

Catherine Hunter

(uxor Catherine Newcombe)

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| POLICE NUMBER 410 ¹ | LITERACY neither read nor write |
| TRIAL DATE 30 July 1840 | AGE ON EMBARKATION 17 |
| TRIAL PLACE Surrey (Newington) Quarter Sessions | AGE ON ARRIVAL 18 |
| OFFENCE stealing printed cotton | HEIGHT 5' 2¼" |
| SENTENCE 7 years | COMPLEXION fair |
| GAOL REPORT convicted and imprisoned before, bad, married 1 child | HEAD oval |
| PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once discharged for stealing print, 1 month for stealing boots | HAIR dark brown |
| SURGEON'S REPORT quiet | VISAGE oval |
| ON THE TOWN no | FOREHEAD flat |
| MARITAL STATUS single | EYEBROWS dark brown |
| CHILDREN 1 | EYES grey |
| FAMILY | NOSE small |
| NATIVE PLACE St Georges, England | MOUTH small |
| TRADE ON EMBARKATION | CHIN round |
| TRADE ON ARRIVAL housemaid, wash, plain iron | MARKS DM on left arm above elbow, B H A C above elbow right arm, AJ below elbow same arm |

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| c1823 | Born at St George's Hill, ² Surrey, England. ³ |
| 30 July 1840 | Tried at the Quarter Sessions, Newington, Surrey, England indicted for larceny in stealing printed cotton; sentence 7 years transportation. ⁴ |
| 5 April 1841 | Departed Woolwich, England on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁵ |
| 19 July 1841 | Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁵ |
| c24 July 1841 | Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment. ⁶ |
| 31 December 1841 | Mustered in the service of Mr R Pugh, Launceston. ⁷ |
| 14 June 1843 | Application for permission to marry Joseph Newcombe ⁸ (free) sent to the Muster Master. ⁹ |
| 29 June 1849 | Application for permission to marry Joseph Newcombe sent to Secretary; if clergyman be satisfied as to female being single approved. ⁹ |
| 5 July 1843 | Notice given of approval for permission to marry Joseph Newcombe; Catherine in assigned service at Launceston. ¹⁰ |
| 27 July 1843 | Married Joseph Newcombe at St John's Anglican Church, Launceston; Catherine aged 20, prisoner, single woman, illiterate; Joseph aged 28, free, single man; witnesses FB Slater and William Jones (clerk). ¹¹ |
| 16 November 1844 | At Launceston. ⁴ |

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.51 No.410 [image 53] (Catherine Hunter); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.212 [image 109] (Catherine Hunter); ML, CY 1197 p.156 (Catherine Hunter); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Catherine Hunter)

² The place of birth is assumed from 'St Georges' stated as native place on description list and place of trial in Surrey.

³ TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.212 [image 109] (Catherine Hunter)

⁴ TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.51 No.410 [image 53] (Catherine Hunter)

⁵ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁶ ML, CY 1282 p.141 (Catherine Hunter); ML, CY 1274 p.258 (Catherine Hunter)

⁷ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.370 No.410 (Catherine Hunter)

⁸ Joseph Newcomb was transported for 7 years on the *Lord Lyndoch* in 1836, tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London on 6 July 1835 for larceny from the person; single, groom and gentleman's servant, 5'7", aged 22, native place Hounslow; at Campbell Town in 1841 (TAHO, CON31/1/33 p.78 No.398 [image 82] (Joseph Newcomb); TAHO, CON18/1/13 p.373 [image 200] (Joseph Newcomb)).

⁹ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.132 (Joseph Newcombe & Catherine Hunter)

¹⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 7 July 1843 p.794; July 1843 p.824; 21 July 1843 p.854 (Joseph Newcombe & Catherine Hunter)

¹¹ TAHO, RGD37/1/3 1843/162 Launceston (Catherine Hunter & Joseph Newcombe)

This biography supplements our book *Patchwork Prisoners* available from www.researchtasmania.com.au.

