

Swanbourne Enclosure 1762-63

How the village changed
250 years ago

Background

The fields around Swanbourne have been farmed for over 1000 years, since at least Anglo-Saxon times.

There have been many changes during this time, but probably none so significant as the changes that took place 250 years ago between the years 1762 and 1763.

Doomsday Book - 1086

At this time, there were 4 manors and 1 other landowner.

- William the Conqueror – 4 ½ hides (*c540 Acres*)
- Earl of Morton – 5 hides (*c600 Acres*)
- Walter Giffard – 7 hides 3 virgates (*c930 Acres*)
- Geoffrey de Mandeville – 2 hides (*c240 Acres*)
- William son of Ansculf – 1 virgate (*c30 Acres*)

[1 hide = c120 Acres; 1 virgate = c30 Acres]

Total around 2140 Acres

[Modern estimates – 2510 Acres]

Woburn Abbey

- In 1206, a grant of land was made to Woburn Abbey. Eventually the Abbey held 13 hides (over ½ the village).
- The first vicar was installed in 1218 and the present Church dates its establishment to 1230.
- The Abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1538.
- In 1544, the former Abbey lands were awarded to Ambrose Gilbert.

Sir John Fortescue

- By 1599, these lands had come into the possession of Sir John Fortescue, Chancellor of the Exchequer for Elizabeth I from 1589 to 1603). He had a large house at Salden, Mursley.
- In 1599, he had a map made of his lands in Mursley, Swanbourne and other neighbouring villages.
- 17 Swanbourne people are named on the map as his tenants.

The Fortescue map of 1599



The Adams Family

- In 1624, (on the death of Francis Fortescue) the Fortescue land was conveyed to John Adams (baptised 1583) and his brother Thomas (baptised 1596).
- It was divided between them into 2 moieties or parts.
- The responsibility for the Great Tythe (or rectorial tythe) probably went to John Adams.

1762

- By 1762, these moieties were divided between James Adams and John Deverell.
- John Deverell was described as Lord of the Prior Moiety of the Manor, having inherited the land from Josias Askew in 1750.
- James Adams had the other Moiety, which included the Great Tythe.
- It was at this time that a decision was made to enclose all the land that lay in the open fields.

3 Open Fields

The Parish had a three-field system, though the names changed between the 1600 and 1762.

- What had been North Field (north of Winslow Road and Mursley Road) was now Fenn Field.
- West Field was now known as Haybush Field, and the far west was called Haybush Common.
- South Field (East of Avey Lane and South of Mursley Road) was known as Bourne Field, though the very south was called South Mead.

The 3 Field System

The strips farmed by different individuals were scattered across the 3 different fields, one of which would be left fallow each year, the other two growing wheat or rye in one and an alternative crop in the other.

Decisions on what crops would be grown in the shared fields would be decided collectively.

Ridge and Furrow

The fields were divided into areas known as Furlongs, which were further divided into separate strips. These strips were ploughed using a mould board plough, resulting in each strip becoming heaped up into ridges.

The ridge and furrow pattern is still visible in places around the village, such as near Dodley Hill, and below Swanbourne House School.



Mould Board Plough



Land near Swanbourne House showing
the ridge and furrow

Enclosure History

The earliest Bucks Parliamentary Enclosures were measures which legitimised agreements already made by landowners:

- Ashendon 1738
- Wotton Underwood 1742
- Shipton 1744

After 1760, the request for an Act had to be agreed by holders of 75% of the land by value.

