

1st Class Mounted Constable Edward Napoleon Buonaparte Catchlove (ENBC)

Stationed at Farina Police Station - 1885-1887

Notes compiled by and from:

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3. <https://www.southaustralianhistory.com.au/catchlove.htm>



July 2019 - three of ENBC's descendants by the front entry to the 'new' Farina Police Station on North Terrace.

*From left: Great-grandson Jeff Catchlove,
Great-great grandson Joel Catchlove and
Great-great-great grandson Asher Catchlove*

ENBC's service record at Farina

Rank: 1st Class Mounted Constable

Transferred to Farina from: Waukaringa and Yongala

Date of appointment to Farina: 23/8/85

Transferred to Diamantina: 4/11/1887

ENBC's punishments and reprimands whilst stationed at Farina

January 1886

Offence: Speaking roughly to MC Dittmer publicly

Punishment: Severely reprimanded

Authority: 52/1886

No date

Offence: Writing offensive remarks about MC Cahill and MC Lynn

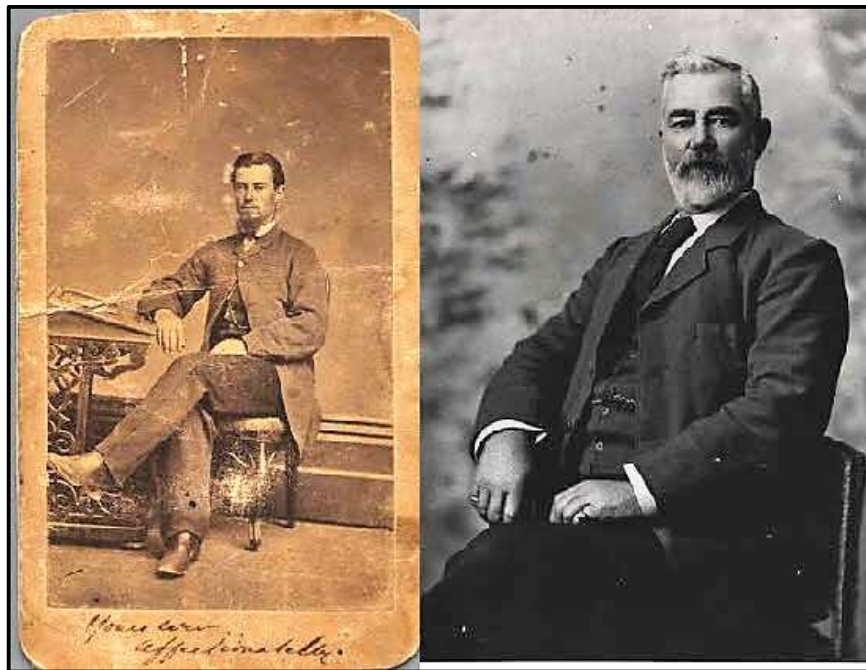
Punishment: Censured

January 1887

Drinking at Farina Hotel at midnight

Punishment: Censured

Henry Catchlove and his nine year old son George Henry, left England on the *Hooghly* on 20 February 1839 and arrived at [Port Adelaide](#) on 17 June 1839. On 26 July 1840, Henry married Emma Filmer. His son George Henry, from his first marriage, became the publican of the Bridge Hotel at Echunga and also showed an interest in mining. At one stage he held shares in the Lyndoch Valley Mining Company. He died on 17 October 1892, aged sixty-one. Most of Henry and Emma's children died very young. Those few who survived to adulthood would also have the sad experience of having many children being born but few living for any great length of time.



Edward Napoleon Buonaparte Catchlove

Edward Napoleon Buonaparte Catchlove, the first child of a second marriage, was born in Adelaide on 16 March 1842 and lived a long life (died 20 June 1920).

Whereas Henry and some of his family were, or became, involved in the hotel and brewery trade, Edward, and his younger brother Francis Henry preferred the open spaces and joined the police force. Edward, after enlisting as a third class Trooper on 4 March 1863 and initial service in and around [Adelaide](#), gained promotion and a transfer to the north of South Australia.

On 13 April 1865 he was promoted and became a second class Trooper. A year later he was stationed at Yalata on the West Coast as first class Trooper and postmaster. However on 1 January 1867 he was demoted to third class Trooper while at Fowlers Bay.

As it turned out, 1867 became an eventful year. On 26 April Catchlove was able to arrest J. McInnery for cattle duffing at [Black Rock](#), Coonatto, Willochra and [Lake Hope](#) and recover all the cattle. By August of the same year he had regained his first class status again. The only sad part of the year was the death of his father, Henry on 26 October 1867 and his little brother William Herald on 12 December 1867.

