

**Tom Greeves**

**History of the road bridge and tin mining in the area.**

Just upstream from the clapper bridge there's actually a rather elegant three arched bridge which is the modern road bridge and lots of drivers must remember it because their stomachs heave as they go over the top of it, if they're going a little bit too fast. It's a beautiful bridge but it dates back about 200 years, or just over 200 years to the time of the turnpike roads which was a great period of improvement to the road system, a bit like the modern motorway system; it was the equivalent of that, and for the first time there was a proper bridge for wheeled traffic in Postbridge, so this bridge enabled carts to get across the river safely and associated with the turnpike bridge there was a tollhouse and a tollgate to stop people and make them pay a toll for the upkeep of the road and so on. And there were tin mines working not far from here and just down stream from the clapper bridge on the west bank there was actually a tin smelting house just about 100 yards away, and that operated for a very short time in 1786 but it's indicative of the fact that Postbridge was an important centre for mining as well as for farming.