The Normal Enclosure Procedure

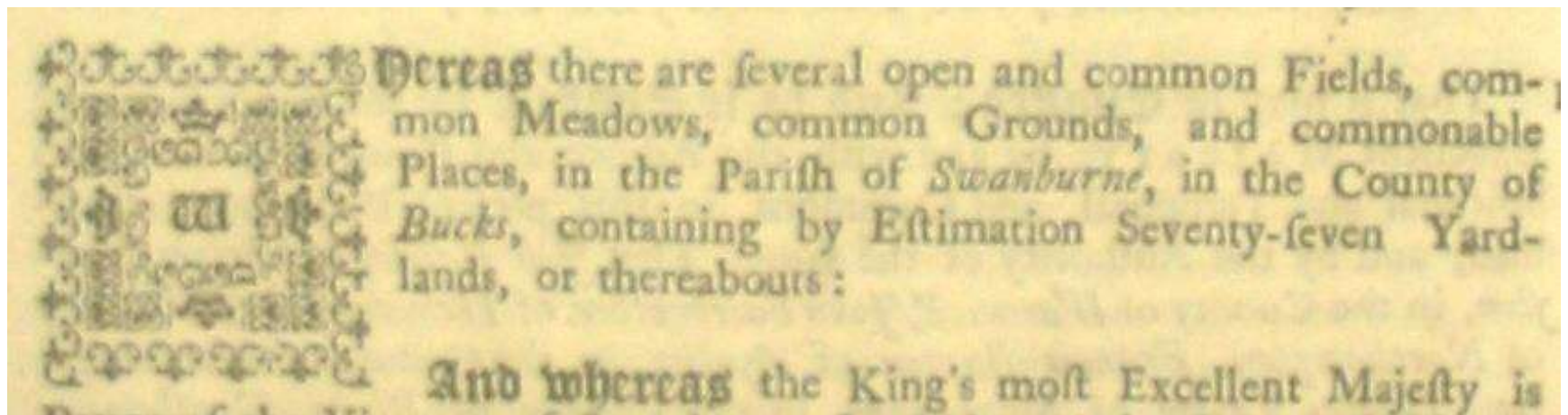
(according to Sir Frank Markham)

- Act passed and commissioners and surveyor appointed.
- A detailed survey made.
- Public meetings held, usually in a public house, to hear objections.
- The rights of commons were suspended.
- Public roads and highways were staked out.
- Allotments of land were awarded.
- Responsibilities for fencing were allocated.
- The costs of the procedure were shared out.

In 1762, a special Act for Swanbourne
was passed through Parliament

A N
A C T
F O R
Dividing and Inclosing the Common Fields,
Common Meadows, Common Grounds,
and Commonable Places, in the Parish of
Swanburne, in the County of *Bucks*.

It allowed the enclosing of around
seventy-seven yardlands (*or 2310
Acres*) of open and common fields.



The vicar, Rev Charles William Tonyn, already had Glebe Lands and also vicarial or small Tythes

¶ And whereas the King's most Excellent Majesty is Patron of the Vicarage of *Swanburne* aforesaid, and the Reverend *Charles William Tonyn*, Clerk, is Vicar of the said Parish, and in Right of his said Vicarage is seised of certain Glebe Lands lying within the said open and common Fields, and Right of Common therein, and also of all the vicarial or small Tythes arising, renewing, increasing, or happening, within the Parish of *Swanburne* aforesaid:

James Adams, Gentleman, was
impropriator of the Great Tythes
(of Corn, Grain, Grass and Hay etc)

And whereas *James Adams*, Gentleman, is Impropiator of all the great Tythes arising, renewing, increafing, or happening, in or upon certain Lands or Grounds in the faid open or common Fields, common Meadows, common Grounds, and commonable Places, and alfo a Proprietor of Lands, and has a Right of Common therein:

Also mentioned as owners & proprietors of these lands are: John Deverell junior, Sibell Eaton, widow, Newman Williat, Robert Carter, Robert Gibbs, Thomas Coles, Michael Simmonds, Edward Gurnett, John Deverell the elder, and others.

And whereas the said Charles William Tonyn, Clerk, and James Adams, together with John Deverell junior, Sibell Eaton, Widow, Newman Williat, Robert Carter, Robert Gibbs, Thomas Coles, Michael Simmonds, Edward Gurnett, John Deverell the elder, and others, are the Owners and Proprietors of, and Persons interested in, the said common Fields, common Meadows, common Grounds, and commonable Places within the Parish of Swanburne aforelaid :

Why were these particular names listed?

Altogether 47 individuals plus the vicar and the churchwardens were allotted land through the enclosure of the fields and commons.

It is not clear why these particular people were named in the Act itself. Whilst the major landowners were there, some of the others only had quite small holdings.

