

Newsletter

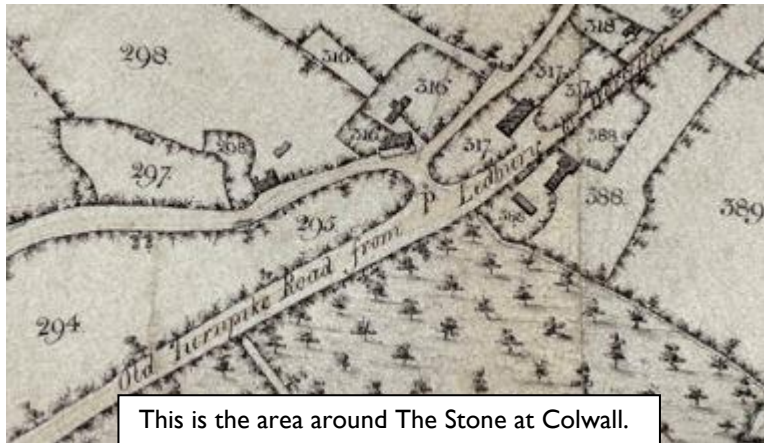
AUGUST 2019

Colwall Village Society

Revealing Our Heritage

Colwall and Local Turnpikes *by David Hodgson*

At the end of the 17th century, British roads were in a terrible state. A law passed in 1555 instructed local people to maintain the roads in their area. Every parish through which a road passed was legally bound to maintain it by six days a year of unpaid labour. Little, if any, attention was given to drainage, and so during the winter these roads often became a sea of mud. Between 1700 and 1750 Turnpike trusts were established. By 1730 Herefordshire had the largest turnpike system in Britain, with the Hereford Trust controlling 118 miles of road. From the 1740s turnpike trusts were encouraged to mark every mile and in 1766 milestones became compulsory on all turnpike roads.



This is the area around The Stone at Colwall.

If we look at an estate map for Colwall in 1806 we see the Old Turnpike Road from Ledbury.

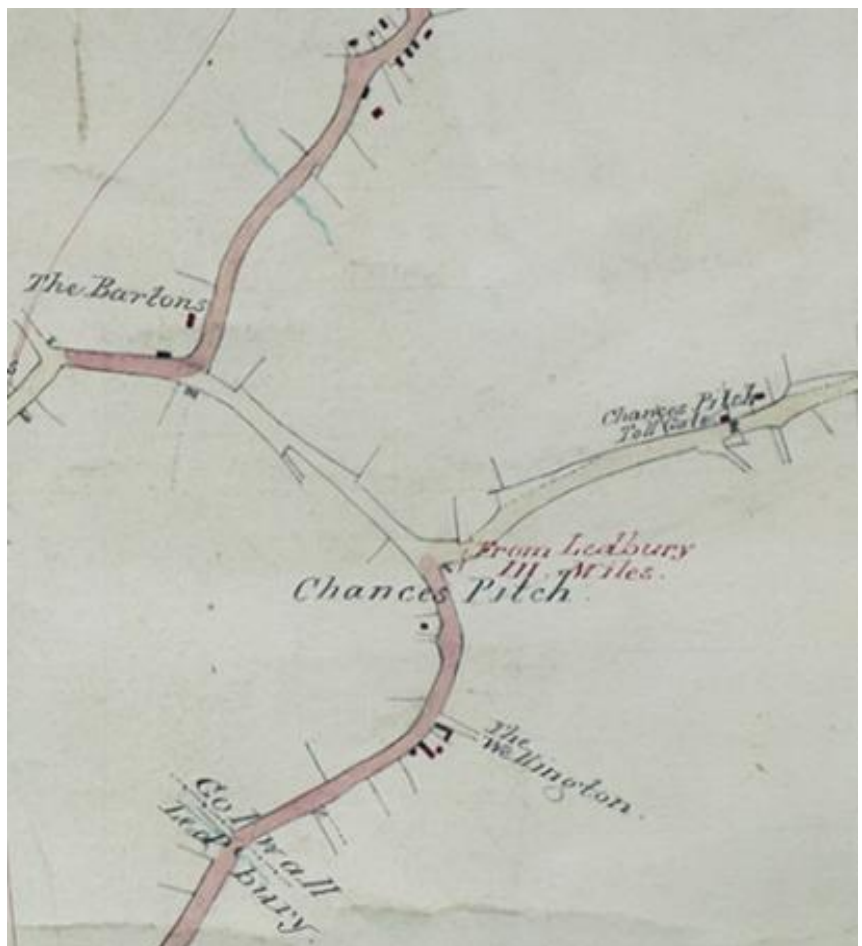
To enter the village of Colwall from Ledbury travellers had to pass through the Turnpike at Chances Pitch or Petty France. To enter from Malvern there were two Turnpikes, one situated around the area of Earnslaw Quarry and the other at the bottom of the Old Wyche Road. To enter from Upton the Turnpike was at Little Malvern.

