



Robert Fredrick Mustard

Seaman Robert Fredrick Mustard went to Sunderland Boys Orphanage Asylum as a young boy. He would have learned how to be a good sailor at the orphanage. On leaving the orphanage, he would get a job on board a ship. However tragically he would go down with the ship with on one of these voyages.

“Lost. Going down at Flamborough Head. SS Princess of Sunderland. Nov. 13, 1893. Should anyone pick this up, please to let my dear wife know – lives at 25 Lawrence Street. God Help Us. Going down every minute. Goodbye all; may God help my wife and little ones, may God forgive me all. “

Robert Mustard, fearing the worst, posted this message in a bottle. Four years after being thrown in the water it was recovered on the tenth birthday of his son Master Robert Fredrick, who was then one of the boys at Sunderland Boys Orphanage. The Orphanage was founded in 1853 for children of seafarers, the Sunderland Orphanage Asylum was built in 1861. Queen Victoria admired the design of the site she gave £100 towards the building costs.