

## Crime in the 19th Century

The 19th Century marked a severe increase in crime rates, also leading to severe punishments. By the end of the 19th Century 220 crimes were punishable by death.

Transportation also became a common punishment, this was where prisoners were transported- usually to Australia- and imprisoned there, often made to work off their crimes.

Many however died on the voyage and the ones who survived the journey often never made it back home to England.

## Crime in the Black Country

From looking at crime records in the BCLM archives it is clear that a lot of the crime in the area was petty crime such as minor thefts,

however this was still severely punished. Below are some more peculiar cases of crimes from the BCLM archives.

There are also some stranger, less specific cases, such as those of quack doctors, people accused of witchcraft and rail pirates- individuals and groups that stole, mainly coal, from boats along rivers and canals.

There is also records of a group of young thieves from Wolverhampton's Juvenile gangs, as well as mobs that attacked people supporting the opposing party's voters at local polls.



## The Wolverhampton Monster

In the 1930s reports of a monster that prowled the streets of Wolverhampton attacking young children emerged. Eventually the monster was killed by 17 year old George Goodhead who threw a brick at it then continued to kick it to death after interrupting it attacking a child.

The "Monster" was later identified by a local doctor as a coatimundi- a South American member of the Raccoon family- that had escaped from the local zoo.

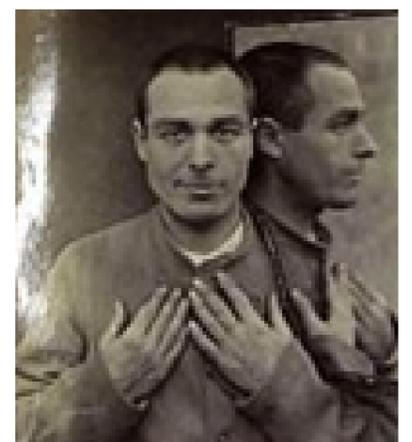
## Criminal Profiles



**Sarah Ellen Procter**

Murdered Charlotte Whale by hitting her over the head with a jug. Reportedly over a several year old grudge as Whale knocked Procter down the stairs whilst she was carrying a basket of nails, Procter sustained brain injuries from the incident.

After Procter was prosecuted for the crime she was sent to Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum.



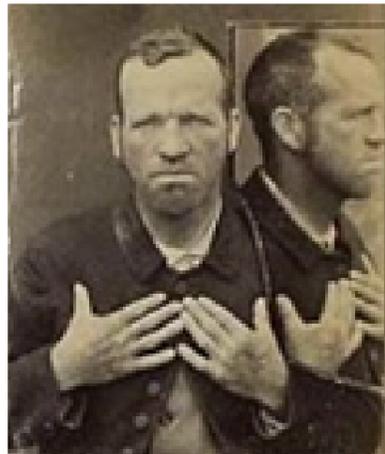
**Richard Robinson**

Charged with highway Robbery



**Richard Bentley**

A fish dealer who attacked his neighbor for complaining about the smell of his fish



**William Round**

Charged with unlawfully detaining a pigeon



**Henry Waldron**

Sentenced to 14 years Transportation for stealing beehives



**William Bevington**

Sent by his boss to sell a horse and used the proceeds to get drunk in the local pub

