (Tiverton)	94
JERROTT Gidon (Policeman)	1825, Mdx (London)	
JACKSON Henry (Sergeant)	1818, Suffolk (Kettleborough)	
JOHNSON John	1827,	
KEARNEY James	1810, Ireland (Dublin)	
KELLY Francis	1818, Ireland (Leitum)	130
KING George	1806,	
KING William (Sergeant)	1819, Surrey (Banstead)	22
LUCEY Michael	1811, Ireland	
LYONS Danl	1811, NK	
MADIGAN Thomas (Policeman)	1815, Ireland	196
MANNELL Henry	1824, Dorset (Spetisbury)	52
MARCHANT Benjamin	1829, Mdx (Stoke Newington)	
McGOVAN Robert	1798, Ireland	
McINTOSH James (Police Sergeant)	1818, Scotland	
McMAHON John	1812, Ireland (Monaghan)	32
MEDLICOTT William (Police Officer)	1801, Ireland (Brit Subj)	
MELOY William	1824, Ireland	4
MIDDLETON James	1826, Ireland	
MOOSMAN George	1828, Bucks (Stoke Hammond)	19
MOSSMAN James T (Policeman)	1830, Beds (Ampthill)	
NEWCOMBE Daniel	1821, Devon (Exeter)	
PAYNES William	1816, Wilts (Warminster)	156
RAHILLY William	1825, Ireland	53

REED George	1818, Devon (Braunton)	199
ROBBINS Thomas	1820, Somerset (Stoke Lane)	157
RUNACRE John (Police Officer)	1828, Norfolk	
SEAMAN George	1805, Mdx (St Luke)	
SEAMAN George	1835, Mdx (Whitechapel)	
SLATER Thomas	1821,	
SMALLEY Joseph	1795, Notts (Macclesfield)	175
TAYLOR Henry	1826, Oxford (Great Milton)	122
THOMPSON George	1812, Lincs (Winterton)	
TUBMAN Henry	1823, Ireland	
WALSH John	1818, Ireland	
WEAKFORD Thomas (Sergeant)	1823, Sussex (Walberton)	[Inspector]
WEBB W	1803,	
WHITE James	1815, Mdx (Bethnal Green)	
WILLIAMS Francis	1826, Cornwall (St Keverne)	12

All recorded in 1851 Census as Police Constables unless otherwise stated.



**APPENDIX 4: POLICEMEN IN H DIVISION REGISTER, WHO WERE SERVING ON
30th MARCH 1851**

H No	Name	Age on Joining	Occupation	Place of Birth	Date of Joining	Date and Cause of Leaving
225	ADLER Joseph	21	Labourer	Berks (Tubury)	June 1844	Transferred to G, Oct 1862
151	ASTBURY William	25	Hatter	Staffs (Newcastle)	Dec 1843	Resigned Mar 1862
10	BARNES Thomas	22	Labourer	Beds (Eaton Socow)	Dec 1845	Resigned May 1870
103	BILLINGS Robert	25	Labourer (2 yrs in Army)	Northants (Eye)	May 1849 Apr 1854	To No. 182
137	BRADLEY Philip	25	Waiter	Surrey (Horseley)	Jan 1847	To No. 59. Resigned June 1870
43	BRAY Joseph	27	Groom	Mdx (Kensington)	Dec 1842	Transferred to T, May 1859
161	BRITTON Thomas	29	Labourer (8 yrs in Constabulary)	Fermanagh (Boho)	Mar 1845	Resigned July 1865
160	BULL Alfred	23	Chemist	Sussex (Rye)	Jan 1849	Pensioned Oct 1872
190	BURGESS Lawrence	29	Mariner	Scotland (Shetland)	Sept 1849	Resigned Feb 1864
165	BURGESS Richard	22	Labourer	Mdx (Whitechapel)	Oct 1834	Died Apr 1880
121	BUTLER Charles	22	Labourer	Oxford (Fritwell)	Jan 1844	To No. 124. Resigned Jan 1864
117	CHANDLER William Charles	21	Labourer	Surrey (Lambeth)	Nov 1849	Resigned Mar 1871
124	CHAPLIN Josiah	27	Labourer	Cambridge (Boxworth)	Jun 1834	Resigned Nov 1859
193	CHILDS Charles James	21	Labourer	Herts (Gt Amwell)	Oct 1849	Resigned June 1872
8	CLEARY John	23	Grocer	Limerick (Newcastle)	Oct 1842	Promoted to Inspector and Transferred to V, Feb 1859
203	COSIERS Jonathan	23	Labourer	Herts (Wilston)	Jan 1849	Resigned Dec 1867
138	COX George	24	Labourer	Dorset (Lowder)	May 1846	Dismissed Dec 1863
37	CREES Robert	26	Mason	Somerset (Cotton)	Dec 1848	Pensioned May 1873
140	DAMEREL Samuel	28	Silversmith (4½ yrs in Constabulary)	Devon (Exeter)	April 1847	Resigned Oct 1871
45	DODD John	29	Shoemaker	Kent (Basted)	Aug 1841	Resigned July 1866
85	DUFFY Michael	24	Labourer	Sligo (Dovcastle)	June 1847	Died Sept 1860
129	DUNAWAY Porter William	23	Labourer	Sussex (Westwitring)	Jan 1847	Promoted. To No. 11, then No. 5. Died April 1872
86	DUNK George	24	Blacksmith (2½ years in Army)	Sussex (Falmer)	Mar 1844	Resigned July 1870
1	EASTSTAFFE Thomas Wiggins	34	Grocer	Berks (Reading)	May 1839	Resigned Aug 1859
16	EDWARDS James	28	Labourer (9 years in Army)	Somerset (Bristol)	May 1849	Transferred to K, Dec 1864
24	EGERTON Samuel	25	Potter	Staffs (Longton)	Oct 1845	To No. 11. Promoted to Inspector, Jan 1864
14	EVES James	22	Baker	Mdx (Bethnal Green)	Oct 1835	Resigned July 1859
176	FARRALL William	23	Servant	Kent (Tunbridge)	July 1846	Resigned Nov 1870
23	FENN ROBERT	22	Labourer	Norfolk (Surlingham)	July 1850	Transferred to K, Jan 1859
7	FOAY Cornelius	23	Ironmonger	Hants (Kingston)	Dec 1836	Resigned Nov 1859

