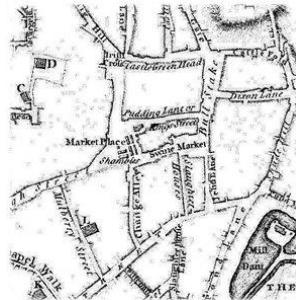


Street Names of Central Sheffield



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Text by Mary Walton. First Published by Sheffield City Libraries in 1977.
Reformatted and additional images added 2011.

v. 1-2 May 2015

Front cover illustrations (left to right)

Angel Street, c. 1900
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield: s13057*)

Extract from map of Sheffield by William Fairbank, 1771
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: S9 S; also available at Sheffield Archives: FC She 1s*)

Haymarket looking towards Waingate, c. 1910
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield: s16946*)

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Several of the street names in Sheffield date from the Middle Ages and many others proclaim their medieval origin by their derivation and their known historical setting.

Most old towns have names like Mill Lane, leading to the mill, or Smith Street, having in it or at the end of it Smith's house. Thought-out names began in the eighteenth century, when for the first time (in Sheffield at least) whole fields were divided into building plots with streets laid out between them, instead of single buildings being added to others along an already beaten track. Most of the earlier given names were chosen by private builders, who might easily commemorate their relatives or a naval victory.

In Sheffield, as in other towns, the natural names are clustered in the area which was built up before 1736. Medieval Sheffield and the town of 1736, when the first map¹ was printed, occupied the same area; the difference was that in the Middle Ages there were fields, crofts, gardens, orchards and brooks between the buildings. By 1736 the buildings were packed tight and new building had to be undertaken further out. This *guide* deals with the names within the old area.

It was bounded by the Don on the north-east, the Sheaf to the east, a way leading from the **Ponds** to **Moorhead** and then to **Townhead Cross** on the south and west, and the general line of **West Bar Green** on the north.

The **Townhead Cross** stood, as its name implies, to mark the top of the town, and it was situated where there is now an island at the junction of **Townhead Street** and **Church Street**.

The word green, meaning an open grassy spot, is post-medieval, and therefore the name **West Bar Green** must have been given fairly late to the wide road which is shown on Gosling's map; but the **West Bar** must be very old. It is known that the early lords of Hallamshire collected tolls from people coming in to sell their wares in the Sheffield markets, and as the old roads from the west came into Sheffield by **Broad Lane** it would be at the **West Bar** that the toll was paid. In many dialects, a gate is a road and a bar is a gate. Such a bar, if it was also to serve to halt those who came by the pack-horse tracks from the north, would be somewhere near the junction of **West Bar Green** and **West Bar**. Sheffield was not a walled town, and there would be nothing like the glowering bars of York or Alnwick, but a sort of customs post.

Beyond West Bar the part of the main northern road now called **Moorfields** and **Shalesmoor** denotes a small piece of common land formerly called **Sherramoor**, whose name is precisely the same as **Sharrow Moor** in Ecclesall township. Both feature the Old English word *scearu*—cut or divided. The English Place Name Society² renders this name as 'a boundary'; and indeed both are on the

¹ Gosling, Ralph, a plan of Sheffield from an actual survey, 1736
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: S30L*; also available at *Sheffield Archives: JC/1771*)

² The English Place Name Society, vol. XXX *The Place Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire (part 1)* (Cambridge University Press, 1961) page 207 (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 929.442 ST*; also available at *Sheffield Archives: Ref D*)

boundaries of townships; but **Sharrow Fields** were fields divided into plots or strips, and **Shalesmoor** adjoined the **Townfield** with doles in it³, so that it could be considered possible that the two commons were moors next to the dole or divided fields.

Another hint that Sheffield's common fields may have lain in this area is provided by the name of **Brocco Street**, between **Solly Street** and **Allen Street**. Three deeds included by T. W. Hall⁴ are dated 1305 and a few years before, and all refer to the same group of properties 'lying upon Brocholeclyf in the field of Schefeld'. Each of these pieces of land was half an acre. The Brocholeclyf means a steep place where there were badger setts, and by the beginning of the nineteenth century this area had become a rather dreary vacant space covered with thin grass called The Brocco⁵.



Court No. 4, Solly Street
with archway access to
Brocco Street, c. 1900

(Sheffield Local Studies Library:
Picture Sheffield: s19562)

Many interesting details in the area were obliterated by the building activities of the eighteenth century, when many works, as well as houses, were erected. Thus, **Furnace Hill**, **Cupola Street** and **Copper Street** commemorate enterprises not now easily identified. John Love built a steel melting furnace in **Trinity Street**, a name given for no apparent reason to one originally named **Townfield Street** with more justification. Most of these eighteenth century streets were named from the owner of the land through which they were made.

³ Harrison, John, *An exact and perfect survey and view of the manor of Sheffield with other lands*, 1637; transcribed and edited by J. G. Ronskley with an introduction by R. E. Leader (1908), pages 61 and 66 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 333.094274 S; also available at Sheffield Archives: RON/LOCAL)

⁴ Hall, T. Walter, *A descriptive catalogue of early charters relating to lands in and near Sheffield* (Northend 1938), p. 5. (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 016.94274 S; also available at Sheffield Archives: HAL/PRINT SOURCE)

⁵ Leader, R. E., *Reminiscences of old Sheffield, its streets and its people* (Leader & Sons, 2nd ed., 1876), p. 206. (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SST; also available at Sheffield Archives: LEA/LOCAL)

Furnace Hill, c. 1910

(Sheffield Local Studies Library:
Picture Sheffield: s16176)



A name now vanished, except for the board of a tavern, is **Grindlegate**; this was formerly applied both to the lower end of **Scotland Street** and a lane with a right angle in it which led out of **Scotland Street** and reappeared in **West Bar Green**. Any Sheffielder naturally assumes that this had something to do with grind stones, and he is almost certainly right. It seems odd that Addy⁶ should have attributed to this name, among two or three other 'grindle' words derived from grindstones, two ancient words - an Old English grundel, a bolt or bar, and grindle, a drain⁷ which is definitely allotted to Suffolk. It is far more likely, not apparently being a medieval street, to have been one paved with grindstones, or where grindstones were sold.



