

# Sources for the Study of The Sheffield Outrages



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Front cover illustrations from left to right:

William Broadhead, Secretary of Saw Grinders' Union, Sheffield, 1860s  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s08365*)

Knife grinders, Sheffield, c.1905  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield v00859*)

Edge tool manufacture, saw manufacture – grinding, Sheffield, 19<sup>th</sup> century  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s10252*)

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## Introduction

The Combination Laws passed in 1799 made trade unions illegal. The 1825 Combination Act narrowly defined the rights of trade unions as meeting to bargain over wages and conditions. Anything outside these limits was liable to prosecution as criminal conspiracy in restraint of trade. Trade unionists were banned from obstructing or intimidating others.

During the 1840s - 1860s, some of the newly-formed unions used intimidation and violence where they believed workers were being under-paid or non-union or workhouse labour was being used at very low wages. Similarly, workers who refused to pay their union fees were 'rattened' - the belt which drove their grindstone would be removed or cut so the worker could not work.

Sheffield became one of the main centres for trade union organisation and agitation in the UK. In the 1860s, the conflict between capital and labour reached new heights culminating in a series of explosions and murders carried out by union militants. These actions, which came to a head in 1866 - 1867, became known as the **Sheffield outrages**.

According to an article in *The Anarchist* (1895):

**'Sheffield, then the capital of English trade unionism, was the only town where the decrees of the union were enforced by the blowing up of factories or shooting capitalists. Nor were these outrages the peculiar invention of William Broadhead [secretary of the Saw Grinders' Union, who was heavily implicated]. Like machine smashing or rick burning, they were an inheritance of the evil days of oppression and coercion. When strikes are criminal offences, and unions are smashed with all the might of law, what method is there left but outrage?'**  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1744 S*)

William Leng, proprietor of the conservative *Sheffield Telegraph* believed the outrages were committed for mercenary reasons alone, and that a sufficiently large reward would bring forth the evidence. He called for a full investigation into the outrages.

In 1866, the Conservative government set up a *Royal Commission on Trade Unions* in response to the outrages. It was given 'extraordinary' powers. They could give a free pardon to anyone who made a full confession, and send any man to prison that refused to answer questions or committed perjury. It found that William Broadhead, treasurer of the Associated Trades of Sheffield (and landlord of the Royal George Inn, Carver Street) had organised the outrages.

The Commission came out strongly against the unions and prompted a major clampdown on union activity. However, it was the Commission's more pro-union *Minority Report* that prevailed just a few years later, leading to the trade union reform legislation introduced by the new Liberal government in 1871.

## Timeline showing key dates

1847	Early examples of 'rattening' recorded in Sheffield Police Force charge books.
1854	Shooting of a saw grinder.
1857	File grinder was the victim of a gunpowder explosion.
1859	Saw grinder murdered and several others assaulted.
1861	Innocent person killed in gunpowder attack on house of fender grinder in Acorn Street - the 'Acorn Street Outrage'.
1865	Gunpowder attack on a sickle grinder.
1866	File makers strike. This brought the trade unions to the public's attention.
1866	On 8 October the home of a saw grinder in Hereford Street was damaged by a gunpowder explosion - the 'Hereford Street Outrage'.
1866	William Leng, proprietor of the Conservative <i>Sheffield Telegraph</i> believed the outrages were committed for mercenary reasons alone, and that a sufficiently large reward would bring forth the evidence. He called for a full investigation into the outrages.
1867	The Government appointed a Royal Commission of Inquiry. It found that William Broadhead, treasurer of the Associated Trades of Sheffield (and landlord of the Royal George Inn, Carver Street) had organised the outrages.
1869	William Broadhead emigrated to America, returning to Sheffield later in life.
1871	Trade Union Act was passed which recognised the legal status of trade unions.

