



Abner B. Newcomb
detective

1833-unknown. The son of successful parents, was writing for Boston newspapers by age 17, was made editor of the *Rockland Republican*, and then wrote for the *New York World*. In 1861 was made secretary for the U.S. Marshall and then Detective. After the War, appointed Operative in the U.S. Secret Service Division, New York District, in charge of bounty fraud cases.



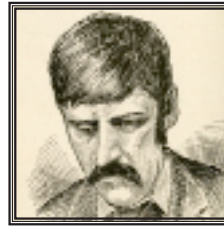
Ann Trow Lohman
abortionist

1812-78. Emigrated to New York in her teens, married Charles Lohman, freethinker and friend of Chief of Police George Matsell. With her husband and brother, developed a line of birth control products and abortifacients, and performed abortions. Committed suicide soon after being arrested in 1878 by Anthony Comstock. Was worth over \$500,000 at the time of her death.



Anthony Comstock
postal inspector, moral crusader

1844-1915. Founded the N.Y. Society for the Suppression of Vice and lobbied Congress to pass the Comstock Law prohibiting dissemination of obscene material and information on birth control. Sworn enemy of Madame Restell, Victoria Woodhull, Tennessee Claflin, Margaret Sanger, Emma Goldman, Ida Craddock, among many others. Admired by a young J. Edgar Hoover later in life.



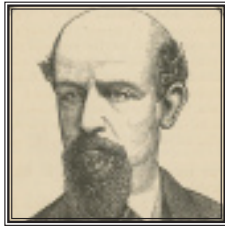
**Peter Ellis aka Banjo
Pete aka Luther aka Big
Pete aka Peter Emerson**
thief

Ca. 1845-unknown. Minstrel-gang member; helped rob over \$2.7 million from the Manhattan Institute for Savings in 1878, a heist funded in part by Marm Mandelbaum the fence. Emerson was acquitted at trial but finally sent to prison for 10 years on other robbery charges.



**Bill Gurney aka "Big
Bill" the Queersman aka
Big Bill the Koniacker**
counterfeit, thief, cracksman

Life dates unknown. Ran a large and organized gang of counterfeiters who flooded the entire country with millions of dollars in fake bills in the late 1860s and early 1870s. Gambled away his proceeds, and was sentenced to 10 years in Kings County Penitentiary.



Charles E. Anchisi
detective

1836-99. Fought in the Crimean War for the Italian Army and emigrated to the U.S. in 1861. Worked as an agent for the Union Army gathering intelligence in the South. Appointed Assistant Operative in the U.S. Secret Service in 1868 to break up an Italian gang of counterfeiters, and as full Detective broke up criminal gangs in the West.



**Charles Williams aka
John Murray**
thief

Life dates unknown. (Image from a photograph taken under duress.) A career sneak thief who robbed houses in New York, Boston, and New Jersey. Arrested and imprisoned numerous times. Pleaded insanity and escaped from three asylums before finally being apprehended in Cambridge in possession of stolen pawn tickets.



C.P.
petty thief

Life dates unknown. A half-breed Indian and Negro woman with an explosive temper. Incarcerated at least four times, three times for theft and once for assault with a knife. Attacked a prison guard with a carving knife, and was beaten into submission with a loaded cane.



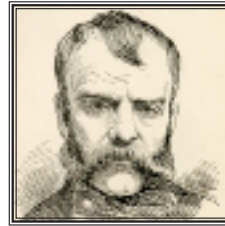
**Dan Noble
aka Daniel Dyson**
thief

1846-78. Began career as a pickpocket, and best known for stealing \$100,000 from the Royal Insurance Co. in broad daylight. Allegedly participated in theft of \$1 million from industrialist Rufus L. Lord. Broke out of Auburn prison and escaped to England where he was sentenced to 20 years for forgery. Died in prison.



D.M.
prostitute

Life dates unknown. In and out of prisons her adult life, described by jailers as "notoriously abandoned and profligate." Was nevertheless shrewd, "with fair intellect but a total destitution of moral endowment."



