

27.

### Partridge Green.



The 'Green' seems to have slipped in in relatively recent times. In 1570 it was just Partridge and it continued as Partridges through subsequent fence lists up to 1843 although deeds dating back to the 1720s refer to it as 'Partridge or Partridge Green'. The Chapman and André map of 1777 shows it as Pads Green and this odd name was repeated on the Ordnance Survey of 1805. By 1875 the Ordnance Survey had got it as Partridge Green and so it remained.

The origin of Partridge Green is no doubt associated with the family of Robert Partridge, a taxpayer at Great Waltham in 1319 and 1327. Partridge Green is right on the border with that

parish. Other, less likely candidates are William and John Partrich, both of Writtle, who were named in deeds of 1306 and 1337. By 1570 John Poole was shown as the occupant of Partridge and the Poole family may have already have been there for some time. A Thomas Poole was a substantial taxpayer in Broomfield in 1544, indeed he was assessed at a higher figure than anyone else was in the parish. This overstates the value of Partridge, it would have included more than one property for by 1570 John Poole also held Wheelers and around that time a John Poole was also farming Broomfield Hall. The Thomas Poole of the 1544 tax list was John's father and Thomas's will clarifies things to some extent although it doesn't specifically mention Partridge.

Thomas Poole died in 1555 and in his will he left instructions that his son John Poole and his son-in-law Robert Osborne should have and enjoy the remaining term of his lease of Broomfield Hall together. The only other property named in the will was Petty Croft, a field near to Lanzens, which was to go to his other son Henry. Although his other properties weren't named John's entry on the 1570 fence list indicates that it was he who next enjoyed Partridge Green.

The Poole family name crops up more consistently in the parish registers than any other save Harris and Smith, and their family tree is difficult to ascertain, with several branches resident in Broomfield at the same time and with several members having the same Christian name. As well as Partridge, Wheelers, and Broomfield Hall, they were also associated with Broomfield Mill, Biglands alias Entwistles, and Lanzens. In 1636 there were four Poole families shown on the Ship Money list for that year, Thomas, Lawrence, Timothy, and

Roger, though the properties with which they were associated weren't identified.

The John Poole of the 1570 list married Mary Bridge in 1565 and had at least three children, Thomas, Mary and Richard. John died in 1609. A younger member of the family, Lawrence Poole (1560-1607) married Elizabeth - and had six children, of whom Thomas (bapt 1589), Lawrence (b1589), and Timothy (b1596) were probably the Pooles on the 1636 tax list. Lawrence Jnr. and Timothy both married in Broomfield, Lawrence and Ann had four children and Timothy, who married Elizabeth Hills in 1621, had six children. A marginal note on the 1570 fence list shows that Timothy was at some time at Partridge Green and he may have lived there until his death in 1675.

The Pooles were undoubtedly still at Partridge Green in 1636. In 1662 there were 5 five Pooles on the Hearth tax return, Widow Poole (with 2 hearths), Lawrence (2), Thomas (5), Thomas (3), and Timothy (3). Since Timothy Poole was shown as being at Partridge Green at some time, and he died in 1675, it is likely that it was he who was at the farmhouse in 1662 and that the building had three hearths. In 1678 Thomas Poole was shown as being at Partridge Green. Thomas was the son of Timothy. Born in 1626, he would have been 52 at the time of the 1678 fence list. He died in 1680, leaving a widow and eight children. Nine years later John Poole was in residence; this could have been Thomas's son, who would then have been 20. Although still the residents and farmers the Pooles were no longer the owners.

The will of Thomas Poole, who died in 1654, helps to

unravel the Poole inheritance. He left a wife, Joan, but they had no children. To his wife Thomas left three of his best feather beds and bedsteads together with other furniture belonging to them, including the feather bed and bedstead “wherein I usually lye being over the hall”. Joan also received all the furniture in the parlour (except for the greater cupboard and a box), a brass pot, 2 skillets and half the pewter, 2 dozen trenchers, a pair of tongs, 2 bowls and the lesser brass pan, 2 seames of wheat and a seame of malt, 2 small hogs, the poultry in the yard and Thomas’s grey mare.

Thomas left his message or tenement and lands in Broomfield “now in the tenure of Hugh Taylor“ to Joan for life and then to his kinsman Lawrence Poole, the son of his brother Timothy. In the event of Lawrence’s prior death it was to go to Lawrence’s brother Thomas, and in the event of Thomas’s prior death it was to go to Lawrence’s brother Richard. All of which is a nice confirmation of the family relationships. The property in question wasn’t Partridge Green, as his will goes on to reveal.

Joan Poole died in 1667 so, assuming she was still alive, the unnamed property in Broomfield would have passed to Thomas’s nephew Lawrence Poole. Lawrence was born in 1630 and died in 1696 and on both the fence lists of 1678 and 1687 he was shown as the owner of the Water House, i.e. Broomfield Mill. Hugh Taylor, mentioned as the tenant of the unnamed property, was also a tenant of Ayletts but this was never Poole property so it looks as if this piece of Thomas Poole’s estate was indeed Broomfield Mill.

The next part of Thomas Poole’s will deals with

Partridge Green. He left an annuity of £10 for life to his wife Joan, to be paid from the income of Partridge Green farm, then in the occupation of his brother Timothy. Thomas went on the leave his messuage and lands called Partridge to Timothy “during the term of his natural life. And after his decease I give the same unto Thomas Poole his second son and his heirs forever”. Interestingly, he then went on to leave the lands called Goldings and Bur (or Bar) Field to Timothy for life and then to Thomas as a separate entry, suggesting that these were then regarded as a separate part of Partridge. Other fields which later became part of Partridge Green but which could have been originally Lanzens or Lanzells were also bequeathed separately - Lanzells Barne, Lanzells Oatefield, Stable Croft, Middlefield and Gatefield. These amounted to 30 acres “be the same more or less”, and were bequeathed directly to his nephew Thomas.

Two other properties were bequeathed to Timothy’s other sons. Hedge Hall, which abutted Partridge Green and was just over the border in Great Waltham, went to John Poole and Howletts Hall in Broomfield went to Henry Poole. Howletts Hall was then in the occupation of Lawrence Stephens and must refer to Cocksells, a field in Broomfield but now a part of Walnut Tree farm in Great Waltham and mentioned in a later chapter.

Thomas’s will makes it clear that up to 1654 he was the owner of Partridge Green and its lands. Thomas had no children and it then passed to his brother Timothy for his lifetime. Timothy died in 1675 and at the time of the 1678 fence list it was occupied, and presumably owned, by Timothy’s son Thomas, as specified in his uncle’s will. Thomas died in

1680 and at the time of the 1687 fence list it was in the possession of John Poole. Thomas had a son John, and he also had a brother named John. The son would have been 20 or 21 at the time of the 1687 list so it could have been either he or the brother who was then at the farm.

In 1667 Henry Poole died. He was Timothy's fourth son and the nephew of the Thomas who had died in 1654. His uncle had left him Howletts Hall and Henry passed it on to his mother Elizabeth for life and then it was to go to his brother Richard. In 1688 John Poole died and apart from some bequests of money and furniture his estate passed to his son John. However, by then Partridge Green had been sold.

