

Susannah Rawcliffe

(*uxor Susannah Savage, Susannah Dean, Susannah Blake*)

POLICE NUMBER 228 ¹	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 28 August ² 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 17
TRIAL PLACE Lancaster (Preston) Quarter Sessions ³	AGE ON ARRIVAL 18
OFFENCE stealing money	HEIGHT 5' 3¼" or 5' 1¾"
SENTENCE 10 years	COMPLEXION fresh
GAOL REPORT several times for misdemeanour, bad, single	HEAD large
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once 2 months, 3 times in gaol altogether	HAIR light brown
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE full
ON THE TOWN 12 months	FOREHEAD high
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS very light
CHILDREN 0	EYES light blue
FAMILY father John Rowcliffe, bootmaker; mother Susan or Sarah Chadwick	NOSE short
NATIVE PLACE Preston, Lancashire, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION worked in factory	CHIN long
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant, wash, iron	MARKS deeply pockpitted, stout made

c1823 **Born** at Preston, Lancashire, England; father John Rowcliffe; mother Sarah or Susan Chadwick.⁴

24 March 1822 Baptised at St John's Church, Preston, Lancashire, England; father Robert Rawcliffe, mother Sarah.⁵

20 August 1840 Committed for trial for stealing 7 sovereigns and some silver.⁶
Newspaper report:
COMMITMENT. – *On Thursday last, Elizabeth Bell and Susannah Rawcliffe, two women of disreputable character, were committed for trial at the sessions, for stealing seven sovereigns and some silver from a foolish old countryman, who has been in their company. The whole of the money had been spent by the prisoners in clothing.*⁶

28 August 1840 Tried at Lancaster Quarter Sessions, Preston, Lancashire, England with shipmate Elizabeth Bell (*qv*) indicted for larceny in stealing 7 sovereigns and some silver from the person of Richard Fairclough; sentence 10 years transportation.⁷

5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.⁸

19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.⁸

c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment.⁹

10 August 1841 Returned to the service of the Government, to the Police Office, Evandale, at the request of her master Mr George Collins.¹⁰

13 October 1841 Charged at the Police Court, Evandale with neglect of duty and disobedience of orders in the service of Mr B Soden; plea guilty; reprimanded.¹¹

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.261 No.228 [image 208] (Susannah Rawcliffe); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.247 [image 127] (Susannah Rancliffe); ML, CY 1282 p.153 (Susanna Rawcliffe); ML, CY 1197 p.154 (Susannah Rancliffe); ML, CY 958 p.442 (Susannah Rawcliffe)

² Trial month given as October on Conduct Record (TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.261 No.228 [image 208] (Susannah Rawcliffe)).

³ Trial place given as Lancaster Sessions of the Peace on Assignment List (ML, CY 958 p.442 (Susannah Rawcliffe)) and Embarkation List (ML, CY 1197 p.154 (Susannah Rancliffe)).

⁴ VIC Death Certificate 1886/7177 (Susan Blake); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.247 [image 127] (Susannah Rancliffe); VIC Marriage Certificate 1882/2871 (Susannah Dean & William Blake)

⁵ *Family Search*, IGI Batch No.C00713-3 Source Film Nos.94007, 94008 (Susannah Rawcliffe)

⁶ *Preston Chronicle*, 22 August 1840 Issue 1450 Article 46 (Susannah Rawcliffe)

⁷ *Blackburn Standard*, 2 September 1840 Issue 294 Article 47 (Susannah Rawcliffe)

⁸ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁹ ML, CY 1282 p.142 (Susannah Rawcliffe); ML, CY 1274 p.262 (Susanna Rawcliffe)

¹⁰ TAHO, LC137/1/1 (Susannah Radcliffe)

