

A HISTORY OF SWINTON

SOUTH YORKSHIRE



A HISTORY OF SWINTON

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Compiled by The Reverend H. W. QUARRELL, B.A.,
VICAR OF SWINTON

WITH A FOREWORD BY COUNCILLOR E. E. SHAW, J.P.,
CHAIRMAN OF THE SWINTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

and Appendices:

The Rockingham Pottery by Mrs. A. INGHAM. *The Industries of Swinton*
1850—1950 *and Sports and Pastimes* by County Alderman M. CREIGHTON.
Swinton Water Supply by Mr. H. GOODWIN.

1954



PRINTED IN ENGLAND
BY TIMES PRINTING COMPANY LIMITED . MEXBOROUGH . YORKS

Acknowledgement

*The following have generously contributed
to the initial cost of publishing this book:—*

MISS E. K. L. HARROP

W. P. TURNER, Esq.

THE GENERAL ELECTRIC CO. LTD.

E. V. WADDINGTON, Esq.

MESSRS. JOHN BAKER & BESSEMER, LTD.

MESSRS. F. KEMP & CO., LTD.

THE YORKSHIRE TAR DISTILLERS, LTD.

MESSRS. DALE, BROWN & CO., LTD.

MESSRS. WARD & SONS (SWINTON) LTD.

MESSRS. HATTERSLEY BROTHERS, LTD.

MISS A. K. BLYTHMAN

*All profits from the sale of the book
will be given to the Fund for building a new
Church Hall on the Highfield Farm Estate.*

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Acknowledgements	II
Contents	III
List of Illustrations	V
Foreword	VII
Preface	IX
 <i>Chapter</i>	
One In Ancient Times	1
Two The Norman Chapel	5
Three The Eighteenth Century	11
Four Old Swinton Families	16
Five The Nineteenth Century	23
Six Victorian Times	29
Seven The New Parish Church	35
Eight Local Government	38
Nine The Twentieth Century	42
Ten Yesterday and To-day	48
 <i>Appendix</i>	
I Rockingham Pottery	54
II Sports and Pastimes	57
III The Industries of Swinton, 1850—1950	59
IV Swinton Water Supply	66
 <i>Index</i>	 LXIX

ILLUSTRATIONS

	<i>Page</i>
The Parish Church	VIII
Drawing of the old Norman Chapel	6
Print of Norman Chapel Entrance	8
Drawing of the former Rockingham Pottery	14
The Parish Church before the fire of 1897	22
The Chancel of the present Church	35
Drawing of view from Station Street in 1902	43
The Council Offices	48
The Weir Bridge at Kilnhurst	50
The Sisters' Lych Gate at Creighton Woods	51
Council houses on Highfield Farm Estate	52
Houses in Fitzwilliam Street now demolished	52

The drawing of the Badge of Office worn by the Chairman of the U.D.C. which appears on the cover and title page, is by Miss V. W. Housman.

Two plans will be found at the end of the Book. That of Swinton in 1816 is copied from the Enclosure Award. The street plan of modern Swinton was drawn in 1951. Both were kindly supplied by Mr. H. Goodwin, Surveyor of the Urban District.

FOREWORD

By COUNCILLOR E. E. SHAW, J.P.

FEB. 1954.

An Introduction or Foreword must be a short attempt to whet the appetite of the reader and to give him a glimpse of what is to follow. Knowing a little of Swinton's history, I am pleased to note that our Vicar has had the courage to bend his energies to this task. He has used ingredients that make a book readable—historic facts, appropriate choice of words, and, of immense value, clarity of expression by which he builds up his story until we find where history in the making takes its place.

Swinton to me is a town of quietude, physically ripe for development on lines in keeping with her story.

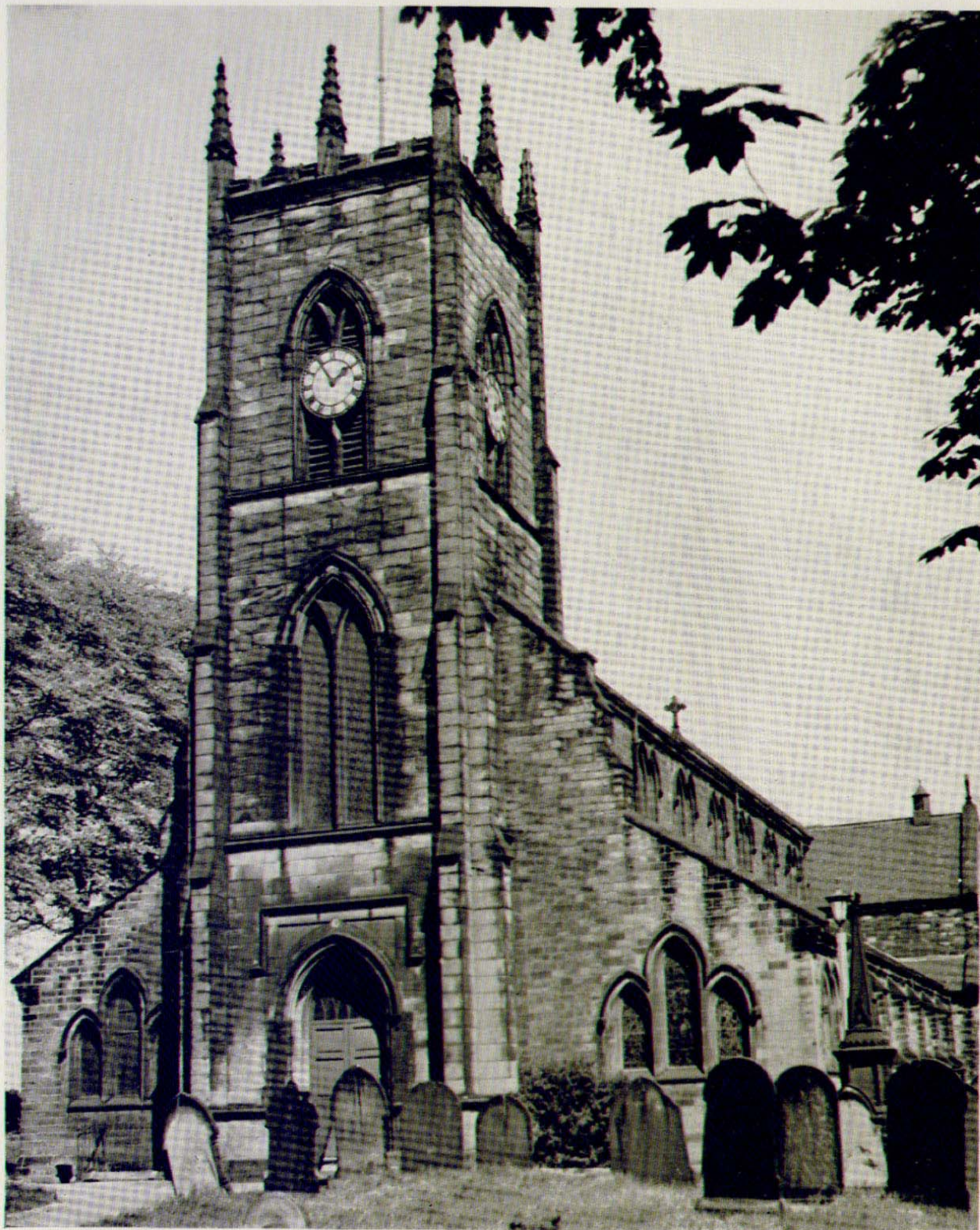
This book may help future citizens to carry on the tradition and to balance all virtues within her boundaries in order to bring happiness to all who follow.

Places in themselves do not make history.

History is made by men.

Ernest E. Shaw,

CHAIRMAN OF SWINTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Swinton Parish Church

PREFACE

WHEN I began this work all I had in mind was a revision, with additional matter bringing it up to date, of Miss E. K. L. Harrop's admirable booklet *The Four Churches of Swinton* which was published in 1913 and had long been out of print. Pressure of work prevented me from producing it, as I intended, as a souvenir of the Jubilee of the Parish Church in 1949.

In 1951 the committee responsible for the local Festival of Britain celebrations invited me to enlarge the scope of my project and bring out a complete history of Swinton. Councillor M. Creighton and his daughter (Mrs. Ingham) kindly offered to write appendices dealing with local industries, local sports and customs and the Rockingham Pottery, but even so I consented with misgiving, for by that time I had some idea of what would be involved.

Our local history before the 18th century presented little difficulty, for what material there was had already been made available by Miss Harrop and by the Revd. W. Keble Martin in *A History of the Ancient Parish of Wath-upon-Dearne* published in 1920. I owe much to both

these writers. Miss Harrop very kindly gave me permission to use freely the material in her book, and it will be seen that I have taken full advantage of her generous offer.

It was less easy to examine and reduce to reasonable proportions the mass of material which exists for the period from 1700 to the present time. I have been greatly helped by note-books and collections of newspaper cuttings compiled by former vicars of Swinton. These include an interesting series of articles on the history of Swinton and Kilnhurst written by "Rambler" in 1908 and printed in the *Advertiser* of Rotherham. I was also fortunate in having access to the parish registers (dating from 1800), to church records of an earlier date, and to a large quantity of books and manuscripts relating to the affairs of the township in the 18th and early 19th centuries which I discovered while writing this history. For the last hundred years there were available, too, the records of the U.D.C., and files of the local newspapers, supplemented by reminiscences of our older inhabitants. These last, however, tend to be of personal

rather than general interest, and naturally the recollection of what a father or grandfather said is sometimes hazy and incapable of verification.

I was not surprised when I found it impossible to put all this material into shape during Festival year, but the demand for it which arose after publication of a brief outline in the Official Handbook encouraged me to make these present notes available. I am very conscious of their inadequacy and wish I could have spent a good deal more time on them, but I hope they will serve as an interim attempt to provide the ordinary inhabitants of Swinton with information for which they frequently ask.

It may be thought that I have given a disproportionate amount of space to the history of the Parish Church. That will be forgiven in one who is its chief custodian, but I am not alone in my estimate of its importance, as will be shown by the only reference to Swinton in the volume "Yorkshire West Riding" of "The King's

England" series, edited by Arthur Mee in 1941:—

"*Swinton*. Its best thing is a modern church in 13th century style, with a fine vista of arches in its arcades, and a group of lancets in the east wall shining with Christ in Glory among saints. In the shadow of the new are remains of a Norman church with the old chancel arch and the old doorway."

I must place on record the valuable assistance I have received from the Urban District Council, and particularly from County Alderman M. Creighton and from the Clerk of the Council, Mr. A. Maclean. It is no exaggeration to say that without their encouragement, amounting at times to gentle prodding, this History would never have been completed.

Finally, I must express my gratitude to Miss M. Walton who has been of immense assistance in many ways and has typed the entire manuscript.

H. W. Quarrell,

The Vicarage, Swinton. February, 1954.



In Ancient Times

THE ROMAN OCCUPATION

There are a few reminders in our parish of days of long ago, before there was a town or village here called Swinton, before even there was an England.

When the Romans invaded this island, the last line of defence of the Northern Britons, or Brigantes, included earth-works running through Kimberworth, Greasborough and Haugh to Swinton Common and Piccadilly, supported by a trench running through Wentworth Park by Hooper, Wath Wood and Swinton Stables to Adwick and Mexborough. This defence ridge can still be traced in places, and the so-called "wishing-well" in Wath Wood was made, or at least utilised, to supply the defenders. So in 69 A.D., there must have been fierce trench warfare in these parts, possibly within a few yards of the vicarage study in which these words are written. It is a strange thought that our district was once a battlefield on which the Roman legions overcame the desperate resistance of native warriors of a race other than our own.

There may well have been a settlement here during the three or four hundred years of Roman occupation, and if so it is possible that some of the Roman-Britons who lived here towards the end of that period were Christians. In 1853 a vase was discovered off Rockingham Road not far from the Woodman Inn, containing three

or four hundred coins of all the Roman emperors from 69 to 212 A.D. Very likely it was hidden by a Roman or Romanised Briton who fled at the coming of the English invaders hoping that one day he would be able to return to his home and recover his property.

Two Roman roads passed through or near what is now our parish. The modern road from Rotherham to the Woodman Inn apparently follows part of one. Some of the emperors may have travelled along this, including probably Constantine the Great who was at York at the time of his accession. He became the first Christian emperor, and summoned the famous Council of bishops which drew up the Nicene Creed in 325.

THE BARBARIAN INVASION

The Roman troops were withdrawn to defend Rome in 410, and within a hundred years our English forefathers had invaded and occupied this part of the country, driving out or slaying the occupants. These Anglo-Saxon tribes destroyed practically everything Christian or Roman, and kept their own Teutonic language and heathen customs. Missionary work was begun among them at an early date, but there were serious setbacks when Penda the heathen King of Mercia over-ran the district in 633, and again when waves of heathen Danes and Norsemen came in about 850 and 1000.

There are said to be twelve Swintons in England and Scotland, four of them being in Yorkshire. The first recorded mention of our Swinton is in the Domesday survey completed in 1086, twenty years after the Battle of Hastings.

EXTRACT FROM THE DOMESDAY SURVEY :

TERRA ROGERII DE BUSLI.

In Wade hb Reider . vi . car̃ . Erae ad gld ubi . iii . car̃ poss̃ ēē . Rog ht ñc ibi . i . car̃ . iii . uill . viii . bord . cū . i . car̃ T.R.E. ual xl . sol . m^o . x . sol . Ad hoc M. ptinet soca in Suintone Winteworde . ii . car̃ Erae . ii . bou . ad gld . H . Era Wasta . ē . Silua . past̃ . xiiii . grent̃ lg̃ . v . lat̃

In Holan hb Reider . ii . car̃ ad gld . ii car̃ potest ēē . Rog ht ñc Wast̃ . ē Silua past̃ . i . leṽ lg̃ . vi grent̃ . T.R.E. ual . xx . sol.

"In Wath had Reider 6 carucates of land to be taxed where 3 ploughs . . . Roger has now there 1 plough, 4 villains, 8 bordarii, one plough. Time of King Edward valued at 40 shillings now 10 shillings. To this Manor belongs in Swinton Wentworth, two carucates land, 2 oxen (?) to be taxed. Waste wood pasture 14 . . .

In Hoyland had Reider 2 carucates of land to be taxed. Roger has now waste wood pasture . . . Time of King Edward valued 20 shillings."

(Hunter says: "That of these carucates those in Swinton were held by de Busli—became part of the honour of Tickhill.")

Until the 19th Century, Swinton was "The Township of Swinton in the Wapentake of the Upper Division of Strafford and Tickhill in the West Riding of Yorkshire.")

"SWINE-FARM" or "SWEIN'S TOWN"?

The name Swinton is said to be derived from the Old English for "the swine farm," and since it is described in the Domesday Book as partly waste wood pasture (e.g. oak woodland) this is very likely what Swinton was at the coming of the Normans.

Some have sought a more aristocratic derivation. The Domesday Book states that a certain Reider was the holder of land in Wath, Wentworth, Swinton and Hoyland, but it also mentions as proprietors of land nearby "Swein, Ulsi and Artor the Priest," and it has been suggested that Swinton was really "Swein's-town." But this seems mere wishful thinking based upon the sheerest con-

jecture. There is nothing to connect Swein with Swinton in particular; he was, in fact, the holder of considerable lands in Strafford during the reign of Edward the Confessor. On the other hand, early medieval documents refer to Swinton as "Villa Porcorum," and this—Latin for "House of pigs"—seems bluntly but conclusively to confirm it as the "swine-farm." We must swallow our pride and accept the humble origin of our home-town. At any rate, pig-keepers may find a certain satisfaction in the likelihood that they are carrying on a useful occupation closely associated with the very beginnings of our township.

If the accepted derivation of Swinton from "swine-town" is correct, it probably

goes back well before the Danish and Norse settlements from about 850. You may even prefer to think that "Villa Porcorum" was the original Roman name for the place (the Romans were as fond of pork as anyone) and not merely a later translation of "swine-farm" into Latin, in which case it goes back before 400, but this is unlikely. But if it really was "Swein's-town" it is not quite so old, for the Sweins were most likely a Saxo-Danish family and would hardly have been established here before 850.

There is no mention of a church here in the Domesday Book, nor is there any reason to believe that one existed. Perhaps the inhabitants were too few. Swinton seems to have been rather later in settlement and cultivation than other places in the neighbourhood. Indeed, there were strangely few farms mentioned here down to 1400.

AFTER THE NORMAN CONQUEST

At the Conquest, Swinton with much other territory, was given to Roger de Busli. Under him it was held by the Newmarch family, and later became divided between the Mounteney and Bellew families.

The Canons of Nostell acquired lands and tithe here. In Miller's *History of Doncaster and its Vicinity*, it is mentioned that "Osbert Sylvan gave two carucates of land in this territory of Uswena to the Prior of Nostill (1159-1181) which was confirmed by Pope Alexander III. Herein also King Henry II (1154-1189) granted free warren."

There is a tradition that the favourite butler of King John (1199-1216) lived in the Old Hall which still stands in Station Street on the opposite side to the Church Hall but a little lower down, and it is said that King John himself slept there when on his journey from York to Boston. He increased the endowment of the church, which was however, subsequently absorbed by Nostell Priory and Roche Abbey. At the suppression of the monasteries, the Nostell Canons' interest was given by Henry VIII to Richard Corbet through

whom it came into the hands of the Wortley family who held it for about a century. ⁽¹⁾

The Knights of S. John of Jerusalem also had an interest in Swinton, and it is said (without any certain authority) that they once had a manor here and were the builders of the first church. There is a vague but persistent tradition which associates them with a small building with very thick walls and large cellars which once stood near the present churchyard.⁽¹⁾

The following fragmentary references to Swinton are mostly from early deeds or records quoted or referred to by the Revd. W. Keble Martin, M.A., in *A History of the Ancient Parish of Wath-upon Dearne* published in 1920:

Bretton Priory had a farm in Swinton, mentioned in a deed of about 1260 as a "Court of the Prior and Convent of Bretton on Bernestokes in the field of Swinton." The actual deed is quoted from the *Yorks. Arch. Journal* XIII, p. 57.

"Quit claim by Reginald de Morthinc to Walter de Brampton of his right in the land and wood he bought from John de Roderham on Bernestokes in the field of Swinton, between his land and the boundary towards Addewyk, abutting on the Court of the Prior and Convent of Bretton, for a yearly rent of 2s. to the Prior and Convent of Workissope.

Witnesses:

Richard de Berechink, Peter de Wath, Richard Herlyng, Robert de Parys, William de Wath de Swinton."

This was about where the present Swinton Vicarage stands. Bretton still received rent here in 1353. The name of William de Swinton occurs in several deeds of about the middle of the 13th Century. (P. 36).

⁽¹⁾ The statement about Knights of St. John of Jerusalem being formerly Lords of the Manor, and building the Norman Chapel, as also the story of King John at the Old Hall, is from a note by The Revd. J. Levett, Vicar of Swinton (1851-96), but no authority is given.

Beauchief Abbey, near Sheffield, held a Knight's Fee in Swinton, and some of the tenants in Swinton held their lands under this Abbey. (P. 41).

de Mountenay. Thomas de Mountenay, 1284-1302, holds half Swinton as a Knight's Fee.

1392—John de Mountenay has free warren in Swinton. (P. 94).

Belleau. In 1302, Stephen de Bella Aqua (Belleau) held one Knight's Fee in Swinton and Bolton. (P. 88 & 97).

de Boseville. In 1333, John de Boseville (Boswell) held land in Swinton and Adwick. (P. 88).

Wade⁽²⁾ It is probable that Richard Wade of Whiston, mentioned in a Wath deed in 1386 may have derived his name from Wath, as the family seems to have held some land there. These Wades seem to have lived in the Swinton part of Wath from 1570, and appear in the Wath Registers from their commencement in 1598. (P. 10).

Abdy⁽²⁾. William Abdy or Addy of Swinton was married in 1546. His son

John was 83 years of age in 1630, and describes himself as a farmer who has lived at Swinton in the parish of Wath all his life. (P. 82).

Savile⁽²⁾. In 1582, Sir John Savile bought the manor of Newhall (Wath) and a manor in Swinton. These manors were among many that had been on the market since the monasteries were dissolved.

He is commemorated by an inscription on some carved pew ends in the Lady Chapel of Wath Church : "Johne Savill caused this to be made the 19 da of September in the year of our Lord God 1576" with the arms below, of Fleming on the left and of Savile on the right. (P. 63).

Hunt. Oto Hunt (Clerk) and Elizabeth his wife lived in Swinton in 1571.

⁽²⁾ The names of Wade and Addy are still found in the Swinton Assessment of 1717 which I give on page 17 and in 1801 a Samuel Saville Wade lived here. Mexborough Parish Church has several splendid 17th century monuments in memory of members of the Savile family, the present representative of which is the Earl of Mexborough.