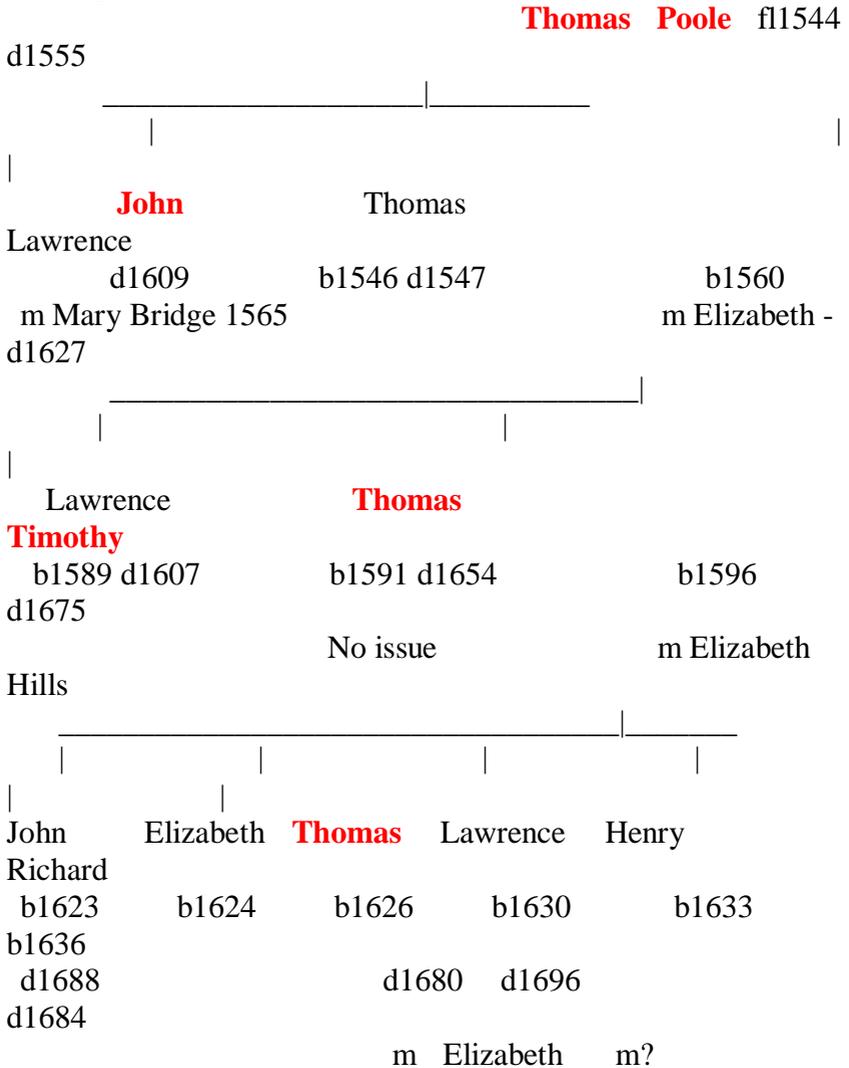
By 1687 the owner of Partridge Green was Robert Bownd. He could well have been the owner for several years by that date for in 1681 he had been admitted by the Manor Court of Walthambury to land that was probably close by Partridge Green. Robert Bownd was a wealthy linen draper in Chelmsford and one of Chelmsford's leading citizens. He had moved to Chelmsford from Maplesden in Kent sometime before 1655 and his name crops up in the Chelmsford Overseer's records in the 1650s and 60s - he charged the parish thirteen shillings for supplying coarse linen for two shifts and a pair of bodies (bodices?), an ell of cloth for quoifs (coifs) and other things, aprons and tape, and a pair of stockings for the poor. He married Thomasine Sturgeon, daughter of Anthony Sturgeon, a woollen draper and another of Chelmsford's leading citizens. A cousin, Nathaniel Bownd, was an apothecary in the town. . Robert acquired a building in the High Street (No 19, then known as Chandlers, it later became Martins the grocers). Between 1671 and 1673 he greatly enlarged it so that the Hearth

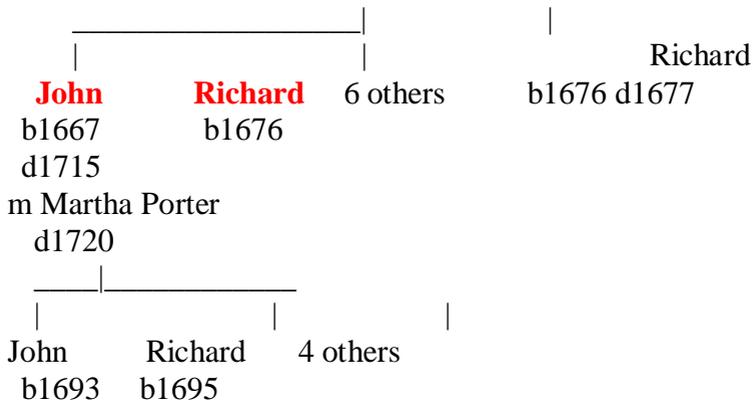
Tax assessment rose from 5 hearths to 8.

Robert Bownd made his will in 1688 and lived on for a further eight years, dying in 1696. He had by then added considerably to his property portfolio; as well as his house, shop and warehouse in Chelmsford he had property in Moulsham and the surrounding villages, all of which was distributed amongst his children. After bequests to his daughters Mary, Thomasine and Margaret, and to his younger son Robert, the bulk of his estate went to his eldest son, Eleazor. This included Partridge Green. Robert Bownd of course didn't live at Partridge Green; the Pooles were still in residence.

Shortly after the 1687 fence list, in 1689, John Poole of Partridge Green married Martha Porter of Chignal Smealey. For a while the Pooles continued at Partridge Green but long before Morant compiled the next fence list, in 1735, all had changed.

The Pooles had most likely lived at Partridge Green for around 200 years. A postulated line of descent of the Pooles of Partridge Green could be:





A deed of 1708 reveals that Eleazor Bownd was then still in possession of Partridge Green. The farm extended to 70 acres and had been in the occupation of Richard Poole for several years. The next reference, in 1721, was a marriage settlement between William Marriage and his bride-to-be Ruth Woodward. William had bought the farm from Eleazor Bownd several years earlier when it was in the occupation of John Poole, who had presumably succeeded Richard Poole at the farm. Since John Poole died in 1715 the purchase must have been before that date. Indeed, when John died he had left Partridge Green and was living in Witham. John left a will. In it he mentioned his six children, John, Richard, Mary, Elizabeth, Anne and Hannah, and his wife Martha, but there was no mention of Partridge Green since the property had long since been sold

By 1699 the Marriage family had arrived in Broomfield for Elizabeth, the daughter of John Marriage, was baptised at Broomfield church in that year. This is one of the very few Marriage entries in the parish register for the Marriage family were and are Quakers. At first they were farming at

Broomfield Hall and it was some time between 1708 and 1715 when William Marriage moved into Partridge Green. In 1719 William Marriage of Partridge Green was appointed surveyor for the parish of Broomfield.

On the 3rd June 1721 William Marriage married Ruth Woodward. She was the daughter of John Woodward of Mundon, near Maldon. The marriage settlement made between them mentioned both Partridge Green and nearby Lanzens. Partridge Green was given as 40 acres and Lanzells, Lanzells Barn, Oatfield, Middlefield, Gatefield, Burr Field, Long Stable Croft and Round Stable Croft came to another 30 acres, making the 70 acres of Eleazor Bownd's deed of 1708. All was settled on Ruth except the 8 acres of Lanzells which for some reason was excepted.

Morant's fence list of 1735 shows as expected William Marriage as the owner of both Partridge Green and Lanzens. William died in 1738 but Ruth lived on at Partridge Green for another 34 years, dying there on the 11th March 1772. For some 20 years she was Overseer of the Poor of the parish and for part of this period her deputy was her son-in-law Joseph Jesper. In 1749 her daughter, Mrs Jesper, was appointed Parish Constable. Broomfield certainly had no objection to women taking a leading part in Parish affairs.

Ruth Marriage was, unusually, buried on her farm at Partridge Green. Tradition has it that she was buried in the shade of her favourite apple tree. Her will, dated 9th July 1767, with a codicil dated 3rd October 1768, makes no mention of any directions as to her burial; no doubt it was a verbal request known to her family. The orchard has long since gone;

the fields on either side ploughed and sown. The original apple tree would have disappeared long ago though an apple tree still grows over the grave. Another tradition handed down in the family suggests that Ruth was not the sweetest of ladies and that the apple tree over the grave turned into a crab apple. Certainly the present tree is a crab apple. Miller Christy, a local antiquary writing of the grave in 1903, said that she was described as "a charitable woman" though he does not quote the source of his information. As a Quaker this was surely to have been expected.



**Ruth Marriage's grave beneath the crab apple tree.**

Ruth Marriage's grave was originally marked by a flat stone. This was later replaced with a brick tomb. On the sloping side facing the hedge is the inscription:

RUTH

WIDOW OF WILLIAM MARRIAGE  
DIED AT THIS FARM  
IN 1772  
AND WAS BURIED HERE  
AT HER OWN REQUEST

Ruth's son William Marriage survived her by only two years, dying in 1774, and Partridge Green passed to his son Joseph. In 1778 a lease for a year from Joseph, described as the eldest son of William Marriage and grandson of Ruth Marriage, and his wife Mary, to Joseph Allen of Furnival's Inn, London, shows that the farm was then occupied by Samuel Jesper. The Jespers were related to the Marriages; William's daughter Susannah had married Samuel Jesper in 1768.

Although he was the owner of Partridge Green Joseph Marriage didn't live there. He was at Bishop's Hall in Chelmsford and it was his younger brother Robert Marriage who farmed Partridge Green up to 1805. It was then farmed by John Marriage, Joseph's son, and when Joseph died in 1807 he passed it to John together with Lanzens, the 8-acre field which was still treated as a separate entity although farmed with Partridge Green. It was John Marriage who commissioned a map of Partridge Green farm in 1834.