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

Susannah Rawcliffe

31 December 1841	Mustered in the service of Mr B Soden, Morven. ¹²
19 February 1842	Application for permission to marry Charles Savage ¹³ (<i>John</i>) sent to the Muster Master. ¹⁴
5 March 1842	Application for permission to marry Charles Savage sent to the Secretary; not approved. ¹⁴
29 June 1842	Application for permission to marry Charles Savage (<i>John</i>) sent to the Muster Master. ¹⁵
13 July 1842	Application for permission to marry Charles Savage sent to the Secretary; approved if the clergyman is satisfied with evidence adduced by the man. ¹⁵
1 August 1842	Married Charles Savage at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Evandale; Susannah aged 27, ¹⁶ convict, illiterate; Charles aged 37, ticket-of-leave holder; witnesses GG Ridgers and Samuel Crowson. ¹⁷
16 February 1843	Husband Charles Savage issued Conditional Pardon No.173. ¹⁸
17 March 1843	Husband Charles Savage in the Morven district. ¹⁸
1 February 1845	Charged with gross disorderly conduct in keeping a common brothel; sentence 12 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory. ¹⁹
21 February 1845	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 25 February 1845. ²⁰
9 December 1845	Husband Charles Savage extended for a Conditional Pardon. ¹⁸
19 February 1846	Husband Charles Savage departed George Town for Port Phillip as a passenger on the <i>Shamrock</i> . ²¹
13 May 1846	Recommended to the Queen for a Conditional Pardon available within the limits of the Australian Colonies and New Zealand; gazetted 19 May. ²²
4 October 1847	Conditional Pardon approved; gazetted 5 October. ²³
19 September 1856	Purchased, with John Dean, Lot 33 at Rochford, VIC comprising 80 acres at £1.8.0 per acre. ²⁴
27 September 1861	Married John Dean in the dwelling house of the bride at Rochford, VIC (Presbyterian service); Susannah aged 34, farmer, resident of Rochford, widow (husband left home for Bendigo 8 May 1854 ²⁵ and was afterwards reported by the police dead through intemperance), born Preston, Lancashire, England; father Robert Rocliffe, boot and shoe maker; mother Sarah Chadwick; John aged 36, farmer, bachelor, resident of Rochford, born London, England; father Robert Dean, salesman; mother Charlotte Williams; witnesses Thomas Wood and Anne Hockey. ²⁶
26 October 1872	Husband John Dean died; farmer, resident of Strathmerton, VIC. ²⁷
27 April 1882	Married William Blake at the residence of the bride at Strathmerton, VIC (Bible Christian Church service); Susannah aged 48, housekeeper, resident of

¹¹ TAHO, LC137/1/1 (Susannah Radcliffe)

¹² AJCP, HO 10/51 p.392 No.228 (Susannah Rawcliffe)

¹³ Charles Savage was transported for life on the *John* in 1830, tried at Sussex on 7 August 1830 for breaking a building within the curtilage of a dwelling house & larceny; married, 1 child, ploughman, aged 22; Ticket of Leave 1 January 1840, Conditional Pardon 16 February 1843 (TAHO, CON31/1/39 p.104 No.1290 [image 109] (Charles Savage), TAHO, CON18/1/9 p.189 No.1290 [image 101] (Chas Savage)).

¹⁴ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.183 (Susanna Rocliffe & Chas Savage)

¹⁵ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.184 (Chas Savage & Susannah Rowcliffe)

¹⁶ Age given as 17 on death certificate.

¹⁷ TAHO, RGD37/1/2 1842/1594 Launceston (Charles Savage & Susan Rocliffe)

¹⁸ TAHO, CON31/1/39 p.104 No.1290 [image 109] (Charles Savage)

¹⁹ TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.261 No.228 [image 208] (Susannah Rawcliffe)

²⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 25 February 1845 p.234 (Susanna Rawcliffe)

²¹ TAHO, CSO95/1/1 p.312 (Charles Savage)

²² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 19 May 1846 p.441 (Susannah Rawcliffe)

²³ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 5 October 1847 p.998 (Susannah Rancliffe)

²⁴ *Argus*, 20 September 1856 p.5 (Susannah Savage & John Dean)

²⁵ Note that this is 7 years before the date of re-marriage.