Grindlegate, c. 1900

(Sheffield Local Studies
Library: Picture Sheffield:
s19327)

⁶ Addy, S. O., *A glossary of words used in the neighbourhood of Sheffield including a selection of local names ...* (1888 - 1891), p. 97. (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 427.745; also available at Sheffield Archives: REF H)

⁷ Phillips, J. O. Halliwell, *A dictionary of archaic and provincial words* (1868) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 427 ST)

On the town side of West Bar is **Bridge Street**, whose earlier name was **Under-the-water**. This may have been because it was often flooded; the Don in early Sheffield was not confined in brick walls as it is now and it often overflowed. **Water Lane** led down from the **Market Place** into this messy street and across it to **Mill Sands**. There are title deeds at Sheffield Archives referring to Water Lane in 1413, and also **Watergate** in 1337⁸. Part of the **Mill Sands** still survives as a little street. Here was the Town Mill for grinding corn established by William de Lovetot near a flat open space on the edge of the river. The Town Mill lasted for centuries, turning from corn to steel production.

Bridge Street from Castlegate. On the left is the former Lady's Bridge Hotel and Tennant Brothers, Exchange Brewery, 2005

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield: a00240)



Under-the-water, and the part of it now called **Bridge Street**, led to **Lady's Bridge**, so called because until the dissolution of the monasteries a little chapel dedicated to Our Lady, such as those which survive at Rotherham and Wakefield, was served by a priest who prayed for the safety of travellers, who in turn gave thanks for safe arrival and no doubt, in emergencies, there found shelter. At the north end the bridge led to the road across the **Assembly Green**, where the town business was transacted, soldiers mustered, and the butts were kept so that the archery practice required by law of able-bodied men could be carried out.

This was a broad flat meadow adjoining the river, fringed with willows and other trees. Such a meadow was called a ker or carr and this is probably an element in one of Sheffield's obscure names - **The Wicker**, the name given to the broad street which, after the enclosure of the commons of Brightside Bierlow in 1796, was made across the former Green. Several derivations have been suggested. Joseph Hunter⁹ thought it may come from Wick, the area appertaining to a castle, the 'er' being a

⁸ Hall, T. Walter, *Sheffield, 1297-1554: A catalogue of ancient charters belonging to the twelve capital burgesses and commonality of the town and parish of Sheffield* (Northend, 1913), pages 11, 27. (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 016.99274 S; also available at Sheffield Archives: HALL/PRINT SOURCE)

⁹ Hunter, J. *Hallamshire*, edited by Alfred Gatty (Pawson and Brailsford, 2nd ed., 1869) p. 403. (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SSTF)

contraction of some such word as yard; this would be more plausible if the 'er' were taken as representing ker, the two 'k' sounds having naturally run together as one.



The Wicker, 2005

(Sheffield Local Studies Library:
Picture Sheffield: a00202)

The place occupies the land in the angle formed by the Don as it turns sharply from north-west to north-east, and S. O. Addy¹⁰, quoting Stratman¹¹, suggests that it is this angle which is referred to - the ker in the Old Norse wic (and many other variants in the Germanic languages), meaning a bend or angle. This is to suppose that the Norse settlers named the **Wicker**. It is true that much of Brightside Bierlow, in which township it lies, was peopled by the invaders, as many house and hamlet names attest; but one would suppose the area to be near enough to the core of Sheffield, and an important enough feature, to have been given a name by the English. The English Place Name Society¹² supports the Norse theory by rather abruptly

dismissing both these quite reasonable explanations and declaring the word is the Old Norse vikir which simply means a willow. But why one willow among so many? It is attractive to think that the town and manorial assemblies were held at a particular tree, but no particular tradition seems to have survived to support this idea. Close beside it (and this is in favour of Hunter's wick) were the castle nursery gardens (commemorated in **Nursery Street**); and beyond, **Spital Hill** indicates the existence near here of a 'hospital' dedicated to St. Leonard, a refuge for the aged and sick poor, founded by William de Lovetot early in the twelfth century.

Market Place from High Street looking towards Shambles Market (also known as Butcher's Market), situated on site of later Fitzalan Market, c. 1830

(Sheffield Local Studies Library:
Picture Sheffield: s00233)



¹⁰ Addy, S. O. (see ref. 6), p. 283.

¹¹ Stratman, F. H., ed. *A dictionary of the old English language*, 1873 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 427.01 ST)

¹² The English Place Name Society (see ref. 2), p. 207.

