

The real name of John Newton is John Newcomb Jones.

His father, Francis Jones, married twice:

- Yesterday (17 March 1812), Francis Jones Esq, jun, of Dawson Street, Dublin, to Miss Wilson, of the Donegal Arms.¹
- From 1816, Francis Jones was the proprietor of the Royal Hibernian Hotel, 46 and 47 Dawson Street, Dublin. His father previously owned the large hotel.
- Francis and Mary Anne Jones had at least one child, Thomas Octavius Jones, born in 1824.
- Suddenly, on 28 April 1825, in the 34th year of her age, Mary Anne, wife of Mr Francis Jones, of Dawson-street.²
- On 11 December 1826, at St Anne's Church, by the Rev G.W. Cotton, Francis Jones Esq of Dawson-street, Dublin, to Anna Sophia, relict of the late Geo Henry Doyel Esq, daughter of the late Major Sandys, of Drumnicon, co. Longford.³
- Francis and Anna Sophia Jones had a son, **John Newcomb Jones**, born about 1825-7.
- On 15 June 1849, Mrs Anna Sophia Jones, wife of Mr Francis Jones, formerly of Dawson-street, and granddaughter of the late Hamilton Gorges, of Kilbrue, in the county Meath, Esq., died.⁴
- Francis Jones, 63, widower, clerk, Protestant, resides in Dublin, admitted to workhouse on 29 November 1853, discharged on 17 May 1854.
Francis Jones, 64, a widower, clerk, and Protestant, residing in Dublin, was admitted to the workhouse on 26 May 1854 and died on 20 June 1854.⁵
- On 20 June 1854, aged 64, Mr Francis Jones, formerly of Dawson-street, Dublin.⁶

On 4 December 1848, John Newton appeared at the Surrey Assizes, held at Newington. Old Offenders. James Williams (one of the men who were tried for the murder of Mr Bellchambers), John Newton, and Elizabeth Taylor were indicted for stealing four pounds of cheese and 20s., the property of Charles Rust. Mr Baldwin conducted the prosecution, and Mr Charnock defended Williams.

The prosecutor carries on the business of a cheese-monger in the Old Kent-road, and on the evening of 13 November, the prisoner Williams entered the shop and ordered 4lbs. of cheese to be sent to a Miss Fell's, at No. 11, Surrey-square, with change for a sovereign. The prosecutor accordingly dispatched his lad with the property, but directed his shopman to follow and watch him. When the lad got to Miss Fell's he was informed that nothing had been ordered, and as he was going home again the female prisoner came up to him running, and exclaimed, " Oh, you have got the cheese; give it to me, with the change, and here's the sovereign." He accordingly gave them to her and was about to proceed further when he looked round and saw her run away. While he was looking at the coin, which was a counterfeit, Newton came up to him and prevented him from following her, when the shopman came up to his assistance and secured him (Newton). Williams had been previously taken into custody. The female was apprehended at the police station on the following morning while looking after her companions. The Jury found them Guilty when the Court was informed that they had all been previously in custody, and that Williams was one of the men tried at the Old Bailey, but he was acquitted. The Chairman sentenced each of them to seven years' transportation.⁷

¹ Belfast Commercial Chronicle, 18 March 1812, p2

² Roscommon & Leitrim Gazette, 07 May 1825, p3

³ Weekly Freeman's Journal, 23 December 1826, p7

⁴ Saunders's News-Letter, 19 June 1849, p3

⁵ So Dublin Poor Law Union Admission + Discharge BG 78/G 12 and 13

⁶ Saunders's News-Letter, 23 June 1854, p3

⁷ London Evening Standard, 08 December 1848, p4

Court records for the Surrey Assizes on 4 December 1848 at Newington show:

James Williams, 30, imp, John Newton, 22, imp, and Elizabeth Taylor, 26, imp, were committed on 27 November 1848 by G.P. Elliott Esq charged on the oaths of Charles Andrews and others with feloniously stealing, from his person, at Saint George-the-Martyr, Southwark, four pounds of cheese and silver monies to the amount of twenty shillings and monies of Charles Rust.

Transported for 7 years.⁸

Elizabeth Taylor went to Tasmania per *Stately* in 1849.

James Williams went to Tasmania per *Lady Kennaway* in 1851.

The Prison Register shows that John was born in Dublin, was 5'3", can read and write, clerk, dark brown hair, blue eyes, Protestant, proportionate nose and mouth, long face, pale complexion, stout, pock marked, two inoculations marks left arm, father F Jones,, Ireland.

