

# Sources for the Study of Chartism in Sheffield



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Front cover illustrations from left to right:

Samuel Holberry, Chartist, Sheffield  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s18625*)

Lunchtime break on the 'Holberry Cascades', Peace Gardens, Sheffield, 2009  
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield c03442*)

Letter written to Samuel Holberry whilst a prisoner in York Castle, 1842  
(*Sheffield City Archives: HS/1/6*)

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## Contents

<a href="#">Introduction</a>	4
<a href="#">Timeline of key events</a>	5
Selection of images from the Sheffield Local Studies Library and Sheffield City Archives collections:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Contemporary accounts of Chartism in Sheffield</a></li></ul>	6 - 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">The failure of the 'Sheffield Plot'</a></li></ul>	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Samuel Holberry's imprisonment in York Castle</a></li></ul>	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Samuel Holberry's death</a></li></ul>	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">The Holberry Cascades, Peace Gardens</a></li></ul>	12
<a href="#">List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information</a>	13
<a href="#">Sheffield Local Studies Library and Sheffield City Archives facilities</a>	19
<a href="#">Contact details</a>	20

## Chartism and Samuel Holberry

Chartism was a working class movement for political reform in Britain between 1838 and 1848. Chartists campaigned for sweeping changes to the political system of Britain and above all it wanted the Six Points (*The Charter*) introduced:

- Every man over 21 to have the right to vote
- A secret ballot to be introduced
- A MP did not have to own property of a certain value or above to become a MP
- All MPs to be paid to allow working men to serve in Parliament
- All constituencies to be equal in terms of population size
- Elections to Parliament to be held every year so that MPs would have to answer to their voters if they had not performed well

Chartism was the first mass working class labour movement in the world. Samuel Holberry (1814 - 1842) was a prominent Chartist activist. In 1832 he joined the army, leaving in 1835 and moving to Sheffield, where he began working as a distiller. Together with other activists campaigning to extend the political rights given by the Reform Act 1832, he engaged in a number of peaceful protests.

The Sheffield Working Men's Association was established in December 1837, adopting the People's Charter which stated that: 'The working classes produced the rich man's wealth, while being oppressed by unjust and unequal laws'. The Association's meetings and demonstrations were well attended and peaceful, but in July 1839 local magistrates banned the gatherings. On 12 August 1839, thousands of workers and their families ignored the ban and paraded through town, finally gathering in Paradise Square. Troops were called in to break up the meeting, and a riot began. Around 70 demonstrators and several speakers were arrested following running battles with troops and the police. Similar unrest was averted in Barnsley by the arrival of more troops and the Riot Act being read.

Membership grew after the riot and meetings and marches were held on a daily basis with regular disturbances in the town centre. After a rebellion in Newport, Monmouthshire (the 'Newport Rising') was put down in 1839, a more radical faction of the group, known as the Chartists led by Samuel Holberry, planned an armed uprising in Sheffield. The Sheffield Chartists planned to take control of the Old Town Hall and other town centre locations while at the same time riots were to take place in Dewsbury and Nottingham. However, the conspirators were betrayed; Holberry and his colleagues were arrested and peace was restored in Sheffield.

Samuel Holberry was sentenced to four years imprisonment with hard labour and died in prison at York Castle on 21 June 1842 aged 27. He is buried in the General Cemetery, Sheffield.

## Timeline showing key dates

1832	Reform Act (Representation of the People Act) passed. This increased the electorate in England and Wales but excluded the vast majority of the working classes, as well as women from voting. It also failed to introduce a secret ballot. The working classes felt betrayed - this paved the way for Chartism.
1832	Elections in Sheffield. Out of 43,458 adults in Sheffield, only 3,504 men were eligible to vote. A disturbance broke out following a demonstration on the Haymarket, and troops opened fire on the crowd. Three men and two boys were killed, increasing resentment against local government and strengthening the campaign for the vote.
1837	Sheffield Working Men's Association formed.
Sep 1838	First big demonstration in Sheffield in Paradise Square. Speakers included Ebenezer Elliott (poet), Michael Beal (watch maker) and Isaac Ironside (stove grate fitter).
1839	Charles Dickens came to Sheffield to take notes on the Chartist meetings there.
Aug 1839	Mass gathering in Paradise Square, Sheffield. Riot began. Around 70 demonstrators and several speakers were arrested.
Nov 1839	Newport Uprising. Armed rebellion by Chartist sympathisers (including many coal miners) in Monmouthshire.
1840	Sheffield Chartists led by Samuel Holberry planned to seize the Town Hall. Much secrecy surrounded the plan, and Holberry threatened to kill anyone who backed out. The plot was betrayed by James Allen, the landlord of the Station Inn, Rotherham who overheard their plans.
1840	Holberry convicted of conspiracy to riot and sedition and was sentenced to four years' imprisonment at Northallerton House of Correction.
1842	Holberry died after being transferred to York Castle. He was buried in the General Cemetery, Sheffield.
1844	Slump in support for Chartism following the failure of the 'Sheffield Plot'. Many leading Chartists joined the Complete Suffrage Union. In May 1844 a meeting held in Paradise Square, Sheffield attracted only 150 people.
1847	Isaac Ironside emerged as new Chartist leader in Sheffield.
1850s	Chartism began to disappear in South Yorkshire. Middle class Parliamentary radicals continued to press for universal suffrage.
1867	Reform Act doubled the electorate. The Ballot Act of 1872 introduced the secret ballot. Only the last of the Chartist aims – annual Parliaments – never came to pass.

