

# **An Account of Moyer House in Leyton, Essex**



**Frederick Temple**

**Leyton & Leytonstone Historical Society**

An Account of Moyer House in Leyton by Frederick Temple  
edited by David Ian Chapman (who provided the footnotes)  
from the bound typescript (1958) deposited with Leyton Borough  
library service and printed in 2015 with the very kind permission of  
the author's grandson, John Temple.

ISBN 978-0-9932736-3-6

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Printed in 2015 by  
Parchments of Oxford  
[www.parchmentuk.com](http://www.parchmentuk.com)

Author's acknowledgement: My thanks are due to Jo Parker,  
Archivist at the Vestry House Museum, for her help with the  
manuscript and illustrations

Cover picture: Moyer House, drawing by Jared Hill, circa 1739 – the  
only known surviving illustration of Moyer House.

## Preface

The bound typescript from which this book has been printed was amongst Frederick Temple's (1881-1972) immense amount of information gathered together on the history of the ancient parish of Leyton. The Leyton & Leytonstone Historical Society has embarked on a programme of reprinting some of his completed histories, of which this is the latest.

The text is substantially as written down by Frederick Temple but with the addition of my notes on the Moyer family and my footnotes to the text where these seemed helpful. Typing errors have been silently corrected and dates of births, marriages and deaths have been amplified where this information has been found through the website Ancestry.com. Prior to 1837 almost certainly births will be from baptismal records and deaths from burial records.

David Ian Chapman  
July 2015

# An Account of Moyer House in Leyton

## Frederick Temple

A short distance from the High Road end of the present Hainault Road and approximately behind the site of the Baptist Church<sup>1</sup> stood a house for long known as Moyer House. It is shown in the maps of Rocque (1746) and Chapman and André (1777) but was demolished in 1831. In 1783 it was described by that reliable local commentator, Robert James, as ‘*the oldest house in the parish*’. Hardly anything is known of the house itself for it was overshadowed by the splendours of the Great House only a stone’s throw away. A considerable amount of freehold land went with it extending in a belt across the parish to the angle of Grove Green Road. An acre or two of copyhold land lying between Hainault Road and James Lane went with it.

Kennedy in his “History of Leyton” has but little to say about this old house except to mention that a remnant of the old buildings remained, (1893) known as Cashford’s Farm, and to record a few facts about the Moyer family who occupied it for so long. A good deal, however, is now known about them well worthy of being placed on record.

Captain Lawrence Moyer<sup>2</sup> appears in the earliest extant Leyton Rate Book (1651) but he was here some time before for he is mentioned as holding the office as churchwarden in 1649; and in a deed dated 1648 Sir Thomas Lake, the younger, Lord of the Manor of Leyton Grange, directs George Swanley to pay £1000 to Lawrence Moyer and Elizabeth his wife<sup>3</sup>, apparently in connection with the sale of the Manor. Lawrence Moyer<sup>4</sup> came from a family of sea-faring folk who lived at Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, his father being James Moyer who is described in his will (1636) as of “Tower Wharf, St Catherines by the Tower”. Lawrence was a merchant of St Stephen’s, Walbrook, and Warden of Trinity

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<sup>1</sup> Opened 7<sup>th</sup> December 1926.

<sup>2</sup> Lawrence Moyer purchased Master’s, as it was known then, and adjacent tenement, totalling 2 acres, along with a field called Sixteen Acres and a meadow in Tumbling Mead, from the executors of Robert Hudson in 1649 (E.R.O. D/DQ 53/51).

<sup>3</sup> Lawrence Moyer married Elizabeth Johnson of Limehouse, daughter of Edward Johnson, 20<sup>th</sup> May 1635.

<sup>4</sup> Lawrence Moyer born circa 1608.

