



CONTRIBUTED

GRAVEL ROAD

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Bethinking of Olde Orleans

In 1850, the Ridgeway, Medina and Alabama plank road was chartered, and it was put in operation the next year as a toll road. The enterprise proved a failure within a few years, and that portion of it between Medina and Ridgeway was sold to William Pells.

He immediately covered the road with stone, earth and a heavy coat of gravel, making it one of the best roads in the county.

It continued to be a toll road until around 1880, when the charter expired.

Pells made this a paying venture, the length of the road being 3 miles. Consequently, the heavy coat of

gravel that was applied to the road gave the road its name.

From the 1875 Atlas of Orleans County, here we see Gravel Road (Route 63) north of Medina, just north of Boxwood Cemetery, which is noted on this map as "Cem." We also see the toll house noted as "Toll Ho." This is located across the Gravel Road from "W. Whipple" shown on the west side of the road.