

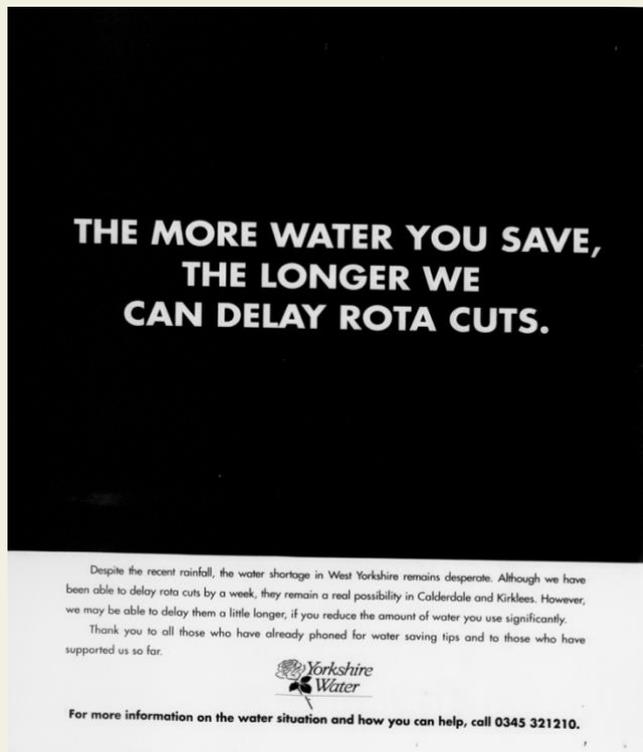
Rastrick Local History Group Newsletter

Unearthing the Legacy, Celebrating the Spirit of Rastrick

WELCOME NOTE

Dear Members and History Lovers,

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Rastrick Local History Group Newsletter. We have enjoyed a great summer but unfortunately, the dry conditions have resulted in very low reservoir levels and a hosepipe ban. Of course, this is nothing new. The Brighouse Echo dated 4th August 1995 had the headline DROUGHT



ANGER. It reported on people's anger at Yorkshire Water threatening to introduce standpipes whilst the industry chiefs were paid huge salaries and no investment had been made for new reservoirs, despite increases in housing. The advert to the left appeared in the Brighouse Echo in 1995 yet thirty years on, nothing seems to have changed.

In 1911, the Brighouse News narrated a story about Elland residents having their water turned off every evening between 9 o'clock and 5 o'clock the following morning in order to conserve dwindling supplies during the current drought.

Drought had a massive impact upon people in this area during the 1800s. Dry spells led to reduced agricultural yields causing food shortages, but local wells and streams also dried up. This resulted in water mills having to close because there was insufficient flow in the Calder to power the waterwheels which powered the machinery. The scarcity also concentrated pathogens in the water supply, which increased the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera or typhoid.

During a water shortage in September 1880, the Halifax Medical Officer, Thomas Britton, wrote to the Brighouse & Rastrick Gazette. He said, *'In consequence of there being much diarrhoea in the area, I have thought it advisable to draw your attention to the fact that after so long a drought, the water from the moors will contain much vegetable debris. It is therefore advisable to boil it before drinking as vegetable matter has a tendency to cause diarrhoea.'*

FEATURED 'STORIES FROM THE PAST' IN THIS NEWSLETTER

150 YEARS AGO

Vicars' Rate Dispute - Page 3

150 years ago, the local people were complaining about being charged on their rates for upkeep of the local Church of England vicars, which didn't go down well. Andrew Eccles explains what happened.

STORIES FROM THE PAST

Mellors Mint - Page 6

Paul Thompson writes about the former mint factory in Brighthouse and some of the people associated with it.

The Story of a Black and White Photo - Page 8

Helen Bond tells us about her research into the people on a postcard that she bought on eBay.

Holly Bank House - Page 10

Fiona Gregory narrates the story of Holly Bank House, Rastrick. From its early days as a manor house to residential apartments.

Views From Round Hill - Page 14

Andrew Eccles looks at the changing views of Rastrick from the top of Round Hill

150 YEARS AGO

Vicars' Rate Dispute of 1875

In the summer of 1875, Rastrick found itself at the centre of a storm, not of weather, but of principle. The cause of this uproar was the deeply unpopular church tax known as the Vicars' Rate. It had quietly simmered for decades before boiling over into one of the most dynamic local protests of the Victorian era.

It all started in 1829, after the Rev. E. Musgrave had become the Vicar of Halifax two years previously. Tithes had been payable to the Vicar of Halifax since the 13th century and from that time, the vicar was entitled to receive small tithes. A tithe was generally accepted as meaning 'a tenth' and parishioners had to give a tenth of items such as milk, poultry, potatoes, turnips, animals, honey, fruit and other such products to the vicar, to help pay for his services and upkeep, which was known as his 'living'. In effect, it was a tax of 10% on anything a person produced on their land.

