



Employment

Great Somerford

Worthy Porter - Climbing the Ranks of the Wiltshire Constabulary

Worthy Porter [my great-great grandfather], was born in Great, or as it is sometimes referred Broad, Somerford in 1834. Originally in the Berkshire Constabulary, he transferred to the Wiltshire Constabulary as a 2nd class constable on the 31st of December, 1861 to the Hindon Division.

His rank number when he joined the Wiltshire Constabulary was 39. His entry age for the Wiltshire Constabulary was 27 and single.

He is described as being 5ft 8ins tall, fresh complexion, hair is light brown, eyes blue.

On August 1st, 1868 he was promoted to 1st class constable.

In 1871 there is a note in the station ledger at Dinton in which he is noted for his zeal and intelligence. He was awarded £1 by the court of session for playing a part in stopping a robbery. The £1 doesn't seem much in today's currency but it was quite a sum equating to in the region of £82 in current value this is quite surprising as he was a public servant and just doing his job.

On the 1st of November, 1868, he was promoted to 2nd class sergeant and on the 14th of August (year uncertain) he was promoted to 1st class sergeant.

When he was promoted to Inspector on the 19th of February, 1879, he was transferred to Swindon. [At the time of the 1881 census they were living in Eastcott Lane, Old Swindon].

He died on October 10th, 1881 in Bath, where he was believed to be 'taking the waters' as it was reported in the station ledger that he had been ill for sometime.

On the 15th of October there was a death announcement in the Swindon Advertiser in which it was noted of his sad passing and that he leaves a wife and 10 children [with his wife expecting at the time of his death]. It also included a request for a subscription [appeal] for monies to be given to his family.

Here is the announcement, verbatim, from the Swindon Evening Advertiser:

Our readers will be sorry to hear of the death of Mr Inspector Porter, of the Wilts Constabulary, stationed at Swindon, which took place on Monday last. The deceased, who had been unwell for some time, was advised to

go to Bath a fortnight only previous to his death. He leaves a widow and ten young children, which number, we hear, is likely to be increased. It has been suggested that a subscription shall be raised for the family. If such a thing is started, we feel sure it will meet with a hearty response.

I'd like to thank Robert Pearson and his colleagues at Wiltshire and Swindon Family History Centre in Chippenham for their time and effort in finding this out for me. **Catalogue no. for file: F5 200/2**

NB it is worth noting that there was another Worthy Porter b1834 from Great Somerford who briefly joined the constabulary on 17/10/1855 Rank #98. He was dismissed on 21st Feb 1856.

Entry age 21 and single

Complexion: fresh

Light brown hair

Grey eyes

Height: 5ft 9 1/2ins

An Agricultural Labourer