

The Parish Church of St Giles', Pontefract

The Military Memorials of St Oswald's Chapel

Suggested Donation: £2

A Warm Welcome to St Giles'

St Giles Church, is the Anglican Parish Church of Pontefract.

Situated in the heart of the town the Grade II* listed building, with its unique octagonal tower that is visible for miles around, proclaims the Glory of God to the people of Pontefract and its many visitors.

We would like to thank you for choosing to visit our lively and growing church.

We are an open, welcoming and inclusive parish and we are sure that you will enjoy your visit.

Everyone is welcome here at St Giles' and if you require any assistance or information, please ask one of our Open Church volunteers.

The research for this guide was assisted by Bruce Dalgleish and Adrian Pope.

Text on Henry Latham Brownrigg by John Colville.

*If you have enjoyed reading this visitors' guide,
and would like to contribute toward the work of the church,
please place your donation in the publications box
on the wall in Reception.*

Saint Oswald's Chapel

The military chapel at the east end of the north aisle is known as St Oswald's Chapel. The Church has a long association with St Oswald, as there may have been a small chapel of St Oswald here before the Church was built. Also, until 1734, St Oswald's Cross stood on the site now occupied by the Buttercross.

St Oswald was a popular saint in Yorkshire. He was born, probably around 605, a son of a pagan northern king. Converted to Christianity, Oswald became King of Northumbria, ruling from 634 to his death in 642. The cult of St Oswald developed soon after his death in battle against the pagan forces of Mercia.



Introduction to the Military Memorials

The memorials were moved to this part of the church during major reordering in 2012-13.

Pontefract has a long connection with the military.

Troops were stationed at the Barracks on Wakefield Road and marched to St Giles' every Sunday morning from about 1879, for about 70 years.

The memorials in the chapel commemorate members of the armed services from the Barracks and from Pontefract who have given their lives for their country since 1879.

War Memorials



The panel behind the altar
lists and is dedicated
to the members of the parish
who fell in the 1914-1918 War.

A copy of the Pontefract Roll of Honour for 1914-18
is here on the altar.



This candle was lit as part of the **Lights Out** event to mark 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War.

Homes and businesses were encouraged to turn their lights out for an hour, leaving a single candle burning.

This was inspired by the words of wartime Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey, who said on the eve of WWI:

“The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.”

In the café area, beside the door to St Margaret Clitheroe room, a plaque commemorates the end of the First World War.

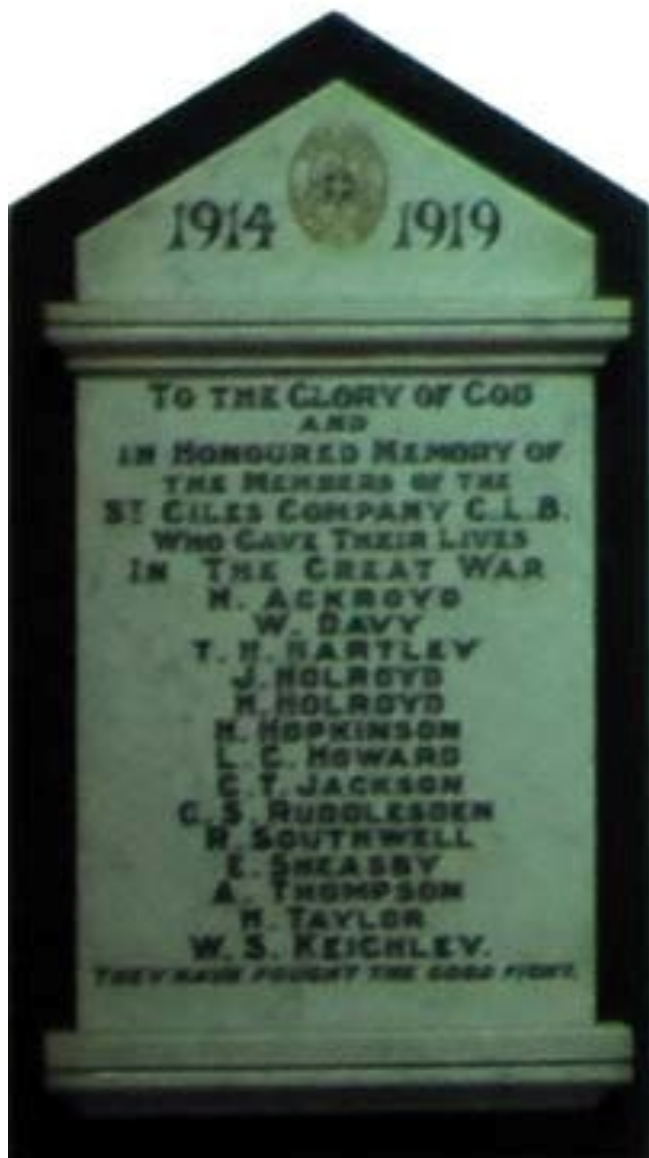
As a Corporate Gift of Thanksgiving
 To Almighty God for Deliverance
 Victory and Peace;
 and In lasting Memory of
 Past Benefactors and a Perpetual Tribute
 to the Gallant Men of the Parish
 Who made the Supreme Sacrifice
 During the Great War