## Glossary of terms relating to the Sheffield Outrages<sup>1</sup>

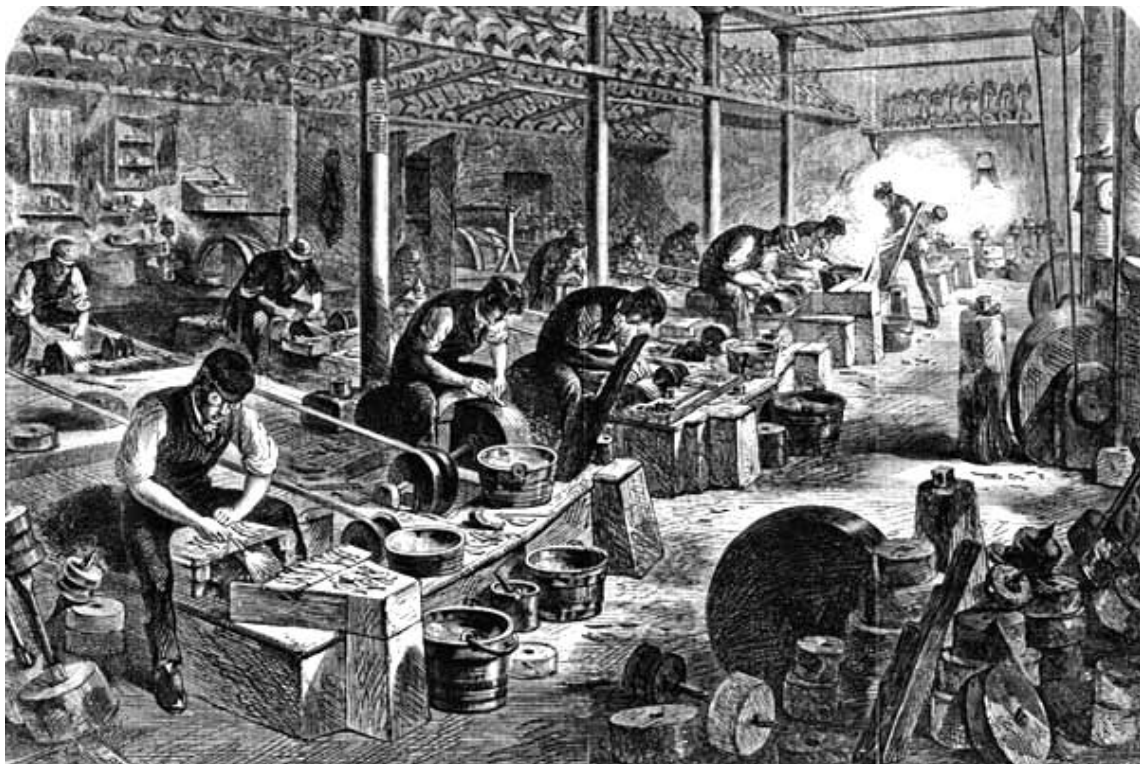
<b>Band</b>	Leather strap connecting the grinder's stones to the pulleys of the driving shafts from which they got their power.
<b>On the box</b>	Being maintained from the union's funds.
<b>Blackleg, Knobstick</b>	Strike breaker.
<b>To clerk</b>	To check the declared weekly earnings of grinders at times when union contributions were a proportion of earnings.
<b>Hull</b>	A room in a 'wheel' or building containing several grinders' workplaces.
<b>Mary Ann; Man in the Moon; Nathan</b>	Signatures used in threatening letters.
<b>Natty money, Natty brass</b>	Weekly union subscriptions.
<b>Rattening</b>	The taking away of bands of nuts, as punishment for breaking union rules. This would normally stop the man from working in the short term.
<b>Scale, drawing scale</b>	Obtaining the weekly benefits from the union's funds.
<b>Shy Maiden; Sweep; Tantia Topee; Tidd Pratt</b>	Signatures used in threatening letters.
<b>'Smite-em'</b>	Nickname of William Broadhead.
<b>Trough, Trow</b>	The grinder's workplace.
<b>Web</b>	A saw.
<b>Wheel</b>	A building containing motive power, either a steam engine or a water wheel, and divided into hulls and troughs rented by grinders and some other workmen.

<sup>1</sup> Glossary from *The Sheffield Outrages* (first published in 1867) with introduction by Sidney Pollard (1971 edition), Sheffield City Archives: POLL/LOCAL.

## Grinders, cutlers and tool makers



**(L-R): Scissor manufacture - grinding, Sheffield, c.1900** (*Picture Sheffield: s00047*); **Scissor blade grinding, Sheffield, 1980s** (*Picture Sheffield: s00043*)



**Cutlery manufacture - razor grinding, Sheffield, 1866**  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: s00051*)

For more images of the grinding trades, go to: [www.picturesheffield.com](http://www.picturesheffield.com)

## Who's who - the key players in the Sheffield Outrages, 1867



WILLIAM BROADHEAD, SEC.,  
SAW GRINDERS' UNION, SHEFFIELD.  
TULLEY, PHOTO: (REGISTERED.) 26, DIVISION

**Thomas Fearnough** – saw grinder in dispute with unions, accused of taking on ‘unlawful’ apprentices, had a can of gunpowder thrown in his cellar in 1866.