## Contemporary accounts of Chartism in Sheffield

An account of the attempted Sheffield rising appears in a Victorian pamphlet reproduced in Robert Eadon Leader, *Reminiscences of Old Sheffield, its Streets and its People, 1876* (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S) where a group of men who had lived in the town in the 1840s are recorded in conversation in the 1870s:

### According to a man named Johnson of Sheffield:

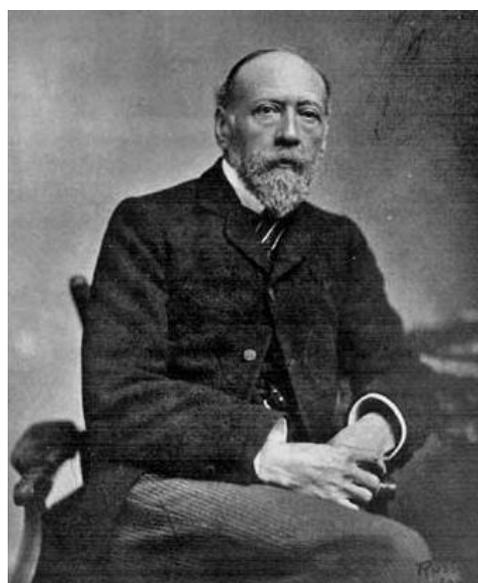
“On the 12th September, 1839, the Chartists held a silent meeting in Paradise square, which was dispersed by the soldiers and police. The Chartists reassembled in ‘Doctor’s Field’, at the bottom of Duke Street, Sheffield moor, where they were followed by the soldiers and police, and 36 prisoners taken.

At the Town Hall, next day, which was guarded by the dragoons, and the doors kept by policemen armed with cutlasses, I saw several anxious mothers inquiring for their missing ones. Amongst the rest was the mother of a young man who has since been an influential citizen in St. George’s ward. He was tried at the assizes and acquitted. A night or two after the Doctor’s Field meeting, hearing there was to be a Chartist meeting at Skye Edge in the Park, my brother and I tried to find Skye Edge, but not succeeding, met the Chartists coming away. They marched down Duke Street, singing lustily a Chartist melody:

**“Press forward, press forward, There’s nothing to fear, We will have the Charter, be it ever so dear...”**

But, alas! on turning the corner at the bottom of Duke Street, they caught sight of the helmets of the 1st Dragoons, who were coming to meet them. Instead of ‘pressing forward’ we all ‘pressed’ every way but that, and in two minutes not a Chartist was to be seen...”

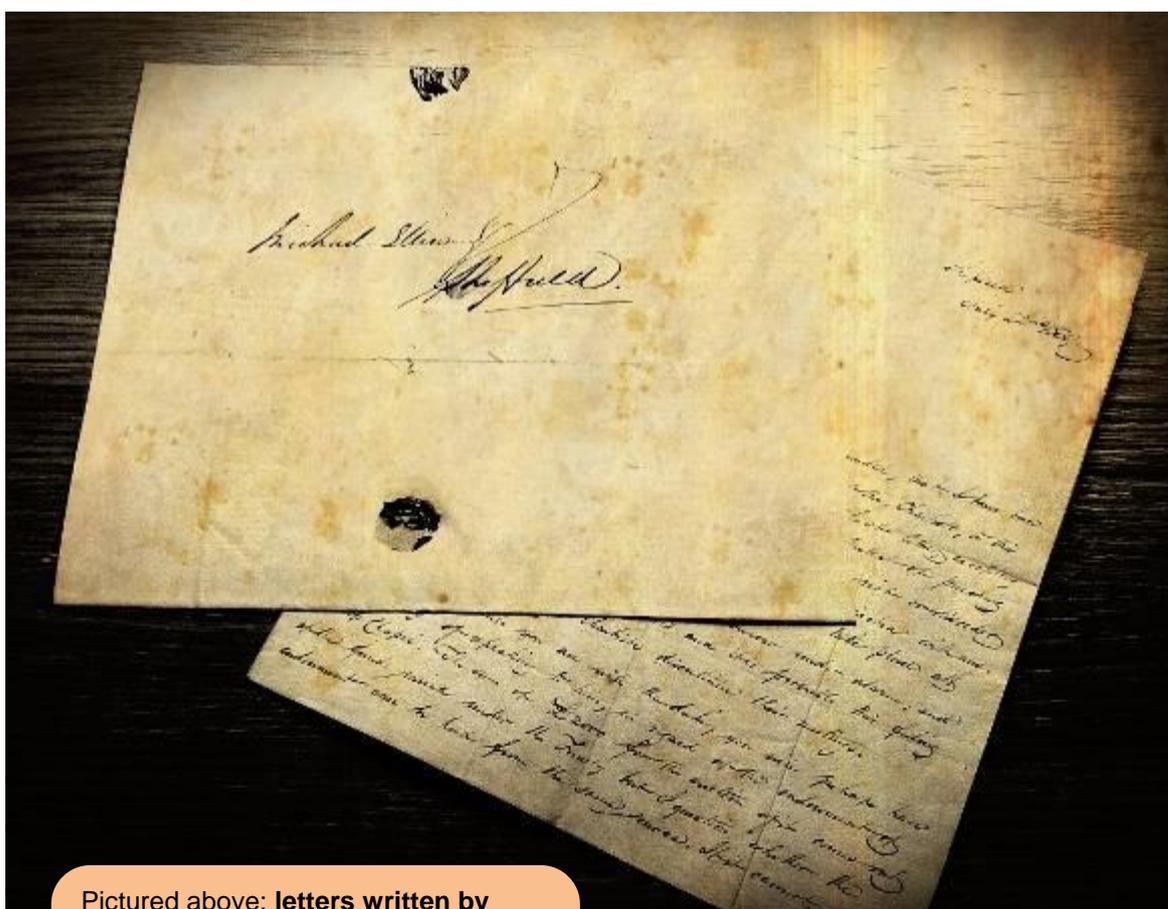
Right: Robert Eadon Leader, historical writer (and author of *Reminiscences of Old Sheffield, its Streets and its People*) and proprietor of the *Sheffield and Rotherham Independent*, 1900s (Picture Sheffield: s08641)