£3,000 was raised by voluntary subscriptions
 The Eight Original Bells were Recast
 and rehung, Two New Bells added
 The Organ renovated and Enlarged
 and electric light installed.

A. Dixon
 O. Holmes
 G. Stewart
 W.J. Wilby

Churchwardens
 AD 1920

J.W. Capron,
 Vicar



1914 1919
 TO THE GLORY OF GOD
 AND
 HONOURED MEMORY OF
 THE MEMBERS OF THE
 ST GILES COMPANY C.L.B.
 WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
 IN THE GREAT WAR

H. ACKROYD
 W. DAVY
 T. H. HARTLEY
 J. HOLROYD
 H. HOLROYD
 H. HOPKINSON
 L. G. HOWARD
 C. T. JACKSON
 C. S. RUDDLESDEN
 R. SOUTHWELL
 E. SHEASBY
 A. THOMPSON
 H. TAYLOR
 W. S. KEIGHLEY

THEY HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Groups such as these were known as Pals Battalions. Men would be encouraged to join up and fight with friends and colleagues. Lord Derby suggested this as a way to recruit more soldiers. His idea was that people who already knew each other well would look after each other and keep each others' spirits up during the hard times. This would be good for the morale of the army.



TO THE EVERLASTING
HONOUR AND
GLORY OF THE
**8,814 OFFICERS
NON-COMMISSIONED
OFFICERS AND MEN**
OF THE
YORK AND LANCASTER
REGIMENT WHO FELL
IN THE GREAT WAR
1914 — 1919



IN MEMORY OF
THE 82 OFFICERS AND 1499 OTHER RANKS
OF THE YORK AND LANCASTER REGIMENT
WHO FELL IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR
1939 – 1945



The Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

The Regiment Was Raised By The Marquis
Of Rockingham (Lord Lieutenant Of Yorkshire)

In 1755 At The Red Lion Inn Pontefract.

This Plaque Was Presented

To St. Giles Church On The 1st August 2012 On The Anniversary Of

The Battle Of Minden 1759 By Officers, Warrant Officers,

N.C.O's And Men That Served In The K.O.Y.L.I. The Light Infantry

The Rifles And All Future Generations Of Rifleman

The Regiment Became The 51st Light Infantry 1809, Then The

51st Kings Own Light Infantry In 1821.

