

# HENRY PEARCE COUMBES

One of 250 Convicts Transported on "London" 1844  
Sentenced to 7 years at Devon Quarter Sessions  
Transported to Van Diemen's Land

**NAME:** HENRY PEARCE COUMBES  
**AGE:** 28 (born about 1816/17)  
**NATIVE PLACE:** Near Launceston-Cornwall

**TRIED:** 8 January 1844, Plymouth Boro' Quarter Sessions at Devon  
**SENTENCE:** 7 Years  
**CRIME:** Stealing 4 fowls and 4 ducks; previous conviction

**GAOL REPORT:** Second conviction

**CRIMINAL REGISTER:**

Henry Pearce Coumbes, ages 27, born about 1817, tried 8 January 1844 at Devon Plymouth Boro' Quarter Sessions, for Larceny, before convicted of Felony, 7 Years transportation

**SHIP:** London (first voyage) – departed Portsmouth 23 March 1844, arrived Hobart 9 July 1844, a voyage of 108 days, carrying 250 male convicts (250 landed). Master John T. Attwood, Surgeon Charles Inches

**SURGEON'S REPORT:** Good

**SURGEON'S REPORT ONBOARD:** (Folio 2) : Henry Combes, aged 27, Convict; disease or hurt, diarrhoea. Put on sick list, 10 March 1844. Discharged, 20 March 1844.

**SURGEON'S GENERAL COMMENTS:** (Folios 31-33) - There were a great number of cases requiring medical treatment but only one proved fatal, that of an old soldier, Michael Gallagher, who died from phthisis two days after arriving in Hobart Town.

The sick list was more numerous than the surgeon had experienced in four convict ships. The surgeon was prepared for this by the low condition of health the convicts were found to be in on inspection at Millbank Penitentiary.

The weather was very poor from embarking to clearing the Channel, with frequent frosts and rain. There were several cases of diarrhoea the day after the prisoners came on board, it became the prevalent disease and was not restricted to the prisoners. Many of the prisoners had suffered it in Millbank Penitentiary. In some the disease was very protracted and produced great weakness and loss of flesh. Constipation and dyspeptic symptoms were frequent. There were several intermittent fevers who said they had not suffered it before.

There were only two cases of scurvy in decided form but several with lesser symptoms. All were given improved diet and extra lime juice. The case of Thomas Booth was the worst the surgeon had come across and he was given nitrate of potass mixed with lime juice and sugar in large doses without beneficial effects. On omission of the nitre a rapid improvement occurred. The small number of cases of scurvy did not give a fair opportunity of trying the citric acid but it was used as a substitute for lime juice in acidulating the drink of the sick.

Two cases of phlegmonoid erysipelas occurred and one of phagedemic ulcer, all did well. Two cases of inflammation of larynx and trachea, John Jones and William Murray, one of which was complicated with ague and proved protracted, eventually being sent to the hospital convalescent. There were two old standing hernias requiring trusses.

On disembarkation the convicts were generally in much better health than when they embarked. Their conduct was good during the voyage. A larger proportion of the guard entered the sick list than of convicts and their cases were generally more protracted. Two of the guard were confined to hospital for the greater part of the voyage, taking up two of the three bed berths. The ophthalmia on board was confined to the guard.

A case of 'abortus' occurred in the wife of one of the guard and required lengthy treatment. The weather was good from leaving the Channel until passing the islands of St Paul and Amsterdam, on approaching Van Diemen's Land it became cold, wet and tempestuous, producing sea sickness. During the ten days the prisoners remained on board at Hobart Town it rained nearly every day and there was frost at night, the temperature being lower than it had reached at sea. There was no accident of any moment on board. Signed Charles Inches, MD, RN, Surgeon Superintendent.

**RELIGION:** Protestant  
**LITERACY:** Can read

**FAMILY –**

**Marital status:** Single  
**Mother:** Jane  
**Brother:** Isaac  
**Sisters:** Maryanne, Jane  
**All at Plymouth**

**IGI –**

**Parents:** Henry and Jane Coumbe

**Children:**

**1 January 1813 – Henry Coumbe, baptised North Hill-Cornwall (CO23491)**  
**20 March 1814 – Elizabeth Coumbe, baptised North Hill-Cornwall (CO23491)**  
**23 July 1815 – Isaac Coumbe, baptised North Hill-Cornwall (CO23491)**  
**11 March 1821 – Jane Coumbe, baptised North Hill-Cornwall (CO23491)**

