

YORKSHIRE CRICKETERS BORN IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

On 2 to 5 September 1833, at the Hyde Park Cricket Ground in Sheffield, a side named Yorkshire took on opponents from Sheffield. This was the first game played by a team called Yorkshire, 30 years before the Sheffield meeting that created the most successful domestic cricket team in history.

Five of the Yorkshire players in this fixture were born in the 1790s. They were William Henry Woolhouse (b 21 January 1791), Emmanuel Vincent (b 2 October 1798), George Smith (b 1799), George Edward Dawson (b 19 March 1799) and the oldest of them all, Thomas Deakin (b 2 May 1790) who would be 43 years of age at the time of the above game.

Yorkshire began as they were destined to go on for the next 188 years and won the game by 120 runs.

Yorkshire won the toss and elected to bat in a match where an over consisted on four deliveries.

Yorkshire 138 (W H Woolhouse 31; three wickets for Fuller Pilch) and 196 (Tom Marsden 53, James Dearman 40; three wickets for Nathaniel Pilch) beat Norfolk 67 (Pile 20; three wickets for Tom Marsden) and 147 (C A Wilkinson 25, F Pilch 23) by 120 runs.

THOMAS DEAKIN – He was born 2 May 1790 in Sheffield and christened on the same day. Details of his death are unknown. He was an English first-class **cricketer**, active 1833–1836, who played for Sheffield **Cricket** Club and for Yorkshire. In the above game, he batted last in the order but did not bowl. The batting order at this time bore no resemblance to the calibre of player occupying that position. He played one game for Yorkshire in each of the next three seasons, but did not achieve much of note.

CAREER BATTING AND FIELDING

1st Class Matches	Inns	Not Outs	Total Runs	Highest Score	Average	100s	50s	Ct/St
5	9	1	59	16	7.37	-	-	1

WILLIAM HENRY WOOLHOUSE - He was born on 21 January 1791 in Sheffield and died on 14 July 1837 in London, aged just 46. Woolhouse has the distinction of being the first left-handed batsman to represent Yorkshire, a line that extends to the 123rd such player in Dawid Johannes Malan in 2020.

CAREER BATTING AND FIELDING

1st Class Matches	Inns	Not Outs	Total Runs	Highest Score	Average	100s	50s	Ct/St
17	33	2	440	51	14.19	-	1	18

Miscellaneous Matches (For Sheffield)	Inns	Not Outs	Total Runs	Highest Score	Average	100s	50s	Ct/St
14	26	3	197	61	8.56	-	1	19

In 1820, Woolhouse, as one of the most influential men in the early days of Yorkshire cricket, along with five other local tradesmen, founded The Wednesday Cricket Club.

The Wednesday Cricket Club soon became one of the pre-eminent cricket clubs in the Sheffield area. The Wednesday club was the direct forerunner of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club.

The founders were, as well as Woolhouse, William Stratford (the first President), John Southren, Tom Lindley, George Dawson and George Hardisty. The club was so named because that was their day off, and therefore the only day they could play. One of the club's first grounds was the New Darnall ground (parts of the old one had collapsed during a big game between Sheffield and Nottingham), which was more than capable of hosting a big game, perhaps the biggest of them all coming in 1828 when a combined Yorkshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire XI faced a Rest of England XI in front of a sell-out crowd of 8,000.

Sheffield had been the home of cricket in the north of England during the first half of the nineteenth century, and Sheffield Cricket Club had played under the guise of a 'Yorkshire' side for many years prior to the formation of Yorkshire Country Cricket Club in 1863.

Some great local cricketers appeared for the Wednesday club, men like Michael Ellison (who later became President of Yorkshire CCC from 1864 to 1867), William Slinn, Tom Hunt, George Pinder, Tom Armitage, (selected in the England team that took on Australia in the first ever test match in 1877), and possibly the greatest of them all, Tom Marsden. Marsden was for many years the best single wicket cricketer in the north of England, and, not short on confidence, he put up a £50 reward for anyone to beat him. The great Southern cricketer of the time, Fuller Pilch, did just that, in 1828, and when a rematch was organised, over 20,000 crammed into the Old Darnall ground hoping to see their man gain revenge. However Marsden was defeated once more and it proved to be the beginning of the end for a player who, aged just 21, had hit 227 in a game for Sheffield & Leicester versus Nottingham, at that time only the third double century seen in England. In 1841 he finally lost his northern single wicket crown to Harry Sampson, another Wednesday man who later that year scored 162 against Sheffield on ice!