In 1881 The 51st And 105th Amalgamated

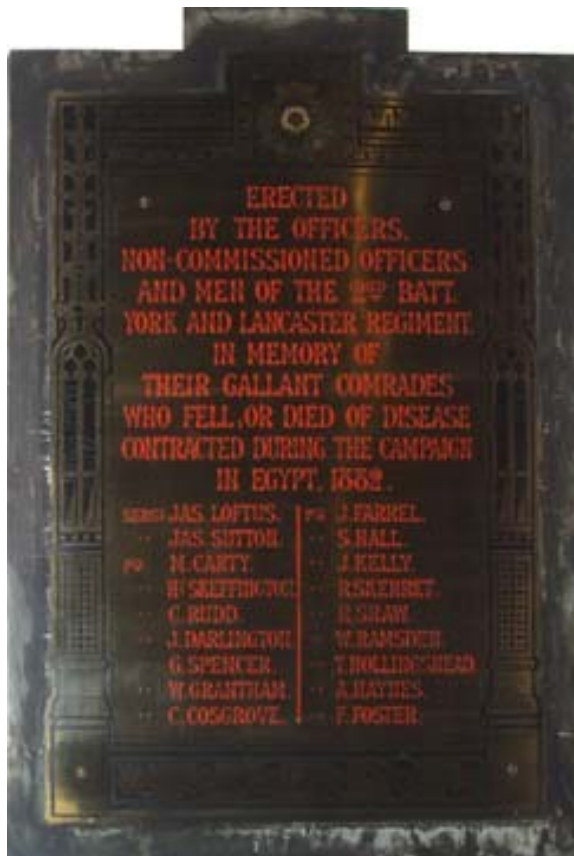
To Become The

Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Then In 1968 Became The

2nd Light Infantry

And In 2007 Changed To The Rifles.



ERECTED BY
THE OFFICERS,
NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS
AND MEN OF THE 2ND BATT.
YORK AND LANCASTER REGIMENT.
IN MEMORY OF
THEIR GALLANT COMRADES
WHO FELL, OR DIED OF DISEASE
CONTRACTED DURING THE
CAMPAIGN
IN EGYPT, 1882

SER^{GT} JAS. LOFTUS
SER^{GT} JAS. SUTTON.
P^{TE} M. CARTY
P^{TE} H. SKEFFINGTON
P^{TE} C. RUDD
P^{TE} J. DARLINGTON
P^{TE} G. SPENCER
P^{TE} W. GRANTHAM
P^{TE} C. COSGROVE

P^{TE} J. FARREL.
P^{TE} S. HALL
P^{TE} J. KELLY
P^{TE} R. SKERRET
P^{TE} H. SHAW
P^{TE} W. RAMSDEN
P^{TE} T. HOLLINGSHEAD
P^{TE} A. HAYNES
P^{TE} F. FOSTER.

Britain and France invaded Egypt in 1882 following a revolt against them and the ruler of Egypt. Both had an interest in the country following the building of the Suez Canal (1859-69). Due to corruption and mismanagement Egypt was on the verge of financial collapse in the 1870s leading to the intervention with the aim of restoring the Egyptian ruler and Anglo-French control.

Individual Military Memorials

IN MEMORY OF
THOMAS BLANCO
WHO SERVED WITH THE
51ST KING'S OWN LIGHT INFANTRY,
THROUGHOUT THE PENINSULAR CAMPAIGN,
AND WAS ONE OF A PARTY WHO ASSISTED
TO BURY SIR JOHN MOORE AT CORUNNA.
HE DIED AT PONTEFRACT JULY 11TH 1873
AGED 90 YEARS.

THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED BY THE OFFICERS,
NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND PRIVATE SOLDIERS,
OF THE 51ST REGIMENT, AS A MARK OF RESPECT FOR THE
VETERANS GALLANT SERVICES



The Battle of Corunna took place in January 1809 in very wintry conditions. The Peninsular Campaign (1807–1814) was part of the Napoleonic Wars. It was fought between Napoleon's empire and the allied powers of Spain, Britain and Portugal for control of the Iberian Peninsula. The war started when French and Spanish armies invaded and occupied Portugal in 1807, and escalated in 1808 when France turned on Spain, its ally until then.

