



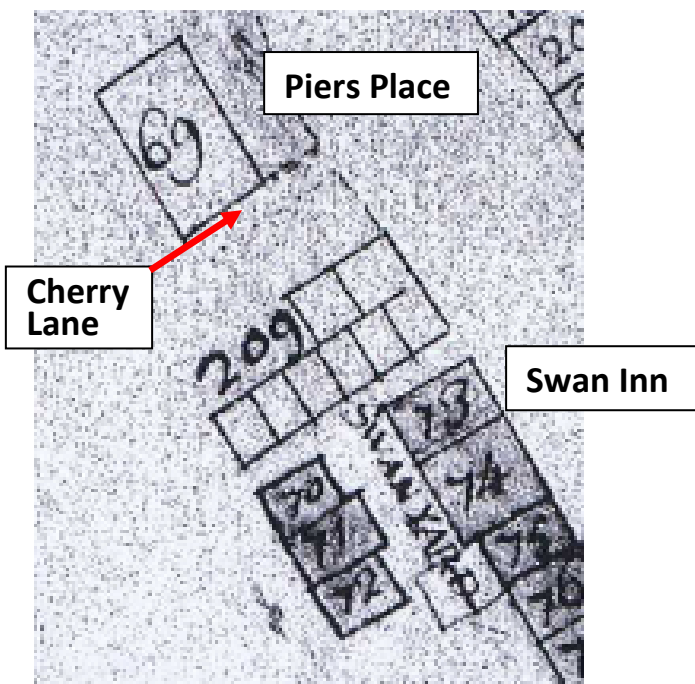
AMERSHAM SOCIETY



**AMERSHAM
MUSEUM**

124-128 High Street Built by Thomas Tyrwhitt-Drake in 1893 for his estate workers

The 1742 map of Amersham shows a group of eight very small cottages on the land occupied by these houses. '209' refers to the owner at that time was Mr Ceaney. William Drake owned Swan Inn (73 and 74) and the cottages around Swan Yard (70-72 and 75-79).



Part of 1742 Map of Amersham



Cottages in 1891

Sometime after 1742 the Drake family acquired most of the houses in Amersham to make the town a 'pocket borough' where the Drake family controlled all parliamentary elections. It is not known exactly when this parcel of land was acquired.

The 1841 census shows two families living in the two houses on the High Street: William Berry Labourer 1841-1871 (after that the house was unoccupied); William Atkins Labourer 1841-1861, followed by his son George, groom and gardener 1871-1891.

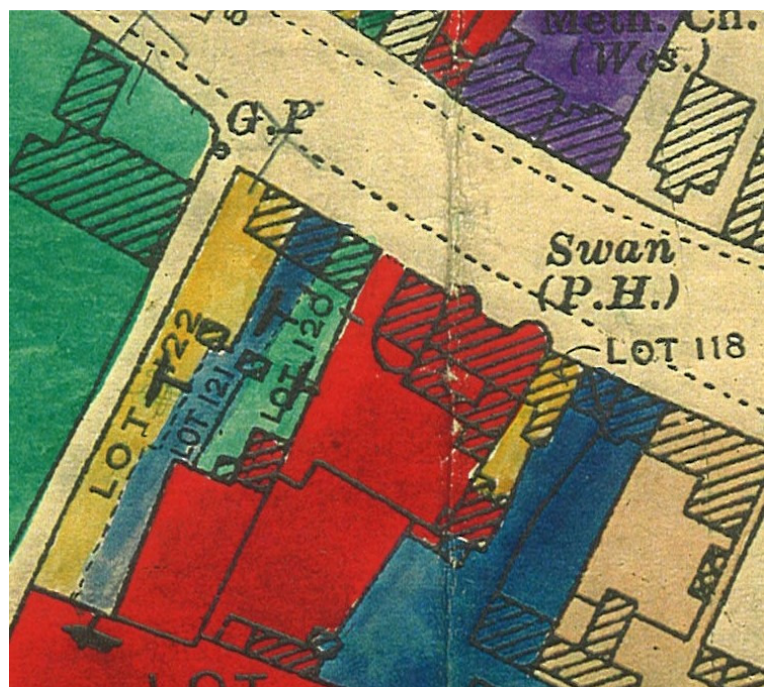
The inhabitants of the nine dwellings around Swan Yard were almost all labourers, domestic servants, washerwomen or straw plaiters. In 1851 two heads of households were paupers.

All the houses were demolished after 1891 and Swan Yard is not mentioned in the 1901 census. Thomas Tyrwhitt Drake built three new cottages on the High Street frontage. These were occupied by the following tenants:

Census	124	126	128
1901	John Pratt 67, carpenter's labourer With wife Rhoda 65	Thomas Plater 42, gardener Widowed with 1 daughter and 2 sons	John C King 48, bricklayer's labourer With wife, Emily 50 and a boarder aged 25 who was a builder
1911	William James Stevens – Plumber 38with wife, Elizabeth 45, daughter 14 and a Boarder 19 who worked in the Post Office	Fred Free - Wood Machinist 65 with wife, Sarah 64, daughter 24 and two boarders; one was cooper in brewery, the other was an assistant egg and poultry dealer.	Edward Fetherstone 46 Estimator Surveyor with wife, Rosa 47 , daughter 19 and son 12.



Mr & Mrs Pratt outside 124



1928 auction map (124 is lot 120)