**George Austin** – moderate trade union representative, Sheffield railway spring-makers. Also of Sheffield Defence Committee which disassociated itself from the implicated trades unions.

**William Dronfield** – moderate trade union representative, Sheffield typographers. Also of Sheffield Defence Committee which disassociated itself from the implicated trades unions.

**William Broadhead** (left) – trade union representative, saw grinders (later proved to be the chief instigator of the outrages). Despite his short-term notoriety in the wake of the Commissioners’ enquiry, he remained a member of the saw grinders’ union.

**Samuel Crooks** – employed by William Broadhead to carry out violent attacks.

**James Hallam** – admitted before the Commission his part in the murderous assaults incited and paid for by William Broadhead.

**William Overend QC** – Chief Commissioner of the enquiry into the Sheffield Outrages, 1867. There were three commissioners in total – the other two were Thomas Irwin Berstow and George Chance.

**James Linley** – accused of taking on ‘unlawful’ apprentices, shot dead during the outrages.

**William Leng** (right) – proprietor of the conservative *Sheffield Telegraph* started a fierce debate and agitated for a full-scale investigation into the outrages committed by trade unions.

**Professor E. S. Beesley** – sympathiser of the trade union cause. Following the outcry over revelations that Broadhead had instigated large number of rattenings, his speech to leaders of London Trades Council in 1867 reiterated the need for the national unions to fight for an improved legal status.





## Minutes of Evidence from the Trades Union Commission enquiry

The Minutes of Evidence taken by the Commissioners enquiring into the Sheffield Outrages in 1867 form a verbatim account by prominent tradesmen of Sheffield of how they repeatedly broke the law and committed some major crimes:

Has anything been said to you or done to you by the Saw Grinders' Union for working in this way, not being a Union man and not paying this sum of money? – **Yes, I got blown up for it.**  
*(Evidence of T. Fearnehough, q.10,443, 1867)*

Did you ever do anything else in that way [such as rattening] except authorizing a man's bands or nuts to be taken? – **Certainly, we would take his sofa if we could.** You would steal anything if you could, under those circumstances? – **We would be bailiffs if we could.**  
*(Evidence of S. Stacey, q.16,679; 16,680, 1867)*

**I had a right to take these courses in the absence of the law... If the law could give [the Trades Unions] some power... to receive contributions without having recourse to such measures there would be no more heard of them... it would destroy these acts that have taken place and which place me in this painful position.**  
*(Evidence of W. Broadhead, q.12,970; 13,241, 13,243)*

The Minutes of Evidence were republished in 1971 with an introduction by Sidney Pollard (*Sheffield City Archives: POLL/LOCAL; Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.88 SSTQ*).

## Newspaper reports

Details of the public hearings of the Trades Union Commission enquiry in Sheffield were reported daily in the local newspapers. In particular, see the *Sheffield Telegraph* and the *Sheffield Independent*, June - July 1867.

**YORKSHIRE ASSIZES.**  
CROWN COURT.  
MONDAY.—Before Mr. JUSTICE MELLOR.  
His Lordship took his seat at half-past nine o'clock.  
**THE MURDER IN ACORN ST.**  
**TRIAL OF THOMPSON.**  
JOSEPH THOMPSON, who is indicted for the Wilful Murder of Bridget, otherwise Bedelia, O'Rourke, at Sheffield, in November last, was placed at the bar. The prisoner appeared to be very anxious, and was very pale and careworn. He pleaded "Not Guilty," in a firm voice.

