

Hargreaves, Smith & Company.

The business was founded by William Hargreaves (c.1804-1874), who was the son of William Hargreaves of Colley & Hargreaves. By 1837, William and Lydia Hargreaves (his sister) were listed in Eyre Lane as a merchant and table knife manufacturer. After the 1850s, William Hargreaves & Co also acted as agents for Swedish iron. At the Great Exhibition in 1851, the firm displayed a fine assortment of table, carving, and bread knives. The firm also exhibited at the New York Exhibition in 1853.

In 1859, the firm was restyled as Hargreaves, Smith & Co. Charles Edward Smith, living at Fir Vale, Pitsmoor, was the new partner. A strong American connection was apparent at this time, with Hargreaves and Smith forming a partnership with New York agents Edward Marshall and Henry Dickinson. These partnerships were dissolved in 1866, when Smith relinquished his interest (he died on 10 February 1871, aged 44).

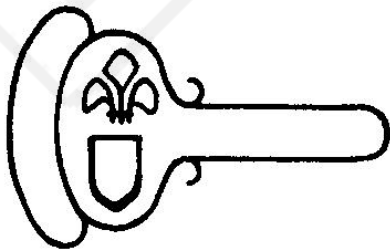
However, Hargreaves still described himself as an "American merchant".

By 1864, another partner had joined the firm. This was Isaac Milner, who was another Quaker. Milner had been born in Sheffield on 18 September 1834, the son of Charles Milner, an ironmonger in Fargate. Eventually, Isaac became head of the company after William Hargreaves collapsed and died at the Turkish Baths in Norfolk Street on 23 May 1874, aged 70. He was unmarried and had no children. He was buried in the Quaker burial ground in Meetinghouse Lane, Woodhouse.

Milner styled himself as a "South American merchant" and in 1881 had a staff of four. He became a JP in 1893 and appears to have retired about two years later, when his former firm discontinued cutlery manufacture and switched to steel and edge tools. Isaac Milner, Kenwood Road, died on 6 August 1926, aged 91. The assets were acquired by [Marsh Bros](#) in 1927 (the name was still listed as late as 1959). The company had two marks registered for cutlery: the words, "J. Smith & Co.", and "Fryers".



FRYERS



J. SMITH & CO SHEFFIELD