At Lady's Bridge we turn up what was and still is the main street of Sheffield. Past the castle gates ran **Waingate** - the wagon way, the road fit for carts. At its head, in the Middle Ages, the traveller came out into the **Market Place**, roughly triangular, extending from the south side of the modern **Haymarket** to the north side of the modern **Angel Street**. The building area between **Bank Street** and **High Street** did not then exist. Here was the Market Cross; its site has been lost in the open roundabout of **Castle Square**. Opposite the end of **Bank Street** stood the **Irish Cross**, which was probably the place where foreigners were allowed to sell. There are traditions of Highland cattle drovers selling their herds here, and to an early Sheffielder, Scot and Irish were indistinguishable. The Cross was a landmark in 1499, as is attested by its mention in a deed of that date among the title deeds of the Church Burgesses¹³. Addy¹⁴ suggests that some Irish may have come back with Sir John Talbot, Lord Furnival, afterwards Earl of Shrewsbury, when he finished his term as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1419, but this must remain a mere fancy in the absence of any knowledge of Talbot's personal dealings with Sheffield beyond the fact that many of his Sheffield tenantry fell with him at Chatillon, Normandy in 1453. The Irish Cross was taken down in 1792, and moved to **Paradise Square**¹⁵.



George and Dragon,
Meetinghouse Lane / Bank
Street, c. 1900

(Sheffield Local Studies Library:
Picture Sheffield: s06892)

The name **Market Place** is still given to the bank and one or two shops above the former Schofield's department store and the whole area is, or was until lately, full of names recalling its ancient function. **Market Street** was the west side of **Fitzalan Square**, then covered with buildings (these were demolished when the open space was made and named after a branch of the Howard family in 1881); **Milk Street** (from **Norfolk Street** to **Sycamore Street**) marked where there was a group of milk sellers; the lower side of **Fitzalan Square** was **Commercial Street**, a name transferred to the new street planned in 1867; **Pudding Lane**, now **King Street** (for what reason chosen has not been discovered), specialised in those commodities, including meat and other pastry goods.

¹³ Hall, T. Walter (see ref. 8), p. 43.

¹⁴ Addy, S. O. *Sheffield and the Irish* Newspaper cuttings relating to Sheffield, vol. 1, pp. 35, 9, (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

¹⁵ Gatty, Ivor, "Paradise Square" in *Transactions of the Hunter Archaeological Society*, vol. 6, p. 182. (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 913.42748; also available at Sheffield Archives: HAS)

Baker's Hill held the bread shops. **Shude Hill** is from a word meaning barley husks. The name **Haymarket** dates from about 1830, when the then Duke of Norfolk made one of his family's several unsuccessful attempts to establish a hay and corn market in the town. The old name of **Haymarket** was **Bull Stake**. Here, certainly, a bull was tied, and it is only too true that the animal may at times have been cruelly baited; but the stake had also a milder function - here the town bull may have stood for hire in the proper season as a sire; and as Gosling writes '**Beast Market**' along this area, it may also have been the place where bulls were sold.

Haymarket looking towards
Waingate, c. 1910

(Sheffield Local Studies Library:
Picture Sheffield: s16946)



In the later eighteenth century the Earl of Surrey built what was hailed as a masterpiece of architecture and convenience - the **Fitzalan Market**, supplemented at first by the **Norfolk Market** and later replaced by the **Castle Market**. Around this district there were formerly several castle names, some of which still survive in odd corners: **Castle Lathes** (the barns), **Castle Folds** (the sheep pens), **Castle Green** (the open space in front of the gates) and the road going across its top, **Castle Green Head**, now **Castle Street**. The latter (perhaps only some nook in it), was at one time called **Truelove's Gutter** which has of course no romantic connotation but denotes a property of one of the old Sheffield family of Truelove. **Castlegate** is the name given by the Corporation to the new road made in 1930 along the rather nasty bit where the slaughter houses formerly huddled by the river - an example of a happily thought-out name.



Castle Market, Waingate,
1960s

(Sheffield Local Studies Library:
Picture Sheffield: s02016)

After the castle and the market, came **High Street**, the same length as now though a good deal narrower. There is little evidence for its having been called **High Street** in the Middle Ages, though no doubt it was generally considered 'the high street'. A more likely name for at least part of it was **Prior Row** or **Prior Gate**. The whole length is so named on Gosling's map although Harrison¹⁶ called it **High Street** in 1637. The Prior commemorated must certainly be the Prior of Worksop, whose privilege it was to appoint one of his convent as Vicar of Sheffield; and it is almost certain that a group of four houses on the site of the National Westminster Bank at the corner of **East Parade** belonged to the Priory, for they were the property of Robert Swift of Broom Hall in 1546 and the Swift family bought a large proportion of the Priory property. The fronts of these houses (to which the name **Prior Row** might properly have been given, the rest of the street being the gate or way to this property) were much further forward than the frontage of the Bank and stood actually on the boundary of the churchyard, **East Parade** being of eighteenth century building.

Like High Street, **Church Lane** was much narrower than it is now. The churchyard has been set back several times. At its former gate, next door to the Prior's houses, in 1700 the Duke of Norfolk built a new Town Hall, that is, a small building with an upper room where the magistrates sat and the manorial courts were held, and a lower room devoted to the Watch and the prison cells.

The road to the left was the **Fargate** - the further way, the road beyond the town which was built upon each side over the years right up to the present garden on one side and the Odeon (now on the other in **Barker's Pool**. People enquiring about the identification of a shop or former resident are often puzzled because an address in Fargate seems to be in the wrong place; the puzzle is solved when it is known that the street was formerly so much longer.

Shude Hill c. 1900

*(Sheffield Local Studies Library:
Picture Sheffield: s19477)*



The top end of this old **Fargate** ran into another watery area. The name of the open space between John Lewis department store and the City Hall was **Le Balne**; an early reference is a deed of 1333 among the title deeds of the Church Burgesses¹⁷.

¹⁶ Harrison, John (see ref. 3).

¹⁷ Hall, T. Walter (see ref. 8), p. 9.

