

Sergeant Moses Lander

Moses Lander one of the first of the new Metropolitan Police officers to arrive in Waltham Abbey in 1840 – the Parish of Waltham Holy Cross – he was already serving in the locality as a member of the Horse Patrol when the decision was made to bring in the Metropolitan Police to replace the inadequate existing arrangements.

Born in Hayes, Kent on 7th February 1810 to Richard and Elizabeth Lander he joined the Army and served in the cavalry before joining the Horse Patrol on 1st January 1834 aged just 23 years. He was already married to Emma but they did not then have any of the nine or so children they were to bring into the world between 1835 and 1850,

At that time the Horse Patrol constables were each paid four shillings [20p] daily and wore a uniform of blue trousers with a blue double-breasted great coat bearing yellow metal buttons over a scarlet waistcoat wellington boots with steel spurs and a tall black leather hat. A substantial leather stock was worn around the neck as protections against garrotting and a pistol and spare ammunition was carried. The horse harness was issued but it was not until December 1852 that it included pouches to take the pistol and ammunition. Not all of the uniform was provided free, the spurs, greatcoat and hat had to be paid for out of the patrol rider's wages.

In 1836 Moses was stationed at Hayes, Middlesex patrolling the roads around Uxbridge in the 3rd Division. It was common for men to patrol a given area for only a relatively short period of time before being moved on to another to ensure that familiarity did not arise between the patrol and the populace. By 1839 he was patrolling in Woodford the post adjoining Waltham Abbey. He had spent 6 years and 13 days in the Horse Patrol when on 14th January 1840 he was made up to the rank of sergeant and placed in charge of the newly created police in Waltham Abbey; most of the constables will have been drawn from central areas of London and would have been unfamiliar with enforcing laws in the rural areas.

The merging of the Horse Patrol with the police led to a relaxation in the strict residency rules from 1840. Lander spent most of his subsequent service in or around Waltham Abbey and the family appears to have lived in Highbridge Street throughout.

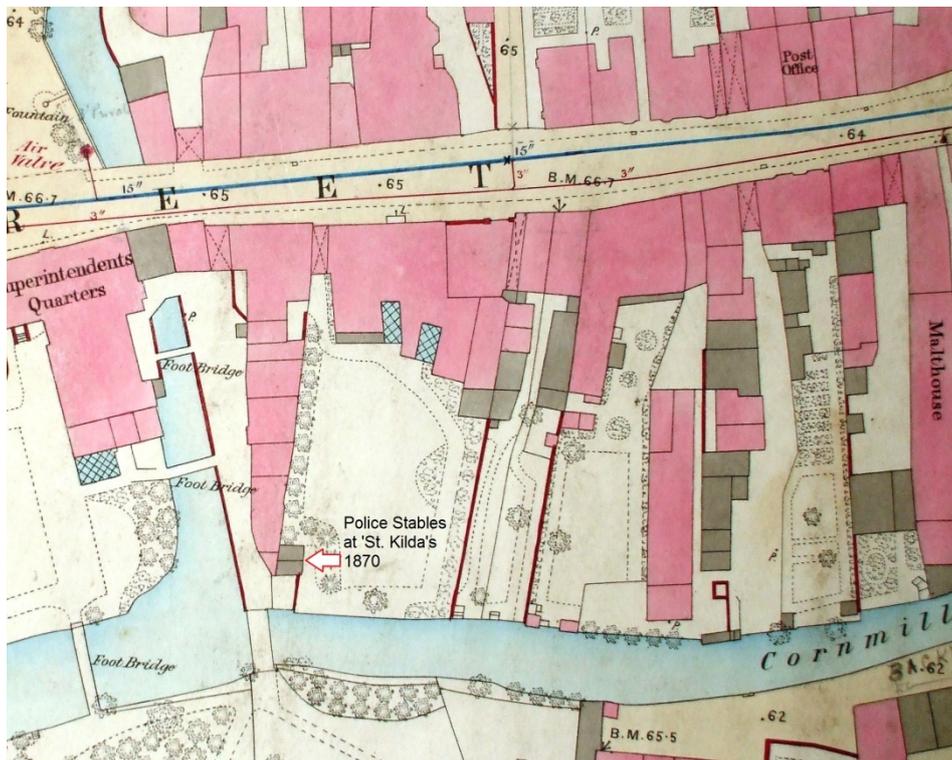
In 1848 Moses Lander was Police Sergeant 41N. Four years later, in late September 1852, new stabling was obtained to the rear of 'St. Kilda's' a building close to the original police station opposite the church and now known as 'The Old Courthouse.' Nothing is known of the original stables but a little is known of the new facility behind what was then an 18th Century house owned by local solicitor and Clerk to the Court, Joseph Jessop.

