



Unlocking Broomfield

Owners of Broomfield House

The first owner of Broomfield House was John Broomfield, a leather merchant. The house was named after him. Old documents sometimes called it Brumfeyld, Bromfield, or Brome field.

By the mid-1570s, Geoffrey Walkeden owned the Broomfield estate. He traded furs with Moscow and was the Master of the Skinners' Company.

After Walkeden died in 1599, Sir John Spencer owned the house. He traded with the Ottoman Empire and the Eastern Mediterranean. He was the Lord Mayor of London in 1594-95 and was very rich. Dutch pirates tried to kidnap him, and he was put in Fleet Prison in 1599 because he didn't let his daughter marry one of Queen Elizabeth I's courtiers. He died in 1610 without a will.

Joseph Jackson, who was Spencer's apprentice, took over his business. By 1605, he was a member of the Spanish Company, which traded with Spain and Portugal. In 1623, he became the Master of the Clothworkers' Company, like Spencer.

Until 1816 the Jackson family owned Broomfield, when it passed to the Powys-Lybbe family. They rented it to different tenants. In 1726, Mrs. Judith Jackson added a hall, a grand staircase, and murals by Lanscroun.

The last tenant from 1883 was Sir Ralph Littler, Chairman of Middlesex County Council. He helped separate Southgate from Edmonton in 1881. Littler left Broomfield House in 1901. In 1902, Southgate Urban District Council bought the house and 53 acres of land for £25,000.



Sir John Spencer, with Alice Spencer, and troublesome daughter Elizabeth. St Helen's Church, Bishopsgate.



The Lanscroun murals in Broomfield House taken in 1975.

Broomfield House has had many owners, each adding to its rich history!

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