



## Mary Ann Cotton 1832 -1873

Probably the most wicked female **Mass Murderer** of all time!

She was born in 1832 in the small pit village of Low Moorsley, to a well respected church family. She arrived in Sunderland in the 1860s with her childhood sweetheart and first husband William Mowbray. Poor William wouldn't see Sunderland for long! He became her first victim in Sunderland!

Mary Ann made her home in Sunderland's East End for a while, on Etrick Place and then Sussex Street whilst attending San Street Mission. She became a nurse at Sunderland Infirmary, **The House of Recovery for the Cure of Contagious Fevers**. She married George Ward, an engineer in St Peter's Church, Monkwearmouth. Unfortunately, he did not survive her *affections*! Once again foot loose and fancy free she married a Shipwright from Pallion. James Robinson would survive but tragically most of his children would fall to her evil spell. Her short bigamous marriage to Robinson would see the death of 5 children. She was in Sunderland for six years and murdered 10 people including husbands, children and her mother all poisoned with arsenic. Mary Ann was finally brought to justice and after being found guilty was hung at the age of only 41 in Durham Goal in 1873.