The Norman Chapel

THE OLD CHAPEL

Swinton's first church was a chapel-of-ease to Wath and was built, like the one at Wentworth, in the second half of the 12th century. It stood in its own enclosure on the site of the present Church Hall, and the main road formerly ran behind it. It was demolished when a new church was built on the present site in 1816. Near its gates, for many years, stood the stocks and Town Cross. The stocks have vanished, but the base and stump of the Town Cross now stand in a corner of the vicarage field. It has been thought that the base into which the stump is fitted is really part of the font in the old chapel.

This chapel was a building without aisles but with a tiny chancel. This chancel kept its Norman loophole windows to the end, but, as our illustration shows, a large rectangular window was cut at some later date in the south wall of the nave, and two smaller square windows were made to light the singing gallery and stairway to it when it was constructed in the 18th century. There were probably similar windows on the north side.

The last bell to hang in the small turret over the chancel arch was bought in 1802 from Thomas Hilton of Wath, a descendant

of the family of bell-founders who cast bells for Wath Church back in 1583. It was used as the five-minute bell in our present church.

Two fine stone arches were the most noteworthy architectural features of the little chapel. One was the round chancel arch inside; the other, outside, framed the south door, and was ornamented with carded masks of animals, human heads, roses, and much zig-zag decoration. Someone must have spent a good deal of time and money on those carvings.

After the chapel was pulled down the chancel arch was re-erected in the corner of the vicarage field, and the smaller arch stood near it over the small gate near the side-chapel. It is a pity that the architect of our present church did not incorporate these interesting relics into his design, for out-of-doors it proved impossible to preserve them from the chemicals in the atmosphere, and they have decayed rapidly during the last fifty years. In 1949, they were pronounced unsafe and too far gone for restoration. There was no point in practically rebuilding them with new stone, so to our great regret they were demolished, and what little remained of the original carved work was carefully placed inside the church at the entrance to the side-chapel.



The Norman Chapel.

DEDICATION

For over 100 years it has been thought that the old chapel was dedicated to S. Mary Magdalene, and that when it was replaced by the first church on the present site the dedication was changed to S. Margaret. For this reason, the side chapel in the present

Parish Church, which was furnished as a memorial after the 1914 War, and in which most of the week-day services are now held, was called the Magdalene Chapel.

This theory appears to be chiefly based upon a note left by the Revd. J. Levett (vicar 1851-96) which reads:

"Swinton Feast is said to begin on the first Sunday after S. James' Day, or the third Sunday after 12th July, or the second Sunday after S. Mary Magdalene's Day.

In old Ordnance Maps, Swinton Chapel is said to have been dedicated to S. Mary Magdalene and this was probably the case,

THE NORMAN CHAPEL

for it corresponds with the time of holding the Annual Feast."

I am inclined to think, however, that this was a mistake, and that the Norman chapel, like the two churches built since, was originally dedicated to S. Margaret. The evidence of old maps cannot be relied upon. An Ordnance map in the Council offices, published in 1855 and based upon a survey of 1849, plainly describes the church (that built in 1817) as "S. Mary's Church," whereas it was certainly dedicated to S. Margaret. As for the fact that the Annual Feast was held soon after S. Mary Magdalene's Day (July 22nd)—that proves nothing, since S. Margaret's Day in the Prayer Book calendar is only two days earlier, on July 20th.

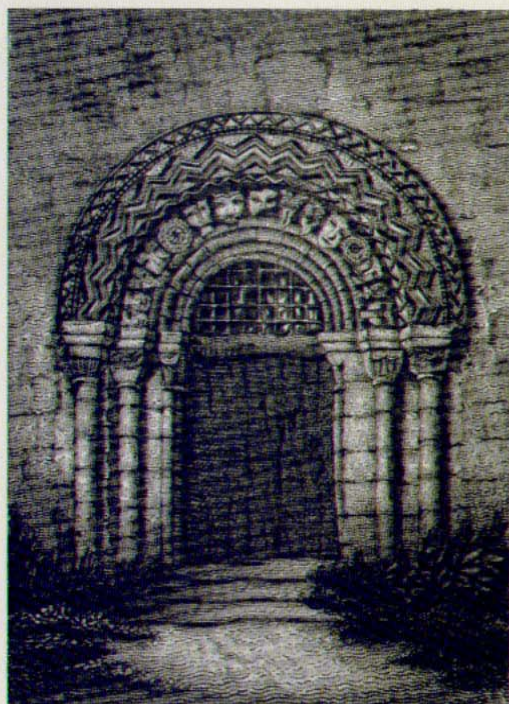
On the other hand, I have in my possession a book of the Town's Rates dated "February ye 21st 1801" which mentions a parcel of land in Swinton known as "St. Margret's Ing"—two acres then occupied by Wm. Crossley and owned by Earl Fitzwilliam. Elsewhere in the same book there are references to (a) "In Brookfield mortar Holes—2 Lands Butting agst St. Margaret Ing" occupied by Wm. Thompson, and (b) "Brookfield mortar holes. . . St. Margaret's Ing Butting"—land occupied by Jn. Pullen. The district marked on the map in the Award as Brookfield extended practically to what is now Station Street, so "S. Margaret's Ing" may well have been quite near the site of the old chapel.

It seems certain, therefore, that long before the building of what we have come to regard as the "first" S. Margaret's, the name of S. Margaret was associated with land in Swinton not far from the old Norman chapel. I have never discovered any explanation of the supposed change in 1817 from "S. Mary Magdalene's" to "S. Margaret's," and the above evidence (slight though it is) points to the possibility that the latter may have been the original dedication after all. But in this case, Swinton's Patron Saint was S. Margaret of Antioch whose feast is on July 20th, and not (as we have liked to

think in recent years) S. Margaret of Scotland.

SWINTON AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

For well over six hundred years the greater part of Swinton was in the mother parish of Wath. But certain lands were held to be in Mexborough, and two farms changed their parish every year.



South entrance to Swinton Chapel, Yorkshire (from an old print).

This Mexborough part of Swinton is mentioned in a decree of Archbishop Godfrey de Ludham of York dated August 1263 :

“that the Church of Mexborough should henceforth be entire, and for ever annexed to the Archdeaconry of York; that Alan” (the then Rector) “should take all tithe of corn, and the profits of Ravenfield and Swinton to the Church of Mexborough by parochial right belonging, and the moiety of the tithe of corn of Dennaby, in the name of a single benefice without cure of souls; yet so that if the said Alan resigned or died, or

obtained a fatter benefice, the said tithe should wholly revert to the church, and be peaceably possessed by the Archdeacon and his successors.”

The Archdeacon of York is still to-day patron of Mexborough.

Swinton tithes, then, had to be paid to Wath or Mexborough, and, what was worse, Swinton people had to pay for the upkeep of both Wath and Mexborough churches as well as for their own little chapel.

The collection and division of these dues was a source of endless trouble. They were almost always in arrears. The payments to Mexborough seem to have been especially resented; after all, Wath was the mother church, but why should Swinton people be forced to pay for the repair and upkeep of Mexborough Church which they never used? Bills were presented by the wardens of the neighbouring churches, and Miss Harrop points out in *The Four Churches of Swinton* that in the Swinton accounts there was almost invariably an item of two shillings “to treating the Wath churchwardens,” which Mexborough wardens never enjoyed but once, when John Wilkinson was in office in 1788.

As late as 1824, the Mexborough wardens threatened legal proceedings if the sum of £9 10s. 0d. were not paid within a week. These irritating payments were enforced for over 300 years, until the Act of 1868 finally abolished compulsory church rates. Since then, all church expenses have been met by voluntary contributions, and both Wath and Mexborough have had to get along as best they can without help from Swinton.

The Swinton curacy was valued at £24 in 1707, and in the Parliamentary Survey Swinton is entered as “a great town, consisting of about 60 families and 160 communicants: neither minister nor maintenance belonging to it. We think fit, seeing part of Swinton lieth part of it in Mexborough Parish and part in Wath, that the whole town of Swinton be divided from the said other parishes and annexed to Swinton Chapel, and that to be made a

Parish Church." But it was over a hundred years before this recommendation was carried out, and by that time Swinton Chapel had been replaced by the first church on the present site. Meanwhile, in 1718, endowments increased the annual stipend to £60.

THE PLAGUE AT SWINTON

In the Wath register there is an entry "The Visitation of the plague began in Swinton June the 27th, 1646, and continued until the 5th October of the same year, during which time 59 persons died thereof." This means that probably more than a third of the population of the township was wiped out by the plague in little more than three months.

It may be that this was the origin of the human remains found in the course of excavations for the building of the new Church Hall in 1913. The Revd. C. Steele who was vicar at that time, stated: "It is estimated that these were interred at least 300 years ago." Normally Swinton people were buried at Wath until 1817, and were so much regarded as parishioners there that they were rarely distinguished in the registers as residents of Swinton.

CLERGY OF OLDEN TIMES

Although they had to be married and buried at Wath, and in later times there were pews reserved for them in the parish church there, succeeding generations of Swinton folk normally worshipped in their tiny Norman chapel for over 600 years. We cannot tell for certain whether there was often a resident priest here in the middle ages. Formerly there were three rectors of Wath, and it is possible that when necessary two of them rode over to Swinton and Wentworth to say Mass on Sundays and holy days. But in view of the connection with Nostell Priory, Roche Abbey and the Knights of S. John, it is likely that until the Reformation a priest was provided for Swinton by one or other of these religious bodies.

We have seen that in 1707 the curate's stipend was only £24 a year. In 1638, the overseers were ordered to pay 2s. 4d. a

week to Anthony Coldwell, described as "Curate of Swinton, being a verie poor man, haveinge bene longe sicke, and layen in great miserie and necessitie." Apparently this did not suffice to keep the unfortunate man alive, for in 1642 the burial of Mr. Crosland, another curate of Swinton, is recorded.

The old chapel continued to be served by curates of Wath, and the next who can be named with certainty is the Revd. James Dixon, who signed documents as Curate of Swinton in 1770. He was succeeded by the Revd. W. Glossop, who stayed until 1802. Next came the Revd. John Lowe, who was appointed to Wentworth in 1815 and was followed at Swinton by a son of the same name who remained when the new church was built.

KILNHURST

Kilnhurst has always been associated with Swinton. Ironworks were there as long ago as the fourteenth century, for the monks of Roche Abbey had a toll on the produce. Probably the name "Kiln" meaning "furnace" and "Hurst" meaning "wood" sufficiently show the origins of the village. It is said that there was a forge in the 17th century, and Kilnhurst folk may well take pride in the fact that their village was one of the pioneers of an industry which has made our country great.

Before 1304, Robert de Kilnhurst, chaplain, brother and heir of John de Kilnhurst, gave certain lands in Kilnhurst to John de Montford, and in 1385 the Abbot and monks of Roche granted to another John de Montford of Kilnhurst, one messuage, four acres of meadow and six acres of land in the town and territory of Kilnhurst, four acres of which lie near the "wode" of Rawmarsh, on the east side, stretching north and south, one acre abutting on Walkerfall, and one acre abutting on the Town of Kilnhurst, all of which they had of the gift of Richard de Kilnhurst: also half an acre of meadow which belonged to Thomas de Kilnhurst.

There are indications that the Montforts of Kilnhurst claimed kinship with the

great house of Montfort famous in history through Simon de Montfort in the reign of Henry III. At any rate, they were an ancient family, proud of their long descent, and owning a distinguished coat of arms. They lived at Kilnhurst Hall, later known as "Kilnhurst Hall Farm." In 1555-6, a Christopher Mountford of Kilnhurst married Muriel, second daughter of William Wentworth of Wentworth Woodhouse, and later they united with the Darley family.

In old Rawmarsh Church there was a monument bearing the following inscription:

"Here lieth the body of John Darley, of Kilnhurst, gentleman, a younger son of William Darley of Buttercrampe, Esquire. He married Alice Montfort, one of the daughters of Christopher Montfort, Esquire. She caused this monument to be erected in memorie of him and her selfe. They lived in marriage XLVII yeares, and had IIII sons: Thomas, William, Francis and John. And IIII daughters: Benedicta, Elizabeth, Anne and Mary. The Sonnes dyed in the lyfe-tyme of theyre saide father, without any issue male of any of their

bodies, and therefore he did give the Manor of Kilnhurst, which he bought of Launcelot Montford Esquire, brother of the said Alice, and all his other landes at her death to John Ellis, son of the sayd Mary his daughter, being his godson and next heire untoe him. He departed this world XXIII day of March in the yeare of our Lorde MCCCCCXVI and of his age LXXV.

His Charitie did ofte releeve the poore
And prayers and peace of unitie implore:
Nor was he subject untoe passions lore,
But milde as Moses: in his dealings juste
Friendship and faith he held without
distrust,

Whose virtues live though he returnes to
dust.

His better parts in endless joys dothe rest,
And thus eche soule which feares the Lord
ys blest."

The Manor of Kilnhurst was in the possession of the Montfort family for three hundred years, and their descendants on the female side held it for at least another hundred years, but these Montforts do not seem to have played any prominent part outside their own village during this long time.

He

The Eighteenth Century

SINGERS AND THEIR TREATS

Miss Harrop gives much interesting information about Swinton Chapel in the 18th century. A "singing loft" was erected at the west end in 1787. Here sat the singers and musicians. There was no organ, but musical instruments had been in use even before the gallery was built. It may have merely replaced an earlier one.

The singing was led by a bassoon, and by a bass viol and hautboy purchased by public subscription for £3 15s. 9d. in 1769. By 1777 the hautboy was worn out, and another subscription list was started to replace it by a "Psalmody for the encouragement of the singers." But the bass viol went on, restrung and patched from time to time, and in 1796 the township paid a Mr. Hall three guineas for teaching William Booth to play it.

At the Feast, singers were invited from neighbouring parishes and "treated" at a cost of from 5s. to 15s. 6d. Later, the

Swinton singers had a treat of their own, generally in November, at William Birk's or Mary Kemp's, costing from 5s. to £2 4s. 0d.

A LADY WARDEN

Many improvements seem to have been due to the energy of Mrs. Sarah Mower, Swinton's only lady warden as yet, who was elected chapel-warden for three years running, in 1792-93-94. That in itself is evidence of her enthusiasm and of the esteem in which she was held, for in those days wardens seldom remained in office for more than a year, or two at the most.

The old chapel must have looked very well during the next few years, with clean white walls, fresh paint on the pulpit, desks and seats, new green cushions, spotless linen, and the neat new choir gallery.

18TH CENTURY CHURCH LIFE

There are no accounts for light or heating, and it is thought that for a long time there was only one regular service a week,

and that on Sunday morning. In 1807, however, a Sunday School was apparently started, and new forms for "the Sunday scholars" were put in the chapel. The chapel had the privilege of a font, and there were perhaps a dozen baptisms a year, but the marriages—about two a year—and the funerals went to Wath.

The Holy Communion was celebrated only three times a year, at Easter, Whitsuntide and Christmas, with very rarely a fourth time at Michaelmas. Easter communicants' offerings totalled 6s. or less, those at Whitsuntide were only about 4s., and since the clerk took 1s. from each collection there was little left for the sick and poor. There were no other regular collections at services, the church expenses being still met by a compulsory church rate.

During the last forty years of its existence the wardens of the chapel were:—

1765	John Mercer
1766	William Scolah
1767	John Sailes
1768-9 ..	Thomas White
1770-1 ..	William Malpas
1772	William Pullen
1773-4 ..	Thomas Wood
1775	John Mercer
1776	Robert Mower
1777	John Bingley
1778	William Jackson
1779-80-1-2	Will Lyster
1783	William Scolah

1784-5 ..	John Pullen
1786-7 ..	John Brameld
1788	John Mercer
1789	Executors of above
1790	William Wood
1791	Richard Sailes
1792-3-4 ..	Sarah Mower
1795-6 ..	W. Wood
1797	John Pullen
1798 to 1801	John Brameld
1802	Thomas Haden
1803-4 ..	J. Scolah
1805	William Thompson
1806	J. Scolah
1807	W. Crosley
1808-9 ..	Richard Sailes
1810-11-12	William Green
1813-14-15	Edward Foster
1816-17 ..	Charles Faber
1818	John Nicholson

Most of the above persons at some time or other filled the post of Mexborough churchwarden.

Mr. Faber and Mr. Nicholson were the first wardens of the new church.

A BILL FROM WATH

Miss Harrop has given extracts from the church accounts in her book "The Four Churches of Swinton."

It may be of interest if we give here a further specimen of the annual bills received and paid by the chapel-warden to the Wath church-wardens.

"SWINTON BILL: towards Repairs & Expences belonging to Wath Church for ye year 1777.

Paid as		£	s.	d.	Swinton's
Follows					Part
Communion Bill	.. .. .	1	2	6	7 6
Providing ye Wine	.. .. .		3	4	1 1½
Clerk's Bill	.. .. .	1	15	—	11 8
J. Hilton's Bill	.. .. .		5	11	1 11½
J. Robinson's Bill	.. .. .		2	7½	10½
J. Young's Charge Whitewashing and Repairing ye Church	.. .. .	2	12	6	17 6
Micaelmas Court fees	.. .. .		2	6	10
When Bells was Viewd	.. .. .		1	0	4
Bell ropes 3	.. .. .		6	—	2 —

SWINTON BILL (*continued*).

	£	s.	d.	Swinton's Part
Ringers at 5th Novbr	7	6		2 6
Do. at New Year's Day		9		3
A Brush for Church		9½		3
When Church-wardens was Chose	1	—		4
Letting of whitewashing	1	—		4
Register Bill Writing	2	6		10
A Sheet of Parchment	1	—		4
				<hr/> £2 8 8
Whitsonday Court Fees	3	9		1 3
				<hr/> £2 9 11

May 17th, 1778.

Recd. of Mr. Bingley, ye contents in full. Jonah Gawtress."

THE POTTERY

Until the middle of the 18th century, Swinton remained a very small agricultural community. Then for nearly a hundred years (1745-1842), the Pottery was the most important business in the entire district. From 1787 it was controlled by a firm called Greens, Bingley and Co., John and William Brameld becoming latterly partners in the firm. Their work, even at this time, was of outstanding quality and merit, and they received the patronage of the Marquis of Rockingham and of the King.

In 1806 the firm became Brameld & Co., the Rockingham Pottery, and from 1820 Mr. Thomas Brameld designed and produced world famous china and pottery. His beautiful vases, dessert services and tea services were eagerly bought, not only in this country but throughout Europe and especially in Russia.

The beauty and artistic reputation of the original Rockingham ware remains, although the pottery in Swinton from which it came has long since gone. It is said that the firm went bankrupt over the production of magnificent gold painted dessert services for the King. A fuller account of the Rockingham Pottery is given in Appendix I.

AN INVASION SCARE

The Bramelds figure in a somewhat amusing incident which shows Swinton's valiant reaction to the threat of invasion by Napoleon. The Wath Wood Volunteers

were in full swing from 1803 till the end of the war, and the Swinton company was seventy strong under William Brameld as captain and Thomas Brameld as lieutenant. In August, 1805, the whole force turned out one night on an alarm of invasion being given by beacon fires.

They marched to Doncaster ready for the fray and were joined there by contingents from Rotherham and Sheffield. Presently they met an aide-de-camp who sent them back home again. It was a false alarm!

