

## **Broomfield**

The Broom Field is shown on an 1845 estate map and a 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.

**George Alexander Kent Touche** was born in Edinburgh on 24th May 1861, the son of Anthony Murray Touche, banker, and Jessie Brown. He was the senior partner of a number of 'Touche' firms in London, New York, Toronto and the Far East. He bought Broomfield in December 1908. At that time he was the prospective Unionist candidate for North Islington. One of his first appearances in the village, according to a report in the Dorking Advertiser of 3 April 1909, was when he "gave a stirring address at a successful smoking concert promoted by the Westcott branch of the Conservative and Unionist Association at the Reading Room". See Dorking Advertiser 3 April 1909. He was successful in the 1910 general election, beating the Liberal candidate by 5428 votes to 5022. He remained an MP until 1918, by which time he had been knighted (in 1917) and was to become a Baronet in 1920. He died on 7th July 1935 and was buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard, where the Touche Memorial can be seen just beyond the Lych gate. His heir was Norman George Touche who was born in 1888 and married Eva Maitland in 1923.

Mr Gordon Touche was the 3<sup>rd</sup> son of the late Sir George Touche MP for Reigate Division from 1931-1950 and since 1950 for the new Dorking Division.

In 1956 the Touche's moved to Ivy Cottage, a house that formed part of the Broomfield estate and which had been enlarged to their specifications.

The Dorking Advertiser for 6 September 1957 reported that 3 plans had been submitted for the development of the Broomfield Estate.

1. The Surrey Land Development Co. proposed the demolition of the mansion and construction of 13 new houses.

2. Sir Norman Touche proposed to retain the mansion for use as offices and to construct 5 new houses.
  3. Sir Norman Touch also proposed to convert the mansion into 4 apartments.
- All three proposals were vetoed as Broomfield was in the Green Belt, but the SLDC successfully appealed. Broomfield was demolished and a new housing estate - Broomfield Park - was built and in due course Pointers Hill was added.

Sir George Touche extended the house he bought in 1908 until it eventually had 40 rooms. It became the home of Sir George's son, Norman and his family. Sir Norman and his wife Eva lived there for 20 years. It proved impossible to sell the site and so it was developed in the late 1950s and Sir Norman and Lady Touche moved into Ivy Cottage. They kept on the 4 acre wild garden in Stones Lane. About 1973 this was given up and the Pointers Hill development was started. The Touches moved to a bungalow in Broomfield park and two other houses were built there.