House. Like his more celebrated brother, Samuel, he was a very staunch Puritan and a firm upholder of the Commonwealth. Samuel Moyer, of Pitsea Hall, (Essex), was Alderman of Cheap Ward, M. P. For the City in Barebone's Parliament (1653),<sup>5</sup> Master of the Mercers' Company (1653), Elder Brother of Trinity House, a prominent member of the Levant Company, on the committee of the Navy and Customs sitting at Westminster and Mincing Lane, and Judge of the Court of Probate during the Commonwealth period. When Charles II was restored to the throne (1660) both brothers found themselves in hot water. Firstly, concerning Lawrence: The State Papers (24<sup>th</sup> January 1661) record reports from Deputy Lieutenants of Essex who had examined several suspected persons but find nothing material except Moyer whom they have detained. One of his servants<sup>6</sup> testified having seen arms in his house at Leyton and after having been there nine months she was put out because she was for the King. Moyer, under examination, confessed he had arms there but they were only for the defence of his house<sup>7</sup>. He had sent curtains and valences to London for fear of being plundered but denied having any of the King's goods. He had taken the Oaths of Supremacy and Allegiance as a member of Trinity House and is willing to take them again. And later, 27<sup>th</sup> February 1661, Deputy Lieutenant Sir William Hicks from Ruckholt reports that he had searched Moyer's house and had found two pistols, two barrels of gunpowder<sup>8</sup>, etc., and brought him before the Lord Lieutenant who had ordered him to take the Oaths and enter good bonds for quiet behaviour towards the government. Moyer desired respite and later brought a paper signed by Sir John Robinson (Lieutenant of the Tower) certifying that he had taken the Oaths and promising to be peaceful. Sir William Hicks is of the opinion that as Moyer lives in Essex he ought to enter into bonds there for he hath often spoken scandalously against the late and present King and refuses to find arms in the Trained Bands as he is a member of Trinity House. Annexed: Some expressions used three years ago by Captain Moyer: He declares the murder of the late King the best piece of heroic justice

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<sup>5</sup> Named after Praise-God Barebone (c. 1598 –1679)

<sup>6</sup> Priscilla Morgan, her testimony is dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 1660/1. (Leytonstone Express & Independent 5<sup>th</sup> January 1929).

<sup>7</sup> The State Papers claim that Lawrence Moyer actually had in his possession "five pistols, one carbine, two barrels of black powder and one small artillery piece". Moyer claimed that he needed the firearms for personal protection.

<sup>8</sup> William Hicks already knew that Lawrence Moyer had arms as he had previously borrowed a pair of pistols.

and Bradshaw<sup>9</sup> (President of the Court that tried Charles I) the best patriot that ever lived: Spoke of his present Majesty as Charles Stewart that boy: said on 13<sup>th</sup> October when Harrison<sup>10</sup> (a member of the Court, who was executed), that it mattered little telling him of a King for the longest sword would carry it. Hicks goes on to suggest that Moyer may be unfit to continue as a member of Trinity House and gives names of witnesses to prove the said expressions. Moyer, however, seems to have emerged from this ordeal without punishment.<sup>11</sup>

With regard to his brother, Samuel, an account of his misfortunes is given in Pepys' Diary under the date 16<sup>th</sup> May 1666. The diarist relates the story as told to him by a friend. Samuel Moyer and others had been put into prison upon a great plot (which Pepys did not credit) and later brother Lawrence had been able to procure an order for Samuel's release from the King and Council through the Lord Chancellor and Lord Arlington.

Lawrence has sealed a bond to pay a certain sum of money which was to go to the Lord Chancellor when the release was effected. It seems that the Duchess of Albermarle (wife of General Monk, created Duke of Albermarle, 1660) had earlier undertaken to secure Samuel's release for so much money from Lawrence, but had not done so. Her husband sent for Lawrence and threatened that unless he paid the Duchess this money he would cause the Council's release order to be revoked. *This Moyer being an honest, bold man*<sup>12</sup> told the Duke that he would carry out the terms of his bond but as the Duchess had done nothing he would pay her not a farthing. The next day came a messenger from the Duke to Lawrence who sent him away telling the Duke he could do his worst, no payment would be forthcoming. Pepys finishes the entry

*It is one of the most extraordinary cases that ever I saw or understood; but it is true.*<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> John Bradshaw (1602-1659). MP for Stafford at the time of the trial. Retired from parliament only to return in 1659 to the Council for State. He died in the same year and was buried in Westminster Abbey. With the restoration of the monarchy his body was dug up and hung in his coffin on a gibbet at Tyburn.

<sup>10</sup> Thomas Harrison (1606-1660) also signed King Charles I death warrant. Also at the restoration he was hung.

<sup>11</sup> On the 14<sup>th</sup> August 1661 King Charles II demands that the disloyal Lawrence Moyer, of Low Leyton, be discharged from the office of Warden of Trinity House. The Elder Brethren resisted for two years but he was finally expelled on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1663.

<sup>12</sup> Pepys Diary Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 1667

<sup>13</sup> Pepys Diary Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 1667

Samuel was released and continued his business as a merchant chiefly with the Levant Company<sup>14</sup> till his death in 1683.