- 30 November 1844 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 3 December.¹²
- 10 January 1845 **Son** Joseph Charles Newcombe born at Launceston; father Joseph Newcombe, coachman; informant mother Catherine Hunter, illiterate, resident at the race course, Launceston.¹³
- 20 May 1846 Husband Joseph Newcombe departed Launceston for Port Phillip as a passenger on the *Shamrock*; free by servitude, ship to colony *Lord Lyndoch*.¹⁴
- 26 May 1846 Charged with misconduct; admonished.⁴
- 2 June 1846¹⁵ Charged at the Police Court, Launceston with being out after hours; sentence 1 month imprisonment at Launceston Female Factory, remitted.¹⁶
- Newspaper report:
*Catherine Hunter alias Newcome, was ordered for one month to Mr. McLeod's establishment, for being out on a "spree" after hours, in company with "Kit McGee," "Bet Smith" and one or two others of the sisterhood, Catherine having a baby in ill health at the close of the office was allowed to go about her business, having promised to be a better "girl" for the future.*¹⁶
- 19 February 1847 Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of her husband with misconduct in being out after hours in a disorderly house last night; plea guilty; verdict guilty; sentence 3 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory, and Ticket of Leave suspended.¹⁷
- Newspaper report:
*Catherine Hunter, ticket-of-leave, was committed for three months to the factory for being found in a disorderly house.*¹⁸
- 30 July 1847 Free by servitude; Certificate of Freedom may be obtained upon application at the Comptroller General's Office, Hobart or from a Police Magistrate in the interior; gazetted 6 July.¹⁹
- 2 August 1847 Certificate of Freedom issued.⁴
- c1847 Moved with her family from Launceston to Melbourne, VIC.⁷²
- 2 September 1847 Husband Joseph Newcombe charged at Melbourne, VIC with dangerous driving; discharged.²⁰
- Newspaper report:
*A PORTABLE THEATRE. – A man named Joseph Newcomb, a cab driver, was brought before the Mayor yesterday morning, charged with having on the previous evening amused himself by knocking down sundry individuals, none of whom, strange to say, were in attendance to procure redress for their grievances. The delinquent consequently was discharged, the Mayor intimating that as he had been informed Newcomb was in the habit of driving through the town at night with a fiddler, he had directed the police to keep a sharp eye upon his proceedings.*²⁰
- 30 May 1848 Husband Joseph Newcombe stabbed by William Mullins near the right eye with intent to do some grievous bodily harm in the *Governor Arthur* public house, Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, VIC over a gambling wager for half a crown; cabman.²¹
- Newspaper report:
THE KNIFE AGAIN. – William Mullens was brought before Alderman Condell and Mr. Hull, on the charge of stabbing one Joseph Newcombe. Cartwright the apprehending constable, could only state that a penknife, the blade of which was bloody and a felt hat cut

¹² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 3 December 1844 p.1479 (Catherine Hunter)

¹³ TAHO, RGD33/1/23 1845/668 Launceston (Joseph Charles Newcombe)

¹⁴ TAHO, POL459/1/2 p.77 (Joseph Newcombe)

¹⁵ Date given as 26 May 1846 on CON78.

¹⁶ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 3 June 1846 p.419 (Catherine Hunter alias Newcome); TAHO, CON78/1/2 p.53 (Catherine Hunter)

¹⁷ TAHO, LC346/1/9 (Catherine Hunter ux Newcombe) Note: transportation sentence given as 14 years on the lower court record.

¹⁸ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 24 February 1847 p.155 (Catherine Hunter)

¹⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 6 July 1847 p.649 (Catherine Hunter)

²⁰ *Argus*, 3 September 1847 p.2 (Joseph Newcomb)

²¹ *Argus*, 23 June 1848 p.4 (Joseph Newcombe)

through the crown, had been given up to him, by Mr. Gouldie, of the Governor Arthur Inn; at the time when Mullens was taken into custody; the weapon an ivory handled pen-knife had been broken, apparently by the force of the blow. The court enquired whether Newcombe and Mr. Gouldie were present, and being answered in the negative, subpaenas were ordered to be issued. From other sources of information it appears that Mullens and Newcombe are acquaintances of some years standing; a few weeks back a dispute arose about half a crown, claimed from the former by the wounded man, at which time Mullens broke a candlestick on the other's head, and the mark is still visible. On Tuesday evening they again met in the "Governor Arthur," Bourke-street, and Newcombe (better known as Joe the cabman), demanded the obnoxious debt; both the men were highly excited by their potations, and Mullens went to the door, where he held out his hand, with half a crown on the palm, saying – "There's your halfcrown – take it." Newcombe advanced to receive the money, when Mullens struck him with his closed hand, and his victim staggered back, his temple artery being cut through, and the blood spouted in a column over the counter. The greatest consternation followed, until the landlord recovering his presence of mind, attempted to staunch the blood meanwhile sending for Mr. Hall, of Elizabeth-street, who came promptly to the house. On examining Newcombe, he found a gash on his cheek of about an inch in length, and a wound on the temple from which the blood flowed rapidly. After applying the necessary remedies, Mr. Hall consigned him to the care of the landlord, with whom he staid during the night, and in the morning was in a very fair way. About noon he was so far recovered as to be able to walk about; the injury inflicted is therefore not likely to be serious. This is the second case within a few days of "the knife" being used on slight causes of offence. – P. P. Patriot.²²

c1850

Moved with her family from Melbourne, VIC to Sydney, NSW.

23 November 1852

Husband Joseph Newcombe charged at the Police Office, Sydney, NSW with neglecting to support his wife and child; case adjourned.²³

Newspaper report:

NEGLECTING TO SUPPORT A WIFE AND CHILD. – Joseph Newcomb, a stout able-bodied man, appeared upon summons to answer an information charging him with neglecting to support his wife and child. Mr. Cory, who appeared for the defence, stated that his client was prepared to allow his wife 10s. 6d. a week, on condition that she would give up the child to him, a fine, intelligent, and cleanly dressed boy, about 8 years of age. With this request the mother very naturally refused to comply, and the Bench, therefore, adjourned the case for a week, in the hope that some amicable arrangement might be made in the mean time. It appears that the defendant had been in the habit of beating her most brutally, and had only lately been bound over to keep the peace, for injuries which he had inflicted on her, the traces of which were still visible in her face.²³

30 November 1852

Husband Joseph Newcombe brought up at the Police Court, Sydney, NSW charged as before; ordered to pay 10 shillings a week.²⁴

Newspaper report:

