

Who were the victims of Jack the Ripper? – Information Sheet

Mary Anne Nichols

Polly Nichols as she was known to many, was aged 42 when Jack the Ripper's icy hand took her life on Friday 31st August 1888. The estranged wife of a printer, Polly had borne five children before husband William eloped with one of her friends in 1877. It was then that she became trapped in the downward spiral of drink and prostitution; her final days spend living in the squalid conditions of the "White House" doss-house on Flower and Dean Street. She was laid to rest at Ilford cemetery on September 6th 1888.



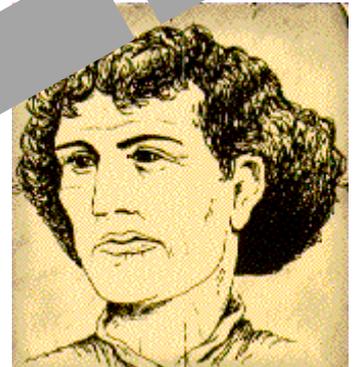
Annie Chapman

"Dark Annie" met her death on the foggy night of Saturday 8th September 1888. She died alone, undernourished and suffering from brain and lung diseases which would soon have claimed her if Jack's knife hadn't. Annie wandered the East End Streets penniless following the death of her husband in 1886. Cruelly treated by life, Annie had two daughters, one of which died in 1882, and a son who was crippled. Living off immoral earnings and selling matches and flowers Annie was a street hardened rogue. She was buried in secret, at Manor Park on September 14th by her family.



Elizabeth Stride

"Long Liz" was born in Gothenburg, Sweden. Her given name was Elizabeth Gustafsdott. After becoming a registered prostitute and giving birth to six children she moved to London in 1866 and married John Thomas Stride, a cooper who supported her in Cannon Street, London. The Strides allegedly kept a shop price which took on a new meaning in 1882. Long Liz was to have had eight children but her drunken husband was a fatal intimate with Jack the Ripper on the night of Sunday 1st September 1888. Elizabeth was found dead in the Yard at the Side of Cannon Street, Stepney, East London. Her body was buried in a pauper's grave in the Ilford cemetery aged 41 years.



Catherine Eddowes

Born in 1842, the daughter of a textile worker, Catherine Eddowes came to London's Bermondsey district at the age of two. She returned to her native Wolverhampton, with Thomas Conway, a policeman who was to father her three children. The couple separated in 1880, victims of habitual drink. She left for London once more, where she resided in Flower and Dean Street. Following a hop picking venture in Kent, Kate was sadly to embark on her final tragic journey via Bishopsgate police cells into the clutches of the evil Ripper on the night of Sunday 30th September 1888. She was buried in an unmarked grave in Ilford on 8th October 1888, witness by hoards of onlookers, aged 44.



Mary Jane Kelly

"Black Mary" was unlike the other victims. At 25 she was young and attractive, and as a prostitute would have better served the prestigious West End clients as opposed to working the grim streets of the East End. Mary was born in Limerick, Ireland and moved to Wales where she married a collier who was tragically killed in a pit disaster. After turning to prostitution in Cardiff, she moved south to London where she worked in a West End brothel. She came to lodge at various abodes around Dorset Street, London, the "Wicked Quarter Mile", and it was at Millers Court on the evening of Friday the 9th November 1888 that she was brutally murdered. She was buried at Walthamstow R.C. cemetery on the 19th of November 1888.