Robert Gibbs was only to receive 4 Acres.

Edward Gurnett was awarded 39 Acres

.....and one of them, Thomas Coles,
died soon after the Act was passed.

Parish Record

Thomas Coles & Mary Hill married 22 Dec 1742

Elizabeth Coles daughter of Thomas baptised
1747

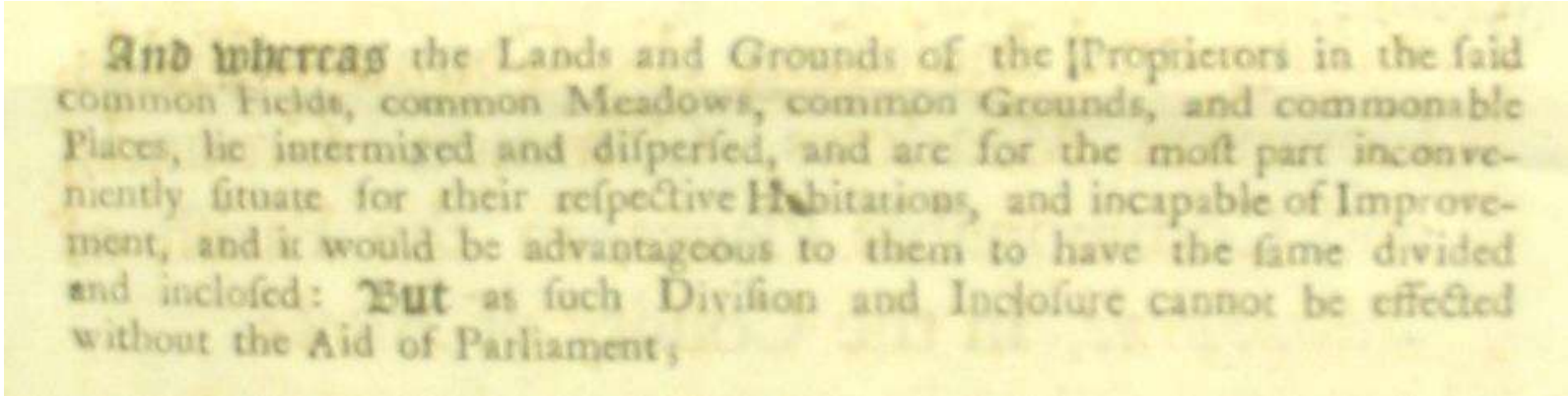
Thomas Coles was buried on 5th January 1763

The Poor were not entirely forgotten
and the Church
was to be kept in good repair.

And whereas the poor Persons living in Swanburne aforesaid have for several Years last been indulged to cut Furze for Fuel off and from some Part of the commonable Places of Swanburne aforesaid :

And whereas for Time immemorial certain Lands lying in the said open and common Fields of Swanburne aforesaid, of the yearly Value of Two Pounds Eleven Shillings and Six Pence, have been held and enjoyed by the Churchwardens of Swanburne aforesaid for the Time being, and the Rents and Profits thereof applied towards the Repairs of the Parish Church of Swanburne aforesaid :

But improvements cannot be made without the Aid of Parliament



And whereas the Lands and Grounds of the [Proprietors in the said common Fields, common Meadows, common Grounds, and commonable Places, lie intermixed and dispersed, and are for the most part inconveniently situate for their respective Habitations, and incapable of Improvement, and it would be advantageous to them to have the same divided and inclosed: **But** as such Division and Inclosure cannot be effected without the Aid of Parliament,

So this Act was put forward to enable improvements to be made, with instructions and guidelines on how this was to be done.

That it may be **Enacted** ; And be it **Enacted**, by the KING's most Excellent MAJESTY, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That *Job Baseley* of *Priors Marston*, in the County of *Warwick*, *John Fairbrother* of *Helmdon*, in the County of *Northampton*, *Francis Burton* of *Aynhor*, in the County of *Northampton*, *Thomas Taylor* of *Swanburne*, in the County of *Bucks*, Gentlemen, and *William Bradley* of *Lower Heyford*, in the County of *Oxford*, Clerk, and their Successors, to be elected in Manner herein after-mentioned, shall be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners for dividing and inclosing all the common Fields, common Meadows, common Grounds, and commonable Places, within the said Parish of *Swanburne*, in the County of *Bucks*, and for putting this Act in Execution.

