

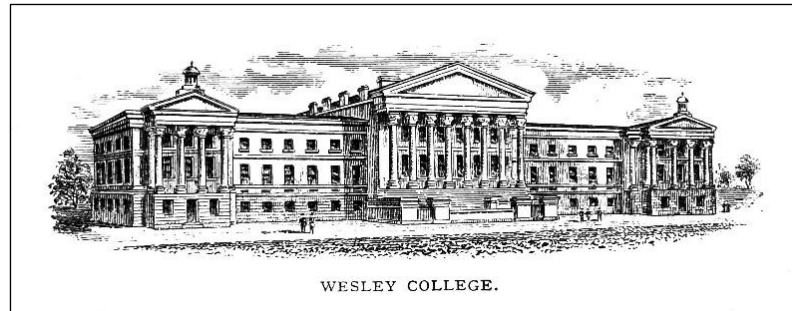


Sheffield
General
Cemetery
Trust

Architects of the Cemetery

Sheffield's surrounding countryside is its biggest natural asset with heather-clad moors amid impressive scenery. Tumbling streams and wooded hillsides follow the river valleys down close to the centre of the city but historically its buildings have been less well appreciated. Pevsner said the town was 'architecturally a miserable disappointment, the layout of the centre confused, the buildings – certainly before the late nineteenth century – of no distinction'. Sheffield's staple industries of steel and cutlery did not require palatial warehouses to display their wares, nor did they produce, until the late nineteenth century, the wealth to support grand architecture. Very few architects lived and practised in Sheffield at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth century as there was little scope for their work. *Pigot's Directory of 1830* lists just seven. The town had been geographically isolated being bypassed by main roads, canals and initially by the railway. For the grander buildings architects were often imported from other places. The design for the Infirmary in 1793 was done by John Rawstone of Birmingham. The Parish Church restoration in 1802 was executed by Charles Watson from Wakefield who also designed the Waingate Town Hall in 1805. Woodhead and Hurst of Doncaster were the architects of St George's Church in 1821, the Surrey Street Music Hall in 1823 and the Grammar School, Charlotte Street in 1825.

However, as the nineteenth century progressed a group of men evolved from working as builders to become architects, winning competitions for architectural commissions and establishing themselves as competent architects. This can be seen in the case of the Flocktons where Thomas Flockton brought up his son to be a competent carpenter and builder but also had the sense to give him a better schooling than he himself had. The combination of theory and practice enabled [William Flockton](#) to establish himself as an architect in Devonshire Street. His designs for The Mount and the Wesley College showed that local talent could produce quality pieces of work.



Wesley College Source: *Picture Sheffield*

Similarly, the story of [Samuel Worth](#), who was brought up as a builder's son, and was able, in his thirties, to produce winning and acclaimed architectural designs for the Cutlers' Hall and Sheffield General Cemetery. As was the custom of the day, Worth employed individual contractors to build his designs with him acting as clerk of works.



Cutlers' Hall, Church Street Source: *Picture Sheffield*

Sheffield expanded rapidly during the nineteenth century with its population of 45,758 in 1801 rising to 135,310 in 1851 and to 325,547 by 1891. The town saw an emergence of new professions such as architects, surveyors, bankers, engineers and designers. These people who drove, invested in and planned projects were necessary to cope with the growth of the town, its industries, economy, building requirements, transport infrastructure and more. As the town grew rapidly, architectural and surveying skills were needed in building churches, houses, schools, shops, markets, cemeteries and factories as well as roads, canals and railways. In Sheffield's Trade Directory for 1834 only ten architects and surveyors were listed as working in the area, but this number grew to nearly 50 practices by the end of the century. However, these numbers do not reveal the true number of

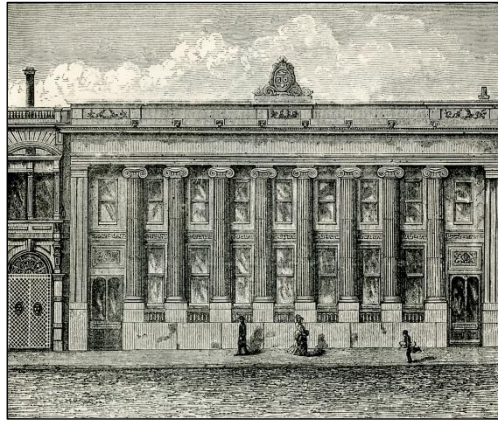
workers employed as some of the larger architectural firms listed would have provided work for many people.

