

Gilbert Brothers, Sheffield.

This enterprise has been launched in Eyre Street by 1839, as a manufacturer of razors and strops. An advertisement appeared in Drake's Road Book of the Sheffield & Rotherham Railway (1840), giving the address as Eyre Street, corner of Charles Street, and offering for sale the "celebrated India steel elastic edge razor". In 1844, the partnership was dissolved, though Gilbert Bros remained in business in Nortfolk Lane making razors and acting as agents for Phoenix Stores. The firm exhibited "a variety of superior razors" at the Great Exhibition (1851). During the 1850s and early 1860s, the proprietor was William Gilbert (born in Sheffield c.1811), who lived at East View, Mount Pisgah, and then in Wilkinson Street. By 1860, Gilbert Bros was in Rockingham Street (Yard 126). However, an advertisement in Pawson & Brailsford's Illustrated Guide (1862) shows that the firm had relocated to Upper St Philip's Road, where it manufactured razors and cutlery with the trademark "Eclipse". According to the 1861 Census, William Gilbert employed 20 men and three boys.

GILBERT BROTHERS,
RAZOR MANUFACTURERS,
25,
N O R F O L K - L A N E ,
SHEFFIELD.

**N.B. MANUFACTURERS OF THE CELEBRATED
'ECLIPSE' RAZORS.**

After 1864, William Gilbert and Frederick William Gilbert (William's son) were listed at various times as proprietors. The company's last listed address was No. 78, West Street. William Gilbert, West Street, died on 23 July 1871. He was aged 60. Frederick W. Gilbert became a commercial traveler. After 1909, the "Eclipse" trademark was used by the steel and tool maker James Neill.

According to materials of
Tweedale's Directory Of
Sheffield Cutlery Manufacturers.