104	FORELAND John William	25	Labourer	Mdx (Stepney)	July 1847	Resigned Dec 1859
115	FOWLER Robert	22	Labourer	Yorks (Flamborough)	Dec 1844	Dismissed Oct 1858
110	GALLAVAN Michael	25	Labourer	Kerry (Daugh)	April 1839	Resigned Dec 1859
222	GODDARD John	29	Labourer	Surrey (Worplesdon)	Feb 1843	Resigned Jan 1866
31	GREATHEAD John	24	Tailor	Kent (Erith)	Mar 1849	Died Sept 1867
136	GREEN Thomas	28	Labourer	Limerick (Grouse Lodge)	Dec 1841	Resigned May 1859
72	GROVES Henry	24	Labourer	Sussex (Sidlesham)	Mar 1848	Resigned Apr 1867
146	GUNTON Abraham	25	Shoemaker	Essex (Kelvedon)	Dec 1840	Resigned June 1861
127	HALL Alfred Alexander	22	Mariner (6 years in Navy)	Kent (Canterbury)	May 1847	Dismissed Oct 1862
208	HARBAR William James	21	Butcher	Kent (Bromley)	Dec 1844	Resigned May 1859
81	HARRIS Thomas	25	Labourer	Somerset (Odcombe)	Sept 1847	To No. 7. Transferre d to A, July 1865
94	HODGE John	22	Carpenter	Devon (Tiverton)	Aug 1850	Dismissed Nov 1859
162	HODGSON Charles	21	Labourer	East Indies	Mar 1851	To No. 14. Resigned (Pension) May 1876
147	HOLLIS James	22	Labourer	Hants (Shelford)	May 1839	Resigned Aug 1861
202	HOLMES John	25	Labourer	Norfolk (Southrepps)	Feb 1848	Resigned May 1872
168	HOWE William	32	Shoemaker	Devon (Moreton Hamptead)	Jan 1842	Resigned July 1866
89	HOWLAND Edward	20	Baker	Kent (Mongeham)	Oct 1850	Died July 1866
78	HUDSON Henry	22	Bricklayer	Sussex (Arundel)	May 1848	Resigned Mar 1871
112	HUDSON John	23	Clerk	Sligo (St Johns)	Oct 1839	Resigned Oct 1871
191	HUESTON John	24	Labourer	Fermanah (Corryglass)	Apr 1841	Resigned Feb 1864
15	HUNT George	22	Servant	Dorset (W Knighton)	Jan 1843	Resigned May 1859
174	JONES Thomas	19	Servant	Herts (Tring)	Apr 1850	Resigned May 1859
130	KELLY Francis	28	Labourer (Constabulary 2yrs)	Leitum	Oct 1845	Resigned Oct 1866
22	KING William	25	Bricklayer	Surrey (Banstead)	Mar 1844	To No. 9. Resigned Dec 1864
209	KNACKSTON Charles	23	Baker	Mdx (Southgate)	Feb 1845	To No. 94. Resigned Oct 1870
152	LOWE William	21	Carpenter	Leics (Bramstone)	Apr 1850	Resigned May 1862
32	McMAHON John	27	Labourer	Monaghan (Castleblaney)	Aug 1836	Resigned Nov 1859
196	MADIGAN Thomas	29	Gardener	Limerick (Newcastle)	May 1840	Resigned July 1860
52	MANUELS Henry	30	Gardener	Dorset (Spitesbury)	Jan 1850	Transferred to S, Aug 1862
20	MARSHALL Frederick	23	Servant	Worc (Shipton on Store)	Oct 1848	To No. 9
4	MOLOY William	22	Linen Draper (7 years in Army)	Kerry (Tralee)	July 1846	Promoted to Inspector and Transferred to P, Jan 1859
19	MOOSMAN George	20	Labourer	Bucks (Stoke Hamond)	June 1850	Transferred to K, Jan 1859
36	NICHOLAS Nathan	24	Labourer	Sussex (Bolney)	Nov 1850	Resigned Mar 1871
171	NORMAN William	20	Gardener	Dorset (Frampton)	Dec 1849	Transferred to V, Apr 1863

133	NORMOYLE William	34	Servant	Clare (New Market)	Aug 1830	Resigned Aug 1859
177	O'CONNOR James	26	Servant (2 years in Army)	Dublin	Nov 1844	Resigned April 1867
21	OLIVER Richard	23	Butcher	Essex (Southweald)	Oct 1844	To No. 19. Died April 1865
18	ORAMS Edward	25	Shoemaker	Suffolk (Needham Market)	Jan 1840	Resigned Dec 1873
29	ORVIS Samuel	31	Groom (14 years in Army)	Suffolk (Hintlesham)	June 1842	Resigned Dec 1858
41	PATERSON James John	21	Labourer	Surrey (Christchurch)	Mar 1848	Promoted to Sergt April 1871. Resigned Mar 1875.
198	PAIN Robert	22	Servant	Dorset (Blanford)	May 1849	Pensioned July 1868
156	PAYNE William	24	Moulder	Wilts (Salisbury)	Jan 1840	Resigned Aug 1860
120	PEARCE William Harroll	26	Bricklayer (16 mnths Marine)	Devon (Exeter)	Feb 1847	Resigned Dec 1861
2	PRIOR Benjamin	21	Labourer	Essex (Wimbish)	Dec 1846	Resigned May 1874
167	PORTCH Levi	23	Weaver	Wiltshire (Bradford)	July 1847	Resigned Feb 1867
53	RAHILLY William	22	Labourer	Kerry (Castle Island)	June 1846	Resigned Nov 1863
199	REED George	24	Labourer	Devon (Beldin Bramston)	May 1842	Resigned Sept 1863
157	ROBBINS Thomas	29	Baker	Somerset (Stoke Lane)	Sept 1849	Resigned Aug 1866
180	ROSS William	28	Labourer	Sligo	Jul 1842	Resigned Oct 1866
95	RYMAN Charles	22	Servant	Dorset (Dean)	Mar 1845	To No. 212. Resigned Dec 1871
17	SAUNDERS Joseph	29	Japanner	Mdx (St Lukes)	Sept 1848	Resigned Dec 1870
55	SAUNDERS Robert	22	Labourer	Suffolk (Brome)	Feb 1850	Died Feb 1861
212	SAVAGE William	20	Paper Maker	Bucks (Wooburn)	Jan 1851	Resigned Jan 1859
143	SHARROTTS William	36	Labourer (19 years in Army)	Lancs (Bolton)	July 1846	Resigned Mar 1864
175	SMALLEY Joseph	36	Labourer (16½ years in Army)	Notts (Ratcliffe on Trent)	Dec 1834	Resigned May 1859
183	STOCKEN Ephraim	29	Gardener	Suffolk (Brandistone)	May 1839	Resigned July 1860
122	TAYLOR Henry	21	Baker	Oxford (Gt Milton)	July 1847	To No. 8. Resigned Apr 1872
11	THOMAS William	24	Miner	Cornwall (Carrismerry)	Mar 1849	Transferred to D, Jan 1859
139	TIZLEY Lewis	23	Bricklayer	Essex (Roydon)	May 1843	Resigned Sept 1867
6	TOWNSEND Thomas	21	Porter	Oxford (Little Milton)	May 1847	Resigned Feb 1873
123	WALSH Patrick	25	Labourer	Mayo (Mayo)	Mar 1848	Resigned June 1872
144	WELLS Thomas	21	Labourer	Kent (Chislehurst)	June 1850	Died Aug 1865
12	WILLIAMS Francis	23	Labourer	Cornwall (Keverne)	Sept 1848	Pensioned Aug 1868
173	WILLIAMSON William	27	Stonemason	Caithness (Halkirk)	Aug 1850	Resigned Apr 1875
204	YOUNG Robert Henry	21	Labourer	Kent (Woolwich)	Feb 1850	Resigned Feb 1862

Notes:

All the information shown in this table is taken from the H Division Register itself. This Register, which is the earliest surviving H Division Register, was not started until c.1858.³⁰

Therefore it does not include policemen who left H Division before 1858.

³⁰ H Division Register, 1-270, book number 650, continued in H Division Register, 1-307, book number 648.

Roll of Honour

174 Police Officers of the London Metropolitan Police Force who died in the line of duty between 29th September 1829 - 22nd January 1901 during and prior to the reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria.

PC Joseph Grantham

Died 28 June 1830, aged 31

Collapsed and died when kicked in the head arresting a drunken man.

