



Harry Watts 1826 - 1913

Harry was born into a life of poverty in 1826. He was the youngest of five children and lived with his Mum and Dad, William and Elizabeth, in Silver Street in the East End of Sunderland. At 14 years old he made his first voyage out to sea and went to Quebec in Canada on the brig called *Lena*. His first rescue was made only a few weeks later onboard ship when an apprentice fell overboard. Throughout his life Harry is believed to have saved 44 people as well as helping Sunderland Lifeboat and Life Brigade rescue a further 120 souls from shipwrecks along the coast. In 1860 Harry received a number of medals for this bravery over the years. Sadly a few years later these medals were stolen whilst on display at James Williams Street Christian Lay Church. Kind-hearted Wearsiders replaced the trinkets, but it was left to the good hearted Andrew Carnegie to financially reward Harry, when he gave him a small pension in his old age. He died at the age of 86 in 1913.