²⁶ VIC Marriage Certificate 1861/3048 (Susan Savage & John Dean)

²⁷ PROV, VPRS 7592 32/518 (Susannah Blake)

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Strathermerton, widow (former husband deceased in 1880), born Lancashire, England; father Robert Rocliff, shoemaker; mother Sarah Chadwick; William aged 23, blacksmith, bachelor, resident of Yarraweah, born Castlemaine, VIC; father Thomas Blake, farmer; mother Mary Tarfell; witnesses Thomas Blake and Susanna Lynch.²⁸

20 March 1885 Inherited property as a conveyance of trust between 1st husband Charles Savage, 2nd husband John Dean and herself.²⁹

30 June 1886 **Died** of apoplexy at Rochford, VIC; aged 65, born Preston, England; father John Rowcliffe, bootmaker; mother Susan; about 20 years in Tasmania then 30 years in Victoria, no children; informant husband William Blake, farmer resident of Rochford.³⁰

2 July 1886 Buried at Lancefield Cemetery, VIC.³⁰

19 August 1886 Letters of administration granted in the estate of Susannah Blake, value £2,486.³¹

15 September 1886 Probate granted in the Supreme Court, VIC to husband William Blake, farmer, resident of Monument Creek near Lancefield, VIC; died intestate; left property to the value of £2,420.10.4.³²

Affidavit of husband William Blake:

I William Blake of Monument Creek near Lancefield in the Colony of Victoria Farmer make oath and say

- 1 *That the said deceased died on the thirtieth day of June one thousand eight hundred and eighty six intestate aged sixty five years or thereabouts.*
- 2 *That the said deceased left real property in the Colony of Victoria of the value of eight hundred and eighty three pounds or thereabouts and personal property in the said Colony of the value of one thousand six hundred and three pounds or thereabouts making together the sum of Two thousand four hundred and eighty six pounds or thereabouts.*
- 3 *That the said deceased left here surviving her husband me this deponent and did not leave any issue surviving her nor did she leave any other relative whatsoever surviving her so far as is known to me from conversations with the deceased in her lifetime and from enquiries made by me since her death and I verily believe I am the only person entitled to share in her property.*
- 4 *That I am seeking to obtain administration of the Estate of the abovenamed deceased as her husband and that I was at the time of her death her husband.*
- 5 *That I have made careful enquiry and search but am unable to find any will of the said deceased.*
- 6 *That the said deceased was married to me on the twenty seventh day of April one thousand eight hundred and eighty two.*
- 7 *That the said deceased had acquired the greater part of her said property prior to her marriage to me and the property so acquired by her was acquired by her partly under a Conveyance in Trust dated the twentieth day of March one thousand eight hundred and fifty five and made between Charles Savage of the one part the said deceased of the second part and John Dean of the third party and partly under the Will of John Dean late of Strathmerton in the Colony of Victoria Farmer who died on or about the twenty sixth day of October one thousand eight hundred and seventy two and who by his said Will left all his real and personal estate to the said Susannah Blake deceased.*
- 8 *That so much of the property of the said Susannah Blake deceased as was not acquired by her as aforesaid was acquired by her from her own separate earnings and savings partly from the business of a Farmer which she carried on apart from me and partly from the rents and profits of the property acquired by her in the seventh paragraph hereof mentioned.*

²⁸ VIC Marriage Certificate 1882/2871 (Susannah Dean & William Blake)

²⁹ PROV, VPRS 7592 32/518 (Susannah Blake)

³⁰ VIC Death Certificate 1886/7177 (Susan Blake)

³¹ *Argus*, 20 August 1886 p.10 (Susannah Blake)

³² PROV, VPRS 7592 32/518 (Susannah Blake)

Affidavit of Douglas McWhae Esquire:

I Douglas McWhae of Lancefield in the Colony of Victoria manager of the Commercial Bank of Australia Limited at Lancefield make oath and say:

1. That the abovenamed deceased was a constituent of the said Commercial Bank at Lancefield and I was well acquainted with her.
2. That in or about the month of November one thousand eight hundred and eighty five the said deceased had occasion to consult me privately in relation to some of her business affairs and during her then conversation with me she said "There is no one belonging to me but Willie" meaning thereby that her husband William Blake was her only relation as I verily believe.
3. That from my knowledge of and acquaintanceship with the deceased I verily believe that the said deceased left no relations other than her husband William Blake surviving her.