The inquest was resumed yesterday afternoon.  
Mr. Turner again appeared on behalf of the friends of Linley... Mr. A. C. Branson applied for leave to attend on behalf of Brown... The Coroner suggested that Brown ought to be present as well... He was sent for, and in a short time arrived.  
Police-sergeant Christopher Whytall, office keeper at the Town Hall, said: I saw the pistols produced on Wednesday afternoon, August 3rd, as soon as they were brought in by Detective-officer Airey. The prisoner was then in my custody. I examined the pistols, and in my opinion, both of them had been recently discharged. There was an exploded cap upon the smaller one. I went into the office shortly after Brown was apprehended, and heard Airey ask him for his keys. He gave up the keys, and told him where he would find pistols and powder at his house. Airey then left the office with the keys to go to the prisoner's house. Prisoner asked me if I could form any idea why he wanted the keys. I asked him if he did not know, and his reply was, "No." I then asked him if he knew anything about Linley's case. He said, "Yes; I had a glass of gin with him the same night, just before he was shot;" adding that if that was all he was charged with, he was not frightened in the least. He said he could prove that it was nine months since the pistols were discharged. Airey returned after a while, bringing the pistols. I examined them, and found that they had been recently discharged, and that there was a

**THE LATE SCOTLAND STREET OUTRAGE.**  
**DEATH OF LINLEY.**  
It will be remembered that in August last, whilst a saw grinder, named James Linley, was sitting in the snug of Mr. Wreaks, the Crown Inn, Scotland street, a pistol or other fire-arm was discharged through the window, and the ball struck Linley on the left temple and entered his head. Suspicion at the time attached to a broker and bailiff, named Richard Brown, who was apprehended on a charge of being the perpetrator of the deed, and the matter formed the subject of several lengthy enquiries before the Bench. There was not, however, in the opinion of W. Smith, Esq., the magistrate who heard the case, sufficient evidence against the prisoner to justify his committal, and he was therefore remanded at large. The evidence against Brown was, that he and his wife had been in the snug, and had left three or four minutes before the shot was fired; the woman having previously drunk with Linley, whilst her husband refused to do so. A woman named Smith, who was sitting sewing just within the door of her house in the yard, hastened outside when the pistol was fired, and saw a man running down the passage into Scotland street, having on a brown "tommy liner" hat, and clothes of the description the prisoner is stated by the other witnesses to have been wearing. A woman named Dewsnap, who did not come well out of the severe cross-examination to which she was subjected, stated, that when crossing Scotland street to enter Wreaks's dramshop, she saw a man run out of the passage across that street, and though she had not heard a pistol fired, she learned immediately afterwards that a man had been shot. She had known the prisoner

May 3rd  
1860  
The murderer of  
Linley was Sam.  
Crook's instigated  
and paid by the  
Arch villain  
Broadhead.  
See the report  
of the Outrage  
Commission

Evidence of other trade union outrages in Sheffield can also be found in the newspapers during the 1850s and 1860s. 'The year's record' in *The Sheffield Year Book* (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 032.74 S) is useful for providing a chronological list of events taken from the newspapers.

## List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information

### Newspapers

The two main Sheffield newspapers are the *Sheffield Morning Telegraph* [later *Sheffield Telegraph*] and *The Star*, and these are available on microfilm at Sheffield Local Studies Library. There are no indexes to the newspapers but other sources can be used to try to establish the dates of events. 'The year's record' in *The Sheffield Year Book* (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 032.74 S) provides a chronological list of events taken from the newspapers.

Details in a letter from Fred Bland  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Newspaper cuttings relating to Sheffield, Vol.9, p.141, 942.74 SQ*)

Note on an attempt to blow up a grinding wheel in Bernard Street  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Newspaper cuttings relating to Sheffield, Vol.10, p.73, 942.74 SF*)

Note on the murder of Linley  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Newspaper cuttings relating to Sheffield, Vol.28, p.118 and p.127, 942.74 SQ*)

Reminiscences of Samuel Smith who was a police constable at the time of the outrages  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Newspaper cuttings relating to Sheffield, Vol.39, p.133-134, 942.74 S*)

Report of the inquest on James Linley and the trial of Thompson for the 'Wastnidge Outrage'  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Newspaper cuttings relating to Sheffield, Vol.11, pp.2-4, 52-58, 942.74 SF*)

Note on play 'The Sheffield Outrages' by R. S. Lambert, produced by the BBC, 3 May 1934  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Newspaper cuttings relating to Sheffield, Vol.27, p.68, 942.74 SF – see also Libraries Cuttings Book, pp.48-53*)

Notes on the Sheffield outrages  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Newspaper cuttings relating to Sheffield, Vol.47, p.27, 942.74 SQ*)

William Broadhead: letter to the press and comments on his work in 1860  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Newspaper cuttings relating to Sheffield, Vol.11, p.1, 942.74 SF*)

