

## Correspondence with Chris Wickwar re Broomfield Cottage

Original Message from <[CWickwar@aol.com](mailto:CWickwar@aol.com)> by way of Bob Humphreys <[humphreys@merivale.u-net.com](mailto:humphreys@merivale.u-net.com)> and Mary Day Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Dear Sir,

I hope you do not mind me contacting you but I am trying to find some information relating to my great-great uncle James Wickwar. In the 1881 Census he is shown as being employed as a private secretary and residing at Broomfield Cottage. Having examined the census in a little more detail it would appear that the cottage was part of a larger estate - Broomfield. If this is the case it might well be that James was employed by the owner(s). Unfortunately, the > census > indicates that at the time the house was in the charge of a housekeeper. Are > you able to assist me in identifying who the owner was at this time. James later emigrated to America where he settled in Kansas. I would be grateful for any information you have reference the above. I also note that you have a number of publications and would be interested in any materials relevant to this > period in Dorking's history.

Regards, > Chris Wickwar

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Dear Chris

Your enquiry about James Wickwar's employer has been passed to me to answer, and I append some notes from the Westcott Local History Group's researches into Broomfield, a substantial country house, since demolished and the site redeveloped as Broomfield Park, here in the village of Westcott some mile and a half west of Dorking on the A25.

"The Broom Field is shown on an 1845 estate map of Westcott and an 1 acre (actually 1 acre and 16 perch) field immediately to the north has been annotated 'sold to Mr Paine 1868'. The Broom Field is also marked as such (plot 1000) on the 1838 Tithe Map of the Parish of Dorking.

On the 1886 Tithe Apportionment deed, there are five entries which show Sir Thos. K. Paine as both owner and occupier of the area that had previously been the Broom field. Plot 991 is described as house, pleasure grounds, laundry etc., as are the entries 1000 to 1004.

**Sir Thomas Paine** was born in Great Yarmouth in 1822, qualified as a solicitor in 1844 and married Anna Neave in 1847. He became the senior partner in 'Paine, Blyth & Huxtable' and went on to become President of the Incorporated Law Society in 1882. He moved to Westcott in 1868 and established the Broomfield Estate. He died in London, aged 86, on 12 February 1908. He was buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard beside his wife Anna who died in 1893. In his will he directed that each of his servants should have a suit of mourning, his coachman, George Moss should receive £200, Henry Hamlyn, his indoor servant, £150 and Henry Wakeford £100."

I assume that James was Sir Thomas's private secretary. Do let me know should you wish to embellish your family history with photographs of Broomfield House and/or, possibly, Broomfield Cottage. We can be contacted via our website at [westcotthistory.org](http://westcotthistory.org) uk or at this email address.

I hope this helps, good luck in your researches,

Terry Wooden, Westcott Local History Group

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Terry,

I am grateful for your response and would welcome any photographs relating to Broomfield and the cottage. Judging by your email and the census information (in both the '81 and '01 the house is shown as being under the charge of a housekeeper) it would appear that Sir Thomas spent much of his time away from the estate - in London perhaps?? Assuming James was his personal secretary I would imagine that he would have been wherever he was - the cottage accommodating James's wife and family.

Do you know any more about Sir Thomas?? I am asking because James got involved in a bit of scandal fathering an illegitimate child to an unknown lady from well-to-do circles. Her identity is a mystery but we are aware that she did try to trace her daughter leaving provision for her in her will. By this time, the girl, Mary Alice had emigrated to America. Our first record of Mary is in 1891, where she appears in an orphanage in Eastleigh - St. Mary's Industrial House. She was born in 1886 - James would appear to have been still in Sir Thomas' employ at this time. I have emailed the local history society in the Eastleigh area but have had no reply to date.

Are you able to say where Sir Thomas practised - was it London?

Did he have any daughter(s)?

This is maybe a longshot but if you don't ask!!!

Regards, Chris.

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