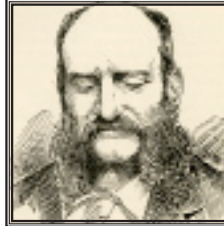
**Edward Gearing
aka Eddie Goodie**
butcher-cart thief

Ca. 1848-unknown. "One of the smartest thieves in America." Conducted a life-long career as a thief, and drove the butcher cart carrying stolen loot. Was allegedly involved in the 1878 robbery of the Manhattan Institute for Savings, of over \$2.7 million. Eventually sentenced to 20 years in State Prison.



Fernando Wood
mayor

1812-81. Elected Mayor of New York City in 1854 and again in 1860, spent his life in politics, involved in Tammany Hall and serving in the House of Representatives. A Copperhead, he supported the South during the Civil War in order to keep making money from a profitable cotton trade.



**Frank McCoy
aka "Big Frank"**
burglar

Ca. 1839-unknown. Credited with originating the "butcher cart business," robbing people on the street and escaping in a cart. Said to have stolen over \$2 million in his career. After several arrests, he was finally sent to a Wilmington, Delaware, jail to serve out a 10-year term for burglary.



**George Mason
aka Oscar Decker**
burglar, forger

Life dates unknown. A confederate of notorious fence "Marm Mandelbaum." Decker also forged notes on banks, obtaining \$13,500 in Cincinnati and Chicago alone. With associates, he traveled to Europe and defrauded banks of \$100,000s in London, Paris, and Brussels, where he was arrested and incarcerated.



George W. Matsell
police

1811-77. An "inveterate foe of thieves," Matsell became a police magistrate in 1840 and was named the first New York City Police Commissioner in 1845. He wrote the first work of American slang, the *Vocabulum (Rogue's Lexicon)*, owned the *National Police Gazette*, and spent summers at his farm in Iowa.



George W. Walling
police

1823-91. He worked his way up in the ranks, serving under George Matsell, and gaining respect by ably handling New York City's draft riots in 1863. He became Chief of New York Police in 1874 and for his entire career sought to rid the police force of corruption from the city's political influences.



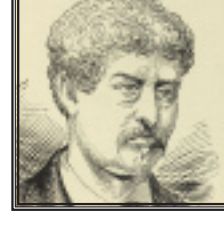
Helen Campbell
reformer

1839-1918. Dedicated her life to causes and effects of poverty on women and children. Pioneer in home economics and social reformer. Wrote children's stories, novels, and nonfiction chronicling the plight of urban families.



**Dorcas Doyan
aka Helen Jewett**
prostitute

1813-36. High-class New York City prostitute who grew up in Maine motherless and with an alcoholic father. Allegedly murdered by regular customer, clerk Richard Robinson. The trial transfixed the nation. Despite damning but circumstantial evidence, Robinson was acquitted. Facing a public backlash, he moved to Texas.



**Dr. Jacob Rosenzweig
aka Dr. Ascher**
abortionist

Life dates unknown. Abortionist who at one time ran five offices in New York City. Accused in the "Great Trunk Mystery" of 1871, of killing a woman by a botched abortion and attempting to ship her body to Chicago. Convicted and sentenced to 7 years in Sing Sing, he served less than a year.



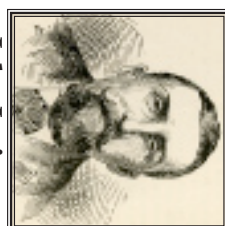
John and Willie D.
street arabs

Life dates unknown. Two brothers supporting an idle and abusive father and younger sister as beggars. Illiterate and often sleeping on the streets in boxes, they were rescued by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and sent to the Juvenile Asylum. Fates unknown.



John Buchanan
diploma mill operator
quack doctor

Life dates unknown. Practiced medicine, treating venereal diseases with quack medicines. Also wrote medical treatises. Was "Dean" of the bogus medical schools the American University of Philadelphia, the Eclectic Medical College of Pennsylvania, and Livingstone University, selling over 3,000 fake medical diplomas. The schools were closed in 1880.



**John Irving
aka Old Jack**
burglar

Ca. 1846-unknown. Notorious jewelry store burglar extradited to NY on robbery charges. Unconvincingly confessed to the murder of banker Benjamin Nathan. Believing himself to be mortally wounded from gunshot wounds sustained during an escape later in life, gave up comrades only to survive and be released.