William Broadhead: his share of the correspondence on the labour question  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Newspaper cuttings relating to Sheffield, Vol.10, p.88-90, 942.74 SF*)

Archives of some national newspapers are available on the internet, notably *The Times* (<http://archive.timesonline.co.uk>) and *The Guardian* (<http://archive.guardian.co.uk>)

The British Library Newspaper Archive website includes the following Sheffield titles:

- Sheffield Independent, 1819 - 1938
- Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 1855 - 1950
- Sheffield Evening Telegraph, 1887 - 1939
- Sheffield Daily News and Morning Advertiser, 1859
- Sheffield Iris, 1835 - 1843
- Sheffield Register / Yorks, Derbys, Notts, Universal Advertiser, 1787 - 1794

Free access to these is available at every Sheffield Library and at Sheffield City Archives <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

## Photographs

Over 90,000 images from the Sheffield Local Studies Library photographic collection are available to search online at [www.picturesheffield.com](http://www.picturesheffield.com).

In particular, there are many images depicting working conditions in Sheffield during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These include photographs and illustrations of: saw grinders, razor grinders, scissor grinders, cutlery workers, workshops etc. and the main protagonist in the violent outrages of the 1860s, William Broadhead.

See also: photograph of William Broadhead in *Sheffield Portrait Gallery*, November 1875, p.5  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 052.74S*)

## Sheffield Outrages

General correspondence of the 1st Earl of Wharnccliffe, (1856-1891) - letter from William Broadhead (of the Sheffield outrages), 1868  
(*Sheffield City Archives: Wh M/418*)

'The good of trade unions' - manuscript essay written by J. Broadhead for Henry Sayer, afterwards Town Clerk, with a note in pencil asking Mr Sayer not to mention his name, 1864  
(*Sheffield City Archives: MD1451*)

Sheffield Police Force: charge books, 1836-1865 - cases of rattening are mentioned from June 1847  
(*Sheffield City Archives: SY295/7/1/1-12*)

Sheffield Council, Watch Committee minutes, 1859 - 1864  
Pages 81, 82, 94 and 95 refer to a charge against the Chief Constable, brought by Wheatman and Smith, for neglect of duty in the matter of explosion at their works,  
(*Sheffield City Archives: CA-WAC/1/4*)

D. Abell, *The system of outrage and rattenings in the Sheffield cutlery trades in the nineteenth century*, 1966  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local Pamphlets, Vol.46, No.3, 042 SQ)

J. W. Burns, *Five letters on the Acorn Street outrage and trades unions*, [1862]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local Pamphlets, Vol.64, No.10, 042 S)

George Chance (ed.), *Guard book of press cuttings of the enquiry on the Sheffield cutlery trade outrages*, [1867] - compiled for the use of George Chance, one of the Commissioners, with annotations  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.88 SQ)

John Baxter, 'William Broadhead, 1816 - 1879', *Holberry Society Bulletin*, Autumn 1980, pp.2-3 - biographical article  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.8 SQ)

Alan Cullen, *The stirrings in Sheffield on Saturday night*, 1974  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 822 Cull S)

G. J. Chester, *The voice of blood crying from the ground: a sermon on the late alleged trade outrage, preached on Advent Sunday*, 1861  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local pamphlets, Vol.14, No.6 042 S)

Brooke Herford, *Sunday parables from Sheffield work: eight lectures delivered in Upper Chapel, Sheffield, during March, April and May 1862; to which is appended a lecture on trade outrages, delivered in the Temperance Hall, Sheffield on Sunday afternoon, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1861*, [1863]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: J 204 S)

Brooke Herford, *Trade outrages: who are responsible for them?: a lecture delivered in the Temperance Hall, Townhead Street, Sheffield, on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 1, 1861, in reference to the outrage in Acorn Street*, 1861  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local Pamphlet Vol.61 042 SST)

'Suppression of the outrages', *Sheffield and neighbourhood*, [20<sup>th</sup> century]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 914.274S, p.111)

Joseph Hunter, *Hallamshire: the history and topography of the parish of Sheffield*, 1819 – see reference to outrages on p.217  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SF; Sheffield Archives: HUN O/LOCAL)

Keith Farnsworth, *The grinder king*, 1966 - a series in six parts about the Sheffield trade outrages written for 'The Star'  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.88 SSTQ)