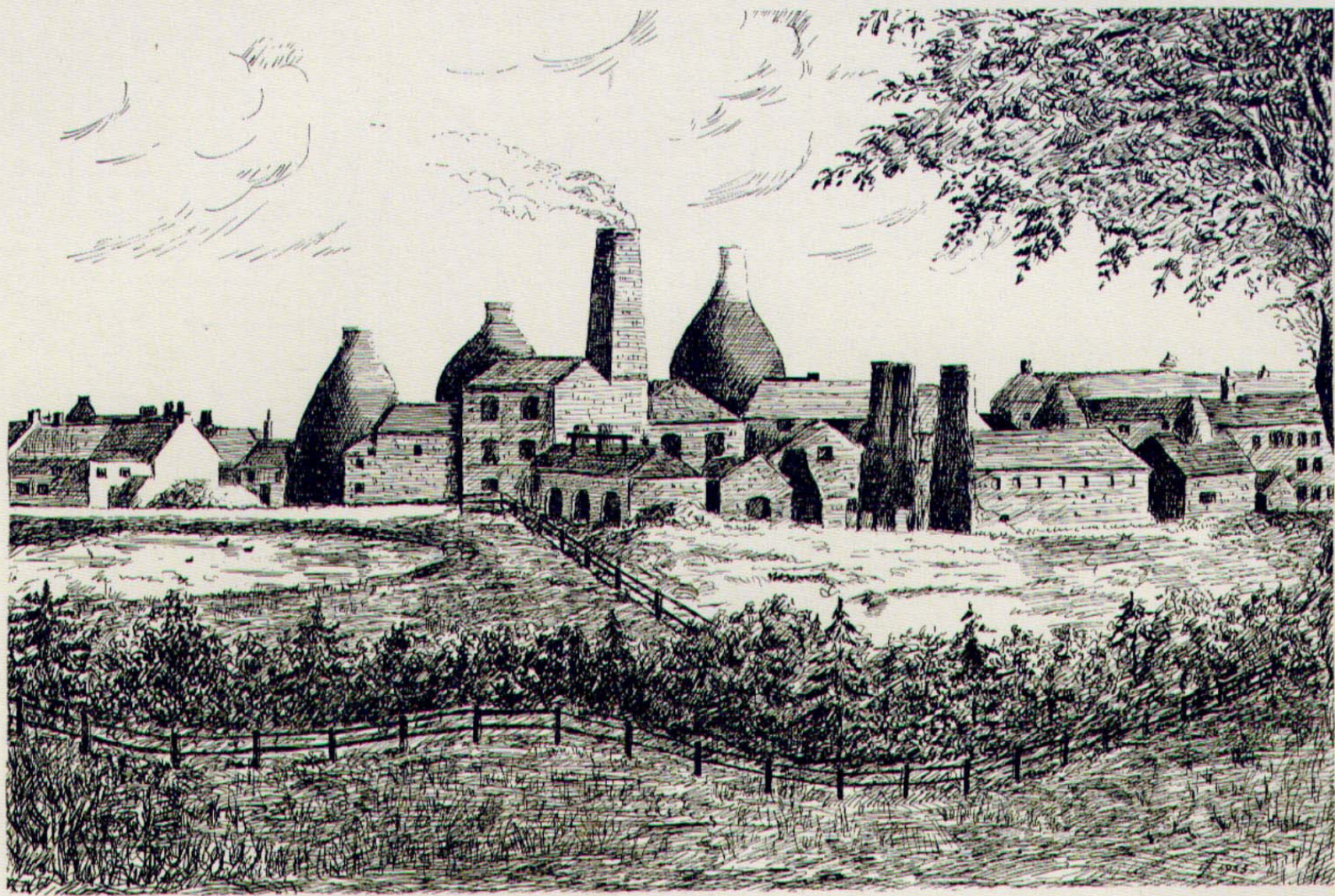
It is said that the youngest Brameld failed to turn out on this memorable occasion, and he was afterwards court-martialled by his brothers for cowardice. It is satisfactory to know that he was finally acquitted.

MORE PREPARATIONS FOR NAPOLEON

I have recently discovered the minutes of a meeting held in 1803, which I think worth giving in full:

"An Account of the Boats, Waggons and Horses for the use of Government 1803:

At a Meeting held at the School on Friday, the 16th of September, 1803, We the undermentioned Proprietors and Owners of Boats, also the Owners of Horses and Waggons, in the Township of Swinton do unanimously agree to volunteer our Boats, Horses and Waggons with Drivers for the use of Government if an



The Rockingham Pottery.

invasion should take place or an appearance of an enemy upon ye Coast.

Messrs. John and William Cooke an open Boat and tarpawling with two men to attend her. Greens Clark and Co., a Boat with necessary implements and two men to attend her. Messrs. John and William Cooke a Waggon, 4 horses and man, a Cart, 3 horses and man, and pickaxe, shovel and saw, also a Carpenter and three labourers for pioneers if necessary. William Bingley a waggon, 3 horses and man with necessary implements. John Wilkinson a waggon, 3 horses and man, with necessary implements. Mrs. Mower, a waggon, 3 horses and man with necessary implements. Ann Sailes a waggon, 3 horses, and man with necessary implements. Edward Foster a waggon, 3 horses and man with necessary implements. William Scolah a waggon, 3 horses and man with necessary implements. Joseph Wood a waggon, 3 horses and man with necessary implements. John Pullen a waggon, 3 horses and man with necessary implements. William Crossley, a waggon, 3 horses and man with necessary implements. Thomas Haden a waggon, 3 horses and man with necessary implements. William Rawlin a waggon, 3 horses and man with necessary implements. Mrs. Bingley, a waggon, 3 horses and man with necessary implements. William Thompson a waggon, 3 horses and man with necessary implements. George Foster, a waggon, 3 horses and man with necessary implements. John Scolah, a cart, 3 horses and man with necessary implements. Dr.

Rothery a cart, 2 horses and man with necessary implements. John Appleyard a cart, 2 horses, and man with necessary implements. Greens Bingley and Co. 2 waggons, 8 horses and 2 men with necessary implements. Wm. Scolah, Jr., to superintend and manage with an Assistant."

A GROWING TOWNSHIP

The pottery probably brought more people to Swinton. Coal had indeed been worked in the district from before 1600, the first known working being at Abdy. There are records of the burial of miners killed in accidents there as early as 1616, and some of the first Swinton baptisms recorded at about that time were of the children of colliers. But mining did not affect the population of Swinton very much until the 19th century. There were early workings at or near Beechwood, at Highthorn in the fields just above the Rock Tavern and at Warren Vale. Our modern development as a mining district really began with the opening of the Manvers Colliery in 1870 and Wath Main in 1875.

We have therefore, to wait until the second half of the 19th century for the sensational increase of population from 2,000 to nearly 10,000 within fifty years. At the beginning of the century growth was more gradual, but still Swinton did grow. Its population was 653 in about the year 1800, and by 1821, it had grown to 1,050. This is small compared with present figures, but it was quite a sizeable township for those days.



Old Swinton Families

I know of no records preserved locally dating from before the beginning of the 18th century. The Parish Church baptism and burial registers have no entries before 1800, and the marriage registers begin in 1849. Before that, entries were made in the Wath registers, and Swinton residents are not always shown as such⁽¹⁾.

Books and documents in the keeping of the Urban District Council date from about the middle of the 19th century, but I have recently rediscovered in the Parish Church a chest containing a considerable quantity of account books and documents of from 1717 onwards. I say "rediscovered" because Miss Harrop must have consulted them when she wrote her book about the Four Churches of Swinton, and I suspect that the writer of the note quoted on page 26 must also have seen some of them. They comprise not only Church

accounts (such as are also preserved at the vicarage) but also a mass of books and documents relating to Highways and Poor Relief, together with duplicates of early census returns, rating and tax assessments, lists of men liable to serve in the militia, and so on.

That these records have been preserved in the church and vicarage is accounted for by the fact that an incumbent (The Revd. J. Lowe) was Justice of the Peace, and the churchwardens were almost invariably also overseers and assessors. They had a variety of other duties unconnected with the Church, and must have been very busy people. I find that, for instance, in 1820, they were required to return to Wakefield "a true List of all Lunatics and dangerous Idiots" residing in the parish, and they were warned, "You will be careful to observe, that all Lunatics of every Description are to be returned in this List, and that the Word dangerous only applies to Idiots." Perhaps not surprisingly, no attempt appears to have been made to complete this return. Modern churchwardens may well be relieved that their duties are more restricted.

⁽¹⁾ The earliest Swinton entry in the Wath registers is said to be:

1598 Februarie baptised Godfrey and Grace, sonne and daughter of Laurence Wade of Swintonn 21 die.

The earliest entry in the Swinton register is the baptism on May 13th, 1800, of Elizabeth daughter of Joseph and Ann Newton.

A HISTORY OF SWINTON

I give below extracts from lists showing the families residing in Swinton in earlier days.

An Assessment of 1717. (Given in full with the original spelling as far as it is decipherable).

"Octobar ye 18: 1717. Aley(?) made for Tho ffoster Constable at a halfe-peney an arker by us whose names are hear under writen.

Madam Spenser ..	26	1 — 1
Willm Jackson ..	74	3 — 1
Oliver Roburk ..	2	0 — 1
Tho ffoster ..	16	0 — 8
James Oxley ..	5	0 — 2½
Nehe Wade ..	4	0 — 2
Robert Berrey ..	44	1 — 10
Job Mulling ..	54	2 — 3
Peter Law ..	2½	0 — 1
Mary Roades ..	3½	0 — 2
Rob Oxley ..	5	0 — 2½
Joseph Bingley ..	64	2 — 8
Willm Thompson ..	63	2 — 7½
Robert Cutt ..	42	1 — 9
Rich Hill ..	0	0 — 1
Rich Sailes ..	24	1 — 0
Rich Shaw ..	½	0 — 0½
Johnathan Norlcroft	0	0 — 0½
(²) John Green ..	80	3 — 4
Tho Wilkinson ..	1½	0 — 1
Tho Wood ..	0	0 — 1
Rich Ellis ..	1½	0 — 1
Abram Beamand ..	14	0 — 7
Rich Hurkinson ..	44½	1 — 10½
John Mann ..	40	2 — 0
Rich Watson ..	6	0 — 3
John Wilkok ..	3	0 — 1½
Willm Wade ..	37	1 — 7½
Widd Burton ..	6	0 — 3
Tho Bingley ..	76	3 — 2
Mary Pearson ..	3½	0 — 2

(²) A Charles Green, youngest son of Joshua Green of Swinton, was born in 1735. After being assistant to his brother The Revd. John Green, master of a school at Denmark Street, Soho, London, he was for a time on the staff of Greenwich Observatory, leaving in order to sail with Captain Cook to the South Seas. After various adventures, "he died 12 days after leaving Batavia (to the foul air of which place he fell a martyr) of a dysentery, on the 29th of January, 1771, and was buried at sea."

OLD SWINTON FAMILIES

Georg Addy ..	7½	0 — 4
John Birkes ..	6	0 — 3
John Wood ..	5½	0 — 2½
Willm Newbut ..	3½	0 — 2
Widd Lambord ..	3	0 — 1½
Joseph Darin(?) ..	0	0 — 0½
John Clark ..	88	3 — 8
John Swindin ..	9	0 — 4½
John Broadhed ..	6	0 — 3
Henery Hogard ..	23	0 — 11½
Antony Ellis ..	5½	0 — 2½
Charles Laughton ..	11	0 — 5½
ffrederik Wallis ..	7½	0 — 3½
Todball Wallis ..	7	0 — 3½
John Horoit ..	1	0 — 0½
John Ax ..	1½	0 — 1
Rich Pearson ..	2	0 — 1
John Jackson ..	14	0 — 7
long Cank (?) ..	1½	0 — ½

John Hurkinson
William Wade
George (?) "

This is the earliest complete list I have found. It must be remembered that only the actual occupiers of rateable property are included. Additional names are found in fragmentary lists of about the same time, two of them perhaps slightly earlier, and one dated September 15: 1718. The figure given is the acreage on which they were assessed.

Daniel Scora	65	Jno South	6
James Robards	6	Edw ffoster	19
Steven(?) Walton	0	Jno Rhodes	3
Ann Darwin	h	Wm. Kemp	½
Mr. Beaver	6	Mr. Wharam	80
Jno Wilcock	3	Widw Woodall	5
Rich Hix	1		

LATER 18TH CENTURY

New names appear as we get further into the century and the spelling of some of the earlier ones changes. Thus we find:

1739

Mrs. Spincer	Will Newbold
Will Jacson	Joshua Shepherd
Edw Foster	Mr. Shore
Edw Butler	Mr. Sharlton
Jo: Glosup	Jonas Boot
Will Carr	Jo: White
Will Pullon	John Newton

1759

Mrs. Arthur	Geo. Parkin
John Marcroft	Rd Birks
Rd. Wright	Mrs. Heward
John Mercer	Wm. Malpass
Mr. Rawlins	Wm. Turner
Isaac Cundy	Mr. Cooke
Wm Pulleyne	Widow Hobson

1771

John Trippett	Geo Brameld
---------------	-------------

1774

"Freeholders"

Thos Hay	Thos Tuke
Thos Hudson	Mary Hall
Jonh Gawtriss	John Pepper
John Denton	Wm Crossley
Jno Briggs	Thos Cavil
Jno Lyele	John Hewitt
John Payne	Thos Lancashire
Thos. Baxter	Geo Foulstone
Wm. Townend	Robt. Mower
John Halmshaw	Mattw Charlton
Michl Forde	Isaac Cundey
Abram Horsfall	John Heaton

THE CENSUS OF 1801

I have the book in which the census of 1801 was recorded; also those of 1821 and 1831. In 1801 the population was returned as 653—326 males and 327 females. There were 132 inhabited houses, and 14 unoccupied. Only in four cases was there more than one family in a house, but the households were large by modern standards and must in some cases have included servants.

In the list which follows, only the name of the head of the house is given. The number after each name is the number of persons (including children) in each household. In the census the occupation of the family was vaguely given as "agriculture" or "trade." I have ignored this, which seems, in some cases, to be misleading, and have given instead the occupation of the person named where I have been able to trace it in other records:

Acaster (elsewhere spelt "Haycaster")

Joseph	6
Adams, Thomas (Forgeman) ..	8
Appleyard (spelt "Happleyard") John	3
Aspenall, William	8
Autram (elsewhere "Outram" or "Outtrim") James (Potter) ..	14
Bailey, John (Mason)	3
Banks, Thomas	4
Barrowclough, William	4
Bartholomew, Jonathan	4
Bingley (Godfrey or John) ("Gentleman")	8
Bingley, William (Farmer)	12
Bingley, Thomas (Butcher)	6
Booth, Thomas	4
Booth, Richard	6
Brameld, John (Blacksmith)	11
Brammer, Joseph	2
Chapple (or Chappel), John (Potter) ..	2
Charleworth, William (Potter) ..	5
Cliffe, Thomas (Forgeman)	6
Coggin, Richard (Forgeman)	9
Cooke, John Esquire	5
(He appears to have been the wealthiest person in Swinton at this time)	
Crossley, William (Farmer)	6
Dey (or Day) Jonas (Crate-maker) ..	4
Depledge, Joseph	5
Dunnell, Elizabeth	2
Earnshaw, John	7
Ellis, Jane	2
Foster, George (Farmer)	7
Foster, Edward (Farmer)	7
Gaithwood, John	5
Glasby (Glasbey) George	4
Gregg, James	4
Guest, Joseph	4
Haden, Thomas (Farmer)	9
Haigh, (Hague) John	5
Haigh, (Hague) Thomas	4
Hanby, Joseph (Mason)	6
Harrison, John	8
Hawke (?) William	2
Hawkesworth, Ab	2
Heppleston, Widow (Victualler) ..	1
Heppleston, Widow	4
Hepworth, Rich.	5
Hicks, William	6
Hick, Joseph	6

A HISTORY OF SWINTON

OLD SWINTON FAMILIES

Hoyland, Francis (Breeches-maker) ..	6	Shaw, Stephen (Potter)	4
Hulme, Jesse (Engraver)	7	Shaw, Thomas	5
Ibbotson, William	1	Shaw, William (Weaver)	5
Jackson, W.	1	Sheppard, Richard	6
Kemp, John (Victualler)	4	Sheppard, William	2
(Mary Kemp kept the King's Head a few years later)		Shillito, Francis (Potter)	8
Law, Benjamin (Carpenter)	4	Simmons, Peter	5
Law, Benjamin Jnr. (Carpenter) ..		Smith, John	5
Ledger, Hen.	7	Smith, Mr. N.	6
Leynord, Thomas (or "Leonard") ..	4	Smith, Robert (Potter-painter) ..	5
Longley, John	5	Speight, William (Potter)	4
Malkin, W.	3	Stanley, William	5
Mann, John	6	Stones, James	2
(He was the first person to be buried in the Churchyard, and was Sexton and Parish Clerk. Members of this family held the office for nearly 100 years.)		Stones, John (Potter)	4
Marcroft, Robert (Farrier)	4	Stenton, George	4
Maxfield, Jn.	2	Stenton, Samuel	2
Morton, Joseph (Carpenter)	3	Stenton, Samuel	6
Mower, Sarah ("Gentlewoman" or Farmer. She was Swinton's lady Churchwarden 1792-4)	6	Stevenson, George	4
Needham, Charles	4	Sutherland, Hugh	5
Newton, Joseph ("Pot-painter") ..	7	Sykes, Joshua (Blacksmith)	9
Nott, Nicholas	5	Taylor, Peter	4
Oates, Mrs.		Taylor, Joseph (Forgeman)	7
Oldfield, William (Cordwainer) ..	5	Thompson, Samuel	3
Oliver, William	6	Thompson, William (Farmer) ..	7
Pullen, John (Farmer)	11	Tingle, George	3
Rawlin, William	13	Tingle, Joshua	5
Rayner, C.	8	Trippet, Mary	3
Rhodes, Wm. (Forgeman)	2	Wade, Samuel Savile ("Gentleman")	4
Robinson, George (Clerk)	5	Walker, Joshua	3
Rothery, David (Farmer)	3	Walker, Samuel	6
Sailes, John	2	Walker, William (Blacksmith) ..	5
Sailes, James	5	Watson, Thomas	3
Sailes, Widow (Ann)	7	Wells, Thomas	4
Scafe (or Scaife), Christopher (Groom)	9	White, Richard (Butcher)	2
Scorah, John (Farmer)	1	Whitehead, John	3
Scorah, Wm. (Farmer)	6	Wilkinson, Jn (Farmer)	8
Scorah, Jno.	5	Windsor, Mary (Victualler)	5
Senior, Humphrey (Tailor)	5	Wood, Mr. A.	4
Shaw, Edward (Mason)	6	Wood, Richard	4
Shaw, John	6	Wood, William (Mason)	5
Shaw, Joseph (Potter)	4	Wright, Mr. Jn. (Yeoman)	2
Shaw, Joshua (Weaver)	5	Wright, John (Jnr) (Butcher) ..	9
Shaw, Richard	8	Wright, William (Mason)	2

I am inclined to doubt whether this census of 1801 was very thoroughly done. Many old Swinton names have disappeared although in some cases they reappear at a later date. That, perhaps, is to be expected. But other names occur in records so near the time, often as established householders, that one wonders

whether they were not in fact accidentally omitted from the census.

Such names are:

From an Assessment for the Poor 1800:

George Pearson	Mark Hill
Miss Gawtress	William Hall
John Brooke	Richard Sellers
Richard Best	Thomas Beaumont
Mrs. Laughton	Charles Becket
Mr. Townend	John Garfit

From an Income Tax Return for 1801-2:

John Glossop

From a "Class List" of those liable to serve in the Militia 1803:

Green, William (Potter)
 Garfit, Francis (Blacksmith)
 Turner, William
 Hargrave, John
 Stringer, William (Husbandman)
 Naden, Miles (Potter)
 England, William
 Harrison, John (Jnr.) (Cratemaker)
 Hill, Joseph, William and Thomas
 (Potters) and John (Labourer)
 Campsell, Joseph (Husbandman)
 Bisby, Thomas (Clerk)
 Edwards, Thomas
 Cox, Mannassah (Potter)
 Manley, William
 Ambler, Richard (Potter)

From a list of those exempt from the Duty on Houses and Windows 1804:

Brook, William	Steel, Samuel
Burton, William	Creswick, John
France, William	Gelder, William
Hobson, Widow	Leese, Francis
Hall, Mary	Woolfe, Benjamin
Massey, William	

From Tax Assessments for 1805 and 1806:

Bool, Thomas (Mason)
 Gawtress, Ann (Shopkeeper)
 Barlow, John (Forgeman)

The following are included and described as "Manufacturers of Earthenware":

Greens Bingley & Co.
 Greens Clark & Co.
 Josh. Hill & Co.

Many of these names are still well-known in Swinton, although it does not necessarily follow that the present holders are directly descended from the families who lived here two hundred years ago or more. On the other hand, there is no mention in the earliest records of some families which were to become prominent later in the 19th century. Probably they settled here when the population began to increase. It will be remembered that from a village of 653 in 1801, Swinton grew to a township of 12,217 in 1901. Already by 1831 it had nearly doubled.

In 1821 and 1831, the following names, well-known locally, appear:—

1821	1831
Parker	Liversage
Goodwin	Blythman
Vaughan	Hodgson
Beck	Lodge
Bower	Scholey
Myers	Otter
Pritchard	Schofield
Faber	Hirst
Tyas	Lunn
Frost	The Revd. J. Lowe
Nicholson	

OLD DIRECTORIES

In a series of historical articles published in "The Advertiser" of Rotherham in 1908, "Rambler" gives extracts from early gazetteers. In 1822, the population of Swinton is given as 1050. Only eight names are given. William and Joseph Barlow are boot and shoe makers; Joseph Green, gent, lives at the Woodlands; Mary Kemp keeps the King's Head public-house⁽³⁾ and Samuel Thompson Lunn, John Hulme, John and Wm. Green, and Brameld and Co., are earthenware manufacturers.

In 1838, the population of Swinton, including the hamlets of Abdy and Birdwell Flats, was 1252. The Rockingham Works and Don Pottery were then employing nearly 600 persons. At this time Richard Otter Blythman was practicing in Swinton as a surgeon, the Revd. John B. Lowe was the incumbent, the

⁽³⁾ Perhaps this should have been the Gate Inn.

village shoemaker was named Freeman, Francis Garfitt and Sons had a brass foundry, George Hampshire a maltkiln, Charles Simpson was boat building, and Thomas Parkinson running a "boarding academy." (This was an excellent establishment in no way like the Yorkshire boarding school in *Nicholas Nickleby*.) The Canal Tavern is kept by George Hampshire, the "Gate" by Wm. Harrop, the "Ring o' Bells" by Eliza Woodward, and the "Ship" by the boat-builder, Charles Simpson. A still well-known name is Joseph Glasby, butcher.