This name is considered obscure even by place name experts, but one suggestion seriously put forward is that it represents the Latin word *balneum*, a warm bath or a place for swimming. Of course, any educated person would write *balneum* for bath long after Roman times, so we need not suppose the area was pre-Saxon in name; but it is certainly set in a place rich in springs. In 1333 Adam Barker was a landowner in the Balne, and it was one of his family who owned a pool [later, **Barker's Pool**], improved by Robert Rollinson about 1630 and given to the town as a supply of water, kept up for many years as part of their duties by the Town Trustees. This was almost certainly an enclosed spring or streamlet; there was a little bridge near it, so there was probably a water course of some width. In the course of time the word Balne evolved into Balm and then to **Balm Green** - the word green used to denote an open grassy space is post-medieval; but with the increased size and importance of the pool the name Balm Green was transferred to a street leading to **Bow Street**, and the open area became **Barker's Pool**. It is only fair to add that some authorities derive Balm from the herb balm (*apiastrum*)¹⁸ or other plant of that nature¹⁹; this would not explain its earlier spelling.



Cottages at Balm Green, site of City Hall, on the left are the furnaces of the Queen Steel Works belonging to John Lucas, Iron & Steel Merchant on Holly Street, c. 1900

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield: s00689)

By the eighteenth century the pool, by reason of the encroachment of building and possibly of the undermining of the springs by building further away, had become quite unfit for any purpose other than street cleaning. Samuel Roberts has left an amusing description of this process²⁰.

Another indication of the presence of water in the area is the name of **Sands Paviours**, a sandy place in which paviours [pavers] lived or worked, which was a street running from **Orchard Lane** to **Bow Street**. It had become a very unsavoury little corner when it was destroyed in 1893 for the building of the Bow Street Elementary School, but quite a good deal of surviving medieval Sheffield must have disappeared with it.

¹⁸ Addy, S. O. (see ref. 6), p. 10.

¹⁹ The English Place Name Society (see ref. 2), p. 205.

²⁰ Roberts, Samuel, *Autobiography and select remains* (1849), p. 21 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: B.R544 S; also available at Sheffield Archives: ROB BIOG)

West side of Sands
Pavours (ran from Orchard
Lane to Bow Street), pre
1890, demolished to make
way for the Central
Schools, Science School

(Sheffield Local Studies Library:
Picture Sheffield: s19519)



To the south, **Coalpit Lane** led to a pit which was a mere scratching out on the **West Fields**, abandoned early because of the dangers of subsidence. It was re-named **Cambridge Street** when the Duke of Cambridge laid the foundation stone of the Crimean monument in 1857.

Near the present **Cross Burgess Street**, **Pinson Lane** took a winding way towards **Moorhead**, which was the northern boundary of **Little Sheffield Moor**. After the enclosure of the Moor (a common of Ecclesall) in 1788, the allotments were immediately sold for building, and a nice straight wide street carried the turnpike road to Chesterfield. It was for a long time called **South Street**, but with the introduction of postal addresses this conflicted with the South Street in the Park, and the Corporation renamed it **The Moor**.

The new **Pinstone Street** - an alteration of the old **Pinson**, or at one time **Pincher Croft Lane**²¹ connected **Moorhead** with **Fargate**, taking some years to complete after the project was launched in 1876.

A lane had always led from **Moorhead** along the edge of the steep slope down to the water meadows by the Sheaf. This was known in its lower part as **Norfolk Lane**, and the narrow back crofts of **Fargate** ran down to its fences or met the back crofts of its few buildings. Between the two roads ran several lanes, jennels, alleys and yards. A lane will admit some traffic; an alley has front doors in it; a jennel runs between the side walls of buildings; but a yard is a weird and wonderful thing. It begins as the yard of an inn - the middle part of the **White Bear Yard** still exists as a jennel behind the Victoria Hall - but gradually, as the thrifty Sheffielders got the uttermost farthing's worth out of the rateable or lettable land, the inns were by no means the only users of the yards to the right and left of **Fargate** and **High Street**. In the **King's Head Yard**, now absorbed into Fargate Court, there lurked in

²¹ Leader, R. E. (see ref. 5), p. 264 and Addy, S. O. (see ref. 6), p. 176.

1850 a bakehouse, nine cottages, and Loxley Brothers' first printing works. The large scale Ordnance Survey map²² is worth pouring over for this area.



Cheney Row and the Town Hall, 1990

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield: v03010)

Cheney Row is a name transferred from **Cheney Square**, a group of nice houses destroyed when **Surrey Street** and the Town Hall were in the making. One of them was the residence for many years of Hugh Cheney, a doctor.

Pepper Alley (Pepper is a local surname) was superseded in 1780 by **Norfolk Row**, but a little bit remains leading into **Upper Chapel Yard** behind the shops which are part of the former YMCA property, now named Carmel House.

Gosling's map²³ shows an alley named **Tucker's** alongside the Nether Chapel. When Norfolk Street Methodist Chapel was built on the other side of it, it gradually became known as **Chapel Walk**. **George Street's** name is something of a mystery; it may commemorate one of the kings of that name, but is just as likely to immortalise a builder. **Mulberry Street** and the rebuilt Mulberry Tavern are memorials to a tree. **Change Alley** was a good street in its day - in it the first Sheffield Stock Exchange had its premises.