Unrest over the introduction of turnpikes had been increasing throughout the years across Gloucestershire and the Ledbury area. Local people had been complaining about the deadness of trade, the greatness of taxes and the burdens of the poor and described the Ledbury Turnpike Trust as an unnecessary and unjust tax collector. The Trust insisted that “the opposers to turnpikes are ignorant men, with a dull understanding of the necessity of raising taxes to repair the roads”.

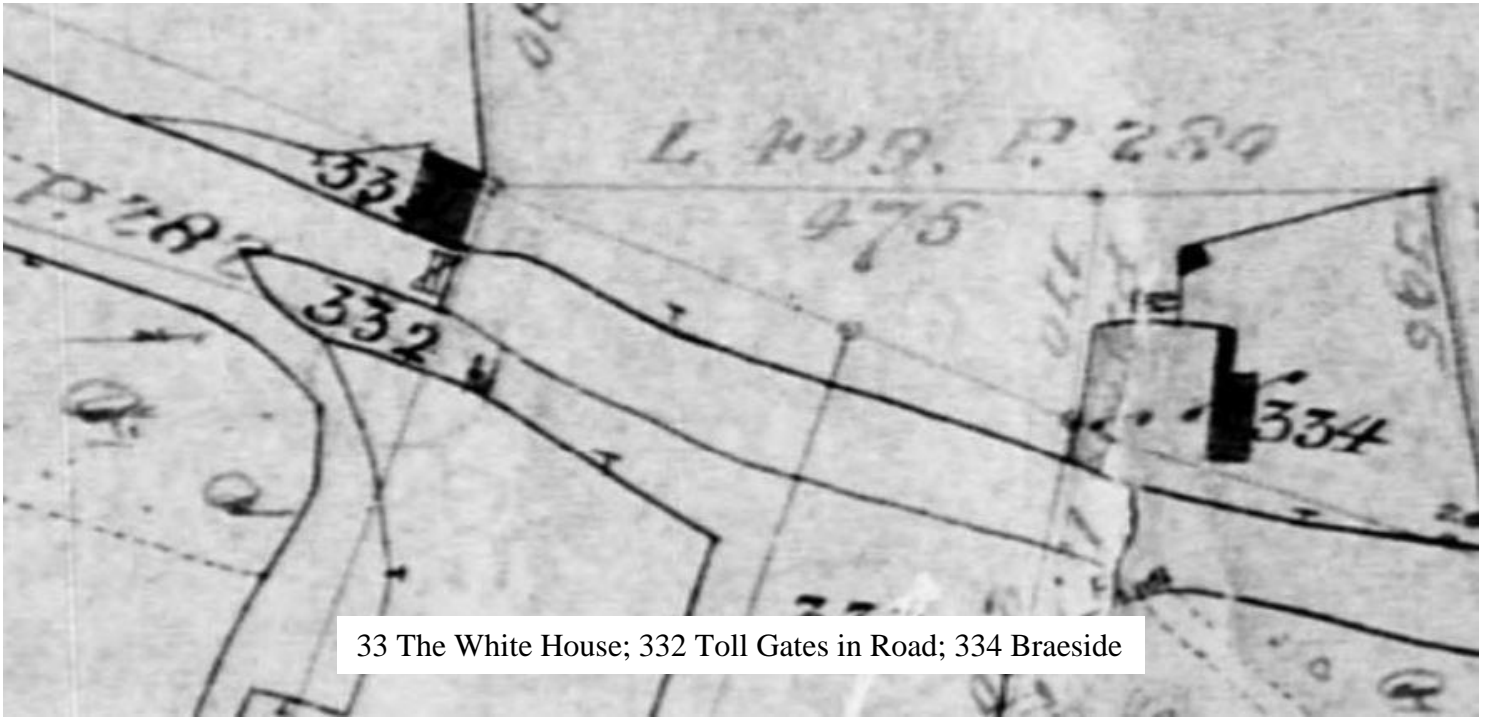
There were a series of protests made by tenant farmers against the payment of tolls charged to use the roads. Protesters dressed up in women’s clothing and were known as Rebecca.