The town was awash with multi-talented sportsmen around the mid-Nineteenth century, and a few even managed to appear for both the cricket and football sections of the Wednesday club, William Stacey and Lance Morley, among them. However the most famous man to appear for the club in both sports was one of Sheffield's greatest ever characters - George Ulyett. Ulyett made his only competitive appearance for the football club when keeping goal against Notts County in an 1883 FA Cup tie, but the Pitsmoor man was far more renowned as a top class cricketer. After playing in the first ever test match alongside Tom Armitage, his most famous moment came in 1884, when claiming a wicket against the Australians at Lord's. Having bowled to renowned hard hitter George Bonner, the batsman smashed it straight back down the wicket, and to the amazement of the crowd, Ulyett caught it. The great W.G. Grace even labelled him 'foolish' for attempting such a catch, as he believed it would have broken his arm should the bowler have misjudged it.

The Wednesday Cricket Club has now re-formed thanks to a group of enthusiastic Owls fans and have entered a team into the Midweek Alliance League for the 2011 summer season.

Also in 1822, along with his father-in-law George Steer, Woolhouse was behind the construction of the Darnall Old Ground, as well as the Darnall New Ground. Woolhouse married Mary Steer,

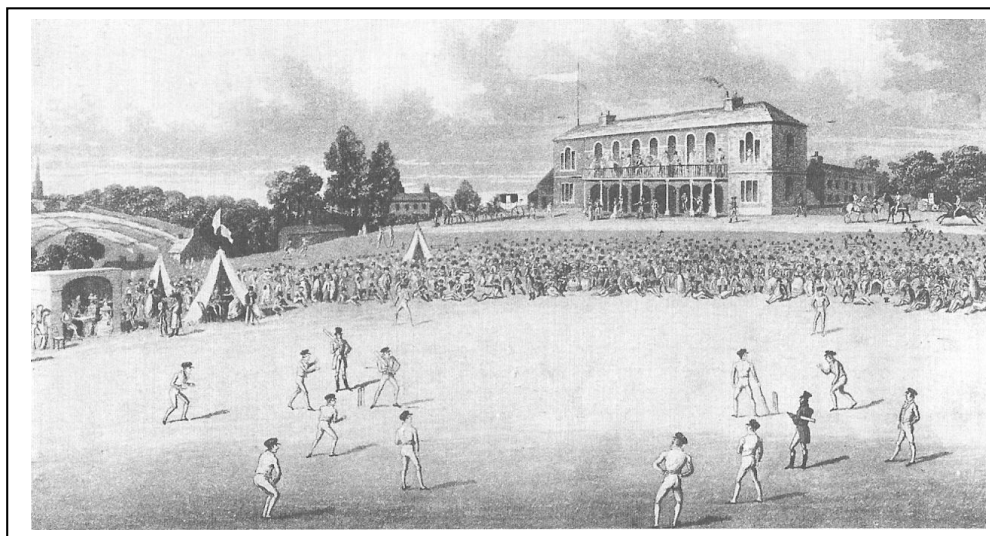
Woolhouse later made his debut in first-class cricket for a combined Sheffield and Leicester team against Nottingham in 1826, while the following season he made two first-class appearances for Sheffield against Nottingham.

He made several first-class appearances in 1828, playing for England against The Bs at Lord's, as well as playing for a Left Handed team in the Left-Handed v Right-Handed fixture.

He also made two first-class appearances for Sheffield against Nottingham, and played for a combined Yorkshire-Nottinghamshire-Leicestershire against England. Following two first-class appearances for Sheffield in 1829, Woolhouse made a single appearance for the team in 1830, 1831, and 1832.

In 1833, Woolhouse made a second first-class appearance for the Left-Handed team, this time against the Marylebone Cricket Club, before appearing in Yorkshire's inaugural first-class match in September against Norfolk at the Hyde Park Ground, Sheffield.

He made two further first-class appearances, both for Yorkshire against Norfolk in 1834.



A contemporary print, showing the Darnall New Ground in Sheffield in the early 19th century.

Woolhouse was always jealous of the North's reputation in the matter of cricket talent and, in 1828, invited the all England XI to play at Darnall against a combined side representing Yorkshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. Unfortunately, the all England side won by 242 runs with Fuller Pilch scoring 49 and 56 and Fred Lillywhite taking 12 wickets.

He later also became the owner of the new Hyde Park ground in Sheffield. He also played four games at Lord's.

His death was a sad affair. He was in London to try to find a cure for a spinal complaint but could not do so and missed his transport back to Sheffield. So he stayed in London at Cross Keys and there he died a few days later. No gravestone was erected and so the last resting place of someone who has a fair claim to being the father of Yorkshire cricket, is now built over and lost.

EMMANUEL VINCENT – Born on 2 October 1798 in Sheffield, he died, also in Sheffield, on 7 July 1860, aged 61. He was an occasional WK and RH batsman. He bowled in one match for Sheffield against the All-England XI at the Hyde Park ground in Sheffield on 31 August to 2 September 1846. His figures were 2-1-1-0. His top score of 114 was made for Sheffield against Leicester at the Barker's ground in Leicester on 8-10 August 1825.

He is seen as one of the best players of the early period of Yorkshire cricket, just behind Tom Marsden and James Dearman.

