



HALLOW HISTORY ARCHIVES

Whatever happened to Hallow's common land?

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, some was to the North of the village on both sides of the Moseley Road at the junction with the main road and also a narrow ribbon of land in Moseley Road beyond the entrance to Heath Farm around the area now known as Flatten Bank and a smaller narrow strip on the other side of Moseley Road.

Colin and Diane 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. Samuel Bourne, a Shoulton farmer was entitled to just over 3 acres and was given three plots of common land. 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 to the right of Moseley Road from the main road. By 1821 Samuel Bourne had put the narrow plots of land in Moseley Road up for sale, the larger plot between Moseley Road and the main road remained for the time-being in the family.

It is possible to pick up the trail again of the Flatten Bank strip in the 1841 census, when title field number 355 contained an un-named Cottage & Garden which was owned and occupied by the Hammond family, 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 30th January 1922 document 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 & Ellen Fortey and their four children were living at Walnut House. Joseph employed 8 men and a boy. He was amongst the builders who 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. On 30th September 1921 Joseph and Ellen Fortey's surviving children, 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, decided to sell the Fortey's 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 us.

READ OUR RESEARCH TO DATE ON OUR WEBSITE: www.hallowhistory.org.uk

