

More about Hoop Hall, gates and The Gate

This article reports some recent research into the area around Hoop Hall and complements previous pieces published in Carlton News in May 2014 and 2016.

Hoop Hall was a building which stood to the north of the current Gate Hangs Well, either on the site of the recent extension or in the adjacent field. The origin of the name *Hoop Hall* is not known, but might be to do with the iron rings or hoops used by wheelwrights. The name *Hoop Hall Gate* was used in the censuses of 1861, '71 '81 and 1901 to identify a group of houses around the junctions of Barton, Bosworth and Nailstone Roads and Main Street, at the eastern end of Carlton. In the 1950's this area became referred to as *Carlton Gate*.

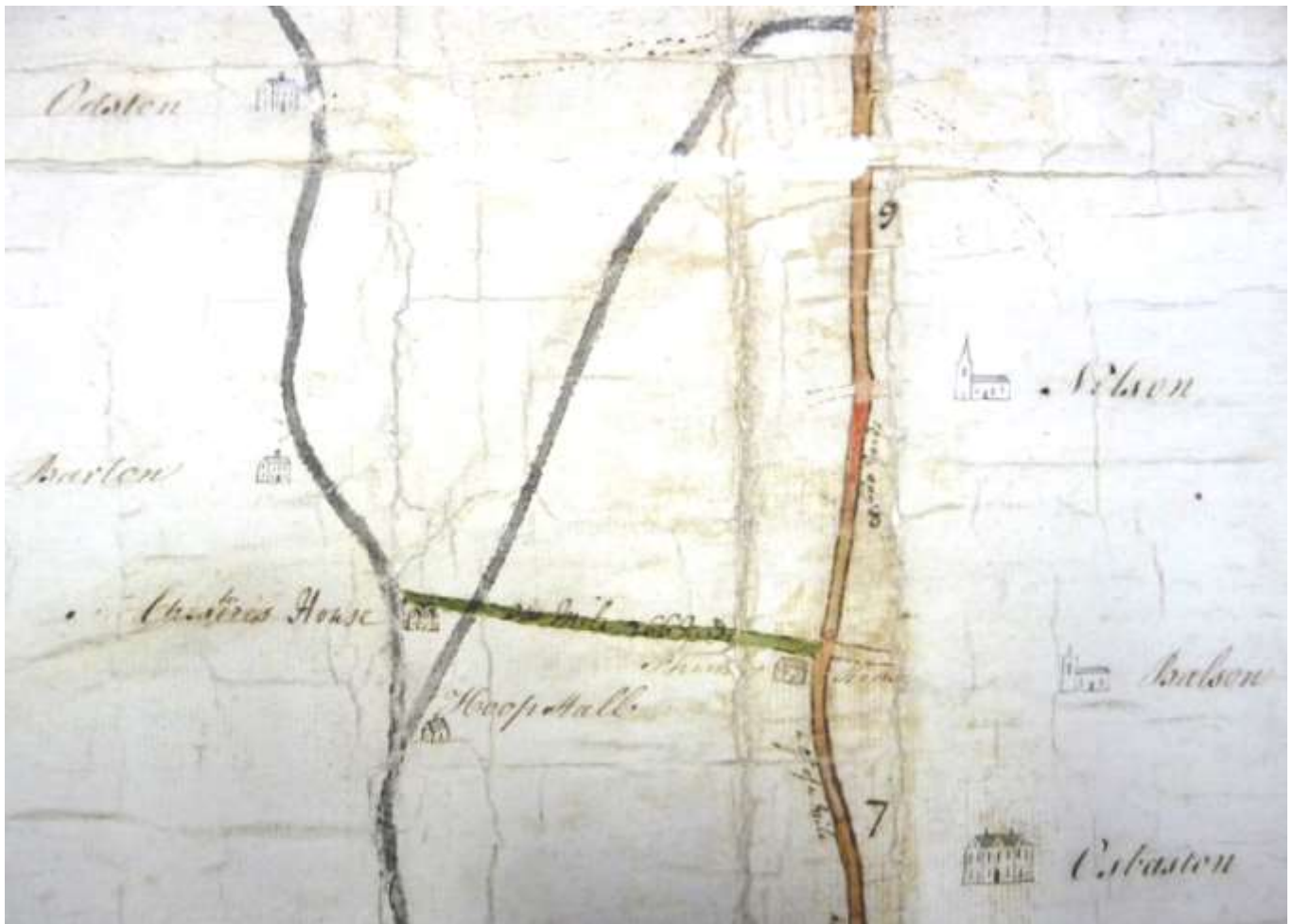
The *Gate* reference is to the toll gates across the end of Main Street, and across Barton Road, which were controlled by a toll house which stood on what is now a wide grass verge on the north western side of the junction of Main Street and Barton Road.