In the same year, Kilnhurst is described as partly in Rawmarsh and partly in the chapelry of Swinton. At that time it is said to have had two large potteries—one founded as far back as 1746—an extensive ironworks, a steel works, and a corn mill. The National School had been built three years earlier, and the little Wesleyan Chapel in the same year. Among the names in the directory are: John Beatson, steel and file manufacturer; Robert Furniss, corn miller, George Kirk, tailor; Thomas Shepherd, schoolmaster; and Thomas Wilson & Co., iron-masters and steel manufacturers. Elizabeth Morton kept the Ship Inn, Messrs. Robinson and Wood and Mr. George Green were earthenware manufacturers; William Goulding, Wm. Pearson, Jos. and Wm. Goldsbrough and

Mr. Shepherd were farmers, and George Taylor was the village shoemaker.

Six years later, in 1844, Swinton's inhabitants numbered 1660. The list of names contains at least two that indicate the march of the times. One is that of James Nelson, builder and railway contractor, the other that of John Wood, Swinton's first station-master. There are three parsons living here—the Revd. John Lowe (Incumbent), the Revd. John Aldred (Curate), and the Revd. T. V. Hobson (Curate of Mexborough). Swinton seems to have become highly respectable. John Stainforth Beckett, Esq., is at Swinton House, Miss Beckett at Swinton Hall, Thomas Sebright, Esq., Earl Fitzwilliam's agent, lives in Swinton, and there are also David Cowen, gent., John Scaife, gent., John Francis Sorby, gent., and many others. There are five shoemakers, five tailors, sixteen farmers, and the number of public houses has grown to seven, including the Sportsman's Hotel and the Station Hotel.⁽⁴⁾ Evidently a growing district.

⁽⁴⁾ Two of the oldest of Swinton's Inns no longer exist. Almost within living memory there was a small and very old public house on Chapel Hill, near the site of the Norman Chapel. This may well have been originally Swinton's mediaeval inn. It is said that the house in Fitzwilliam Street, occupied by Mr. John Kemp was formerly a coaching inn known as the Gaping Goose.



Swinton Parish Church before the fire of 1897.

The Nineteenth Century

THE END OF THE NORMAN CHAPEL

It became clear that the old chapel, which was by then again in a bad state of repair, was much too small for the needs of a growing town, and in about 1815, it was decided to build a new church.

It seems almost incredible that they ruthlessly pulled down the venerable old chapel before even the new church was built. Mr. Brameld saved the stones of the arches and afterwards presented them to the vicar. The bell, and communion plate comprising a silver paten and cup dated about 1697 and 1711, were transferred to the new church and are still preserved.⁽¹⁾ A pewter flagon with the inscription "Swinton Chapell, 1765" was recently discovered in a cupboard in the Vicarage, and is now restored and used at the font. Everything else in the old chapel disappeared.

The new church, dedicated to S. Margaret, was designed by Mr. Pritchard of York, and cost about £6,000. A large part of the cost was borne by Earl Fitzwilliam, who then became patron of the living. The church and burial ground were consecrated on June 15th, 1817. Swinton Vicarage was built a few years later.

There are, happily, many still with us who can remember this old S. Margaret's, and others will get some idea of its exterior from our illustration. Its finest feature was the tower which survived the fire of 1897, and has recently been restored. This and the renewal of the roof of the present church cost about £4,000. The Diocesan Surveyor, Mr. G. G. Pace, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., is of the opinion that the tower "having in its west doorway traces of early Gothic Revival detail coupled with Regency elegance and being capped

(1) SWINTON CHURCH PLATE—HALL-MARKS:

Larger Chalice: (1) Maker's initials.

(2) Sovereign's head—Duty mark first imposed 1784.

(3) Harp crowned } Dublin

(4) Hibernia }

(5) R 1837

Smaller Chalice: (1) Maker's initials (I think LO for Seth Lofthouse).

(2) Britannia }

(3) A Lion's head } London higher standard.

(4) A "court-hand" Q—1711.

Paten:

(1) GA for the Maker—Francis Garthorne

(2) Britannia }

(3) Lion's head (repeated inside stem) } London higher standard.

(4) A "court-hand B" 1697.

These pieces of plate from the older buildings are still in the possession of the Parish Church.

by pinnacles and battlements less skimpy than is usual at that date," is still the best feature of the building. There can be no doubt, however, that the main portion of the present church is not only larger but far better in every way than that of its predecessor.

For the benefit of those who cannot recall the interior of the church which was built in 1817 and destroyed by fire in 1897, we cannot do better than quote freely from the description given by Miss Harrop:—

"The walls were plastered and colour-washed, and the flat plaster ceiling was whitewashed, while a gallery at the west end held 'singers' and an organ.

There was no chancel, merely a bay at the east end in front of which the font was placed.

The whole church was filled with sheep-pen pews, save where a large wooden pulpit (originally provided with a sounding board) occupied one corner in front of the bay, and a reading desk, hardly smaller than the pulpit, filled the other."

The sounding board was removed fairly early on, and Mr. Lowe had it made into a fine octagonal table which he left for use in the Vicarage—these notes are actually being written at it.

"The only decoration at the east end consisted of double panels of painted 'Tables' on either side of the east window, which was filled with plain glass bordered with deep yellow. It sometimes took a couple of men three days to clean these huge windows and mend the blind cords, etc., for the intolerable glare necessitated expensive blinds, which when old were an eyesore and very inefficacious, so that Miss Eleanor Beckett, a strong-minded lady parishioner, was occasionally known to put up her parasol in church on a particularly sunny morning.

When the occupants of the pews seated themselves, the high-backed erections seemed to swallow up all but the heads of the congregation, with a most curious effect."

These pews, which filled the greater part of the church, belonged to the owners of the most important houses in the place. They were virtually private property, and according to the Deed of Covenant dated April 6th, 1815, by which they were allotted, it was doubtful whether they could ever be legally separated from the houses. There were often disputes as to who was entitled to use them.

The Deed of Covenant allotted sittings as follows:—

Owners.	No. of Sittings formerly held.	No. now Allotted.
Earl Fitzwilliam	53	33
Sarah Cooke	2	10
Sarah Mower	5	7
Godfrey Bingley	4	4
Wm. Crossley and F. Garfitt, Exors. of Mr. Wade ..	2	6
John Brameld	1	7
John Haden	2	2
J. and W. and J. and T. and J. and H. Hill	4	—
Mary Kemp	2	2
S. Shore	2	6
William Darwin	16	—
Ph. Simpson	10	6
F. E. Reeve	3	1
T. Wright	2	6
T. Bingley	2	2
J. and W. Green	—	12
William Bingley	—	4
The Curate	—	6
Totals	110	114

"The vestry was at the west end, necessitating many little processions of minister and clerk when the former went to change his gown before and after the sermon; and strange preachers, when nervous, dreaded those lengthy walks past a curious congregation.

The clerk had a desk at the west end where he could keep an eye on the school-children who were seated on forms in front of the back blocks of pews. Any boy misbehaving had his head resoundingly bumped against the pew behind, or else he was incontinently marched up to sit on a stool by the font in full view of the congregation."

CHURCH LIFE IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY

To most of us to-day, the quaint Regency interior of the former S. Margaret's seems strangely unlike our idea of a house of prayer. When our present young Church-people see pictures of it they almost invariably ask, "But where is the altar?" No doubt there was a Holy Table somewhere hidden behind the font which was placed in the middle of the bay at the east end, but it is not visible in any of the available photographs. That is typical of religion in the Church of England when the church was built. The pulpit, not the altar, was the chief thing in the church. The Lord's Service was celebrated not much more than three times a year. What little ceremony there was, served to emphasise the importance of the sermon, for which the preacher changed into a special vestment, necessitating those little processions to and from the vestry. The well-off sat comfortably on cushioned seats in the seclusion of their private pews in which it was not very easy to kneel.

But the dormant life of the Church was soon to quicken. In 1826 Keble published *The Christian Year*, and 1833 saw the beginnings of the Movement which, in a hundred years, was to bring back much of its old life to the Church in this land. It was to be reminded of doctrines, which had in the 18th century been widely forgotten, and with this came a desire to make worship more worthy. These new

ideas reached Swinton in due course, and when the present S. Margaret's came to be built eighty years later it was very different from the old, a real house of prayer, and a fitting shrine in which worship and sacrifice can be offered in the beauty of holiness.

One tiny link between Swinton and the Oxford Movement was Mr. Charles Faber, who was elected churchwarden in 1816—the first churchwarden of the 1817 church. His tomb is just opposite the present vestry door. He was the uncle of Frederick William Faber the famous hymn writer, and spiritual author. Perhaps the best known of his hymns is "Hark! hark, my soul!" He was one of the early followers of the Oxford Movement, but afterwards he became a Roman Catholic and an Oratorian like Newman. As a boy, F. W. Faber often stayed with his uncle in Swinton and must have worshipped in S. Margaret's.

EARLY DIFFICULTIES

Critical though later generations might become, our great-great-grandfathers were very proud of their grand new church. But they were soon to find that a big new church was also a big new expense. In the old days the yearly church bills—Wath, Mexborough and Swinton, all included—rarely totalled more than £20. But in 1818 the expenses for Swinton alone came to over £28. "No wonder," writes Miss Harrop, "that the churchwardens scanned their bills with worried eyes and wrote anxious notes on them, such as 'Quare, what are all those candles for?'" To make matters worse, contributions were still due to Wath and Mexborough, and they were also spending more on their churches and sending in bigger bills every year."

The new church was undoubtedly neglected. In September, 1831, the churchwarden received a letter from the Archdeacon, stating that "In June last he gave orders (which were communicated to you by Mr. Lowe) to take immediate and effectual measures to repair the damage done to the chapel by dry rot, and to prevent its spreading." Proceedings were

to be commenced against the churchwarden for neglect of duty unless the chapel was at once put in a proper state of repair.

It will be noticed that in this letter the new church was spoken of still as a chapel, and it had only one churchwarden. It was still only a chapel-of-ease to Wath, although it now had endowments and clergy of its own. It was given separate registers of baptisms and burials in 1817, but the marriages and their fees went to Wath until 1849.

HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES

The following notes, re-printed from the Parish Magazine of February, 1906, are based on an examination of the old Swinton bills and records of the early 19th century. They give interesting information about household expenses in those days:

"Rent of a cottage was 2/- per week; coal was 14/- doz. (12 cwt.?); Meat cost 8½d. or 9d.; cheese 8d., butter 1/2, and rice 6d. the pound; but sugar was 1/1d. the pound; flour 5/- or 5/6d. the stone, and a quarter loaf cost 8½d. Beer was 1/- a gallon; wine (sack as claret) about 1/- a bottle; tea, being highly taxed, was 6d. an ounce, 8/- a lb.! It must be remembered that these prices would seem proportionately dearer, in fact at times prohibitive, because wages were so much lower. When the potters who only earned 12/- or so a week had paid their rent and bought dear fuel and dearer bread, they would not have much money left for even necessary clothing. Nor would the daughters help much by going out to service; their wages in the country were apparently £5 or £6 a year. One Swinton girl who went to London about 1820 to be maid to a Mr. Johns, of Landom Row, Kentish Town, a clerk in the General Post Office, earned a large wage (for those times) of 8 guineas a year. What would the modern girl say to that, I wonder? She would not be able to afford much in the way of a Sunday frock—for there was no cheap ready made finery then. The women had "stout blue striped twilled" for "bedgowns" at 1/9d.

a yard, or else woolsey at 1/9d. or gingham at 10d. Flannel was little worn, except for petticoats, and flannelette unknown. Cotton at 9d. or 1/- the yard, or calico at 6d. was the general wear. John Hoyland the breeches-maker, charged 5/6d. the pair. Russia duck at 9d. appeared to be used for trousers. Lilley, the shoemaker, wanted 3/6d. for a boy's, 6/- or 8/- for adult's shoes. John Alsebrook, the tailor, in 1799, charged 5/- for making a coat, and used in the making "7/8 yds. of flannel at 1/2, pockets 9d., canvas buckram thread 4d., silk twist 6d., tape 1d., 12 coat buttons 1/-." A bill from Mr. Brameld in 1812, for clothing his apprentice, Mary Sailes, contains the following mysterious items:—"4½ Knaresbro' (linen?), 7/10½, 4 wild bore 3/8. 7 stripe for bedgowns, 7/- caddus (?) tape, thread 1/-."

Ann Gawtress kept the draper's shop at the beginning of the century. Later on George Savile started another in the white house opposite the Wesleyan Chapel, whence he afterwards removed to what is now the Hall. The whole end of that house abutting on the road was his shop window. Mr. Savile was an enterprising man, who went by coach to Manchester twice a year, bringing back the latest fashions, especially in bonnets. I have heard an old Swinton lady speak with affection of a certain leghorn bonnet of marvellous shape, which he brought as a special favour for her mother, and which was the wonder of the village. It wore for years with occasional new ribbons. Hats do not last like that nowadays, alas! But possibly they are more becoming than would be Mr. Savile's wool hats at 2/2, and seal caps at 2/6."

CARE OF THE SICK

Swinton had a Health Service at the beginning of the 19th century, as is shown by the accounts paid to John Wade, Apothecary, by the Overseers of the Poor from about 1816. In that year, he was paid £11 13s. 6d., which was a considerable sum in those days, for the poor in a population of about 600. In 1820 the bill amounted to £30 18s. 6d., but this covered

two years. These bills consist of items such as:

Visit	1/-d.
Ointment	1/6d.
Electuary	2/-d.
The Mixture	2/6d.
Powder	6d.
2 Boluses	1/-d.
Blyster and Cerate	2/-d.

A decoction ..	2/6d.
Bottle of Drops ..	1/6d.
The emetic ..	6d.
The Purge ..	6d.
The Plaster ..	1/-d.
The Vomit ..	6d.
The Troches ..	1/6d.
To Bleeding ..	1/-d.
Castor Oil ..	1/6d.

TAXES IN 1804

At the other end of the social scale it may be of interest to record the amount of taxes collected in Swinton in the last quarter of 1804:—

“The Township of Swinton

To the Receiver General for the West Riding of the County of York.

For 4th Quarter, 1804

	£	s.	d.
To Duties on Houses and Windows	61	4	—
on Inhabited Houses	3	1	4
on Male Servants	20	2	—
on Carriages with Four Wheels	—	—	—
on do. with Two Wheels and Taxes Carts	5	5	—
on Horses for Riding or Drawing Carriages with Four or Two Wheels	36	—	—
on Horses used in Husbandry or Trade, and on Mules ..	49	—	—
on Dogs	13	4	—
on Horse Dealers	10	—	—
on Hair Powder	1	11	6
on Armoreal Bearings	1	1	—
	£200	8	10
Deduct three Quarters	154	6	1½
	£46	2	8½
To 4th Quarter's Land Tax, for the Service of the Year, 1804 ..	1	17	¼
	£47	19	8¾
Pd. £9 3 3			
1 17 ¼			
Allowed Salary	0	11	9
	£47	7	11¾

N.B.—The Collectors are requested to take Notice that no Salary will be allowed unless Payment is made at the Place and Day appointed between the Hours of Nine and Three ”

TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT IN SWINTON

In the middle of the 19th century, the temperance party was exceptionally strong, in 1860 the membership of the Temperance Society in Kilnhurst being considerably over 100 persons, and in Swinton it was much higher. In June, 1861, the two branches joined in a grand march on Mexborough, where they seem to have thought there was special need for their activities.

I recently discovered a book of the songs used here at this period. Modern Swintonians may find them amusing, one in particular has 6 verses set to a cheerful tune describing the inevitable downfall of one who gives way to the temptations of drink. The illustrations are particularly

good; that against the first verse which has a refrain:

"Oh I am safe, am safe, no danger can
I see,
Wine will ruin you perhaps, but cannot
injure me."

shows a young man with side whiskers and a top hat going confidently on his way. Subsequent illustrations show his rapid decline, and the verses themselves become less confident in tone, until the sixth verse shows him unshaven with red face, and tottering steps, clad in rags and the refrain is now:

"Not one alas is safe! but all who take
the glass
And drink the brandy, rum and gin,
shall feel its sting at last."

Victorian Times

19TH CENTURY CLERGYMEN

The Revd. John Lowe, Jnr., who was curate when the church was built, secured as his assistant the Revd. William Ward at a salary of £73 10.s 0d. per annum. Mr. Lowe was a great benefactor to the parish, increasing the endowment and founding an infants' school.

He was succeeded in 1847 by the Revd. James Reece who only stayed a short while, moving to Braithwell in 1851.

The Revd. John Levett, curate of Wentworth, was then appointed. He was instituted on September 15th, 1851, and became the first Vicar of Swinton Parish, which until then had been a perpetual curacy. Mr. Levett was vicar for 45 years—a record which is unlikely ever to be beaten—and is remembered by many who are still happily with us. He was an evangelical of the old school, an eloquent preacher, and a kindly gentleman, who—nobly helped by members of his family—did much good and left a lasting mark on

the parish. Swinton grew very rapidly in his time, and there was a corresponding development in Church activity.

DAUGHTER PARISH OF KILNHURST

At this time, the Ecclesiastical Parish of Swinton included not only what is now known as Roman Terrace but also Kilnhurst. Roman Terrace is still in Swinton Parish although for civil purposes it has been transferred to the Urban District of Mexborough; Kilnhurst is still in Swinton Urban District but is no longer part of the parish.

In 1854 Mr. Levett appointed the Revd. W. Byers as curate for Kilnhurst. Five years later a church was built and the Revd. H. F. Sheppard appointed, and in 1860, Kilnhurst district was assigned by an Order in Council dated 26th October, under Acts 8 and 9, Vict. Cap. 70, Sec. 9, 14 and 15, Vict. Cap. 97, Sec. 19 and 19 and 20, Vict. Cap. 55, Sec. 1, to be called "The Consolidated Chapelry of S. Thomas, Kilnhurst."

Subsequent Vicars of Kilnhurst have been

1861-1868—H. F. Sheppard
 1868-1882—H. T. Cordeaux
 1882-1888—A. P. Clayton
 1889-1905—P. Houghton
 1905-1912—F. A. Bromley
 1912-1937—F. W. Shepherd
 1938-1942—E. J. Cheverton
 1942— —W. S. Fletcher

At the census taken in April, 1861, the whole population of the township of Swinton was 3,189, of whom 858 lived in the portion assigned to Kilnhurst, but the total population of the Kilnhurst Chapelry was 1232, which included the people living in 248 inhabited houses formerly in Rawmarsh.

Our Kilnhurst readers will forgive us for mentioning that their village was formerly an isolated and neglected part of Swinton. Even in 1864, when some colliers there were convicted for subjecting a comrade to very rough handling in the course of a foolish prank, all that Mr. Woodhead of Doncaster, who defended them, could say was that "Kilnhurst was situated in a very out-of-the-way district" and was a place where the people were "addicted to barbarous, ignorant and savage customs."

It rapidly improved, perhaps partly because their new church gave its people a better corporate life and a new feeling of importance. Indeed, for a time Kilnhurst seemed more go-ahead than its larger neighbour. For instance, it was first in the field with its own Co-operative Society (still flourishing) in the founding of which Mr. Sheppard (who from the first established himself on the best of terms with his new parishioners) had a hand.

In 1860, Kilnhurst, although a comparatively small place possessed a joiner's shop, a pottery, a glass works and steel works. The idea of a Co-operative Society seems to have been first discussed in the joiner's shop of Mr. George Clark, and the first officers appointed on 1st January, 1861, were:—President: Mr. Hugh Coulter; Vice-President: Mr. James Smith; Treasurer: Mr. Samuel Padget; Manager:

Mr. George Clark; Secretary: Mr. John Wild; Committee: Messrs. John Peace, William Coucam, John Senior and James Beattie.

It was decided to take a shop in Victoria Street, and Mr. Clark was paid £2 17s. 6d. on March 19th, for managing the shop. It seems that the officials took it in turns to attend to store-keeping. By March, 1862, the membership had increased to 82 with a capital of £224, and a dividend of 1/8d. in the £ was paid. New stores were opened in 1866, a Mr. John Carr being appointed first permanent Manager in October, 1865. The Society which was thus founded in such a small way nearly 100 years ago, now has a membership of 4,150.

Kilnhurst also had an important wharf, at which, in the early coal days, a good business was done by canal boats. In 1871, the works of Messrs. Weir, Whittaker and Sibray, manufacturers of stoves, grates, fenders, etc., which, situated on the wharf and employing nearly a hundred men and boys, contributed largely to the prosperity of the village, were destroyed by fire. The fire broke out at about nine o'clock on August 1st when the villagers were occupied at the annual Feast, and before the fire engines from Mexborough and Rotherham could get into action the premises were practically gutted. The cause of the fire remains a mystery. Owing to the holiday the works had been idle since the previous Saturday and no fires were lighted on Saturday or Monday. It was thought that there were grounds for supposing that an incendiary had been at work, but if so he was never traced.