NEGLECTING TO SUPPORT A WIFE AND CHILD. – Joseph Newcomb appeared, pursuant to postponement, to answer an information charging him with neglecting to support his wife and child. The particulars of this case were reported in our issue of last Wednesday. The defendant, on that occasion, offered to allow his wife 10s. per week, on condition of her giving up the boy to him, but he now consented to pay this sum without any such condition, and the case was accordingly disposed of.²⁴

19 October 1854

Husband Joseph Newcombe charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW with assault; fined 40 shillings and costs 1/6.²⁵

Newspaper report:

Joseph Newcombe was found guilty of assaulting John Owen, a person belonging to the Water Police force, while in the execution of his duty, on the lookout for some runaway seamen, and was sentenced to pay 40s., with 1s. 6d. Costs; and William Smith pleaded guilty

²² *Bell's Life in Sydney*, 10 June 1848 p.3 (Joseph Newcombe)

²³ *Empire*, 24 November 1852 p.3 (Joseph Newcomb)

²⁴ *Empire*, 1 December 1852 p.3 (Joseph Newcomb)

²⁵ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 October 1854 p.8 (Joseph Newcombe)

to an information for a similar offence, at the same time, on the same officer, and was sentenced to pay 30s., and 2s 6d. costs.²⁵

27 February 1855

Husband Joseph Newcombe charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW with being drunk and fighting in Pitt Street, Sydney; fined 20 shillings.²⁶

29 August 1855

Husband Joseph Newcombe charged at City Commissioners Court, Sydney, NSW with a breach of the 7th clause of the by-laws; dismissed.²⁷

Newspaper report:

Joseph Newcombe, licensed driver of the omnibus Ben Bolt, was charged under similar circumstances. The complainant in this case was another omnibus driver, belonging to the Invincible, whose evidence went to prove that on the day named in the information, the defendant drove past him at full gallop, and on being remonstrated with for such conduct, replied in a very disgusting manner. The complainant lost several passengers, who were taken up by the defendant. The defendant, while cross-examining this witness, behaved in such an unbecoming and disrespectful manner, that the Bench called him to order. However, the case was dismissed through an informality in the information, and Newcombe left the Court expressing his intention of bringing a charge against Farrell. There was another offence against Newcombe, but the hearing of it was adjourned until Wednesday next.²⁷

12 June 1856

Husband Joseph Newcombe charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW with a breach of the Police Act by trying a horse in the city of Sydney; fined 20 shillings and costs.²⁸

23 December 1856

Husband Joseph Newcombe charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW with assault and using obscene language; fined 5 shillings for assault and 50 shillings for using obscene language.²⁹

Newspaper report:

Joseph Newcome, an omnibus driver, was fined 5s. for assaulting a saucy boy, and 50s. for having on the same occasion made use of obscene language.²⁹

1857

Husband Joseph Newcombe married³⁰ Martha Russell at Sydney, NSW.³¹

1 June 1859

Husband Joseph Newcombe charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW with being drunk and incapable of taking care of his omnibus; fined 20 shillings, or in default 8 hours imprisonment.³²

16 February 1860

Husband Joseph Newcombe charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW with a breach of the omnibus by-laws; fined 10 shillings and costs 5 shillings.³³

11 June 1860

Husband Joseph Newcombe complainant at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW in a case against Patrick Gleeson charged with assault.³⁴

Newspaper report:

Patrick Gleeson was charged with having at Paddington, yesterday week, assaulted Joseph Newcombe. Complainant, an omnibus driver, deposed that he was first abused and then assaulted by defendant, as soon as he (witness) alighted from the coach of which he was and is the driver; defendant struck him a blow in the mouth which knocked out one of his teeth. He gave no provocation whatever for the assault – none, at least, at that time. To pay a penalty of £3, with 7s. costs, or to be imprisoned fourteen days.³⁴

7 October 1861

Husband Joseph Newcombe charged at City Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with fighting in the street with George Jones; fined 10 shillings, or in default 48 hours imprisonment.³⁵

²⁶ *Empire*, 28 February 1855 p.3 (Joseph Newcombe)

²⁷ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 August 1855 p.8 (Joseph Newcombe)

²⁸ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 June 1845 p.4 (Joseph Newcombe)

²⁹ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 December 1856 p.2 (Joseph Newcome)

³⁰ There is no indication that Catherine had died, and in 1869 it was suggested Joseph was charged with bigamy.

³¹ NSW Marriage Record 604/1857 (Joseph Charles Newcombe and Martha Russell)

³² *Empire*, 2 June 1859 p.5 (Joseph Newcombe)

³³ *Empire*, 17 February 1860 p.2 (Joseph Newcombe)

³⁴ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 June 1860 p.3 (Joseph Newcombe)

³⁵ *Argus*, 8 October 1861 p.6 (Joseph Newcombe)

14 September 1863

Husband Joseph Newcombe committed to stand trial for manslaughter at the inquest of Timothy Cusack.³⁶

Newspaper reports:

