



HALLOW HISTORY ARCHIVES

The Enclosure of Common land in 1816 and housing development along part of Moseley Road

The village of Hallow would have looked very different in 1815 in the year of the Battle of Waterloo. There were areas of commons and waste known as Windmill Common, Old Field; The Raynes/Reins (later the site of the present church) and about 10 acres known as Hallow Heath. The Heath common land was dotted about the village, and was sometimes called Hallow Common, some was in front of Hallow School and a substantial area was on both sides of the Moseley Road at the junction with the main road.

Travelling along Moseley Road I was curious as to why the houses near Flatten Bank were built in a narrow ribbon of land. That too was common land part of Hallow Heath, stretching for about three quarters of the length of Moseley Road from after the entrance to Heath Farm on the right towards the junction with the roads at Moseley leading to World's End and towards Monkwood Green. There was also common land on each side of that road junction and another short narrow strip about 1/3rd of the way along on the other side of Moseley Road from the main road.

In December 1814 it was agreed with the Bishop, Lord of the Manor of Hallow, that all the remaining common land would be enclosed and Frederick Phelps of Cheltenham was appointed to accurately measure and plan the allotment of the Enclosure, this undertaking took 2 years. None of the Bishop's leasehold tenants were entitled to the land, just the Bishop (in lieu of the roads); those who held a "copyhold" and in one instance a freehold property owner, because he had to relinquish the use of a cart road across common land. "Copyhold" was similar to today's freehold, but because the Manor belonged to the Bishop anyone buying property had to pay for an entry to be "copied" into the Manor's Court Rolls to make the purchase legal. There was also a small annual rent and a payment due on the death of an owner, this was known as a "heriot".

Many of the copyholders were farmers, but their "allotment" of enclosed land, could be some distance from their farm and so was probably of little direct agricultural interest. Some no doubt viewed the allotment as a windfall to sell as building land.

Colin and Diana Cartridge who live at Rosedale, Moseley Road, kindly let me look at their old deeds and those together with the 1816 Allotment of Hallow Enclosure, have helped to show how Hallow developed after the commons were enclosed.

On 17th November 1816 "Samuel Bourne in his own right" was given: -

"Premises – All that Plot or Allotment of Land on Hallow Common containing 3 acres or thereabouts allotted by the Commissioner of the Hallow Enclosure to Samuel Bourne in right of his copyhold called "Friends", "Old Barns" in Shoulton (*now part of Shoulton Farm*).

The allotment of just over 3 acres was for three plots of common land and was duly copied into the Court Roll. The larger plot of land stretched from before Heath Farm in Moseley Road to approximately the site of Salven Acre and Heath Terrace on the main road. The other two plots were in the long narrow strip already mentioned to the right of Moseley Road from the main road.

The first phase of development of the former common land was probably in the 1820's, this was when "Melbourne", Hallow Road, was built on common land. By 1821 Samuel Bourne had given up farming at Shoulton and his Moseley Road land, which was rented to Thomas Bright, was advertised for sale. The larger plot between Moseley Road and the main road remained in the family.

It is possible to pick up the trail again of the longer strip of former common land in Moseley Road from the 1841 census, when tithe field number 355 contained a Garden and one un-named Cottage of 1 rod 9 perches which was owned by William Hammond and occupied by Samuel Hammond, but was that Rosedale or another nearby cottage? On 13 October 1864 31 year-old Ellen Hammond married local builder Joseph Fortey aged 34. Before the marriage it had been agreed that Joseph would buy the un-named property for £160 so that all the Hammond sisters would have their share of the inheritance following their brother's death.

Rosedale deeds include a document dated 30th January 1922 in which William Smith, a labourer who had lived in the village for 80 years, made a sworn declaration that in about 1865 Joseph Fortey built two cottages in the grounds of Rose Cottage which he owned and which was then occupied by William Potter a shoemaker. So that seems to date Rosedale Cottage and adjoining Flatten Bank Cottage to about 1865, with Rose Cottage having been built before 1841.

By 1881 Joseph Fortey, builder, was living at Walnut House with his wife Emily and their 4 children. He employed 8 men and a boy. Records show that he along with other builders bought the timbers etc from the 1830's church when it was demolished in the late 1860's and no doubt those timbers were "re-cycled" in houses in and around Hallow.

Joseph Fortey died in 1890 and his wife Ellen in 1906, her surviving children were Henry Fortey – Railway Clerk of Windsor Cottage, Lucy Moon - a local teacher and Mary Ellen Lock - wife of Henry Lock innkeeper at the Crown Inn. On 30th September 1921 they decided to sell the 19th century properties including Rose Cottage, Flatten Bank Cottage and Rosedale.

If you live in Hallow and are willing to let the History Group look at your deeds, it should be possible to draw up a more detailed picture of how Hallow developed in the 19th century. If you are interested please contact me on 01905 426173 or by email J.P.Hartwright@btinternet.com

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