Mulberry Street, c. 1890

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield: S06917)

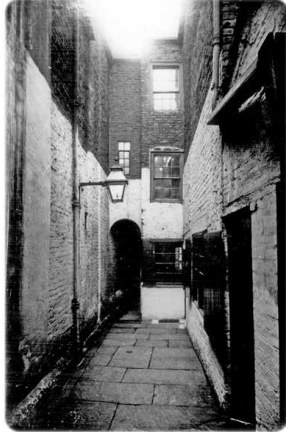


On the far side of the **Market Place** is an interesting series of back lanes and eighteenth century streets running down to **West Bar Green**. **Hartshead** took

²² Ordnance Survey of Sheffield. 1893 (scale 1 mile to 10.56 feet). (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 912.4274 SF; also available at Sheffield Archives: OS500)

²³ Gosling, Ralph, a plan of Sheffield from an actual survey, 1736 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: S30L; also available at Sheffield Archives: JC/1771)

several abrupt turns to lead one from **Market Place** to **Campo Lane**. There is no need to take much notice of a rather artificial-sounding tale about a hunted hart. It is true that the Hunter Archaeological Society possesses the bones of a fallow deer 'found in Hartshead'; but deer from the Park may sometimes have strayed. Almost certainly the Hart's Head was the sign of an inn or shop: the hart's head is the crest of several local families. The inn may have been the predecessor of the Dove and Rainbow demolished in 1957 and rebuilt in a very demure style in the new square behind Schofield's. Most of Sheffield's new pubs appear anxious to avoid recognition.



Hartshead, c. 1920

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library:*
Picture Sheffield: y00596)

And so we come to **Campo Lane** itself, one of Sheffield's most mysterious names. Several antiquaries whose views are included in the second edition of Hunter's *Hallamshire*²⁴ put forward the not unreasonable theory that there might have been a Roman fort under the present Cathedral Church and its yard. But would the Latin word *campus* have survived through the very dark darkness of the Dark Ages in this district? *Camp* is not normally the word which survives in such situations: *chester*, or *wark*, or *castle*, is much more likely; and it is not considered by the *Oxford English Dictionary*²⁵ to be a word used in English before the sixteenth century. The alternative theory noted here that the word is the same *campo* as that used in a book of 1612 is probably right. The Grammar School established by the Church Burgesses in the mid sixteenth century and given a charter by King James I in 1605 was provided with a building in Campo Lane; it would be just in the right mood to name the place of play for the boys by a word which was up-to-date in grammar school usage. The variant *camper* shows a typical Sheffield pronunciation of a final O. The site of the playing place itself (playing field is not quite accurate; formal team games were not played) is lost; Hunter's guess, as quoted by Addy²⁶, that it might have been the site of **Paradise Square**²⁷ is wide of the mark; this was **Hick Stile Field**. Addy²⁸ also quotes the Old Icelandic *cambr*, a ridge; but Campo Lane is under the ridge, rather than on it.

²⁴ Hunter, J. (see ref. 9), p. 25.

²⁵ The *Oxford English Dictionary* Oxford University Press, 1933. 4230.

²⁶ Addy, S. O. (see ref. 6), p. 37.

²⁷ Gatty, Ivor (see ref. 15).

²⁸ Addy, S. O. (see ref. 6), p. 37.

Whatever its origin, **Campo Lane** as a thoroughfare is ancient and led to the **Town Head** - the top of the town, already mentioned. Beyond it was **Pinfold Lane**, where the town authorities provided a pound or pinfold in which straying animals were put until paid for by careless owners. **Trippett Lane** beyond it bears the name of a local family.

Down the hill to **West Bar Green** there are today streets straightened and widened, or partly obliterated, which were once crooked lanes. Most of these were called Crofts because they had been made through the crofts - small enclosures behind houses - belonging to the houses in the town, and bore the owners' names, as **Lee Croft**, **Hollis Croft**, **White Croft**, **Lambert Croft** and so on; but **Pea Croft** obviously commemorated its crop before it was renamed **Solly Street** in honour of Alderman Richard Solly, and **School Croft** (of which a little remains) had in it the Free Writing School. Anyone reading a description²⁹ of what these crofts were like in the late nineteenth century, and noticing that **White Croft**, part of which remains, was wider than most of them, is tempted to be shocked. But it is reasonable to remember that these houses, with cellar, living room, bedroom and attic, were good workmen's dwellings when they were built, superior to anything the agricultural worker then had. The builders did not know that while the countryman could raise a strong brood in a single-roomed hovel standing by itself on the moor, if you built row upon row, a few feet apart, without any sanitary provision whatever, you would get cholera, scarlet fever, diphtheria and all the rest.

Scargill Croft - between
Bank Street & West Bar,
1890s

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library:*
Picture Sheffield: s00772)



In Sheffield's earlier days the comfortable and the poor lived side by side. Beyond **Lee Croft** we come to the streets in which the middle classes often had houses and business premises together. First, of course, another Sheffield name which frequently arouses curiosity - **Paradise Square**. There is really nothing mysterious

²⁹ Holland, G. C., *The vital statistics of Sheffield, 1843* (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 314.274 S*); also available at *Sheffield Archives: HOL/LOCAL*); Haywood, James and William Lee. *A report on the sanatory [sic] ... condition of the Borough of Sheffield, 1848, 2nd ed* (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 628.4 SST*; also available at *Sheffield Archives: SY235*)

about this matter. There was a cornfield called **Hick Stile Field** next to the lane, and about 1736 Joseph Broadbent, a successful merchant, built a row of five houses along the east side of the field and called it, for some reason only known to himself, **Paradise Row**. In 1771 his son Thomas obtained a lease of the cornfield, which he offered for subleases in building lots; the plan for the lots was made by William Fairbank, whose original sketch for the layout remains in his field book No. 40³⁰. The square was to be called after the row of houses already built; it is so named in the field book right across the open space around which the building lots are grouped.