PC John Long

Died 16 August 1830, aged 35

Stabbed to death when he stopped three suspected burglars at night.

PC Michael Pratt

Died 7 January 1831, aged 34

Collapsed and died of heart failure chasing four suspected thieves.

PC Thomas Hart

Died 25 October 1832, aged 42

Drowned when knocked in the river trying to catch a stray cow.

PC Robert Culley

Died 13 May 1833, aged 27

Fatally stabbed during a riot at a political meeting in Coldbath Fields.

PC William Bruff

Died 9 December 1836, aged 44

Found collapsed on his beat in Bunhill burial ground and died the next day.

PC John Barton

Died 18 October 1838, aged 40

Drowned when he accidentally fell in the River Lea while on night duty.

PC William Aldridge

Died 30 September 1839, aged 30

Fatally injured when stoned by a mob during an arrest at Deptford.

PC Peter Beadle

Died 11 July 1840, aged 18

Accidentally drowned when he fell in London Docks on night duty.

PC John Husbands

Died 20 July 1840, aged 26

Accidentally drowned when he fell in Grosvenor Canal on night duty.

PC James Carroll

Died 2 October 1841, aged 45

Attacked by a mob and hit with his own truncheon making an arrest.

PC Thomas Everett

Died 14 January 1842, aged 26

Found drowned in London Docks apparently having fallen in at night.

PC Charles Nicholls

Died 29 January 1842, aged 41

Found dead on his beat at Lambeth supposed to have suffered a fit.

PC James Fulkes

Died 10 March 1842, aged 26

Found dead on his beat at Holborn having struck his head in a fall.

PC Timothy Daly

Died 5 May 1842, aged 45

Shot dead when he attempted to arrest an armed highway robber.

PC Charles Reynolds

Died 2 June 1842, aged 22

Found drowned in London Docks having fallen in while on night duty.

Sgt Andrew Allen

Died 17 December 1842

Collapsed and died while on foot patrol with one of his men.

PC Uriah Eden

Died 20 November 1844, aged 29

Fatally injured in a fall in a chapel while searching for lost property.

PC John Birkmyre, 19

PC John Wright, 30

Died 21 December 1844

Both killed while searching a burning house when the floors collapsed.

PC Charles William Somes

Died 4 September 1845, aged 32

Died as a result of being injured on duty on Marylebone Division.

Sgt Samuel Tebbenham

Died 17 September 1845, aged 47

Collapsed and died of heart failure whilst on horse patrol at Dagenham.

PC Fitz Henry Parsons

Died 9 January 1846, aged 22

Fatally injured in a fall into the dry dock at Woolwich Arsenal in a fog.

PC James Hastie

Died 7 March 1846, aged 34

Fatally beaten by several men in a street disturbance at Deptford.

PC George Clark

Died 29 June 1846, aged 20

Found brutally beaten and stabbed to death while on night duty.

PC George Hall

Died 4 July 1846, aged 21

Fatally injured when thrown from his horse after 15 hours on duty.

PC Daniel Harker Monk

Died 28 May 1848, aged 30

Fatally injured with his own staff while taking a prisoner into custody.

PC William Sibley

Died 6 September 1849, aged 37

Collapsed and died from supposed over exertion at the scene of a fire.

PC John Welch

Died 12 October 1849, aged 21

Overcome by fumes trying to rescue three workmen in a sewer.

PC Alexander Scott

Died 26 June 1850, aged 34

Died during a hospital operation on an injury received during an affray.

PC Henry James Chaplin

Died 5 May 1851, aged 33

Fatally wounded when attacked with bricks by a disorderly crowd.

Sgt Joseph Rendall

Died 29 September 1852, aged 39

Died from injuries received in an accident on duty at Greenwich.

PC Michael Madigan

Died 17 October 1852, aged 31

Found accidentally drowned in the Thames while on night duty.

PC George Best

Died 18 October 1852, aged 38

While reporting for duty at Pimlico he suffered a fit and died the next day.

PC Francis Stoker

Died 11 February 1855, aged 38

Killed attempting to rescue persons trapped in a collapsing house.

PC Malachi Shannon

Died 28 June 1856, aged 34

Fatally injured when accidentally thrown from his horse on patrol.

PC James Burton

Died 15 July 1857, aged 34

Died after the amputation of his arm following an injury on duty.

PC Charles Busk

Died 11 August 1857, aged 45

Fatally injured in a fall while checking premises at night.

PC James Denyer

Died 17 August 1857, aged 28

Drowned checking a suspicious light on a boat in London Docks.

PC Henry Morgan

Died 2 January 1858, aged 25

Fatally injured when attacked making an arrest during an affray at Stepney.

PC William Wilson

Died 18 November 1858, aged 32

Found drowned in a canal after being missed on his beat in a gale.

PC William Driver

Died 12 March 1859, aged 20

Drowned when he accidentally fell in a canal on his beat in a storm.

PC William Fuller

Died 19 April 1859, aged 43

Killed taking a police horse to the station when it reared and fell.

PC Thomas Randall

Died 19 August 1859, aged 20

Killed in a fall at the police station.

PC Charles Welch

Died 16 December 1859, aged 30

Died as a result of head injuries received in execution of his duty.

PC George Brown

Died 24 October 1860, aged 25

Killed by falling down the area of a house while patrolling his beat.

PC Samuel Hawes

Died 8 June 1861, aged 34

Died in an asylum from the effects of a head injury received on duty.

PC Henry Hall

Died 22 August 1861, aged 26

Found drowned at Woolwich Dock after being missed from his beat.

Insp James Rapsey

Died 26 September 1861, aged 41

Died as a result of injuries received in the execution of his duty.

Insp William Hard

Died 11 June 1862, aged 43

Died from a fractured skull caused by a fall from his horse on duty.

PC Henry Butler

Died 21 August 1862, aged 23

Found drowned in the canal on his beat in suspicious circumstances.

PC Richard Lillicrap

Died 31 August 1862, aged 45

Collapsed and died from over exertion when in pursuit of a thief.

PC William John Davey

Died 19 January 1863, aged 43

Shot dead while on a duty at home by a man he was investigating.

PC Frederick William Patrick

Died 20 November 1863, aged 29

Found dead under Hungerford Bridge having fallen through a hole.

PC Charles Pearce

Died 23 January 1864, aged 32

Drowned when he accidentally fell from a police boat at Devonport.

PC Daniel Langford

Died 24 January 1864, aged 37

Died from injuries he received in 1862 when assaulted by navvies.

Sgt Thomas William Jackson

Died 27 July 1864, aged 40

Died from injuries received in 1859 when assaulted by a prisoner.

Insp John Jenkin Terry

Died 4 October 1864, aged 34

Died after amputation of his leg broken in a fall while on patrol.

PC George Edward Saunders

Died 7 November 1864, aged 27

Drowned when he fell in the docks while patrolling his beat at night.

Sgt John Thompson

Died 20 June 1865, aged 39

Died after suffering a stroke while on duty at Clapham police station.

PC George Sykes

Died 20 December 1865, aged 37

Fatally injured helping to release a brig in the mud at Woolwich Docks.

PC William Fitzgerald

Died 23 January 1866, aged 31

Fatally injured when violently assaulted by a drunken prisoner.

PC Thomas Ley Baker

Died May 1866, aged 25

Died from injuries received in 1863 when assaulted by two burglars.