Waltham Abbey Wm
March 2/4

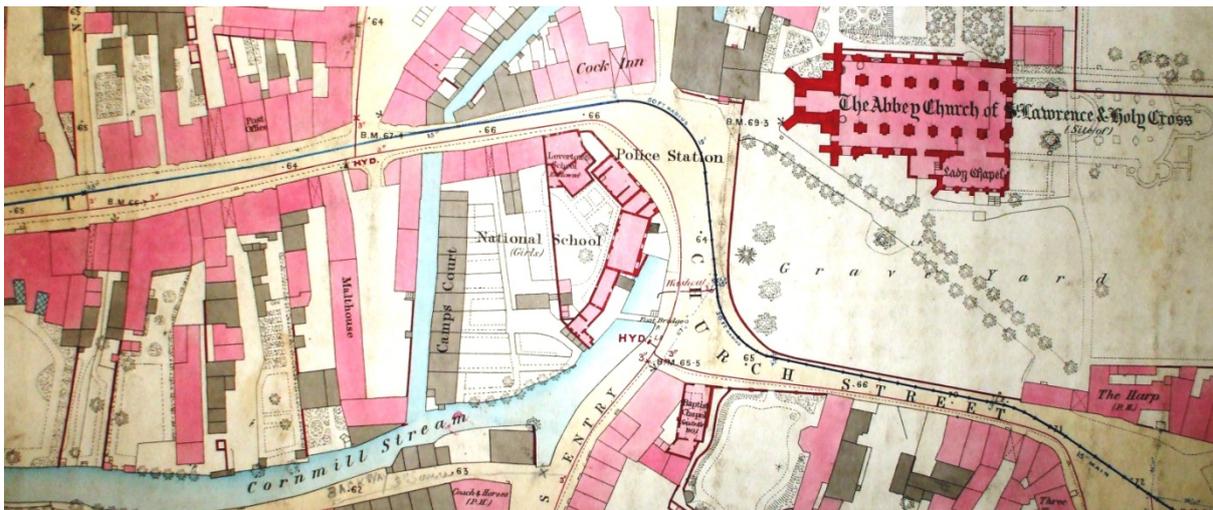
Amount of Rent Paid by	
Serg & Lander	Ten Pounds
Per Annum	Poor's Rate
and Highway Rates	Ten
Pounds Per Annum	
Amount of Rent Paid by	
Jessop	Ten Pounds Per
Annun	Poor's Rate one
Pound	Ten Shillings
Lander	Rent - 10-0-0
	Rates - 2-0-0
Jessop	Rent - 10-0-0
	Rates - 1-10-0



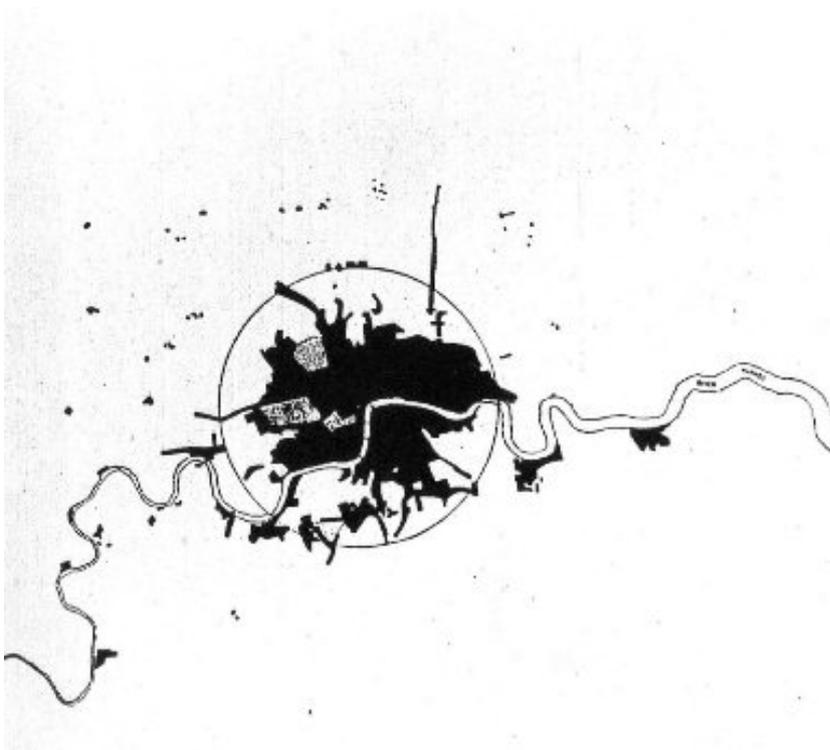
The house is still extant as 31 Highbridge Street under its modern name. It was ideal stabling for the police in that it was close to the police station and backed onto the tail of the Cornmill stream near the modern Elphwood scout centre and car park, thus providing a handy source of water for the animals.



Policing was hard in the Victorian era and Moses was discharged from the Metropolitan Police suffering from 'general debility' at the end of March 1857. In common with many of his contemporaries, although only 47 years old he was considered 'worn out' from performing his duties. His short term pension, set at £31 per annum will not have enabled him to support his family in the manner to which they had grown accustomed. Although the eldest of the children will have been in their 20s the youngest member of the family we are aware of, Louisa, was born in 1850 and some years from being off hand.



The police station used from 1840 to 1875 was close to the stables



London was small in 1840