The Rebecca riots took place in the rural parts of Wales.

In 1735 rioters descended on Ledbury with the aim to destroy the toll gates, however they were met by the local Justices. Several of the rioters



were apprehended, two were taken to Worcester where they were hanged and two ended up in London, one was hung at Tyburn the other was reprieved

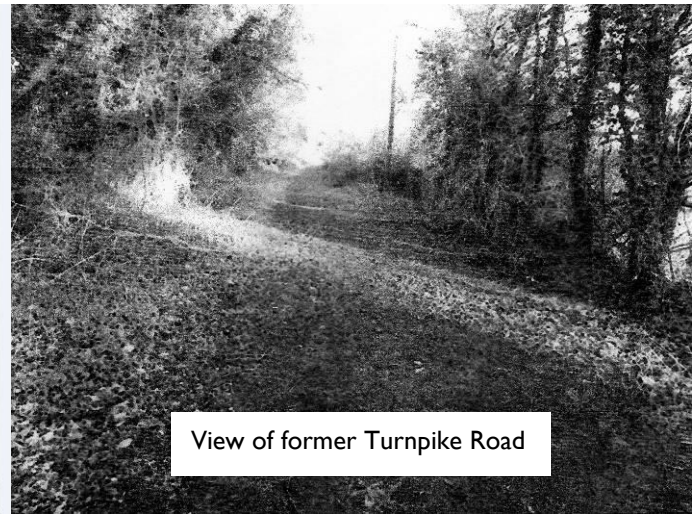


33 The White House; 332 Toll Gates in Road; 334 Braeside

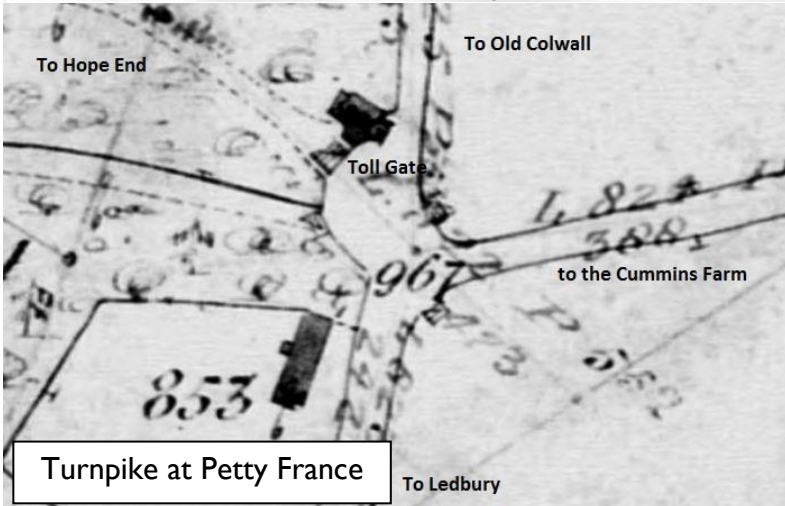
The original Toll House at Chances Pitch was adjacent to the White House situated on the A 449. Between 1871 and 1881 it was situated just below British Camp.



Impression of what the Toll House at Chances Pitch may have looked like



View of former Turnpike Road



Turnpike at Petty France

LEDBURY TURNPIKE TRUST.
 NOTICE is hereby given, that the TRUSTEES of the TURNPIKE ROADS, under an Act passed in the third year of the Reign of King William the Fourth, "For more effectually Repairing the several Roads leading from the Borough of Ledbury, in the County of Hereford," &c., WILL MEET at the FEATHERS HOTEL, in LEDBURY aforesaid, on FRIDAY the 28th of November, 1851, at the hour of Twelve o'clock at Noon, in order to CONSULT about REMOVING the "LEDBURY TERRACE" TURNPIKE-GATE, in the Parish of GREAT MALVERN, in the County of WORCESTER, from its present situation to about Five Hundred Yards nearer the "WYCHE."
 Dated the 6th day of November, 1851.
 THOMAS BIBBS,
 Clerk to the said Trustees.