PC Jesse Roberts

Died 9 April 1866, aged 52

Died of disease the result of injuries received in execution of his duty.

Sgt Joseph Hirons

Died 30 June 1866, aged 43

Died after amputation of his thumb following an injury received on duty.

PC John McFarlane

Died 4 July 1866, aged 34

Found drowned apparently having accidentally fallen in the Thames.

Sgt Henry Collins

Died 21 November 1866, aged 38

Fatally injured apparently having been thrown from his horse at night.

PC Dennis Potter Clark

Died 6 January 1867, aged 42

Died as a result of a head injury received when assaulted in 1864.

PC John Chattey

Died 21 January 1867, aged 34

Died of disease as a result of injury received in execution of his duty.

PC John Kennedy

Died 8 May 1867, aged 22

Collapsed and died from the effects of sunstroke while on his beat.

PC Robert Snelling

Died 6 October 1867, aged 26

Died following injuries received in a fall off a wall while searching a house.

Insp Daniel Bradstock

Died 2 June 1868, aged 46

Fatally stabbed while visiting a prisoner in the police station cell.

PC Joseph Eite

Died 6 August 1868, aged 28

Died as a result of injuries received by being kicked by a drunken man.

PC Charles Clay

Died 31 August 1868, aged 34

Collapsed in the street while on enquiries and died from a stroke.

Sir Richard Mayne KCB

Died 26 December 1868, aged 72

Found collapsed at his desk at Scotland Yard and died the same day.

Appointed in July 1829 as one of two original joint Commissioners of Police.

PC William Batchelor

Died 7 May 1869, aged 44

Died from injuries received in 1866 when kicked during a disturbance.

PC Charles Pierson

Died 8 July 1869, aged 50

Died from the effect of an injury to his leg received when on duty.

PC Charles Cox

Died 19 January 1870, aged 41

Drowned when he accidentally fell into the river while on night duty.

PC James Nice

Died 23 April 1870, aged 38

Died as a result of a spinal injury received when kicked on duty.

Sgt George Robins

Died 11 October 1870, aged 46

Killed when kicked by his horse while practicing mounted drill.

PC George Frederick Waring

Died 29 December 1870, aged 31

Died after amputation of his leg injured when kicked by a prisoner.

PC John Laskey

Died 29 August 1872, aged 46

Accidentally poisoned at the station by mistakenly swallowing acid.

PC James Bowler

Died 3 October 1872, aged 40

Found drowned in a canal on his beat in suspicious circumstances.

PC Moses Parrott

Died 9 November 1872, aged 31

Collapsed and died on duty from the effects of previous injuries.

PC Alfred George Bennett

Died 19 October 1873, aged 19

Died as a result of injuries received when assaulted during an arrest.

PC Alexander Barnes

Died 13 May 1874, aged 41

Fatally injured when he fell from a ladder lighting the station lamp.

PC Isaac Worf

Died 14 May 1875, aged 33

Collapsed and died from a stroke while on patrol in the early hours.

PC Samuel Walker Bell

Died 3 June 1875, aged 47

Died from injuries received on duty when struck on the head by a gate.

DC Thomas Phelan

Died 10 June 1875, aged 34

Died from exposure while watching and capturing a gang of burglars.

D/Insp Daniel Davey

Died 21 February 1876, aged 36

Died of typhoid fever contracted while on special duty in Naples.

PC Thomas Groomes

Died 18 January 1877, aged 40

Drowned in the canal apparently trying to rescue or arrest a boy.

PC Thomas Brook

Died 30 May 1877, aged 26

Died from a head injury received when assaulted during an arrest.

Sgt Edward Hardie

Died 1 July 1877, aged 32

Found drowned in a river where he had been on night patrol duty.

PC Charles Martin

Died 4 May 1878

Died as a result of injuries received while in the execution of his duty.

PC Joseph Bunyan

Died 16 August 1878, aged 39

Died of head injury received on his beat in suspicious circumstances.

PC Richard Cook

Died 14 October 1878, aged 28

Fatally injured when his horse fell on him while on mounted patrol.

PC Thomas Carlyon

Died 19 November 1878, aged 43

Collapsed and died of heart failure while on foot patrol.

PC William Stevens Nazer
Died 24 January 1879, aged 33
Drowned when he accidentally fell from the quayside while on patrol.

PC James Collis
Died 22 April 1879, aged 25
Killed when he was accidentally run over by a train while on patrol.

Sgt Alfred Thomas Guymer
Died 25 August 1879, aged 38
Died from head injuries received while in the execution of his duty.

PC William Twinn
Died 10 September 1879, aged 23
Fatally injured while attempting to stop a runaway horse and cab.

Sgt Robert Harris
Died 11 October 1879, aged 49
Died as a result of injuries received in the execution of his duty.

Sgt Henry Dent
Died 11 August 1880, aged 41
Died from the effects of an injury received while on duty.

PC Henry Hallett
Died 2 July 1881, aged 32
Died as a result of injuries received in the execution of his duty.

PC William Palmer
Died 6 July 1881, aged 27
Died as a result of injuries received when assaulted by a prisoner.

PC Fred Atkins
Died 23 September 1881, aged 23
Shot three times and fatally wounded trying to arrest a burglar.

Sgt William John Bacon
Died 9 November 1881, aged 36
Found drowned in the dock waters having been missed from his beat.

Insp John Pearman
Died 9 December 1881, aged 44
Died of disease from the effects of injuries received on duty.

Insp James McElligott
Died 6 February 1882, aged 45
Collapsed and died of a stroke as a result of injuries received on duty.

PC William Goddard
Died 22 March 1882, aged 41
Accidentally drowned when he fell into a dock on his beat in a storm.

Insp Thomas Jennings
Died 7 July 1882, aged 41
Died as a result of injuries received in the execution of his duty.

PC Thomas Leader
Died 20 July 1882, aged 40
Pensioned in 1878 from an injury on duty and subsequently died.

PC Henry Worthington Fitnum
Died 28 October 1882, aged 44
Having been relieved on night duty he fell into a river and drowned.

Insp Joseph Hughes
Died 27 November 1882, aged 37
Killed when thrown from his horse while returning from court.

PC Edward Walkling
Died 30 November 1882, aged 31
Died as a result of injuries received when run over by a cab on duty.

PC George Cole
Died 1 December 1882, aged 27
Killed when despite being shot at he tried to arrest an armed burglar.

PC Daniel Shanahan
Died 31 March 1883, aged 29
Died following the amputation of his leg resulting from an injury on duty.

PC William Silvey
Died 20 November 1883, aged 42
Fatally injured in a fall off a wagon investigating suspicious activity.

PC John Russell
Died 4 August 1884, aged 31
Died as a result of injuries received while in the execution of his duty.

Insp William Robson
Died 16 October 1884, aged 50
Drowned when his police galley was struck and sunk by a steam tug.

PC Albert Thompson
Died 11 February 1885, aged 31
Fatally injured while on point duty trying to stop a horse and cart.

DC Richard James Barber
Died 2 March 1885, aged 28
Killed when he fell through a glass skylight chasing a burglar on a roof.

PC Alfred Wellham
Died 21 April 1885, aged 30
Died as a result of injuries received in the execution of his duty.

PC Edwin Cousins
Died 5 May 1886, aged 40
Died as a result of injuries received in the execution of his duty.

PC Harold L. Richardson
Died 13 May 1886, aged 19
Found drowned after leaving his station for duty on a stormy night.