He played for England against Kent & Sussex at Lord's in 1838 and, also in 1838, twice for the North v the South.

CAREER BATTING AND FIELDING

1st Class Matches (For Yorkshire, Nottingham and the North)	Inns	Not Outs	Total Runs	Highest Score	Average	100s	50s	Ct/St
20	38	4	372	42	10.94	-	-	17/15
Miscellaneous Matches (For Sheffield & Nottingham)	Inns	Not Outs	Total Runs	Highest Score	Average	100s	50s	Ct/St
14	25	0	270	114	10.80	1	-	7/7

Emmanuel Vincent provides the first example of the strict rules that governed teams in the 1820s.

The *Nottingham Review* of August 1827 comments: 'Vincent, a very clever cricket player who distinguished himself last summer in two matches between Sheffield and Leicester, is barred by the Sheffield authorities from playing in the two matches now pending between Sheffield and Nottingham, though having lived here (Nottingham) some time.'

Vincent was born in Sheffield in 1798 and was a scissor smith by trade. He played for Sheffield from 1822. In 1828 he was allowed to represent Nottingham and played in seven First-Class games for the Club until 1832 before returning to Sheffield.

He played 20 First-Class matches, making 372 runs at 10.94 and a top score of 42, for Nottingham against his home club, Sheffield. He is credited with being an 'occasional' wicket keeper, though sufficiently often for him to claim 17 catches and 15 stumpings.

He then returned to Sheffield, his final game for his native town was in 1846.

He was awarded a benefit in October 1848.

GEORGE EDWARD DAWSON – He was born on 19 March 1799 in Sheffield and died, also in Sheffield on 3 May 1843, aged just 44. He played first-class cricket from 1827 to 1836. He was mainly associated with Sheffield Cricket Club, and made eight known appearances in first-class matches, although in the 1830s, the names of Sheffield and Yorkshire were synonymous. .

CAREER BATTING AND FIELDING

1st Class Matches (For Yorkshire, Nottingham and the North)	Inns	Not Outs	Total Runs	Highest Score	Average	100s	50s	Ct/St
8	16	0	105	15	6.56	-	-	1
Miscellaneous Matches (For Sheffield)	Inns	Not Outs	Total Runs	Highest Score	Average	100s	50s	Ct/St
5	10	0	68	38	6.80	-	-	4

He also took seven wickets for Yorkshire but no other figures exist to indicate his average or best return.

He figures in two historic Yorkshire matches. The first of these was twenty-two of Sheffield against All England at the Darnall New ground on 23-27 May 1825 and the 1833 Norfolk fixture referred to above. Against All-England, Dawson bagged a pair. In both innings, he was dismissed by George Brown, the quick bowler from Nottinghamshire. In this game, Sheffield players James Dearman, W Taylor, George Rawlins, G Skinner and W Wilson all bagged a pair we well.

In that game, Dawson took two wickets but might have had more as bowlers were only credited with a wicket if they disturbed the stumps. Batsmen caught or stumped were not, at that time, credited to the bowler.

In 1827, he again played at Darnall in the first of the experimental matches between the England side and the rebellious round-arm bowling of the Sussex team. The Sussex rebels, led by Jem Broadbridge and James Lilywhite, won by seven wickets. This new style of bowling was also termed as “throwing”. As with all innovations, the new style was gradually accepted and Dawson himself adopted it by changing from fast under-arm to slow round-arm.

Dawson was a prosperous manufacturer of razors and a prosperous supporter of Sheffield cricket.

In a match against Nottingham in 1829, he was, according to the Sheffield contingent “cheated out”. Not surprisingly, the Nottingham version of events had it simply as Run Out.

Apparently, the umpires declined to give Dawson out but several Nottingham players declared that they would leave the field if their appeal was not upheld. The umpires eventually gave in and the play was resumed.

GEORGE SMITH – He was born in 1799 in Sheffield and died, also in Sheffield on 15 September 1839 also in Sheffield. He was 39 or 40 years of age.

CAREER BATTING AND FIELDING

1st Class Matches (For Yorkshire, Nottingham and the North)	Inns	Not Outs	Total Runs	Highest Score	Average	100s	50s	Ct/St
12	23	1	313	51	14.22	-	1	7
Miscellaneous Matches (For Sheffield)	Inns	Not Outs	Total Runs	Highest Score	Average	100s	50s	Ct/St
8	14	1	180	28	13.84	-	-	6

He also claimed a wicket in the game against England at the Darnall New ground on 23-27 May 1825 (a five-day encounter)

He too figures in two historic Yorkshire matches. The first of these was twenty-two of Sheffield against All England at the Darnall New ground on 23-27 May 1825 and the 1833 Norfolk fixture referred to above.

Two matches in which he excelled were played later in the year. He scored 51 for Sheffield against Nottingham at the end of August. Even later, in October, he scored 57 for Sheffield Wednesday against Yorkshire. Smith lived all his life in Sheffield where he was an inn-keeper.