The system persisted in various forms until the 1829 Act of Parliament after which the tithes were abolished and replaced with a fixed annual payment or stipend, known as the Vicars' Rate. The stipend in the Parish of Halifax was set at £1,400 by the 1829 Act but, with additional revenues, the total value of the Halifax vicarage often exceeded £2,000, making it one of the more lucrative but disliked livings in the region.

The post of Vicar of Halifax became vacant following the death of Rev. Musgrave in 1875. Musgrave left £18,000 in his will, equivalent to over £1.8m today but despite the attractive income, several well-respected members of clergy turned down the position. It appeared that no-one was willing to take on the role because of the strong public opposition to the rate. This unusual situation caused concern for the government and church authorities, especially Benjamin Disraeli, the Prime Minister, who had the task of filling it.

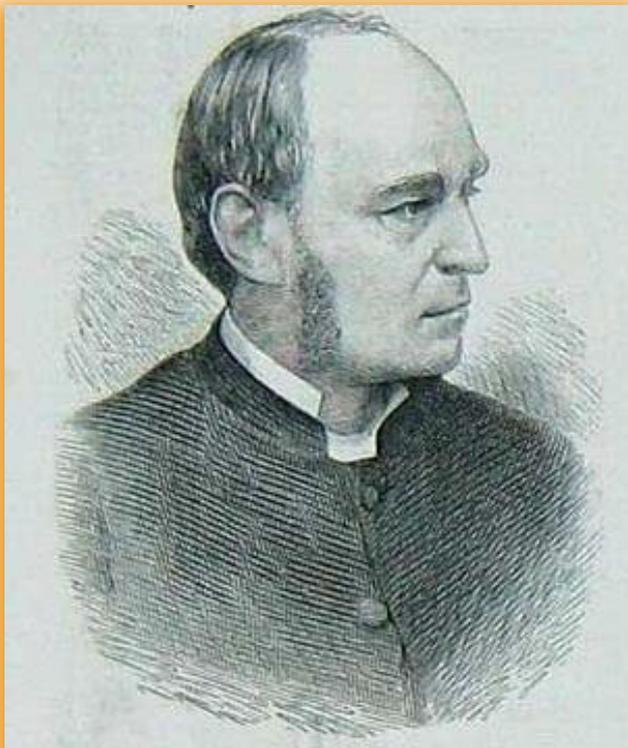
Non-conformist churches such as the Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists, Quakers etc had gradually risen to prominence since the split from the Church of England following the Act of Uniformity in 1662. Although Christian, the non-conformists were so called because they didn't conform to the Church of England doctrines and practices. Countless parishioners, including many in Rastrick, strongly objected to paying the Vicars' Rate since it supported a church they didn't belong to, and no portion of the rate was given towards running the non-conformist churches.

By the mid- 1870s, a powerful Anti-Vicars' Rate movement had grown, with organised public meetings, protests and newspaper debates. Outdoor protests were held by working men in the parish including one in Rastrick and public meetings were usually packed to the rafters. An association was formed, and even some Church of England members supported the movement, seeing the tax as unfair and outdated.

Then there is the delusion of the Vicar's Rate, which is now in a state of forlorn hope. It will be a matter of wonder to a future age, that men professing the Christian religion should have rejoiced to see the goods of those professing the same faith distrained and sold by public auction, for the support of a minister whose Church boasts to be the wealthiest in the world. There is a great delusion in connection with Church and State, which will be dispelled in the course of time.

five magistrates and twelve town councillors, asking Disraeli to make any future vicar's appointment conditional on the repeal of the rate. Letters flooded into the newspapers and the Vicars' Rate was the hot topic of debate. Disraeli responded by saying that the Vicars' Rate couldn't simply be

scrapped as it had been legally agreed upon in 1829 between the parish, the vicar, and the Crown but he did encourage the creation of a fund to buy out the rate. This would be achieved by receiving donations from prominent businessmen. Although Disraeli declined to meet a deputation in person, he agreed to receive their proposal in writing and hinted that if a capital fund could be raised, the rate might be ended.



Francis Pigou

Francis Pigou eventually took on the role of Rural Dean of Halifax. He later wrote, *'on my arrival at Halifax, I saw, posted and placarded in large letters on hoardings, with deep black-edged paper, the following pleasant greeting: 'Judas Vicar's Rate, died 1875, buried in a pauper's grave, to know no Resurrection.'*

The Rate used to be collected like Gas or Water Rates. Occasionally I found my letter-box stuffed full with them. I received a large envelope, containing some thirty or forty, with this letter: 'Dear Sir, we found these poor little papers fluttering in the street, having no home, and send them to you, as you will probably best know what to do with them.'