The Duke of Norfolk's Sheffield agent, Michael Ellison recorded his observations in a series of his letters to the Duke:

**'...at Barnsley considerable alarm prevails: a disaffection is now manifest in the lower classes and the Magistracy is but indifferently prepared to put down any commotion, there being no troops stationed in that town... Tomorrow a meeting is called in Paradise Square [Sheffield]... it is expected to be numerously attended but I hope it will not be my destiny to communicate to Your Grace the occurrence of any tumultuous disorder...' 28 Jul 1839**

*(Sheffield Archives: ACM S 478/17/163)*



**Pictured above: letters written by Michael Ellison to the Duke of Norfolk in 1839 about Chartism in Sheffield and surrounding areas**  
*(Sheffield Archives: ACM S 478/17/156, 163, 167, 197)*



Margaret Gatty, the children's story writer who was married to Reverend Alfred Gatty of Ecclesfield, wrote many letters to her sister Horatia.

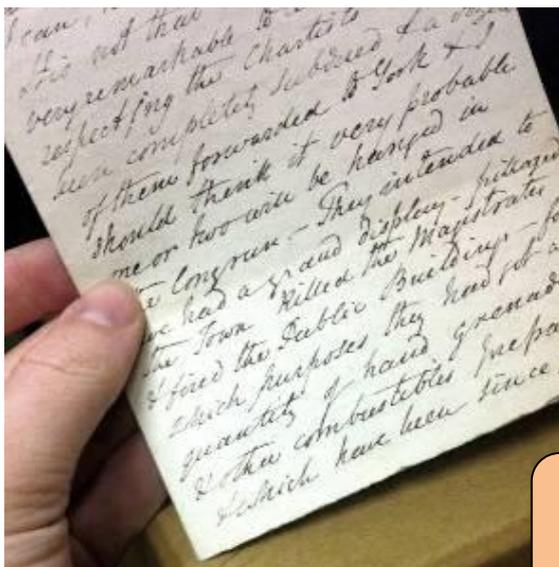
In a letter dated 1840, she describes the recent uprising of the Chartists in Sheffield:

**'...the Chartists have been completely subdued and a dozen of them forwarded to York and I should think it very probably one or two will be**

Pictured above: **Margaret Gatty, Ecclesfield, Sheffield, 19<sup>th</sup> cent** (Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield: s08850)

**hanged... they intended to have a grand display – pillaged the Town, killed the Magistrates and fired the Public Buildings – for which purposes they had got a quantity of hand grenades and other combustibles prepared...'**  
**(31 Jan 1840)**

She goes on to describe the other weapons found hidden in 'many places' and refers to 'young Captain Dalton' who has been stationed at Barnsley 'helping to protect us...'



Left: **letter from Margaret Gatty to her sister about the Chartist uprising in Sheffield in 1840** (Sheffield Archives: HAS/8/4/9)

## The failure of the 'Sheffield Plot'



**Samuel Holberry:** a very tall, well formed, and muscular young man, with much of the appearance and manner of an itinerant showman.