5 Commissioners were appointed to oversee the whole activity.

The 5 commissioners

- Job Baseley of Priors Maston in the County of Warwick
- John Fairbrother of Helmdon in the County of Northampton
- Francis Burton of Aynhoe in the County of Northampton
- Thomas Taylor of Swanburne in the County of Bucks Gentleman
- William Bradley of Lower Heyford in the County of Oxford Clerk

Who were they?

In 1759, the fields of Helmdon in Northants (5 miles north of Brackley) were enclosed, and **John Fairbrother** was one of the beneficiaries. The Commissioners appointed on that occasion, included 3 of the other Commissioners:

William Bradley, Lower Heyford - Clerk

Francis Burton, Aynho - Gent.

Thomas Baseley, Pryors Marston - Gent. (Warcs.)

Job Baseley, Pryors Marston - Gent. (Warcs.)

John Deeley, Luanton - Gent. (Oxon.)

Thomas Taylor

Of the 5 Commissioners, one was a Swanbourne man, but someone who had no direct involvement in either owning land or farming it. Thomas Taylor was a carpenter, with a wife and children. Some information on the family can be gleaned from the Parish Records (see next page).

Following his successful involvement in the Swanbourne Enclosure, he went on to be a commissioner in at least 9 other village field enclosures in Buckinghamshire*.

(*Early Commissioners and Buckinghamshire Parliamentary Enclosures - Michael Turner

Thomas Taylor (Parish Register)

Thomas Taylor & Elizabeth Cook married 27 Dec 1739

James Hill Taylor bapt Oct 23, buried 23 Nov 1743

Elizabeth Taylor daughter of Thos baptised 25 June 1744

Mary Taylor dgt of Thos bapt 25 Aug, buried 22 Dec 1745

Mary Taylor dgt of Thos bapt 16 Aug 1750

William Taylor son of Thos bapt 11 Mar 1752

Thomas Adams & Elizabeth Taylor married 23 May 1762

Elizabeth Taylor buried 10 May 1772

William Taylor buried 22 Dec 1773

Thomas Taylor buried 27 July 1788

Elizabeth Taylor buried 18 Mar 1791

(His will consisted of his carpentry tools and his stock of timber)

Measuring the Land

One of the first tasks was to measure out the lands of each of the landowners and to calculate the amount that they should eventually be awarded.

We do not seem to have the name of the surveyor. However, there is a copy of the map that was drawn up in the County Archives.

An Enclosure Map was produced.

(Section showing the village and lands around).





The village

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That One annual Rent or yearly Sum of Ninety Pounds of lawful Money of *Great Britain*, clear of all Deductions whatsoever (except Land Tax) shall be issuing and going out of all the Lands and Grounds now respectively chargeable with, or liable to, the Payment of any Tythes, or Moduses or Payments for and in lieu of Tythes, to him the said *Charles William Tonyn* and his Successors (except the said Allotment to be made to and for the

The first award mentioned in the Act,
was to the Vicar. He was to receive
90 pounds annually
in place of the small tythes.

In addition, he had Glebe Land

The award was to *'Rev Charles William Tonyn and his successors Vicars of the Vicarage and the Parish Church of Swanbourne'*.

33 Acres 3 roods 7 perches.

The land stretched from the Mursley Road (now occupied by Willow House, Glebe House and Kelston) northward to the Parish Boundary.