Resistance wasn't just loud, it was clever. Protesters used legal loopholes to disrupt parish meetings, required to levy the rate. In one case, the rate book was snatched and carried off into the churchyard to prevent any signatures being added to it. Others simply refused to pay, knowing their goods might be seized. To prepare for this, a fund of £12,000 was raised to support anyone whose belongings had been confiscated. Seized items such as furniture and household items were then sold at auction to cover the tax. People were encouraged not to buy any of the seized goods and the money raised by non-conformists was used to buy the property back. Because the non-conformist townspeople refused to bid, the goods

were often sold at well below their true value, paid for by the fund. The possessions were then immediately returned to their former owners.

Dr. Mellor was a non-conformist minister at the Square Chapel, Halifax. He told his congregation one Sunday morning that, *“The Vicar’s agent will be calling this week upon me, and I advise you all to do what I am going to do - button up your pockets.”* On the following Sunday, he told them that his Agent had called and that he had refused to pay him. *“There was no alternative but to have some of my property seized in lieu of a debt for the amount, some five or six shillings. All right”,* I said, *“take what you like. The Agent went into my larder and took a ham, which you will be glad to hear was bad.”*

The Vicars’ Rate was highly controversial and drove an even larger wedge between the non-conformist and Anglican churches. On the 28th October 1876, a reader wrote to the Brighouse News stating that it will be a *‘wonder of a future age, that men professing the Christian religion, should have rejoiced to see the goods of those professing the same faith distrained and sold at public auction, for the support of a minister whose Church boasts to be the wealthiest in the world.’*

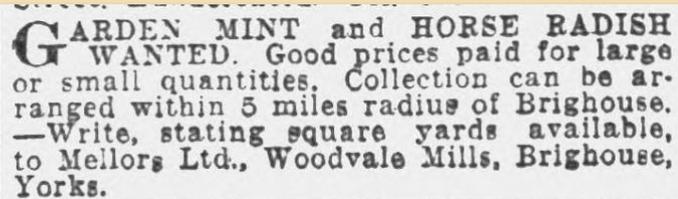
In 1877, after much debate, a new Bill was introduced in Parliament which repealed the 1829 Act, however, this was only on the provision that the sum of £11,600 was paid to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. This amount, equivalent to almost £1.2m in today’s terms, was raised very quickly through voluntary subscriptions amongst several prominent businessmen, a wealthy lady and around 360 smaller donations. It represented 12 years purchase of the portion of the rate levied on houses, about £970 per year. This payment was the compromise that allowed the rate to be finally abolished. Rastrick’s portion of the annual levy was £45-10s-6d.

Now, 150 years later, the Vicars’ Rate may be a forgotten term but in 1875, it was a fiercely debated issue that stirred strong passions across our townships. Rastrick stood alongside others in demanding fairness and religious freedom, making this a significant moment in our local history.

STORIES FROM THE PAST

Mellors Mint - Paul Thompson

When you walk up Mill Royd Street towards Huddersfield Road there is a large open area on the right-hand side which is currently being used as a storage yard for a company installing digital communication equipment. There are still a few residents of Brighouse who will remember Mellors Limited who operated on that site and who produced mint sauce, which was sold in glass jars. Fresh mint was only available for a few months in the year and the idea of preserving it in vinegar and sugar came from one of the director's wives.



GARDEN MINT and HORSE RADISH WANTED. Good prices paid for large or small quantities. Collection can be arranged within 5 miles radius of Brighouse. -Write, stating square yards available, to Mellors Ltd., Woodvale Mills, Brighouse, Yorks.

At that time, the company were based at Woodvale Mills near Wellholme Park but moved to Mill Royd Street as the business expanded.



When the company was in operation there was a very strong smell of mint which spread throughout Brighouse and particularly in the Mill Royd area, where the company had 58,000 square feet of factory space, opposite the public baths.

By the 1950s, Mellors were the largest buyers of fresh mint in the country with one supplier delivering 275 tons annually: the company could produce 20 tons of mint in a single nine-hour shift.

Mellors started their business in 1924 as a limited company but not initially as a mint producer, but as a mustard blender. Elizabeth Goddard, granddaughter of Arthur Barker, one of the directors, could remember him with yellow stained fingers due to the contact with the mustard powder in their original Oxford Street factory, a building that was later demolished so that the Lüdenscheid Link could be built. The Company was formed on 17th October 1924, and the three directors were Arthur Barker of 9, Halifax Road, Brighouse, Mr William Dunn Foster of Woodfield, Brighouse and Mr. A. Mellor of Ashgrove, Elland.

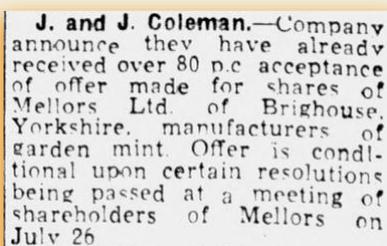
Arthur Barker had originally been a cotton spinner working with his son Harold at a mill in Cragg Vale and then in Oowler Ings Road, Brighouse but following a fire in May 1921, the factory, where they had a business

as cotton spinners and doublers, was destroyed. Arthur Barker died that same year and it may have been due to the fire that Harold decided to start up in a new business.