John "Johnny" Hope
thief

1856-1906. Burglar, bank robber, and pickpocket. Worked with his father, "Old Jimmy" Hope, associate of the notorious George Leslie Gang. Arrested and convicted for alleged part in the 1878 robbery of the Manhattan Institute for Savings, of over \$2.7 million, he spent 20 years in Sing Sing and was pardoned in 1890.



John P. McCartney aka Pete McCartney aka Joe Woods

counterfeiter, forger

Ca. 1818-90. King of counterfeiters and prince of queer show-ers. Skillfully engraved plates and passed counterfeits throughout the West. Also skilled at escaping from custody. Married into a family of counterfeiters, served 15 years for counterfeiting, and died in an Ohio prison at the age of 66, having passed millions in bogus bills.



Jonathan Harrington Green

reformed gambler

1813-87. An accomplished gambler at a young age, gave it up in 1842 and crusaded against gambling until the end of his life. Helped organize the New York Association for the Suppression of Gambling and wrote prolifically about the secrets of gambling and its evils. Died penniless in Philadelphia.



Madame Rand
fortune teller, pimp

Life dates unknown. Occupied second story of a tenement near the East River, above a cheap grocery selling liquor to the destitute. Claimed to tell girls of their future husbands, but sold them into prostitution instead. Responsible for the disappearance of at least two young women.



Maria Whipple
petty thief

Life dates unknown. A vestmaker by trade, arrived alone in Boston at age 20. Took up stealing when unable to find work, and stole \$1,200 in silks, furs, and other garments, which she pawned for cash. Served 2 years in prison for theft. After being released, went insane.



Fredericka Mandelbaum aka Marm or Mother Mandelbaum
fence

1818-94. Most notorious and successful fence of the 19th century. Oversaw international network of thieves and trafficked \$1-\$5 million in stolen goods between 1862 and 1884. Also helped finance 1878 robbery of the Manhattan Institute for Savings. Arrested in 1884, fled to Canada with \$1 million, where she remained.



Mary Nathalie B--
prostitute

Life dates unknown. Known as "the most exclusive woman of the underworld" during the late-19th century. Enjoyed influential connections in Baltimore and New York. Was said to have chosen "a short life of gaiety" over "severe, Puritan respectability."



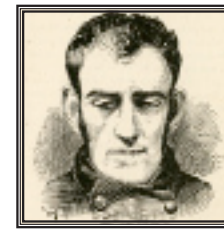
M.B.
petty thief

Life dates unknown. A former slave who purchased his own freedom and moved north. Described as "a man of great determination and fixedness of mind and character." Arrested for petty larceny.



Medora Jacobs
confidence woman

Life dates unknown. A native New Yorker, was collecting debts for her father by the age of nine. As a young girl, solicited neighborhood donations for a bogus charity and spent the money on herself. As an adult, presented herself as a respectable woman, wearing stolen finery and boarding at luxurious hotels without ever paying. As of 1861, was serving time in Sing Sing.



Michael Kurtz aka Michael Sheehan aka Sheeney Mike
burglar, gang leader

Ca. 1845-1904. Co-founded the Dutch mob and led a successful career as a bank robber and jewelry thief. He participated in over 150 robberies amounting to \$7 million and was an associate of notorious fence "Marm" Mandelbaum. Died penniless of consumption in Bellevue Hospital.



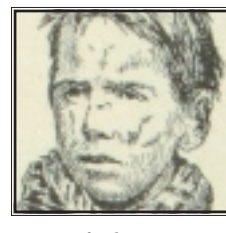
Michael Nevins
gutter snipe

Ca. 1885-unknown. Half blind and with a blood-matted head wound from beatings by his father, he was found "alive" with vermin by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. His father was arrested for the abuse. Fate unknown.



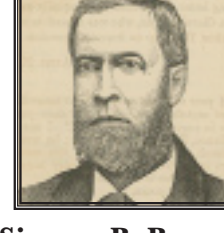
Monroe Edwards
slave smuggler, forger, swindler

Ca. 1808-47. Son of a Kentucky plantation owner, moved to Texas, clerked for a prosperous merchant. Soon embarked on large-scale smuggling operation, trafficking slaves internationally. Fleeing to Europe to avoid authorities, posed as a wealthy veteran and abolitionist, successfully swindling \$20,000 from a Liverpool firm. Convicted of forgery, died in prison.



