

Special Collections, Hartley library

Archives Information Sheet 9: “My ancestor worked on the Broadlands Estate”: Genealogical material in the Broadlands Archives

The Temple family, Viscounts Palmerston, owned Broadlands House and estate near Romsey in Hampshire since it was purchased by Henry Temple, first Viscount Palmerston, from Humphrey Sydenham in 1736. It had been previously owned by the St. Barbe and Fleming families. It subsequently passed to Edwina Ashely, later Countess Mountbatten of Burma, through the marriage of her great-great-grandmother Emily Cowper, née Lamb, to the third Viscount Palmerston. The family and estate papers include records concerning individuals who have been employed by the family, both in the house and on the land, over the years. These collections are extensive and so, by necessity, this is only an introductory guide to the sort of material we hold. Reference should be made to the specific catalogues; item level descriptions are available for most of the collection. Please refer to the lists for MS 62/BR1-BR210 and our website:

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/archives/cataloguedatabases/webguidemss62cats.html>.

General accounts and other records

There are account books among the papers of Henry Temple, first Viscount Palmerston, which include details of **servants’ wages for 1715-25** (BR2/3) and **1725-55** (BR2/6) plus a volume for **1756-61** (BR2/10) which also includes later entries by W.W.Ashley, **1915-16**. An account book of Henry Temple (d. 1740, first son of the first Viscount Palmerston) includes **servants’ statements** confirming they have received their **wages and legacy** from Henry Temple and a **list of servants, arrival dates and wages** they received, 1737-40 (BR10/1/1). The collection also contains lists of tradesmen’s bills between 1808-20, compiled in 1820; a list of balances due to tradesmen, 1825; abstracts of weekly bills, 1827-8; housekeeping and wages accounts from Broadlands, 1829-30 (BR103/16) and list of employees and wages, 1 May 1878-Dec 1916 (BR119/7/1-11). There is an **inventory of the contents of the staff bedrooms, the domestic offices** and the basement at Broadlands by Gudgeon and Sons of Winchester from 1931 (BR102/6).

Household staff

Various members of household staff are mentioned in the family and estate papers. In 1796, for example, Henry Temple, second Viscount Palmerston, commiserated with his wife Mary Mee over the loss of her servant **Gaines** as “it is always unpleasant to change an old servant” (BR20/13/7) and in May 1844 Lord John Beresford supplied Henry John Temple, third Viscount Palmerston with a reference for **Thomas Cook** as a **coachman** (BR22(i)/1/71). More general references include a letter from November 1800 from Frances Temple to her brother Harry describing how on his birthday all the servants had ale and punch to drink to his health (BR6/7/24) and two letters from James Harris, first Earl of Malmsbury to Henry John Temple, third Viscount Palmerston, sending a report on the **state of the house and the gardens and the staff**, April 1806, Nov 1806 (BR22(i) 5/25 & 5/30).

There is more detailed correspondence between Henry Temple, second Viscount Palmerston, and his second wife, Mary Mee concerning **Anna Hold, housekeeper at Broadlands**: the nursery maid has given notice, “Hold is in greater lamentation than ever about the badness of the women servants” and seems a little hurt at Mary’s letter, 16 Feb 1795 (BR20/12/7); “your note to Hold about stockings wants a little explanation more than I could give”, 12 May 1795 (BR20/12/37); and, from 29 February 1796, stating that Hold wishes to stay in London until the family comes to town (BR20/13/6). Mary Mee reports back Hold’s concerns about the health of her niece, Mrs Tag, in June 1802 (BR21/8/34). In a letter dated 5 March 1807 from James Harris, first Earl of Malmesbury, regarding his reception at Broadlands, he states Mrs Hold “was all fire” (BR22(i) 5/36). The papers also contain correspondence from Hold sent to Henry John Temple, third Viscount Palmerston including a letter dated June 1813 concerning the payment of tradesmen and housekeeping bills (BR112/5/8), a letter requesting retirement in 1818 at age of 80 (BR112/13/11) and concerning Broadlands repairs, stating that she was still in good health at the age of 84 (BR113/1/22).