An alternative way to become an architect emerged in the 1830s and 1840s when established architects started to take pupils who learnt their skills in their master's office and extended their experience by working in London or sometimes travelling round Europe. William Flockton's son Thomas James Flockton, having started in his father's office spent two years in London with James Johnston and Sir Gilbert Scott, travelled and studied architecture. The experience gave him a good grounding in architectural knowledge, and he returned to Sheffield to establish an exceptionally successful architectural career.

Henry Dent Lomas was born 27 January 1819, the son of Henry Lomas, silversmith, and his wife Sarah of London Road, Southwark. He was baptised in St George's Church, Southwark on 14 May 1819. He learnt his trade as an architect as an articulated pupil to Mr. Hill of Chancery Lane. Lomas came to Sheffield as an assistant master at the School of Art in 1846 when Young Mitchell became headmaster and remained as a member of staff until 1863. These years were notable for the high quality of the work produced by students and Lomas was responsible for teaching classes in architectural, geometrical and perspective drawing together with machine and engineering drawing.

White's Directory for Sheffield, 1849 listed Lomas as an architect at High House, Penistone Road and on his retirement from the School of Art he practised as an architect, surveyor and valuer at Bath Buildings, 209 Glossop Road. In 1867 he had an office at 3 Hartshead and by 1875 he had moved to 6A Norfolk Row which he retained until 1897. In 1879 he was elected as a Fellow of RIBA. Lomas was responsible for St Paul's Schools and classrooms in 1868 at the junction of Cambridge Street and Cross Burgess Street, now demolished. The building had schools for boys and girls, each consisting of a school room and three classrooms with the boys on the ground floor and girls above. Lomas also designed St Luke's National School on Garden Street, off Broad Lane in 1873. It was built on the site of an earlier one-room Sunday School, built in 1789, which had been demolished. Built in the classical style as a parochial school, it was used until the mid-1930s when it was converted to industrial use.

The Sheffield & Hallamshire Bank on Church Street, originally designed by Samuel Worth, was enlarged by Lomas in 1878. This involved the removal of the house on the first floor and the extension of the premises to its left-hand side on land previously occupied by an old rope work and wire shop, to double their original length. Lomas matched this additional work with that of Samuel Worth and produced a banking hall of excellent proportions.



Sheffield & Hallamshire Bank, Church Street *Source: Picture Sheffield*

The Wolstenholm Memorial Hall on the corner of Queen Street and Silver Street designed by Lomas was erected as a memorial to George Wolstenholm and was to be used to extend the work of Sheffield Parish Church. It was of a classical design and built using red and yellow bricks. The building on two floors included a café for the serving of cocoa, tea, coffee and refreshments and a reading room, a large lecture hall and a billiard room. It was opened by the Archbishop of York in December 1879. After the death of Mrs T E Beaumont, formerly Mrs George Wolstenholm, the building was further extended to include rooms for a working men's club, mothers' meetings, a penny bank and for various classes.

Newhall Parochial Rooms on Sanderson Street in Brightside were designed by Lomas and the foundation stone was laid by Miss Thomson, the eldest daughter of the Archbishop of York on 13 November 1886. The building was a substantial structure of red brick with white facings and contained a large room, three moderately sized classrooms, a kitchen in the basement and offices. The rooms were to be used until money could be found for the building of a church. Church services, Sunday and night schools, working men's Bible classes, working men's clubs, penny banks, mother's meetings and lectures and entertainments of an instructive character were held in the building.