William Dunn Foster was born in Selby in 1825, following in the footsteps of his father, John, who worked as a flax producer and also dealt in mustard and chicory. These early ventures laid the groundwork for a new chapter in Brighouse's industrial story.

After marrying, William relocated with his family to Brighouse in 1920. They lived in several parts of the town before settling at Ganny Lock Cottage with their daughter Lesley and her husband. William had a keen interest in the arts, investing in the Theatre Royal in Huddersfield and forming a close friendship with Brighouse-born playwright James R. Gregson. The family were devoted Methodists and active members of St Paul's Church.

Their son Malcolm later joined the family firm of Mellors Mint, rising to the role of Managing Director. He made his home at Castlefields House in Rastrick and became a familiar figure in local circles, not just for his business acumen but for his deep involvement in community life. Like his father, Malcolm had a passion for theatre and supported amateur dramatics in the town. His civic contributions included work with the National Savings movement, the Brighouse Charity Gala, and Storthes Hall Hospital in Huddersfield. He was also a stalwart of the Brighouse Rotary Club, serving for over six decades and becoming its longest-standing member.



J. and J. Coleman.—Company announce they have already received over 80 p.c acceptance of offer made for shares of Mellors Ltd. of Brighouse, Yorkshire, manufacturers of garden mint. Offer is conditional upon certain resolutions being passed at a meeting of shareholders of Mellors on July 26

Norwich (spelled incorrectly on the newspaper announcement), made a bid for the Mellors.

By 1961, Colmans declared that they had already received acceptance to buy 80% of Mellor's shares and in 1963, the transition was completed as Colmans bought out the Brighouse company. There was an offer to employ certain Brighouse workers in Norwich, but whether any of them took up the offer is not known.

Though Malcolm retired early in 1960, he remained on the board as an executive director, working alongside William's son-in-law, F.A. Schippers. It was at this time that J. J. Colman of



BRIGHOUSE FIRM TO BE CLOSED IN TEN MONTHS

The Brighouse condiment firm, Mellors, Ltd., of Alexandra Mills, is to close in ten months. Over 80 staff and workers are affected, but compensation is to be paid.

The firm was taken over, two years ago by the Colman Reckitt group of companies, but the brand name of Mellors was retained, and even after the closure at Brighouse, it is likely that the name will continue to be used for certain products.

The production of Mellors' mint and sauces, will be transferred to the Norwich works of J. and J. Colman, Ltd.

Employment will be offered at the Norwich factory to all persons with certain service and age qualifications, but where these qualifications are not held or the offer of employment is not accepted, redundancy payments will be made.



The next time you buy a jar of Colman's mustard, horseradish or mint sauce at the local supermarket, just remember that it all started in Brighouse.

Elizabeth Goddard, granddaughter of one of the original directors, recalls visiting the company offices as a young girl. She remembers the boardroom vividly, where the directors met beneath the gaze of a bust, possibly of one of Mellors Garden Mint's founding figures.

The story of a Black & White Photograph - Helen Bond

In the 1970's, I worked as a black and white photographic printer for A.H. Leach Photographic Company in Brighouse. This gave me an appreciation of how black and white photographs stand the test of time no matter how old they are.

I recently discovered that hundreds of black and white photographs are for sale on eBay. You can find family albums and wedding albums, very often with names attached. Whilst browsing one day, a photograph jumped out at me. It was a black and white postcard size photograph of six young men and six



young ladies (shown below) all stood with their arms linked. The gentlemen were all wearing the same matching clothes the ladies all wore a white dress apart from one lady wearing black.

On the back of the photo were all their names, which is always interesting but even more surprisingly, written in pencil, was the name of 'Brighouse'. I contacted the trader who lived in Devon and he agreed to sell it to me for the sum of ten pounds. A bit pricey but I had to have it.

The first person I looked at was Aquilla Ellis, which was a Christian name I had not heard of before. Upon commencing my research, I found that in 1911, he lived with his parents and siblings on Foundry Street off Birds Royd Lane. He was a rubber maker for J. Bottomley of Bethel Street, Brighouse.

The young lady stood next to him is Emily Heywood and she and Aquilla were married in 1929. Emily also lived on Foundry Street and as I researched each person, there were two common themes. They all lived in the Foundry Street or Birds Royd area and half of them were married at the same church, St Paul's Wesleyan Church, Brighouse. This church had a strong association with Birds Royd Mission.

To gain more knowledge I turned to the newspaper archive on the FindMyPast website. An article came up in the Brighouse Echo written in 1982 by the well-known columnist Rowan. The same photograph that I had bought on the internet was there and it concerned a concert party group called 'The Tonics', so called because everyone needed a tonic after the First World War. What a brilliant name.