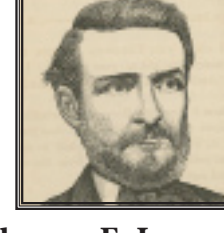
Patrick Lacey
dock rat

Ca. 1885-unknown. One of thousands of children living in urban America who were rescued by reformers. He was found by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children with a swollen left eye and two torn ears by the hand of his abusive father, who served 1 year for the crimes. Fate unknown.



Simeon B. Benson
detective

Ca. 1830-unknown. Son of a wealthy farmer, became a prominent lawyer in Erie, PA, joining the Union Army at the outset of the Civil War, gaining experience in the fraudulent practices of government contractors. Eventually appointed to Chief Operative of the Secret Service out of Philadelphia responsible for the conviction of over 50 criminals.



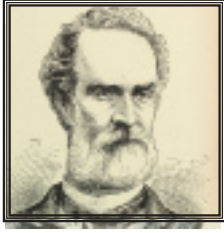
Thomas E. Lonergan
detective

1844-1901. Energetic officer who apprehended numerous counterfeiters. Joined Union Army as Sergeant Major, was appointed to West Point, served as newspaper reporter, and then hired as Superintendent of the Chicago branch of Pinkerton's National Detective Agency. Became Chief Operative in the Western Division of the U.S. Secret Service in 1870.



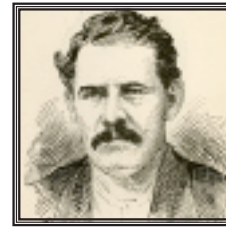
Thomas M. Hale aka "Cranky Tom"
forger, counterfeiter

1836-unknown. Orphaned at 13, stole \$500 from his adoptive aunt as a youth. In New York, frequented Ike Weber's lush den, the notorious thieves' den. Was involved in making the first postal forgeries, and also created counterfeit scrip. Jumped bail at least 23 different times. In 1870 sentenced to 10 years in a Pennsylvania prison.



William Brockway
forger, counterfeiter

Ca. 1822-unknown. The king of the counterfeiters. A skilled banknote engraver hired by banks to engrave plates which he copied for himself. Arrested in 1880 for forging over \$200,000 worth of government bonds. 30-year sentence suspended because he surrendered all counterfeiting tools and bogus plates. Also gave up compatriots. Sentenced in 1883 to 5 years for forgery.



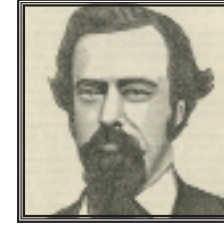
William O'Brien aka "Billy" Porter aka William or "Billy" Morton
burglar

1850-unknown. Member of the Dutch mob, one of the best crackmen in America. Robbed retail stores, netting tens of thousands of dollars. In 1883 sustained severe gunshot wounds during gunfight at Shang Draper's saloon. After allegedly killing notorious gang leader George Leslie, continued his criminal career in Europe.



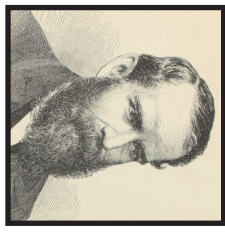
William Stuart
counterfeiter

1788?-unknown. Began his criminal life in early teens forging coins and passing them to adults. Subsequently passed counterfeit notes in the East, obtaining supplies from counterfeiter Stephen Burroughs and others. Chose women and African Americans as accomplices. Served 5 years in prison and retired to farm life in Connecticut. Wrote his autobiography at age 66.



Winfield S. Goss
co-conspirator, victim

Unknown-1872. Unfortunate victim of his own criminal intent. With brother-in-law William Udderzook faked own death to collect on the \$25,000 insurance policies. Insurance investigators suspecting fraud, Udderzook then actually murdered Goss. Arrested and convicted, Udderzook was hanged in West Chester, PA, in 1874.



Jason "Jay" Gould
robber baron

1836-1892. Involved in Tammany Hall politics, bribing "Boss" Tweed by making him a director of the Erie RR ensuring lucrative returns for him and his partner Jim Fiske but not investors. Also attempted to corner the gold market, causing "Black Friday" financial panic of 1869. At the time of his death from tuberculosis in 1892, claimed to be worth \$72 million.