Lawrence Moyer took great interest in Leyton affairs. He appears in the first Rate Book we have (1651) for Repair of the Church and Churchyard and secured a rebate of 13s. 3d later, *having paid on 40 & was raited butt att 25.*

With a few others he passed a resolution in Vestry *calling all former Collectors of the Poor to account* when he was Churchwarden in 1655. He served on the Committee for rebuilding the church (1656) and was ready to subscribe his quota towards the stipends of both vicars, Anderton and Strype. I find him serving as Constable (1661) and as a Trustee of John Smith's new Almshouses (1653-1683) and his name figures in many lists of collections and briefs specially those for the relief of slaves who had been captured by pirates in the Mediterranean, a charity which specially appealed to him. Of rather a contentious nature, Moyer came into conflict with both the Justices and the Church. In 1667 we find that he was "presented" at Quarter Sessions at Chelmsford for refusing to perform his statutory work on the roads in his parish (E.R.O. Q.S.R. Vol XX). His trouble with the Church is referred to in some correspondence in 1683 from the Archdeacon of Essex (Thomas Turner) to the Rev John Strype, preserved in the Baumgarten M.S.S. at Cambridge. One letter tells the Vicar of Leyton that Captain Moyer, excommunicated, is not to be admitted to the Sacraments or even to Prayers till he is formally absolved<sup>15</sup> and a second one gives a list of fees payable by him upon his Absolution.

He took as his second wife, Frances, daughter of Nicholas Alvey, citizen and grocer of London, and relict of Mr Charlton of Chingford. Their marriage<sup>16</sup> at Chingford was by licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury and the settlement deed in connection with it is dated 29<sup>th</sup> May 1673.<sup>17</sup> He died in 1685 aged 77 years and

*Whereas Lawrence Moyer Esq was buried in linen contrary to the late Act I John Strype, and I Thomas Nash Churchwarden received Nov: 25.*

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<sup>14</sup> An English Trading Company formed in 1581 to trade with Turkey and the Levant.

<sup>15</sup> Baumgarten Papers, 8<sup>th</sup> October 1683

<sup>16</sup> Married 8<sup>th</sup> November 1670

<sup>17</sup> ERO D/DQ 53/52.

*1685 the sum of fifty shillings being the forfeiture thereof for the use of the poore of the parish which was accordingly disposed of by us.*<sup>18</sup>

An armorial slab in the Chancel marked his resting place, but this was removed to the Tower during a 19<sup>th</sup> century restoration. His will, dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 1684 shows he held property in London and Milton (Essex), also East India Company Stock valued at £5,200. In it were many bequests to his relatives, besides £10 to Rev Strype and his diamond ring to his kinsman, Captain Richard Goodlad<sup>19</sup>, as well as £100 to charity and objects of piety. His widow was to have his household goods, jewels and plate

*as a particular token of my love to her excepting the furniture of the roomes, one over another in the newe end of my dwelling house . . . and my best Persia Carpett and Grogram Yarne Carpett*<sup>20</sup>

he passed on to his brother William after his wife's death.

Frances Moyer survived her husband but a short time, being buried beside him at Leyton Church 28<sup>th</sup> January 1687 aged 53. As she died intestate, administration was granted to Nicholas Charlton, her son by her first marriage, who also received a commission to administer that part of Lawrence's estate left unadministered by the widow. The estate, being a large one, took over a year to settle.

There being no children of the marriage, the Leyton estate was left to Lawrence's nephew and namesake. This Lawrence Moyer was the son of his brother Samuel who had died in 1683. He took up residence at Moyer House at his aunt's death<sup>21</sup> and, like his uncle, began to take an active part in local affairs, being called upon to serve the parish offices of Surveyor of the Highways for Low Leyton (1690), Constable (1695), Overseer of the Poor (1699), Churchwarden<sup>22</sup> (1705) and in addition became a trustee of the Almshouses. His wife was Martha Boothby<sup>23</sup>, of Friday Hill, Chingford, and their children

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<sup>18</sup> John Kennedy, *A History of the Parish of Leyton, Essex*, Phelps Brothers, Leyton, 1894, pp 373

<sup>19</sup> Commander of the Adventure.

<sup>20</sup> PROB 11/380/577

<sup>21</sup> Lawrence Moyer first appears in the Leyton Rate Book for 1687.

<sup>22</sup> Elected William Thorogood to serve for him. The dates of offices held have been added to Frederick Temple's text.

<sup>23</sup> Lawrence Moyer married Martha Boothby 8<sup>th</sup> May 1677



were Benjamin, John, Catherine, Martha and Lydia in addition to Edward and Frances who both died in infancy.