John Marriage was shown as head of the household on the 1841 census and as the owner and occupier of Partridge Green on the 1843 churchyard fence list and on the 1846 tithe award. The 1841 census shows that John, then aged 60, was living at Partridge Green with a housekeeper, Elizabeth Monk, and one other servant. It seems that he never married. Ten

years later the 1851 census shows new occupants of Partridge Green. The Marriages were no longer in residence, Samuel Franklin, aged 66 and described as “farm looker” was living there with his wife Sarah. And by 1854 the farm had been sold to Thomas Christy of Brooklands, Broomfield.

Between 1851 and 1864 there seems to have been several different occupants. The Franklins were there in 1851 when it is likely that the farm was leased to Thomas Gopsill of Swan House, maltster and farmer. The Gopsills were related by marriage to the Marriages and the Franklins were employed by Thomas Gopsill. Samuel Franklin’s son Samuel worked in the maltings at Swan House. Samuel Franklin Snr died in 1859 and in 1861 William Beard, a farm labourer, was at Partridge Green with his family.

In 1864 Thomas Christy leased Partridge Green to James Sorrell, a butcher and farmer at Great Waltham. The lease was for 14 years from the 29th September 1864. The deed notes that the farm, then measured at 71 acres and 3 perches, was late in the occupation of Thomas Gopsill, deceased, and then in the occupation of James Sorrell. The rent was £178 a year plus £20 per acre. In 1871 John Sorrell, a 32-year-old widower, was shown as the occupant.

Thomas Christy II was the eldest son of Thomas Christy I. His father had Brooklands built in 1827 as the family’s country seat and during the first half of the 19th century he had bought up several Broomfield farms - Priors, Scravels, Webbs, Phillips, Glovers and Butlers. Thomas Christy I died in 1846 and more of his story is told in the Brooklands chapter. Thomas Christy II, the owner of Partridge Green, died in 1877. The

next record of Partridge Green was in 1879 when the lease of the farm was renewed with the Sorrell family for another 14 years on the same terms as before. The lessor was Stephen Christy of Highfield, Stockport, Cheshire, the third son of Thomas Christy II. The Christy families were hatmakers - their head office was in Gracechurch Street, London, but their factory was in Stockport, hence Stephen's address. .

In 1881 the occupants of Partridge Green were John Sorrell, his wife Jane, and their 5-year-old son John, and the same three were there at the next census in 1891. When Stephen Christy died in 1890 at the age of 50 Partridge Green passed to Wakefield Christie-Miller, Thomas Christy II's second son who in 1889 had changed his name from Christy to Christie-Miller on inheriting property from his uncle Samuel.

In 1904 Wakefield Christie-Miller sold the property to his sister Louisa. In 1859 she had married John Radcliffe, a partner in a family firm of cotton spinners in Oldham. In 1876 John was killed whilst out hunting with the Cheshire Hounds and Louisa moved back to Broomfield, living at first at The Gables which her father owned. . Together with land that she purchased from Sir Simeon Stuart, the Lord of the Manor of Broomfield Hall, and from the trustees of Henry Collings Wells, these acquisitions formed the new Broomfield Court estate. But what exactly did Partridge Green farm consist of?

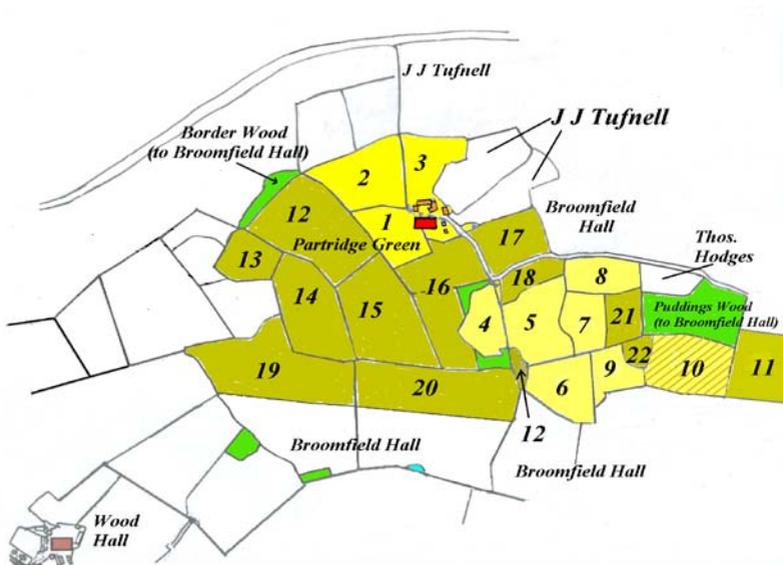
The map of Partridge Green farm which John Marriage commissioned in 1834 showed the fields that made up the farm as it was then and as it had probably been for centuries. The only likely change over the years had been the incorporation of Lanzens and its associated fields, which had once been a

separate property. The farmland amounted to 71 acres and 3 rods, including Lanzens. Twelve years later the Tithe Map of Broomfield was produced, probably the most accurate map of the parish to date. This revealed a curious state of affairs. Earlier deeds, and the map of 1834, had not mentioned any of the land of Partridge Green as being copyhold yet the tithe map and its accompanying award makes it clear that a significant part of the land farmed by John Marriage was in fact owned by the Lady of the Manor, Lady Stuart.

The land which might logically seem to have been the original Partridge Green, i.e. abutting the homestead, amounted to only some 24 acres. The additional land owned and occupied by John Marriage, and separated from the homestead, amounted to nearly 40 acres excluding Lanzens. Lanzens added a further 8 acres. Yet William Marriage, in his marriage settlement in 1721, mentions Partridge Green having 40 acres, with a further 30 acres consisting of Lanzens, Lanzens Barn, Oatfield, Middlefield, Gatefield, Burr Field, Long Stable Croft and Round Stable Croft. Lanzens was approximately 8 acres, leaving 22 acres for the other fields. The names of 1721 are quite different to those of 1834 and so it is impossible to be sure to which fields the 1721 deed refers, but 22 acres seems small for the number of fields mentioned if they refer to the fields near Lanzens.

Looking at the maps, if Partridge Green had been 30 acres and the other fields amounted to 40 acres, including Lanzens it would have made more sense. The cottage and garden had always been a part of Partridge Green and so it wouldn't have been surprising if Dunstalls Field of 5 acres had also been a part. But what other fields could have been

included remains a mystery. Other Broomfield farms such as Scravels, Staceys, Priors and the Parsonage were made up of fields that were often not contiguous and it looks as though Partridge Green had followed a similar pattern



-  *Owned & occupied by John Marriage*
-  *Owned by Lady Stuart, occupied by John Marriage*
-  *Owned & occupied by John Marriage (Lanzens)*

*John Marriage's land at Partridge Green in 1846.*

Unusually, the 1834 map, drawn up by William Heald, showed both the actual size of the field and its arable measurement. All the fields were arable, there was no woodland, pasture or meadow, and the difference in the two measurements presumably took account of headland, ditch and any waste land within the field boundary.

The following fields were shown as being owned and occupied by John Marriage:

1846	Measurements						
	1834			1834			
	Field size			Arable			
r	p		a	r	p	a	
<b>1. Fore Field</b>	7	2	27	6	3	26	
7 1 24							
<b>2. Goldings.</b>	8	0	0	7	2	20	
8 0 3							
<b>3. Back Field.</b>		7	1	9		6	3
22 7 0 22							
<b>Homestead</b>		1	2	5		1	2
5 1 2 3							
<b>Cottage &amp; Garden</b>		0	0	21		0	0
21 0 0 21							
<b>4. Dunstalls</b>		5	0	8		4	2
12 5 0 1							
<b>5. Burr or Barn Field.</b>	8	2	26	8	0	4	
8 3 22							
<b>6. Great Oat Ley.</b>		7	1	26		6	2
7 2 17							
<b>7. Moat Field.</b>		5	1	13		4	3
							16



7 3 0

**18. Hall Croft.**

4 0 33

**19. Wood Land.**

18 2

11

**20. Long Ley.**

14 3 7

This group of fields amounted to 111a 1r 36p, giving a total size of 182 acres and 16 perches being farmed by John Marriage in 1846.

As to the fields named in the early deeds of Partridge Green, they can only be guessed at. Oatfield could have been Little or Great Oat Ley, or perhaps both of them, or even what later became known as Moat Field. Middlefield might also have been Moat Field, being in the centre of the holding, or it might have been Little Oat Ley, lying between Lanzens and Great Oat Ley. Could Six Acres once have been Gate Field, lying as it did against the lane from Broomfield village to Partridge Green farmhouse? As to Long Stable Croft and Round Stable Croft there seems nothing to connect these names with any current names or features.

