

## The Stagecoach Era: romance and reality

Historical context: 1600 - 1850

DATE	MONARCH	STAGECOACH INNOVATIONS	HISTORICAL CONTEXT
1603 - 1625	JAMES 1	In 1610, horse drawn passenger route from Edinburgh to Leith.	1605 Gunpowder Plot
		Mid 1620s - London had hackney carriages.	1620 Pilgrim Fathers arrive at Cape Cod
1625 - 1649	CHARLES 1	In 1637 - the first stage coach to St Albans recorded.	1642 Civil War begins
1649 - 1660	Commonwealth	Oliver Cromwell Protector 1653 - 1658 Richard Cromwell 1658-9 1653 Stage coach between London & York	
1660 - 1685	CHARLES 11	1663 1 <sup>st</sup> Turnpike Act helping Wadesmill to Stilton parishes financially to repair the road. 1667 the first known advertisement appeared, promoting the London to Bath route. This took three days!	1660 Restoration of the Monarchy 1665 Great Plague of London 1666 Great Fire of London
1685 - 1688	JAMES 11	Deposed once Mary of Modena ( 2 <sup>nd</sup> wife) had a (Catholic) male heir	
1689 - 1702	WILLIAM & MARY	( She died in 1695 )	1690 Battle of the Boyne 1701 -13 War of Spanish Succession
1702 - 1714	ANNE	Regular route between York and London. 1706 Turnpike Act enabled Trusts to be separate authorities, not parish based. .	1704 Beau Nash Master of Ceremonies @ Bath.
1714 - 1727	GEORGE 1	Coach design still primitive. 1726 Shrewsbury to Shifnal turnpiked	
1727 - 1760	GEORGE 11	1739 Dick Turpin hanged. 1753 Bows ( handles) attached to the roof of the coach to help outside passengers hold on. 1754 Manchester to London ( Four & a half days.) 1757 Liverpool to London	1729 Bach: St Matthew Passion. 1733 Kay invents flying shuttle for weaving. 1742 Handel's Messiah
			1745 Bow Street Runners in London
1760 - 1820	GEORGE 111	1780s to 1840s the Golden Age of stagecoach travel. 1780 Bath to London using a regular schedule. In 1797 there are 42 Coach routes throughout the country	1773 Ironbridge at Coalbrookdale. 1776 Declaration of Independence.
		1784 First Mail Coach trial run: Bristol to London	1782 Watt patents double-acting rotary steam engine.
		1809 McAdam's specification known as "macadamised" road surfaces	1789 French Revolution
		1815 Telford appointed to supervise the Holyhead Road Commission.	1801 Act of Union with Ireland
		1816 McAdam appointed general-surveyor to the Bristol Trust	1805 Battle of Trafalgar
1820 - 1830	GEORGE 1V		1815 Battle of Waterloo
			1825 Stockton - Darlington railway
1830 - 1837	WILLIAM 1V	1831 First steam driven carriage service Cheltenham to Gloucester	
		1835 - 37 Railway boom	
1837 - 1901	VICTORIA		1837 Daguerreotype photographs & Electric telegraph
		1838 Act of Parliament allowed mail to be carried on the railway.	
		1839 Last London to Birmingham stagecoach. 1843 Last London to Bristol stagecoach 1847 Last London to Plymouth stagecoach	1847 Charlotte Bronte wrote Jane Eyre
			1902 Edgar Purnell Hooley patented tarmac.

Compiled for Prees Parish History Society talk. Oct 2024. Rev 1. There may be errors, in which case they are mine. J Chidlow