

# Troughstones

Dear My Methodist Team.

My Mother Joan Marjorie Fagan, passed away in January this year 2021. I adopted her maiden name before her Passing, to honor my Uncle George Bailey an ex Royal Marine Commando in WW2.

My Mother was born Joan Marjorie Bailey, on August 31, 1937, Joan left instructions that we were to scatter her ashes on Troughstones Hill, close to her childhood home.

Some interesting history has come to light, that Joan kept secret from some of us.

I knew my Mother Joan had come from Biddulph and only mentioned the actual place a few times, although I always heard it as Thruffstones.

I only found out, I had not considered her Accent; when Joan corrected me, it was Trough-Stones.

So, the history; my two sisters and youngest brother were told some of the story. Joan's home was a Wesleyan chapel, Joan remembered weddings, funerals, and meetings given by a family member, her uncle Joseph Bailey, a lay preacher.

Joan referred to the place as Troughstones Farm! But we have since found that it was her grandfathers (my great-grandfather) and her uncle Josephs Farm.

Her Father George, whom she disliked; Her Mother Marjorie (Madge), and siblings; Muriel, George Jnr, Frank and Violet (Vi) lived nearby in the Chapel called Rough Hurst Farm, which was on the opposite side of Troughstone Hill. Information via Les Bailey, a relative and long-time friend of my mother Joan.

Troughstone Hill is a local landmark, with a Road named after it and, very near to Biddulph Park Methodist Church; on Biddulph Road.

In Jonathon Wilsons Diaries, a then local Minister; mentions Thruff Stones. "July 1809 decent congregation, though it was a camp meeting (outdoor) at Thruff Stones." (Taken from Biddulph a local history by University of Keele). Book supplied by Les Bailey.

Family members, still live and work on a farm, very close by; on Troughstones Road.

Opposite Troughstones Road and between the hill is HURST QUARRY, and beyond is Biddulph Park and Biddulph Grange.

Ultimately it was the Quarry who took Rough Hurst Farm for sand, gravel and stone.

Rough Hurst is visible on a Victorian map and a map in 1925, we have some pictures and a short video of the house/chapel just before it was taken by the quarry.

My uncle, George Bailey, left us a video record of family weddings & his arrangements of flowers; George had a flower shop in Biddulph. Also, some family life and a wedding anniversary of Aunty Muriel and Uncle Geoff, with my Mother Joan, Aunty Vi and Uncle Frank behind camera, was Uncle George.

Uncle George also worked at Biddulph Grange as a Gardener, before and after WW2. He moved on to drive buses and run his own Flower shop on Biddulph High Street.

I enclose a picture; you can see the chapel like windows.

I am not doubting my mother's accounts as other surviving cousins and other Bailey family members have backed these stories.

With regards.

*Stephen Bailey Fagan*