PC Robert McGaw

Died 10 February 1887, aged 29

Died from a fractured skull after being kicked by his police horse.

A/Sgt John Nurdin

Died 20 April 1887 aged 35

Died from head injuries received when attacked by a prisoner.

PC George Goldsmith

Died 15 June 1887, aged 44

Died as a result of injuries received in the execution of his duty.

PC John Beer

Died 26 June 1887, aged 59

Died as a result of injuries received in the execution of his duty.

Sgt David Groombridge

Died 18 September 1887, aged 38

Died of injuries received during an arrest when assaulted by two men.

PC Michael Lewis

Died 31 May 1888, aged 47

Collapsed and died of heart failure in the violent arrest of two thieves.

PC Alfred Ellis

Died 31 July 1888, aged 47

Found drowned in the river he was to cross to execute a warrant.

PC Thomas Dean

Died 18 October 1888, aged 39

Drowned in the canal while he was patrolling his beat on a foggy night.

D/Sgt James John Elliott

Died 5 March 1889, aged 47

Died from the effects of injuries received when stabbed on duty.

PC William James Pasker

Died 24 July 1890, aged 43

Drowned on holiday attempting to rescue a man from a rough sea.

PC James Goodhew

Died 16 October 1890, aged 52

Accidentally drowned when he fell off a lock gate while it was closing.

PC William Frederick Dunmow

Died 20 April 1891, aged 49

Died in an operation on a fracture following a fall while on foot patrol.

PC Henry Moore

Died 23 April 1891, aged 33

Fatally injured when he fell down stairs at the police station.

PC George Cole

Died 24 June 1891, aged 33

Fatally injured when run over trying to stop runaway horses and a van.

Sgt George Dixon
Died 27 August 1891, aged 31
Collapsed and died on duty of a haemorrhage after a coughing fit.

PC Henry Randolph Donaldson
Died 14 November 1891, aged 49
Died as a result of injuries received in an accident on duty in 1889.

Sgt Thomas Henry Biggs
Died 22 December 1891, aged 42
Collapsed and died from syncope on office duty at Dalston Police Station.

DC Charles Robinson
Died 17 February 1892, aged 42
Became insane following a blow to the head and took his own life.

PC Arthur May
Died 22 February 1892, aged 35
Died as a result of injuries received when he fell into a canal on duty.

PC Hugh Spalding
Died 5 April 1892, aged 23
Fatally injured when he fell down a stairwell at the police station.

PC Henry Samuel Graham
Died 19 May 1892, aged 34
Died from injuries sustained in an accident while on mounted duty.

PC Joseph Daniels
Died 22 May 1892, aged 27
Choked to death after swallowing his false teeth assisting in an arrest.

D/Sgt Joseph Joyce
Died 20 June 1892, aged 42
During a struggle to arrest a thief he was shot and fatally wounded.

PC Ernest Ellis
Died 9 December 1892, aged 50
Died as a result of injuries received in the execution of his duty.

Sgt David Garner
Died 15 December 1892, aged 34
Collapsed and died of heart failure after a struggle to arrest a prisoner.

Insp George Henry Dixon
Died 2 March 1893, aged 50
Found drowned after going missing in suspicious circumstances.

PC Robert Wright
Died 30 April 1893, aged 27
Killed in a fire searching a burning shop for a woman believed trapped.

PC John Goddard
Died 26 November 1893, aged 45
Fatally injured in a fall while hurrying to the scene of a fire.

Sgt William George Snell

Died 22 December 1894, aged 46

Shot during an arrest in 1884 which hastened his subsequent death.

PC Charles Walpole

Died 13 April 1895, aged 41

Crushed by the accidental fall of a stack of timber while on his beat.

Sgt Frank Benstead

Died 17 July 1895, aged 30

Found unconscious at the police station and died of a fractured skull.

PC Edwin Stone

Died 28 July 1896, aged 44

Collapsed and died of heart failure while assisting in a violent arrest.

DC William James Kemp

Died 25 May 1897, aged 31

Died from an internal haemorrhage aggravated by chasing a prisoner.

PC George Simpson

Died 11 April 1898, aged 38

Died of injuries received in an assault and while chasing a thief.

PC Charles Mather

Died 10 June 1898, aged 51

Died as a result of injuries received in a fall at the police station.

PC James Baldwin

Died 2 October 1898, aged 29

Fatally stabbed during a violent struggle to arrest a drunken man.

PC Harry Joseph West

Died 14 January 1899, aged 25

Died of disease from injuries received in execution of his duty.

PC John Shirley

Died 23 January 1899, aged 37

Died as a result of the effects of sunstroke suffered on his beat.

PC John Thomas Willsheer

Died 17 June 1899, aged 27

Fatally injured when he fell down the area of a house on his beat.

PC Frederick Arnup

Died 9 September 1899, aged 34

Died from the effects of heat stroke, which he sustained while on duty.

PC John Smith

Died 25 September 1899, aged 34

Found dead in a railway tunnel after being run over by a train on duty.

PC George Stephen Funnell
Died 2 January 1900, aged 33
Fatally burned rescuing three women in a fire at a public house.

PC Ernest William Beckwith
Died 21 January 1900, aged 33
Died of disease from injuries received in execution of his duty.

PC William Goulder
Died 1 April 1900, aged 40
Drowned when he fell in the river patrolling his beat on a foggy night.

PC Richard Henry John Crabb
Died 19 May 1900, aged 31
Died as a result of injuries received in the execution of his duty.

PC George Cooke
Died 26 June 1900, aged 47
Died from a ruptured blood vessel by shouting at a sleeping carman.

PC Henry John Jiggins
Died 14 July 1900, aged 37
Died of disease from injuries received in execution of his duty.

PC Ernest Thompson
Died 1 December 1900, aged 32
Fatally stabbed by a man he had moved on at a street disturbance.

PC Frederick James Kidd
Died 26 December 1900, aged 23
Found drowned in a dock while on his beat in the early hours.

LEST WE FORGET

Further information regarding officers who died in the line of duty in the London Metropolitan Police Force post 22/01/1901 and from other forces can be found at
www.policerollofhonour.org.uk





London Metropolitan Police Warrant Numbers- Years of Issue (Including Some Pension Numbers where known)

The London Metropolitan Police recorded each warranted officer in a numerical register. The warrant number was never re-issued and any officer leaving the force and subsequently re-joining would be re-allocated a new number.

Up to 28th July 2014 the register was up to warrant number 238,227.

The ID number or "collar number" was re-issued upon the officer leaving the force or transferring division and bears no reference to the warrant number.