**Mary Holberry:** his wife.

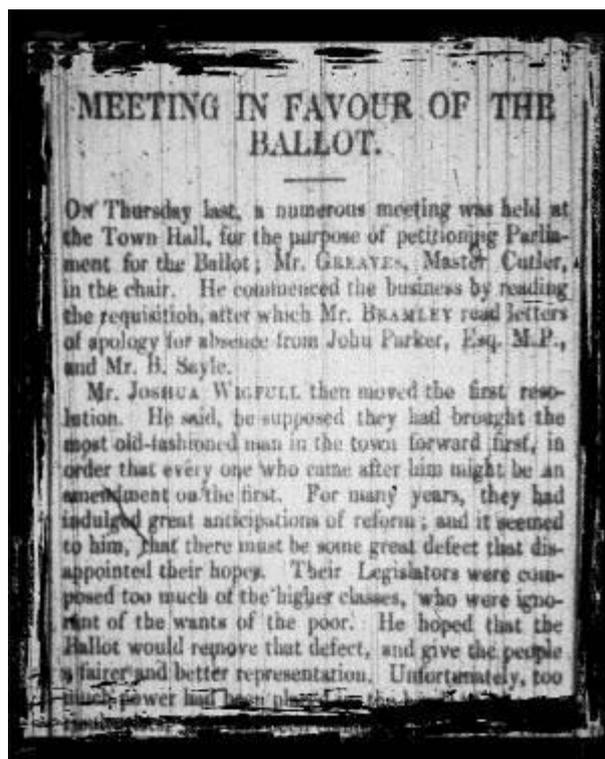
**Thomas Booker:** an elderly man, rather bald, and dressed in an old white great coat.

**William Booker:** his son, a slender young man of intelligent appearance.

**Samuel Foxall:** a young man of insignificant countenance.

**Samuel Thompson:** a respectable looking elderly man.

*Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, 18 Jan 1840*

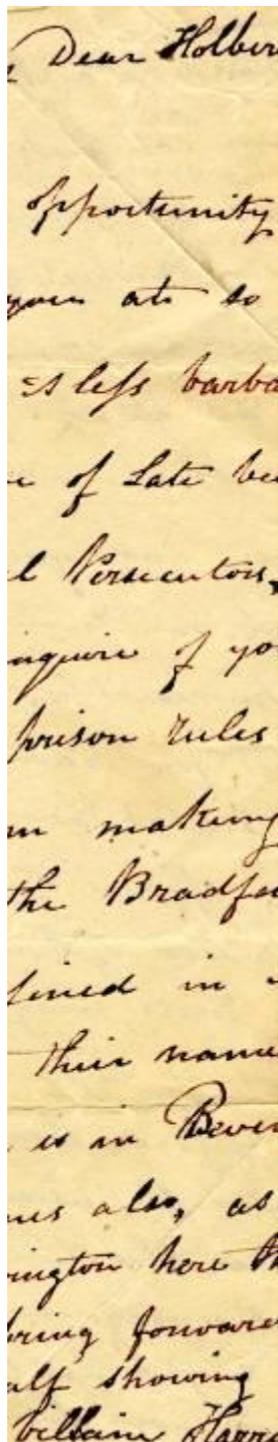


Top and left: *The Sheffield and Rotherham Independent*, 18 Jan 1840 went into great detail about the failed Sheffield uprising, describing the conspirators and their proposed actions; right: an earlier report from *The Sheffield Iris* on 19 Dec 1837 reflecting the growing agitation in Sheffield for voting reform.

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: local newspapers)*

## Samuel Holberry's Imprisonment in York Castle

Letters were sent to Samuel Holberry whilst he was a prisoner in York Castle between 1841 and 1842. Fifteen of these original letters survive at Sheffield City Archives (HS/1/1-15).



### **From William Martin, Brampton Moor, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, 5 Sep 1841**

Hopes Holberry is better after his spell in the prison hospital. The Whigs are out of office and the Tories in; Holberry must petition Sir James Graham, the new Home Secretary. Crawford's debate on the suffrage in the House of Commons. A meeting to be held in Sheffield to petition against the silent system in prisons. (HS/1/1)

### **From Edward Burley, Layerthorpe, York, 30 Jan 1842**

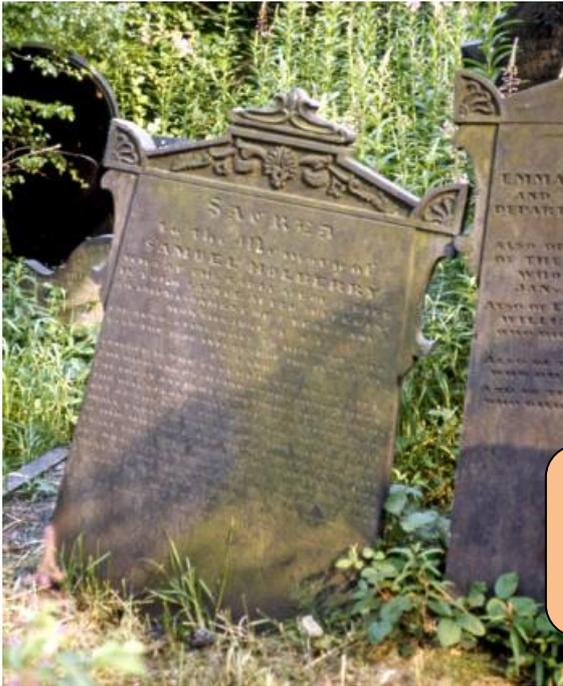
Will petition Parliament on Holberry's behalf and enlist the support of Mr [Henry Galgacus Redhead] York[e], the Liberal MP for York, who has promised to support the National Petition. (HS/1/4)