Henry Dent Lomas died at the age of 82 at his home in Park Crescent, Sheffield on 27 February 1901. He was buried in plot F1 61 in the Anglican area of the Cemetery.

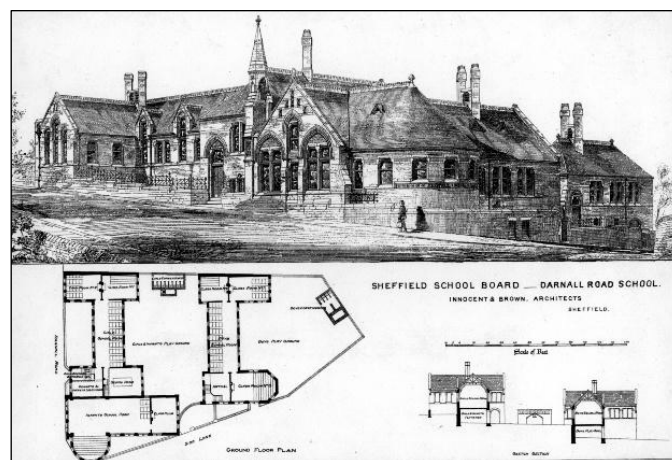
Sheffield Board Schools

Following the 1870 Education Act, Sheffield's newly elected School Board vigorously set about constructing new schools, completing 39 before its demise in 1903.

Thomas Brown, born in Sheffield in 1846, the son of James Brown, artist and die sinker, and his wife Mary Ann, née Appleton, attended Sheffield School of Art where he was a diligent pupil, always ambitious to excel. His talents won him many honours, numerous medals and a position articulated to town architects Messrs. Hadfield and Goldie of the Corn Exchange. He was a very practical architect and possessed a clear insight into the working details of every branch of the building trade. Thomas Brown shone particularly in the drawing of details which he designed with power and originality. He was a quiet, genial and unassuming man, qualities which won him respect and esteem from all who met him.

Whilst working in the office of Messrs. Hadfield and Goldie, Brown met Charles John Innocent, also articulated to the firm and the pair became close friends, ultimately setting up in practice together. Messrs. Innocent and Brown, architects of George Street, became a well-known and respected Sheffield firm and were highly regarded amongst their wide professional circle. Their works attracted considerable attention especially when they were appointed to work on Sheffield's Board Schools.

The practice was responsible for 19 of the 22 Sheffield Board schools built between 1873 and 1881. The first, Newhall School, Sanderson Street opened in 1873 and as with all Board Schools had separate access and playgrounds for girls, boys and infants. Many of the schools shared identical forms of planning in which classrooms were grouped around a central school hall. Recognising the shortage of trained schoolteachers, this allowed the headmaster to supervise several classes through the glazed partitions. In the multi-storey schools, infants were on the ground floor, older children above and innovations included covered play sheds for wet weather giving 'abundant space for marching'.



Darnall Road School Source: *Picture Sheffield*

Brown's partnership with Innocent, cemented by their friendship and mutual respect, continued for over 16 years and even when Brown's health began to fail him, he doggedly continued to work. Brown died on 29 April 1881 at only 36 years of age, leaving his second wife a widow with six small children.

After Brown's death, Innocent was joined in partnership by his son Charles Frederick Innocent and continued to design Board Schools until his death in 1901.

Thomas Brown was interred in plot S1 162 in the Anglican area of the Cemetery on 3 May 1881. His first wife, Jeanie, and his mother Mary Ann, were also buried in the grave.

Brothers **John** and **Thomas Frith** were the sons of Michael Frith, a type founder and his wife Mary. John Frith attended Upper Chapel on Norfolk Street which was built in 1700 but which in the 1840s was described as having 'a dingy aspect externally, and peculiarly inconvenient in the arrangements of the interior'. In 1847-8 Frith was responsible for its rebuilding, the style of the building being 'Italian, simple and plain in its detail'. He extended the building to the east and reversed it to face Norfolk Street.