Below is a list of years and the band of warrant numbers issued during that time. The dates cover the period 1829 - 1901. Any other information regarding warrant numbers post 1901 (including female officers from 1919) can be found at:

http://www.historybytheyard.co.uk/warrant_nos.htm#1850

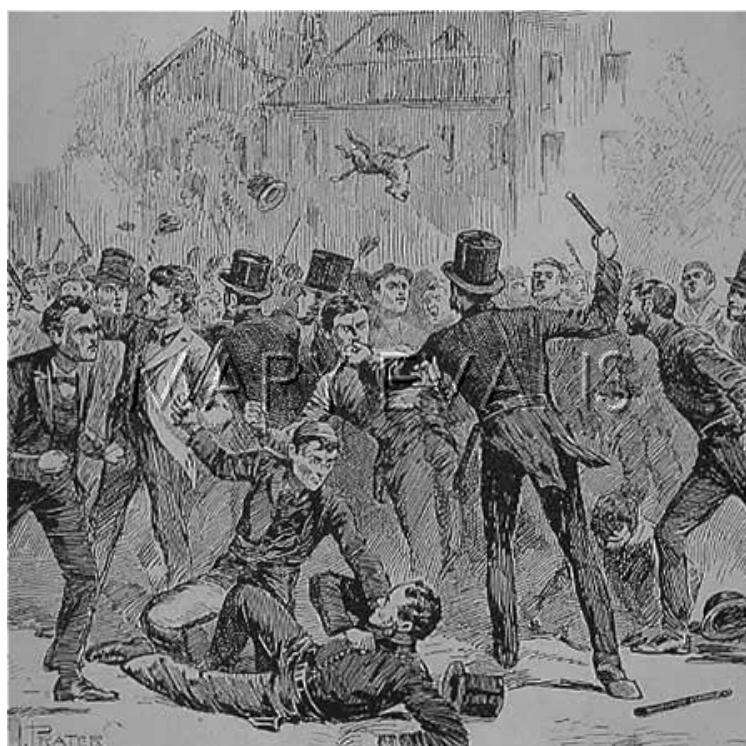
A list of the names of the first recruits and their warrant numbers from 1 - 3247 (21st September 1829 to 5th February 1830) can be found at:

http://www.historybytheyard.co.uk/first_recruits.htm

Year	Warrant Numbers		Pension Numbers	
	Start	Finish	Start	Finish
1829	1	1590		
1830	1591	5680		
1831	5682	7145		
1832	7146	8100		
1833	8101	9098		
1834	9099	10130		
1835	10131	11277		
1836	11278	12333		
1837	12334	13454		
1838	13455	14550		
1839	14551	15805		
1840	15806	17889		
1841	17890	19019		
1842	19020	19888		
1843	19889	20931		
1844	20932	21751		
1845	21752	22772		
1846	22773	23994		

1847	23995	25075		
1848	25076	26454		
1849	26455	27295		
1850	27296	28154		
1851	28155	29900		
1852	29901	30746	101	
1853	30747	32012		119
1854	32013	33213	120	720
1855	33214	34323	721	1000
1856	34324	35345		1200
1857	35346	36633		1400
1858	36634	37702		
1859	37703	38602		1764
1860	38603	40126		
1861	40127	41180		
1862	41181	43505		2000
1863	43506	44581		
1864	44582	45647		
1865	45648	46869		
1866	46870	47941		2300
1867	47942	49153		2600
1868	49154	51382		
1869	51383	52319		3000
1870	52320	53466		
1871	53467	55018		3400
1872	55019	56399		
1873	56400	57488		3800
1874	57489	58561		
1875	58562	59819		4200
1876	59820	61042		
1877	61043	62114		4600
1878	62115	63173		
1879	63174	64172		5000
1880	64173	65149		
1881	65150	66159		5500

1882	66160	67354		
1883	67355	68830		
1884	68831	69957		6000
1885	69958	71048		
1886	71049	72224		
1887	72225	73144		6500
1888	73145	74142		7000
1889	74143	75054		
1890	75055	76480		7500
1891	76481	77318	10001	10500
1892	77319	78187		
1893	78188	79277		11000
1894	79228	80147	11001	11500
1895	80148	80903	11002	12000
1896	80904	81811	12001	12500
1897	81812	83496		
1898	83497	84741		13000
1899	84742	85895		13500
1900	85896	86986		14000
1901	86987	88150		14500





The Metropolitan Police: a basic introduction to the records of service

By Chris Heather

(Magazine of the Friends of The National Archives Vol. 22 No.3, December 2011)

Although the staff records have not survived in their entirety, with a particularly bad period between 1856 and 1868 where very little survives, from 1889 to 1909 there are several sets of records available. The staff records are always arranged by one of three criteria: name, warrant number or date of joining or leaving. The warrant number was issued on joining, and remained the same throughout an officer's service; unlike the army where several service numbers could be issued. There are six main collections of staff records, each providing four pieces of information: the name, the warrant number, the division and the dates of appointment or removal from the force.

The *Numerical Registers* are held under the reference MEPO 4 / 31-32.² Two of these volumes exist and the entries are arranged by warrant number order. They were completed as men signed up and they record the warrant number, the name, the date of appointment, the division to which they were attached, and their height.¹ The record also notes how each officer was removed from the force. This was usually because they had died, resigned or were dismissed. Incidentally, it is noticeable from this register that nearly all of them were dismissed for being drunk.

The very first warrant number, number one, was issued to William Atkinson, who was dismissed for being drunk on the 29 September 1829, the very first day of the new police force, having only been in the job for four hours. Of the first 2800 new policemen only 600 managed to keep their jobs. Such a rapid turnover caused Mr Charles Hebbert, the first clothing contractor, to complain to the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police about the extra cost involved in altering and re-issuing so many uniforms.³

The second document available is a single *Alphabetical Register*, filed under reference HO 65/26. Arranged in alphabetical order of surname it provides the date of appointment, warrant number, name, rank, date of promotion or reduction, and former warrant number if the officer was reappointed. It also specifies the reason for leaving the force.

Thirdly, there are the *Alphabetical Registers of Joiners*, held under reference MEPO 4/333-338. They are quite easy to use, being arranged in alphabetical order of surname. They cover the period from 1830 to 1857, after which there is a gap until 1878 and then continue up to 1933. These registers provide the name, rank, warrant number, division and dates of appointment and removal for each officer. The earliest volumes also include the names and addresses of referees; a helpful resource for those working on a family tree that might include the father or brother listed as a referee.

The fourth series of records are the *Attestation Ledgers*, held under reference MEPO 4/352-360. These records are arranged in warrant number order and include the actual signing up to join the Metropolitan Police. These include, inside the front cover of these documents, the oath that they would have sworn at the time of their signing (see below). These ledgers also include the division that they joined, by whom they were sworn, and a signature of a witness, which again could be another member of their family.

The fifth series of records are the *Certificates of Service*, held under reference MEPO 4/361-477. These include quite a lot of information on each person but they only survive for 21 years from 1889 to 1909. They provide a physical description, date of birth, the trade that they were employed in before they joined the police, their marital status, residence, number of children, last employer, surgeon's certificate, posting to divisions, promotions, demotions and cause of

removal from the force. They are arranged by warrant number and record the answers to the questions that the recruiting officer would have put to the new recruit, and consequently most of the information relates to their life before joining the police. The very last question asks: 'Do you belong to an illegal secret society?'

The sixth and final series of records are the *Registers of Leavers*, held under reference MEPO 4/339-351, of which there are 13 volumes. These are arranged in date order, completed as and when people left the force, but with name indexes at the front. These volumes specify the division, the warrant number, the rank, the class, number of certificate granted - if not dismissed. Leavers would receive certificates according to their character: number one would be excellent, number two would be very good, and so on, and you will find abbreviations such as 'R.P' - Resignation Permitted, or 'R.R' - Required to Resign.

To assist visitors to The National Archives in locating records of a particular officer there is an *Alphabetical Index of Metropolitan Police Officers*, in seven volumes in the Research and Enquiries Room located next to the MEPO series lists. It was compiled by combing through the correspondence and papers for the Metropolitan Police held in MEPO2, and extracting details of individual men and their warrant numbers. This information has been cross referenced to other sets of relevant records in MEPO 4, MEPO 7 and the HO 64 ledger, and should confirm basic details about an officer, provide his warrant number, and may sometimes include the document reference where the entry was found.