SWINTON CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

Swinton was some years behind Kilnhurst in establishing a Co-operative Society and even then failed to make a success of it. On the 10th of December, 1864, Mr. Henry Pitman of Manchester, a name well-known in other than co-operative circles, addressed a meeting in the National Schoolroom on the advantages of co-operation. In consequence, Mr. Wilkinson proposed and Mr. Burton seconded a

resolution to form a society and forty-one members were enrolled.

Among the earliest members were Mr. Larenby, Mr. John Freeman, Mr. James George and Mr. Walter Turner, but the venture was a failure. Many years later the Barnsley British Co-operative Society opened out in Swinton.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS

In Swinton, as elsewhere, the Church was the pioneer of popular education. When Mr. Levett came, the only schools (other than private academies for the children of the better-off) were the old infant school erected by the Revd. J. Lowe on the site of the chapel-yard (this was the building demolished in 1913 to make room for the Church Hall), the National School at Kilnhurst and a juvenile school which was held in a hay-loft near Swinton stables.

Temporary repairs were first made to the Kilnhurst school, and in the autumn of 1851, a subscription list was opened for the erection of a National School in Swinton. The school was built and opened in 1853, the total cost being £1,707 7s. 3d., towards which Earl Fitzwilliam contributed £236 besides giving the site. It had an excellent record as a Church School for many years, but in 1932, the Managers found themselves in low water financially and leased the buildings to the County Council. It is now the Fitzwilliam County School for Juniors.

Later in Mr. Levett's incumbency, an attempt was made to provide a Church school at Swinton Bridge, but since there was inadequate support and little enthusiasm on the part of Churchmen and much opposition from Nonconformists, the scheme was abandoned, and a Board school was erected instead in 1878. Other schools were erected by the Education Authority at Roman Terrace (1884) and Queen Street (1908). A similar school was built in Kilnhurst in 1879.

CONTROVERSY

The year 1870 saw a good deal of Nonconformist activity in Swinton and Kil-

hurst, and the beginnings of a fierce controversy—lasting into the present century—over denominational education.

The Church in Swinton seems to have struck a bad patch. The Churchwardens' accounts showed a deficit of £14 for which the wardens themselves, Messrs. F. L. Harrop and G. Thompson, were liable, with the result that no-one could be found to accept office for the ensuing year unless they could be indemnified for any deficit there might be. A ratepayers' meeting was held, and it was decided to levy a penny rate. There seems to have been only one spoken protest. Mr. Kemp declared his willingness to pay for his own house, but he altogether declined, so he said, to pay for his cottage property.

The report goes on: "After some desultory conversation, Mr. Inman said he would, if he could get any guarantee, take office. The vicar observed that in respect to the late misunderstandings, all he feared was the introduction of Popish doctrine." We are left wondering exactly what the vicar meant by that last remark. Probably it referred to efforts made by many members of the congregation to secure improvements in the furnishing of the church and its services. The influence of the Church Revival had reached Swinton, and for many years there was a demand for a new organ at the east end which would eventually lead to a surpliced choir, and for the replacement of the old box-pews by more modern seating arrangements. An offer by members of the congregation to pay for these things had been refused by the vicar. He seems to have feared that they were inspired by, or might lead to, Popery!

SANITATION

Old fashioned though he might be in Church matters, Mr. Levett was progressive enough in other respects. In 1872 he played a leading part with Dr. C. S. Blythman in an effort to remedy the deplorable lack of sanitation in the town. The little stream running at the bottom of Temperance Row was simply an open sewer, and the land about it a pestilential

swamp. There had been a death from fever in every one of the houses near it.

Two public meetings were held, at the first of which Earl Fitzwilliam spoke, and it was proposed that the Local Government Act or Sanitary Act be adopted. But that would have meant a 10d. rate, and the majority of ratepayers were more concerned with their pockets than with public health, so nothing was done for another four or five years.

One ratepayer said: "Let the persons who owned the houses near the drain clear it out." Major Cooke pointed out that nearly the whole of Swinton drainage ran into it, and that this would be unfair to the owners, but the ratepayer said "he didn't see it." How well one can picture that meeting!

SWINTON BRIDGE

The development of Manvers Main Colliery after 1870 brought a big increase of population to the Mexborough end of Swinton, which includes Roman Terrace. As early as 1875 Mr. Levett proposed that Swinton Bridge and Roman Terrace should have a district church of its own to be served by a clergyman who would also be responsible for the ancient Parish of Adwick. It was in some respects a sound scheme, and had it succeeded this still growing district would now be a separate parish instead of being (as it still is) divided between Swinton, Mexborough and Wath. It received some support from the Archbishop of York and from the then Vicar of Wath. The difficulty was to find the money. Mr. Levett's idea was that Swinton would help to build the church, the colliery and coal owners might give something towards an endowment, the income of Adwick should be diverted from the Vicar of Wath who for many years has been also vicar of the little village of Adwick, and that Mexborough should contribute £100 of tithe which it still received from Swinton. What Mexborough thought of this proposal we do not know, but Christ Church, Oxford (Patron and Lay Rector of both Wath and Adwick) did not see why Vicars of

Wath should be deprived of the Adwick income without Adwick itself being any better off. So nothing was done for about ten years. Meanwhile chapels were built at Swinton Bridge and Roman Terrace.

At length, in 1884, the Vicar of Swinton appointed the Revd. W. Smith to begin mission work at Swinton Bridge, and soon there were 200 people attending Sunday services held in the Board School and a flourishing Sunday School as well. A committee of prominent Swinton people was formed to raise funds to build a mission church, £150 was promised in three days, and Earl Fitzwilliam offered a site. Unfortunately this was just at the time when the vicar had at last been persuaded to open a fund for a new organ at the Parish Church, and very prudently he insisted that they must do one thing at a time; finish with the organ first, then start on the mission church project. The committee was indignant, it pleaded, it threatened. It called public meetings of protest which were reported at length in the press; but the vicar was not to be intimidated. He told them bluntly that "they must bear in mind that no church could be built at the Bridge without his permission, not even by the Queen herself." The committee passed a resolution of protest to be sent to the Archbishop, Earl Fitzwilliam and the Archdeacon, and then resigned; the unfortunate result of the dispute being that no church was built at Swinton Bridge for another fifteen years.

FLOODS

Residents in modern Swinton will be well aware of the inconvenience caused by the flooding of the main road into Mexborough near the far railway bridge after heavy rain. There was often more serious flooding in the past. In February 1862, for instance, one of the largest of the periodical floods which used to half-drown the Don Valley did a good deal of damage in Swinton's lower-lying parts and in Kilnhurst. That portion of the district through which the Great Central railway was to run became a small sea; so, too, were all the meadows between Kilnhurst and Swinton which adjoin the river.

A HISTORY OF SWINTON

VICTORIAN TIMES

The willow-garth was all under water, and close by, in a one-roomed cottage, the family of "Bill Hudson" stood in eminent danger of drowning. When a rescue party

arrived in a boat, they found him and his wife standing on the table, and they had put the children on the cupboard shelves for safety!





The Chancel of the Parish Church

The New Parish Church

A NEW ORGAN AND BELLS

The new organ was built by Conacher of Huddersfield, at a cost of £424, and was dedicated in 1885. It was placed, not in the west gallery where the old instrument had been, but in the nave at the east end. At about the same time, the "singers" descended from the gallery to the east end, and later became a surpliced choir, a change not altogether to the liking of the vicar.

In 1887, a set of tubular bells was placed in the tower to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee. They hang there still, but they are not much used for they are not very musical. Some day we hope to be able to afford a ringing peal of six bells or a chime of eight real bells, but that would cost something like a thousand pounds.

RESTORATION PROPOSALS

For a long time, as we have seen, Church people in Swinton had been advocating the abolition of the old box pews and the reseating of the church, but by 1890 it was generally agreed that some enlargement was also needed. A Restoration Committee was formed in June, 1893.

In 1896, Mr. Levett resigned, and was succeeded by the Revd. W. J. Peacey, Curate-in-Charge of Pilley in the Parish of Tankersley.

The restoration scheme advanced rapidly and plans were prepared by Mr. Isle Hubbard, of Rotherham. The details are significant. It was proposed to build a new chancel in the Perpendicular style containing an altar, sanctuary and choir stalls, to reseat the entire church, to replace the plaster ceiling with one of wood, and to provide a new carved front to the gallery. The total cost was to be £1,400, of which

£700 had been raised. Tenders for the work had actually been invited when, on March 24th, 1897, the church was practically destroyed by fire.

THE FIRE

On the evening of the Wednesday before Mid-Lent Sunday in 1897, the Vicar of Swinton was booked to preach at S. Andrew's, Sharrow, so he left home for Sheffield earlier in the day. There was a similar service in his own church, but he had a curate, the Revd. J. G. Patrick, who would take charge.

It was real March weather, windy and cold, so early in the afternoon, the verger, Mr. Emmerson, lit the heating apparatus in order that the church might be warm for the service. It was a hot-air system, and it is thought that a spark from a defective flue started a fire somewhere near the organ.

At about a quarter-past four, Sergeant Lyttie and P.c. Charlton noticed smoke coming from an open window of the church; they gave the alarm, and within a few minutes the Swinton fire brigade was on the scene. There was some little delay in getting the hose to play on the flames, for the nearest hydrant was some distance from the church, and when connected up the hose was found to be in a bad condition and repeatedly burst. Meanwhile, the old box pews burned like matchwood, the heat broke the windows, and since there was a strong westerly wind to fan the flames, the interior of the church was soon like a furnace. Within half an hour of the discovery, the ceiling and roof fell with a tremendous crash.

A vast crowd gathered, and many still living remember being taken to see the burning church when they were children.

At ten minutes past five the Mexborough brigade arrived, and a little later the Rotherham fire brigade reached the scene having made the journey in eighteen minutes—not bad going for horse-drawn vehicles.

Before the blaze got too great a hold, a successful attempt was made to enter the building through the vestry. The sanctuary chair and wooden lectern together with some of the service books were saved, as were also most of the registers, the communion plate and the surplices from the vestry. These were flung on to the pathway, and removed to the vicarage by the Revd. J. G. Patrick, who dashed to the church immediately he heard the news.

The tower was saved. The belfry was too high for the hoses, but two Mexborough firemen went up there by means of ladders while the church was still ablaze, and hauled up water in buckets to prevent sparks from setting alight the dry timber on which the bells were mounted.

The clock in the tower kept correct time throughout, and a hush fell on the crowd as it solemnly struck six o'clock. Less than two hours had elapsed since the fire was first noticed, but only four bare walls were left standing of the body of the church. Services next Sunday were held in the National School.

THE PRESENT CHURCH—REBUILDING

No time was lost in preparing to rebuild. Six pounds, principally in coppers, was collected from sightseers who came to look at the burnt-out building on the Sunday after the fire. Mr. Hubbard prepared new plans. The tower was to be incorporated into the new building. The remainder was to be new, and the whole plan and arrangement of the church was to be new also. It was to cover the same ground as the former church, with additions on the north, south and east sides. On the north and south sides, a path ran round the former church. This was done away by the extension, but no graves were disturbed. At the east end, however, the extension was greater, and almost the whole of the chancel, the Magdalen

Chapel and the vestry are on new ground. Some graves had to be disturbed, but the bodies and coffins were as far as possible arched over or otherwise protected when the foundations were put in. Those that had to be removed were placed in two vaults, one under the middle of the chancel, and the other in the N.E. corner of the chapel. Nine inches of concrete covered the whole of this portion of the foundations. Tombstones belonging to these graves are near the church, and three memorial brasses in the chancel and one in the chapel record other interments.

The foundation stone of the new church was laid on May 21st, 1898, by the Hon. H. W. Fitzwilliam in the presence of the Bishop of Beverley, Messrs. E. J. Bower and W. Hammerton (churchwardens), F. L. Harrop, E. T. Harrop, J. W. Hattersley, Dr. Blythman and many other parishioners, including the church choir and the children of the National School. It was a Saturday afternoon, but the drizzling rain kept the speeches short, and no doubt the company was glad to repair to the school for tea.

The new building was of stone in the 13th century style, with a hammer beam roof of late 15th century type covered externally with red tiles. The total cost was £5,956, of which £1,800 was received from the Fire Insurance Company, £600 from Earl Fitzwilliam, and £300 from the Diocesan Church Extension Society. The rest was mainly raised locally, and the ladies of Swinton worked nobly for bazaars and so on in order to raise funds. Only about £800 had still to be raised when the church was consecrated. The contractor was Mr. G. H. Smith.

CONSECRATION

The church was consecrated by the Archbishop of York (who was late) on the Feast of St. Simon and Jude (28th October, 1899). It seats 606, and is adorned with many memorial windows and beautiful ornaments. Dry rot broke out in the new S. Margaret's shortly after its completion, and in 1904, the entire flooring had to be taken up and re-laid with wood blocks.

A HISTORY OF SWINTON

A new organ was installed in 1903. It is a fine instrument, built by Messrs. Harrison & Harrison, of Durham, and consists of two complete manuals CC to A (58 notes) and a pedal organ, CCC to F (30 notes).

The Church-yard had been enlarged in 1883 and again in 1893, and was once more extended in 1910. A further extension has been provided for and will soon be necessary.

ST. MICHAEL'S DISTRICT CHURCH

The District Church of St. Michael and All Angels was the outcome of Church work begun at the Bridge-end in the time of Mr. Levett. The site was given by Earl Fitzwilliam in White Lee Road and the foundation stone was laid by Admiral Douglas on the 29th September, 1900. The chancel with the church-room underneath and two bays of the nave and the vestry were built, and the building was consecrated by the Archbishop of York on the 15th August, 1901. It is in early English style, but is still incomplete. Since the expected development of this part of Swinton has not materialised, and in fact the new building has been at the other end

THE NEW PARISH CHURCH

of the parish, it is unlikely that the present St. Michael's will be extended.

CLERGY AT SWINTON

W. J. Peacey, Vicar	..	(1896-1910)
J. G. Patrick ..	..	(1896-1903)
P. Duckworth ..	..	(1903-1905)
T. L. Ivens ..	..	(1904-1906)
I. Middleton ..	..	(1906-1910)
J. B. M. Chaplin ..	..	(1906-1907)
C. Steele, Vicar ..	..	(1910-1921)
A. Wilson ..	..	(1910-1923)
T. G. Rogers ..	..	(1910-1912)
F. Hutchinson, Vicar ..	..	(1921-1927)
T. H. Taylor ..	..	(1922-1924)
C. G. Mead ..	..	(1923-1926)
T. G. Rogers, Vicar ..	..	(1927-1942)
R. W. L. Bedford ..	..	(1930-1935)
C. Norton ..	..	(1931-1933)
W. J. Parker ..	..	(1935-1938)
G. L. Tindall ..	..	(1935-1937)
W. G. Baker ..	..	(1938-1939)
K. F. Kinns ..	..	(1939-1942)
E. H. Bungay..	..	(1940-1942)
H. W. Quarrell, Vicar ..	..	(1942-)
A. H. Hince ..	..	(1942-1948)
F. Smedley ..	..	(1942-1948)
J. H. Dixon ..	..	(1948-1949)
N. Hill ..	..	(1949-)
A. G. Hurst ..	..	(1952-)



Local Government

BEFORE THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Before the Local Government Acts of 1888 and 1894, administration was largely in the hands of the J.P.s. Nominally State officials, they really represented the local territorial power. Their functions covered all sides of country life. They not only administered justice but were also supposed to keep up the roads and bridges, the prisons and work houses. They licensed the public houses. They levied a county rate when a rate was levied at all, yet they had no proper staff, for that would have meant a big county rate which men were unwilling to pay.

In Swinton an important official was the Constable. In 1804 the Swinton Constable had under him the Pinfold keeper and the Mole catcher. Pinfold was the place in which stray cattle were confined and was situated at the junction of Fitzwilliam Street and Piccadilly Road. The keeper received 1/- for each animal placed therein. The Constable paid his assistants $\frac{1}{4}$ d. each for 2,000 sparrow heads in the year. He also had new handcuffs with lock and key and received 17/10d. per half year. In 1812 he had new portable stocks, and as late as 1855 an advertisement appeared :

“Wanted for the Township of Swinton, containing a population of about 2,000, a Constable who will be required to devote his whole-time to the duties of the office. Salary 18/- per week, and a suit of clothes and an Over-coat per year.

Applications to be made personally or by writing, to the overseers. The election will take place on Thursday, the 10th of May, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, at the Vestry, when Ratepayers will attend.

(Signed) JOSEPH RAWLIN

WM. HARROP

Overseers.”

The Vestry, of which all ratepayers were members, elected churchwardens, levied Church rates and dealt mainly with Church matters. In 1821 a Select Vestry was elected by the inhabitants of the Township to manage the town's business. This is recorded in a document of which I give a copy:

“At a public meeting of the Inhabitants of the Township of Swinton held on the 31st day of October, 1821, pursuant to Notice given ten days previous:

It was resolved unanimously:

That the following persons be elected Members of the Select Vestry for the management of the Town's business, viz.:

Thomas Brameld—Churchwarden.
William Crossley—Overseer of the Poor.
Edward Foster
Richard Sailes
Joseph Campsell
William Green
Isaac Rawlin."

"West Riding
of
Yorkshire

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Act of Parliament in that behalf made and provided, I one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said Riding, do hereby constitute and appoint the five persons nominated by the Inhabitants of the Township of Swinton whose names appear in the preceding page to form a Select Vestry for the care and management of the concerns of the Township of Swinton aforesaid.

Given under my hand and seal this Fifth day of November, 1821

(Signed) RICHd. LEICY"

LS

Poor relief had been administered by overseers, but as a result of the New Poor Law of 1834, Guardians of the Poor were elected. Swinton was a part of the Rotherham Poor Law Union which included the whole district around Rotherham but not Mexborough.

The first purely Swinton elected body was the School Board set up as a result of the Education Act of 1870. Great interest was taken in elections to this body, and especially so after the Education Act of 1902, when there was a real tussle between Church and Nonconformist elements.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Swinton Urban District Council was established under the Local Government Act, 1894, in place of the Local Board formed in 1876. The first Minutes of the new Council are dated 4th January, 1895; Mr. J. A. Bower was Chairman. There were then 12 members, the number being increased to 15 in 1922. The Urban District included and still includes the Parish of Kilnhurst, but until 1938, it included also the Roman Terrace area. When this was transferred to Mexborough, the membership of the Council was reduced to the original 12. It became 15 again in May, 1952.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A HISTORY OF SWINTON

Roman Terrace still remains in the Church and have right of burial in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Swinton and its Church Yard. inhabitants are married in the Parish

CHAIRMEN OF THE SWINTON U.D.C.

<i>Year</i>		<i>Year</i>	
1895-6	J. A. Bower	1925-26	M. Creighton
6-7	do.	26-27	W. H. Rix
7-8	E. Jagger	27-28	C. Winstanley
8-9	W. Annables	28-29	J. Kelly
1899-1900	W. Cornwall	29-30	T. Beighton
1900-1	J. Goodinson	30-31	A. Carr
1-2	do.	31-32	M. Creighton
2-3	W. Annables	32-33	F. Burns
3-4	C. Schneider	33-34	A. Russell
4-5	G. Law	34-35	W. Chappell
5-6	J. Gibson	35-36	W. Gascoigne
6-7	J. A. Bower	36-37	F. Wilkinson
7-8	W. Hague	37-38	D. White
8-9	do.	38-39	F. C. Myers
9-10	J. Bingham	39-40	F. Tingle
10-11	do.	40-41	M. Creighton
11-12	S. C. Ward	41-42	G. E. Palmer
12-13	do.	42-43	A. Russell
13-14	A. Russell	43-44	W. H. Hudson
14-15	E. Tillotson	44-45	F. J. Wilkinson
15-16	do.	45-46	D. White
16-17	J. Siddall	46-47	T. A. Ling
17-18	C. W. H. Peat	47-48	M. Creighton
18-19	do.	48-49	G. E. Palmer
19-20	W. H. Hughes	49-50	D. White
20-21	A. Carr	50-51	A. Newsam
21-22	A. Russell	51-52	J. Randerson
22-23	A. Russell (to June)	52-53	H. F. N. Balding
	J. Sharpley (June to April)	53-54	E. E. Shaw
23-24	T. Beighton	54-55	J. White
24-25	S. C. Ward		

A handsome mahogany board bearing these names has recently been erected in the Council Chamber.

OFFICIALS OF THE SWINTON LOCAL BOARD AND U.D.C.

<i>Year</i>		
1876-1891	J. C. Haller ..	.. Surveyor & Inspector of Nuisances.
1891-1894	G. T. Monson ..	.. do.
1894-1909	R. Fowler ..	.. do.
1909-1935	H. Birks ..	.. Surveyor (September, 1915, appointed Temporary Inspector of Nuisances).
1935-	H. Goodwin ..	.. Surveyor.
1909-1915	L. E. Goodyer ..	.. Inspector of Nuisances.
1921-	E. Adams ..	.. Sanitary Inspector (August, 1949, appointed Housing Manager).