Sir John Moore was killed during the battle. His burial is remembered in the poem by Charles Wolfe (1791–1823), 'The Burial of Sir John Moore after Corunna'.

Sir John also built the Martello Towers along our coast as part of our defence against Napoleon.

Thomas is first recorded as living in the area when he is recorded as living with his wife at the Cock and Bottle Inn in Sandal, Wakefield in the 1841 Census. He had been made redundant following a reduction in the size of the army after the Napoleonic Wars. By the 1851 Census they had moved to Pontefract and he was working as a chemist's porter. In the 1861 Census they are recorded as living in the Alms House on Micklegate. In the final Census before his death (1871) he is recorded as being a widower and living with several other elderly men under the care of a Matron, Hannah Sayles.



IN MEMORY OF
LIEUTENANT AND ADJUTANT
ROBERT S^T GEORGE HAMILTON,
OF THE 65TH (2ND YORKSHIRE NORTH RIDING) REG^T
WHO DIED AT EALING APRIL 23RD 1877, AGED 25 YEARS
FROM ILLNESS CONTRACTED IN THE PERFORMANCE
OF HIS DUTIES IN INDIA.
THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY HIS BROTHER OFFICERS
AS A TRIBUTE OF THEIR REGARD AND ESTEEM.

Queen Victoria became Empress of India in January 1877 following the folding of the East India Company three years earlier. As part of British Imperialism in India troops were stationed there to maintain order.



IN MEMORY OF
HENRY LATHAM BROWNRIGG
LIEUT COLONEL COMMANDING
H.M. 84TH (YORK & LANCASTER) REGIMENT
DIED AT DOVER
23RD JUNE 1879
AGED 48 YEARS.
ERECTED BY HIS BROTHER OFFICERS.

Henry Latham Brownrigg was born in Dublin 6th July 1831, to parents Reverend Henry and Mrs Anne Brownrigg (nee Coddington). His father was the vicar of a parish in County Wicklow, Ireland, which was at that time part of the Union. The London Gazette records that Henry Latham Brownrigg, Gent, enlisted in the 89th foot regiment as an Ensign, without purchase on 25th May 1855, aged 24, He Served in Malta 7th February to 4th June 1856; Gibraltar 5th June to 6th August 1856; Cape of Good Hope 10th May to 10th September 1857. The regiment was posted to the East Indies from 11th September 1857 to 2nd September 1859.

His service in India between 1857 to 1858, corresponded with the period they were heavily engaged in action against the Indian Mutiny at Cawnpore and Lucknow. The Indians consider this as their first war of independence.



Promoted to Lieutenant without purchase on 17th November 1857 at the age of 26, he then transferred to 84th Foot on 13th April 1858. Detachments were scattered throughout the various forts that were soon besieged; the Regiment received great acclaim for their actions during this period. General Outram commander at Lucknow, wrote of the 84th *“A private letter is hardly a proper medium for giving expression to the strong feelings I bear to the glorious old 84th, but the feelings I do bear it, are very strong, and every officer, non-commissioned officer and private of the Corps is, and ever shall be, my comrade and my friend.”*

Lt. Brownrigg was involved in the relief of Lucknow and was, along with thousands of others, awarded the Indian Mutiny medal with the Lucknow bar. (Six Victoria Crosses were also awarded in these actions.) During the siege and relief of Lucknow 8,000 British troops were involved and they sustained 2,500 casualties. Brownrigg served in the Shahabad District under Brigadier J. Douglas C.B. until the suppression of the Rebellion in that District. Both side were responsible for numerous horrific atrocities during the conflict. The 84th



Regiment left India in 1859 for England and then began another tour of the empire.

The 1861 census shows that Lieutenant Henry Latham Brownrigg lived in barracks at Salford on the appropriate date. He married Charlotte Dugdale, also the daughter of a vicar, during May 1863 in Burnley.

His career continued as Captain by purchase 5th April 1864, stationed in Malta 3rd April 1865 to 27th February 1867; Jamaica 28th February 1867 to 31st December 1869; Halifax Nova Scotia February 1870 to 11th January 1871.

