

Sergeant Charles Tubb

Charles Tubb, born to Thomas and Sarah at Greenwich on 14th January 1836 was a contemporary to Robert Hole in his police service in Waltham Abbey.

Prior to his 24 years service with the Metropolitan Police, Charles was a seaman and according to his record of service his arms bore tattoos of a ship and the letter 'M' the latter presumably relating to his wife Maria. There are no details of the marriage but we know she came from Camberwell.

At the age of 23 he joined the Metropolitan Police 28th November 1859. As a constable he was posted to 'K' or Stepney Division in east London as PC364K. Twelve years were to pass before he gained promotion to sergeant on 7th September 1871 and was transferred into the adjoining 'N' or Islington Division, initially at Stoke Newington and then, by 1875, to Waltham Abbey.

Charles was present at the time of the opening of the new police station in Sun Street in January 1876 and witnessed the closure of the decrepit old police station – the former Parish Watch and courthouse which had been in Metropolitan Police use since 1840. Later that year, in September 1876, he gained promotion through the introduction of a new rank to the force. The new rank was that of Station Sergeant, denoted until 1921 by the wearing of four chevron stripes; it was this that was to also give Robert Hole, James Ware and George Rolfe also stationed in Sun Street an instant rise in status without the awkwardness of moving stations. Two years later he, and the same colleagues, was again promoted, this time to the rank of 3rd Class Inspector on 19th August 1878.

The Tubb family were resident in the living quarters over the police station in Sun Street at the taking of the 1881 Census. Charles and Maria had five daughters, then aged between 6 and 19 years. The two eldest were working in the Percussion Cap Company factory situated close by in Farmhill Road. These seven were crowded into the upper floors of the new police station along with another family and four single constables, 18 all told. In addition the police station would have had the working police officers occupying the ground floor.

A little over three years later, on 5th September 1884, Charles Tubb resigned from the police suffering from gout. He moved to Franchise Place, Waltham Abbey with his still young family and lived on a annual pension of £78.

The Tubbs appear to have removed to Stoke Newington, perhaps in search of work following the expiry of the pension years. The next we hear of them is from the pages of the Waltham Abbey Church Monthly of 1903. The entry noted that Maria, senior to Charles by one year, died on 26th August 1903 aged 68 years. No record of Charles Tubb's own death has been found.