### **From George Julian Harney, Hartshead, Sheffield, 22 Apr 1842**

Was the author of the York petition, although not personally known to Holberry. Wrote to Mr [Henry George] Ward, Liberal M.P. for Sheffield, but Ward not responsive. Cite's part of Ward's letter. Notes the progress of the National Petition. (HS/1/11)

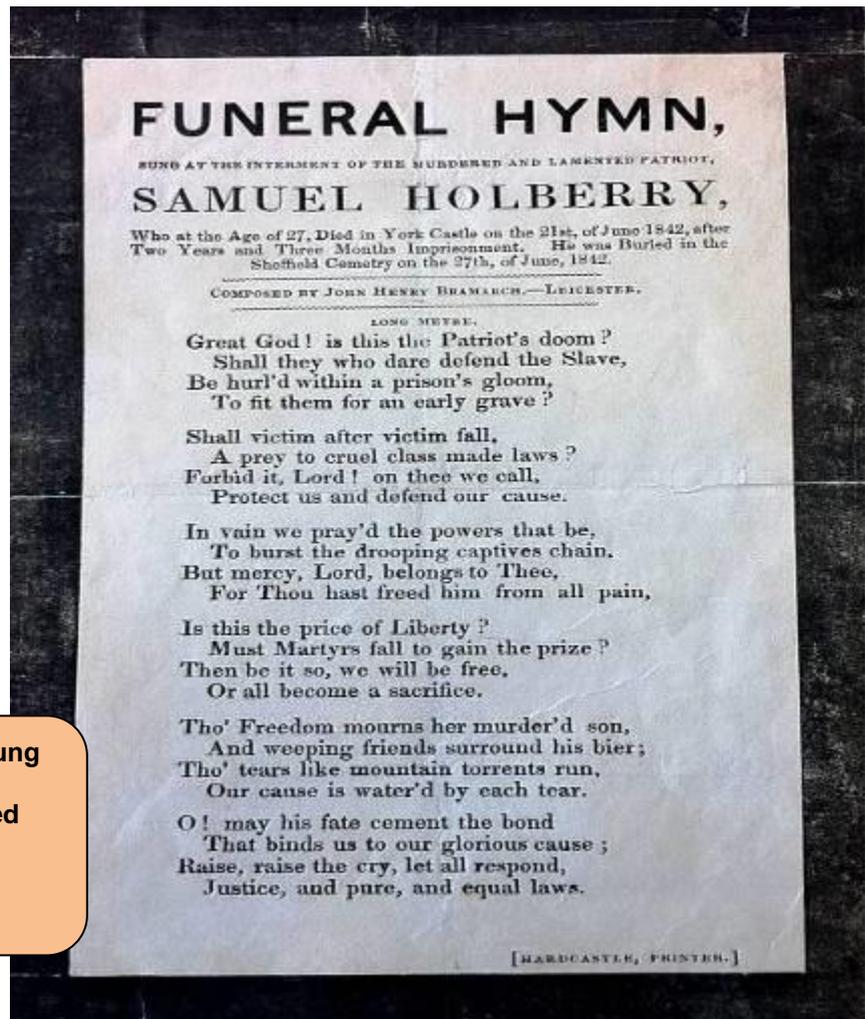
All of the letters have been digitised and are viewable via Sheffield City Archives' online catalogue: <http://www.calmview.eu/SheffieldArchives/CalmView/>

## Samuel Holberry's Death



In 1840 Samuel Holberry was imprisoned in York Castle for the part he played in a demonstration referred to as the Sheffield Rising. He died in jail two years later and a crowd of 50,000 joined the funeral procession and followed his coffin from Attercliffe to the General Cemetery. Samuel Holberry's gravestone can be found near to the Cemetery Road boundary of the Cemetery.

Pictured left: **Samuel Holberry's gravestone in the General Cemetery, Sheffield, 1978**  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield: w01927)

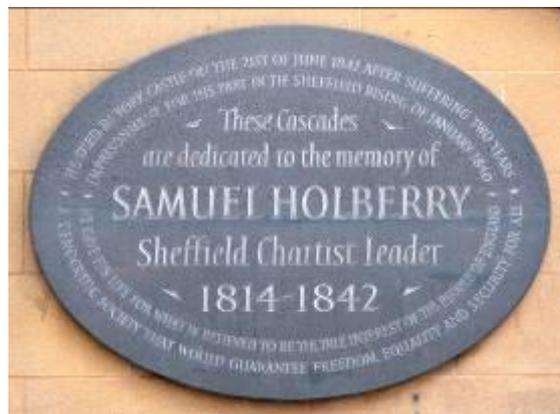


Right: **funeral hymn 'sung at the interment of the murdered and lamented patriot', 1842**  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1216 S)

## The Holberry Cascades<sup>1</sup>

The *Holberry Cascades* in the Peace Gardens replaced an earlier fountain named after Samuel Holberry which stood in the entrance to the Town Hall Extension. There is a commemorative plaque, made of Welsh slate and carved by Iuean Rees, dedicating the new water feature to Samuel Holberry.