He became a Major by purchase 5th May 1869 and then was made a Lieutenant Colonel on 1st October 1877. By 1879 he was the commanding officer of 84th Foot, but unfortunately died in service, aged 48, on 23rd June 1879 at Dover. It is not recorded whether he was stationed there or passing through at the time. Apparently it was not unusual for someone who had spent a lot of time in the tropics to die that young. Probate records show that his estate, approximately £3,000 (£300 K at today's prices) was left to his wife Anne, of Weymouth Dorset, there being no offspring.

However, although there is no actual evidence that he was stationed here in Pontefract, there are some gaps in the records of his extensive foreign service, when on a home posting, he may have been at Pontefract. After his death the 84th Foot was sent to Ireland in 1880. When the army reforms were implemented in 1881, regiments became localised and given county names, the 84th became the 2nd Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment.



ERECTED
BY HIS BROTHER OFFICERS
IN MEMORY OF 2ND LIEUTENANT
E. E. KAUNTZE
2ND BATT THE KING'S OWN
YORKSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY
WHO DIED AT QUETTA
BALUCHISTAN
ON 27TH OCTOBER
1888.

Quetta is a district in the north-west of Balochistan province of Pakistan. It was captured by the British troops during the Second Anglo-Afghan War of 1878-1880. The Anglo-Afghan Wars were three conflicts (1839–42; 1878–80; 1919) in which Great Britain, from its base in India, sought to extend its control over neighbouring Afghanistan and to oppose Russian influence there. British troops were still stationed there in 1888.



TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY OF
PRIVATE RICHARD MILLS

1ST YORK AND LANCASTER REGIMENT,

WHO DIED AT HASSAN PIR, KARACHI, INDIA, ON THE 14TH
JANUARY, 1912, IN A MOST GALLANT ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE LIFE
OF A COMRADE, PRIVATE JOHN HIMSWORTH, FROM DROWNING.
THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY THE 1ST YORK AND LANCASTER REGIMENT
TO COMMEMORATE HIS BRAVERY AND DEVOTION.

“GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE
FOR HIS FRIENDS”

S. JOHN. XV. 13

Other Military Memorials in St Giles'

Reception: ~ The Memorial to Richard, Duke of York



WAKEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE BODY OF RICHARD, DUKE OF YORK
KILLED AT THE BATTLE OF WAKEFIELD
1460
RESTED OVERNIGHT NEAR THIS PLACE
DURING THE PROCESSION
CARRYING HIM FOR BURIAL
AT
FOTHERINGHAY
21-30 JULY 1476
2010



The Battle of Wakefield took place in Sandal Magna near Wakefield on 30th December 1460. It was a major battle of the Wars of the Roses. The opposing forces were an army led by nobles loyal to the captive King Henry VI of the House of Lancaster, his Queen Margaret of Anjou and their seven-year-old son Edward, Prince of Wales on one side, and the army of Richard, Duke of York, the rival claimant to the throne, on the other. The Duke of York was killed and his army was destroyed. He was buried at Pontefract, but his head was put on a pike by the victorious Lancastrian armies and displayed over Micklegate Bar at York, wearing a paper crown. His remains were later moved to Church of St Mary

and All Saints, Fotheringhay with great ceremony resting each night at Doncaster, Blyth, Tuxford le Clay, Newark, Grantham, Stamford and finally being reburied at Fotheringhay. A huge funeral feast for 15,000 people followed. The Wakefield Historical Society retraced this journey in 2010 to mark the 550th Anniversary of Richard's death. A special service was performed at each place where the body rested. The stained glass window pictured can be found in St. Laurence's Church, Ludlow, Shropshire.

Sources: Text and picture of the stained glass window from Wikipedia

The South Aisle - Surgeon Major Henry Muscroft

A window in the south wall of the Church was dedicated to **Surgeon Major Henry Muscroft** of Pontefract (1830-84) by his family.