The allotment in respect of the Glebe lands was to be made as below:

Thirty Three Acres Three Roods and Seven Perches One Acre Three Roods and Thirty Eight Perches of which is intended to be exchanged with John Lane as hereinafter mentioned for part of the said John Lanes Estate (Exclusive of all Roads) as the same is now admeasured staked and set out which said lott plott piece or parcel of Ground is **Bounded** on part of the West on a small part of the North on other part of the West by Robert Carters Close and Butts called Breakpurse Close and Breakspurse Close Butts and hereinafter awarded to Thomas Curle on part of the South by the Road hereinafter sett out leading from Swanbourne towards Mursley on part of the East by the Homestead of Robert Smith on another part of the East and on part of the South by John Lanes Close called Breakspurse Close and hereinafter awarded to John Bull on other part of the East by Narrow Brook plot the property of James Adams hereinafter also awarded to the said John Bull on other part of the East by the hereinafter described Allottment of the said John Bull on other part of the East by the hereinafter described Allottment of Michael Symonds on other part of the East and on a small part of the South by the hereinafter described Allottment of Thomas Stevens on other part of the East and on part of the North by the open and Common fields of Mursely aforesaid on another part of the West by the described Allottment hereinafter awarded to John Lane On the remaining part of the South On the remaining part of the West On the remaining part of the North by an Antient Inclosure of Sybell Eaton Widow called or known by the name of Home Close and hereinafter mentioned to be Exchanged with the said John Lane and now in the Occupation of Thomas Tattam

Charles William Tonyn

Charles William Tonyn was vicar in 1762, although he is not named on the church's list of vicars. From research on the internet, it seems that he had a brother Patrick, born in Berwick on Tweed, who became Governor of Florida.

Charles served as chaplain at the British Factory at Algier and had been given Royal leave to come back to Britain at this time, and was vicar between 1760-66.

He then became vicar of Radnage in South Bucks, where he died in 1805.

The Award to the Churchwardens & overseers of the poor

for the Use and Benefit of the most necessitous industrious and honest poor of the parish of Swanbourne who shall not receive any Weekly Collection or be provided for in the poor or Church Houses of the said parish

in Lieu of an Indulgence which the poor persons living in Swanbourne have for several Years last past had to cut Furze for fuel of and from some part of the Commonable places of Swanbourne

All that Landof the Yearly Value of six pounds (that is to say) All thatparcel of Land or ground lying in Haybushes Common containing Nine Acres and thirty seven perches

Award to the Churchwardens for the upkeep of the Church

Certain Lands which have for time immemorial been held and enjoyed by the Churchwardens of Swanbourne and the Rents and Profits thereof applied towards the Repairs for the time of the parish Church of Swanbourne **All that** parcel of Landwhich we do adjudge to be at the time of our making the said Allottment of the Yearly Value of Two Pounds Eleven Shillings and Six Pence (that is to say) All that parcel of Land or Grounds lying in the Haybush Common containing Three Acres three Roods and thirty three perches

Parish Register details the land held before 1748

There are eight Ridges of Sweard ground within ye parish of Swanbourn ye profits of wch are received by ye Churchwardens for ye time being and yearly accounted for by them at Easter to ye Parish. Commonly called ye Church grass. Estimated 3 acres and half.

Viz Jn Storkey	One Ley at Oatland Rt Adams East
	One Ley under Prey Ed Beckly West
In ye Hay Field	One Ley at Little Dunslad Tho Curle South
	One Ley under Langmoor Nich Godwyn North
	One Ley at West Down Rt Parrot East
In the Fenn Field	One Ley at Debdin Matt. Adams West
	One Ley at Loggs Will. Deverel East
	One Ley at Privet John Deverel North

The Award to James Adams

The major personal beneficiary was James Adams. He was awarded 5 areas of land:

- 214 Acres & 11 perches in Fenn Field in lieu of his Great Tythes.
- 151 Acres 3 roods & 38 perches in Haybush and Fenn Fields
- 10 Acres 3 roods & 17 perches in Haybush Field in lieu of his leasehold estate
- 128 Acres 3 roods & 26 perches in Bourne Field
- 69 Acres 3 roods & 12 perches in Haybush Common and Haybush Field

[575 Acres, 2 roods, 24 perches – 25% of the land]

SACRED
To the Memory of
JAMES ADAMS, Esq^r,
Lord of this manor.
He was the last surviving Son
Of the late *ROGER ADAMS, Gent.,*
And *SUSANNA* his Wife
Of Little-Horwood in this County;
His mortal Remains
Lie interred near this Place.
He exchanged this Life
For a better, Oct^r the 5th, 1775,
Aged 59 Years.