The leader of the group was Gwen Whitaker, seated in the black dress. She was a pianist and singer and in 1921 she was working at Whitaker's family confectioners on Gooder Lane, Rastrick. Gwen married the man who is standing behind her, John Brown, in 1926. John was a pattern maker at Blakeboroughs. Gwen and John did not have any children and they left Brighouse to open a hotel in Scarborough where Gwen continued to entertain people. She lived to be 98 years old and both her and John passed away in Scarborough.

There were two brothers in the group John and Harry Ivison, also two sisters Hilda and Clara Wright who Rowan called 'the singing sisters'.

At the end of the line on the left is Bertie Groves. He was born in Filey but was raised by his grandparents in Brighouse. In 1921 he was a cabinet maker living at Bonegate, Brighouse. In 1939 he was living at 56 Crowtrees Lane Rastrick. I managed to trace a grand daughter who lives in Warwickshire and she confirmed that Bertie was her grandfather, but she knew nothing about him being in The Tonics. What she did know was he had been in the Brighouse & Rastrick Band. Turning to the newspapers again, I found a small article written in the Yorkshire Observer in 1937 about the Brass Band Championships held at Belle Vue, Manchester. There was a small picture of Bertie Groves of Rastrick with his musical instrument. I sent this to his granddaughter, she was very happy to see the photograph and commented that Bertie was as she remembered him.

Researching this photograph taken in 1920 has been so interesting. To see ordinary people during an extraordinary time, who just wanted to “cheer people up.”

The full cast of the The Tonics were, back row left to right: Bertie Groves, Clara Wright, Harry Ivison, Florence Petty, John Ivison, John Brown, Ivy Saunders, John William Hepworth, Emily Heywood and Aquila Ellis.

Seated at the front: Hilda Wright and Gwen Whitaker.

Holly Bank House - Fiona Gregory

Holly Bank House dated back to the 16th Century. Positioned near the junction of Jumble Dyke, Tofts Grove and Field Lane in Rastrick, it was originally on the site of Rastrick Manor and has evolved over the years from being a manor house to its current state as luxury apartments. It has seen Rastrick develop from an area of agriculture over the centuries to an industrial landscape and now to a mix of both the industrial and suburban.

Early History

The origin of the site where Holly Bank House sits today was that of Rastrick Hall, the manor house of the Manor of Rastrick which was owned by the Hanson Family from at least 1573, according to records. In the 14th century, prior to the manor being built, the land was cultivated in a rotational ‘three field’ farming system, whereby winter crops such as wheat or rye, followed by spring crops such as oats and barley were grown. In the third season the land lay fallow to allow the soil to regain its nutrients. This system was in place until the land was built upon and became the site of Rastrick Hall.

In 1685 Edward Hanson sold the property to Thomas Thornhill.

The Thornhill family significantly expanded the estate of Rastrick. In 1809, the Thornhills then sold the hall to John Fryer who was a local quaker and mill owner, who had been their tenant. Fryer purchased several pieces of land including Rastrick Hall, and its outbuildings. This purchase is documented in a Leeds Mercury advertisement dated 1809, which mentions Richard Oastler, who was the Thornhill’s steward, as the contact for further details. This Richard Oaster was the father of the more famous Richard Oastler, after whom the Wetherspoons public house on Bethel Street in Brighouse was named. Richard Oastler junior was a pivotal figure in 19th century British social reform and amongst other notable achievements, advocated

Estates in Rastrick, near Huddersfield,
TO BE SOLD,
 At the Red Lion, in Rastrick, on Thursday the Seventh Day of September next, at Two o’Clock, in Lots, by Private Contract,

THE following COPYHOLD ESTATES Tythe-free, the Land-Tax redeemed, and the Fine small and certain.

Lot.	Tenant's Names.	Particulars.	Contents. A. R. P.
1.	William Garlick,	Near Lower Laither,	2 0 27
2.	Ditto,	Near Upper Do.	2 0 7
3.	Ditto,	Far Upper Laither,	2 0 17
		Far Lower Do	2 1 33
	John Fryer,	House, Barn, Warehouse and other Buildings, with Yard and Garden,	0 1 14
		Lower Croft,	1 1 31
		Upper Croft,	1 3 33
		Near Laither,	3 3 19
		Far Ditto,	3 0 38
		Top Three Nooked Close,	2 2 34
		Three Nooked Close,	2 0 19
Total			20 0 38

For further Particulars enquire of Mr. Oastler, or at the Office of Messrs. Atkinson and Bolland, in Leeds.

for the regulation of child labour in textile mills and was known as the 'Factory King'. A statue to his memory stands in Bradford. John Fryer also owned other notable properties around Rastrick including Holly Bank House, Castle Hill House near Castlefields Golf Club, and The Poplars on Rastrick Common. Rastrick Hall was demolished in 1845 and the present Holly Bank House was built on the same site.