Edward enjoyed the police work and did well, wherever he was posted. Even better results were obtained in 1869 when he was able to arrest T. Whitehead for indecent assault on four year old Fanny M. Warland of [Echunga](#) on 11 June 1869. All the while though he longed for more excitement and seeing new places.

On 15 March 1870 he applied for a transfer to the Northern Territory but was unsuccessful. Although considered for the shortlist he missed out because of his health, having just broken his leg, and because another trooper was considered to be better qualified. The other trooper was [Samuel Gason](#) who already had a long experience with, and knowledge of, Aborigines and their habits. Having set his mind on going north Catchlove did not take no for an answer. He went to see a doctor who gave him a certificate stating that he found Catchlove 'in perfect health'. With this good news he applied again on 31 March.

This time he wrote 'I am glad to say that my leg has much improved and should the Commissioner of Police be pleased to give me one of the vacancies in place of one of the Troopers returning I feel fully confident that I shall be well able to perform any duties imposed upon'. A week later he wrote an additional letter informing the inspector that he had considerable experience in shoeing horses and the treatment and curing of injured feet. After another medical examination by Dr William Talbot Clindening, who also found him to be in good health and fit to proceed to the Northern Territory Catchlove did get his transfer on 14 April 1870.

After two years' service he resigned to run a business in Palmerston in partnership with his older sister Rosa Haussen and Robert Henry [Fiveash](#).

Catchlove continued in partnership with Fiveash but soon became disillusioned with his partner and eventually returned to South Australia where on 13 December 1875 he rejoined the police. Once again he started as a third class Trooper in Adelaide before being stationed at [Sliding Rock](#) and other stations in the north. By 1877 he had transferred to Waukaringa and Edward finally married fifteen year old Elizabeth Jane Roberts on 6 September 1877 at the residence of her father William Roberts at Waukaringa. They were to have twelve children in due course.

Their first son, Henry Edward, was born on 20 January 1879 at Waukaringa. Catchlove stayed for some time at this gold mining township and saw all the action, hopes and despairs, tried to settle arguments between the miners, issued licences, arrested those who broke the laws and was promoted several times. His good work was appreciated and on the first of September 1880 he attained the rank of First Class Mounted Constable. A second son was born on 8 July 1881 in Adelaide and on 19 February 1883 the Catchlove household expanded even further when Ernest William was born at [Copperhouse](#).

In January 1882, Catchlove asked his superiors for a Justice of the Peace to be appointed at Waukaringa. Prisoners now had to be taken more than hundred kilometres to the nearest JP. who could be absent when he arrived with his prisoner. He recommended Edward Poynton Evans, manager of the Mid Alma gold mine for the position. His request was supported by the Acting Commissioner who added 'that a mining population is generally a rowdy one and I think that although the number of cases have not as yet been very large, it would be as well to have the means of dealing with them on the spot'.

Farina Connection

On 24 January 1884 Catchlove was severely reprimanded for discourteous behaviour involving the local Magistrate and transferred to Yongala. It was at [Yongala](#) that Henry Edward died on 1 May 1885 age just six years. Two days after this tragic event Elizabeth gave birth to Edward Hurtle. After a short time there he was appointed to [Farina](#) on 25 August 1885. Regardless of the many different postings Elizabeth was able to join him most of the time, although living conditions for her and the young children must have been horrendous. On 8 June 1887 she gave birth once more, this time it was a girl who was named Emily Ediva. While at Farina Catchlove was twice more severely reprimanded for speaking roughly and writing offensive remarks and in January 1887 he was censured for drinking at the local hotel at midnight.

On 4 November 1887 he was transferred to what would have been South Australia's most isolated and largest police district with some of the poorest facilities and buildings at the [Diamantina](#) Police Camp, Andrewilla without doubt the most remote and ill-equipped station in the state, if not, the country. Here he and his family worked with Mounted Constables Burt and Grosser. For more than five years he performed his job well travelling the desert sand dunes, [Sturt's](#) Stony Desert and the [Birdsville](#) and [Strzelecki](#) Tracks. Tragedy though struck here too; Emily had to be taken to Adelaide where she died on 6 January 1889. Another son was born on 22 October 1889 but not at the Diamantina Police Camp. Elizabeth must have taken the family down south as Albert Harold was born at [Hampton](#). In 1891 Catchlove, who was still in the far north, gained the additional appointment of Inspector of Stock.

[Beltana](#) became his next posting on 29 November 1892. This town had first class accommodation with a large stone police station and living quarters. Two more children were born at Beltana, Emma Jane on 25 November 1894 and Lionel Clarence on 26 September 1896.