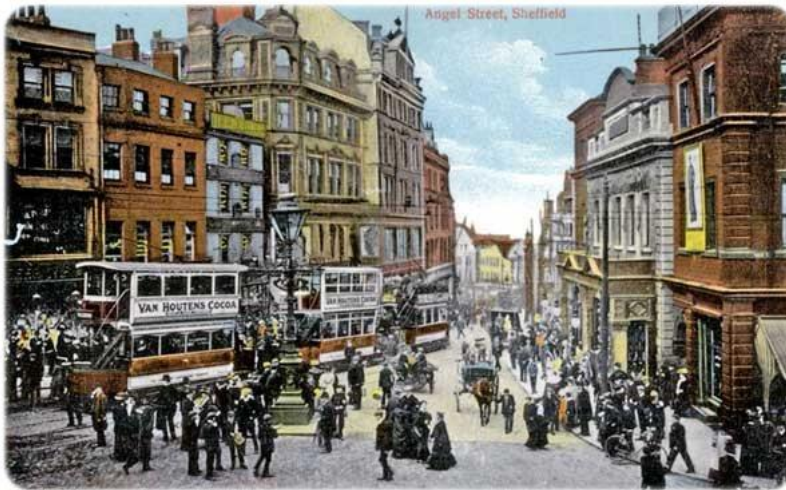
The narrow street from the eastern side of the square was originally **Workhouse Lane**; it was so called because it led to the modest poorhouse built by the Town Burgery in **West Bar**. When the square became inhabited by professional men, this clearly would not do; the street was renamed **Paradise Street**. From the west end a winding lane had long been called **Silver Street Head** because it crossed the top of **Silver Street**. This name is, of course, a hint that the hope of a Roman settlement might have some foundation. Such a street name typically indicates the finding of a hoard; and in England such a hoard was almost always Roman. But in fact few people fleeing from invaders bury their treasure in their own houses, which are just the places which are searched and sacked. Money is far more likely to have been hidden in open country. But perhaps it was then open; we just don't know whether there was a settlement, or if so, where it was. East of **Paradise Square** are **North Church Street**, which is merely so called to distinguish it from **Church Street**, and **Figtree Lane**. Here there probably was a figtree, and some firmly believe it shaded a well, and that well was the one for which Robert Rollinson made a list of rules which his tenants in the lane were to observe, so as to keep the water uncontaminated and to share it fairly between them. The rules are set forth in a document dated 1616 in the Tibbitts Collection³¹. In **Bank Street** John Shore had the first Sheffield building erected as a bank in 1793.

Next comes **Meetinghouse Lane**, now almost gone, which led past the old meeting house of the Society of Friends built in 1806 (but replacing an earlier building) which was destroyed in the air raids of December 1940. Those raids were also the end, in its old form, of **Watson's Walk** which was a lane which passed through Cockayne's shop by an archway, and was called after the John Watson of Watson, Pass & Co., silversmiths, who had workshops in the passage from about 1810 to 1825. A way still leads on the same line to **Angel Street** through Schofield's, but the name seems to have been dropped.

Angel Street is really only a piece of a road, and is named after the Angel Inn, in its eighteenth century heyday a coaching house of importance; in its large yard the first professional theatrical performances in Sheffield were given. In its later years it was a temperance hotel with a large gilded angel over the front door. This building was completely destroyed in the air raids.

³⁰ Fairbank Collection (*Sheffield Archives: FC/FB/40*)

³¹ Tibbitts Collection (*Sheffield Archives: TC/223*)



Angel Street, Sheffield,
c. 1900

(Sheffield Local Studies
Library: Picture Sheffield:
S13057)

The bit of road from **Angel Street** to **West Bar** is **Snig Hill**, a name which suffers from too many, rather than too few, possible meanings.

For several generations a firm of scissor smiths called Blonk had a works, called Blonk Wheel, powered by a dam just beside the modern **Blonk Bridge**. The dam has, of course, long been filled in.

But **Snig Hill** is different. The word snig according to Addy³² has several meanings, all based on the idea of a small piece. To 'snig' timber is to draw it by a chain attached to a horse, or to bring a load up by instalments; or it is a little piece of a load, or a cut-off piece. The word may then mean a little bit of a hill, which it is in a sense as it was in early days a short climb between houses to the **Market Place**; but the horse may possibly come into it, as some say there was at one time a beast called a snig horse who stood for hire to help horses pull heavy carts up the steep parts; the bottom of this hill would be quite a likely place for such a horse to ply. A snig pole was also used to act as a brake on carts going downhill. On the whole, 'a little hill' and its variants most likely explains this name.

Orchard Street and **Orchard Lane** deserve a mention. At one time what is now **Orchard Street** continued on the same line, to come out into **Balm Green**. It replaced a path through Brelsforth's orchard; this was so large that the family of Brelsforth, Brailsforth or Brailsford must have used it to grow fruit on a commercial scale. They also had a malt house there. The modern half of **Orchard Street** was renamed **Leopold Street** when Prince Leopold, Queen Victoria's son, opened Firth College in the new street in 1879.

The old hall in the **Ponds**, now the Queen's Head Inn, contains the last remaining bit of medieval building visible in Sheffield. Its lower walls and the carved timbers are fifteenth century and it was, when new and a whole bay longer, probably the house of the manorial parker. The bridge into the Park was quite near, carrying **Pond Hill**, in which the inn now stands and for the widening of which a bay of the old hall was sacrificed, across the river. The lane was formerly named **Pond Well Hill**, and the

³² Addy, S. O. (see ref. 6), p. 226.