Lawrence Moyer too seems to have been on good terms with John Strype, then established in his new Vicarage quite close to Moyer House. Two of his letters to his Vicar are in the Baumgarten M.S.S. The first dated 1697<sup>24</sup> tells him that at Tunbridge Wells he has recovered his appetite under the three famous doctors “Mens hilaris, requies, moderata dieta”<sup>25</sup>. In the second he says:

*sorry to hear that the adversaries of peace and honesty have given you the alarm by attacking your outworks. (alluding to troubles with the dissenters) My two eldest daughters have been extrem ill since our coming hither.*<sup>26</sup>

He was buried 24<sup>th</sup> January 1720<sup>27</sup> in the Chancel at Leyton. His armorial slab was cracked when being removed to the Tower at the same time as his uncle’s. His will proved 1<sup>st</sup> April 1721 by his widow is well worth quoting from as showing the deeply held religious feelings he had

*I commit and yield my soul unto the hands of my heavenly Father further hoping and trusting that at its departure out of this earthly Tabernacle, He will in, by and through the Merits and Intercession of my only Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, receive it into those happy mansions which my dear Saviour is gone before to prepare for me; my body I bequeathe unto the ground out of which it was taken, knowing that it will certainly awake out of its deep sleep and rise again when the Arch Angel shall sound his Summoning Trump at the last day: therefore I desire that it may be interred decently but not statelily and pompously in what place soever my exec. hereinafter named shall be pleased to lay and deposit it. “Nam indique est ad coelum via” [Because from whatever it is is the way to heaven.] To my dear and virtuous wife, dearly beloved of my soul, wife of my love whom I beseech the Divine Goodness continually to bless and preserve in*

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<sup>24</sup> Baumgarten Papers, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1697

<sup>25</sup> Democritus Junior (Robert Burton) *Anatomy of Melanaholy*, London 1800, pp 453

<sup>26</sup> Baumgarten Papers, 8<sup>th</sup> September 1700

<sup>27</sup> The Gregorian Calendar was introduced in 1582, but not accepted in England until 1752. Before this later date, dates were calculated as the preceeding year until Lady Day (25<sup>th</sup> March). So Lawrence Moyer was actually buried in 1721.

*health and constant love to me and mine, I leave for her life three tenements in Coleman Street, London; £1,500 united East India Co. Stock, an annuity of £70 and all plate and jewels.*

He left to his two sons land at Hawkesbury, Eastwood and Fobbing in Essex, and various sums of money to his sons, daughters and relations and £10 to the poor of Leyton. It concludes:

*I do strictly charge and command all my children to live in constant Love, Peace and Concord one with another and dutifully obey their loving mother and endeavour in all things to make her life pleasant, comfortable and easy. Now I heartily beseech Almighty God to be with you all and continue to bless you and to be a husband to my dear wife and a father to all my children when I am dead and gone.*

Martha, his widow, was buried at Leyton in 1726, her body being brought from West Ham, probably Maryland Point where some of the Moyers had a house, and from where her will is dated.<sup>28</sup>

Daughter Catherine was born in 1692 and died in 1724; to her memory was placed an armorial slab in the Chancel close by the other two, but this is now to be seen at the west end of the north wall just outside the Hicks Chapel.

Daughter Martha married Mr Thomas Thorpe, a widower, at Leyton Church in 8<sup>th</sup> April 1708. He was a linen draper, living in Cheapside. He is mentioned in 1714 as holding a lease of certain tenements that had been built on the site of Ancient St Anthony's Hospital by Threadneedle Street which in some manner had become the property of the Dean of St George's, Windsor, and retained this lease till his death. (Catalogue of Deeds in St George's Chapel). From 1720 he became the owner of Walnut Tree House, Leyton, in Jesse Road. He served as Surveyor of the Highways in 1725 and on the committee for repairing the Almshouses. His wife died in 1734 and he in 1743, both being buried at Leyton. Mr Thorpe, having no children, left Walnut Tree House to his niece,

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<sup>28</sup> There is an undated and hand written note, presumably from a newspaper, in Frederick Temple's File on the Moyer family – "On Sunday evening Mr Moyer and Mr Levett two Turkey merchants were robbed in a chariot between Maryland Point and Low Leyton by one highwayman". Probably Lawrence Moyer and Francis Levett (1654-1705).

Hannah Bristow, who obtained licence to let it for 21 years. (Leyton Grange Manor Rolls).

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1710 daughter Lydia married Mr Peter Hartopp, widower, of Walthamstow, at Leyton Church. Mr Hartopp the following year paid for a pew in his parish church, and is recorded as having filled the following local offices: Surveyor of the Highways (1713), Constable of Tony Manor (1715) and Churchwarden (1717-18).