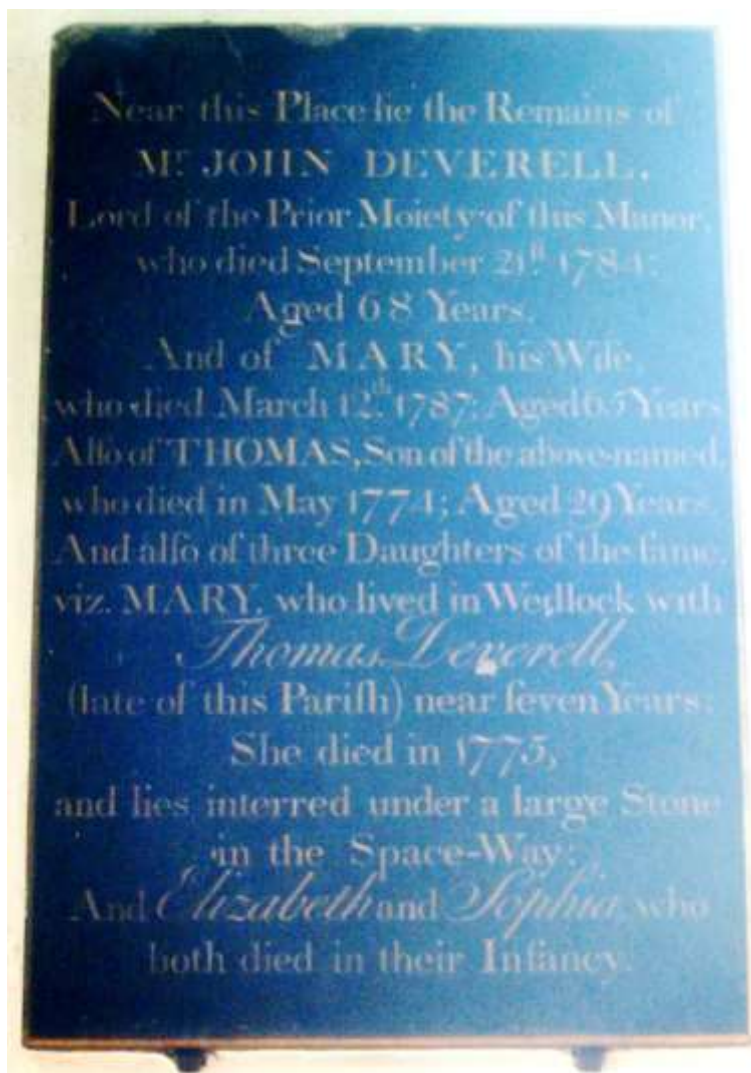
James Adams church memorial

The next major beneficiary was John Deverell the Younger

- 1 rood and 15 perches in the Fenn Field
- 217 Acres 1 roods 7 perches in the Haybush Field
- 123 Acres 39 perches in the Haybush Field
- 2 Acres in the Haybush Common in lieu of his leasehold estate

[342 Acres 3 roods 21 perches – 15% of the land]

Church Memorial to John Deverell



Near this place lie the Remains of Mr John Deverell, Lord of the Prior Moiety of the Manor who died September 21st 1784 aged 68 years.

And of Mary his wife, who died in May 1774 aged 29 years.

[Parish Register: John Deverell of the Stone House buried 24 Sept 1784]

Parish Register

The surname Deverell appears over 300 times between 1565, when the register starts and 1836.

Even the name John Deverell appears many times.

John Deverell son of George 9 Mar 1724 (1725)

John Deverel son of Mathew bapt 15 Sept? 1730

John Deverel yeoman aged 64 buried 9 May 1737

John Deverell buried 2 Nov 1743

Mr John Deverell of Winslow buried July 15? 1758

John Deverell son of William bapt 24 May 1779

John Deverell of Nearton buried 31 Dec 1783

John Deverell of the Stone House buried 24 Sept 1784

The 3rd major beneficiary was a woman - Sibell Eaton Widow

- 3 Acres 27 perches in the Fenn Field
- 226 Acres 3 roods 13 perches in the Fenn Field
- 2 Acres 3 roods 23 perches in the Fenn Field in lieu of her leasehold estate.