MANSLAUGHTER – The inquest concerning the death of the man Timothy Cusack, aged 70 years, was concluded before the City Coroner, at the Black Swan Hotel,, George-street South, yesterday morning. The inquest was instituted on Monday, the 31st August, and the Coroner, on receiving the verdict of the jury, committed a 'bus driver, named Joseph Charles Newcombe, to take his trial for manslaughter. By the evidence taken during the inquiry it appeared that deceased was a native of Roscommon, Ireland, and been forty years in the colony, and was a settler, living at Montpellier, five miles from Picton. On Monday, the 24th August, he and one of his sons left home for Sydney, and on the following Wednesday morning, arrived at Camperdown, where they disposed of some horses. In the afternoon of the same day they came into town, the deceased on horseback, carrying a spare saddle in front of him, and the son following on foot. When deceased was passing at a walking pace, a blacksmith's shop, opposite to Kosten's Railway Hotel, Parramatta-street, a man named Joseph Charles Newcombe, the driver of the 'bus Martha, No. 74, running from Newtown to Wynyard-square, struck deceased's horse, (one witness stated) two or three times on the hind quarter. The horse bolted, ran across the street, and brought deceased into contact with the shaft of a milk-cart, returning from town, and driven by the owner, Patrick Taylor. Cusack's left leg struck the shaft, and he was thrown on to the ground; the horse stood almost immediately after he fell. He was taken into Kosten's hotel, and Dr. Aitken, who was summoned, found him in a very sinking state, produced by a severe contused and lacerated wound on the left leg, six inches in length by three or four inches in width. One of the long muscles of the leg had been burst. He was subsequently removed to the residence of a relative, Mr. John McCarthy, George-street South. By the advice of Dr. Aitken that another medical man should be in attendance, Dr. Grey was called in, and with Dr. Aitken, for a few days, treated deceased. The wound never put forth a healthy appearance; the profuse hemorrhage caused constitutional debility, which, in conjunction with two or three nervous shocks, gave the wound a tendency to mortification. Low irritative fever was produced, of which deceased, died in a state of syncope, on Monday morning, August 31st. Verdict – We find that the deceased Timothy Cusack, aged 70 years, died from injuries received by his horse being struck with a whip by a man named Joseph Charles Newcombe, but we consider that he did not do it with any malicious intent. The Coroner, considering that the verdict amounted to manslaughter, committed Newcombe to take his trial for that offence. Bail allowed.³⁶

COMMITTAL FOR MANSLAUGHTER.–The investigation respecting the death of Timothy Cusack, adjourned from the 7th instant, was finished before the City Coroner, at the Black Swan inn, yesterday. A son of the deceased stated that his father was a settler, and lived at Montpellier, about five miles from Picton. They came into Sydney from Camperdown on the afternoon of the 26th ultimo, the father on horseback and his son on foot. The deceased was seventy years of age – could manage a horse well, and had good eyesight, but he was a little deaf. The horse was a quiet animal, and one which deceased had been accustomed to ride. The horse was walking in the middle of the road between Kosten's hotel and a blacksmith's shop, near the railway bridge, when it suddenly started to one side of the street, causing the left leg of the deceased to come in contact with the shaft of a milk cart which was going in the direction of Petersham. The unfortunate man was knocked off his horse, which then remained quiet. In front of the deceased was a spare saddle, and this encumbrance may have prevented him from quickly reining up the horse which he tried to do. Deceased did not then or during his illness attribute blame to any one. Patrick Taylor, dairyman, stated that he was driving the milk cart on Wednesday afternoon, and that when about thirty-five yards from deceased, he saw the driver of a three-horse 'bus lift his whip as if to strike the horse on which deceased was. He could not say that he did strike the horse, but it bolted immediately afterwards. Joseph Charles Newcombe, the driver of a Newtown omnibus, admitted that he was coming into Sydney on the afternoon on which the accident occurred, but he swore that he did not strike the horse on which deceased was riding, and that he did not see any man hurt. Several witnesses proved that Newcombe was driving his 'bus past at the time of the occurrence, that

³⁶ *Empire*, 15 September 1863 p.5 (Joseph Charles Newcombe)

Mr. Cussack's horse shied from the side on which this conveyance was being driven, and that the 'busman drove on as though nothing had happened. James O'Grady, a 'bus conductor, who was on the top of Newcombe's 'bus at the time, deposed that he saw Newcombe strike the horse on which deceased was riding on the flank, that the horse did not make much of a rush, but immediately came in contact with a shaft of the milk cart, and that he saw the deceased lying on the ground. James Howard, in charge of a wood cart, saw the driver of a 'bus (which would seem to have been Newcombe's) strike the deceased's horse two or three times with a whip. The omnibus was going at the usual pace, and all the witnesses agreed that there was plenty of room for it to have passed on either side of the deceased. A plasterer named James Osborne bandaged the wound, and Dr. Aitken was early in attendance on the poor old man, who was sinking from loss of blood and the shock to his system. The injury – a sever contused and lacerated wound about three inches by six – having been dressed, Mr. Cussac was removed in a cab to the house of a relative, Mr. J. McCarthy, in George-street, where he lingered till Monday morning, the 31st ultimo, when, notwithstanding the skill of the physicians, he died. The jury returned the following verdict, on which the coroner committed Newcombe to take his trial for manslaughter; bail allowed: – "Timothy Cussack, aged seventy years, died from injuries received by his horse coming in contact with a cart, caused by the said horse being struck with a whip by a man named Joseph Charles Newcombe; but we consider that he did not do it with any malicious intent."³⁷

c12 October 1863

Husband Joseph Newcombe tried at Central Criminal Court, Sydney, NSW indicted for manslaughter; verdict not guilty; discharged.³⁸

Newspaper report:

MANSLAUGHTER.

