Introduction

The East End of London, c.1888, was a terrible slum area inhabited by the most unfortunate of society - outcasts, criminals, alcoholics, immigrants (of all races, climes, and religions), the lowest members of the working classes, a large number of prostitutes, and everyone crammed into overcrowded filthy accommodations.

However, it is noted that not everybody in the East End was part of this jetsam and flotsam, and there were others - artisans, brewers, retailers, butchers, grocers, carmen (cabbies, coachmen, wagoners, haulers, etc), farriers, and a myriad other workers.

The working centres of the area were slaughterhouses, tanneries, food processing works, breweries, Spitafields Market, and the London docks.

And it was against this dark backdrop that the unsolved Whitechapel murders ran their course between 03 Apr 1888 and 13 Feb 1891.

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The Whitechapel Murder Sites

Pre Canonical Victims

Emma Elizabeth Smith

Emma was attacked at the Entrance to Brick Lane, Osborn Street, Whitechapel - attacked Tue, 03 Apr 1888; she died in London Hospital, Wed, 04 Apr 1888.

This is not generally considered to be Ripper related.

Osborne Street, which becomes Brick lane, Whitechapel
Emma Smith was attacked by a gang at the Entrance to Brick Lane

Looking up Brick Lane to Bethnal Green Road - c.1900

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Martha Tabram

1st floor landing, George Yard Buildings, George Yard (now Gunthorpe Street), Whitechapel

Tue, 07 Aug 1888.

There is debate amongst researchers whether Martha Tabram was, in fact, the first victim of Jack the Ripper, or just “another” murder victim of Whitechapel.
A northward view of Gunthorpe Street taken from the Whitechapel High Street. Gunthorpe Street was formerly known as George Yard, and it was at the far northern end (not seen here), on the 1st floor landing, that Martha Tabram was murdered.

Modern location of the entrance to what was once George Yard Buildings

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Canonical Victims

The five victims that are generally accepted as the work of the Ripper are referred to as the Canonical Victims.

Mary Ann (Polly) Nichols

Buck’s Row (now Durward Street), Whitechapel

Fri, 31 Aug 1888

Bucks Row, which is now Durward Street - 1938
This view faces east and was taken from the Vallance Street end. Mary (Polly) Nichols’ body was discovered on the pavement outside the wall in the middle of the photo.
The bushes grow near the site of the Mary (Polly) Nichols murder in Bucks Row, which is now Durward Street.

Bucks Row - c.1960s
Polly Nichols’ body was found just outside the gate in the middle of the photograph, on the left side of the street

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Annie Chapman
Rear Yard, 29 Hanbury Street, Spitalfields
Sat, 08 Sep 1888

The rear yard at 29 Hanbury Street where Annie Chapman was murdered
Photo c.1970

Another view of the rear yard at 29 Hanbury Street where Annie Chapman was murdered
Photo c.1970
Front of 29 Hanbury Street - c.1960's

Front of 29 Hanbury Street - Annie Chapman was murdered in the rear yard at this house - c.1970s
Hanbury Street, looking east, c.1918-1920
Elizabeth Stride

Dutfield's Yard, at side of 40 Berner Street (now Henriques Street), St-Georges-in-the-East

Sun, 30 Sep 1888.

Note: There are some considerations for questioning whether Elizabeth Stride was a Ripper victim. Stride was murdered on the same day as Catherine Eddowes.
Catharine Eddowes
Mitre Square, Algate, City of London
Sun, 30 Sep 1888

Contemporary drawing of Mitre Square,
Catherine Eddowes body being found in the south corner (noted on diagram)

South Corner of Mitre Square where Catherine Eddowes's body was discovered
Photo - Date Unknown
Photograph (above) looking into the south corner; Catherine Eddowes’ body was lying on the spot located behind the small van and near the furthest motor scooter.