William Cave was a **butler and valet** to Henry Temple, second Viscount Palmerston. In *c.* 1789 Palmerston states in a letter to his wife, Mary Mee that he is “quite determined to take servant William aboard” (BR20/6/21) and in *c.* 1797 how he “sent Cave to... get... strawberries” (BR20/14/12). In December 1802, Mary Mee informs her husband that “poor Cave” had a very slight paralytic stroke: “it makes me very anxious about him because he is more a friend than a servant” (BR21/8/78). In 1860, a descendant, W.Cave Thomas, wrote to Henry John Temple, third Viscount Palmerston, asking him for details of his ancestor’s service (BR22(i) 1/102). The family also seems to have had a connection with **Mrs Cave** as Mary Mee writes to her husband in January 1803 and August 1804 regarding her health (BR21/9/3a and BR21/10/53).

From the correspondence, it’s possible to deduce that **George** attended Henry John Temple, third Viscount Palmerston, while he was a student at St. John’s College, Cambridge. There is correspondence between Palmerston and his mother, Mary Mee, concerning George’s eligibility for militia service, Feb 1804 (BR21/10/4-5) and a question from Palmerston regarding George’s dress for mourning, 8 Feb 1804 (BR21/10/7). Palmerston wrote to his sister Lilly in 1809 regarding George’s desire to quit his service (BR24/9/7).

A good and reliable **cook** seems to be an on-going problem for the family and there are quite a few letters between Henry Temple, second Viscount Palmerston and his wife, Mary Mee on the matter. For example, Mr. Pelham’s recommendation for a cook at Broadlands: it is “uncomfortable to have anyone to dinner with such a cook as we now have”, 30 July 1786 (BR20/3/5); Lord Grantham’s man “appears very conceited and asks two guineas a week”, 5 August [1786] (BR20/3/7); a possible cook, “a middle-aged man, a Frenchman”, 12 December 1790 (BR20/7/12); in December 1794, Palmerston reports that he has found someone he could send to Broadlands (BR20/10/3, 5-6); Hold’s friend, the cook is mentioned in 27 February 1795 (BR 20/12/14) and finally, 10-11 March 1795, the new cook (unnamed) is doing well (BR 20/12/19-20).

The correspondence and papers also include references to various **tutors**: Mary Mee reports that a tutor, **Mr Wilkins**, is to attend Harry (later third Viscount Palmerston) two hours a morning, 18 July 1791 (BR11/16/2) and, in March 1802, there is mention of a **Mr Scott, dancing master** (BR21/8/12) recommended by Harry for his sisters Fanny and Elizabeth. There are papers concerning **Ann Rout, governess** at Mary Mee’s **School of Industry** including a letter from May 1803 stating that the children put in extra hours to finish the flax, 27 May 1803 (BR19/11) and accounts of money owed by Lady Palmertson to Rout, 1804 (BR183/14-5).

There are numerous references to **Mr Gaetano Ravizotti** and his wife **Thérèse Ravizotti née Mercier**, **private tutor** and **governess** respectively at Broadlands including letters about Mr Gaetano's health, c. 1793 (BR22A/1/3); 1799 (BR21/5/20-22 and BR22(i) 2/1); c. Feb 1804 (BR21/10/2-3) and 24 Oct 1804 (BR21/10/59) and the Ravizotti's marriage and baby, 1800-1 (BR22(i) 2/2; BR22(i) 2/14; BR21/7/19, 22; BR6/8/7, 14-5). There is correspondence from Elizabeth Temple following a prank played upon Mercier (BR22(i) 2/1) and concerning Mr. Ravizotti's settlement from the family, 23 Apr 1802 (BR21/8/19) including with Gaetano Ravizzotti junior, 1840-8 (BR23AA/6/1-3). There is also discussion concerning the Ravizzotti's future plans; for example, Elizabeth Temple's hope to procure scholars for Mrs Ravizzotti, Jun 1805 (BR6/12); the Ravizzotti's plans to look after Mrs Smith's children, July 1804 (BR21/10/35-38, 41) and a printed prospectus of proposed boarding school for young ladies at Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington to be run by Mr and Mrs Ravizotti, n.d. (early 19th century) (BR 183/50).