Joseph Charles Newcombe was indicted for having, at Sydney, on the 31st August last, killed one Timothy Cusack. The prisoner, who pleaded not guilty, was defended by Mr. Dalley. The case, as opened by the Attorney-General, was that the prisoner was the driver of an omnibus, and had caused the death of Cusack by striking the horse upon which the deceased, an old man of seventy-five, was riding, causing it to bolt and to come in contact with a passing milk cart, whereby the deceased was thrown, and so much injured that death ensued. The jury, after an absence of about two hours and a quarter, found a verdict of not guilty. The prisoner was thereupon discharged.³⁸

7 June 1864

Husband Joseph Newcombe appeared at the Insolvency Court, Sydney, NSW as a new insolvent; resident of Ultimo Street, Glebe, NSW, omnibus driver; liabilities £40.17.6, assets £9, deficit £31.17.6; official assignee Mr FT Humphrey.³⁹

28 September 1868

Son Joseph Charles Newcombe charged at Fitzroy Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with burglary; committed for trial.⁴⁰

Newspaper report:

George Newcombe and George Smith, alias Graham, both old offenders, were charged with burglary, and Kate Buchanan with receiving stolen goods. It appeared that the house of Mrs. Lucy Battle, a widow living in Fitzroy-street, was broken into on the night of the 22nd, and a work-box stolen, which was afterwards found in the possession of the female prisoner, with whom the two male prisoners lived. They were all committed for trial.⁴⁰

30 September 1868

Son Joseph Charles Newcombe charged at City Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with larceny; sentence 3 months' imprisonment.⁴¹

Newspaper report:

FELONY. – Joseph Newcombe and George Smith were charged with having stolen a bedstead, the property of Jacob van Koppellen, general dealer, of Lonsdale-street, and Catherine Buchanan was charged with receiving the property knowing it to have been stolen. Prosecutor said the bedstead was in his yard safe on the night of Saturday, the 19th, but was gone on the morning of Monday following. He afterwards saw the same bedstead in the house

³⁷ Sydney Morning Herald, 15 September 1863 p.4 (Joseph Charles Newcombe)

³⁸ Clarence and Richmond Examiner, 13 October 1863 p.4 (Joseph Charles Newcombe)

³⁹ Maitland Mercury, 9 June 1864 p.3 (Joseph Charles Newcombe); Empire, 8 June 1864 p.5 (Joseph C. Newcombe)

⁴⁰ Argus, 1 October 1868 p.6 (George Newcombe)

⁴¹ Argus, 1 October 1868 p.6 (Joseph Newcombe)

of the prisoner Buchanan, at Collingwood. Prisoners had been committed for trial on a charge of burglary by the Fitzroy Bench on Monday. The prisoners Smith and Buchanan were discharged, but Newcombe was sent to gaol for three months, it being shown that he had rented the house in which the stolen article was found.⁴¹

5 October 1868

Son Joseph Charles Newcombe charged at Bourke Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with burglary and larceny; sentence 3 years hard labour on the roads.⁴²

Newspaper reports:

BURGLARY AND LARCENY.

Joseph Newcombe, George Smith, alias Graham, and Kate Buchanan, were informed against for having burglariously broken into the dwelling-house of Mrs. Lucy Battle on the 22nd September, and therefrom stealing a work-box and purse.

The principal witness, Mrs. Battle, a widow, residing at Fitzroy, proved that on the night of the 21st September her house was broken into, and the property stolen therefrom, which she fully identified. Detectives Hudson and Kilfedder proved the arrest of the prisoners in company in a house in Little Napier-street, Fitzroy, where the property was also found.

The jury found a verdict of "Not Guilty" as to the female prisoner; and "Guilty of feloniously receiving" as to the prisoners Newcombe and Smith.

Previous convictions were put in as against both prisoner found guilty, and they were each sentenced to three years' hard labour on the roads.⁴²

Joseph Newcombe and George Smith were found guilty of burglary and stealing goods of small value, but having been previously convicted of serious offences, although very young men, were each sentenced to three years hard labour on the roads.⁴³

7 August 1869

Husband Joseph Charles Newcombe a witness at the inquest of Mrs Susan Clark held at Sydney, NSW.⁴⁴

Newspaper report:

Joseph Newcombe: I have been in the employ of Clark, and drove him and Mrs. Clark on the night of the 2nd instant home from the Lyceum. Clark was so drunk that both Mrs. Clark and myself had to hold him to prevent his falling out of the buggy. ...

By the Coroner: I was tried for manslaughter some years ago and was acquitted, but was never tried for bigamy. ... It was not because Clark was too drunk to drive himself home that I drove, but in the ordinary discharge of my duties.

...

By Mr. Windeyer: The manslaughter I was charged with was not for violence, but because I was supposed to have interefered with the horse of a man who was thrown and killed, and really I had nothing at all to do with it.⁴⁴

c1870

Husband Joseph Newcombe moved from Sydney, NSW to Beechworth, VIC.⁵⁰

1-5 December 1870

Son Joseph Charles Newcombe discharged from Melbourne Gaol, VIC.⁴⁵

18 January 1871

Son Joseph Charles Newcombe charged on warrant at Melbourne, VIC with threatening the life of his wife⁴⁶.⁴⁷

Police report:

JOSEPH NEWCOMBE is charged, on warrant, with threatening the life of his wife, at Melbourne, on the 18th instant. He is a gasfitter, aged about 27 years, 5 feet 8 inches high, medium build, dark swarthy complexion, dark hair, no whiskers, dark beard and moustache; wore black cloth coat, pink striped crimean shirt, white trousers, and black wideawake hat.⁴⁷

24 February 1871

Son Joseph Charles Newcombe charged at the Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with intent to commit a felony; sentence 12 months' imprisonment at Melbourne Gaol, VIC.