Back to the owners of Partridge Green. Louisa Radcliffe died in 1922 and was succeeded as owner of the Broomfield Court estate, which still included Partridge Green, by her daughter Constance Nash. Claude Stacey took on the lease of Partridge Green farm. Two of the fields that John Marriage had leased from Broomfield Hall, Long Ley and Wood Land, had been merged with two other ex-Broomfield Hall fields, Barn Acres and The Wood respectively. These fields

were the highest in the parish and during World War I they were used by the Royal Flying Corps as an emergency landing site for fighter aircraft, the landing lanes being illuminated by flares at night.

In 1932 the landing ground, still down to pasture, became the site of Broomfield Flying Club. It was formally opened by Brigadier-General Colvin, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, on the 18th May 1932 and the principal guest, Sir Alan Cobham, gave with his accompanying air circus a display of flying and air acrobatics. This attracted a large audience of people who for a small sum could watch the display from within the screened off airfield, the more enterprising children wriggling under the canvas screens to get a free view. The day culminated with the pilots giving short flights to the local people. One week later the Duke of York flew into Broomfield airfield en route to Chelmsford to open Chelmsford's new bypass (Princes Road).

Flying continued at the airfield through the 1930s. The flying instructor was a German, and a frequent visitor to the farmhouse. Mrs Stacey recalled that he was particularly fond of her pickled walnuts! With war threatening he left, the flying club folded, and the field returned to its former use.



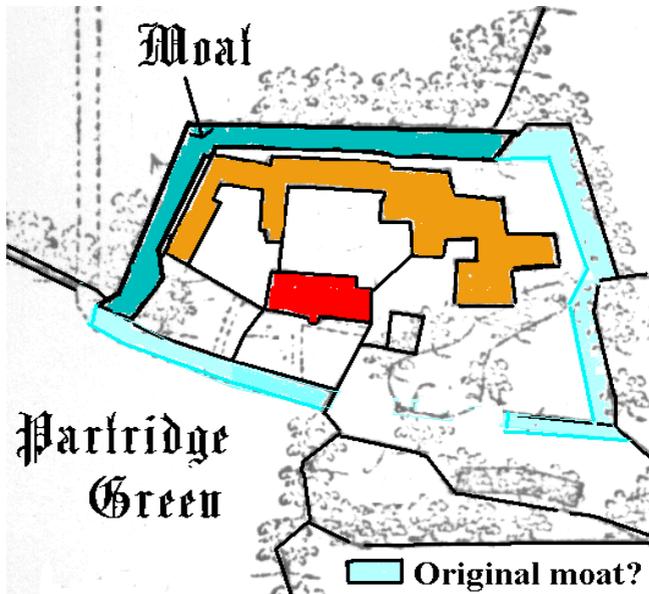
**Sir Alan Cobham in his Gypsy Moth at Broomfield airfield**



**Planes line up at the flying club, Broomfield airfield**

In 1934 the Broomfield Court estate, including Partridge Green farm, was bought by the Essex County Council. Part of the land was to be used to build the new Broomfield Hospital, originally designated as a sanatorium for tuberculosis patients. Partridge Green farmhouse, and most of its land, was outside the requirements for the hospital and so the County Council continued the lease to Claude Stacey. He and Dorothy eventually moved to Nabbotts, to be succeeded at Partridge Green by one of his sons, Michael. Another son, Alan, graduated from racing round the farm in a home made banger, the 'Speedwagon', to become a well known racing driver. Tragically, he was killed when driving in the Belgian Grand Prix in 1960. It seems that he was struck in the face by a bird, resulting in a fatal crash.

As to the farmhouse, the building that was there when the first fence list was drawn up in 1569 may well be the one that appears at the front of this chapter. It had been dated to the 16th century but many datings of this period, inspired by the Royal Commission, have since been proved wrong and its origins would certainly have gone back to a much earlier date. The house survived until the middle of the 20th century when it was demolished and replaced by the present modern building. The house was originally surrounded by a moat, which was still a substantial feature at the time of the 1875 Ordnance Survey but now only a remnant survives.



The above sketch, based on the Ordnance Survey of 1875, shows the moat as it then was. It may have originally followed the field lines shown on the map, and the pale blue shows a postulated original line with possibly an entrance on the south side.

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**1570.** The tenement of Partridge and now John Pooles maketh from the Parsonage towards the north half a rodd. (In left margin Timothy Poole)

**1678.** The tenement of Parritch now Thomas Poole maketh from ye Parsonage towards the north half a rodd.

**1687.** The tenement of Partridge now Mr Robt Bownes in the occupation of Jo. Poole maketh from ye Parsonage north half a rod.

**1735.** Partridges - Wm Marriage - ½ a rod.

**1843.** 21. Partridges, now occupied by Mr Jno. Marriage, maketh from no. 20 one rod. Owner Jno. Marriage.

28.

### **Broomfield Hall.**



There are three distinct facets to the story of Broomfield Hall; its ownership, its occupancy, and the lordship of the manor. It is certain that the ownership and occupancy were in different hands immediately before 1066, when the manor was one of the many possessions of the Saxon nobleman Ansgar the Staller. Ansgar was the grandson of Tovi, or Tovig, the Proud, King Canute's standard bearer. Tovi had founded the abbey of Waltham Holy Cross and was a leading figure in 11th century Essex. It may well be that it was he who built up the vast landholding that his grandson held in 1066.

Allied to the English party led by Earl Godwine and his

son Harold, Ansgar no doubt loyally went with Harold to the battle of Stamford Bridge and, if he survived that, to Hastings in 1066. His title, the Staller, doesn't point to a procrastinating civil servant but to his office, a kind of Master of the Horse to King Harold. At the time of the Battle of Hastings Ansgar probably held more than 100 farms scattered over Essex and its neighbouring counties and, as a leading follower of Harold, these were confiscated by William the Conqueror after Harold's defeat at Hastings.

The new owner and lord of the manor of Broomfield Hall was Gosfridi de Magna Villa, better known as Geoffrey de Mandeville. Geoffrey was a kinsman of William, fought with him at Hastings, and was rewarded with 118 lordships, 40 of which were in Essex and most likely the very lands formerly held by Ansgar. The de Mandevilles main seat was, like Ansgar, at (Saffron) Walden, with other important manors at Walthambury (Great Waltham) and Pleshey. Broomfield Hall was just one part of a vast holding.

Whilst Ansgar was at Saffron Walden, Broomfield Hall was managed on his behalf by one of his men, Saulf or Seawolf. And when Geoffrey de Mandeville took over Ansgar's lands he too placed one of his followers in charge at Broomfield Hall, in this case it was one of his kinsmen, Walter, probably from a junior branch of the family.

When the Domesday Survey was compiled in 1086 it also gave details of the manor of Broomfield Hall as it was in 1066 immediately before Ansgar was replaced by de Mandeville. The lands of the manor extended to 540 acres plus 14 acres of meadow, and wood sufficient for 50 swine.

This means of showing the amount of woodland has given researchers much food for thought over the years. How much wood does one swine need? Assuming that the parish boundaries at the time of the tithes award in 1846 were coterminous with the manorial boundaries of 1066 the Broomfield Hall (554 acres), Patching Hall (837 acres) and Belstead Hall (351 acres) would give a 1066 total of 1,742 acres excluding the woodland.

In 1846 the parish extended to 2,191 acres. The 1066 woodland total was for 175 swine. This would suggest that the 175 swine accounted for 449 acres, or 2½ acres to the pig. In 1986 the late Doug Shipman did an exercise covering the whole of the Chelmsford Hundred which worked out at an average of 5 acres of woodland per pig. To have applied that to Broomfield would have meant that the manors totalled some 450 acres more than the 1846 figure. On the whole I believe the Broomfield figure to be the more reliable. So far as Broomfield Hall is concerned this would give it 125 acres of woodland in 1066 and a total of 679 acres for the manor. This would have been split between the demesne, that part which the Lord kept for his own use and occupation, and the remaining land worked by tenants who would have paid by works carried out for the manor.

To service the needs of the manor there were 18 men in 1066; 9 villeins, 4 bordars and 5 serfs. These were different levels of servitude. The families were of unknown size but taking an average of 5 per household this gives a total of 90 souls dependant on the manor. There were 6 plough teams on the manor, 2 in the demesne and 4 for the men. The manor of Broomfield Hall also had a mill in 1066 (Belstead Hall didn't, so the mill in Mill Lane must have been a part of the manor of

Broomfield Hall). And the manor was valued at £5.

In Ansgar's time Broomfield Hall was the home of his local representative and it is known that in 1066 this was Saulf, or Seawolf. When Geoffrey de Mandeville took over it was one of his followers, Walter, who was probably of a junior branch of Geoffrey's family, who came to Broomfield Hall. Twenty years on from the Norman arrival Domesday records that the manor was then worth £6, a 20% increase on 1066, but the manpower had declined. There were still 9 villeins and 4 serfs but the bordars had gone.