Hoop Hall may have been a hall which became an inn, or may simply have been the name of a hostelry. An entry in the Carlton 'Accounts of the Poor Laws' dated 17th November 1763 lists 'Payment of ale at Hoop Hall one shilling and six pence'. Another entry covers 'Spent at Hoop Hall seven pence'. The early records of publicans do not give addresses, so do not distinguish between the two hostelries in Carlton at the time, which were *Hoop Hall* and *The Malt Shovel* (the latter is now a private dwelling, 25 Main St).

The earliest recorded publican is Sarah Johnson 1753-1763, followed by the name Collington. A range of names appear over later years, intermingled with various spellings of Collington. It seems likely that the Collington family kept *Hoop Hall* continuously for many years, the other names being the landlords of *The Malt Shovel*.

The later records give more details: Hannah Collington was listed as a publican in the 1841 census but with no address. Following her death soon after, the 1851 edition lists Samuel Collington, probably her son, as a wheelwright living at Hoop Hall. In small pubs of the day it was common for the wife to run the bar during the day while her husband worked at a full time job elsewhere. Ten years later the census lists all the properties at the top of the village collectively as being in Hoop Hall Gate with Samuel Collington, a publican and wheelwright, living at 'The Gate'. In a similar vein the 1871 census lists seven properties at the top of the village as being in Hoop Hall Gate including 'The Gate Inn'. By then Elizabeth Collington was the publican with her son, a wheelwright. The 1881 census has no reference to Hoop Hall Gate, but the 1901 census refers to Hoop Hall Gate for four properties with The Gate Inn referred to in the middle of those properties.

The 1885 sale of the Bosworth Estate included the sale of the *Gate Inn* as a separate lot, describing it as newly built. The Tithe Map of 1849 shows buildings on the site but these are not the same as the buildings of the 1950's. The property was not identified as a pub, but the word Gate has been written on the map at a later date.



Plan showing the route of the Hoop Hall Carlton-Belcher's Bar turnpike, and the proposed Osbaston-Carlton Turnpike. Cheshire's House, Hoop Hall and Phiney's House are all marked.

The Turnpike Roads of Leicestershire & Rutland (Cossons, 2003) refers to two turnpike roads connecting to Carlton. The route of one (above) includes a section from Hoop Hall, Carlton to Belchier's House, which is clearly the line of Nailstone Road – Green Lane – Belcher's Bar. Cossons thought it unlikely that this was ever built. The map of the route also identifies Cheshire's House as standing at the Barton Road/Buften Lane junction.

A later turnpike, proposed in 1759-60, ran from Phiney's House, Osbaston to Cheshire's House, Carlton. The accompanying map (above) clearly shows Cheshire's House at the Barton Road/Buften Lane T-junction, and Phiney's House at the Lount Road, Osbaston/ Barton Road, Barlestone/A447 crossroads. A map of the Hinckley turnpike, now the A447 (below), shows the same crossroads, with Lount Lane labelled as leading to Cheshire's.



Part of the map of the Hinckley turnpike. Lount Road is at top left, labelled upside-down.

According to the 1841 census and the 1830 poll book, the Cheshire family lived at the house on the fork between Barton Road and Nailstone Road in Carlton (now Mill House) at that time.

The present buildings at the Bufton Lane/Barton Road junction (now Bufton Cottage) are reported to have been built in 1780 by Mr Deacon the clock maker of Barton, and the rents from them were used to support Barton chapel. The Tithe Map of 1849 shows three buildings in the relevant location in Bufton, these being of similar shape to the existing buildings today. It would appear that Cheshire's House at Bufton was demolished sometime between 1760 and 1780. The family may have moved to what is now Mill House in Carlton, or might have occupied both houses for a period of time.

The documents referred to above are all available for public consultation at the Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland; the photographs above are reproduced with permission.

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