There was a toll gate at the Wyche situated around the Earnslaw Quarry area. This was operated by the Ledbury Turnpike Trust. The Ledbury Turnpike Map is at Hereford Record Office.

A further Turnpike was situated at the bottom of the Old Wyche Road. This would have been operated by Upton Turnpike Trust.

Coming into Colwall from Upton on Severn one would have to pass through the Toll Gate at Little Malvern. The Toll House was removed a few years ago and was rebuilt at the Avoncroft Museum. This toll House was brick built with a tiled roof roughly rectangular. The front corners were built at an angle, which allowed a clear view of traffic approaching. It was two storey and had the living accomadation upstairs.

Tolls at the Little Malvern gate in 1860 were:-

For every Horse, Ass, or other Beast or Cattle drawing any coach Landau, Barouche, Chariot, Chaise Hearse, Litter or other Carriage with springs} - 6d

For every Horse, Mule or other Beast or Cattle drawing any Waggon, Wain, Cart or other such like Carriage having the tire of the wheels thereof of a less breadth of 6 inches} - 5d

For any Ass drawing any Waggon, Wain or Cart} - 3d

For every Horse, Ass, Mule or other Beast or Cattle drawing any carriage used for the carrying or Conveyancing of Timber or other Heavy Goods} - 1s.0d

For every Horse or Mule Laden or Unladen and not drawing - 1 1/2 d

For every Ass Laden or Unladen and not drawing} - 1d

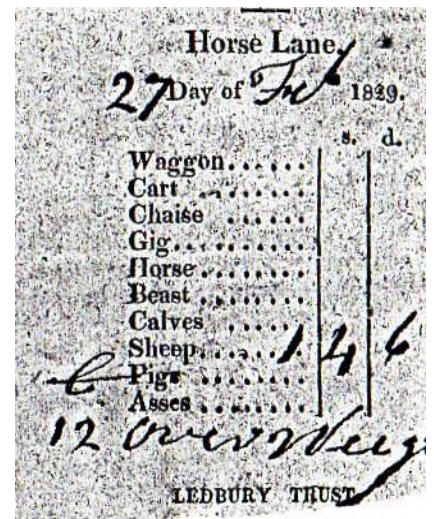
For every Ox, Cow or neat Cattle (except Calves)} - 1/2 d

For every Calf, Hog Sheep- or Lamb} - 1/4d (Farthing)