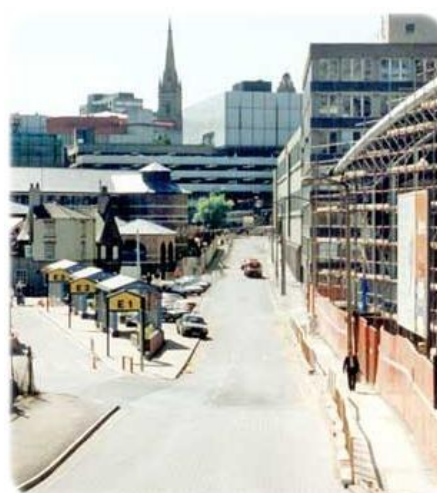
Town Trustees were responsible for keeping the well, a public one, cleaned and repaired.³³

The **Ponds**, with **Pond Lane** running across their eastern margin, were the flat water meadows by the Sheaf in which there were several water-driven works from at least 1575³⁴ and probably much earlier, until the early nineteenth century. That the word ponds should have been used instead of dams seems odd, but perhaps before the works were furnished with artificial reservoirs there were natural ponds, or manorial fish ponds.



Pond Hill, 1901
and 1990

(*Sheffield Local
Studies Library:
Picture Sheffield:
s18811 and t01238*)



In conclusion it is interesting to study the first set of names deliberately given to a piece of street planning over a wide area about which we have detailed information.

Between the edge of **Little Sheffield Moor** and the path which from **Pond Lane** led through the river meadows by the Porter to a group of water wheels, at the foot of **Sylvester Street**, the Earl of Surrey, afterwards the tenth Duke of Norfolk, through his agent Vincent Eyre, laid out Sheffield's first planned streets, much altered in the late 1970s³⁵. The surveyor was William Fairbank, the date of the work 1771 - 1778. It was a neat piece of planning, very advanced for the time. Between each wide straight street, north to south, and between each wide straight cross street east to west, there was a back lane for deliveries and for any small establishments which might, in accordance with Sheffield custom, be built behind the frontages of the road streets. The lanes were named after the streets; the streets commemorated the manorial lord of Sheffield and his ancestors. **Surrey Street** is for his second title; **Arundel Street**, for his main residence; **Charles Street** for his Christian name; **Howard Street** for his surname; **Earl Street** for his rank as Earl Marshall; **Furnival Street** for his thirteenth century ancestors; there was a **Duke Street**, but later, because there was a Duke Street in the Park, this was changed to **Matilda Street** in honour of the heiress of the De Lovetots, the ancestress of the Furnivals. **Eyre**

³³ Leader, J. D., ed. *The Records of the Burgery of Sheffield* (1897) (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SST; also available at Sheffield Archives: TT/PRINT SOURCE*)

³⁴ Dickenson's Notebook covering the years 1574-1577 (*Sheffield Archives: MD192*)

³⁵ Fairbank Collection (*Sheffield Archives: FC*)

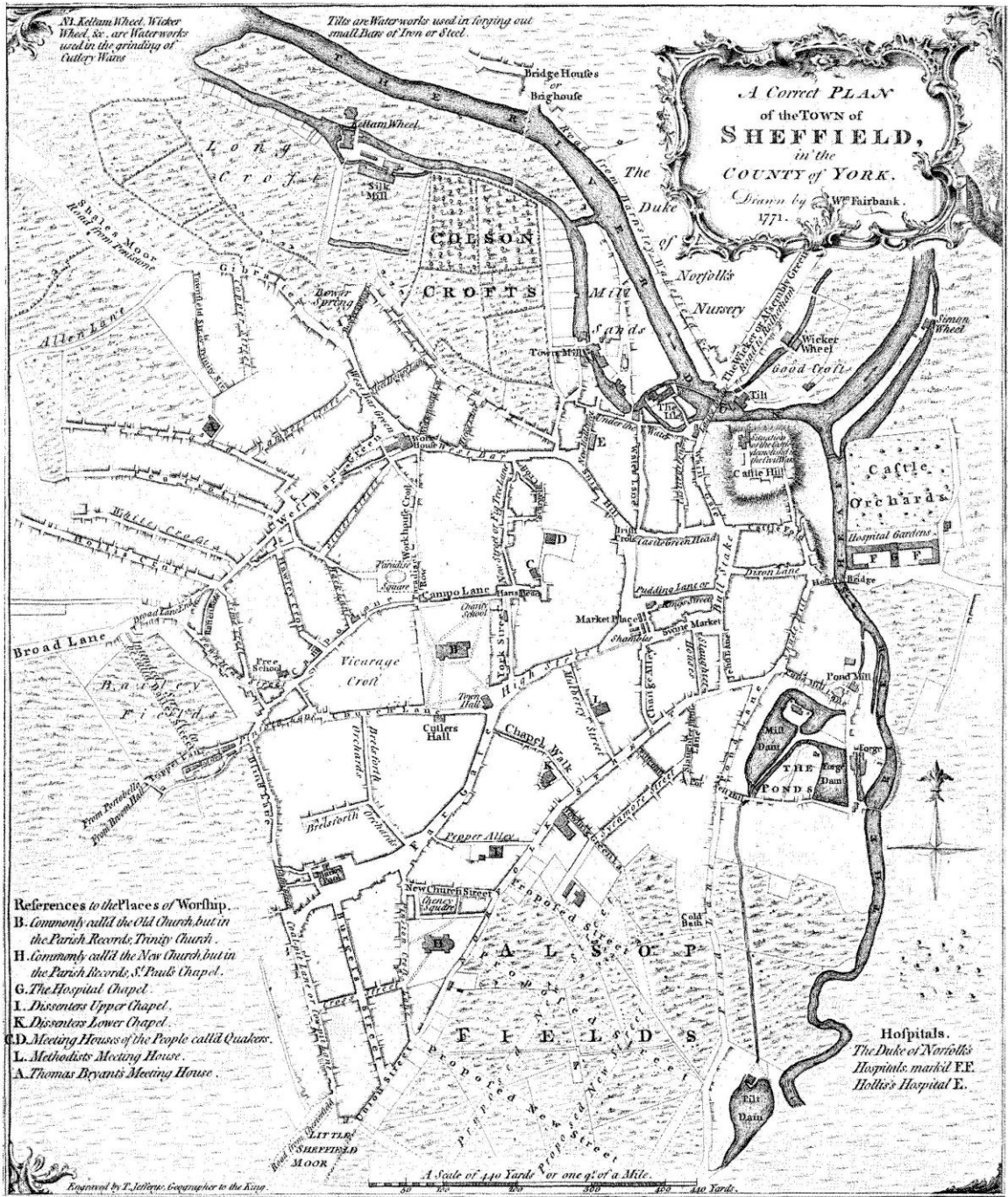
Street commemorates the agent; the modest Quaker surveyor has no memorial in our streets.