R. S. Lambert, *The Sheffield outrages or, trade unions at the crossroads. (From Tolpuddle to TUC)*, 1934. Radio broadcast script from The Listener.  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 243 M)

'From the Mountain' (pseudonym), 'The last Sheffield outrages', *Once a Week*, 14 Dec 1861, pp.679-683  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 835 M*)

Christine Harrison, *The attitude of the local press to radical social and political movements in Sheffield, 1830 - 1867*, 1981  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 070.1 SQ*)

"Owd Smeedom": the Sheffield outrages', *The Anarchist*, Vol.2, No.23, November 1895  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1744 S*)

[Paris, LPA d'Orleans, Comte de], *Les associations ouvrières en Angleterre: (trade unions)*, 1869  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 599 M*)

S. Pollard, 'The ethics of the Sheffield outrages', *Transactions of the Hunter Archaeological Society*, Vol.7, pp.118-139  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 913.4274 S*; also available at Sheffield Archives: HAS)

Charles Reade, *Put yourself in his place*, 1922  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 823 R221 S*)

'Thuggism in Sheffield', extract from *Leisure Hour*, 1861  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 599 M*)

Peter Machan, *Outrage: the story of William Broadhead and the trade union scandals of Victorian Sheffield*, 2001  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.88 S*)

Zeba Tabani, *Employers and workers c.1850-1870: evidence from rattening and the Sheffield Outrages*, 1991  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.893 SSTQ*)

Stories of Sheffield outrages in J. H. Stainton, *The making of Sheffield*, 1924  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S*)

Story of the Sheffield outrages in John Derry, *The story of Sheffield*, [1915; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1971]  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S*)

John Addy, *A coal and iron community in the industrial revolution, 1760 – 1860*, 1970 – includes brief details of the outrages, pp.78-81  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 330.94274 S*)

J. P. Bean, *Crime in Sheffield*, 1987 - includes details of the 19<sup>th</sup> century feuds within the grinders' unions, pp.57-61  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 364.1 S*)

V. L. Melton, *Trade unionism and the Sheffield outrages*, [1976, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.] - illustrated, Sheffield City Museums Information Sheet No.6 in the bound volume of Sheffield City Museum Information Sheets.  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SQ)

Don Tyzack, *Glass, tools and Tyzacks*, 1995  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 929.2 Tyza S)

David Hey, *A history of Sheffield*, 2005 - description of outrages, pp.203-204  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.821; Sheffield Archives: HEY/LOCAL)

Sidney Pollard, *A history of labour in Sheffield*, 1959, pp.152-158  
(Sheffield Archives: POL/LOCAL; Central Library Store:330.942741)

W. Hamish Fraser, *Trade unions and society: the struggle for acceptance, 1850-1880*, 1974 – includes references to William Broadhead and the Sheffield outrages  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.88 ST)

J. Lovell, *Short History of the TUC, 1868 - 1968*, 1974 - illustrated book, noting the part played by the Sheffield outrages in precipitating the founding of the TUC (Trades Union Congress)  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.88 Q)

A. E. Musson, *Trade union and social history*, 1974  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.88 ST)

Patrick Renshaw, 'The origins of the Trades Union Congress', *History Today*, Vol.18, No.7, July 1968  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1860 M)

### **Sheffield Outrages: Trades Union Commission**

Trades Union Commissioners: Sheffield Outrages Inquiry. *Report presented to the Trades Union Commissioners by the examiners appointed to inquire into acts of intimidation, outrage or wrong alleged to have been promoted, encouraged, or connived at by trades unions in the town of Sheffield, 1867* [2 vols]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.88 SSTQ; Sheffield Archives: JC/20/10)

Report presented to the Trades Unions Commissioners in 1867, with an introduction by Sidney Pollard, *Documents of Social History*, 1971  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.88 SQ; Sheffield Archives: POLL/LOCAL)

Grant Brewin, *The Sheffield Trades' Outrage Commission and its lessons: a discourse delivered in Cemetery Road Church, Sheffield, 1867*  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local pamphlets, Vol.25, No.6, 042 S)

### **Obituaries of key figures connected to the Sheffield outrages**

These accounts of the life and achievements of deceased persons usually appear in the local newspapers. There is an index to over 8,000 obituaries in Sheffield

newspapers dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century:

<http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/collections/obituaries>

These include some of the key names associated with the Sheffield outrages:

- George Austin, Secretary, United Railway Springmakers' Society , 7 November 1872
- William Broadhead, of outrages fame, 15 March 1879  
(*Obituary Notice, Sheffield Local Studies Library: Newspaper cuttings relating to Sheffield, Vol.13, pp.114-115, 942.74 SF*)
- Richard Brown, unjustly accused of having shot Linley in the trade outrages, 14 January 1908
- Samuel Crooks, of outrages fame, 19 May 1882
- William Dronfield, of the Typographical Association, 24 August 1894
- Sir William Leng, Editor, Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 19 February 1902
- James Linley, Saw grinder, outrage victim, shot in August 1859, 29 February 1860
- William Overend QC, chief examiner of the Trades Outrage Commission, 24 December 1884
- Elisha Parker, of Dore, victim of the trade outrages, 14 June 1900

## **Records of Sheffield Trade Unions**

The Sheffield outrages played a key part in the history of the Trade Union movement in Britain. The records of various Trade Unions (Sheffield branches), Institutes, Friendly Societies and Associations are held at Sheffield Archives and Local Studies Library. These include minute books, account books, membership subscription records etc., 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century.

For evidence of early Trade Union activity in Sheffield see:

*Resolutions of a meeting held to protest at the formation of a trade union by scissor grinders, 1790 - 'At a numerous and respectable meeting of the principal manufacturers of cutlery wares ... at the house of Mr Francis Beardsall, known by the name of the Hotel, in Sheffield ... resolved unanimously ... [relating to a protest at the formation of a trade union by scissor grinders]'*  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 102 M*)

Records of the File Forgers' Union (Sheffield branch), 1831; 1866 – 1945  
(*Sheffield Archives: MD5846; MD4020-4023*)

Records of the Saw Makers' Protection Society, 1844 - 1975  
(*Sheffield City Archives: LD1446*)



Records of the Pen and Pocket Blade Forgers and Smithers' Protection Society, 1859 - 1957  
(*Sheffield City Archives: MD2347-2365*)

Sheffield Manufacturers' and Tradesmen's Protection Society, 1844 - 1848  
(*Sheffield City Archives: MD3973; MD505-506*)

Records of Burgon and Ball, Sheffield relating to wages and union matters, especially concerning cooperative manufacture of shears and the Sheep Shear Makers', Grinders' and Benders' Union, 1887 - 1908  
(*Sheffield City Archives: B&B*)

Edward Carpenter collection - letters to Carpenter from George E. Hukin of Sheffield talking about his attempts to unionise the razor grinders, 1886 - 1913  
(*Sheffield City Archives: Carpenter/Mss/362/31*)

For a full list of trade union records available at Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies see [Sheffield City Council - Trade Unions](#)

### **Sources at other Archives and Libraries**

The National Archives (TNA) holds records of central government departments and agencies. You can search the TNA catalogue online at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk). There are references to the outrages, mainly in the files of the Home Office (ref. HO), for example: *Strikes and trade outrages: suggestions from Sheffield Association of Organised Trades*, 1862 - Home Office file (*The National Archives: HO 45/7360*)

The trials of those involved in the outrages took place at the Assize Court. Records of Assize Courts are kept at The National Archives. See: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/assizes-criminal-1559-1971.htm> for more information.

It is possible that some of the more minor offences were dealt with by the Quarter Sessions Court. The records covering the Sheffield area are available at: West Yorkshire Archive Service: <http://www.archives.wyjs.org.uk/>

Sheffield City Archives and Local Studies services collect and preserve original records and printed material relating to Sheffield and the surrounding area.

The information dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century to the present and relates to Sheffield, South Yorkshire and north Derbyshire.

Included are extensive collections of books • pamphlets • photographs • church registers • newspapers • census records • minutes • diaries • films • maps • deeds • records from schools • hospitals • businesses and charities • family estates • personal papers etc.



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### **Adding to our collections**

Sheffield Libraries and Archives seeks to preserve information about events in our city's history. If you have photographs or personal papers that may be worth preserving please consider safeguarding them for current and future generations by placing them in the care of Sheffield Libraries and Archives. It is only through the generosity of individuals and organisations that we are able to have a complete record of important events in the history of Sheffield and the nation. We are interested in photographs, flyers and posters, minutes of meetings etc. For advice on record keeping and the facilities we offer please contact us ([archives@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:archives@sheffield.gov.uk) or 0114 203 9395).

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