The eldest son, Benjamin Moyer (1684-1759), heir of Lawrence, resided at Moyer House with his wife, Frances (née Worthington), widow of Thomas Boothby of Friday Hill, Chingford. He was chosen a Trustee of the Almshouses and of Ozler's School and served as Surveyor in 1738; otherwise there is little mention of him in the vestry minutes<sup>29</sup>. He was a close friend of Sir Henry Maynard, of Shern Hall, Walthamstow, who, when he died in 1738 left him £20 to buy a suit of mourning. When Benjamin died in 1759 he was buried in the Moyer Vault in Leyton Churchyard<sup>30</sup>. This rather queer looking hexagonal monument capped by a cupola<sup>31</sup> was erected by his daughters, Lydia and Catherine. It is in good preservation having been repaired in 1931 by J R Heathcote, the then descendant of the family. Frances, his widow, continued to live in the old house until she died in 1804 at the great age of 93. With her was her daughter Catherine, who remained single. For a time Frances had living with her a son of her first marriage, Captain Robert Boothby of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Troop of Horse Grenadiers and here he died in 1774.

Benjamin, in addition to his two daughters, had an only son, Samuel, who dying at eight is mentioned in the inscription on the family vault<sup>32</sup>. In Benjamin's will he left his property to his brother, John (1692-1763), (Manor Rolls 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1759), presumably in trust for his daughters Lydia and Catherine. John held the property for but a short time as he died at his house in Walthamstow in 1763,

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<sup>29</sup> Benjamin Moyer was granted Freedom of the City of London 1706-7.

<sup>30</sup> There is an interesting tale recorded by the Rev Robert Bren regarding the Moyer Monument. "I am told by old inhabitants that when the church was still part of the Grange Estate and the Grange still standing the village children used to dare one another to run round it 3 times in the dark. On the third time there was a confident expectation that the devil would appear".

<sup>31</sup> Now a Grade II listed building. A faculty was granted to Benjamin Moyer on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1747 for the erection on a monument in the Parish Churchyard.

<sup>32</sup> Samuel Moyer buried 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1746

was buried in the Moyer Vault, and Lydia and Catherine succeeded to the estate as co-heiress.

Lydia Moyer, baptised 11<sup>th</sup> August 1738, married John Heathcote of Connington Castle, Huntingdonshire, on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1764. John became M. P. for Rutland in 1790. Lydia died 14<sup>th</sup> August 1822 having one son John Heathcote (1767-1838), and one daughter, Lydia, who died in infancy (1765). It is interesting to note that her husband was a direct descendent of Sir Gilbert and Sir John Heathcote who held Forest House from 1703 to 1743.

Catherine Moyer, baptised 7<sup>th</sup> December 1739, lived in Moyer House throughout her long life of 92 years. A note in some old botanical book made by Benjamin M Forster, of the Clock House, Wood Street, Walthamstow, records the finding of *Narcissus-pseudo-narcissus* in a field of Mrs Moyer in a narrow lane, the footpath to Leytonstone, in 1799. (Essex Naturalist, Vol. XIX). William Pamplin (1806-1899), a celebrated nurseryman of Chelsea, relates how he heard his father and grandfather say how they had wrought in a field of Mrs Moyer of Leyton about the year 1780 to eradicate the common daffodil which had over-run it. They often left their work there with blistered hands. (These Pamplins for long time were connected with Leyton and Walthamstow as gardeners and nurserymen.)

During the long occupation by Mrs Frances Moyer and her daughter, Catherine, a considerable part of the 60 acres of land that went with the house was let out to a tenant as farm land – the Rate Books say ‘Mrs Moyer and tenant’. The Land Tax book from 1790 onwards tells us that this tenant was Mr Richard James, owner of Forest Farm, in James Lane and he continued this tenancy till his death in 1822. The house must have been quite a large one, being rated in 1785 for 69 windows compared with 76 for Leyton Grange, 80 for Forest House and 98 for the Great House. The assessment for the Land Tax at £80 was almost equal to that of the Grange at £85.

Of Mrs Catherine Moyer, as she was usually called, although unmarried, I find little recorded in the Vestry Minutes, as owing to her sex she was never called upon to serve the parish offices or attend Vestry. Towards the end of her life she made two charitable dispositions. In 1822 she contributed 100 guineas to

the fund for enlarging and reconstructing the parish church, her sister, Lydia Heathcote, giving a like amount, In 1827 she made a gift of £250 to the women of the Almshouse in which the family had always shown great interest. When she died in 1831 her will shows that she had left her property to Lydia's son, John Heathcote, for life and then to his third son, Rev George Heathcote. And so passed away the last of the Leyton family of Moyers after a connection with the old house of nearly two centuries.