**“He gave his life for what he believed to be the true interest of the people of England – a democratic society that would guarantee freedom, equality and security for all.”**



The Cascades are made up of eight large water features which are located on either side of the four entrances to the main area of the Peace Gardens.

The bronze water vessels were designed by Brian Asquith who also designed the metal benches, bollards and bins in the Gardens. The waterfalls from the vessels represent both the pouring of water into Sheffield's five rivers, and the pouring of molten metal used in Sheffield's metal industries.



The stone plinths the vessels stand on were designed and created by Richard Perry, and are covered with carved fish and plant life to celebrate the regeneration of Sheffield's five rivers.

The ceramics for the weirs and rills were designed by Tracey Heyes and are inspired by the flora of Sheffield's rivers and streams and the remains of water-powered factories which can be found all over Sheffield.

Photographs by Sheffield Archives and Local Studies Library, 2012

<sup>1</sup> See: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/out--about/parks-woodlands--countryside/gardens/the-peace-gardens.html> (accessed Aug 2014) for more information on the Holberry Cascades.

## Sources at Sheffield City Archives

Handbill containing four Chartist hymns, 1839  
(*Sheffield City Archives: Wil D/7/1/4*)

Letters to the Duke of Norfolk from Michael Ellison, his Sheffield agent, about the Chartists, 1839  
(*Sheffield City Archives: ACM S 478/17/156, 163, 167, 197*)

Letters to M. J. Ellis in Sheffield mentioning the Chartists, Aug 1839  
(*Sheffield City Archives: ACM X 14*)

Letters sent to Samuel Holberry while in jail, 1841-1842  
(*Sheffield City Archives: HS/1/1-15; PhC/494/1-2*)

Letter from Mary Holberry concerning petition sent to the Queen by Fig Tree Lane Chartists, Sheffield, 1842  
(*Sheffield City Archives: PhC/494/3*)

Address to Thomas K. Duncombe from Sheffield Council of Chartists relating to Sheffield trades and rejection of Masters and Servants Bill, 1844  
(*Sheffield City Archives: MD6519*)

Chartist Sunday meetings: correspondence between Reverend Thomas Kerns, Incumbent of Brightside and the Chartists of Sheffield [printed], 1848  
(*Sheffield City Archives: MD1102/4*)

Letter concerning the death of Thomas Briggs, 1848  
(*Sheffield City Archives: WWM/G83/440*)

Letter in the Sheffield Daily Telegraph relating to the fate of people in the rising, [c.1860s - 1870s]  
(*Sheffield City Archives: JC/1312, p.80*)

'The Chartist Rising' - typed article [20<sup>th</sup> cent]  
(*Sheffield City Archives: BC/20/38*)

Samuel Holberry - lines on the death of, 1842  
(*Sheffield City Archives: SY473/Z4/1*)

Letter from Margaret Gatty to her sister Horatia, about the Chartist uprising in Sheffield 1840  
(*Sheffield City Archives: HAS/8/4/9*)

Bill Moore (1911 - 1908), political activist; co-founder of Holberry Society - research and lecture notes, draft publications, newspaper cuttings, pamphlets, correspondence etc., [1915] - 2001  
(*Sheffield City Archives: X274*)

Matthew Waldman, *The Early Chartist Movement in Sheffield. A Question of Bread, or a Question of Ideals*, [2005]  
(Sheffield City Archives: Local History No. 10, maroon file)

Richard J. Hoare, *Suffragists and Suffragettes - Sheffield Women Campaign for the Vote 1851 – 1914*, 2007 [included in prelude – ‘The Chartist Women of Sheffield, 1851 – 1853’]  
(Sheffield City Archives: HOA/LOCAL)

Works by W. Owen including: *A Short Outline of the History of the Sheffield Chartists 1809 - 1842*, 1939; *Constitutional Reformers, Jacobins, Trade Unions and Chartists of Sheffield 1700-1850*, 1958  
(Sheffield City Archives: SY/360/J1/105)

Papers of Samuel Roberts (1763 - 1848), silversmith, social campaigner and pamphleteer (the ‘pauper’s advocate’), c.1804 – 1853  
(Sheffield City Archives: RP)

J. D. Leader, *The Records of the Burgery of Sheffield*, 1897 [index to minutes and accounts of the Town Trustees refers to Chartist riots on p.472]  
(Sheffield City Archives: TT/PRINT SOURCE; Sheffield Local Studies Library: J 942.74 S)

### **Sources at Sheffield Local Studies Library**

Riots and the Chartist conspiracy of 1840 - eyewitness accounts recounted to Mr Leader (from Twiss, Leighton, Everard, Wragg, Leonard and Johnson), pp.267-283 in Robert Eadon Leader, *Reminiscences of Old Sheffield, its Streets and its People*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1876  
(Sheffield City Archives: LEA/LOCAL; Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