Before leaving the Saxon manor it is worth noting that it was Broomfield Hall which gave its name to the village. There were three manors making up the parish of Broomfield so today's village could easily have become Belstead or Patching, but Broomfield it became. As to the name, there is one school of thought which suggested it came from the Saxon word brum, meaning brushwood or scrub. Certainly its earlier spellings were Brumfelda and Brumfield. However, Professor Reaney in his work on the origins of place names went for the more obvious 'field of broom' which has also been spelled as brum in the past. Our native broom still grows wild in Broomfield though not to the extent that it once did and it was surely more noteworthy that the manor should have been sited amongst a field of broom rather than the scrub which must have been commonplace where land had fallen into disuse.

Geoffrey de Mandeville's son William was the next of the de Mandevilles and he had two sons, Geoffrey and Walter. This second Geoffrey inherited most of his grandfather's estates,

was created the first Earl of Essex, and was appointed Constable of the Tower by King Stephen. His castle at Saffron Walden was augmented by another at Pleshey and by alternately supporting Stephen and Maud at various times in their struggle for the crown Geoffrey became vastly rich and powerful. Eventually he overplayed his hand and in a final rebellion against Stephen he was killed in battle at Burwell in 1144.

Geoffrey's younger brother, Walter de Mandeville, seems to have been more prudent. He had settled at Black Notley Hall and he also held the lordship of the manor of Broomfield Hall. This branch of the family took a much closer interest in Broomfield and it was Walter who granted Broomfield church to the Priory of the Holy Trinity, London, in 1150.

Several generations of the de Mandevilles succeeded each other as lords of the manor of Broomfield Hall. Walter married twice, first to Gunnilda and then to Mirabila. By 1190 Walter had died and Mirabila came to an agreement with the Priory for her brother Amisius to be rector of Broomfield for life. Both Mirabila and Ralph de Mandeville, then the head of the family, confirmed the charter granting the church to the Priory. Walter and Gunnilda's son, Thomas, was next in line. He married Rose and held 4 knight's fees in Broomfield, Black Notley, and Chatham Hall in Great Waltham. He was involved in some land transactions with William Beauchamp and Roger de Caninges in 1239-40. Sir Thomas was succeeded by his son John who was still living in 1262 when he released his rights to the church. And two years later he was granted a licence to hunt by Henry III.

Sir Thomas de Mandeville, John's son, was the next lord

of the manor of Broomfield Hall and it was he who around 1294 granted a right of way across his fields from the Rectory (now the Parsonage) to the church. He married Ismena, the sister of Sir John de Roos and in 1302 he was recorded as holding the same 4 knight's fees as his grandfather. He was the village's principal tax-payer in 1319 and 1327. There were probably four Thomas's in succession, for a Sir Thomas married Anne Drokensfield and they had a son Thomas who married Elizabeth Wauton. Their son and heir, also Thomas, died under age in 1399 and had no children. He was the last of the male de Mandevilles of Broomfield Hall.

The inheritance of Broomfield Hall passed to Thomas's sister Alice de Mandeville, who married first the Sheriff of Essex, Helmingius Legat, who was also the County's escheator, and then Roger Spice of Bocking. In 1408 King Henry IV granted 60 acres of land in Upminster to the Abbot of Stratford, which land had been "taken into the King's hand by the escheator Helmingum Leget", undoubtedly our Helmingius. An escheator was appointed for each County by the King and his duty was to take into the King's hand property which had reverted to the Crown by virtue of a person dying intestate or without heir, as is still the case today. This record also shows that Legat was alive in 1408 and there is another record dated a year later.

The Legats and the Spices must have known each other for a grant of 1409 regarding a house in Braintree was witnessed by Helmingius Legat and Clement Spice, Roger's son. Alice died in 1420 and Roger Spice died in 1459. Alice had a son by her first husband, Thomas, but he must have died before his mother because Broomfield Hall passed to Alice's son and heir,

Clement Spice. Clement Spice married Alice Montgomery, the co-heir to the manor of Faulkbourne Hall, and when Clement died the next lord of the manor was his son Humphrey Spice.

Humphrey Spice married Katherine Pirton, the daughter of Sir William Pirton of Little Bentley and their first child was born in 1484. Humphrey died in 1485 and he left Broomfield Hall to his one-year old daughter Phillipa. Phillipa Spice grew up and married the wealthy John Fortescue who had succeeded the Montgomerys at Faulkbourne Hall. The Fortescues then became lords of the manor of Broomfield Hall. A deed of 1541 shows that John Fortescue had by then died and Phillipa had married again - to Sir Francis Bryan. The inheritance was to pass to her son by her first marriage, Henry Fortescue. Henry lived on to 1575 but by then it had passed into the hands of one of the largest land gatherers since Geoffrey de Mandeville nearly 500 years earlier, Richard Rich.

Richard Rich studied law at the Middle Temple and soon gained notice at the court of King Henry VIII. By being, according to Morant, "that obsequious tool to that tyrant King Henry VIII", Rich became a baron, attorney-general in Wales, Solicitor General, and Chancellor of the Court of Augmentations, where he was ideally placed to scoop up the spoils from the dissolution of the monasteries. He collected more than 60 manors in Essex alone and one of the religious houses that came his way, Leez Priory, was rebuilt as his main residence. It was to Leez that he finally retired to devote his last years to good works, including the foundation of Felsted School. The date of his acquisition of Broomfield Hall isn't certain but it is likely to have been around 1548, the year in which he bought Patching Hall.

Lord Rich of Leez was succeeded as lord of the manor of Broomfield Hall by four generations of Rich, all named Robert. The first Lord Rich died in 1566 and his son Robert was the owner of Broomfield Hall at the time of the first fence list in 1570. He died in 1581. The next Robert picked up the title of Earl of Warwick; he died in 1618. Robert number three died in 1658 and Robert number four died in the following year. Finally it passed to Charles, brother of the last Robert. Charles died childless in 1673 and the manor passed via one of his sisters to Nicholas, Earl of Scarsdale. However, since well before the period of Rich ownership Broomfield Hall had been leased to a succession of yeoman farmers.

The Lay Subsidy returns of 1544 show that in that year Thomas Poole was at Broomfield Hall. The terms of his lease must have stipulated that he paid the tax on the assessment of Broomfield Hall for he was the biggest tax payer in the parish. Thomas had no doubt been at Broomfield Hall for several years prior to 1544; in 1541 and 1542 he was churchwarden and he held the office again in 1553. Thomas died in 1555 and he left the remainder of the lease of Broomfield Hall jointly to his son John and his son-in-law Robert Osborne. Osborne may have been of the family of George Hosbarne who was a tax-payer in Broomfield in 1524.

When John Poole, Thomas's son, died in 1609 he was recorded as "sometime farmer at Broomfield Hall" but he may have passed his share of the lease to Robert Osborne because when Osborne died in 1561 he left the remaining term of the lease to his son William and there is no mention in Robert's will of it being only a part share. On the other hand John could have

taken over from William Osborne. John Poole was still in evidence for he was churchwarden in 1563-4. The Osbornes were still associated with Broomfield as late as 1612 although the family may have moved to Chelmsford by then for in that year Moses Osborne, the son of Robert Osborne "of Broomfield" was baptised at St Mary's church. Chelmsford.

Some time before 1588 John Wilkinson became the farmer at Broomfield Hall. In that year William Forde married Elizabeth Drane at Broomfield church and the register records that they were both servants to John Wilkinson, farmer at Broomfield Hall. A Rent Roll for Broomfield Hall reveals that in 1606 Anne Wilkinson, widow, was paying the rent for the property in that year. Eight years later there was a new tenant, William Wright. In 1622 the Rent Roll shows another new tenant, Henry Godsafe.

Henry Godsafe had been in Broomfield since at least 1614 for in that year his daughter Elizabeth was baptised at Broomfield church. Sadly the little girl died in the following year. Henry and his wife Elizabeth had ten children in all; one other, John, died in infancy but the other eight seem to have survived to maturity. The children were Elizabeth (b1616), Mary (b1617 who married John Hale in 1644), Henry (b1620, his father's heir), Avis (b1622 who married John Hatley in 1650), Sarah (b1623 d1657), John (b1626 d1678), and finally twins Thomas and William (b1629).