Architecture



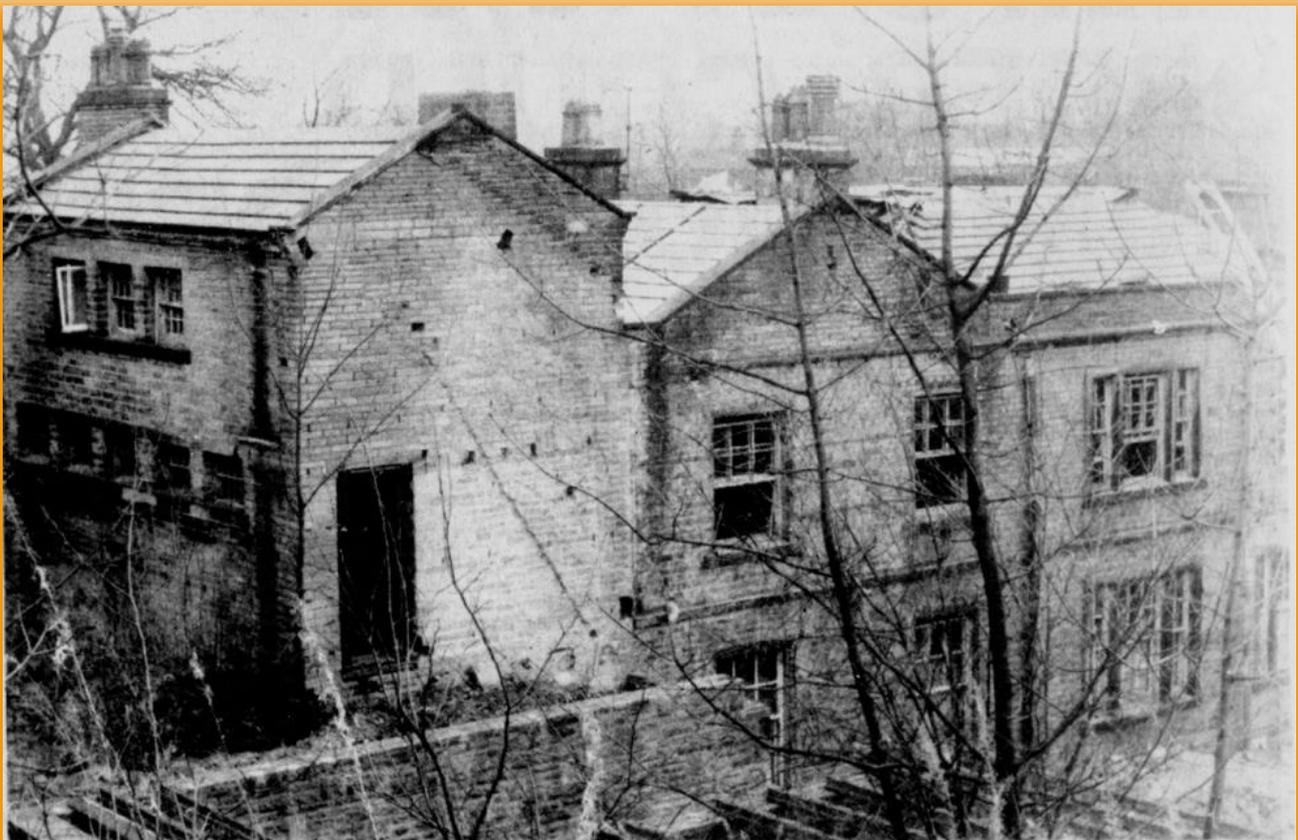
The only known remnants of the original Rastrick Hall are the cellars and dairy of the present house. Numbers 10 and 12 Field Lane which stand nearby are two listed cottages from the early 19th century and are constructed of hammer-dressed stone with stone slate roofs and distinctive mullioned windows. The former gate house for Rastrick Hall dating from 1813 is also located nearby. The octagonal dove cote (or pigeon loft to be more accurate) is a distinctive architectural feature and likely predates the Georgian house. The dovecote was extended and converted into a house in 1983-4. The barn was not demolished and now forms part of the current property. The grounds of Holly Bank House have in recent years been developed into residential areas including Holly Bank Park.

1877

In 1877 Arthur Travis Clay, who was the chairman of the Rastrick School Board, became the tenant of Holly Bank House. He invested in local projects for the community including St John's Mission and School on Gooder Lane. This was later replaced by St John the Divine church. An article in the Brighouse Echo dated 24th June 1887 describes Queen Victoria's Jubilee celebrations, whereby Mr Clay is described as having provided "a very commodious field" at Holly Bank. He provided around 1,800 children with buns and tea, and the Jubilee Committee had provided similarly for the Sunday School children, who numbered around 900. In total, some 300 gallons of tea was consumed, and over 3,000 currant buns! The field was set up with tables and benches, and the tea was served to the children by the teachers. The weather was fine, and following the tea, Arthur Travis Clay proposed a toast to the Queen, which was received with great acclaim. The National Anthem was sung, accompanied by the Brighouse and Rastrick Band. Following the tea, and a procession to a further field, a programme of sports was commenced, including the 120 yards flat race, skipping races, tug of war, and egg and spoon races. Arthur Travis Clay presented the prizes. This article demonstrates how important Mr Travis Clay had become within the local community.