Other Registers show that John Newton was received at Millbank Prison on 13 February 1849 from Horsemonger Lane Prison; at Millbank, he spent 5 months and 17 days in separate confinement. He was then transferred to Pentonville Prison on 2 August 1849. Here he was, aged 23, weighing 9st 1 lb, single, and his behaviour was good. He was transferred on 2 January 1850 to the *York* hulk at Gosport.

The information on the prison registers is conflicting. John either had no previous convictions or was three times charged, once tried and acquitted; was a clerk, labourer or weaver; could read and write well or imperfectly. Considering his background, he would have been well educated.

John boarded the *Pyrenees* on 10 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.⁹

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, John was assigned number 450, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a physical description was recorded.

450. John Newton, 26, 5'3½", dark brown hair, dark hazel eyes, long face, fair complexion, two scars on left arm, clerk, single.¹⁰

The Superintendent's Journal shows:

4 July 1851. The following prisoners from the *Pyrenees* will be received at the prison and located in Division No. 3 - 45 men from the *York* hulk at Gosport and 12 men from the *Stirling Castle* hulk, including 450. John Newton.¹¹

In July 1851, Ticket-of-Leave-Men at Mount Eliza Station included: 450 John Newton, a Tailor.¹²

John came before the courts a few times as he settled into life in Western Australia.

Police Magistrates' Court. 30 December 1851. John Newton, a Ticket-of-leave holder, was interfering with the Police in the execution of their duty. Fined 10s and costs.¹³

Police Magistrates' Court. 2 October 1852. John Newton, t.l., out after hours; dismissed.¹⁴

Fremantle. 28 February 1852. John Newton, ticket-of-leave holder, drunk and disorderly, fined 5s and costs, and admonished.¹⁵

A Conditional Pardon was granted on 23 April 1853.

By 1860, he had set up business as a general shopkeeper in Barrack Street, Perth. His first advertisement was for clothing.

⁸ Surrey Assizes, QS3/4/1

⁹ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO8/107 PCOM2/63; HO24/4; PCOM2/29; PCOM2/136

¹⁰ SROWA, Acc 128/32

¹¹ SROWA, Superintendents orders, So1-So3, p51

¹² The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 18 July 1851, p2

¹³ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 9 January 1852, p4

¹⁴ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 15 October 1852, p4

¹⁵ Inquirer, 3 March 1852, p2

JOHN NEWTON
GENERAL STOREKEEPER, BARRACK STREET, PERTH.

BEGS to inform the public that he has just received per late arrivals, a large assortment of goods comprising fine fancy prints, flounced dresses, fancy mohair dresses, double skirts, printed delaines, gentian coburg, rich, check poplin, shepherd's tweeds and plaids, wheat sheaf and other fancy trimmings, callico and sheeting, gents' and children's superior cotton socks, do epping stripe, ladies' white and black cotton do, Chad wick's white and black wax, reel cotton, ladies' and gents' straw and leghorn hats, ladies' black glazed mantles, also, bonnets and ribbons, cap and bonnet fronts, kid, silk and lisle thread gloves, gents' fancy neckties, do. silk pocket handkerchiefs, gents' fancy regatta and white shirts, &c.¹⁶

His brother Thomas was a braid manufacturer in London. He possibly sourced items for John and shipped them to Perth.

John appeared in court a few more times.

Perth Police Court. ROBBERY. Peter Lee and W. King, t.l.'s, were charged by Police Corporal Dyer with having stolen from the shop of Mr J. Newton, in Barrack street, sundry articles of wearing apparel, to the amount of about £3.

The evidence given proved that the robbery had been effected by breaking one of the panes of glass in the store window, by which means the thief was enabled to extract the things then produced. A Native, accompanied by a Constable, followed the tracks of a person from Newton's shop window to the Cemetery, where they found the stolen property buried in the earth; on the subsequent night, Corporal Dyer arrested the two prisoners in Adelaide Terrace, for being out of their district without a Pass, and on their being brought to the station, the Native who had followed the footprints, on examining the boots of one of the prisoner's, affirmed that they corresponded exactly with the tracks he had followed from Newton's shop window to the Cemetery.

