

# THE MYSTERIOUS HOOP HALL

Some time ago I was studying the census records for Carlton Village, and under the description of the area it covered was the name Hoop Hall Gate. Neither my brother nor I knew of this name in Carlton, more over it seems to have been only yards from where we were born. Subsequent to that I found a reference to it in 'The Turnpike roads of Leicestershire and Rutland' by Arthur Cossons (2003). Cossons had made enquiries in Bosworth some years ago (pre 1963) but had not been able to locate the position of Hoop Hall. The most likely place was at the junction of Barton Road and Nailstone Road in Carlton.

A local land mark (Hoop Hall) was the name used to identify the Toll Gate that was positioned at that junction and was used to collect tolls on the turnpike road from Bosworth to Belchers Bar (near Ibstock). Significantly, Cossons said it ran to Cheshire's House, Carlton.

In the 1830 Poll book and through to at least 1841 the Cheshire family lived in the area near to the junction of Barton Road and Nailstone Road. At that time there would have been less than half a dozen houses at the top of Carlton. Thomas Cheshire was described as a farmer and miller and there was a wind mill in the field opposite Mill House. The Poll book states 2 people named Cheshire owned land "Near the Toll Gate". Even more significantly, in the 1841 census the occupation of George Holmes a resident in that area was "Gate Keeper".

Most of the census records quote "Hoop Hall Gate", implying an area, but one refers to one building. The Hoop Hall Gate reference goes through to the 1901 census.

There is a good chance the actual Toll House is the small cottage shown in front of Mill House on the photograph, and it remained there into the 1960s. The map included in this article is pre 1861 and shows buildings to the South of the junction under discussion. If Hoop Hall is not one of the existing properties, which seems likely, it was probably one of the buildings shown on this map.

The Gate Inn (like many others) has taken its name from the Toll Gate but the first mention of that name is in the census of 1861.

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