Henry Godsafe died in 1645 and was succeeded by his eldest son Henry. This Henry married Mary Everard and had three sons; Henry (b1657), John (1659) and Thomas (b1661). He was Broomfield's churchwarden when he died in 1665. In

1654 he had agreed a further 15-year lease of Broomfield Hall with Lord Rich but he never saw it out. In his will he left his beloved wife an annuity of £38 a year out of the income of his farms at Good Easter and High Easter, and another £20 a year from the same source to maintain and educate his eldest son Henry until the boy was 21. He left bequests of money to his brother John, his mother Elizabeth, his cousins John and Elizabeth Hall, his sister Elizabeth who had married Robert Vincent of Butlers, and his mother-in-law Ann Everard. And £3 to the poor of Broomfield. The balance of his personal estate not otherwise bequeathed was to be shared between his two younger sons John and Thomas when they reached 21.

The next to take on the lease was Thomas Woollard but there is one more Godsafe item of interest in the parish register. It records that “Thomas, the only surviving son of Henry Godsafe Gent., a young man of great virtue and goodness died much lamented on the 11th March 1698”. He was buried four days later. The Hearth Tax list of 1662 shows as expected that Henry Godsafe was a taxpayer in that year. He was assessed for six hearths, showing that Broomfield Hall was a substantial property. Nine year later and the Hearth Tax of 1671 reveals that Thomas Woollard was at Broomfield Hall.

Thomas Woollard was perhaps the most significant leaseholder of Broomfield Hall. A native of Chignal St James, he became a prominent figure in Broomfield. In 1670 he was Parish Constable; in 1679 and again in 1695 he was Overseer of the Poor; in 1681 he was Surveyor of the Roads. He was churchwarden from 1673 to 1677, again in 1685 and 1689, and from 1691 to 1692. His wife Mary died in 1698 and Thomas died at Chignal St James in 1702 and was buried in the

churchyard there. He is remembered for his will of 1700 in which he left his cottages on Church Green for the benefit of the poor of Broomfield forever. Three hundred years later his charity still flourishes. Unlike Broomfield Hall, which he leased from the Rich family, he must have owned the freehold of the cottages.

Broomfield Hall continued to be leased out to yeoman farmers and it was around the year 1700 that the Marriage family arrived in Broomfield from Stebbing. Samuel Marriage succeeded Thomas Woollard as the leaseholder of Broomfield Hall and when he died in 1733 he left the lease to his son Robert. By 1756 John Mascall was farming at Broomfield Hall and by 1775 he had been replaced by Samuel Jesper. The Marriages, the Mascalls and the Jespers were all Quaker families

Meanwhile the ownership of Broomfield Hall had changed hands. The Earl of Scarsdale sold the manor to a London merchant, a Dutchman, Herman Olmius, who also bought the manor of Patching Hall and the Well House in Broomfield. Herman Olmius died in 1718 and the Hall passed to his daughter, Judith, who in turn left it to her nephew John Olmius, the son of her brother John. This John Olmius was born in 1711 and in 1754 he became the Member of Parliament for Colchester thanks (it was reported at the time) to his generous hospitality at the Castle Inn in Colchester during the election! He was the High Sheriff of Essex in 1746-47 and in 1762 he joined the ranks of the nobility, being created the 1st Lord Waltham of Philipstown. John Olmius married Anne Billers in 1741 and in 1746 their son Drogue Billers Olmius was born. He died in 1762, the year of his barony, at the age of 51. His wife died in 1778, aged 60.

Drogue Billers Olmius became the next lord of the manor of Broomfield Hall. Like his father he lived in some state at New Hall, Boreham, and from 1784 to 1787 he was the MP for Maldon. He married Frances, the daughter of Doctor John Coe of Moulsham but they had no children to succeed to his estate and so after his wife's death it passed to his sister's family. Elizabeth Olmius had married John Luttrell, Earl of Carhampton, and her husband had taken the name of Luttrell-Olmius. They had two sons, John and James, but both died young and Broomfield Hall then passed to their daughter Frances Maria Luttrell-Olmius. In 1789 Frances married Sir Simeon Stuart, the 4th Baronet.

Back to Drigue Billers Olmius. It was as Lord Waltham that in 1771 he commissioned a map of his Broomfield Hall estate, the first clear picture of exactly what land went with Broomfield Hall.



**The Broomfield Hall estate in 1771**

Joseph Dawson was commissioned by Lord Waltham to produce the map of the Broomfield Hall estate. Above is an edited version, the original map contained the names as well as the numbers of the fields that made up the estate, and it also listed the parcels of land with their acreages. In view of the commission, the importance of the client, it is remarkable that Dawson managed to get his compass the wrong way round and put North where South should be and vice versa. And seemingly no-one noticed!

The size of the estate, some 486 acres, was nearly 200 acres less than the Domesday figure (assuming 2½ acres to the pig for the woodland). This could well mean that the 1771 estate was the demesne of 1086, the remaining 200 acres being manorial land let to tenants, for example the Ayletts estate which in 1771 was still copyhold of the manor.

The fields shown on Dawson's map are as follows, with the 1846 tithe map details alongside for comparison:

	1771				1846	
1.	The Homestall	4	1	24	Homestead	4
0	8					
2.	Broom Pightle	2	2	31	Broom Pightle	4
2	23					
3.	Night Pasture	9	1	06	Night Pasture	8
0	7					
4.	Glove House Shots	27	0	33	Glovershotts	27
3	34					
5.	Upper Perry Field		7	2	09	Pot Ash Field

7	2	12					
6.	Lower Perry Field	10	3	11	Church Yard Fd	10	
2	37						
7.	Further Perry Field	12	1	09	Further Perry Fd	12	
1	15						
8.	Gravel Pitt Field	11	3	27	Gravel Pit Field	12	
0	20						
9.	Clay Pitt Shapley	16	1	22	Clay Pit Shapley	16	
1	21						
10.	Long Shapley	19	2	17	Long Shapley	20	
2	05						
11.	Round Shapley	16	3	14	Round Shapley	17	
1	34						
12.	Little Shapley	10	3	19	Lt Round Shapley	11	
0	02						
13.	Long Surfel	19	2	25	Long Surfel		
20.	1	20					
14.	Little Surfel	11	3	38	Little Surfel		
11	2	21					
15.	Home Surfel	16	1	16	Home Surfel		
16	2	14					
16.	Lenards Field	24	0	32	Lennards Field		
24	3	27					
17.	Nine Acres	10	0	13	Nine Acres		
10	2	05					
18.	Drakes Futt	37	3	35	Dragons Foot		
38	1	16					
19.	Pear Tree Lay		16	2	09	Pear Tree Ley	
16	3	03					
20.	Fourteen Acres	16	0	22	}Barn Acres		
22	2	25					
21.	Five Acre Wood Fd	7	2	23	}		

22. Ten Acre Wood Fd	12	1	22	10 Acre Wood Fd	13
1	22				
23. Broomfield Hall Wood	31	0	29	Wood Land	31
35					2
24. Hopground Piece			6	0	27 Hop Ground
Piece	5	1	1		
25. Broomfield Border		2	0	00	Broomfield Border
2	0	18			
26. Cuckould Croft Lay	15	2	38	Cuckold Croft Ley	17
0	26				
27. Fifteen Acres	15		1	16	Fifteen Acres
15	1	19			
28. Long Lay	12		2	34	Long Ley
14	2	7			
29. Browns Piece		2	3	14	Browns Piece
3	0	15			
30. Browns Grove		0	3	29	Browns Grove
1	0	21			
31. Hooks & Towns	15	2	02	Hooks & Towns	14
3	39				
				Plantation	0
2	11				
32. Sawyers		7		1	14 Sawyers
7	3	0			
33. Hall Field				4	0
4	0	33		13	Hall Croft
34. Navels		4		0	20 Navels
4	0	19			
35. Dumpings (part)				2	3
Dumplings	3	3	35	36	Great
36. Dumpings (part)		2	0	13	Little Dumplings
2	0	34			

37. Pudings	7	1	22	Puddings	Wood
7 2 10					
38. Petty Croft	4	3	11	Petty	Croft
4 3 8					
39. Common Piece	0	3	01	Common	Piece
0 2 27					
40. Lady Hope		2	1	14	Lady Hope
2 2 20					
41. Long Meadow	2	2	22	Long	Meadow
3 0 17					
42. The Marsh	10	3	20	The	Marsh
11 1 6					
43. North Meadow		9	1	07	North Meadow
10 1 35					
44. The Chase	1	2	08	The	Chase
1 2 6					
	Total	485	2	07	Total
498	1	13			

It can be seen that most of the fields of 1846 had retained the name in use in 1771. There were some changes; one of the Perry fields had become Pot Ash Field and another had become Church Yard Field for no obvious reason. Of more interest is Dragons Foot Field, which has from time immemorial been associated with the legend of the Broomfield Dragon, yet in 1771 Dawson noted it as Drakes Futt. Certainly, seen from above there is some logic to this as the shape of the field could be said to resemble a Drake's foot. But then it would spoil the legend, it is hard to see why it should be called Drake rather than

Duck or Goose and it would be difficult to see the shape from above in 1771! So Dragons Foot it must have been and Mr Dawson must have misheard, just as he must have misheard when someone told him North was in that direction.

