



Robert Drummond 1680 - 1730

Robert Drummond was born in 1680 and came from a wealthy Scottish family. However he ended up in Sunderland and made his home in the East End. He had a small business selling knives, combs, razors and jewellery, which apparently was very successful. With plenty of cash in his pockets, he was no stranger to the local public houses or pubs. One of his favourite pubs on the edge of the Town Moor. The pub was popular because of a ravine which extended from the pub to the water's edge, and was a popular route for local smugglers.

Drummond came to the authorities' attention as a spate of burglaries hit the town, but more worrying was when masked horsemen held up the stage coaches on Durham and Stockton Road. These pistol wielding criminals were cause for great concern. He was finally arrested breaking into a local house, his death sentence was reversed to exile in North America. However this was not the end of Drummonds' criminal activities. He escaped returned to England and became one of the most notorious and violent criminals, killing a stagecoach driver with one gunshot. On 17th February 1730 at Tyburn the Sunderland highwayman went to the gallows showing no signs of remorse.