⁴² *Argus*, 6 October 1868 p.6 (Joseph Newcombe)

⁴³ *Argus*, 6 October 1868 p.5 (Joseph Newcombe)

⁴⁴ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 August 1869 p.2 (Joseph Newcombe)

⁴⁵ *Victoria Police Gazette*, Index 1870 p.2 (Joseph Newcombe)

⁴⁶ This may be Catherine or Kate Buchanan.

⁴⁷ *Victoria Police Gazette*, 24 January 1871 p.20 (Joseph Newcombe)

Description: native of Victoria, plumber, born 1845, 5'6½", fresh complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes.⁴⁸

Newspaper report:

"TURNING OVER A DEADHEAD." – Joseph Hannam and Joseph Newcombe, young men, were charged with this offence. That morning, the 24th inst., Constables Dowling and Connell saw Hannam in Stephen-street stooping over a drunken man, while Newcombe was keeping a look-out. Hannam was seen to take something from the "deadhead" and put it in his pocket, and the constables then approached and quietly arrested the two. The drunken man's pocket was hanging inside out. The robbed man on coming to his senses said his name was Shear, that he had come from Prahran with 10s., and had got drunk. Hannam said he had a wife and family, and that one of his children was dying. Newcombe said they were only looking to see who the drunken man was. A couple of shillings in small change were found in the pocket into which Hannam had been seen to put something that he had taken from the drunken man. Both prisoners were well-known offenders, Newcombe having been in gaol for five years at Sydney. They were both sent to gaol for 12 months for being in a public place with intent to commit a felony.⁴⁹

20 November 1871 Husband Joseph Newcombe robbed from his dwelling place at Spring Creek near Beechworth, VIC.⁵⁰

Police report:

STOLEN from the dwelling of Joseph Newcombe, Spring Creek, near Beechworth, on the 20th instant, a blue silk dress, a drab Chinese silk ditto, a plaid dress, a tartan ditto, 2 print dresses, a print dress piece, 9 chemises, 4 pairs drawers with work at the bottom, a pair new kid boots, a reticule, a green and drab table-cover, a brown and white cotton shirt, and a buff dress partly made. Chinese suspected.⁵⁰

21–27 December 1871 Son Joseph Charles Newcombe discharged from Melbourne Gaol, VIC.⁴⁸

14 October 1872 Husband Joseph Newcombe robbed from his dwelling place at Beechworth, VIC.⁵¹

Police report:

STOLEN from the dwelling of Elizabeth⁵² Newcomb, Beechworth, 14th October 1872, a green plaid dress with red stripe, trimmed on shoulders and sleeves with black silk fringe; a shepherd's plaid shawl nearly new, a large pattern robroy dress-piece, a medium-size robroy dress-piece, and two nightdresses.⁵¹

19 January 1874 Son Joseph Charles Newcombe charged at the Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with vagrancy; sentence 6 months imprisonment.⁵³

Newspaper report:

Joseph Newton alias Newcombe, Ane Smith, and Rose Parsons, wretched creatures who had taken up their quarters in Mr. Russell's timber-yard, Bourke-street west, were sent to gaol for six months each for being illegally on the premises. Mr. Russell said that loafers slept and smoked there at night sometimes, and he was afraid the place would be set on fire by them.⁵³

7 September 1874 Daughter-in-law Anne Newcombe⁵⁴ charged at City Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with larceny; sentence 3 months' imprisonment at Melbourne Gaol, VIC.
Description: native of New South Wales, servant, born 1850, 5'0", fresh complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, repeatedly convicted.⁵⁵

1–7 December 1874 Daughter-in-law Anne Newcombe discharged from Melbourne Gaol, VIC.⁵⁵

1875 Son Joseph Charles Newcombe married Anne Cleary in Victoria; Joseph born Sydney, NSW; Anne born Sydney, NSW.⁵⁶

⁴⁸ *Victoria Police Gazette*, 27 December 1871 p.325 (Joseph Newcombe)

⁴⁹ *Argus*, 27 February 1871 p.6 (Joseph Newcombe)

⁵⁰ *Victoria Police Gazette*, 28 November 1871 p.296 (Joseph Newcombe)

⁵¹ *Victoria Police Gazette*, 22 October 1872 p.43 (Elizabeth Newcomb)

⁵² Elizabeth Newcombe died at Beechworth, VIC in 1899; aged 73, parents unknown (VIC Death Record 1899/8373).

⁵³ *Argus*, 20 January 1874 p.6 (Joseph Newtown or Newcombe)

⁵⁴ Note at this time Anne Cleary and Joseph Charles Newcombe were not yet married.

