

## Section of Old Stage Yard Near Relay Place



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Situated in back of a group of buildings near Relay Pt. is an old stage yard which has been almost forgotten with the passing of years. It was near here that Lorenzo Leeds operated his famous tavern, and when not attending to his stage coach horses, he could always be found dispensing the best Jamaica rum in Stamford.

It appears that a century or more ago Stamford was looked upon as the half-way point between New York and New Haven. For this reason it became a distributing center for mail intended for a considerable portion of Western Connecticut.

This stage yard was one of two places where stage coaches in Stamford stopped to change horses, a fact which undoubtedly

afterwards prompted the name Relay Pt. to be given to a short roughfare which runs southward on Main St.

History tells us even in those early days the elimination of curves and shortening of routes was recognized quite as much then as it is today. In fact, the records show that in 1800 the highway authorities decided to recommend an alteration in the turnpike through Stamford. It was proposed that instead of going across Broad St. Bridge and up over Palmer's Hill, the Post Road should now run straight west from the square to South St. and then on across Main St. Bridge. This according to history involved the removal of a section of the old town burial ground which was situated

where West Park now is. In 1805, a decision was reached to go ahead on the so-called improvement which aroused the temper of many citizens. In fact, people were so indignant that various obstructions were placed in the way of the workmen, for a time hindered the project. The law, however, had its way and the present Post Rd. became a reality. For many months thereafter people would not drive by where the sacred burial plot had been demolished.

The artist's sketch was made opposite the old Relay Barn, and within a stone's throw of where historic Leeds' Tavern served its many customers, and where people waited for the incoming stage.

Whitman Bailey