Arthur Travis Clay purchased Holly Bank House in 1900. He added a new frontage to the house in 1882 reflecting the family's growing prominence in Rastrick. In 1917, the house was inherited by Hugh Travis Clay, Arthur's son. He continued the family's involvement in local businesses and community affairs. He married a prominent pioneering Canadian lawyer by the name of Mabel Priscilla Penery French. She was known for advancing women's rights in the legal profession. She was known to ride around Rastrick on her grey horse and had a great love of her pets, creating a pet cemetery in the grounds of Holly Bank House where her dogs are buried. One of them, Cupid, was a favourite and a gravestone to his memory exists. Mabel and Hugh Travis Clay relocated to Jersey in their final years.

Another notable resident of Holly Bank House was Sir Charles Clay, a noted historian and archaeologist who was Librarian to the House of Lords for 34 years, dying in 1978. He was born at Holly Bank House (aka Rastrick House) in 1885 and was the son of historian and genealogist John William Clay. His older brother Lionel Pilleau Clay was killed in WW1.



In the mid 1950s Arthur Smith acquired Holly Bank House from the Clay family. He met Nora Badrock who lived at 20 Holly Bank Road. She would walk past Holly Bank House on her way to St Matthews Church. They married, bringing up three children and lived at Holly Bank House for many years. After Arthur's death the house was sold and converted into the apartments that we see today. Prior to the sale of Holly Bank House in the 1980s, there was a period when it fell into a state of disrepair as can be seen on the picture above.



Today, Holly Bank House is divided into luxury apartments, having been restored to their former glory. Thanks to developments achieved in the 1980s, the house remains in its prime position, and its history remains intact.

Views From Round Hill - Andy Eccles

What changes we are seeing in the topography of Rastrick. We are able to look back two hundred years



and see the layout of the township in great detail because in 1824 a map was produced that showed the field boundaries and the names associated with each of those fields. Many modern roads have derived their names from these ancient fields. Fletcher Crescent, Foxcroft Drive and Scholey Road and Avenue are typical examples. It isn't easy to produce a clear image of the full map because it is in a frame behind glass but anyone who wishes to view it in more detail can do so by visiting the Rastrick Library on Crowtrees Lane.

A section of the map is produced below which shows Clough Lane at the bottom of the picture, running from east to west with Round Hill, depicted by a small circle, just to the north of the road. Just to the



west of Round Hill is what is now Slade Lane with a field called Fletcher Lands, which now houses the Fletcher Crescent estate. To the west of there is what is now the Sun Inn crossroads where two fields are named Slaide and Clough, possibly where the names of those roads came from.

Slade Lane and New Hey Road travel north and meet, as they do now, at the junctions with Delf Hill and Crowtrees Lane before heading down towards Chapel Croft and the Top o' Town.

We can learn so much about our history from old maps such as this one, but time waits for no man. The field known as Slaide became the Badger Hill cricket field for almost 100 years but has now been swept away for the huge ongoing housing

development. The Common Close and the wonderfully named Snake Hill and Back 'oth Shop, became John

Smith's textile mill and the mill dam. The Laith Croft and Intake fields were lost in the 1850's to another textile factory known as Spout Mill, owned by Thomas Helm. Interestingly, you can still walk from that area to the bottom of Delf Hill on a path which older locals still refer to as the Intake.

I have no doubt that in the mid 1800's, when the new factories were being built on the green fields, the residents of Rastrick would have lamented upon the fact that their green pasture lands were being lost to industrialisation, much in the same way as we do nowadays, with all the new housing. The difference is of course that the 'new' factories provided much needed work for the townspeople which enabled them to put food upon the table for their families. The route of the main arterial roads haven't changed much since 1824 but nowadays, everyone drives around in motor vehicles. Yes, there is a need for new housing but where is the road infrastructure to cope with it?

I occasionally wander with my grandchildren to the top of Round Hill and take photographs of the ever-changing landscape. Below right is a photo from February 2021, when snow was covering the fields at Back Braid, between New Hey Road and Lower Edge Road. You can see the farm buildings that were occupied by John Starbuck, sitting alone in the middle of the pleasant pastures. Compare that to the photograph on the left taken earlier this year. Back Braid has been swept away into the annals of Rastrick history and has been replaced by more new housing. To many, it appears that the once open spaces in Rastrick, where families could enjoy a pleasant walk, are decreasing by the year.