There is also a separate name index to Police Officers mentioned in the Police Orders from 1880 to 1889, *Index to Officers Who Joined 1880-1889*, held in series MEPO 7. It includes all men that joined during this period. Police Orders were like office notices - announcements of people leaving or joining or being promoted - and they can provide specific information on individual policemen. They comprise general and confidential notices, and instructions on personnel matters including recruitment, promotions, transfers, awards, retirements, and dismissals. They also contain other instructions or notices to be brought to the attention of all ranks. These records are not otherwise easy to use because there is no index apart from this binder. If an officer joined in the 1880s, this binder should at least provide the warrant number, which is the important key to unlock other records.

Until 1890, pensions were discretionary and officers had no legal right to claim a pension. The Police Pensions Act 1890 entitled officers to claim a pension provided they had served 25-years, and could claim a modified pension or gratuity if discharged medically unfit. There are two main sources for records of pension entitlement. The first is MEPO 5, *General Correspondence and Papers of the Metropolitan Police's Office of the Receiver* relating to financial matters, between pieces number 1 and 90, which cover the dates 1829 to 1907. These records are not arranged by name; it is perhaps not the best source to start any research On the other hand, MEPO 21, *Records of Police Pensioners*, have been catalogued by name, at least from 1852 to 1890, and are searchable using The National Archives' Catalogue. The pension records continue in this series until 1993, still within MEPO21, but individual names have not yet been added to the catalogue. For records after 1890, the original document that covers the date of retirement must be ordered. *The Register of Leavers* will specify the date an officer left the force and that can then be found in MEPO 21. The entries in the volumes are arranged in order of pension number, which generally corresponds to the date of resignation although in some instances this chronological order has not been strictly followed. The pension records provide the officer's date and place of birth, marital status, parents, next of kin, service details, and then from 1923 they include details of a spouse. There are also documents concerning widows' pensions amongst MEPO21; they are quite clearly marked as widows' pensions papers in the Catalogue, and may provide further details for family historians. These papers are bound up in volumes, in order of pension number, with one page for each person. It gives the name, rank, reason for discharge and rate of pension. On the back of the page, there is more information about the individual including a description and particulars of his service.

Information about officers killed while on duty can be found in the *Returns of Death While Serving*. This consists of one volume, MEPO 4/2, and is arranged by date order from the introduction of the force 1829 to 1889. There is an alphabetical index in MEPO4/488, and this

includes the cause of death. PC Joseph Grantham became the first officer to be killed on duty, at Somers Town, Euston, in 1830 when he was kicked in the head attempting to arrest a drunken man at a disturbance.

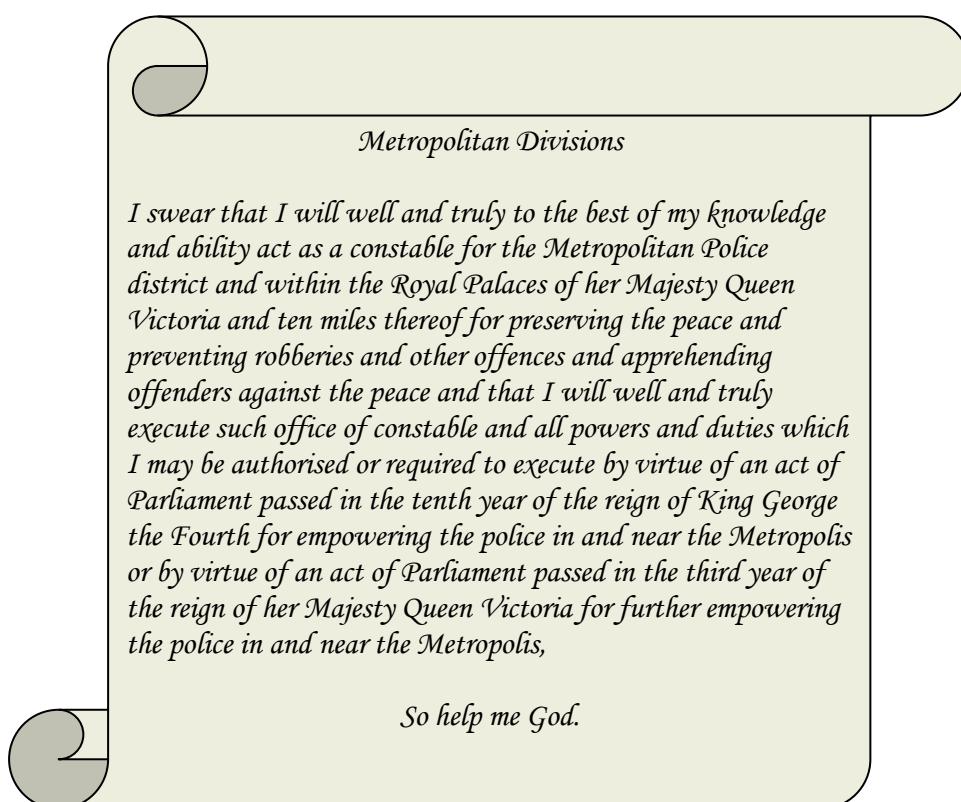
The King's Police Medal, introduced by King Edward VII on the 7 July 1909, was for those "who performed acts of exceptional courage and skill or who have exhibited conspicuous devotion to duty". The files on these awards from their introduction in 1909 can be found in HO 45 under the heading 'Honours' and a list of awards, 1909-1912, is provided in MEPO 2/1300. A register of officers under consideration for the award of the King's Police Medal 1909 to 1951 is held under reference MEPO 22/2, and notifications of awards are published in *Police Orders* (MEPO 7) and the *London Gazette*.⁴

Notes

1. Women were not recruited until 1919 and their records are not included amongst those held at The National Archives. Some early records for women are held by the Metropolitan Police Historical Museum, c/o Room 1317 New Scotland Yard, Broadway, London, SW1H 0BG.
2. MEPO is the acronym for Metropolitan Police records.
3. <http://www.met.police.uk/history/175yearsago.htm>
4. Available online and in series ZJ1

As indicated above, London Metropolitan Police officers swore an oath, or "Attestation", and signed a ledger in the presence of a witness and a Magistrate. County forces proceeded in their own manner, normally with the signing of a certificate which was filed. An example of such a certificate can be seen dated 1840 for a James Owen of Montgomeryshire Constabulary ([image 39 on page 39](#)).

The Oath from the inside cover of the Attestation Ledger





"Cartoon" Peelers

From its inception the police were presented and often parodied by illustrators of the period. Though interesting it is worthy to remember that representation of uniform and equipment are likely to be products of interpretation.