<i>Year</i>				
1876-1919	F. L. Harrop	..	Clerk to Local Board and U.D.C.	
1919-1948	B. C. Bower	..	Clerk of U.D.C.	
1948-	A. Maclean	..	Clerk & Chief Financial Officer of the U.D.C.	
1876-1883	Dr. C. Blythman	..	Medical Officer of Health.	
1883-1899	Dr. M. M. Jones	..	do.	
1899-1910	Dr. E. English	..	do.	
1910-1948	Dr. S. O. Hatherley		do.	
1948-1950	Dr. A. Eustace	..	do.	
1950-	Dr. D. J. Cusiter	..	do.	

COUNCIL OFFICES ;

The original offices of the Urban District Council were situated at the Masonic Hall, Station Street, Swinton. In 1920 the building known as "Highfields," Fitzwilliam Street, was made into Council Offices. This house was formerly occupied

by Thomas and George Brameld of the Rockingham Pottery until their decease in 1850 and 1853 respectively. Later it was the home of Mr. F. L. Harrop. Parts of it are of considerable antiquity; in fact, it is believed that a house stood here before the 16th century.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

Year.	Population.	Inhabited houses.	Death Rate. per 1,000	Birth Rate. per 1,000
1795	630	132	—	—
1801	653	132	—	—
1851	1,817	360	—	—
1876	6,983	1,500	19	54
1896	10,977	2,200	19	42.9
1901	12,217	2,492	18.9	38
1938	11,410	3,048	10.35	18.2
1951	12,000	3,537	10.23	18.3
1952	12,110	3,650	11.48	17.44
1953	12,120	3,786	11.39	17.74

Rateable Value at 31st March, 1954 £46,315
(1855—£9,265)

Present area of Urban District 1,718 acres.
Height above Sea Level 50 to 325 feet.

The Twentieth Century

The beginning of the present century found Swinton no longer a village organised as a rural parish, but the large Urban District on the lines familiar to us to-day. The population was actually slightly larger than now, but it then included the Roman Terrace district of Mexborough. Mining had brought the people to Swinton, and mining was to continue as the principal occupation. The old pottery had long since been closed but the Steel Works at Kilnhurst were flourishing under the sons of John Baker, who died in 1904.

RAILWAYS

The railway was now the chief link even with nearby towns like Sheffield and Barnsley. Previously journeys had to be made by road, although goods were carried by canal. Tolls helped to maintain the main roads. Tolls in Swinton were abolished in 1871. The site of the old toll bar by the Gate Inn is now only remembered by the name of the nearby Toll Bar Road, but the little round toll house remained until well into the present century. The first railway line passing through Swinton was opened on the 30th

June, 1840, and presumably the original Swinton Station was opened at the same time. It was re-built on the other side of the road between 1896 and 1899, and is the station now known as Swinton Town. It is said that owing to a mistake, the station intended for Darfield was built at Swinton and that meant for Swinton was erected at Darfield. The former Great Central line was opened for goods traffic on the 18th March, 1871, and for passenger traffic on the 3rd April.

THE TRACTION COMPANY

In 1907, the Mexborough & Swinton Tramways Company began a service of electric trams between Mexborough and Rotherham. Power was supplied by means of contact studs on the ground between the rails, but the system was not too successful for the studs were often left alive after the passage of a tramcar, causing accidents to horses and dogs. From 1907 to 1917, the Company was responsible for supplying electricity to the district (see note on Electricity Supply in Appendix III). The first tramcars were of the open double-decked type, but in 1908 they were

fitted with a low type of covered top. In the same year the stud system was abandoned and overhead wires substituted.

The first Sewage Works were constructed in 1886, but works costing £20,000 were opened in 1931.



Station Street Swinton, 1902

The first trolley buses to pass through Swinton were introduced in 1928, and in the following year tramcars were withdrawn and a through service of trolley buses was operated between Rotherham and Conisborough.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Gas Works for Swinton, Mexborough and Kilnhurst were established in 1856, and in 1911, after protracted negotiations and considerable controversy, the undertaking was sold by arbitration to the Urban District Councils of Swinton and Mexborough.

Waterworks were erected here in 1882. At frequent intervals the water supply has been found inadequate, but it is hoped that difficulties will be overcome now that arrangements have been made to obtain supplies from Sheffield.

Fuller information about the development of public utilities will be found in Appendices III and IV.

NONCONFORMIST CHURCHES

Nonconformist places of worship had been built at the time when the population was increasing rapidly. St. John's, rebuilt in 1910, replaced the original Wesleyan Chapel dating from 1856. The Congregational schoolroom was erected in 1884, and the church in 1902. Primitive Methodist chapels were built in 1869 and 1880, and the Wesleyan Reform Chapel in Milton Street in 1873.

At Kilnhurst there were the Wesleyan (1850), United Methodist and Primitive Methodist (1870). Another Methodist chapel was erected in Wath Road, Roman Terrace in 1911.

THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Largely through the efforts of Mr. F. L. Harrop, a grant of £3,000 was secured from Mr. Carnegie for the building of a Free Library. This was erected, at the suggestion of the Revd. W. J. Peacey, on the site at the corner of Cliffefield Road, and contains a large Lecture Room.

It was opened on the 25th June, 1906, by Sir Wm. Holland, M.P. In October of that year there were 498 books—a small number for so large a building—and of these 90% were fiction. In 1953 the number of volumes in the Library was 6,554 not including the books in the Kilnhurst branch opened in 1936.

CORONATION OF GEORGE V

King George V was crowned on the 22nd June, 1911, and the Coronation was celebrated in Swinton by special services and a grand procession, a demonstration by children in the recreation ground and a large bonfire erected near the water tank was lighted by Councillor C. Ward. A few weeks later King George V and Queen Mary passed through Swinton amid scenes of great enthusiasm. They were visiting Earl Fitzwilliam at Wentworth.

THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH HALL

Near the site of the original Norman Chapel was an old glebe house which was converted in the early 19th century into an infants school. This was no longer used as such after the National School was built, and for some years was utilised for parochial purposes. Later it was let as a dwellinghouse, and at the time of its demolition was occupied by Mr. Tom Midgley. In the garden all that remained of the old village Cross still stood. It was removed to a position near the Norman arches in the Vicarage Field in 1911, and the old house was demolished to make room for a new Church Hall.

SWINTON SCOUTS

A Scout troop was started in Swinton through the interest of the Revd. C. Steele

(Vicar 1910-21), Mr. C. W. H. Peat (then Headmaster of the National School) and others. This owed much in its early days to the enthusiasm of the Revd. T. G. Rogers, who was then curate and afterwards became vicar. For a time there was a second Scout Troop at S. Michael's Church.

The Group Scoutmaster of the present Swinton Group, Mr. E. G. Trowbridge, has been associated with scouting for many years, and in 1953 received the Scout Medal of Merit.

The hut next to the Parish Church Gate, in Church Street, which serves as Headquarters of the Group, was acquired in 1949 and opened on October 15th by W. P. Turner, Esq., a generous supporter for many years.

MASONIC LODGES

The Rockingham Lodge was founded in 1921 with Mr. S. C. Ward as its first Worshipful Master. The former Council Offices were acquired and enlarged to include a hall known as the Masonic Hall. The Gothic Lodge was founded ten years later, and its first Worshipful Master was Dr. S. O. Hatherley.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

In Swinton, as in many other parts of the world, 1914 marked the beginning of a new era, although this was not fully realised at the time. The war brought the same changes in Swinton as in other parts of the country. Zeppelins dropped bombs here near Warren Vale Road and between Piccadilly Road and what is now Rookery Road, but there were no casualties and most of the damage consisted of shattered windows. Probably fewer of the able bodied male population joined the forces, because mining was an essential service, but no less than 207 sons of Swinton fell on active service or died from the results of war injuries. The names are recorded on the Public War Memorial and upon a tablet in the Magdalen Chapel in the Parish Church. A list is given opposite:—

A HISTORY OF SWINTON

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

Alfred Adey, M.M.
Allen Ashley

Charles W. Bailey
Albert E. Baker
Harry Bate
James W. Batty
William Battye
Thomas Beech
Ralph Blackwell
Fred Bluck
Arthur Bool
William Booth
Wilfred Bradshaw
Arthur Bramhall
Thomas Bramhill
Thomas Breeze
Frederick Brewster
Leonard Brewster
Thomas W. Brookes
John Brown
Harry Butler
Percy Butterfield
George W. Bywater

Harry Cater
George A. Chambers
James Chapman
Harold H. Chappell
William H. Chappell
Horace Chesters
Benjamin Clements
Arthur Clothier
Ernest Clothier
Albert Cook
Ernest Cridge
Frederick W. Cridge
Arthur Crowcroft
Joseph F. Currier
George W. Cusworth
Ernest Cutts

John W. Dale
George R. Darrell
Irwin R. Day
Moses Daykin
Fred Depledge (I)
Fred Depledge (II)
George Depledge
George H. Dickinson
John W. Dickinson
Wilfred Dickinson

William S. Edwards
Dan Elliott

Thomas J. Farr
William Finerty
Frank Firth
Frank Fisher
James Flint
John W. Foss
Percy F. Foster
Walter France

John Franks
Arthur Frost
George Frost
Arthur W. Furniss

John H. Gaunt
Herbert Gelder
George Goodall
Vessey Goodman
Albert H. Goulder
Arthur Goulding
Bernard Guest

Isaiah Hague
Joseph Hague
John E. Harrison
John W. Harrison
Frank Hartley
George Hawcroft
Herbert Hawkins
Amos Henshaw
Ernest Hill
Harold Hill
Richard Hirst
Charles Hodgson
Horace A. Holsey
Clarence R. Hood
John W. Horton
James House
Leonard Housley
George T. Hirst
William Hutchinson

T. Norman Jackson, V.C.
William Jackson
Harry Jagger
William H. Jennings
Albert Jones
Fred Jones

Josiah King
Thomas Knight

Ernest A. Lambert
Ernest Law
Thomas Lees
Douglas L. Lobley
John W. Lomas
Frederick W. Lucas

Arthur E. Mann, M.M.
Robert Marshall
Frank Matthews
William H. Mayer
Charles E. Midgley
William A. Moore
Harry Moore
Joseph Morley
Alfred Mosley
Albert B. Myers
Frederick C. Myers

Walter Neale
Thomas Neath

Walter Nettleton
Clement Nicholls
John H. Nicklin

George Oates
Frank O'Boyle
Frank Oliver
Luther Oliver
Walter Oliver
Albert S. Ollett
Ernest Oxer
Henry Oxer
William Oxer

Thomas H. Parker
John T. Parkinson
William E. Peplow
Henry Pettitt
Charles H. Petty
Harold H. Pilley
Charles Porter
Francis D. Poxton
John Price
Edward Purcell

George Reynolds
George F. Roberts
Edward Robertshaw
John E. Robinson
John E. Rowson
William Royall

Patrick Shannon
John Schneider
Matthew Schofield
Arthur Scott
Fred J. Scott
John Scott
Jesse Senior
Matthew Senior
Ralph Senior
William Seymour
Elijah Share
Albert J. Sharp
Colin Sharpley
George Shaw
Harry Shaw
Horace Shaw
John W. Shaw
George Shenton
Herbert Sheridan
Harold A. Siddall
Tom Slater
Joseph Smith
Harry Soar
Ernest Speight
Norman Spragg
John A. Steel, M.M.
William Stephens
Fred Stinson
Harry Stratford
Richard Street
John Summers
William Sutton

THE ROLL OF HONOUR—*continued*

Richard Swallow	Fred Turner	Walter White
Richard A. Swift	John A. Turner	Wilfred White
Walter Sykes	Tom Turpin	Arthur Wharton
Richard Sykes	George Twigg	Arthur Willey
		Herbert S. Williamson
Frank C. Taylor	Willie Varney	James Williams
George Taylor		Alfred Wilson
Reginald Taylor	Sidney O. Wardle	William Wilkinson
Fred Thorpe	Richard F. Weaver	Richard Winfield
George F. Thompson	William Wells	Samuel Wooding
David Tummy	Walter West	Sam Wright
	Wilfred H. Whelpton	

LIST OF THE FALLEN—KILNHURST—1914-1918 WAR

Names on the Kilnhurst War Memorial are :

A. E. Baker	F. Gilliver	S. V. Plater
W. Bailey	W. Gladwin	W. Pearson
L. Bowler	A. Green	T. J. Plant
G. Burkinshaw	J. W. Godley	G. Parkin
J. W. Brownlow	J. W. Gilliver	
T. G. Beel	J. Gaskill	H. Rodgers
C. Bentham	F. Godfrey	W. Rowbottom
J. Bullock	H. Govett	J. H. Roberts
H. Barker		
T. Bamford	W. Hill	
L. Barlow	J. Humphries	A. Steel
G. Bevington	J. Harvey	F. Shaw
		S. Stanley
H. Cresswell	M. Jones	W. T. South
	H. Jones	
T. Davis		
G. Dobson	A. E. Knott	W. R. Tiptaft
	G. W. Kendall	W. Trafford
T. W. Eady		
	S. Licence	
H. Foster		W. H. Walker
H. Fisher	G. M. J. Morton	J. Watson
W. H. Foster	A. Moorhouse	H. Woffinden

Among those who fell in the first War was T. Norman Jackson, a Swintonian who was awarded the Victoria Cross. Of this award the *London Gazette* records:

"That on the morning of the 27th September, 1918, Jackson was the first to volunteer to follow Capt. C. H. Frisby of the Coldstream Guards across the canal Du Nord in his rush against an enemy machine gun post. With two comrades he rushed the post, captured the two machine guns and so enabled the company to advance. Later in the morning he was the first to jump into a German trench which his platoon had to clear, and after doing further excellent work he was unfortunately killed." His portrait hangs in the Entrance Hall of the Public Library, Swinton.

STRIKES

There were prolonged and disastrous stoppages at the local coal pits early in the 20th century, and Swinton miners were naturally involved in the big national strikes in 1921 and 1926. During the 1921 strike a soup kitchen was opened at the Institute in the Vicarage field and carried on by an enthusiastic band of voluntary workers. The 1926 strike lasted 13 weeks and took place during an exceptionally hot summer at the time of a memorable test match. Somewhat surprisingly, a favourite occupation of the strikers was playing marbles.

HARROP GARDENS

Rock House, in Station Street, formerly the residence of the late Mr. E. T. Harrop,

was purchased at a nominal figure by the Council in 1932, for use as a child welfare and maternity centre. It also houses the Education Office.

At the same time, the Misses Harrop (daughters of the late Mr. F. L. Harrop, Clerk to the Council) gave the gardens and grounds as a haven of rest for the old folk. In 1935 they paid the cost of building the Old Men's Retreat, and again in 1937, they defrayed the cost of extending it.

THE CORONATION CLOCK

A new clock was installed in the tower of the Parish Church to celebrate the Coronation of King George VI in 1937. The cost was raised by public subscription and the Urban District Council undertook the maintenance of the clock which was started by Councillor David White on the 4th July, 1937. This event is commemorated by a tablet on the works of the clock.

Coronation celebrations in Swinton, which included a special service, the

crowning of a "Coronation Queen" and a fireworks display and torchlight procession, were marred, as they were 15 years later at the Coronation of Elizabeth II, by rain.

ROMAN TERRACE

An alteration of the boundaries of the Urban District became effective on the 1st April, 1938. The Roman Terrace Ward comprising an area of 32 acres, an estimated population of 2,440 and 616 houses, was transferred to the Mexborough Urban District, and part of the Mexborough Urban District comprising an area of 20.7 acres, an estimated population of 9 and 2 houses including the L.N.E. Railway running shed was transferred to Swinton Urban District. The district before the alteration comprised 1730 acres, and with a net reduction of only 11.3 acres now has an acreage of 1718.7. The estimated population of the district before the change was 14,089, and this was reduced by the transfer to 11,658.





The Council Offices

Yesterday and To-day

THE HITLER WAR

Although neighbouring towns like Sheffield suffered much from the "blitz," no bombs did any damage in Swinton. A great number of young men and women served in the Forces, although in a mining district the proportion was not as large as in some other places. Many of the men remaining at home joined the Home Guard or auxiliary services, and in September, 1942, everyone had to register for fire watching.

The W.V.S., under the leadership of Miss K. Creighton (now Mrs. Verrinder) did splendid work, putting into service the first mobile canteen in the district, and after the end of the war it continued in

being and organised the Darby & Joan Club for older residents.

The Local War Savings Association raised large sums in connection with "War Weapons Week"; "Warship Week"; "Wings for Victory Week"; "Salute the Soldiers Week"; and "Thanks Week." Swinton "Warship Week" in March, 1942, raised the entire cost of a Trawler Minesweeper, the "Kingston Jacinth." It was arranged that members of the crew should visit Swinton for an exchange of plaques, one to be placed in the Public Library, and the other, given by Swinton, in the ship. Unhappily, before this could be done, the "Kingston Jacinth" was sunk, so when its Captain (fortunately among the

survivors) visited Swinton he gave the ship's plaque back, and it was placed in the Magdalen Chapel in the Parish Church.

A great deal of money was raised for the War Welfare Fund by means of garden parties held at Milton House (the residence of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Baker), and for the Red Cross by similar functions in the Vicarage Field.

In July, 1944, at the time of the flying bombs, Swinton received evacuees from London.

The list of fallen in this second World War was happily much shorter than in the first. It is given below.

HOUSING

Housing development is no new thing. In 1801 there were only 146 houses in Swinton, and 14 of them were unoccupied. Only four houses were occupied by two families. There was no housing problem then.

There is little remaining of the old stone-built village of 150 years ago. The most interesting, apart from the church, are:

The Old Hall, which incorporates a structure of the 16th century, or perhaps earlier. Near this stood, until within living memory, the old tithe barn shown in the drawing on page 43.

Highfield Farmhouse. An "L" shaped 17th century stone gabled farmhouse.

Swinton House. An 18th century coursed grey stone building patched with cement. It has moulded eaves and a centre arched pedimented doorway now blocked up.

Mirfield Cottage. An 18th century cottage at right angles to the road in Fitzwilliam Street. Roughcast, with odd sash windows and casements, and a pilastered doorway.

The Beeches. A pleasant three-storied early 19th century house of coursed

ROLL OF HONOUR 1939—1945

Airey, C. D.	Dewe, W. B.	Machon, C.
	Drakeford, Sidney	Makin, E.
	Draper, George	Mapplebeck, J.
Bailey, H.		Mason, Frank
Barnes, H.	Eagle, George	Mawer, John
Bee, Frank K.		Metcalfe, Alice
Bell, S.	Ferry, Thos, Wm.	
Bradshaw, Rennie		Parsons, D.
Brown, G. H.	Goulder, W.	Purcell, S.
Bullock, F.		Pycroft, Ronald
	Haigh, C.	Pycroft, Wilfred
Calderbank, J.	Heald, Sidney	
Callear, S. F.	Hibbert, W.	Sands, S. T.
Claydon, H. D.	Hobson, H.	Simms, W. J.
Cocks, C. H.	Hollings, H. R.	Speight, William
Cowles, Walter		
Crummack, W.	Kirby, Frederick Wm.	Taylor, Wilfred
		Viccars, Stanley

LIST OF THE FALLEN—KILNHURST 1939-45 WAR

The Kilnhurst list has the following names:—

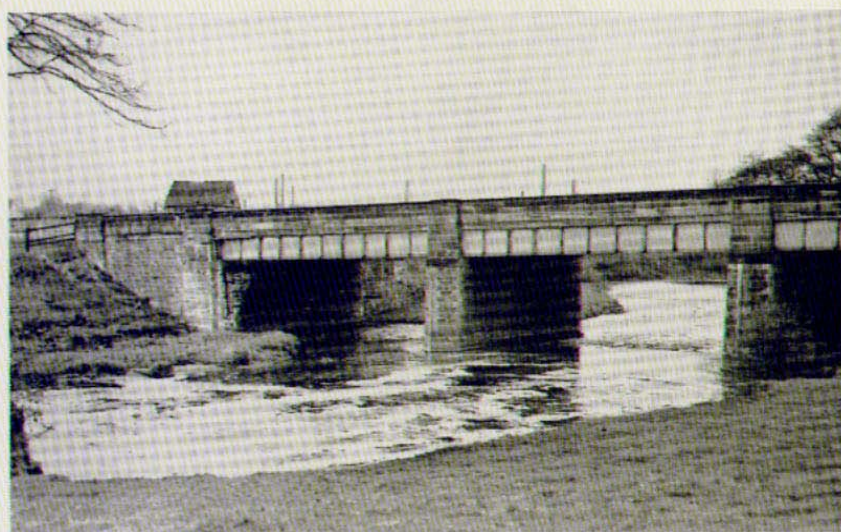
W. Bailey	A. Moorhouse	N. P. Thompson
R. S. Black	J. Newton	
F. Brown	J. Scott	B. Ward
C. Hopkins	G. Taylor	L. Whitehead
J. Lowe	F. Thompson	C. Windle
		H. Woffinden

stone, standing in its own grounds. It has a projecting porch and a central Palladian window on the first floor with "Gothic" tracery.