⁵⁵ *Victoria Police Gazette*, 8 December 1874 p.261 (Annie Newcombe 1672)

⁵⁶ VIC Marriage Record 1875/1197 (Joseph Charles Newcombe & Anne Cleary)

- 15 July 1875 Son Joseph Charles Newcombe charged at City Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with stealing a watch and chain; discharged.⁵⁷
Newspaper report:
*Joseph Newcombe, Anne Newcombe*⁵⁸, *and Johanna Robertson, alias Cleary, were charged with stealing a watch and chain, value £4, from the person of Samuel Jones. The latter met a man like one of the prisoners, got drunk, fell asleep, and on waking missed his watch and chain, which the detectives found had been pawned in King-street by the prisoner Robertson. All the prisoners lived in the same house. Robertson was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour, and the others were discharged.*⁵⁷
- 23 July 1875 Son Joseph Charles Newcombe charged at City Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with vagrancy; sentence 12 months imprisonment and hard labour at Melbourne Gaol, VIC.
Description: native of Victoria, born 1846, plumber, 5'6", fresh complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, 6 previous convictions.⁵⁹
Newspaper report:
*A man named Joseph Newcombe, who was recently discharged on an accusation of robbery, as there was no evidence against him, was also taken before the Bench yesterday as a vagrant, and sent to prison for a year's hard labour.*⁶⁰
- 6-12 June 1876 Son Joseph Charles Newcombe discharged from Melbourne Gaol, VIC.⁵⁹
- 18 July 1876 Son Joseph Charles Newcombe charged at Central Criminal Court, Melbourne, VIC with assault and robbery; remanded for sentence.⁶¹
Newspaper report:
ASSAULT AND ROBBERY.
Joseph Newton, alias Newcombe, and Thomas Haynes, were charged with having on the 7th July, assaulted and robbed one Henry Highams.
The prosecutor is a labourer residing near Keilor. He was in the neighbourhood of Synagogue-lane on the night of the 7th inst., and accompanied a woman to a house in that locality. After remaining in the house about half-an-hour he left, and soon afterwards was attacked by the prisoners, who knocked him down. A constable coming to Highams' assistance the prisoners ran away, but were soon captured. The prosecutor lost a watch, which has not since been found.
*Prisoners were found guilty, and were remanded for sentence. Newcombe confessed to having been twice previously convicted.*⁶¹
- 19 July 1876 Son Joseph Charles Newcombe brought up at Central Criminal Court, Melbourne, VIC for sentencing; sentence 3 years hard labour.⁶²
- 30 September 1876 Daughter-in-law Anne Newcombe charged at City Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with vagrancy; sentence 2 months imprisonment at Melbourne Gaol, VIC.
Description: native of New South Wales, servant, born 1850, 5'1½", fresh complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, repeatedly convicted.⁶³
- 1-4 December 1876 Daughter-in-law Anne Newcombe discharged from Melbourne Gaol, VIC.⁶³
- 9 February 1877 Daughter-in-law Anne Newcombe witness at the inquest of Mary Cleary who drowned in the Yarra River, Melbourne, VIC.⁶⁴
Newspaper report:
DROWNED IN THE YARRA.

⁵⁷ *Argus*, 16 July 1875 p.5 (Joseph Newcombe)

⁵⁸ This was Joseph Charles Newcombe's wife Annie, nee Cleary.

⁵⁹ *Victoria Police Gazette*, 14 June 1876 p.164 (Joseph Newcomb 9270)

⁶⁰ *Argus*, 24 July 1875 p.7 (Joseph Newcombe)

⁶¹ *Argus*, 18 July 1876 p.6 (Joseph Newton alias Newcombe)

⁶² *Argus*, 20 July 1876 p.5 (Joseph Newcome)

⁶³ *Victoria Police Gazette*, 6 December 1876 p.314 (Ann Newcome 1672)

⁶⁴ *Argus*, 10 February 1877 p.8 (Joseph Newcome)

Dr. Youl, the city coroner, held an inquest at the Melbourne Morgue yesterday on the body of Mary Cleary, a woman aged 33, who was found drowned in the Yarra, near the Queen's wharf, on Tuesday, the 6th inst.

Ann Newcome, wife of Joseph Newcome, a sister of the deceased, said she was with her sister last Tuesday night at the Rose of Australia Hotel, Bourke-street west. Her sister was then very drunk, and she sent her home and saw her go up the street as far as Little Lonsdale-street. A man of the name of Hardy was at the hotel when they were there. Her sister called the man "George." They left him at the hotel. Her sister had been a great drunkard. She had left behind her a husband and four children. About three months ago she tried to drown herself in the Yarra, and was then rescued by two men. She had only been three days out of gaol before her death. Did not know any man who had been keeping company with the deceased since she came out of gaol, where she had been doing a sentence of three months. ...⁶⁴

15 February 1877

Daughter-in-law Anne Newcombe witness at City Police Court, Melbourne, VIC in a case against John Scott charged with manslaughter.⁶⁵

Newspaper report:

MYSTERIOUS DROWNING CASE

At the City Police Court yesterday Mr. Sturt, P.M., presiding. John Scott was brought up charged with having caused the death of Mary Cleary, aged 33 years, on the night of Tuesday, the 6th inst., by pushing her into the Yarra at the Queen's wharf. It will be remembered that the verdict given by the jury at the inquest on the body of the deceased woman was that she was drowned, but there was no evidence to show how she got into the water. Inspector Ryall conducted the prosecution, and stated that he only intended adducing as much evidence as would warrant the Bench in remanding the case, on account of the prisoner's solicitor not being present.