[232 Acres 3 roods 23 perches – 10% of land]

(The name Eaton does not appear in the Parish Register. Sibell Eaton was probably the wife of John Eaton, an apothecary who was buried in Amersham in 1757.)

The other awards

Between them, James Adams, John Deverell the Younger and Sibell Eaton were awarded about 50% of the land in the Parish.

The remaining 50% was divided between 44 other individuals and the vicar.

These awards varied in size from William Deverell's 162 Acres to John Gresham's 2 roods and 3 perches.

The recipients were mainly men, but some women were also included.

Mary Coles, widow of Thomas Coles,

Thomas Coles & Mary Hill married 22 Dec 1742 (PR)

Elizabeth Coles daughter of Thomas baptised 1747

Thomas Coles was buried on 5th January 1763 (PR)

His widow, Mary Coles, received two awards – one of 1 Acre 2 roods and 3 perches *‘for life if she continued a widow’*, and 2 Acres 3 roods and 13 perches until their daughter Elizabeth *‘should attain the Age of twenty four years’*.

There are 2 records of Mary Coles marrying in 1764:
Richard Weston of Yaxley in Hunts on 23 April or
John Steele on 24 June.

As well as allotting land, responsibility for maintaining roads and paths was included. Public Roads were to be 40 feet wide, and maintained.

And be it further Enacted, That the said Commissioners, or any Three or more of them, shall and may ascertain, set out, and appoint, both publick and private Roads or Ways through the said Fields intended to be inclosed, with the Aflize and Breadth thereof, so as all such publick Roads or Ways to be made shall remain Forty Feet broad at least between the Ditches, and which said publick Roads or Ways (except Bridle Roads and Footways, in case any such shall be set out by the said Commissioners, or any Three or more of them) shall be for ever afterwards repaired in the same manner as the present publick Roads or Ways were or ought to have been repaired before the passing of this Act; and that all private Roads or Ways, in case any such shall be made, shall be for ever amended and repaired at the Expence of all or such of the said Proprietors, in such Manner as the said Commissioners, or any Three or more of them, shall in that Behalf order, direct, and appoint; and that it shall

The Turnpike Road from Aylesbury to Buckingham was not to be changed and to remain 60 feet wide.

1. *Provided always,* That nothing herein contained shall extend to give the said Commissioners any Power or Authority to divert, change, or alter the present great Post or Turnpike Road leading from *Aylesbury* to *Buckingham*; but that the same shall be left Sixty Feet wide between Free-board and Freeboard.

[The Turnpike through Swanbourne was created by an Act of 1742. It was rerouted in 1827]

Roads and footpaths were defined

Other roads and footpaths within the village needed to be set out more clearly, or in some cases, closed. The loop from Tattams Lane to Stewkley Lane was closed, and the Reelway replaced by what is now Station Road. A new road was created to link with the Aylesbury-Buckingham Turnpike Road, thus reducing the importance of Aylesbury Road (Ave Lane) so that today it is a Green Lane.

Two gravel pits were established

Gravel was needed for the maintenance of these roads, and two gravel pits – quite possibly already in use – were defined.

One (1 acre 1 rood 8 perches) was on what used to be called Grange Hill, close to where Swanbourne House now stands.

The other (2 acres 1 rood 10 perches) on Haybush Common was close to the Turnpike Road (A413), where it leaves Swanbourne Parish to go into Shipton/Winslow.

Rights to water were confirmed

Access to water for irrigation was also established where it was needed. In particular, Sibell Eaton could make a watercourse from a spring in 'Snout Close' and John Deverell the Elder could make a drain from Allin Hill spring across the 3rd allotment of William Gilbert and the 2nd allotment of John Deverell. The duty of the landowners to keep existing watercourses clear was also set down.

Schedule A

The annual payment of £90 in place of the vicarial tythes was divided up.