John Taylor and Richard Otley, *How the Sheffield Chartists were betrayed: being an account of a vital aspect of the rising kept a secret for 24 years with a comment by one of the contemporary Chartists as reported in the Sheffield Telegraph 1864*, 1980s [includes introduction by Bill Moore, ‘The Chartist Conspiracy in Sheffield: how it was detected’ by John Taylor and ‘The Chartist Plot of 1840’ by Richard Otley]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.08 S)

John Taylor, *The Chartists’ Conspiracy of 1840: how it was detected* – a paper read before the members of the Townhead Street Young Men’s Book Society, Sheffield, 16 Feb 1864, [1864]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Local pamphlets, Vol.64, no.13, 042 S)

J. H. Bramarch, *Funeral hymn sung at the internment of the murdered and lamented patriot, Samuel Holberry*, [1842]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1216 S)

W. J. Williams, *Samuel Holberry (an account of his imprisonment)*, [20<sup>th</sup> cent]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2937 M)

Address to the working men of Sheffield on the new born love of the middle classes, 1842

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1217 S)

J. L. Baxter, *Armed resistance and insurrection; the early Chartist experience*, 1984  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.08 S)

J. L. Baxter, 'Early Chartism and labour class struggle in South Yorkshire, 1837 – 1840' in Sidney Pollard and Colin Holmes (eds.), *Essays in the Economic and Social History of South Yorkshire*, 1979

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

J. L. Baxter, *The origins of the social war in South Yorkshire – a study of capitalist evolution and labour class realisation in one industrial region*, 1976

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.88 SQ)

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)

John Scott, *Chartism in South Yorkshire*, 1967

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.08 S)

*Samuel Holberry and the Chartist movement in Sheffield*, first annual lecture of the Holberry Society, 21 Jun 1978

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.8 SQ)

Catherine Lewis, *An examination of the coercive and judicial powers of the state, with references to the trial and conviction, for seditious conspiracy, of the Sheffield Chartist Samuel Holberry, in January 1840*, 2007

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 364.942 SQ)

Catherine Lewis, *Samuel Holberry: Chartist conspirator or victim of state conspiracy*, 2009

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 6211 M)

Holberry Society, *Samuel Holberry 1814 – 1842: Sheffield's revolutionary democrat*, 1978

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: B HOLB S)

Bill Moore, *Samuel Holberry and Sir Stuart Goodwin*, 1998

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5796 M)

Bill Moore, *Samuel Holberry and the Chartist Movement in Sheffield 1837 – 1851*, 1987

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: B HOLB SQ)

Vernon Thornes, *Chartists and reformers in Sheffield 1846 – 1870: their impact on municipal politics*, 1981

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: PAMP 122 SQ)

Sheffield Women's History Group, *The Sheffield Radical Walk*, 1982  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.8 SQ)

David Price, *Sheffield troublemakers: rebels and radicals in Sheffield history*, 2008  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SSTQ and various community libraries)

John Baxter, *Chartism in Barnsley: the manifesto of the Barnsley Chartists*, 1981  
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D. Stapley, *Some aspects of radical activity in mid-Victorian Sheffield*, 1997  
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Bill Moore, *Dedication of the Holberry Plaque, Sheffield, 18 Dec 1998*, 1998  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5795 M)

Bill Moore, *Samuel Holberry and the Chartist Movement in Sheffield: the text of the First Annual Lecture of the Holberry Society for the Study of Sheffield Labour History given by Bill Moore on 21 Jun 1978, the 136<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Samuel Holberry*, 1978  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 042 SQ)

Funeral hymn 'sung at the interment of the murdered and lamented patriot', 1842  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 1216 S)

'An independent', *Chartism v Whigism, a letter to the Rev. R. S. Bayley in reply to his charges against the Chartists*, 1841  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: bound in Local Pamphlets Vol.10, 042 S)

Samuel Roberts, *Chartism: the offspring of the New Poor Law*, 1839  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: bound in Local Pamphlets Vol.40, 042 SST)

John Salt, *Chartism in South Yorkshire*, [1967]  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.08 S)

Les Smart, *The relationship between radical politics and religion in Sheffield between 1830 and 1880 [with special reference to Chartism]*, 1992  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 261.7 SSTQ)

John Baxter, *Sheffield Chartist martyr favoured extreme tactics*, 1972  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 653 L)

George Julian Harney (1817-1897) [Chartist organizer in Sheffield. During the strikes of 1842 Harney was one of the 58 Chartists arrested and tried at Lancaster in March 1843].  
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5123 M)

'Account of G. J. Harney's activities in Sheffield' in G. D. H. Cole, *Chartist Portraits*, 1941, pp. 279-282

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 923.2 ST)*

*Joseph Kirk (1795-1854) [typewritten]*  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5124 M)*

*William Gill (1810-1864?): the town's delegate to the first Chartist Convention of 1839*  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5194 M)*

*Thomas Briggs (1811-1848): Sheffield's delegate to the 1848 National Chartist Convention and one of the first Chartist town councillors*  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5194 M)*

*Thomas Booth (c1800-c1850): trade union leader and political activist*  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 5194 M)*