By order of the Trustees Upton Turnpike Trust

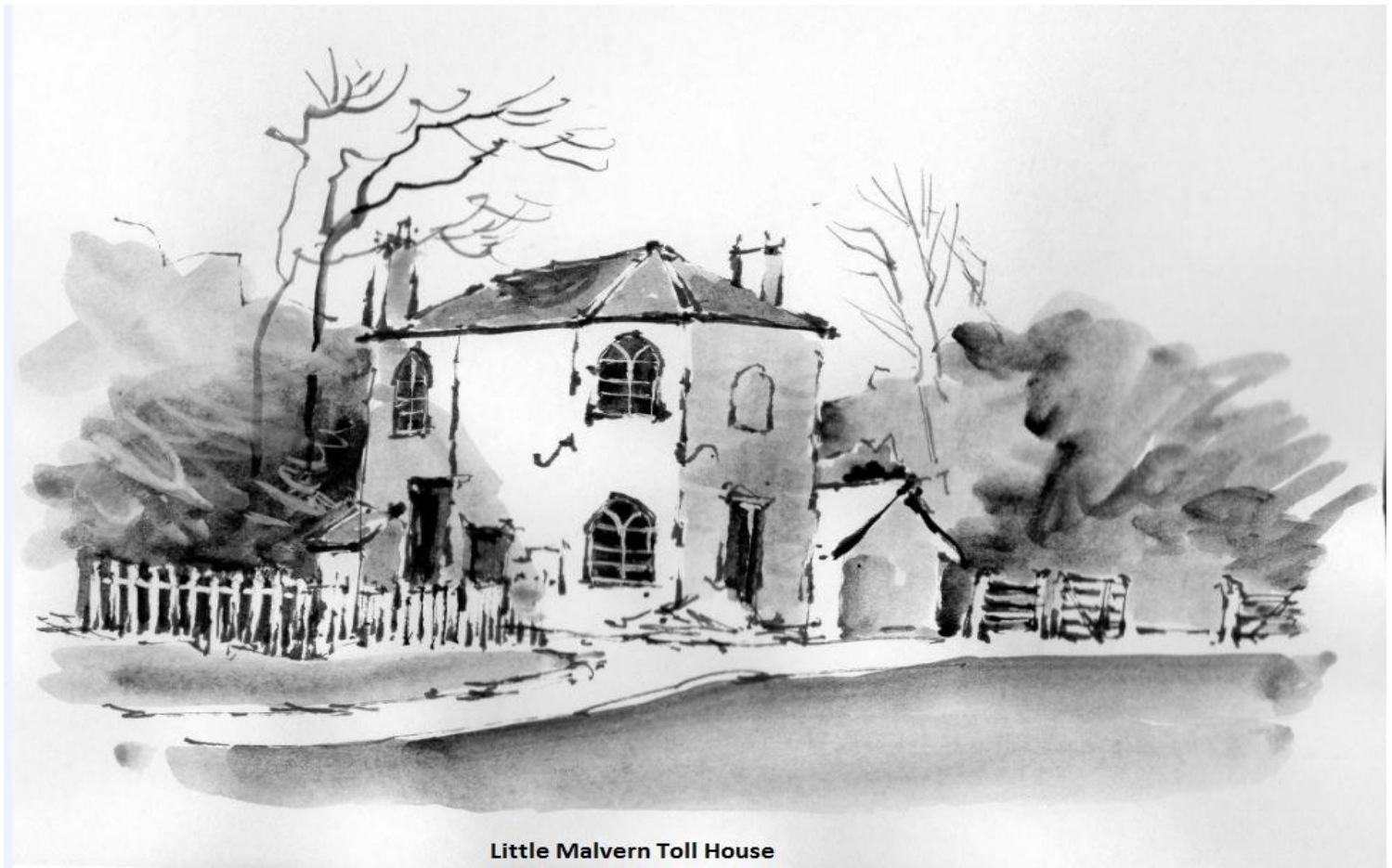


The Toll House at the Wyche may have looked like this



A Ticket issued by the Toll Gate at Horse Lane, Ledbury

Landowners	Occupiers	Number referring to the Plan	Name and description of Lands and Premises	State of Cultivation
Commissioners of the Ledbury Turnpike Trust	William Palmer	969	Homend Turnpike House and Gate	
		1652	Southend Turnpike House and Gate	
			adjoining N ^o 1459	
		1680	New Shot Turnpike House and Gate	
			adjoining N ^o 1400	
		1622	Horse Lane Gate and House	
			adjoining N ^o 129	
		1632	Bradlow Turnpike House and Gate	
			adjoining N ^o 36	
		1678	Murf Turnpike House and Gate	
			adjoining N ^o 1391	



Little Malvern Toll House

Many turnpike trusts were wound up under General Acts of Parliament between 1873 and 1878. Under the Highways Act of 1878 all turnpiked roads became "Main Roads" as did some ordinary highways. By the Local Government Act of 1888, the entire maintenance of main roads was thrown upon the County Councils.

David Hodgson



Future Talks

9th September 2019:

Dr. James Bowen of Liverpool University
'The Victoria County History report on Colwall'

25th November 2019

(Additional Date for your Diary)

Another Film from Catcher Media entitled "Carousel"

27th January 2020:

David Whitehead
'The Historic Parks & Gardens of East Herefordshire
and the Malverns'

27th April 2020 [AGM]:

Dr. John Harcup OBE
'Jenny Lind – Colwall Days and Before'



Finally ...

My thanks to our contributors.

Articles on Colwall related subjects (however tenuous!) are always welcome.

If you are prepared to receive your newsletters by electronic means, please register with the email address below.

Corrections and additions to the information in newsletters are always welcome, as are CONTRIBUTIONS!

Newsletter Editor:



email: cvsnewsletter@colwall.info

or hardcopy c/o Colwall Library