1830



1830



1835



1830



Bow Street 1830



(Modern)
London
Metropolitan
Police
The new
uniform of
1864

(Modern)
Gloucester
Peeler circa
1850





1840's



1855



1853



1850's



Search ID: cs65392



1850's

1850's

1850's



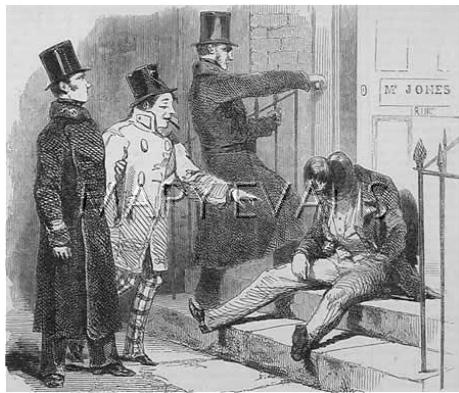
1840



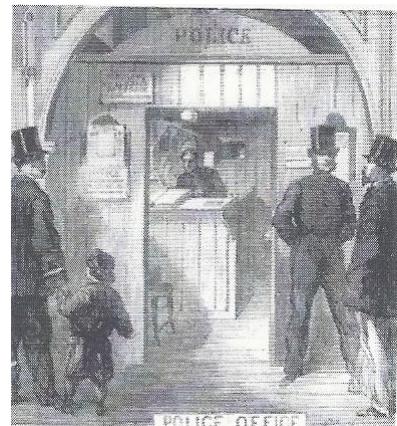
1850's



1850's



1850



1850's



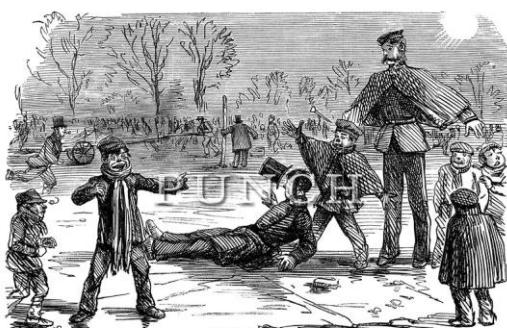
1840



1855



1845

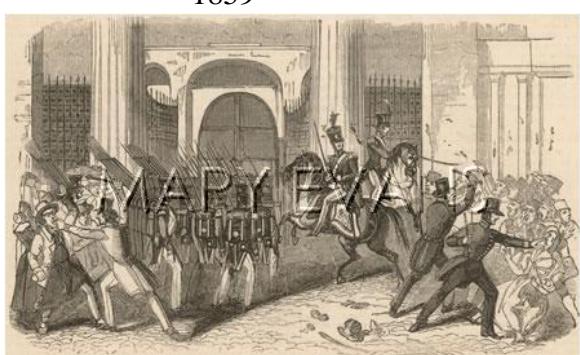


THE WEATHER AND THE PARKS.—GLORIOUS NEWS FOR THE BOYS!
Billy Williams, "Hi! LOOK HERE! COME! SUCH A LARK! HERE'S A POLICEMAN FELL ON A SIDE!"

1859



1850's



Euston Station 1842



1850's

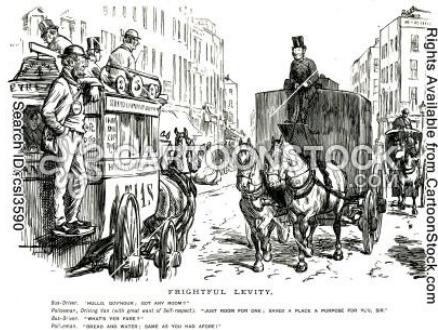
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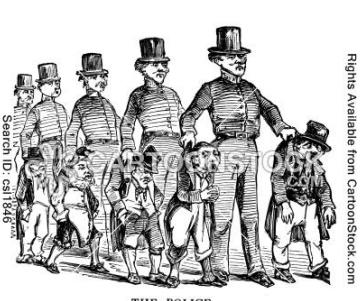
1847



1850's



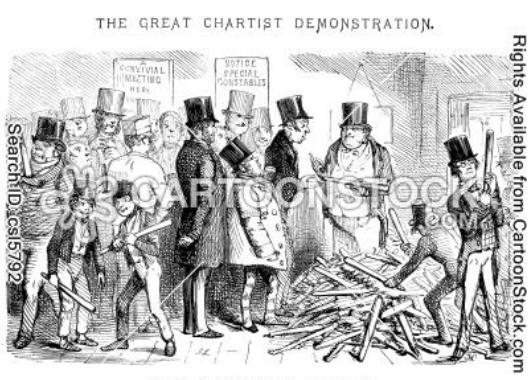
1860's



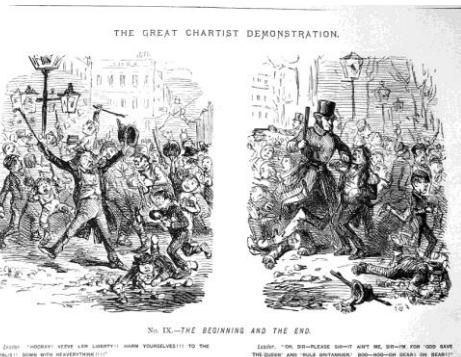
1829



1848



1848



1849



1848



1848



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Search ID: cs15091

PITY THE SORROWS OF THE POOR POLICE.
"LOR, SOOGAN! HOW'S A FELLER TO EAT MEAT SUCH WEATHER AS THIS? NOW, A BIT O' PICKLED SALMON AND COWCUMBER, OR A LOBSTER SALAD MIGHT DO."

1848

1849

1852



Search ID: cs15232



Search ID: cs15095



Search ID: cs14513

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MIGHT VERSUS RIGHT.

Navigator. "WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY?"
Policeman. "WHY, I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE STATION HOUSE, IF YOU DON'T MOVE ON."
Navigator. "YOU TAKE ME TO THE STATION-HOUSE? TEN ON YOU MIGHT!"

1854

A HIGHLAND GAME IN A LONDON STREET.

PORTRAIT OF THE BOY WHO WON THE PRIZE FOR "PUTTING A STONE" THROUGH A WINDOW.

1850's

1850's



Search ID: cs14340



Search ID: cs15246



Search ID: cs15137

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MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

TERRIFIED SPINSTER. "Oh, Mr. Policeman, I do believe here is one of those Ruffianly Libertines about to speak to me."

1850's

1850's

1844



BLIND-MAN'S BUFF.

(As played by the Police.)

"YOU ROUND THESE TIDES,

AND CATCH WHOEVER YOU MAY!"

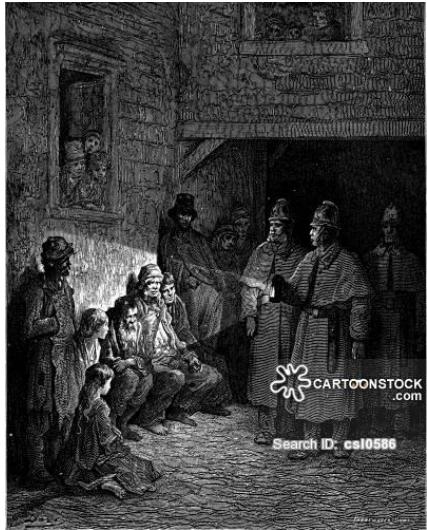
1880's



Gorbals Police 1808



Glasgow Peeler 1800



1870's



Glasgow Police 1850



Glasgow Police 1850



(Modern) London Peelers 1840's



1856



"But the English climate is cold and damp; the fog makes its home in the folds of the constable's great coat; the rain runs from the oilskin cape which stands the policeman in the stead of an umbrella; the wind is cold and bleak; and we leave the policeman on his beat with the stranger's thanks and the stranger's gratitude"

“Saunterings in and around London” by Max Schlesinger.

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Internet Law Book Reviews by Rob Jerrard (www.rjerrard.co.uk)

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