**Coumbe Family Online History –**

**Father:** Henry Coumbe (b.1774, d.1843) – Farmer/Yeoman

**Mother:** Jane Pearse

**Married:** 1808, North Hill-Cornwall

**Children:**

**1809 – Mary Ann Coumbe, b.North Hill**  
**1810 – John Coumbe, b.North Hill, d.1836 Illand**  
**1813 – Henry Coumbe, b.North Hill**  
**1814 – Elizabeth Coumbe, b.North Hill, d.1840 Illand**  
**1815 – Isaac Coumbe, b.North Hill**  
**1821 – Jane Coumbe, b.North Hill**  
**1829 – Rhoda Coumbe, b.North Hill, d.1836 Illand**

**DESCRIPTION –**

**Trade:** Farm labourer, can plough

**Height:** 5' 4 1/2"

**Age:** 28

**Complexion:** Ruddy

**Head:** Oval

**Hair:** Black

**Whiskers:** Black

**Visage:** Oval

**Forehead:** Medium height

**Eyebrows:** Black

**Eyes:** Hazel

**Nose:** Long

**Mouth:** Small

**Chin:** Long

**Native Place:** Near Launceston-Cornwall

**Marks:** Freckled; Scar on forefinger of right hand; Scar on third finger of left hand; Scar on left thumb

**TASMANIAN CONDUCT RECORD –**

**Crime:**

Stealing one duck – stated this offence “stealing 4 fowls and 4 ducks, prosecutor near Plymouth”

**Previous Conviction:**

For stealing fowls, 6 months imprisonment

**Probation:**

Period of Probation: Fifteen months

Station of Gang: Maria Island

Emerged from Gang: 10 October 1845

**Assignment:**

29 Nov 1845 –  
8 Dec 1845 – Alford Harrop, “Little Hampton”, Norfolk Plains – 12 months  
29 Oct 1849 – District of Launceston  
12 Nov 1849 – Ticket of Leave  
2 Nov 1850 – Gaol, Longford  
5 Dec 1850 – Prisoners Barracks  
26 Dec 1850 – Cascades  
2 Jan 1851 – Salt Water River  
19 Nov 1851 – Prisoners Barracks, and to FREEDOM

**Offences and Sentences:**

29 Oct 1849 – \_\_\_\_\_, Launceston (?) – Misconduct in not reporting his presence to the Police office and representing that he was free – 14 days imprisonment and hard labour  
28 Nov 1850 – Longford – Unlawfully assaulting Rebecca, the wife of Thos. Hendley – Eighteen months hard labour in chains – Approved he be sent to Cascades 6 Dec 1850

**Ticket of Leave:**

11 January 1848  
24 December 1850 – Ticket-of-Leave revoked

**Certificate of Freedom:**

20 November 1851

**INDENT RECORD –**

No 13152 - Henry Pearce Coumbes, Devon Plymouth Boro Quarter Sessions, 8 January 1844, 5'4 ½“, aged 28, 7 years transportation, Protestant, can read, single, stealing 4 fowls and 4 ducks prosecutor near Plymouth, previous for stealing fowls 6 months, surgeon’s report good, farm labourer can plough, native place near Launceston-Cornwall – Family : (mother) Jane, (brother) Isaac, (sisters) Maryanne, Jane; at Plymouth

**COLONIAL FAMILIES INDEX –**

1857 – Henry Coumbes (b.1819), married Mary Ann Williams (b.1827), Launceston-Tas  
7 April 1857 – Henry Coumbes married Mary Ann Williams, Launceston-Tas (1857/696)

**DEPARTURES INDEX:**

6 September 1852 – Henry Pearce Coumbes, arrived in the Colony aboard “London”, Free by Servitude, travelled as a steerage-passenger aboard “Rattler”, between Launceston and Melbourne

**NEWSPAPER REPORTS –****REFERENCES –**

Conduct Record –

[http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/ImageViewer/image\\_viewer.htm?CON33-1-56,259,38,L,80](http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/ImageViewer/image_viewer.htm?CON33-1-56,259,38,L,80)

Indent –

[http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/ImageViewer/image\\_viewer.htm?CON14-1-28,240,22,L,80](http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/ImageViewer/image_viewer.htm?CON14-1-28,240,22,L,80)

[http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/ImageViewer/image\\_viewer.htm?CON14-1-28,240,23,L,80](http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/ImageViewer/image_viewer.htm?CON14-1-28,240,23,L,80)

Appropriation List –

[http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/ImageViewer/image\\_viewer.htm?CON27-1-10,234,192,L,80](http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/ImageViewer/image_viewer.htm?CON27-1-10,234,192,L,80)

Ticket-of-Leave, published 15 June 1848 in The Launceston Examiner –

[http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/36253860?searchTerm="henrypearcecoumbes"&searchLimits=](http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/36253860?searchTerm=)

Coumbe Family of North Hill-Cornwall –

[http://www.coombe.id.au/Coumbe\\_North\\_Hill.htm](http://www.coombe.id.au/Coumbe_North_Hill.htm)

**Last Updated: 27 May 2011**

**Compiled by Trish Symonds**