Inventory:

Real Estate

- 1 Land containing 119 acres 3 roods and 24 perches being allotments 69A and 71C parish of Rochford with improvements thereon.
- 2 Land containing 56 acres and 26 perches being allotment 22A parish of Rochford with improvements thereon.
- 3 Half an acre of land being part of Crown allotment 3 Section 7 parish of Bulla.

Personal estate

Land containing 320 acres being allotment 22 Section D parish of Strathmerton county of Movia under lease from the Crown with improvements thereon.

Household furniture and effects.

2 Horses

1 Buggy and harness

1 Dray

Amount of purchase money due by James William Waterland for $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land being allotment 20 Section 61 at Lancefield with cottage thereon sold and transferred by deceased to him before her death. 100 0 0

One quarters rent due by Patrick Lynch ending June 30th 1886 above leasehold. 37 10 0

Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Assets: Real Estate

- 1 Land containing 119 acres 3 roods and 24 perches being allotments 69A and 71C parish of Rochford partially fenced part of one side only of the fence is of any value the remainder being of brush very red[?] and of no value on the land was being erected and nearly completed at the time of deceaseds death a four roomed wooden house no part of the land is cultivated unoccupied valued at £300.
- 2 Land containing 56 acres and 26 perches being allotment 22A parish of Rochford the said land being fenced partly post and rail and partly log fence and having a 6 roomed wooden house and wooden outbuildings consisting of stable and buggy ... house 25 acres are under cultivation 12 acres being with peas and 13 acres fallow land for potato planting in November occupied by deceased at time of her death valued at £563.
- 3 Half an acre of land being part of Crown allotment 3 Section 7 parish of Bulla on which there are no improvements and unoccupied, valued at £20.

Total £883

Personal Estate

Land containing 320 acres being allotment 22 Section D parish of Strathmerton County of Movia under lease from the Crown from August 2nd 1880 for 7 years at 2/- a year payable $\frac{1}{2}$ yearly in advance on the land is 3 miles of fencing of which $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles is post and rail and remainder log. On the land are erected - brick hotel known as "The Cricketers Arms Hotel" containing 6 rooms and bar a two[?] roomed wooden hut of little value and a four stabled wooden stable held by Patrick Lynch under lease for 10 years from April 4th 1882 at £150 per year and rates and taxes £42 has to be paid to the Crown before this land will become a freehold valued at £1500.

Household furniture and effects not exceeding in value £30.

2 Horses £20

1 Buggy and harness £30

Susannah Rawcliffe

1 Dray £5

Amount of purchase money due by James William Waterland for ¼ acre of land being allotment 20 Section 61 at Lancefield with cottage thereon sold and transferred by deceased to him before her death. £100

One quarters rent due by Patrick Lynch ending June 30/86 for above leasehold £37.10.

Total £1722.10

Grand Total £2605.10

Liabilities

F O Neal Lancefield Storekeeper for goods £9.18.11

Commercial Bank Lancefield on overdraft account £110.0.9 (security deposit of deeds)

James Armstrong Contractor balance due for erection of premises on land herein firstly described £65 (? included in £300 on other side).

Balance for Duty £2420.10.4³³

Notes

- Susannah's husband may be the Charles Savage who died on 30 July 1873 of cancer at Launceston; aged 67, labourer; informant Thomas J Doolan, undertaker.³⁴
- Alternatively, he may be the Charles Robert Savage who died in 1874 in Victoria; aged 60, born Sussex.³⁵

³³ PROV, VPRS 7592 32/518 (Susannah Blake)

³⁴ TAHO, RGD35/1/42 1873/2126 Launceston (Charles Savage)

³⁵ VIC Death Record 1874/7726 (Charles Robert Savage)