John Heathcote, now that his mother and aunt were dead, entered into sole possession of the Leyton estate, which at his death in 1838 came to his son, Rev George Heathcote.

The Rate Book for 1832 says: *House pulled down* (not 1812 as stated by John Kennedy, pp 339), and from this time the estate became rented as farmland until its later development for housing. Part of the outbuildings were altered and made into a farm cottage in which lived Samuel Spencer who is rated for this and 11 acres of lane close to it. This cottage was small being assessed at only £6, and apparently was the building Kennedy refers to as Cashford's Farm (pp 338). Later tenants were: Mrs Spencer (1835), Charles Seymour (1838), Mrs Seymour (1848), Henry Emery (1854) and Mrs Souter (1867, 1873).

The larger area, about 49 acres, was by 1837 rented to Thomas Bent for in that year he appealed to the Leyton Vestry for a reduction in his assessment saying he was rated for 50 acres but really only had 45. The Tithe Map of 1842 gives his acreage as 49. Thomas Bent held it till his death in 1871 when he was buried in Leyton Churchyard with his two wives who had much earlier predeceased him. He was followed by Samuel Bent who, in addition to running the farm carried on a horse-cartage business in Leyton frequently employed on contract work for the Local Board. Samuel Bent brought up from a boy his nephew Samuel Marshall, who later took the name Bent-Marshall. When he was 25 his uncle made over to him the goodwill of the cartage business which by his industry he developed into a highly successful enterprise. His funeral at Leyton Churchyard (9<sup>th</sup> June 1926) was witnessed by one of the largest assemblies that Leyton has ever known at such a function. His grandson, who

has completely rebuilt the old premises, today runs the firm in High Road, Leyton, known as Bent-Marshall's Car Sales and Garage<sup>33</sup>.

This farm was sometimes called Grove Green Farm but more often Bent's Farm and the present Norlington Road was long known as Bent's Lane. The Bents had a small farmhouse close to the sharp bend of Grove Green Road and, when this was pulled down, a large public house was erected close to its site, the present Heathcote Hotel, which keeps alive the name of the last two owners of the estate.

The Rev George Heathcote, M.A. of St John's College, Cambridge, became Rector of Connington, his birthplace (1835), Canon of Ely Cathedral (1868) and Rural Dean (1845-73). He married Catherine Sophia, daughter of Admiral Thomas Sotheby, of High Beech, Essex, in 1839; but in just over a year she had died without issue. It was towards the end of his long life, dying in 1893 aged 82 years, that the estate came on the market for building purposes. The projectors of the new railway, generally known as the Midland, seized the opportunity of running their line on arches right across the Moyer estate and also in securing an area for considerable sidings and goods yard in Hainault Road. As time went on hundreds of small houses and flats went up to meet the never-ending demand until today the whole space has been utilised. That part of Moyer's Lane near the High Road which was very narrow was widened and old trees cut down by the Local Board to form part of Hainault Road. Strange to say, two short roads on the copyhold part of the estate (mentioned at the beginning), Moyer and Leigh Roads are all we have to remind us today of Lawrence Moyer of Leigh.

### **End of Frederick Temple's Monograph**

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<sup>33</sup> Bent-Marshall (Leyton) Limited was wound up in 1976 – *London Gazette*, 5<sup>th</sup> October 1976

## Afterword

The sadly neglected Leyton historian, William Henry Weston, writing in his *The Story of Leyton and Leytonstone* in 1921<sup>34</sup> mentions the old Lamb's Printing Works which stood opposite the entrance to Moyer House. These old premises were known as Holly Cottages, formerly Holy Cottages and appear to have been part of a branch of the Holiwell Convent. Somewhere on that site must lie the Holy Well, now covered in a recent redevelopment for housing. John Kennedy remarks that an old pump was removed in 1872, bearing the date 1697, and as late as 1891, two stones which were thought to mark the entrance to the old convent, were still standing<sup>35</sup>.

In a paper read on his behalf to the Leyton Antiquarian Society in November 1931 Charles Crouch mentioned the existence of these two stones which in his opinion had formed part of the front entrance to Moyer House<sup>36</sup>. This was supported by several old people born in the neighbourhood, and interviewed by Rev Robert Bren, who agreed with this statement. The stones had been found lying in the yard at the back of the Lamb's Printing Works (then 598 High Road). When they were first discovered both were upright, but one had since toppled over.

