

Coaching Roads of Old New England

the road. He was born on the opposite side, in a house no longer standing. In the old cemetery on the hill, a rather ponderous granite monument to his memory overlooks the road. Facing the little shaded green at the top of the hill, was the site of the first church, and here and along the road on the crest of the hill are some charming old houses set among the trees, their white-fenced dooryards gay in summer with old-fashioned flowers.

Four miles beyond the straggling village of Coventry, the road passes between the high rocky cliffs of Bolton Notch, after which it approaches South Manchester and the suburbs of Hartford.

The Woodbridge Tavern at Manchester Green was one more of Washington's stopping places—now, sad to say, fallen to the level of a tenement house.

There is a tradition that a tavern kept by Jeremy Adams, later known as Wadsworth's, stood for nearly two hundred years in Hartford where the great building of the Travelers Insurance Company stands today: the first tavern in Hartford. Here the General Court is said to have met with the royal governor, Andros, in 1687, when the King had threatened to take away the colony's charter. While the precious document lay on the table, the candles were suddenly blown out. When they were relighted the charter was gone, not to appear again until Andros had lost his authority. According to that tradition dear to the hearts of all true and loyal citizens of Hartford, it was concealed by Captain Joseph Wadsworth in a hollow

The Middle Road

oak, where it had remained until James II had fled to France and Andros was recalled.

As the Adams tavern stood hard by the meetinghouse, the pillory probably was in this vicinity, where Nicholas Olmstead was sentenced to be "sett on" next Lecture day, "a lyle before the beginning and to stay on a little after the end."

There were various routes between Hartford and New Haven, but when the turnpike going by way of Meriden was chartered in 1798, this became the regular coach road to New Haven. From here coaches over the various routes from the east followed the old road along the Sound to the neighborhood of Harlem, from whence they took somewhat different routes to the Battery.