Matilda Street, 1936

(Sheffield Local Studies Library:
Picture Sheffield: s17836)

The long road which was the boundary of the area has been named in bits, as the buildings went up; **Sylvester Gardens** and **Street** after the Sylvester Wheel (an ancient works belonging to the Duke), **Sidney Street** (a mystery), **Browne Street** (another mystery) and **Paternoster Row**, the deepest mystery of all; but when you notice that there was a Hermitage Public House at **Little Sheffield** (not quite on the site of the present one) and that the old path points straight through the **Ponds** to **Lady's Bridge**, it is both tempting and logical to suppose that long ago the chancery priest who prayed in the chapel on the bridge had a cell at **Little Sheffield**. Ecclesiastical associations linger longest, even through periods of upheaval, reform and doctrinal strife.



Map of Sheffield by William Fairbank, 1771

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: S9 S; also available at Sheffield Archives: FC She 1s)

Allen Street	4
Angel Street	8, 16-17
Arundel Street	18
Assembly Green	6
Baker's Hill	9
Balm Green	11, 17
Bank Street	8, 16
Barker's Pool	11
Beast Market	9
Blonk Bridge	17
Blonk Street	17
Bow Street	11
Bridge Street	6
Brocco Street	4
Browne Street	19
Bull Stake	9
Cambridge Street	12
Campo Lane	13 -15
Castle Folds	9
Castle Green	9
Castle Green Head	9
Castle Lanes	9
Castle Market	9
Castle Square	8
Castle Street	9
Castlegate	9
Change Alley	13
Chapel Walk	13
Charles Street	18
Cheney Row	13
Cheney Square	13
Church Lane	10
Church Street	3, 16
Coalpit Lane	12
Commercial Street	8
Copper Street	4

Cross Burgess Street	12
Cupola Street	4
Duke Street	18
Earl Street	18
East Parade	10
Eyre Street	19
Fargate	12
Fargate Court	12
Figtree Lane	16
Fitzalan Market	9
Fitzalan Square	8
Furnace Hill	4
Furnival Street	18
George Street	13
Grindlegate	5
Hartshead	13 - 14
Haymarket	8, 9
Hick Stile Field	15
High Street	8, 9, 10, 12
Hollis Croft	15
Howard Street	18
Irish Cross	8
King Street	8
King's Head Yard	12
Lady's Bridge	6, 19
Lambert Croft	15
Le Balne	10 - 11
Lee Croft	15
Leopold Street	17
Little Sheffield	19
Little Sheffield Moor	12, 18
Market Place	6, 8, 13, 17
Market Street	8
Matilda Street	18 - 19
Meetinghouse Lane	16
Milk Street	8

Mill Sands	6
Moor, The	12
Moorfields	3
Moorhead	3, 12
Mulberry Street	13
Norfolk Lane	12
Norfolk Market	9
Norfolk Row	13
Norfolk Street	8
North Church Street	16
Nursery Street	7
Orchard Lane	11, 17
Orchard Street	17
Paradise Row	16
Paradise Square	8, 14, 15
Paradise Street	16
Pea Croft	15
Pepper Alley	13
Pincher Croft Lane	12
Pinfold Lane	15
Pinson Lane	12
Pinstone Street	12
Pond Hill	17
Pond Lane	18
Pond Well Hill	18
Ponds	3, 17, 19
Prior Gate	10
Prior Row	10
Pudding Lane	8
Sands Pavours	11 - 12
School Croft	15
Scotland Street	5
Shalesmoor	3-4
Sharrow Fields	3
Sharrow Moor	3
Sherramoor	3

Shude Hill	9
Silver Street	16
Silver Street Head	16
Snig Hill	17
Solly Street	4, 15
South Street	12
Spital Hill	7
Surrey Street	13, 18
Sycamore Street	8
Sidney Street	19
Sylvester Gardens	19
Sylvester Street	18, 19
Town Head	15
Townefield	3
Townfield Street	4
Townhead Cross	3
Townhead Street	3
Trinity Street	4
Trippett Lane	15
Truelove's Gutter	9
Tucker's Alley	13
Under the Water	6
Upper Chapel Yard	13
Waingate	8
Water Lane	6
Watergate	6
Watson's Walk	16
West Bar	3, 16
West Bar Green	3, 5, 13, 15
West Fields	12
White Bear Yard	12
White Croft	15
Wicker, The	6 - 7
Workhouse Lane	16

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