Other changes had taken place in the 75 years between the 1771 map and the 1846 tithe map. The Glove House Shots of 1771 had become three fields - Further, Middle and Hither Glovershots of 7a1r33p, 10a3r35p and 9a2r6p respectively. Clay Pit Shapley was now Hither (8a0r17p) and Further (8a1r4p) Clay Pit Shapley. And Dragonsfoot too had been split into Hither (16a37p) and Further 922a19p). Lennards Field, although still under one name was in two parts, of 12a22p and 12a3r5p. A small plantation of a little over ½ acre had been planted in the corner of Hooks and Towns. Two fields, Five Acre Wood Field and Fourteen Acres Field had become Barn Acres. But perhaps the most noticeable change was the disappearance of Broomfield Hall Wood; the 31-acre wood had become an arable field.

In 1785 the vicar noted that the tithe due from Broomfield Hall in that year was charged to the executors of Samuel Jesper and in the following year William Allen became responsible. Tenants came and went. In 1806 Allen was replaced by Thomas Hodges and in 1813 he in turn gave way to Thomas Burne. Burne was a coal and timber merchant in Springfield. In 1831 George Woodgate took on the lease. His tombstone in the churchyard showed that he died in 1838 at the age of 81. He may have had a son of the same name because a George Woodgate was at Broomfield Hall in 1841, but by 1843 he had gone although he was still in evidence as the

title award showed him as owner of The Gables along Main Road. His place at Broomfield Hall had been taken by William Impey.

The lordship of the manor had also changed. Like previous lords of the manor the Walthams eventually suffered from a lack of male children and the inheritance passed through the female line. When Drogue Billers Olmius died at New Hall in 1787, aged only 40 the barony became extinct. His widow became lady of the manor of Broomfield Hall until her death in 1819 at the age of 86 when Drogue's niece, Lady Frances Stuart, became lady of the manor. She died in 1848 and so was the owner of Broomfield Hall when the final churchyard fence list was drawn up in 1843. The last of the Olmius line at Broomfield Hall was Sir Simeon Lechmere Stuart, Lady Frances's son and heir, but by then the lordship of the manor had left Broomfield Hall. It was purchased by Thomas Christy, who also bought Black Notley Hall and that lordship. In the absence of the manorial records destroyed in World War II the date isn't certain but it could be around 1837. The two lordships had run together for more than 700 years. The lordship of the manor of Broomfield Hall now became associated with the ownership of Brooklands.



**Broomfield Hall as it was in the early 1900s. The outbuildings have all long since gone.**

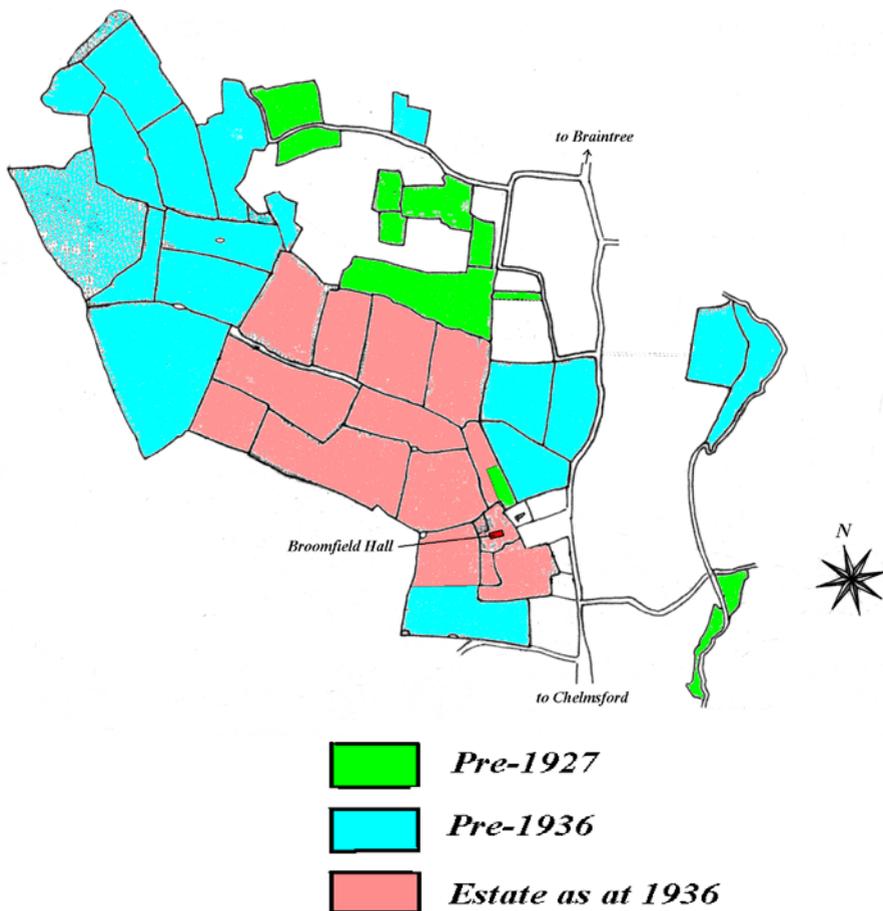
Reverting to the tenants, William Impey was at Broomfield Hall in 1843, when it was still in the ownership of Lady Stuart. The 1851 census describes him as a 29 year old farmer (he would have been only 21 in 1843) employing 32 men and farming 575 acres. This was considerably more than the acreage given on the 1771 map. Ten years later he was shown as employing 41 men and 13 boys and women, but the acreage had shrunk to 467 acres. In 1871 Impey was still at Broomfield Hall, now 49, his wife Mary was 42, and two sons were still at home - Maurice aged 22 and Henry aged 20. The workforce was now 43 men and 7 boys and the acreage farmed was up to 627 acres.

In the census of 1881 William Impey, hitherto described

as a farmer, had now become a milk and grain merchant and farmer. The workforce and acreage were little changed; his sons had left home and his daughter Elizabeth was now in residence. In 1891 Elizabeth was still there and William Impey's wife Mary, who had previously been shown as 9 years younger than her husband, was now only 3 years his junior!

By 1906 John Smith Brown was at the Hall, in 1914 it was George Tipler, and by 1917 Samuel Metson had purchased Broomfield Hall. The latter was farming there until his death in 1927 when his daughter and executor put the estate up for sale. It was purchased by William Parker. There is a good description of the estate at that time in the sale catalogue of 1927. The house was described as being of the 15th and 16th century, built of brick, lath and plaster, with chamfered ceiling beams, an original king post truss and much old oak studwork. Neither the Metsons nor the Parkers may have lived in the house for the 1919 electoral register gives Charles Hodges as living there, in 1925 John and Elizabeth Knight were there and in 1930 it was shown as Walter and Mary Day.

When Samuel Metson was farming Broomfield Hall the estate still covered some 430 acres, not so very different from the size of centuries ago, but by 1936 it had dramatically reduced.



The Broomfield Hall estate had measured around 490 acres in the 19th century. By 1927 it had reduced to 430 acres (the green areas had gone). It was around 1904 that Sir Simeon Stuart, the last of the Olmius-Stuart line to be associated with Broomfield Hall, sold part of the estate to Louisa Radcliffe to be included in the new Broomfield Court estate. By 1936 it had

further reduced to 176 acres (the blue areas had gone).

In 1936 William Day, who had been at Butlers Farm, bought Broomfield Hall and moved in with his family. The 1945 electoral roll shows him there with his wife, Beatrice, son Austin (Jack) and daughter Muriel.

As to the house, the schedule of Listed Buildings describes it as being a 15th century building with a 16th century chimneystack and 17th century alterations. The 1927 sale catalogue adds more details:

On the ground floor there was an entrance hall, a china pantry, a dining room (21' x 15'8"), a drawing room (17'1" x 16'8"), a housekeeper's room, a morning room, two store rooms, a kitchen (18'10" x 13'7"), back hall, side hall, scullery and larder. On the first floor there were 7 bedrooms, all of a good size ranging from 13'4" x 13' to one of 25' x 14'4". This large bedroom was noted as having old beams and stud work and was very likely the room where the manor courts were held in days gone by. There was also a bathroom and W.C. Above was an attic and there was also a cellar. By 1936 part of the cellar had been fitted out as a fruit store but otherwise the description was much the same.



