

## Will Scarlett

Will "South of the River" Scarlett was born in Clifton in 1175. He was Robin Hood's cousin and lived in Clifton until he was outlawed. Will was a dyer and gained his nickname of Scarlett through his hands being dyed red from the colours he would be washing into the cloth he sold. The mill where Will worked would have been on the site of the current John Carroll Leisure Centre.

Will was outlawed for opposing the Sheriff's taking of the winter stores of the people of Clifton, which would have left them starving. With the help of Little John and Robin, they managed to scare off the Sheriff's bailiffs and break their wagon meaning they couldn't take the supplies allowing the people of Clifton to survive the harsh winter. After this point he became one of Robin's companions though would often be found back in Clifton or the neighbouring Meadows.

After being outlawed, he joined Robin and his companions in Sherwood Forest (their main encampment is what would now be Bestwood Country Park) – ambushing people travelling for Nottingham to York along the King's Road (we now know this as Mansfield Road – the A60 – which runs through Sherwood), using this to buy things for those who needed them.

Wilford was supposedly called that after Will and it being the ford in the river he would use to cross when coming into Nottingham or up to Sherwood Forest. Will was an adept boatman and would often use small vessels on the Leen and Trent in the raids on Nottingham.

Will was one of the band who helped Robin escape from the Castle after his capture, before evading the Sheriff's soldiers on Robin Hood's Chase in St Anns. Will was also sent by Robin to help disguise and conceal Maid Marian so she could sneak out of Nottingham to marry our famous outlaw. She stayed in a cottage in Top Valley with Will opposite what is now Southglade Park before riding up to Edwinstowe to be wed!

Will also stopped a greedy tax collector from overcharging the people of Wollaton and Bilborough by tricking the man into tying himself to a tree, on the site of what is now Bilborough Library. Will placed an apple in the man's mouth and gave all the money back to those the tax collector had swindled.

After Robin's death and subsequent pardon of all of Robin's companions after King John's death, Will moved away from Nottingham to Blidworth, North Notts, and restarted his dyers business. He died in 1230. Will, like Little John, is one of the few of Robin's companions to have a marked grave. Will is buried in the churchyard at Blidworth.