They Brought unto him all sick people and He Heald them. [Matthew 4:24]



Beside this is a memorial tablet from the officers and men of his battalion.



TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND THE MEMORY OF
HENRY MUSCROFT MD
SURGEON MAJOR 3RD BATTALION
KING'S OWN LIGHT INFANTRY
(FORMERLY THE WEST YORK RIFLES)
WHO DIED DEC^R 5TH 1884 AGED 54 YEARS.

THIS TABLET WAS ERECTED BY THE OFFICERS
(PAST AND PRESENT) NON COMMISSIONED
OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE
BATTALION.

Henry Muscroft became a surgeon as his father, James, before him. He married Elizabeth Sinclair Bisset, who was born in Bourtie, Aberdeenshire, where her father, James, was minister. Henry became Surgeon-Major to the West Yorkshire Rifles, later dubbed the King's Own Light Infantry. He also drew attention to the "most frightful state" of the water supply in Knottingley, where the population drank the canal water, "which in dry weather threw off a most obnoxious stench and was in a state of fermentation".

Henry's brother Edward and sister Eliza (married name Coleman) also have windows dedicated to them. Details on the location of these in St Giles' can be found in the guide book about the windows.

The South Aisle - The Memorial of Major Matthew Swinney (1684-1766)



SWINNEY the brave the virtuous and the just
Hath mixed his ashes with their native dust.
E'er manhood's honors dawn'd upon his face
He proved his arms against the *Spanish* race.
Wade, Stanhope, Mordaunt, Carpenter, Dalzell,
With truth and rapture, if alive, could tell
How fierce he fought whilst fighting aught avail'd
How sullen yielded when our numbers failed.
From hairbreadth scapes and bloody toils reliev'd
Many he gave but ne'er a wound receiv'd.
He spurn'd at cowards with becoming pride
Laurels his aim and Providence his Guide.
In peace neglected and reduc'd he sped
Without one murmur to his homely shed.
Call'd forth, at last, by warlike *George* to view
He drew his Broadsword and he us'd it too.
His dauntless heart at *Dettingen* was try'd
When *Brunswic* glow'd with *William* at his side.
Grown old, yet vig'rous in his Country's cause
The King dismiss'd him with a loud applause.
But soon as traytors sought his Master's Right
And *English* Troops, for once, forgot to fight.

Soon as his bleeding Son was pris'ner made
And fools were shelter'd by their white cockade
He left his vine his figtree and his wife
And rushed impetuous to the doubtful strife.
The Dirk and Target grace his joyous Hall
Crown'd by his sword cuirass and iron cawl.
Should busy mortals ask "How much he gave
To his five children e'er he sought the grave"
Fortunes he gave, whilst living, to his sons
And to his daughters blessed portions.
Portions! the best that children can receive
Fortunes! the best that best of men can give.
He form'd their minds to ev'ry Gospel Grace
(His better self assistant in her place.)
When rip'ning years demanded others cares
Nor cost nor pains for learned guides he spares
Bless, Reader, bless with thy reluctant tears
This Christian Soldier in the vale of years.
Lov'd by his comrades by his troop rever'd
By good men courted by the wicked fear'd.
If honor truth and justice can ensure
Bliss to his soul in bliss it lives secure.

Major Matthew Swinney was born in the Kingdom of Ireland in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and eighty four; he married Mary eldest daughter of Robert Kitchingman Esquire by whom he had Issue three sons and two daughters all his survivors; he dyed March the third 1766 aged Eighty two years and is interred within the choir of the old Church.

The Epitaph inscribed upon this Marble being meant to convey information and instruction to the unlearned Reader; was composed in the English tongue: and the monument itself was raised at the joint motion of the deceased's three sons, George, Sidney, and Bladen.

This large and elaborate memorial is dedicated to Major Matthew Swinney (1684-1766). It tells the story of his life focussing on the several wars against the Spanish, the French and Jacobite rebels in Scotland. Details are given of his marriage and five children. Two of his three sons went on to have careers both inside and outside the military.