*Bob Hinchliffe, John Vallance, 1794-1882: Barnsley's Chartist leader, [20<sup>th</sup> cent] in Aspects of Barnsley: discovering local history 6 by Brian Elliott (ed.)*  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)*

*Jools Duggleby, George White: an artful and dangerous character, 2001 in Undertakings, Issue 18, April 2001, pp.[2-3]*  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 718 SQ)*

*'List of Chartist Councillors', Holberry Society Bulletin, pp.6-7, Feb 1979*  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.8 SQ)*

*The Sheffield Working Man's Advocate, nos. 1-5, 1841*  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: local pamphlets, vol.161, no.8 042S)*

*Holberry Society Bulletin (and annual lectures of the Holberry Society), no.1, 1978 onwards*  
*(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 331.8 SQ)*

#### Newspapers

The main Sheffield newspapers for this period are the *Sheffield and Rotherham Independent*, the *Sheffield Iris* and the *Sheffield Mercury*. These are available on microfilm at Sheffield Local Studies Library.

The *Sheffield Independent*, 1819 - 1900 is available online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/)

#### Sources elsewhere

Reports made by the Inspector of Prisons, upon the cases of all Political Offenders in Custody on 1 Jan 1841 - In 1840, the inspectors of prisons produced a report for the Home Office after interviewing each Chartist prisoner, recording information about their personal circumstances and religious views, their offences, and their own experience of imprisonment.

*(The National Archives, Kew, London: HO20/10)*

District orders, correspondence and copies of resolutions thanking those responsible for frustrating the Chartists in Sheffield – among the papers of General Thomas Marten

(Hull University Library: DDCV/216/94-98)

Correspondence of the Longsdon Family, Derbyshire: 'Saw Fergus O'Connor in carriage, 4 greys - in Sheffield to harangue Chartists a few days ago', 5 Oct [1841] (Derbyshire Record Office: D3580/C612)

FitzHerbert of Tissington family papers, Derbyshire – letter from Rev. William Alderson from Sheffield town hall: 'we have been engaged all yesterday in unravelling the most diabolical conspiracy of the Chartists you can possibly conceive... We have seized an immense quantity of... swords, guns, daggers, pikes, hand grenades, and combustibles of all kinds. We had some information on Friday that a rising was intended to take place on Saturday or Sunday even ... the town was patrolled by troops which frightened off any insurgents', 14 Jan 1840 (Derbyshire Record Office: D239 M/F 9412)

Records of the Tremayne Family of Heligan, St Ewe, Cornwall – letter From F. Trevanion to J. H. Tremayne regarding Sir W[illia]m Cooke's daughter's health, 'we have been alarmed here lately by an outbreak of the Chartists at Sheffield on Saturday. The yeomanry were called out and have been on duty at Rotherham ever since. I believe however there is not much reason for alarm though I am afraid it is true some of the police have been dangerously wounded ...' 16 Jan 1840 (Cornwall Record Office: T/2847)

The first issue of the *Northern Star (and Leeds General Advertiser)* appeared on the 18 November 1837. Over the next fifteen years the paper played a crucial role in cohering Chartism as a mass radical movement and ensured that its proprietor, Feargus O'Connor, became one of its most recognizable leaders. Copies dating from 1838 are held at the Local and Family History Library, Leeds <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/leisure/Pages/Local-and-family-history-service.aspx>  
Facsimile copies are available online at: <http://www.ncse.ac.uk/headnotes/nss.html>

### Online resources

<http://www.chartists.net/Sheffield-Chartists.htm> - Chartist Ancestors website

<http://www.historyhome.co.uk/peel/chartism/holberry.htm> - includes report of the trial of Samuel Holberry (from *Northern Star*, 1840) and account of Chartism in South Yorkshire (including the 'Sheffield Plot')

Sheffield 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.

Our facilities include:

Study areas • expert staff on hand to help you make the most of your visit • a library of reference books • photocopying and photography services • free Internet access • microform machines and printers • catalogues and indexes • a range of useful publications for sale • CD-Rom library • on-line image library.

### **Adding to our collections**

Sheffield Libraries and Archives seek 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.

<p><b>Sheffield Local Studies Library</b>  1<sup>st</sup> floor  Central Library  Surrey Street  Sheffield  S1 1XZ</p> <p>Tel: 0114 273 4753  Fax: 0114 273 5009</p> <p><a href="mailto:archives@sheffield.gov.uk">archives@sheffield.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives">www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives</a></p> <p>(selected) Sheffield Local Studies Library catalogue  <a href="https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/catalogues.html">https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/catalogues.html</a></p>	<p><b>Sheffield City Archives</b>  52 Shoreham Street  Sheffield  S1 4SP</p> <p>Tel: 0114 203 9395  Fax: 0114 203 9398</p> <p><a href="mailto:archives@sheffield.gov.uk">archives@sheffield.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives">www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives</a></p> <p>(selected) Archives catalogues:  <a href="https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/catalogues.html">https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/catalogues.html</a>  and  <a href="http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/">http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/</a></p>
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