We know that Hainault Road was widened on the south side in 1897. Therefore it is possible that these stones were moved to the opposite side of the road. Reference to the Jared Hill map clearly shows two entrance pillars leading to Moyer House.

Charles Crouch believed that the stones would be re-erected in the Coronation Gardens by the Borough Council. Several years later there was still no sign of them having been moved. I made enquiries at the time of the renovations to the Coronation Gardens, in 2003, but nothing was forthcoming.

David Ian Chapman

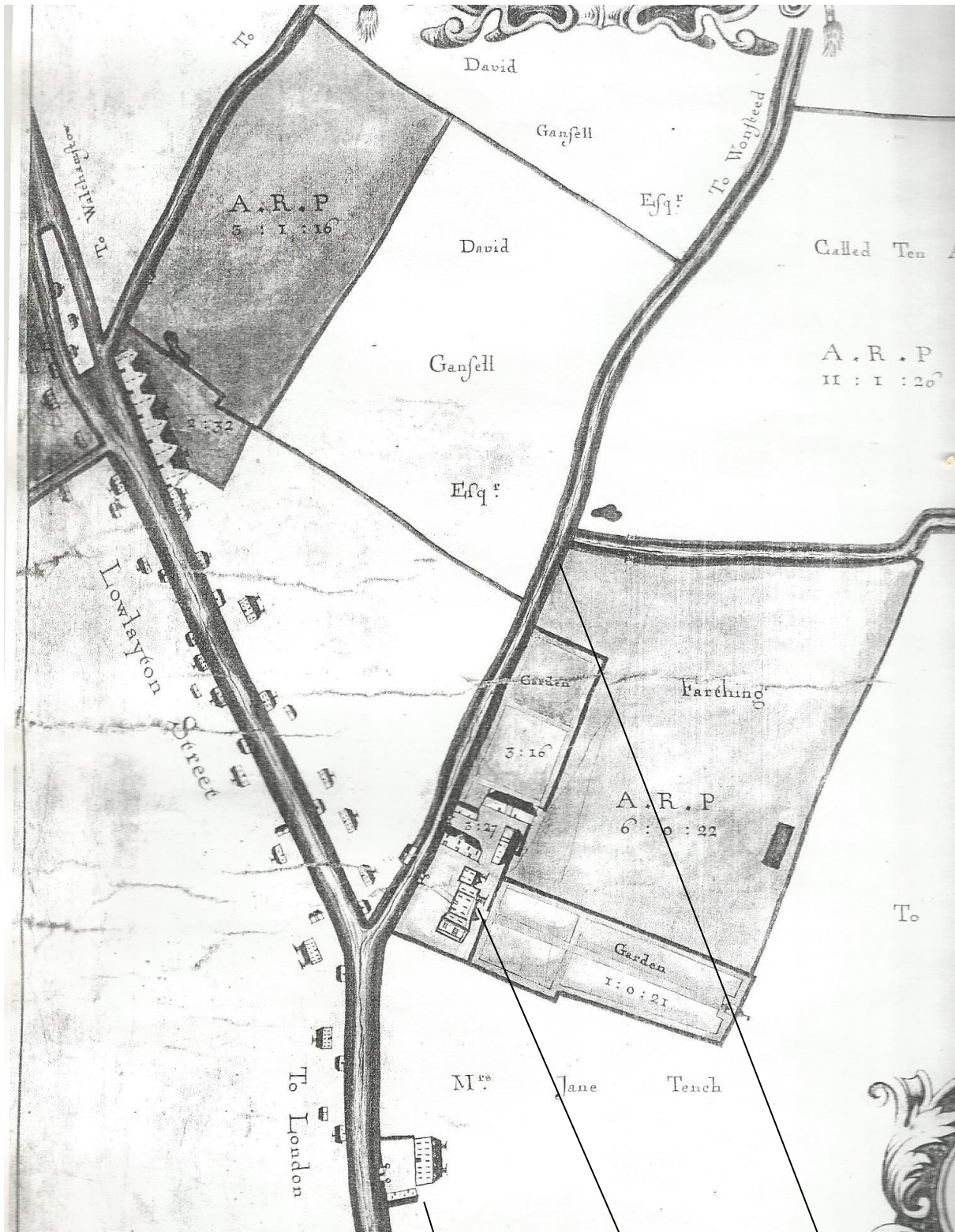
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<sup>34</sup> W H Weston, *The Story of Leyton & Leytonstone*, A Wheaton & Co, Exeter, 1921 pp 95.