Annie Newcombe, wife of Joseph Newcombe, plumber and gasfitter, at present in gaol, deposed. – I live in A'Beckett-street. The deceased, Mary Cleary, was my sister-in-law. On Tuesday night, the 6th inst., at about half-past 11 o'clock, I met Mary Cleary at the Rose of Australia Hotel, corner of King and Bourke streets. The prisoner was there, and Mary Cleary spoke to him first, after which they had some conversation. I called for two drinks, pale brandy for myself and peppermint for my sister-in-law because she was very drunk. I was sober. ...⁶⁵

c20 February 1877

Daughter-in-law Anne Newcombe charged at Melbourne, VIC with vagrancy; sentence 12 months imprisonment.⁶⁶

Newspaper report:

Annie Newcombe, witness in the late Yarra mystery case, committed for twelve months for vagrancy, was found assaulting a man in a house of ill fame.⁶⁶

1884

Daughter-in-law Anne Newcombe died at the Prince Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, VIC; aged 35, father John Cleary, mother Catherine O'Neil.⁶⁷

3 April 1890

Son Joseph Charles Newcombe married Mary Fuller at Melbourne, VIC; Joseph born Sydney, NSW; Mary born Carlisle, England.⁶⁸

30 June 1890

Son Joseph Charles Newcombe charged on warrant with assaulting Mary Newcombe at Fuller's Restaurant, 644 Bourke Street west, Melbourne, VIC; resident of Casselden Street, off Little Lonsdale Street east, Melbourne.⁶⁹

16 March 1891

Son Joseph Charles Newcombe respondent in divorce case brought by his wife Mary Newcombe at the Supreme Court, Melbourne, VIC; divorce granted.⁷⁰

Newspaper report:

NEWCOMBE V. NEWCOMBE.

This was a petition by Mary Newcombe, restaurant keeper, Bourke-street, for a dissolution of her marriage with Joseph Newcombe, plumber, on the ground of cruelty. The parties were married on April 3, 1890, when the petitioner was a widow with five children by a former

⁶⁵ *Argus*, 16 February 1877 p.7 (Annie Newcombe)

⁶⁶ *Portland Guardian*, Tuesday 20 February 1877 p.2 (Annie Newcombe)

⁶⁷ VIC Death Record 1884/5805 (Annie Newcome)

⁶⁸ VIC Marriage Record 1890/2444 (Joseph Newcombe & Mary Fuller)

⁶⁹ *Victoria Police Gazette*, 16 July 1890 p.217 (Joseph Newcombe)

⁷⁰ *Argus*, 17 March 1891 p.9 (Mary Newcombe)

marriage. Both were middle aged at the time of the marriage. A week after the marriage the petitioner remonstrated with the respondent for apparent misconduct, and he then used her so shamefully that she had to be treated at the Hospital. He was habitually under the influence of drink, and since the marriage had done very little in the way of earning his own living. All during the year his ill-treatment of her continued, and on February this year he was summoned to the police court and fined £5, with the alternative of 14 days imprisonment, for assaulting her.

His HONOUR granted a decree nisi with costs.

Mr. Woolf represented the petitioner; the respondent appeared in person.⁷⁰

- 29 September 1896 Husband Joseph Newcombe died of heart disease and dropsy at Ovens District Hospital, Beechworth district, VIC; aged 77, livery stable keeper, married, born England, parents unknown; informant James Kyle, undertaker of Beechworth.⁷¹
- 30 September 1896 Husband Joseph Newcombe buried at Beechworth Cemetery, VIC.⁷¹
- 29 June 1920 Son Joseph Charles Newcombe died of chronic nephritis at Ovens Benevolent Asylum, Beechworth district, VIC; aged 74, labourer, married, no children; born Tasmania, 70 years in Victoria; father Joseph Newcombe, stableman; mother Catherine Hunter; informant Frederick Farhall, Superintendent, Ovens Benevolent Society, Beechworth.⁷²
- 30 June 1920 Son Joseph Charles Newcombe buried at Beechworth Cemetery, VIC.⁷²

Notes

- Catherine may be the Catherine Newcombe who married James H Randle at the Anglican Church, Berrima, NSW in 1855.⁷³ They had at least 4 children between 1856 and 1862 at Berrima, NSW – John E Randell, Mary A Randell, Harriet E Randell, Joseph W Randall.
- Catherine may be the Catherine Newcome who died of disease of the liver and exhaustion at Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, VIC on 23 October 1871; aged 48, 21 years in Victoria, single, born London, England; father Joseph Newcome, coach driver;⁷⁴ mother Catherine; informant friend Simon Isaacs, present at death, resident of Little Bourke Street, Melbourne. Buried 25 October 1871 at the New Cemetery, Melbourne, VIC; Roman Catholic ceremony.⁷⁵

⁷¹ VIC Death Certificate 1896/8569 (Jos Newcombe)

⁷² VIC Death Certificate 1920/4369 (Joseph Chas Newcombe)

⁷³ NSW Marriage Record V1855332 43B/1855 (Catherine Newcombe)

⁷⁴ As the informant is a friend only, the father may actually be the husband.

⁷⁵ VIC Death Certificate 1871/8959 (Catherine Newcome)