Abner B. Newcomb detective
1833-unknown. The son of a successful patent was writing for Boston newspapers by age 17, was made editor of the Republican, and then wrote for the New York World. In 1861 he was made secretary for the U.S. Marshall and then Detective. After the War, appointed Inspector in the U.S. Secret Service Division, New York District, in charge of bounty for criminals.

Ann Trew Lohman
assassination
1812-78. Emigrated to New York City in her thirties married Charles Lohman, freethinker and friend of Chief of Police George Mainsell. 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 $300,000 at the time of her death.

Anthony Comstock
postal inspector, moral crusader
1834-1915. 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, Margaret Sanger, Emma Goldman, Ida Craddock, among many others. Admired by a young Edgar Hoover later in life.

Peter Ellis aka Banjo Pete aka Luther aka Big Pete aka Peter Emerson
chief
Ca. 1845-unknown. Minstrel gang member, helped rob over $3.7 million from the Manhattan Institute for Savings in 1873, a heist funded in part by Marm Mandellbaum 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 Quoersman aka Big Bill the Butcher-Cart Thief
counterfeit, thief, crack-smoker
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. Ancischi
detective
1836-99. Fought for 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 Inspector in the U.S. Secret Service in 1868 to break up an Italian gang of counterfeitters, and as full Detective broke up criminal gangs in the West.

Charles Williams aka John Murray
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 murder weapon and was beaten into submission with a loaded cane.

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 murder weapon and was beaten into submission with a loaded cane.

Frank McCoy
jewelry store burglar extradited to New York on robbery charges. Unconvinced of guilt, used his Expo 1900 visit to France to escape. Arrived in New York City on May 20, 1900, but was arrested and extradited a second time.

Dorcas Doyan
prostitute

Dr. Jacob Rosenweig
quack doctor
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.

Edward Gearing aka Oliver the Butcher-Cart Thief
Ca. 1839-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 1874 robbery of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. in New York and in the theft and once for assault with a carving knife, and was sustained during an escape later sustained during an escape.

George Mason aka Oscar Decker
Ca. 1839-unknown. Credited with originating the “butcher cart business,” robbing people on the street and on the streets. Said to have stolen over $2 million in his career. After several arrests, he was finally arrested in a Wilmington, Delaware, jail to serve out a 10-year term for burglary.

George W. Walling
police
1825-91. He worked his way up in the ranks, serving under George Mainsell, and gaining respect for ably handling New York City’s draft riots in 1863. He became Chief of New York Police in 1872 and for his entire career sought to rid the police force of corruption from the city’s political influence.

George W. Matsell
police
1811-77. An “invertebrate foe of thieves,” Matsell became a police magistrate in 1844 and was named the first New York City Police Commissioner in 1845. He was the first word of America run slang, the Roebuck (Rogers Ladies), owned the National Police Gazette, and sprit summers at his farm in Iowa.

Helen Campbell
reformer

John and Willie D.
street arabs
Life dates unknown. Two brothers supporting an idle and abusive family and younger sirens as beggars. Illicit 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. Fails unknown.

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P.D. assistant
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John "Johnny" Hope
1836-1896. Burglar, bank robber, and pickpocket. Worked with his
father; “Old Jimmy” Hope, associ-
ete of the notorious George Leslie
Gang. Arrested and convicted for
alleged part in the 1878 robbery
of the Manhattan Institute for
Savings, of over $27 million, he
spent 20 years in Sing Sing and
was pardoned in 1899.

John P. McCartney aka Pete McCartney aka Joe
1822-unknown. King of counterfei-
ters, forger, and counterfeiter. Sus-
dicted in 1818-90. King of counter-
feitters and prince of quiver shoes.
Skilfully engaaged plates and ran
dissent counterfeiters through 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, hav-
ing passed millions in bogus bills.

Frederick Mandelbaum
aka Marn or Mother Mandelbaum
1818-94. Most notorious and suc-
scessful of the 19th century. Over-
seas international network of
thieves and trafficked $1-$5 mil-
lion, where she remained.

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Mary Nathalie B--
prostitute
Life dates unknown. Known as A
"most exclusive woman of the under-
wold" during the late-19th century.
Enjoyed influential con-
nections in Baltimore and New-
York. Was said to have chosen "a
short life of gayety" over "severe,
Puritan respectability."

M.B.
 petty thief
Life dates unknown. A former
slave who purchased his own free-
dom and moved north. Described
as "a man of great determination
and fixedness of mind and char-
acter." Arrested for petty larceny.

Medora Jacobs
1830-unknown.
Life dates unknown. An Atter New
Yorker, 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, prevented herself as a re-
spectable woman, wearing stolen
frippery and boarding at luxurious
hotels without ever paying. As of
1861, was serving time in Sing
Sing.

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Michael Kurtz aka Michael Sheehan aka
Sheehen Mike
1845-1904. Co-founded the
Dutch mob and led a successful
career as a bank robber and jew-
elry thief. He participated in over
150 robberies amounting to $7
million and was an associate of
notorious forcer "Marn". Mass-
delbaum. Died penitentiary con-
tempt in Belmar Hospital.

Michael Nevin
Ca. 1815-unknown. Half blind
and with a blood-matted head
wound from beatings by his father.
He was found "alive" with vermin
in the gutter when he was ap-
dated to Chief Operative of
the Secret Service out of Philade-
phia responsible for the conviction
of over 50 criminals.

Monroe Edwards
Ca. 1800-47. Son of a Kentucky
plantation owner, moved to Texas,
deriving from a prosperous merchant.
Soon embarked on large-scale
smuggling operation, trafficking
counterfeiters internationally. Fleeing
to foreign countries to escape
from justice, he was as a wealthy
veteran and abolitionist,
outlaw, successfully swindling $20,000
from a Liverpool firm. Convicted
of forgery, in prison.

Patrick Lacey
dock rat
Ca. 1835-unknown. One of thou-
sands of children living in urban
America who were seized by
reformers. He was found by the
Society for the Prevention of Cru-
yly to Children, was 8 with a swollen
left eye and two torn ears by the
hand of his abusive father, who
was "a man of great determination
and fixedness of mind and char-
acter." Arrested for petty larceny.

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Winfield S. Goss
counterfeiter
1835-unknown. One of the last
real life in early turn-of-the-century
cowners. With brother-in-law William Ud-
derszook faked own death to col-
lect on the $25,000 insurance
policy. Insurance investigator
suspecting fraud, Udderszook then
actively murdered Goss. Arrested
and convicted in Chicago, Goss was
langed in West Chester, PA, in
1874.

William Brockway
forger, counterfeiter
Ca. 1822-unknown. The king of the
counterfeiters. A skilled bus-
inessman engraver hired by banks to
improve plates which he copied for
himself. Arrested in 1819 for
forging over $290,000 worth of
bonds, $307,000 in notes. Sub-
sequently purchased counterfeit
notes from counterfeiters Stephen Bar-
roughs and others. Chased women
and African American accomplices.
Served 5 years in prison and
returned to farm life in Con-
necticut. Wrote his autobiography
at age 66.