

Stratford Road In Use For 283 Years, Closed By Orders Of Town Council

Stratford's town council has done many things, some wise and some unwise. The latest of the latter is the closing of a road to the rear of Christ church which runs from the Post road to Elm street, thence connecting with Ferry boulevard, eliminating several blocks' travel through the center of the town.

For the past 285 years the road has been in use and residents of the old town are indignant at its closing. They say that the council ordered the street closed at a secret meeting, but this is denied by members of the council, who say that the hearing was advertised. Now the residents are scanning papers looking for the notices.

A Ball Ground.

Signs have been placed, closing the road to all traffic. The reason given by some council men for the closing of the road is to make a ball ground for children in-the vicinity. Their custom has been to play in the road near the old burying ground to the rear of the church.

Nevertheless, the road has a very interesting history. Stratford was settled in 1693 [sic]. The center of the town was where Hard's corner is at present. At this place was the post office and several stores. People in the northeastern section of the town first broke the path to the center, 283 years ago.

Old Church Built

In 1707 Christ church, the oldest Episcopal church in Connecticut, was established and the road was put to great service by the good, people of the town who came to meetings on Sundays and wee-days [sic]. The road was put on the town maps but for some unknown reason was never given a name and to this day it is nameless.

Tradition says that Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson and other outstanding heroes of the Revolution passed over the road on their travels between New Yor [sic] and .Boston.

The British troops, history says, stood in this same road and fired shots at the rooster perched on the top of the weather vane of Christ church. Pdlaces [sic] where the bullets struc [sic] can still beseen [sic]. Recently the cock was struck by lightning and was loosened from its perch, falling to the ground.

Charles Dickens, the noted English author, passed over the road on his way from Hartford to New York.

Drove Mail Coach

Harold Holmes of Main street, Stratford, whose grandfather William [sic] Holmes, who died at the age of 93, drove the mail stage over the road, is one who laments the passing of the road. Mr. Holmes remembers some of granddad's tales.

The road was the home stretch to Stratford for the old stage coach coming in from Boston. At Lovejoy's

The Bridgeport Times

WEATHER:

Pale tonight and Friday; moderate temperature; gentle variable winds, blowing north and northeast.

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Inn, a famous Revolutionary period hostelry, horses were changed. The Post Road then, is now the Broad street of Stratford. To arrive at the old Post Office and Inn, it was necessary to drive several blocks south after reaching Main street. After the horses were changed the old road was utilized to get back on to the Post Road. Thorough [sic] winter and summer the stage drivers worked and great men of history passed over the road.

One of the most exciting moments in the life of the old stage driver was when his horses bolted just as he was turning down the road. He had a number of passengers in the coach. The horses started on a mad run and the heavy coach swayed to and fro. It looded [sic] as if it would turn turtle, probably illing [sic] all, but Holmes

grabbed the lines and in attempting to pull up the six horses broe [sic] his little finger.

He was in agony and was about to drop the lines when he thought of his charges. He held on tighter, though the finger was broken and succeeded in checking the horses just as the post office was reached. The finger was set and Holmes did not have the courage to have it rebroken and set again so it remained doubled up to his dying day.

Folks Indignant

Such action as taken by the council in closing the street cannot go un-noticed and people in the vicinity may soon circulate a petition requesting its re-opening. Besides eliminating traffic through the center of the town danger to center school children is lessened.