

## What 's in a Name ?

It may surprise you to learn that Bramham 's older road names are now rather different from those our forebears knew .Victorian censuses , for example , made no mention of The Square, Front Street , Bowcliffe Road , Low Way , Town Hill or even High Street . Clifford Road appears though it contained only two houses by 1881; as New Road was solely a thoroughfare , it gained no mention ; and Freely Lane was a private way crossing Bramham House estate.

More interesting are the changes of name . Wetherby Road incorporated Front Street , beginning at The Square .Our Low Way was Church Street [ it began at the Red Lion and ended at the Church ]. Church Hill was Church Lane . Not much difference there , but what happened to High Street ? Well , Tadcaster Road started at the lower end of Tenter Hill [ the White Horse was on it ] , crossed The Square , and progressed up Town Hill and High Street to the Manor House Farm at the top . If you are studying the censuses , Aberford Road will need watching . In Victorian times this was the name given to Bowcliffe Road , while what we call Aberford Road was Folly Lane , starting at the top of our High Street and going as far as Bramham Lodge .

One delightful change relates to Almshouse Hill . One can imagine the clerk questioning the name of this lane , and writing down what he heard ; so Ormas Hill is what appears on the official census. Actually , before 1881 , the name to be found on maps was Delamore Lane , the lane from the moor .

Finally , what of the roads whose names have often been questioned in the village , Vicarage and Back Lanes ? The 1881 Census confirms the views of the sceptics . Vicarage Lane covered only the road going round the churchyard , from lychgate to the two cottages at the east end . From thereon up , to the junction at the top , was Back Lane . So , what of the road round the churchyard past the Old Hall ? This was referred to as Low Side of Church , with mention of Fine Garth Cottages.

What 's in a name ? And what does it matter anyway ? No doubt future Bramhamers will look upon our names as equally quaint .

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