In 1861 John Frith designed and built Upperthorpe Unitarian Chapel at a cost of £1,450 and six months later a school was added, again built by John Frith, at a further cost of £700. In 1862 the brothers were joined by **Thomas Henry Jenkinson**. As Frith Brothers & Jenkinson of 4 East Parade they were responsible for several buildings in the town centre including the Britannia Printing Works on Mulberry Street in 1865 and the William Bush & Sons Estate Sale Rooms and Auction Mart on Church Street.

In 1865 the firm added a large Italianate wing to the residential mansion Shirle Hill on Cherry Tree Road then occupied by William Bragge.



Shirle Hill, Nether Edge Source: *Picture Sheffield*

After a long and severe illness, Thomas Frith died, aged 46, on 14 January 1867 at his home in Broomhill. He was buried in plot DD 71 in the Nonconformist area of the Cemetery with his wife Hannah and son John Thomas Frith, also an architect.

During a long career John Frith was a well-respected architect enjoying a high level of public confidence in his ability. He was a member of the Upper Chapel and took a lively and intelligent interest in public affairs. Although he personally shunned public office, he was a moderate Liberal and active in promoting men for election in Brightside and was at one time chairman of the Brightside Burial Board. His obituary told of 'a very unostentatious and retiring person, thoughtful, kind and judicious, and so genuine that all who knew him confided in him implicitly'. On retiring he occupied himself travelling, writing and giving talks about his voyages. He travelled extensively in Europe and joined Thomas Cook on an early trip to America in the steamship Ethiopia. The trip nearly ended in disaster when after four days at sea and about 900 miles from land, the boat's main engine shaft broke. Fortunately, their distress signals were spotted by another steamship Pennsylvania and in a very rough sea, John Firth was one of the passengers transhipped to the Pennsylvania which landed them safely at New York.

John Frith died, aged 63, at his home on Woodbank, Burngreave, on 9 January 1876, aged 63 and was buried in plot DD 70 in the Nonconformist area of the Cemetery. His parents, Michael and Mary Frith, his niece Ellen, her husband Alfred Beckett and son Howard Frith Beckett were also buried in the grave.

Thomas Henry Jenkinson was an architect in Sheffield for over 40 years, continuing to practise until he retired in 1898. In 1869 he was the architect responsible for 10 Taptonville Road, now Broomhill Library, and two houses on the adjacent Taptonville Crescent as well as several buildings in the town centre.



Broomhill Library, Tapton Ville Road *Source: SGCT Archive*

Thomas H Jenkinson purchased plot P 4 in the Nonconformist area of the Cemetery. Three of his children were buried in the grave, Florence, aged 12 in 1869, Arthur, aged 65 in 1928 and Herbert, aged 79, in 1938. Each were memorialised on the gravestone which also included mention of Thomas Jenkinson as a benefactor of the University of Sheffield.



Memorial to the Jenkinson family, P 4 NonC *Source: SGCT Archive*

Thomas Alfred Wilson, an architect with a practice on Campo Lane, was commissioned to design the monument, now Grade II listed, to be placed on the grave of Alderman Thomas Edward Burch in 1870. It is one of the most impressive in the Cemetery, standing at the top of the steps outside the Samuel Worth Chapel.



Burch Memorial *Source: SGCT Archive*

Wilson's son, **Thomas Hugh Wilson**, also an architect with a practice on Norfolk Street, was responsible for a modest building to the left of Channing Hall which he designed as a business training college in 1887 for Seth Whiteley, a writing master. There were classrooms for penmanship, shorthand and bookkeeping, a separate Ladies' Room on the first floor and a top-floor lecture hall.

James Hall, who had his architectural practice in Paradise Square, built Burngreave Library in 1872 with a classical and chapel-like design. It was the first Sheffield library to be built in the suburbs.