The Vicarage is early 19th century in its present form, but probably incorporates an earlier structure. It is pleasantly situated and separated from the Churchyard by a glebe field.

but in this period the Local Authority itself built 783 houses and 68 permanent bungalows.

This was not the first time that the Township of Swinton had built houses for the people. I have in my possession the complete accounts for the building of eight cottages on Swinton Common for poor people. They were built by the Overseers



The Weir Bridge at Kilnhurst

Swinton Hall is an early 19th century coursed stone building abutting the road. It is a large square house with quoins and moulded eaves, and an attractive columned loggia towards the gardens.

Swinton Stables are also early 19th century. They surround three sides of a yard with the centre part arcaded, and were connected with the old racecourse.

As the 19th century progressed it became necessary to build houses for the greatly increased population, and we still have many roads of the dreary brick houses built in terraces by the Victorians.

Between 1918 and 1939 there was considerable rehousing. Many of the new houses were built by private builders, as in Racecourse and Rockingham Roads,

in 1830. The total cost, incredible though it seems, was £120 13s. 7d.—£15 a house! Compare this with the cost (about £1,000) of building *one* of the bungalows for old people to-day, and you will get some idea of the value of money then and now. But, of course, the modern bungalows, although perhaps not so solidly built, are far better planned and contain amenities undreamt of in 1830.

Even before the end of the war Swinton was preparing ambitious plans for housing, and since 1945, 473 houses, 8 flats and 53 permanent bungalows have been erected by the Council. In addition to this, immediately the war ended, some 128 prefabricated bungalows were set up for immediate use. Most of the permanent building has centred around the Highfield Farm Estate which has taken on the appearance of a "Garden City," but the

development of a new estate behind the Churchyard and near Thomas Street is planned, and 400 to 450 houses are to be built on this site. In addition, there are at the time of writing (September, 1953) 80 Council dwellings under construction but not yet occupied.

It is said that already one-quarter of the total population of Swinton and Kilnhurst are living in houses and flats built by Swinton Urban District Council since the war. Since 1948 the number of applications for houses has dropped from 1,500 to 500, and a young couple marrying to-day can reasonably expect a house within four years.

The Council houses built since 1945 are superior in many ways to the earlier ones, but then (in spite of subsidies) the rents are also much more.

CREIGHTON WOOD

To make the Highfield Farm Estate even more a "Garden City" the Council, in 1948, purchased 22 acres of pleasant woodland stretching from Warren Vale Road to Piccadilly Road, from Earl Fitzwilliam at a nominal price. This woodland walk has been called "Creighton Wood," and contains oaks and beeches planted in the late 18th Century. A limestone path nearly one mile long has been made through the wood, and there is a stream which eventually joins the River Don at Kilnhurst.

The Creighton family were associated with Swinton Common from 1862, when County Alderman Creighton's grandmother, Mrs. Hannah Wroe, followed



The Sisters Lych Gate, Swinton

Earl Fitzwilliam's head gardener as tenant of the woodside cottage adjoining the woodland in Warren Vale Road. Her son, Mr. Tom Creighton, County Alderman Creighton's father, succeeded her as tenant, and it was thought fitting that the notable record of public service by members of the family should be commemorated by calling the woods by their name.

A Lych Gate, designed by the Council's Surveyor (Mr. H. Goodwin), in oak and rustic brick was erected at the entrance to the wood, and is the gift of Miss E. K. L. Harrop in memory of the men who served in the Wars. It is known as the "Sisters' Lych Gate," because Miss Harrop wished it to be regarded as a joint gift of herself and her sister, the late Miss Beatrice M. R. Harrop.

NEW SCHOOLS

For more than 20 years, the urgent need for new schools at the upper end of the town had been pressed by residents and their elected representatives, but it was not until 1953, that the first instalment was brought into use. A new Infants School (built to replace the Infants Department of

the old Fitzwilliam School) was opened in June. It is situated on the new Estate at the top of Rookery Road, and is a fine building of its kind. Swinton has been promised a Secondary School in the near future, and its people hope that they will not have to wait another twenty years before the almost equally needed Junior School is built.



*Highfield Farm Estate
Council Houses*

CHAIRMAN'S CHAIN

A Chain and Badge of Office for the use of the Chairman of the District Council was provided in Coronation year. It is a

fine piece of work in silver-gilt, and was given by Mr. W. P. Turner to commemorate his 50 years' residence in Swinton. The medallion depicting a Rockingham

vase, wagon wheels, the Sisters' Lych Gate and a coal mine, symbolising various aspects of the history of the township, is illustrated on the cover of this book. Above this medallion are enamels with the white rose of York, a swine's head and the old water tower. A smaller replica of the chain and badge was given at the same time by Miss E. K. L. Harrop for the use of the Chairman's lady.



Houses in Fitzwilliam Street, now demolished

INAUGURATION OF THE NEW
ELIZABETHAN AGE

Swinton made great plans to celebrate the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, but as at the previous Coronation, wet weather intervened. The Procession and Pageant had to be postponed three times, which naturally damped the enthusiasm of some, and even the fireworks went off prematurely. But by

their street decorations and parties, the services held in the Parish Church and other places of worship, and in many other ways, the inhabitants of Swinton demonstrated their loyalty. The Pageant was colour-filmed, for the most part during the final rehearsals, and a record of the enthusiasm and hard work of the Organiser, Mr. H. Dobson, and many others, is thus preserved for posterity.



Rockingham Pottery

South Yorkshire is studded with the sites of old potteries, some are just a dim memory of the oldest inhabitants, some are only place names on a map, and more are forgotten altogether. But the Rockingham Pottery will be remembered as long as collectors are prepared to search for beautiful china.

It is unknown when the yellow and white clays to be found at Swinton Common were first worked, but records show that in 1745 Edward Butler established a Tile and Pot works on land belonging to the Marquis of Rockingham. The site had the advantage of a good supply of water, a small colliery nearby known as Wath Wood Colliery, supplied the fuel necessary for firing the products, and a quarry in Wath Wood provided the stone for the buildings.

Some 20 years later, the works were taken over by William Malpass; and in 1778 a Mr. Bingley became principal proprietor with William and John Brameld as partners. Under Mr. Bingley's management the works were enlarged to deal with the increasing demand for their wares, which now included dinner, tea and coffee services in a good quality white earthenware.

From the year 1787, Mr. John Green, of the Leeds Pottery, had the controlling interest, and the firm traded under the name of "Green Bingley & Co." In a letter from John Green dated "Leeds Pottery 1788" and addressed to John Brameld, Swinton, is the following interesting extract: "Hope your Buiskett Kiln turns out well you have room now, if you will but make neat goods, and be observing to get money, but it will require a strict attention to keep every wheelband in the nick." This partnership continued for 19 years and a large variety of articles was produced.

1806 saw control of the pottery pass into the hands of William and John Brameld. Resolutions at the meeting which dissolved the previous partnership are of some interest. "At this meeting held on 22nd January, 1806, the following people were present: Ebenezer Green, Thomas Bingley, William Hartley, John Brameld, William Brameld; and they resolved that:

- (1) That no more coal be got at Wath Wood Colliery and the pits be railed round.
- (2) That on the 1st of February, all the engines and everything belonging to

us to be removed from the Colliery to the pottery premises.

- (3) That no more stone be got from the Quarry in Wath Wood.
- (4) That the coal on hand be sold, and be disposed of in the best manner possible.
- (5) That as many men be immediately discharged from the manufactory as can conveniently be done, retaining for the present, only as many as may be necessary to complete the orders, and make a few things that may be needful to assort the stock on hand.
- (6) That a schedule of everything belonging to the Colliery and Quarry be immediately taken.

The pottery now traded under the name of Brameld & Co. Gradually the works were extended as trade expanded, and the firm earned a reputation for sound workmanship. Particularly successful lines were the fine quality white and cream earthenware.

With the death of William Brameld in 1813, the three sons of the two Bramelds succeeded to the pottery: the three men who were to make the name of Rockingham famous. Thomas Brameld, the eldest was a man of exquisite taste, and was constantly experimenting to improve the character, quality and glazes of the pottery's wares. George Frederick Brameld devoted himself to the commercial side of the business, and for some time resided in Russia to handle the great amount of trade done in that and other European Countries. John Wagner Brameld was an excellent artist, being particularly famed for his painting of flowers in their natural colours and shadings on some of the finest products of the pottery. His time, however, was chiefly spent in selling their products throughout the United Kingdom, and the management of their London house.

About 1820, Thomas began experiments to produce a fine white china body and glazes of an even higher quality. The production of this porcelain, involving the use

of china clays from Cornwall and Dorset, cost the firm a large amount of money, and the time came when a creditors meeting had to be called at Rotherham in 1825.

At this meeting Thomas showed some remarkably fine examples of his new china ware to the creditors, and one of them, Earl Fitzwilliam, was so impressed, he offered to provide the capital necessary for the production of this beautiful china. In diffidence—or gratitude—to the Earl Fitzwilliam for his interest, the pottery was named the Rockingham Works, and adopted the family crest of the Fitzwilliams—a Griffin—as trade marks, with "Rockingham Works Brameld" written underneath."

With this new capital the pottery was again extended and improved, and a porcelain second to none in the country was produced. Artists were engaged to decorate this porcelain: each a specialist in the things he painted. The most notable being Collinson for flowers, Llandey for fruit and flowers, Bailey for butterflies, Ellis for landscapes, Cresswell for birds, Baguley for gilding and Astor for the modelling of flowers. The terms of engagement between Brameld & Co., and Cresswell the painter are recorded as follows:—"The engagement be for 5 years at 7/6d. per day for the first 3 years, 9/3d. per day for the fourth year and 10/6d. per day for the fifth year."

The final phase of the pottery now began. Only perfection was good enough for the Bramelds, and articles not reaching this standard were broken. China of this period is easily recognised by the shades of green blue, pink and maroon used as basic colouring, whilst the shaded brown ware is something often copied but never equalled. It was at this stage of the pottery's evolution that services were made for the King of Belgium, the Dukes of Hanover, Sussex, Cambridge, Sutherland and Cumberland, culminating in a dessert service for His Majesty William IV. This service of 200 pieces was designed by John Wagner Brameld, and for each piece a special mahogany box was constructed to ensure its safe arrival in London. It was

first used at the Coronation of Queen Victoria in 1837, and again as recently as the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1842, the Rockingham Pottery closed down. It is stated locally that the firm went bankrupt due to the cost of the Royal dessert service. But no record exists of any proceedings or in fact of a sale of the pottery's assets. There seems little doubt, however, that the pottery was short of money during its last few years, due principally to the pursuit of perfection. This financial strain, and the fact that the sons of Thomas chose other professions to that of Pottery Master may well have been the reasons for closing down.

Thomas and George Frederick Brameld continued to live in Swinton, Thomas at Highfield House, the present Council Chambers, until their respective deaths in 1850 and 1853, both being buried in Swinton Churchyard.

Although only one kiln and the hot and cold water ponds remain as visible signs of a once prosperous industry, it cannot be said, that "The Glory Has Departed," for Rockingham's glory is in the beautiful china, carefully preserved in the hands of collectors and museums.

AUDREY INGHAM.



Sports and Pastimes

The Sports and Pastimes of Swinton are recorded here by my own recollections and by information received from my grandparents and parents. They date from a period immediately following the closure of the Rockingham Pottery Works at the advent of mining on a large scale in about 1870.

In those early days the centres of most local sport activity were the inns. These inns were the Woodman Inn where my grandparents were the second tenants; the King's Head, tenanted by George Ainsworth; the Gate Inn, kept by Mary Kemp, who was a grand-parent of John and Fred Kemp, and the Ring o' Bells kept by my father until he removed to the Woodman Inn. He left in 1875. The inn-keepers fostered enthusiasm in many ways by competitions in running, walking, jumping, boxing, skittles, or knur and spell.

The chief sporting event which affected the town in those days was the Sheffield Handicap, which compared in popularity with the Doncaster September Races. The heats and finals covered two days and many of the competitors came to Swinton to train over the measured distance of 144 yards down Warren Vale to the Chain Bar where the Toll was still in existence. A famous character was "Flyer Smith" who regularly ran round Blackamoor and up by Chain Bar several times whilst competitors walked the distance once.

The hallmark in Swinton of a good jumper in those days was his ability to clear the Canal Lock at Swinton Bridge. I can only recall the stories of four people who could do this, and they were the father of John and Fred Kemp, who was a slater, the father of Alfred and Henry Liversidge, a potter, George Ainsworth of the King's Head, and Tom Creighton, my father, who was a butcher. With modern forms of entertainment the youth of to-day do not indulge in such dangerous escapades.

A noteworthy athlete was Alfred Liversidge, who was a most distinguished "half-miler." Some of his accomplishments were the winning of the half-mile at Sheffield with a small start in one minute, fifty-one seconds; the half-mile from scratch at Leeds; the whole mile at Birmingham, and lastly the half-mile and Jumping Handicap at Manchester on the same day. On occasions he even challenged all England. He travelled the large centres for eleven years from Newcastle to London, meeting and training many notable runners. One of these was Jem Mace, the famous pugilist, when he was a young man and comparatively unknown. Alfred Liversidge became his early trainer for five years but eventually when Liversidge settled in Swinton the two men remained life-long friends, Mace visiting Swinton on several occasions.

The game of knur and spell was a favourite pastime and drew a considerable attendance, especially when William Chapman played. These games often carried heavy stakes.

The Racecourse which was constructed before this period was not a factor of sport so far as I am aware, since it was only used for training. The last old time trainer was Bob McCormack.

In major games cricket was always keenly supported. The headquarters were at the Gate Inn and there are many memories to tell how games were won and

lost. All became history when Countess Fitzwilliam opened the Miners' Welfare Ground, the new home for Swinton cricket.

Football only reached a good standard for a short period. It was supported enthusiastically in Kilnhurst for many years by a small population. They competed in a large district league with neighbouring towns. So keen was their attack that they were referred to locally as the "Wasps." A good number of their players reached first division standard.

M. CREIGHTON.

The Industries of Swinton, 1850-1950

Swinton has always possessed a well balanced range of industries many of which have been established for over a century or are near approaching it. These industries appear to have followed on the china and pottery works which played so important a part in the earlier period of our history.

There is some historical significance in the facts which I have acquired by indirect enquiries or from information supplied by the Works Managements concerning their origins.

THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY

One hundred years ago coal mining was carried out by opencast and drift methods except the Albany Colliery near Kilnhurst Church, where the shaft process was operated which generally speaking, met the local requirements both domestic and industrial. It was not until 1860 that coal mining was developed on a large scale in the area, but none of the main shafts were situated in the Swinton Urban District. Coal has been mined under the Swinton area extensively and is a valuable source of revenue to the rates.

With the advance of industry, the population of the Urban District has increased rapidly, new streets and houses have been constructed to accommodate the enlarged needs of the community. Shops and places of worship have been erected and Swinton has become a prosperous Town.

THE WATERWAYS

The waterways are, no doubt, the initial factor in the industrial development. In the 18th century, Swinton was the junction of the Dearne & Dove with the South Yorkshire and Sheffield Canals. Boat-building first started in 1770 and was carried on by Thomas Scholey on the present site of the yard of E. V. Waddington, who now possesses a fleet of barges mostly of steel construction which have displaced the wooden type formerly made at this establishment. The former Navigation Companies (prior to nationalisation) it is understood, possessed some remarkable records and surveys which far exceed in interest and record those in possession of the Township.

THE RAILWAYS

The railway came first as the South Yorkshire line which ran from Barnsley to Keadby on the Trent. The running shed was on the site of Burnett's Wagon Works, White Lee Road. The station was the present Goods Station. In about the year 1870, the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway extended to Grimsby. The branch line to Sheffield was constructed, also new running sheds erected, near the River. The Midland main line to London was constructed about the same period. (See page 42.)

It is impossible to estimate the transport value to the works which developed. New works were later continued along the valley of the Don.

THE KILNHURST STEEL WORKS OF
JOHN BAKER & BESSEMER LTD.

The triangular piece of land on which the present Kilnhurst Steel Works was started has been associated with iron and steel for a number of years.

The earliest definite record traceable is that in 1828 the land known as the Great Longbank or Hare Stock was sold by William Darwin of Stubbin, Ironmaster, to Richard Hutton Slagg, of Birdwell Flats, Steel Refiner. It was stated to have been previously in the occupation of Joseph Wood.

A mortgage dated 1829 covered the land and several cast steel and other furnaces.

This venture did not prove successful, and in 1836, it was sold to Thomas Smith under bankruptcy proceedings.

It changed hands several times in the next few years, and in 1846, it came into the hands of the Nisterdale Iron Company.

By this time it was known as the Swinton Iron Works, and there was a wharf on the canal.

In 1863, it was purchased by John Brown & Co., of Sheffield, and they erected on it a very substantial plant for the puddling of iron and for rolling it into plates.

It is presumed that the manufacture of these plates was a preliminary process in the manufacture of iron armour plate, the final processes being carried out in Sheffield.

So late as 1879, iron armour plate was rolled in Sheffield by John Brown & Co., but owing to the development of the process invented by Sir Henry Bessemer, iron was being superseded by steel and as steel armour came into use, the Kilnhurst Works ceased operations. The machinery was stripped out, the buildings were allowed to decay, and the whole place became derelict.

It was in this state when the late John Baker purchased it in 1903 from John Brown & Co. Ltd.

What determined the choice of this particular piece of land is not clear; if the developments which have taken place could have been foreseen it certainly would not have been chosen, but it was John Baker's idea at the time for a steel-works on a very small scale.

John Baker, the head of this now famous firm, was born at Radford, Nr. Nottingham, in 1843, and was the son of a working man. After the meagre education of those days he started at the age of 12 as an apprentice at Sharpe & Stewart Locomotive Works, Manchester. He was appointed Foreman and Manager at Astburys & Co., North of England Wagon Works and later at the Owens Carriage & Axle Co., Rotherham. Throughout this period he studied in his spare time to enter into business on his own account. In 1874 he entered into partnership to make railway wheels and axles at Conisborough. They began in a modest way, but expansion was rapid. In a few years they purchased repair works at Doncaster and later transferred from Conisborough to large works at Rotherham.

In 1889 they dissolved, John Baker retaining the Rotherham Works; he started with a few hundred pounds capital. In 1900 he was able to form a private Limited Company with a capital of £40,000 as John Baker & Co. (Rotherham) Ltd. Within three years of the incorporation the company bought the Swinton Iron Works later re-named Kilnhurst Steel Works and proceeded to convert for the manufacture of component parts. For this purpose a Siemens Steel Melting Furnace, a tyre rolling mill, hydraulic presses, and axle forging hammer were installed and production started in 1905.

John Baker died in 1904, but the business which he had built up continued to grow under the management of his sons. In 1913 the Share Capital stood at £76,000. During the 1914-1918 War the company's energies were concentrated on shell forgings for the Government.

The necessary reconstruction in 1919 gave an opportunity for considerable

extensions. These extensions demanded increases in the company's capital, and John Baker & Co. was floated as a public company in 1920, with an issued capital of £400,000.

The period of 1926-34 proved a very difficult period, common to the steel industry in general.

With a view to providing work, negotiations were entered into with Henry Bessemer & Co. Ltd., to acquire that company.

In 1929, John Baker & Co. (Rotherham, 1920) purchased some 90% of the shares of Henry Bessemer & Co. Ltd., and the name of the company was changed to John Baker & Bessemer Ltd.

The Bessemer works in Sheffield were closed down and production was concentrated in the more efficient plant at Kilnhurst.

In 1934 trade began to improve and additional steel smelting capacity was installed. A new building was erected in 1939, when the Kilnhurst Steel Works covered an area of 30 acres.

During the 1939-45 War, the company's peace-time products had to take a secondary place. After the war a heavy demand for railway material had to be met. Within two years of the end of the war, production had risen to 50% above the pre-war peak and has more than doubled itself in fourteen years. To meet this increased production a new melting shop was erected in 1948 and in 1949 further capital was issued which now stands at £850,000.

Thus over a period of 75 years, the business has developed from a partnership of a few hundreds of pounds of capital to a company with a capital of nearly a million.

Throughout this period of growth, its management has remained in the hands of John Baker and his sons. They have specialised in one branch of the steel industry only, namely railway and tramway wheels, tyres and axles, and their great experience extending in some individual cases over 50 years, has been

throughout concentrated on the single purpose of improving the quality of their products to meet the requirements of the market.

HATTERSLEY BROS. LTD. (QUEEN'S FOUNDRY)

Thomas and Charles Hattersley commenced the Queen's Foundry near the end of Queen Street in 1864, in small workshops behind a large block of three storey houses which were demolished in 1936.

The works were removed to a large site near the railway on White Lee Road in 1869. They were extensive and prosperous but many developments have taken place from time to time, including the Railway Wheel & Wagon Works owned by C. H. Verity who had for many years a very prosperous business. The Queen's Foundry now covers an area of 10 acres. Employment is available at the foundry for 300 people. Modern grates and stoves are included in a wide range of products manufactured at these present works. Many of the products have been exhibited at the British Industries Fair and elsewhere.

