

RASTRICK LOCAL HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2024

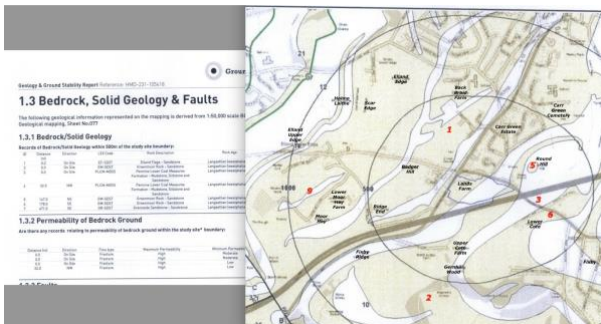
What's in a name - Long Fallas Crescent, Woodhouse, Rastrick

The name of this road is often followed by some sniggering as some people associate the name with the word 'phallus' or a male penis as the two words sound very much the same. So where did this bizarre name come from for such a pleasant road off Woodhouse Lane?

Fallas is an old English surname, originating in Yorkshire. Other name variants are Fallis and Fallows, topographical names derived from Falhouse in Thornhill near Dewsbury. The word is thought to be of Norman origin, coming from Falaise in Calvados, France or a habitational name from Anglo-Norman French '*faleise*' or '*faloise*' which was given to people who lived on or near to a cliff.

On the 1824 Rastrick map of field names, there are pasture lands in Upper Woodhouse that have the names of Fallas, Long Fallas, Lower Fallas, Delf Fallas, Far Fallas and Upper Fallas. The local landowning family name of Thornhill originates from Thornhill in Dewsbury and it is interesting that a new road which was built upon Thornhill Estate land was given a name that came from that area. Was it coincidence? Falhouse Lane at Whitley, Dewsbury, still exists to this day.

Round Hill geology report



A query that has been asked of me on many occasions is whether Round Hill is a natural feature or was it man-made. Suggestions have ranged from it being the base of a mott & bailey castle, a natural lookout post for invading armies or just spoil from the quarries below. The answer can be found below.

The attached map isn't the clearest unfortunately, but No.5 on the map is Round Hill and the geological survey to the left of the map shows that Round Hill is made from Greenmoor Rock sandstone. Greenmoor Rock is also in the area marked No.6 which travels south through Fixby Ridge.

No. 1 is the Elland Flags area to the west of New Hey Rd and leading down towards the Calder at Cromwell Bottom encompassing all the fields between Upper and Lower Edge. It then wraps around a strip of the Lower Coal Measures to take in the eastern side of Crowtrees Lane at Carr Green, where the Southage and Crowtrees Quarries once operated.

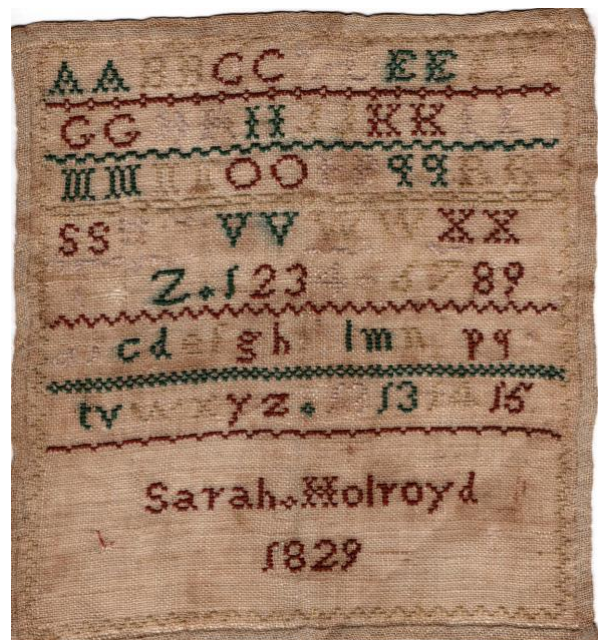
No. 3 on the map is described as the Lower Coal Measures, which surround Round Hill . This does not mean that the area is made of various coal seams.