Burngreave Library *Source: Picture Sheffield*

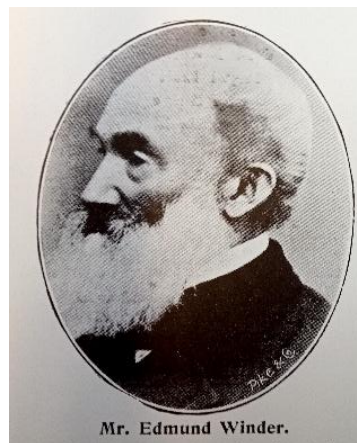
In 1874 James Hall drew up plans for a new workhouse at Fir Vale where 44.5 acres of land had been bought at a cost of £16,800. The foundation stone was laid in 1878, but the formal opening was three years later in September 1881. By that time 1,188 paupers were in residence in the main building, with a further 365 in the hospital. The site is now the Northern General Hospital.

John Pomfret Earle had an architect's practice in Norfolk Row for over 40 years retiring just before World War One. He was well known and respected by local members of his profession and in 1904 was responsible for the Primitive Methodist New Chapel in Grenoside.

Edmund Winder was born in Preston, Lancashire in 1825 where he worked for the Duke of Hamilton. He came to Sheffield in 1848 when he became surveyor to the Duke of Norfolk. He married Mary Wrangham in March 1853 and the couple had at least 14 children.

Winder was in the service of the Duke of Norfolk for 53 years, for many as chief clerk in the Estates Office, until 1899 when he was appointed agent of the Duke's city estates.

He was a Churchman and Conservative but did not take any active part in public affairs. The chief interest in his life was always his office and his duties which he fulfilled with great zeal and energy. During his long term of office, he dealt with many important transactions, the last of which was transferring the Sheffield markets from the Duke of Norfolk to the Sheffield Corporation. In 1871 he moved to Clough House on Clough Road, formerly a school, and lived there until his death in 1900. His wife predeceased him by seven years and after that time some of his children lived with him, eleven being alive at his death. His funeral at the Cemetery was attended by the Duke of Norfolk but was, by family request, a quiet and private one.



Edmund Winder *Source: Sheffield and District's Who's Who*

To support local architects, a meeting was held in the Council Hall in Sheffield in 1867 when it was resolved to form a Society, its object to promote the study of architecture and archaeology. A second meeting on 11 November at the School of Art elected Dr Aveling as chairman, J Fawcett, and J D Webster as honorary secretaries, the name of the group to be "Sheffield Architectural and Archaeological Society". It primarily served those interested in antiquities and the history of architecture and was not involved in the professional aspects of the profession. Various summer excursions were organised to Lincoln Cathedral, Hardwick Hall, Roche Abbey, Kirkstall Abbey amongst others, and by the time of the first annual meeting, the Society had 60 members. Winter meetings were held at the School of Art where lectures were given on the architecture of cathedrals, churches and castles. However, the life of the Society did not last very long, and meetings had lapsed by 1879/80.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, the method of training by pupillage was the only way of entry into the architectural profession and the quality was variable depending on the practice and its lead architect. Nationally discussions were taking place regarding the statutory registration of architects, dealing with the necessity of 'closing' the profession in the manner of the legal and medical professions. The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) were inaugurating compulsory examinations, and it was important that pupils and assistants were fully prepared when taking the examinations and able to avail themselves of every opportunity for improving their technical skills. The result would mean a better education for architects and improved status of the profession. The public could have greater confidence in the ability and integrity of the profession; work would be more professional and of a better quality. It was these professional aspects of the profession that motivated the formation of the Sheffield Society of Architects and Surveyors.

Charles Hadfield, J B Mitchell Withers, T J Flockton and others met in May 1887 and agreed the need for a professional Society in Sheffield which would encourage young architects to take the RIBA examinations, help them prepare by means of lectures, libraries, classes in design, outdoor sketching, land surveying, construction, quantity taking etc. The Society would also hold friendly discussions at social meetings, monthly meetings for the hearing of papers and lectures, communicate and exchange opinions with the RIBA, the Surveyors' Institute, and other kindred societies and ultimately form a library.