THE GLASS WORKS INDUSTRY (DALE BROWN & CO. LTD.)

These works commenced in the mid 19th century and comprised one of the main industries by Tillotsons Wilsons & Sykes, all members of Swinton Bridge families. All the products were mouth blown and consisted mainly of bottles for the beer, wine, spirits and mineral water trades. The firm had trade difficulties and changed hands, when J. & W. Wilkinson carried on until 1910 when the works closed.

In 1913, the present owner, Dale Brown & Co. Ltd., purchased the land and buildings, modernisation ensued, and some of the first semi-automatic machines in the country for the production of glass containers were installed, production commencing on the 1st January, 1914.

These machines made a greater variety of containers. The first World War

delayed early progress, but in 1918 a second furnace was built and put into production also with semi-automatic machines. In these days the men worked two shifts per day of eleven hours each, five days per week.

Later, fully automatic machines were being introduced in Great Britain for making bottles, and the first machine was installed in Swinton in 1929, followed very quickly with several more, as trade for these was built up.

In 1933 crude gas was supplied from the Gas Board by a pipe line from the Manvers Main By-Product Plant for fuel purposes. This gave a cleaner and more progressive method of glass-metal production. This was the first industrial gas installation on a large scale using nearly two million cubic ft. per day, which is now extensively used in other industries as a smokeless and economical fuel.

In 1934 further machines for small bottles, which hitherto had mainly been imported from the Continent were installed and two additional furnaces built and equipped with special machines for this new type of trade, trade which the company had retained and expanded. All these machines worked continuously.

The Second World War again interfered with progress, but as soon as larger fully automatic machines could be imported from America and Canada, where these machines had been developed on account of the larger number of containers used in these countries, these were gradually installed, and to-day several of these machines are in operation, producing well over a million bottles weekly.

Increased production, due to these larger machines, and continuous operation had outstripped the present factory, consequently, a larger complete furnace with auxiliary equipment and warehouses on land acquired some years ago was in the course of erection, although work had been retarded due to the difficult steel supply.

F. KEMP & Co.

Amongst the smaller firms worthy of note, the firm of Fred Kemp & Co. Ltd., Slating & Tiling, dates back more than 300 years. With the recent passing of the late Mr. Fred Kemp a very old Swinton family became extinct.

THE MINERAL WATER AND BOTTLING INDUSTRY—Now Ward & Sons (Swinton) Ltd., Market Street, Swinton.

This industry was commenced about 1870 in a very small way by Charles Jackson in Bridge Street, and by A. & C. Derwent in Crossland Street, which later became the Bala Water Co.

In 1874, William Ward, founder of Ward & Sons, established Mineral Water Works in Market Street. About 1900 Ward & Sons commenced to bottle ale from the renowned Bass and Worthington Companies.

In 1935, the firm had the honour of being one of the first bottlers of the Bass and Worthington All Bright Beers.

At the present time a wide range of all types of beer and British and Continental Lager are supplied. The firm possesses the most up-to-date machinery for bottling, conditioning and filtering, capable of filling, corking and labelling at the capacity of 7,000 bottles per hour.

The mineral water factory has also the very latest type of machinery for washing, filling and labelling, and this has a capacity of 7,200 bottles per hour.

The area of the works is approximately two acres, and 120 workpeople are employed.

The firm has a large fleet of lorries which cover most areas in Yorkshire. They also have considerable trade for their commodities in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

THE SWINTON COOKER WORKS OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

At the end of the war, when it was known that the housing and export programmes would create an unprecedented

demand for electric cookers, the Birmingham Cooker Works of The General Electric Company Ltd., found itself faced with a serious shortage of labour in this highly industrialised area. It was realised that to meet the demand at home and overseas, the company, which has always been one of the largest electric cooker manufacturers in Great Britain, would have to seek a suitable factory in an area where plenty of labour was available. This was not an easy task, for in those areas where labour was to be found there were few factories large enough to handle production requirements.

After a protracted search a former munitions factory was acquired at Swinton, near Mexborough, Yorks. It was a courageous decision, for the factory which had formerly made armour-piercing bombs and aircraft components, had fallen into a state of disrepair. A great deal of plant in the works was unsuitable for conversion to cooker production and while plenty of labour was available in the district, little of it was skilled in electrical work. In addition, foundations were laid, on which to erect furnaces and other heavy equipment. A new building was erected to house the Pickling, Plating, Polishing and Shotblast Departments and a Rail and Van Loading Dock built at the far end of the main building. The acquisition of plant presented a further problem and it was eventually obtained with the help of the Ministry of Supply. Nevertheless, a cooker was assembled and despatched on the 27th June, 1946—just three months after the acquisition of the factory.

The works itself now forms one of the largest in the British Empire devoted exclusively to electric cooker manufacture. It stands on a site some 24 acres in extent, and has 400,000 sq. ft. of factory space under roof. The labour force numbers some 1,200 people, nearly all drawn from the district and trained by a handful of instructors from the Birmingham Works.

Unlike older works these are surrounded by spacious gardens and lawns with a plentiful supply of trees which have established themselves successfully.

The factory greatly improves the appearance of a rather drab area of our district.

YORKSHIRE TAR DISTILLERS LTD.

Don Chemical Works, Kilnhurst.

The founder, the late Mr. Henry Ellison of Cleckheaton, purchased approximately four acres of land from Charles Cooke, Richard Heber Wrightson and Frank Ramsden, Edmund Beckett and Earl Fitzwilliam in the year 1886, on which to commence business as a Tar Distiller in partnership with the late Mr. Mitchell.

The firm of Ellison & Mitchell Ltd. continued until 1927. In that year the important tar distillers in Yorkshire amalgamated to form the present Company, The Yorkshire Tar Distillers Ltd., with branches at Cleckheaton, Kilnhurst, Knottingley, Stourton, Stairfoot and Killamarsh, the Chairman and Joint Managing Director, Mr. H. E. Sugden, being the grandson of the original founder, the Vice-Chairman and Joint Managing Director being Mr. J. B. Vickers who joined the Laboratory staff at Kilnhurst Works on leaving school and who resided in Swinton up to 1939 at which time he was a councillor of the Urban District of Swinton.

The Kilnhurst works has expanded considerably during its lifetime, the area has increased from four to thirty acres, the tar distilled has increased fivefold, the throughput of tar being the largest quantity of any of the company's works.

Modern distillation plant is in use, and the steam boiler plant has been equipped with the latest automatic stoking equipment for the prevention of atmospheric pollution with smoke. The employees number 190.

The products of the company are used in numerous industries, a few of which are as follows:

Road making	Explosives
Liquid and Solid Fuels	Paints
Timber Preservation	Synthetic Resins
Motor Fuel	Drugs
Disinfectants	Electrodes
Dyestuffs	Rubber

The industry contributes appreciably to the exports of the country, and provides the essential materials for the Organic Chemical Industry.

THE SWINTON GAS INDUSTRY

The Gas Works were erected by a company which was established in 1856 under a deed of settlement. Its capital was £9,500 divided into shares of £5 each. In 1872 the company obtained a provisional order to raise £10,000 and also to extend borrowings to £6,000, the new capital bearing interest at 7% and the old at 10%.

The building of the works commenced in 1872, and the Swinton and Mexborough Gas Light Company became responsible for supplying an area of about 3,000 acres. Increasing demand for gas made it necessary for the company in 1882 to erect a large new gasholder which remained in service until 1946. Another new holder was erected by the Gas Board in 1920.

In 1908 the company was dissolved and reincorporated as a Statutory Company with capital increased by £25,000. At that time the Chairman was Mr. J. A. Bower with Messrs. E. T. Harrop, T. Allen and E. E. Swiss as Directors and Mr. F. L. Harrop as Secretary.

In 1909 the Urban District Councils of Swinton and Mexborough asked their ratepayers to agree to the purchase of the undertaking. A meeting of ratepayers at Mexborough agreed by a show of hands, but at Swinton the meeting was more stormy and a poll was demanded. The result, however, was in favour. The Swinton and Mexborough Gas Board came into existence with Councillor J. Bingham as its first Chairman, Councillor John Clayton as Vice-Chairman and Mr. J. W. Hattersley as Clerk. After much controversy, arbitration in London fixed the purchase price at £74,900. From 1908, the quantity of gas distributed increased enormously, from 33 million cubic feet in 1908 and 35 million in 1909 until in 1948 (the last year of the Board) it reached the record high level of 968,367,000 crude gas

and 86,441,000 purified gas, making a full total of 1,054,808,000.

In 1920, the manufacture of gas by the Board was discontinued, and a full bulk supply of crude gas was taken from the coke ovens at Manvers Main. This was the third project in the country to distribute Coke Oven Gas.

At this time the undertaking was in financial difficulties and was obliged for the first time to precept the two Townships for a substantial amount. The capital debt in 1914 was £82,000 and from that year a further £81,000 was borrowed, making a total of £163,000.

In 1931, Messrs. John Baker & Bessemer started taking crude gas direct from the Coke Ovens in large quantities for their Seimens Furnace, and in 1934 Messrs. Dale Brown & Co. also took large quantities of crude gas and installed two new furnaces for the manufacture of glass. With these two large consumers of crude gas and the increased sales of purified gas to other industries, the undertaking began to recover rapidly. From 1920 to 1948, £123,000 was repaid out of revenue and precepts, leaving a capital debt at March 1948 when the works came under the ownership of the East Midland Gas Board of £39,642.

The first Clerk of the Swinton and Mexborough Gas Board was Mr. J. W. Hattersley, the last was his son Mr. Marshall Hattersley. Mr. Beckett, who was works manager for the old company, continued with the Gas Board as Works Foreman. Mr. J. H. Brearley was appointed Gas Engineer of the Swinton and Mexborough Gas Board. Mr. G. Frost followed Mr. Beckett as Works Foreman, and to his son, Mr. A. Frost, now a life-long member of the staff, I am indebted for much of my information.

SWINTON ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

The Swinton Urban District Council obtained an Electric Lighting Order in 1898 which was confirmed by the Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation Act of 1899.

The Mexborough and Swinton Tramway Act of 1902, Section 75, provided, subject to the approval of the Board of Trade, for the transfer of the Swinton Electric Lighting Order to the Mexborough and Swinton Tramway Company. The company agreed to pay the Swinton Council £300, the cost incurred by the Council in obtaining the Electric Lighting Order and the confirmation thereof.

By an Indenture dated 18th July, 1906, the Electric Lighting rights were transferred by the Council to the Mexborough and Swinton Tramway Co.

The Mexborough and Swinton Tramways Act of 1902 which provided for this transfer also fixed various conditions in connection with the supply including maximum tariffs to be charged. These are of interest when compared with present day tariffs. They are as follows:

Lighting of private premises—

8d. per unit.

Lighting of Council premises—

3½d. per unit.

From an inspection of the Year Ledgers of the company it appears that revenue from the supply of electricity to Swinton commenced in September 1907.

The electricity supply was by direct current from the company's Power Station, now workshops for trolley and motor bus overhaul at Dale Road, Rawmarsh. It was conducted to Swinton by one underground cable following the route of the main road from Rawmarsh to Swinton.

By an agreement dated 15th November, 1917, the company sold its electricity undertaking to the Rotherham Corporation. At this date there was one sub-station within the Swinton Urban District boundary.

In April 1918 an underground cable was laid from Dale Road, Rawmarsh, via Kilnhurst, to Messrs. John Baker and Bessemer Company's works which provided an alternating current supply at 3,300 volts.

As the demand for electricity grew a new sub-station was built in Broomville Street and commissioned on the 1st November 1919. On the 12th December, 1920, the incoming voltage was stepped up from 3,300 to 6,600 volts.

All low voltage extensions were now designed with the object of facilitating the changeover from direct to alternating current and by 1925 this changeover had been completed.

Further sub-stations were built as required by the industrial and domestic development of Swinton. At the present day there are 21 sub-stations in the Urban District and the incoming voltage has been stepped up again this time from 6,600 volts to 11,000 volts.

The responsibility for the supply of electricity in Swinton changed hands again when the industry was nationalised on April 1st, 1948, and it came under the control of the Yorkshire Electricity Board No. 3 Sub-Area, Rotherham District.

M. CREIGHTON.

Swinton Water Supply

Up to the latter part of the nineteenth century the population of Swinton and Kilnhurst obtained their drinking water from springs, streams and shallow wells. The town seems to have developed around these supplies of water. This development can be particularly traced along the Brookfield drain into which several springs drained. There was a spring for example, at the rear of the Robin Hood where several old properties existed and was known as Spring Yard. White's Square and the Old Hall obtained their supply from a trough fed by a spring with its source in the garden of Milton House. In Milton Street was the Town Well which is still in existence opposite the Reform Chapel. Bowbroom got its water from the dyke in Thomas Street, and the Woodman area from the spring in Pottery Yard. Wells of varying depth were sunk in cellars and yards, most of which were without protection against contamination, and it is not surprising that all the water-borne diseases were rampant in the district and taken as a matter of course. Polluted wells, for example, in William Street and Charles Street and Thomas Street, Kilnhurst, were closed and the houses supplied with two buckets of water per day.

In the year 1878, the then Local Board instructed their Surveyor to prepare with all speed a scheme for supplying the area with a piped water supply. At the onset the Board requested Mr. Otter, J.P., of Swinton Hall, to allow them to pump water from an old coal pit shaft situated in Brookfield. This water was analysed and found to be of very fair quality. In 1880, it was decided to sink a well at the rear of the Council Yard but this appears to have proved unsuccessful, and in 1882 the present Wortley Avenue well was sunk. This well together with the Gate Inn Reservoir was brought into commission in 1883. The cost of the above works was £6,378, which was a fairly large sum in those days for such a small population to meet. A piped water supply was first available in September 1883 in Church Street, Station Street, Fitzwilliam Street to Kilnhurst.

By the year 1885 the larger part of the district was covered by water mains and the population who had availed themselves of this service, it was reported, were well satisfied. Pressure had to be brought to bear to make other owners connect their houses to the mains.

Owing to the rapid increase in the population, Swinton found itself with a

A HISTORY OF SWINTON

water shortage, and the water was turned off for twelve hours a day during drought periods. A Bill was promoted in Parliament which received Royal Assent in 1894, which gave the Board authority to sink a further well at Bowbroom. No information can be found as to the reason why the Bowbroom scheme was abandoned.

About 1899, the well near the L.M. & S. Railway known as Crossleys Well was sunk and the High Level tank was constructed in Warren Vale Road, and this made it possible to supply the property near the Woodman. Before this tank was constructed, the property in Rockingham Road had been supplied by pumping over a stand pipe known as Swinton Water Tower which still exists on the Gate Inn Reservoir site.

SWINTON WATER SUPPLY IV

Piccadilly well was sunk in 1912, and it was then reported that Swinton's water problem was solved, but owing to large scale conversion to the water carriage system of the old midden privies and the installation of baths and other modern appliances, this optimism did not prove to be well founded. The reports of Council Meetings were usually headed by "Water Shortage" as they have done for the past 60 years, but it is hoped, with the advent of the Sheffield supply coming into the District—the pipes are being laid as I write this report—Swinton's water problem will be solved for all time, and a copious and safe supply available for all.

H. GOODWIN,
Engineer and Surveyor.

INDEX

- ADDY (Addy), 4, 15
 Ancient buildings, 49
 Area of District, 41, 42, 47
 Assessment of 1717, 17

 BAKER & BESSEMER, Ltd., 42, 60
 Barbarian Invasion, 1
 Belleau, 4
 Bottling Industry, 62
 Brameld, 13, 39, 41, 54
 Bretton Priory, 3
 Brigantes, 1

 CENSUS of 1801, 18
 Chapels, Nonconformist, 21, 32, 43
 Church Hall, 9, 44
 Clergy, 9, 29, 30, 35, 37
 Coal mining 15, 46, 48, 59
 Constable, 38
 Co-operative Societies, 30
 Coronations, 1837, 56
 1911, 44
 1937, 47
 1953, 53, 56
 Coronation Clock, 47
 Cottage building 1830, 50
 Creighton, County Alderman M., ix, x, 40, 51
 58, 65
 Creighton Wood, 51
 Cricket, 58

 DALE BROWN & Co. Ltd., 61
 Darley, John (1616) 10
 de Roseville (Boswell), 4
 de Mountenay, 3, 4
 Directories, 20

 Domesday Survey, 2

 EARTHWORKS, Ancient, 1
 Electricity, 64

 FABER, C. & F. W., 12, 25
 Families in old Swinton, 16
 Feast, 6, 11
 Floods, 32

 GAS Undertaking, 43, 64
 General Electric Co. Ltd., 62
 Glass Works, 61
 Goodwin, H., 40, 67
 Green, Chas (1735), 17

 HALL, The Old, 3, 49
 Harrop, E. T., 36, 46
 Harrop, Miss E. K. L., ii, 47, 51, 52
 The Four Churches of Swinton, ix, 11, 12,
 16, 24
 Harrop, F. L., 36, 41, 44, 47
 Harrop Gardens, 46
 Hattersley Bros. Ltd., 61
 Highfield Farm Estate, 50
 Housing, 49, 50
 Hunt, Oto (1571), 4
 Hutchinson, Revd. F., 37

 INDUSTRIES, 1850-1950, 59
 Ingham, Mrs. A., ix, 56
 Inns, 21

 JACKSON, T. NORMAN, V.C., 46
 John, King, 3

- KEBLE MARTIN, Revd. W.
History of Wath-upon-Dearne, ix, 3
 Kemp, F. & Co., 62
 Kilnhurst, 9, 30, 43, 46, 49, 50
 Parish, 29
 Vicars, 30
 Co-operative, 30
 Kingston Jacinth, 48
 Knights of S. John, 3
- LEVETT, Revd. J., 3, 6, 29, 31, 32, 35
 Library, 44
 Lowe, Revd. J. 16, 21, 24, 25, 29, 31
- MACLEAN, A., x, 41
 Masonic Lodges, 44
 Mee, Arthur
 Yorkshire West Riding, x
 Mexborough bills, 8, 25
 Miners' Welfare Grounds, 58
 Montforts of Kilnhurst, 9
 Mower, Mrs. S. (Warden), 11, 15, 24
- NAPOLEONIC Wars, 13
 Norman Arches, 5
 Norman Chapel, 5, 6, 8, 11, 23
 Its dedication, 6
 Nostell Priory, 3
- OLD Men's Retreat, 47
- PARISH Church, viii, x, 23, 31, 34, 35, 36
 Parliamentary Survey, 1707, 8
 Peacey, Revd. W. J., 35, 37, 44
 Pew owners, 24
 Pinfold, 38
 Plague at Swinton, 9
 Plate, Church, 23
 Poor, Guardians of, 39
 Population, 15, 20, 30, 41, 47
 Prices in 19th Century, 26
- QUARRELL, Revd. H. W., vii, x, 37
 Queen's Foundry, 61
- RACECOURSE, 58
 Railways, 42, 59
 "Rambler," ix
 Rateable value 1953, 41
 Records, ix, 16
 Registers, 16, 26
 Rockingham Pottery, 13, 14, 42, 54
 Rock House, 46
 Rogers, Revd. T. G., 37, 44
 Roll of Honour
 1914-18, 45
 1939-45, 49
- Roman Terrace, 29, 32, 39, 47
 Roman Occupation, 1
- SAINT Margaret, 7.
 Saint Mary Magdalene, 6.
 S. Michael's Church, 37.
 Sanitation, 31, 66.
 Savile, 4, 26
 School Board, 39
 Schools, 21, 31, 51
 Scouts, 44
 Sewage Works, 43
 Shaw, Councillor E. E., vii, 40
 Sheppard, Revd. H. F., 29
 Sick Relief in 19th Century, 26
 Singers & Treats, 11
 Sisters' Lych Gate, 51
 Sports & pastimes, 57
 Statistics of births and deaths, 41
 Steele, Revd. C., 9, 37, 44
 Steel Works, 9, 42, 60
 Strikes, 46
 "Swein's Town," 2
 Swinton derivation, 2
 Swinton Bridge, 32, 61
 Swinton U.D.C., 38, 39
 Chairmen, 40
 Chairman's Chain, 52
 Offices, 41, 48
 Officials, 40
- TAX returns, 1804, 27
 Temperance movement, 28
 Toll Bar, 42
 Town Cross, 5
 Traction Company, 42
 Turner, W. P., ii, 44, 52
- VESTRY, Select, 1821, 38
 Villa Porcorum, 2
- WADDINGTON, E. V., ii, 59
 Wade, 4, 16, 17
 Ward & Sons (Swinton) Ltd., 62
 Wardens, 11, 12, 16, 31
 Water supply, 66
 Waterways, 59
 Waterworks, 43, 66
 Wath, 8, 25
 Church Bill 1777, 12
 Registers, 16
 "Wishing Well," 1
 World War I, 44
 II, 48, 61
- YORKSHIRE Tar Distillers Ltd., 63

A PLAN
of the
Township of Swinton.
1816

SCALE 1/2 Mile

