



Chest of drawers by Richard and Walter Wm Commins of Weymouth, 1869. Formerly in Warmell House near Weymouth. *Photo Piers Keating*

A Weymouth Cabinet Maker, 1869

I have recently been restoring a chest of drawers which might be of interest to members, particularly those in the Dorset area. This mahogany veneered chest of drawers has the following inscription written in pencil on the underside of the top:

Walter Wm Commins
Made and polished these drawers
at 71 St Thomas St. Weymouth
July 10th 1869

I have found a Richard Commins listed as a cabinet maker at 71 St Thomas Street in 1859 and aged 70 in the 1871 census. I have also found a Walter Wicham Commins listed on the census aged 37 as a victualler. Could he be a son of Richard helping his father with the making of this chest of drawers?

The chest has been in my client's family for several generations. It came from Warmell House near Weymouth. The piece is of medium to good quality craftsmanship with veneered top and solid drawer fronts; the sides are pine with a simulated mahogany finish and all secondary woods are pine.

I hope members may want to do additional research into this regional cabinet maker.