### **Broomfield Hall 1974**

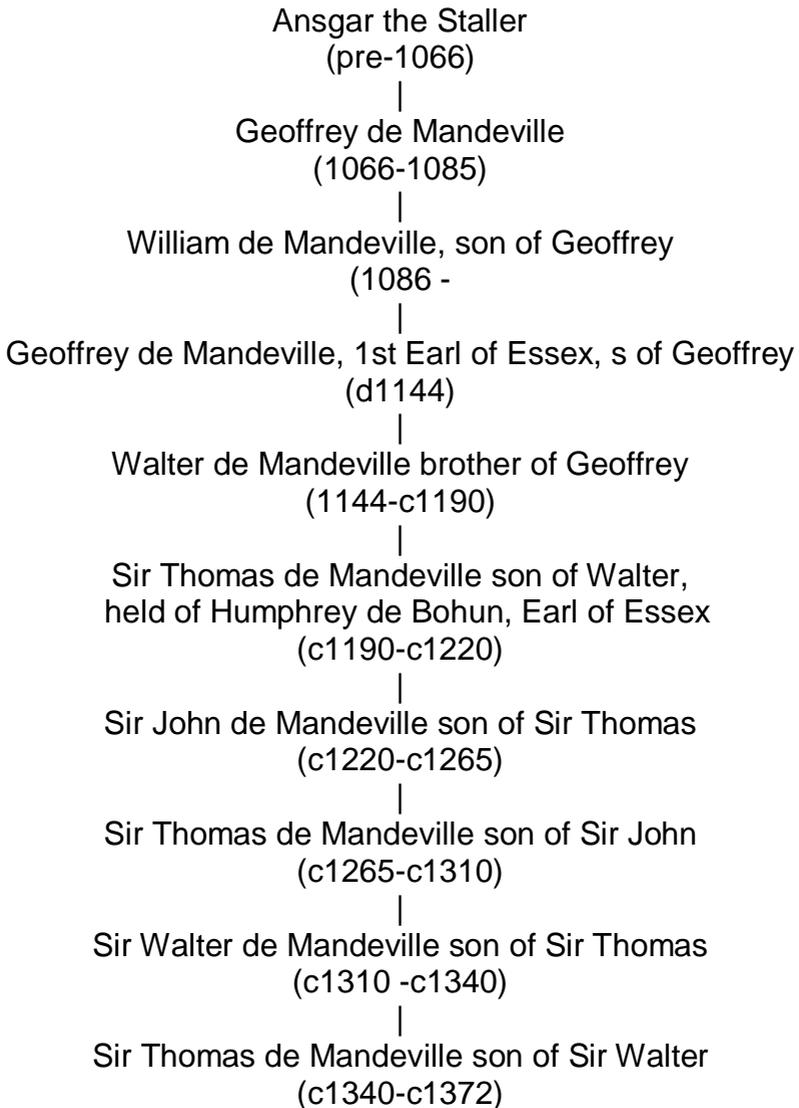
For several years Broomfield Hall was the home of the Day's farm bailiff, Bill Gentry, and his wife but eventually, with the death of Austin (Jack) Day at Sheepcotes Farm, Little Waltham, the property was sold and since then there have been several owners. The bulk of the land was retained by Jack Day's son, Graham Day, but Night Pasture and Broom Pightle were sold as a separate lot and the house was left with its walled garden and orchard.

In 1982 Gordon and Joyce Shiner were at Broomfield

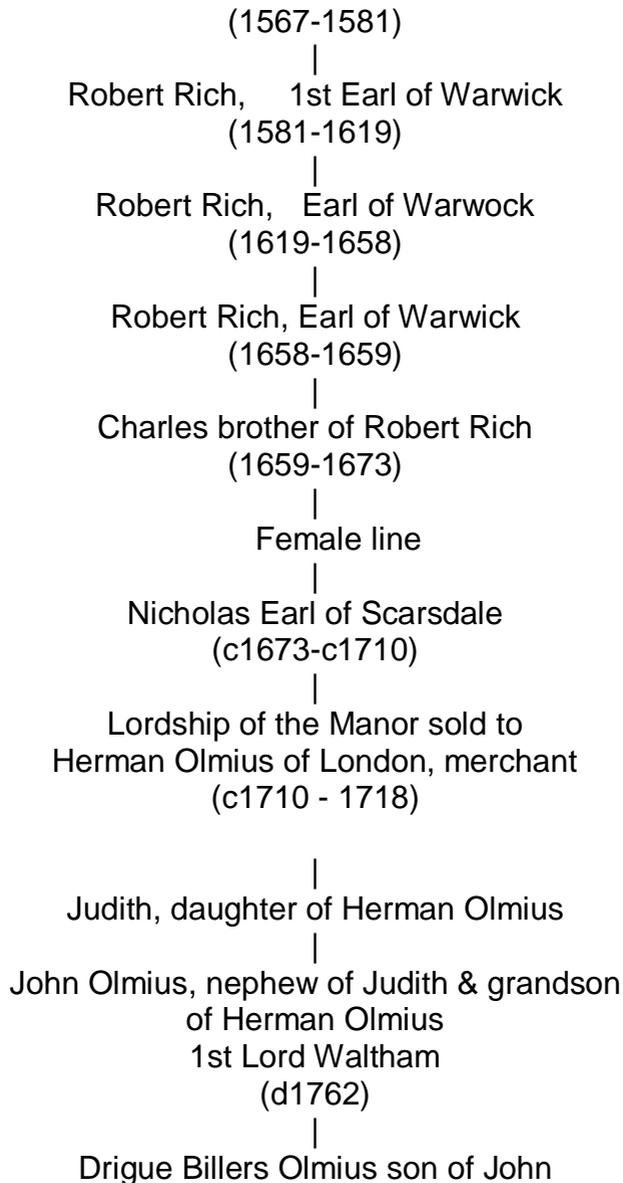
Hall, by 1990 it was William and Noreen Wood, and now, in 2005, Mrs Gibson lives there with her family.

The Lordship of the Manor of Broomfield Hall, now divorced from the property, remained in the Christy family until 1921 when, along with the sale of the Brooklands estate, the Lordship passed to Joseph Duffy. Duffy died in 1942 but his will failed to mention the Lordship. Apparently, all the written records of the Manor were held by a firm of solicitors in London and were destroyed in an air raid. The residual legatee of Duffy's estate was the Roman Catholic Church in the person of the Bishop of Northampton. So although there is no longer any documentary evidence it is clear that this is where the Lordship of the Manor now rests even though the church may not be aware of it.

## The descent of the manor of Broomfield Hall.



|  
Sir Thomas de Mandeville son of Sir Thomas  
(c1372-c1390)  
|  
Thomas de Mandeville son of Sir Thomas  
(c1390-1399 died under age)  
|  
Alice de Mandeville  
sister of Thomas  
(1399-d1420)  
m (1) Helmingius Legat  
m (2) Roger Spice  
|  
Clement Spice  
(1420-d1453)  
|  
Humphrey Spice  
(1453- d1485)  
|  
Phillipa Spice  
(1485 -c1541)  
m (1) John Fortescue  
m (2) Sir Francis Bryan  
|  
Henry Fortescue son of Phillipa  
(1541-1546?)  
|  
Sir Richard Rich  
1st Baron Rich of Leez  
( c1546 -d1567)  
|  
Robert Rich, 2nd Baron Rich of Leez



2nd Lord Waltham  
(1762-1787)  
|  
Frances, Lady Waltham, widow of Drigue  
(1787-1819)  
|  
Frances Luttrell-Olmius, niece of Drigue  
m Sir Simeon Stuart, 4th Baronet  
(1819- c1837)  
|  
Thomas Christy of Brooklands, Broomfield  
( c1837-1846)  
|  
Thomas Christy son of Thomas  
(1846-1877)  
|  
Jane Christy, widow of Thomas  
(1877-1888)  
|  
Wakefield Christy-Miller son of Thomas  
(1888-1898)  
|  
Charles Wakefield Christie-Miller,  
son of Wakefield  
(1898-1921)  
|  
Joseph Duffy of Brooklands  
(1921-1942)  
|  
The Roman Catholic Church  
in the person of the Bishop of Northampton  
(1942- )

\* \* \* \* \*

**1570** Broomfield Hall and now the Lord Riches maketh from Partridge towards the north iiii rodde

**1678.** Broomfield Hall maketh from Partritch towards ye north four rodde

**1687.** Broomfield Hall maketh from Partridge northwards fower rod.

**1735.** Broomfield Hall. 4 rods

**1843.** 26. Broomfield Hall now occupied by Mr Impey maketh from no. 25 four rods. Owner Lady Stuart