Catchlove's next station was at Port Augusta where he was posted on 31 December 1897 followed by Fowlers Bay on 17 January 1898. While there he also was appointed clerk of the court, bailiff, affidavits commissioner and temporary stock inspector. Once again Elizabeth and family went with him and on 15 May 1899 Cecil Horace was born at this west coast town followed by Elsie Maud on 17 July 1901 and Roy Oswald on 20 April 1903.

The last transfer was announced on 17 April 1903. Again the family packed up and had only just settled in at Goodwood when Roy Oswald died on 23 October 1903. On 1 January 1904 Catchlove was promoted to Senior Constable. He resigned on 31 March 1907 and died on 20 June 1920. His wife Elizabeth died on 16 July 1949.



ENBC's and wife Eliza's gravestone in West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide

Contemporary News Reports of MC ENB Catchlove's service while stationed in Farina and district

'Discovery of Human Remains in the North', *Evening Journal*, Wed 17 Feb 1886, p. 2

"The Commissioners of Police have received a letter from M. C. Catchlove, dated Farina, February 13, stating: "That on the 9th inst., while mustering sheep in the Leslies Well paddock, on the Mount Lyndhurst Run, Mr. A McCourvelle found the remains of a dead horse, with a saddle a few yards from it, with waterbag attached, and about four miles further north came across the remains of a man in the same paddock and about 16 miles west of Mount Lyndhurst Station. Hearing this, I proceeded there on the following morning and found the remains of a man. The bones were separated, and were quite white from exposure, the head laying west and facing south, and about 18 miles southeast of Farina. The skull was quite sound, the right leg extended, and the left one drawn up and lying over it. The deceased was dressed in a brigantine shirt, white moleskin trousers, blucher boots, white socks, and soft felt half Yankee black hat. I removed the bones and found embedded in the ground a pair of spurs, almost eaten away with rust, and in the pocket, which was embedded in the ground, I found two half-sticks of tobacco, half a crown, some matches, and a leather purse, which was hard and brittle, and on breaking it open with a knife I found a dog register ticket and an old bill, very much discoloured, but both bearing the name William Murray, and dated 1880, the year when Murray was missed or last seen. The bill was made out at Moolooloo, and the dog ticket was issued at Blinman. I also found, a few yards from the remains, half a bridle and a saddle strap. From the appearance of the remains I should think they had been lying there a number of years, and from the situation I feel almost confident that deceased died from want of water. I then went through the ranges about four miles south of where the body was found, and saw the remains of the horse and saddle, and from the appearance of the bones should think that the horse perished about the same time as the man. The saddle, water-bag and leather spandell girth all quite useless and rotten. I would also beg to mention that I buried the remains where they were found, also reported the particulars to Mr. J. D. Lawlor, J. P., who gave the usual certificate for burying."

'Saved from the Gallows', *The Mail*, Sat 4 Jan 1919, p. 2

In reference to the discovery of the remains above, a writer recalled the incident in reference to another case at the time, "I recall the case of 'Billy' Murray, a conscientious old boundary rider many years ago, who kept a keen lookout for a gang of horse duffers who were about in those days. He was supposed to have been murdered and his body burned. I remember one night in camp a man in drink saying to another, "If you don't shut up I'll tell them what you did to 'Billy' Murray, and how you burned him." For many years those men were looked upon as having 'done for' him, and were shunned. Some six years later, however, while out mustering on Mount Lyndhurst Run with Mr. H. P. Ive (now resident superintendent of the Abattoirs), I came across the remains of a horse, and within 4 ft. found a saddle which had been removed, with the girths unbuckled. This went to show that Murray,

while in search of water, had ridden his horse to a standstill, and then removed the saddle to give the horse an opportunity of getting away on its own...

‘Farina’, *The Port Augusta Dispatch, Newcastle and Flinders Chronicle*, Fri 30 April 1886, p. 3

ENBC appeared on a team for married men during an Easter Monday “Married v. Single” cricket match, scoring 4 runs towards the married teams 41 runs to 25 victory. “In the evening a ball was given in the Assembly Room, which was well attended, dancing being enthusiastically kept up till about 3 am. At 11 o’clock, supper was provided at the Exchange Hotel where about 60 persons sat down to an excellent spread.” The same article notes that Farina was at the time the “largest trucking depot in North”, with 35,000 head being “trucked” from the town between March 1885 and March 1886. To address this, there was a proposal to expand an existing waterhole into a dam for watering livestock. “Our population is increasing by ones and twos, in fact Farina may be considered a rising place. Rain is badly wanted.”