The prisoners denied all knowledge of the robbery. Still, as they could not provide any satisfactory reasons for absenting themselves from their district, and there was very strong evidence before his Worship that they had not only knowledge of the robbery but were also the actual perpetrators of it, they were sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment with hard labour.¹⁷

May 1860. Abusive Language. John Newton, expirée, was charged by M. Daley of Her Majesty's 12th Regiment, with having used abusive and insulting language to him in the Shamrock Hotel. As Newton did not appear, His Worship decided the case ex parte and fined Newton the sum of 10s, plus costs of 4s 6d. ¹⁸ [Shamrock Hotel was later called the Savoy Hotel, Hay Street, Perth]

Perth Police Court. August 1860. Abusive Language. Brittain, free, was charged by John Newton with having made use of abusive and insulting language to him in Barrack Street.

Newton deposed that he saw Brittain passing his shop, when he said to him that he would feel obliged to him by sending him his account, upon which Brittain said, " What lies are those you've been telling Solomon Cook, that I've been carting bricks for you at 10s per thousand ?" Newton replied, "So you have, on the understanding that I was to allow you bricks at a reduced rate." Brittain then denied that such an agreement had ever been made, and said that he would charge the same for carting as other people did.

Newton answered, "If you do, I will charge you the full price for my bricks." To this, Brittain rejoined, "You're like your class, a rogue and a swindler." His shopboy corroborated this evidence. Brittain denied having used the language stated by Newton and his witness, but as he had no one to support his statement, his Worship fined him in the sum of 15s 6d.¹⁹

¹⁶ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 27 January 1860, p1

¹⁷ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 23 March 1860, p2

¹⁸ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 25 May 1860, p3

¹⁹ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 24 August 1860, p3

Perth Police Court. September 1860. John Newton, Expirée, tethering a horse in Barrack street, fined 11s 6d.²⁰

Later in 1860, the list of items he sold in his shop had expanded.

**JOHN NEWTON,
STOREKEEPER,
Barrack-Street, Perth.**
HAS the honor to inform his friends and the public, that he has received by the August Mail, Invoices of goods of every description, and of the rarest and most splendid character, selected expressly and with the greatest taste, for the Australian market, from the choicest stocks in London, all of which will be open for public inspection immediately after the arrival of the *Tartar*, and offered at the lowest possible profit, for cash, and far below the prices current in the colony.
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. — Violins, flutes, musical boxes, cornopeans, concertinas, &c., by the best London makers.
TOYS of every description, and perfectly novel for children of both sexes.
HOSIERY, of the very best quality, exceedingly cheaper.
WATCHES—Gold, silver, and plated, (warranted).

HATS—The Queen's own, very beautiful and *recherche*, riding hats for gentlemen and ladies, black, brown, fancy braided and other walking hats, gentlemen's braided Crimean rifle, and blue rifle Militia caps.

BOOTS—A large assortment of Wellington and other boots, at a very reduced price.

CARPENTER'S TOOLS, in chests of various sizes, all of the most excellent description.

GLASS — Decanters, tumblers, wine and other glasses, earthenware, of every description.

TROUSERS — Cord, doeskin, and others.

PICKLES, of the finest flavor, and warranted free from every deleterious matter.

OILS—Salad and hair.

HAMS & BACON of finest quality.

Starch, calicoes, poplin dresses, superior reel and crochet threads, and other articles too numerous for detail, and all of the very best description, more especially an assortment of *Outlery*, to which J. Newton wishes most particularly to draw public attention.

Another appearance in court:

Perth Police Court. April 1861. Arnold Gerber, c.p., using abusive language to John Newton in Barrack Street; fined with costs 28s 6d.²¹

John Newcomb Jones died on 14 April 1863, at the age of 38, in Perth. He was an expirée, Storekeeper and General dealer. He is buried in the East Perth Cemetery.

ALL parties claiming to be NEXT-of-KIN of JOHN NEWCOMB JONES, commonly known as JOHN NEWTON, late of Perth, in the colony of Western Australia, storekeeper, who died at Perth in this present month of April, are requested to communicate immediately with George Frederick Stone, Solicitor, Howick Street, Perth, Western Australia. Information is requested regarding whether the aforementioned John Newcomb Jones died unmarried and without issue. Perth, 20 April 1863. ²²

His brother, Thomas, placed a notice in the local and British newspapers.

AT Perth, on the 14th instant, after a short illness, JOHN NEWCOMB JONES, the beloved brother of Thomas Octavius Jones, of London, aged 38 years. ²³

²⁰ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 7 Sep 1860, p3

²¹ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 19 Apr 1861, p3

²² The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 24 Apr 1863, p2

²³ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 17 April 1863, p2; Australian and New Zealand Gazette, 13 June 1863, p9