

# The Names of Roads and Prominent Buildings of Upton from Previous Centuries.

## The Town. (Part 2)

**Court Street** acquired its name when the County Court arrived in Upton in the 1840s. The County Court - Benjamin Parham Esq. was the Judge - was the court for small claims set up under the County Court Act of 1846: it did not last in Upton and was moved to Malvern in 1867. Court Street extended into **Brown Square** (has anyone any ideas of the source of that? - it sounds old) and round the corner into the area in front of what was the *Royal Oak* - the building with the once imposing facade to the right of the **Old Court House**. Before the arrival of the County Court this area was the Pig



Market. Some of the houses from those days remain - **Cottage Row** and **Field Row**, for example, but others have long since gone: in front of the *Royal Oak*, and between **Court Row** and the houses which were opposite (the Co-op car park now), Coffin Row was fitted in.



Here, as in much of Upton, the crowded conditions were typical - there were seven dwellings in Lapstone Alley and six houses in **Fisher Row**, on the Waterside next to the Malt House: the remnants of these are now one residence with garages below.

The whole of the area beyond Court Street was for long known as **Buryfield** having been built on a field raised above the flood plain. **Buryend Farm** was at the end of this area. Thus, although the National School was founded in the 1820s - The Rev'd Joseph Martin paid Mr Thacker £184 6s 8d to build it - what is now known as **School Lane** was referred to as Buryfield and was named as such on maps until late in the century. **The Haughs** was derived from the name for a fenced off enclosure. The Depot, a row of cottages dating from the early nineteenth century stood at the end of School Lane where it joined Minge Lane. They were originally associated with the militia. The origin of **Hilton** as a house name is yet to be traced. **Rectory Road** led to the Rectory which, when the Rector moved to the house behind the new church, was called first the Old Rectory and then **The Old Hall**. **Soley's Orchard** is based on a family name from the seventeenth century. The name of **Minge Lane** is of at least early nineteenth century origin. A map, dating from 1814, of "Mr



Brockhurst's land in the Ham" marks Minge Lane, and in the 1841 Census, Joseph Draper and his family had their cottage in Minge Lane: the name also appears in later census returns and the lane is marked, and named, on the 1905 Ordnance Survey map. There was, however, a coyness in references to it - in 1881 the Parish Magazine refers to "the lane which runs from the station to the Ham" in a report of the census of that year, and, from then, the name Minns Lane was occasionally used. During the period from 1935 to 1950 there was an attempt to convince everyone that its name really was Minns Lane. The evidence for this effort is to be found in the electoral registers. Voters who were recorded as living in Minge



Lane in 1935, were in Minns Lane by 1945, and back in Minge Lane in 1950 - without having moved house! The reason for this embarrassment can have had nothing to do with any modern slang meaning of minge. It was that, in the nineteenth century and much earlier, to minge was to urinate: the Oxford English Dictionary quotes its use to mean this in *Tarlton's Jests* of 1611. Since Minge Lane was the main route for animals being taken to be turned loose on the Upper Ham each August, the name was perhaps not unconnected with the activity of those beasts which lingered on the way! Simon Wilkinson