For example:

James Adams had to pay £13 – 14 – 6¾ ‘*in lieu of Tythes of the late Common Field Land*’ and £0 – 9 – 0 ‘*in lieu of the Vicarial Tythes of the Old Enclosures*’, (though not on his allotment in lieu of the Great Tythes), a total of £14 – 3 – 6¾.

At the other end of spectrum, Robert Lamburne had only to pay £0 – 0 – 1 in total.

Schedule B - The costs of Enclosure was divided amongst the beneficiaries.

The total cost of the work undertaken was calculated at one thousand three hundred ninety one pounds one shilling and eight pence three farthings. (£1,391 – 1 – 8¾).

These costs were shared out in proportion to the land awarded. For example:

James Adams had to pay £338 – 0 – 7¼

John Deverell Jnr paid £221 – 15 – 8

Robert Lamburne paid £0 – 9 – 8

(See picture of the Schedules on next page)

24A

[illegible]

Journal of the Rev. John G. Thompson, D.D.,
of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions,
in the Pacific Islands, from 1845 to 1850.

13

[illegible]

A			
The first Schedule referred to in the second Statute in relation to			
Names	What each person	What each person	What each person
James Adams	13. 14. 6.	8. 9. 8.	14. 8. 6.
John Develle the younger of the same	4. 10. 8.		
John Develle the younger of the same	10. 7. 4.	0. 10. 7.	15. 8. 4.
William Develle the younger of the same	0. 7. 6.		
William Develle the younger of the same	5. 13. 1.	0. 6. 0.	0. 6. 8.
John Develle	9. 3. 10.	0. 6. 7.	9. 13. 2.
Robert Develle	4. 2. 11.	0. 4. 9.	4. 9. 8.
Michael Develle	4. 7. 12.	0. 3. 8.	4. 10. 10.
Thomas Develle	4. 8. 9.	0. 1. 8.	4. 10. 5.
William Develle	4. 8. 4.	0. 8. 0.	4. 10. 10.

A detail from Schedule A

Who benefited from Enclosure

In addition to the vicar, 47 individuals received land under the implementation of the Enclosure Act. But many were left landless.

In 1798, the *Posse Comitatus* lists the names of 91 men aged between 15 and 60 in Swanbourne, of whom only 13 were farmers. There were 37 labourers and 13 servants.

The remaining 28 had some kind of specific occupation (including a carpenter called Robert Taylor, probably son to Thomas Taylor, the Commissioner).

Ken Reading's view – Some evidence of trickle-down

“As far as can be deduced, the position of the poor in Swanbourne improved during the latter part of the 18th Century.

The great prosperity derived from enclosure must have found its way down to even the people on parish relief. Although on the face of it, the poor would seem to have had a raw deal, the amount of work available, for those who could work, must have greatly increased.”

(‘A History of Swanbourne’ by Ken Reading, page 61)

Ken Reading's view – but there were the seeds of discontent

“The award of just over nine acres of land to ‘The industrious poor’ in lieu of their right to cut gorse from the common lands of the Parish to use as fuel, was to be the cause of much discontent in later years. The decline of cottage industry, some mechanisation and the greater infant survival increased economic pressures in the 19th Century.

Greater prosperity has always produced a backlash. The consequence of enclosure was inevitable. When a man had land to cultivate, divided into small plots spread from one end of the Parish to the other, he was perhaps too preoccupied to think of discontent.”

Ken Reading's view – and small is not beautiful

“Many small land-holders of pre-enclosure days had been pleased to sell their new enclosures to larger neighbours.

Too often, the smaller awards had been pushed to the extremes of the Parish Boundary. A good example, in Swanbourne, of the less fortunate aspects of enclosure, may be seen in the strip west of Aylesbury - Winslow road south from Shipton Bridge where several of Swanbourne's `beneficiaries` of enclosure received small awards of what must have been marshy waste at that time.” [see map on next page].



Ken Reading's view – the poor wanted their own land

The first evidence of discontent in Swanbourne comes in the 19th century, when the poor demanded the right to cultivate 'The Poores Land' themselves.

But that is a story for a separate presentation about the agricultural workers strike which can be found elsewhere on this website.