***South Australian Weekly Chronicle*, Sat 4 Dec 1886, p. 23**

“M. C. Catchlove, stationed at Farina, having learnt from a man names Silas Varcoe, that a number of human remains could be seen at some distance from the township, proceeded to the place and found there the bones of a man. He put them together and came to the conclusion that the man had been about 5 feet 5 inches in height and about 30 years of age. There were found near the body a pair of tweed trousers and a waistcoat of a dark colour, a crimean shirt, and elastic braces, while a saddle strap had apparently been tied around his waist. His boots were of size 8. The trooper concluded that the man died from want of water about 1882. No inquest was deemed necessary, and the remains were buried.”

‘Our Intelligent Bobbies’, *Yorke’s Peninsula Advertiser*, Tue 14 Dec 1886, p. 3

“Rambler” an incredulous detractor, wrote that “Surely the time has come for Mounted-Constable Catchlove, of Farina, to be promoted. It would hardly be too much to ask that he should be appointed demonstrator of anatomy to the Police Force or articulator of skeletons to the Adelaide Museum. From information received the other day this exemplary officer paid a visit to a spot situated a little distance from the place where he does the honors of the mounted force, and found there some human bones. He forthwith put the remains of the defunct together ... and concluded, after a bird’s eye view of the skeleton, that the owner of these bones had been a man 5 feet 5 inches in height, 30 years of age, and that he died “from want of water in 1882.” A Baron Cuivier might have arrived at the height and age of the man albeit I am sure not without some difficulty; but I dare be sworn that no living man but M. C. Catchlove could have decided that the man died from want of water in 1882. The chances are equally great that he died of an overdose of bush grog. In these days when the “force” are so often at fault in determining how, when and by whom a burglary has been effected, I really think the anatomical attainments of the astute officer referred to are worthy of immediate and substantial recognition...”

‘Boards of Health’, *South Australian Register*, Thurs 6 Jan 1887, p. 7

“Constable Catchlove reported that four residents of Farina had neglected to comply with orders of the Board to pave and drain pigsties, & c.”

Timeline of the life of Edward Napoleon Buonaparte Catchlove

1842	Born to Henry and Emma, 14 March 1842, in Adelaide Schooled at St. Peters College, Adelaide	
1858	Works as a farrier on John Chambers Bobmooney Station, northeast of Blinman	Working at Bobmooney Station
1861	Eliza Jane Roberts born, 21 December 1861, Charlestown, SA	
1863	Joins the SA and NT Police Force	Stationed in Adelaide
1870	Appointed to Northern Territory Police, stationed in Palmerston	Stationed in Palmerston, NT
1872	Resignation from Northern Territory Police	
1872	Begins courting Lilly Fiveash, sister of his friend Robert Fiveash, relationship ends in 1873	
1872-1874	Forms a business partnership with Robert Fiveash, focussing on provisioning the settlement at Palmerston, together with interests in the North Point Reef Gold Mining Company, based in the Northern Territory. Partnership dissolves, and returns to Adelaide	
1875	Rejoins the SA Police Force, Third Class Trooper, stationed in Adelaide and the mid-north. Meets Eliza Jane Roberts in Waukaringa	Stationed in Adelaide and the Mid-North
1877	Marries Eliza Jane Roberts, daughter of William Roberts, teamster, in Waukaringa, 6 September 1877	
1879	Henry Edward born, 20 January 1879, Waukaringa	
1881	Charles Henry born, 7 July 1881, Waukaringa	Stationed in Waukaringa, 1880-1884
1882	Charles Henry dies, 16 March 1882, Waukaringa	
1883	Ernest William born, 19 February 1883, Copperhouse, Burra	
1885	Henry Edward dies, 1 May 1885, Yongala Edward Hurtle born, 3 May 1885, Yongala	Stationed in Yongala, 1884-1885
1887	Emily Ediva born, 8 June 1887, Farina	Stationed in Farina, 1885-1887
1889	Albert Harold born, 22 October 1889, Hampton, Burra	

1891	Francis Gordon born, 5 November 1891, Birdsville	Stationed in Diamantina, 1887-1892
1894	Emma Jane born, 25 November 1894, Beltana	Stationed in Beltana, 1892-1897
1896	Lionel Clarence born, 26 September 1896, Beltana	
		Stationed in Port Augusta, 1897-1898
1899	Cecil Horace born, 15 May 1899, Fowlers Bay	Stationed in Fowlers Bay, 1898-1903
1901	Elsie Maud born, 17 July 1901, Port Augusta	
1903	Roy Oswald born, 20 April 1903, Fowlers Bay	
1907	Retires from the SA Police Force, 31 March 1907	Stationed in Arltunga (Winnecke's Depot), 1903-1907
1920	ENBC dies, 20 June 1920, 28 Medway Street, Fullarton	
1949	Eliza Jane dies, 16 June 1949	