Looking down Church Passage into Mitre Square; the scene of the murder is opposite the end of the passage, behind the trailer.
Mitre Square - c.1925 showing murder scene and carriageway into Mitre St

Mitre Square - North Corner
Photo - Date Unknown
Street lighting - 1 x lamp post north-western part, and 1 x lantern by Church Passage
"Blood-Spattered Apron" Goulston Street
Sun, 30 Sep 1888

Part of Catherine Eddowes' blood-spattered apron was found as the entrance to the basement of 108-119 Wentworth Model Dwellings, Goulston Street, Whitechapel below graffiti on the wall, which read:
"The Juwes are the men that will not be blamed for nothing."

Goulston Street - Early 1900s

Wentworth Model Dwellings from Wentworth Street - c. 1907
Wentworth Model Dwellings from Wentworth Street - c.1900

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Mary Jane (Marie Jeanette) Kelly
13 Miller's Court, 26 Dorset Street, Spitalfields
Fri, 09 Nov 1888
Miller's Court Entrance off Dorset St - 1928

Miller's Court
Above and Below - Photographs taken the day of the murder of the outside of Mary Kelly's room.

The rather low, smaller window on the right is the one Bowyer and McCarthy looked through.

It appears that both panes of glass on the right side of this window are broken.

The photographs were taken by a photographer brought in by the police.

Postscript - Within a month of the murder of Mary Kelly, the extra police were withdrawn and the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee was told to disband because* their services were no longer required*.

It was as if someone knew that the Ripper had finished his work.

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Post Canonical Victims

Catherine Mylett (Rose Mylett, Catherine Millett or Mellett, 'Drunken Lizzie' Davis, 'Fair Alice' Downey)

Clarke's Yard, between 184 and 186 Poplar High Street, Whitechapel

Thu, 20 Dec 1888.

The Site of Rose Mylett's Murder
The walkway on the left stands on the former location of Clark's Yard, and the yard's entrance would have been just to the right of the sign on the wall
Alice Mckenzie ("Clay Pipe" Alice, Alice Bryant)

Castle Alley, Whitechapel

Wed, 17 Jul 1889.

Alice McKenzie's body was found just to the left of the grey building (on the right) in Castle Alley. The building was formerly a wash house in the Nineteenth Century.

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The Pinchin Street Torso

Found under a Railway Arch, Pinchin Street (arch closest to Back Church Lane), Whitechapel

Tue, 10 Sep 1889.

On September 10, 1889, at 5:15am, the badly decomposed torso of a woman under a railway arch in Pinchin Street, covered only by an old chemise was discovered.
So heavily decomposed was the body that it was the smell that first drew attention to it.

Pinchin Street - Date Unknown

On September 10, 1889, at 5:15 AM, the badly decomposed torso of a woman under a railway arch in Pinchin Street, covered only by an old chemise was discovered.
So heavily decomposed was the body that it was the smell that drew attention to it.

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Frances Coles (Frances Coleman, Frances Hawkins, 'Carroty Nell')

Found under a Railway Arch in Swallow Gardens, Whitechapel - Fri, 13 Feb 1891.

Railway Arches - the entrance to Swallow Gardens is on the right - Modern Photo

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Images of Whitechapel c.1888

The Rooftops of Whitechapel - c.1888

Commercial Street of the Whitechapel District c.1888
Whitechapel High Street - 1890

Whitechapel High Street - 1905
Corner of Osborne St, Whitechapel - 1890

Osborn Street towards Whitechapel - c.1900
Looking up Brick Lane to Bethnal Green Rd - c.1900

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Untitled Images of Whitechapel c.1888
Later Images of Whitechapel

c.1896 - Abe and Bertha Grodzinski in the doorway of their baker's shop in Whitechapel

c.1900 - Whitechapel Infirmary

c.1900 - Whitechapel Infirmary
c.1900 - Thomas St Casual Ward

c.1900 - Oakum Picking at Whitechapel Casual Ward

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