Major Swinney's first military experience came against the Spanish in the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714). This war was triggered by the death in 1700 of the King of Spain Charles II. He had died childless leaving a vast global empire. Attempts were made to split the empire up but failed. The crown was passed on to Phillip, Duke of Anjou (Phillip V). As the second eldest grandson of the King of France, Louis XIV, this placed France in a dominant position in Europe. Upon the King of France's death this would have united the crowns of France and Spain making a super power. To counter Louis XIV's growing dominance, England, the Dutch Republic, and Austria – together with their allies in the Holy Roman Empire – re-formed the Grand Alliance (an alliance formed to stop France expanding) in 1701 and supported Emperor Leopold I's claim to the whole Spanish inheritance for his second son, Archduke Charles. Phillip won the war but was forced to renounce his claim to the throne of France. Major Swinney fought under several commanders during this conflict 'Wade, Stanhope, Mordaunt, Carpenter, Dalzell'. The most famous of these commanders, Wade, went on to become General Wade. General Wade oversaw the building of military roads in Scotland using the foundations of Hadrian's Wall.

The memorial goes on to detail Major Swinney's exploits at the Battle of Dettingen (1743) during the war of the Austrian Succession. Britain united with Austria along with the Russians and the Dutch against France, Spain and Sweden over who should succeed the throne of Austria as it was due to be inherited by a woman, Maria Theresa. She won and inherited the throne. The Battle of Dettingen is famous as it is the last time that a British monarch (George II) led his troops into battle. It was also the last time that someone was knighted on the battlefield. After this battle Major Swinney retired, 'The King dismiss'd him with a loud applause.'

Major Swinney's retirement didn't last long however. The King recalled him to help win The Battle of Culloden (1746): 'But soon as traitors sought

his Master's Right, And English Troops, for once, forgot to fight, Soon as his bleeding Son was pris'ner made, And fools were shelter'd by their white cockade, He left his vine his figtree and his wife, And rushed impetuous to the doubtful strife.'

The Battle of Culloden was the final confrontation of the failed Jacobean Uprising of 1745. A pretender to the throne of England, Charles Edward Stuart (1720-1788), wanted to overthrow George II and make himself king. He was the grandson of James II which gave him a claim to the throne. The Jacobites believed that he would allow Catholics greater religious freedom. Charles' army landed in Scotland and recruited local Scottish Highlands Clansmen. He was supported by France. The two armies met at Culloden where the British Government defeated the Jacobites. Charles escaped from the battle and returned to live out his life as a exile in France.

Major Swinney married a Mary Kitchingman and they had five children. His three sons, were George, Balden and Sidney. The names of his two daughter are unknown. George (born C.1710) went on to become Mayor of Pontefract in 1760. Sidney (born 1721) was highly educated at Eton and Clare College, Cambridge. He was ordained in 1745 and served his curacy at Swillington, West Yorkshire. As a thank you for his father's military service Sidney became a Military Chaplin. He was also interested ancient art and archaeology leading him to travel extensively in Europe and the Near East. He died at Scarborough, North Yorkshire in 1783. Little is known about Balden (C.1746-1833). He was buried in Dublin.

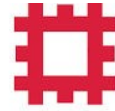
Major Swinney was buried in the choir of All Saint's Church Pontefract which was Pontefract's burial ground at the time.

The St Giles' Project is supported by:



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ENGLISH HERITAGE

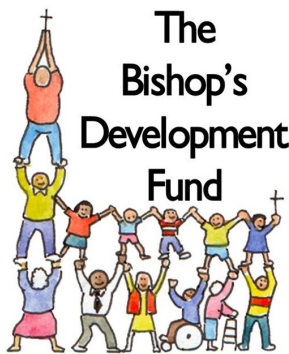


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THE
BARBARA TAYLOR
TRUST
AND
THE MANIFOLD
CHARITABLE
TRUST