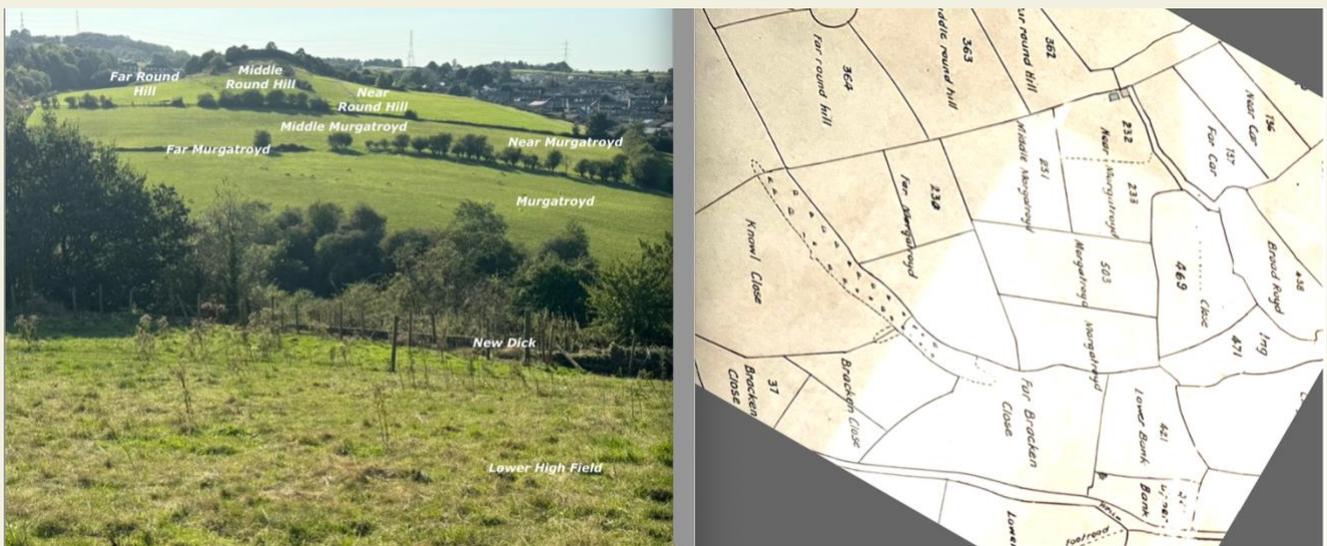


For the time being at least, the fields on the eastern side of Round Hill remain very much the same as they have been for centuries although there are plans afoot for more housing developments to the rear of Carr Green Drive which will alter the landscape once again.

In the winter of 1963, Stan Holroyd returned home to Slade Lane from his university studies, for the Christmas holidays. Armed with a camera, he went for a wander around the fields at Carr Green and New Dick (the track between the Four Sons and the top of Toothhill Bank). This was of course before the days of the M62 motorway, which upon its arrival, chopped the ancient roadway in half and resulted in a detour across the fields and over the motorway footbridge. Not a great deal has changed in the ensuing sixty plus years other than many trees, mainly oak, have been left to grow on the hillside leading from the New Dick down to Carr Green. Some of the stone walls that divided the 'enclosed' fields on Round Hill have since been removed but overall, there is little difference for now.



You can see where the old fields were once located on this comparison photograph and the 1824 map.



More of Stan's photos from 1963 can be seen on the website at: - <https://myrastrick.com/new-dick-before-the-m62/>

PHOTO ARCHIVES & HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Immerse yourself in the visual splendour of Rastrick's history with our photo collection and stories. From virtual walks to historic buildings, including churches, mills, schools and houses. There is also a free search facility for almost 8,500 burials at St. Matthews Church and many more at the former Bridge End chapel. Visit www.MyRastrick.com for lots of local historical information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**HOW WE USED TO LIVE:
HALIFAX AND CALDERDALE
MEMORIES 1920-1945**

*A Talk by David Glover
Hosted by the Rastrick Local
History Group*

**Rastrick Library
Tuesday 14th October
7pm**

Tickets are £3.00 each
Available at
www.ticketsource.co.uk/calderdalelibraries



GET INVOLVED

Contribute to Rastrick's Legacy

Your voice matters in preserving the legacy of Rastrick. Do you have old photographs, fascinating anecdotes, or hidden artefacts? Share them with us and become a custodian of our community's history. Email your contributions to history.rastrick@gmail.com. Together, we can ensure our heritage continues to inspire future generations.

Alternatively, come and join our friendly group at Rastrick Library. Meetings are held every second Tuesday in the month at 5.00pm

CLOSING THOUGHTS

As we journey through Rastrick's past, we're reminded that history isn't just about dates and names—it's about people, places, and the spirit that binds them. Thank you for walking this path with us. May the stories we uncover continue to spark curiosity, pride, and connection in our community.

The Rastrick Local History Group