The Lower Coal Measures were formed within the Carboniferous period around 300 million years ago. They comprise of a sequence of sedimentary rocks which include sandstones, shales, mudstones, siltstones, and coal seams. These rocks were mainly deposited in a river delta environment and swampy forests (which led to coal formation) and flowing river systems (which led to sandstone and mudstone formation). As Greenmoor rock is more durable than the Coal Measures rock, the latter has eroded naturally, quicker than the Greenmoor. You may then ask why the Greenmoor Rock to the west of Round Hill isn't the same height as Round Hill if that has eroded at the same rate. The answer is that the rock beds are not on a horizontal plane but are inclined therefore creating the sloping hillside that leads down to the Carr Green housing estate.

The silt from the river delta was compressed as the tectonic plates moved around and the various natural chemicals bonded the sediment to form the sandstone. The coal was formed by compressing the fallen trees and foliage in the swampy forests, crushing the oxygen and hydrogen from them, which meant that only carbon remained, hence the coal seams.

So Round Hill is perfectly natural and don't let anyone tell you otherwise, however, the theory regarding it once being a lookout post is not totally wrong. In bygone days, marauding armies were wandering around the country, murdering and looting villages. Some historians believe that Round Hill was a perfect lookout from where a horn was blown to warn people of a possible attack and call men to arms. Such places were known as Tote Hills which literally meant 'a lookout post'. Others argue that the when the horn was sounded it made a noise known as a toot, hence Toot Hill. There are many examples of the names of Totehill throughout the country and one notion is that Round Hill was once known as Tote Hill or Toot Hill long before the nearby area we know today, which shares that name.

The Sarah Holroyd sampler



This sampler was shown to me by a member of the Bradbury family who was researching her family history and travelled from Lancaster to meet me in Rastrick. Sarah Holroyd was born in Rastrick on the 5th July 1818 and baptised at St. Matthew's Church on the 16th August that same year. She was the daughter of James and Sarah (Sally) Holroyd. Her father was a stone mason by trade but went on to lease quarries at Badger Hill and Southage from Thomas Thornhill. James is mentioned, along with his brother John, in the accounts of the Badger Hill project documents provided to our group by Paul Thompson in 2023 and he provided some stone for the project which kept some of the destitute poor of Rastrick in work during the severe depression in 1828. The family lived at Chapel Street, Rastrick, the road we now know as Church Street at the Top o' Town therefore it is almost certain that Sarah Holroyd stitched the sampler at that location whilst aged 10 and 11 years of age. Looking at it more closely, it appears that either she hasn't completed some of the letters and numbers or they have faded quite badly.

James Holroyd died in 1839, leaving the Rastrick stone business of James Holroyd & Son to his son, John. Sarah married Thomas Bradbury, at Halifax Parish Church on the 26th December 1849. Thomas was a member of a coal mine owning family in Clayton, Lancashire and on the marriage certificate is described as a gentleman. The couple went to live in Lancashire but following the death of her brother John in 1851, Sarah inherited the quarrying business as he had never married or produced any heirs. Thomas and Sarah came to live in Rastrick at eventually moved into the newly erected Longroyd House. I am not certain that they were instrumental in having it built but that is a distinct possibility bearing in mind their wealth and status. Thomas died in 1870 and on the 1871 census, Sarah is shown as a widow, residing at Longroyd with two sons, two daughters, a cook and a servant girl. She is described on the census record as 'the proprietor of the firm James Holroyd & Son, stone merchants'. Soon afterwards, Sarah sold the house and business and retired to North Meols nr. Southport where she died in 1882. She was brought back to Rastrick and buried in the Bradbury family vault at St. Matthews. Sarah and Thomas produced five children in all, three sons and two daughters. All bore a middle name of her maiden name, Holroyd. One child, William Leonard Holroyd Bradbury died in infancy aged 3 years in 1861 and a stained-glass window was given to Rastrick Church in his memory and is still there to this day.

More information on this family can be found at:

<https://myrastrick.com/holroyd-bradbury-quarry-owners/>



The grave of Sarah Bradbury in the family vault at St. Matthews.



Above is the Bradbury family playing croquet at Longroyd with Thomas to the right and Sarah in a crinoline dress standing by the path. Because Thomas is on the photograph it must pre-date his death in 1870 making it one of the oldest, if not the oldest photograph of Rastrick that I have seen.

To the left is the stained-glass window at St. Matthews in memory of William Leonard Holroyd Bradbury.

NEXT MEETINGS

TUESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2024 - TUESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2024 - TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER 2024
5-00pm at RASTRICK LIBRARY, CROWTREES LANE, RASTRICK

If you have anything of interest that you would like to include in the Winter Newsletter, please let me know via email at rastrick.history@gmail.com