Thomas J Flockton, speaking as the first President of the Society, said that when, at the suggestion by Mr Hadfield and Mr Mitchell-Withers, he ventured to call a meeting to consider the formation of the Society, he hardly expected that at their first meeting they would have as many as 73 members and associates. One of the members [Edward Mitchel Gibbs](#) had a deep interest and commitment to architectural education and was an early advocate of systematised courses and instruction. The Society's Annual General Meeting of 1893 reported that the classes for the study of design, architectural history and sketching, inaugurated in the early part of the session under the management of Gibbs and Mr J R Wigfull, were well attended by a good number of young architects and supplied a much-needed educational want in the city. It was these classes and other efforts by Gibbs which largely led to the foundation of the Department of Architecture at the University of Sheffield in 1907. His son, Harry B S Gibbs was one of the first intake of students. Gibbs retained his interest in the Department all his life.

Unfortunately, when *The Builder* visited the city in 1897 it found that it 'For its size and importance, Sheffield does not seem to be very well supplied generally with buildings of good architectural character'. This would have come as a disappointment to Sheffielders who had, during the previous thirty years, witnessed the rebuilding of their town centre due to road widening schemes under the Sheffield Improvement Act of 1871, and Sheffield Highways Improvement and Tramways Act of 1897. The suburbs too were increasingly supplied with good public buildings such as the schools erected by the Sheffield School Board, Free Public Libraries, and several significant new churches and chapels.

Other architects buried in the Cemetery

Z 177 NonC	Frank Eric Black	19, Architect, Royal Hospital, 07 Aug 1928
L 90 NonC 23 Sep 1916	John Blackett	61, Architect, Wakefield Asylum [9 Junction Road],
S 153 NonC	Thomas Bramall	53, Architect, 20 Zion Street, Salford, Manchester,
15 Jul 1908		
W1 76 Ang	Thomas E Burch	44, Architect, 61 Duncan Street, d 21 Jul 1879
R 81 NonC	George Crosland	42, Architect & Surveyor, 5 Paradise Sq., 24
Mar 1878		
T1 88 Ang	Laurence Dearden	64, Surveyor & architect, Wye House, Buxton, d 26
Jan 1930		
K2 46 Ang	John Dobb	69, Architect, 55 Albany Road, d 09 Dec 1905
P 164 Ang	Edwin Falding	65, Architect, Rupert Road, Nether Edge, d
29 Aug 1885		
DD 71NonC	John Thomas Frith	37, Architect, Wadsley Asylum, 27 Mar 1886
P2 76 Ang	James Harrison	76, Architect, Clarkehouse Road, d 22 Jan
1866		
L 62 Ang	John Harrop	59, Architect and builder, West St, d 2 May 1855
G1 17 Ang	Wilfred Langcake	43, Architect, South Yorkshire Mental Hospital [40
Springfield		
Road], d 07 Dec 1928		
P 120 Ang	Thomas Maskell	49, Architect, Mount Pisgah, Broomhill, 12 Apr 1876
E1 38 Ang	William Pollard	76, Architect, 1 Rutland Park, 31 Jan 1930
E2 82 Ang	Edgar Spencer Saunders	51, Architect, Town Hall Offices [127
Newbould Lane], 16 Nov 1916		
T1 43 Ang	Henry Stooke	79, Architect, 145 Albert Road, 16 Nov 1921
KK 170 NonC	Henry Taylor	56, Architect etc., 158 Petre St, 02 Apr 1888

U1 156 Ang May 1898	Fred Thompson	28, Architect & surveyor, 290 Shalesmoor, 2
S 9 NonC	Jos. Dobson Townend	48, Land agent, 52 Birkendale, 15 Feb 1901
M 71 Ang 1892	John Fawcett Wightman	35, Surveyor, 50 Broomgrove Road, 10 May