<sup>35</sup> John Kennedy, *A History of the Parish of Leyton, Essex*, Phelps Brothers, Leyton, 1894, pp 339.

<sup>36</sup> It was claimed by the Rev Robert Bren that you entered Moyer House from the rear.

# Estate Map by Jared Hill, 1739

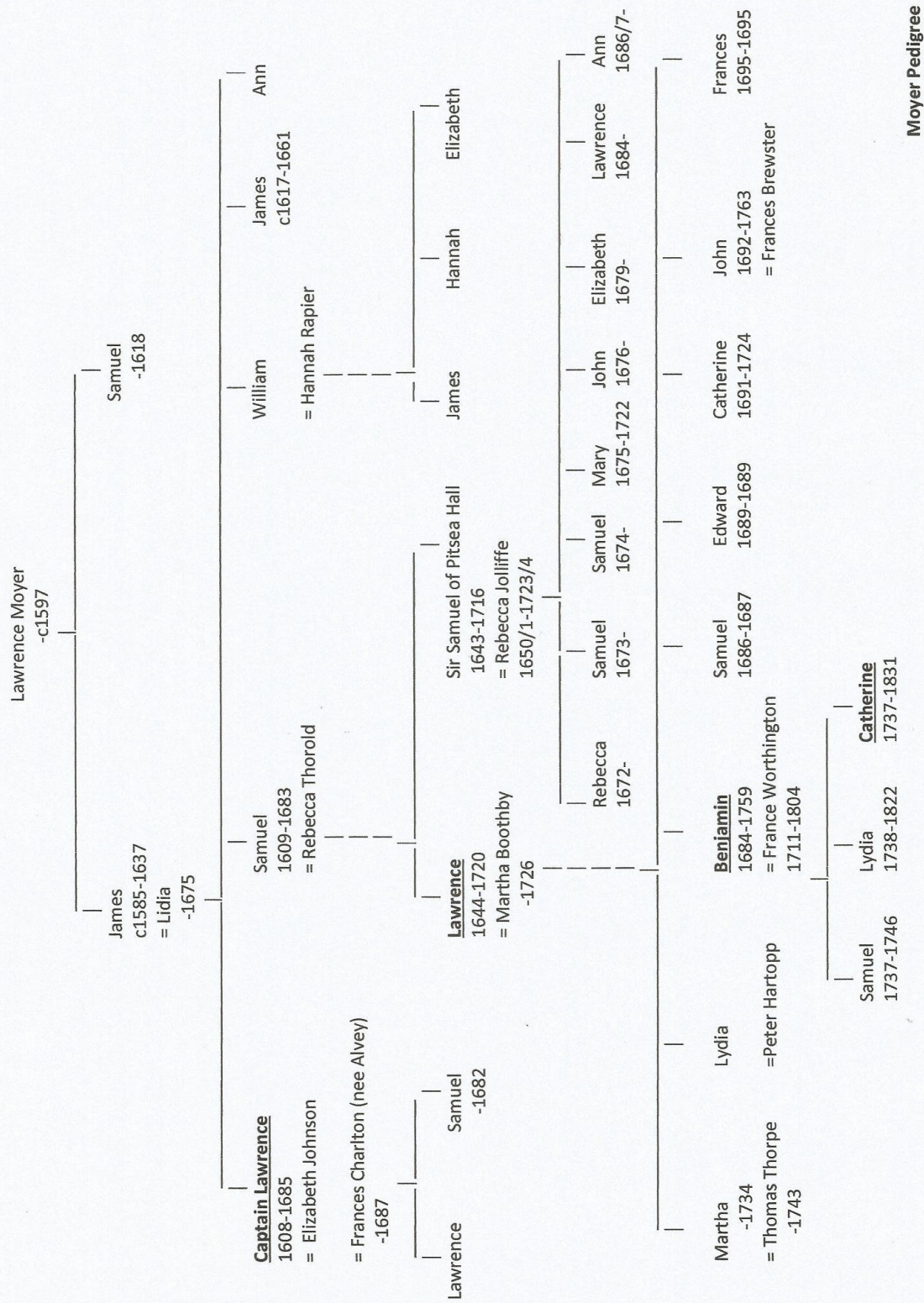


The Great House

Moyer House

Moyers Lane  
Now Hainault Road





Moyer Pedigree



**Baptist Chapel, Hainault Road (site of Moyer House) - DIC**



**Moyers Road - DIC**