The estate and grounds

There is much correspondence between Henry John Temple, third Viscount Palmerston, and the individuals who managed the family's farms and estates in Romsey, including Broadlands. Correspondents include **Thomas Warner, John Latham, I. Bell, John Fforster, Robert Bird, John Moody and George Watson** (BR112 ff). Various individuals receiving specific mention including **William Kendle**, a **steward and manager** on Broadlands farm. The papers include a recommendation from Lord Spencer, 1845 (BR114/9/26/1) and substantial correspondence. While this includes his request for a salary increase, 1854 (BR115/15/18) and reference to the completion of his new house, 1861-2 (BR115/8/20), most papers are about the management of the farm. **Thomas Bailey**, a **labourer** on the estate died in 1838 while using corrosive sublimate, (BR114/2/5-12, 21) and another (unnamed) farm labourer was killed in 1865 by the falling branch of a tree whilst eating his dinner (BR115/11/3). There is a letter from **G.R. Kendle**, Broadlands **farm manger**, to William Francis Cowper Temple, first Baron Mount, concerning livestock, 1877 (BR48/4/5).

The collection includes various records about the **garden** at Broadlands including information about those who worked on the land. Among the files we find accounts, including wages due to **George Lidell** (BR119/1/1) and a summary description of his duties and conditions of residence, both dated 1757 (BR103/18/1). A memoranda from **Charles Knight** dated c.1800 give details of the garden labourers at Broadlands, listing their name and details of their families, 1800 (BR103/18/9-10). Knight was later replaced by **George Watson**, an occurrence noted by the third Viscount Palmerston in 1807 (BR103/18/19). Watson wrote to Palmerston in April of that year, concerning the gardens and his proposed alterations (BR103/18/14). Further correspondence includes letters from 1815 (BR112/8/6, 8/12 & 8/26) and, in May 1829, Watson gave details of the number of person employed in working in the garden and their occupation (BR103/18/24). The papers include an inventory of goods in gardener's house, Broadlands, 1842 (BR114/5/12), expenses from an (unnamed) gardener at Broadlands of income and outgoings, 1842 (BR103/18/29) and letters from **Samuel Hereman**, head gardener at Broadlands, concerning the produce of the gardens, 1844 (BR114/8/8 & 8/11). Records from the twentieth century are more sparse but include two newspaper cuttings from 1907 on the long service of **Thomas Freemantle**, deceased, and **Cornelius Medley** both gardeners at Broadlands (BR103/18/38) and a black and white photograph from August 1918 shows view from the upper windows of the west front of Broadlands; the gardener, **Mr Yates** is seen on a "motor lawn mower" in the far distance (BR101/85).

The collection includes papers such as accounts and correspondence with various **builders and tradesmen** including **Christopher Routledge** for materials and labour at Broadlands, *c.* 1806-7 (BR103/18/2, 18/15-7); **William Garbett** concerning building work at Broadlands, 1815 (BR112/8/13-4, 8/25), **William Floyd** for brickwork, February 1827 (BR103/18/22) and with **George Wheeler** for work done on Hampshire properties, 1866-73 (BR103/18/35-7, BR120/23/1-9).

In addition, the House employed various **gamekeepers**, for some of whom it is possible to find brief references in the estate papers. These include legal documents concerning the conveyance of land naming **James Bell**, 1809, 1819 (BR157/38/1-2 & 43/1-2) and a statement in the case of **William Bailey**, accused of assaulting a poacher, 1811 (BR112/2/16). Gamekeeping, it seems, was a dangerous job; there are records detailing the assault of gamekeepers **Robert Snelgrove**, 1820-2 (BR112/17/35-44, BR121a/3-14); **Charles Martin** senior and junior, 1838 (BR114/2/26) and **Saunders**, 1839-40 (BR114/3/22). In July 1834, Mr. Martin had an accident with his gun which resulted in the amputation of his left hand (BR113/16/26). In December 1842, a new keeper, **Cross** was appointed (BR114/6/55); there are the returns of gamekeepers **Henry Martin** and **Charles Hatman** dated 25 March 1879 (BR120/26-1-2) as well as a letter concerning a quarrel between Mr Clifton of Spursholt's farm and gamekeeper **Flatman**, 1850 (BR114/11).

Finally, we also find a character reference for **groom Robert Turner** from 1821 (BR112/19/1-42) and a report on **John Wright**'s rheumatism from 1845 (BR114/9).