

CLAYDON AND MOCKBEGGARS HALL.

BY WM. P. HILLS.

Mockbeggars Hall in Claydon parish, a little more than three miles North by West of Ipswich, is a subject of much interest and a source of many speculations. The name awakes curiosity and the grim Elizabethan aspect of the exterior, with a date, 1621, high on its front gables, has much to keep that curiosity alive.

Despite these attractions little of its history is known.

Much has been written about the name Mockbeggars. Green, in his *Short History of the English People*, has put an end to much guessing on this point. Reproducing an early seventeenth century illustration, from the *Roxburghe Ballad Collection*, called, in the *Ballad Society's* reprint of 1888, "The Map of Mockbegger Hall, with his scituation in the spacious Countrey called Anywhere," he comments:—

"At the close of Elizabeth's reign, and throughout the reign of James I and the early years of Charles, there was much complaining in the rural districts because the nobles and gentry flocked up to London, leaving their country houses empty and neglected, so that where in former times there had been feasting for rich and poor alike, a beggar could not now get a crust of bread. To the houses thus deserted was given the nickname of "Mock-beggar Hall."

A copy of the text of the ballad is reprinted in "The East Anglian or Notes and Queries," New Series, Vol. IV, page 384, with the title "The Map of Mock-begger Hall," and comprising twelve 8-line verses of which the eleventh is pertinent.

Some Gentlemen & Citizens have
 In divers eminent places,
 Erected houses, rich and brave,
 Which stood for the owners' graces,
 Let any poore to such a doore
 Come, they expecting plenty,
 They there may ask till their throats are sore,
 For mock begger hall stands empty.

Green's explanation relieves us from the investigation of some ingenious fables, such, for instance, as the story that Mockbeggars was so called because it was paid for in farthings. It may be inferred that the Claydon Mockbeggars had another name before it was "nicknamed" Mockbeggars.

A more difficult problem is that of the date and letters on the front of the house. Formerly there were five gables on the main front; now only the two end gables remain. At the top of that at the East end are the figures 16 with what appears to be a letter I above them; on the gable at the West end the figures 21 with what is undoubtedly a letter A above them. The letter A is central in the gable, but the I



Engraved by T. Barber from a Drawing by T. H. Pugh for the Excursions through Suffolk.

MOCKBEGGARS HALL

is to the right of the centre as if it once formed the last stroke of an H or N. One writer reading I-A, describes them as the initials of Dr. John Aylmer. He was certainly part owner of Claydon Manor in 1594 but he died in that year. Another, probably noting some irregularity in the I, thinks it might be an S and belong to Samuel Aylmer, who became sole owner of Claydon after his father's death. It is likely that Samuel Aylmer did build Mockbeggars and presumably he owned it in 1621, but the value of the letters as evidence is much discounted by two troublesome facts. One is that in the second volume of the "Excursions through Suffolk," published in 1819, there is an engraving showing the five gables but also showing *W.A.* on the centre one, and no letters on the still remaining East and West gables, although the figures are there shown as they are to-day. The other difficulty is that Mockbeggars was for some time the property of the Acton family and the A would equally stand for Acton if put up at a later date.

The legend of the gables, therefore, must for the present remain an enigma.

It is not yet clear whether the site of Mockbeggars was formerly parcel of Claydon Manor.

It is true that in Kirby's "Suffolk Traveller" (1764 edition) it is stated that the Manor of Claydon Hall was then vested in Nathanael Acton Esq.: also that in the "Excursions through Suffolk" Mockbeggars is described as the property of N.L. Acton Esq. There is, however, no reason for thinking that the acquisitions of the Actons in Claydon were confined to the Manor only. The wills of the Aylmers refer consistently to other lands and tenements in the county of Suffolk as being devised with their manors.

It is interesting to note, in this connection, that Dr. Edward Aylmer, in 1655, describes his manor of Byrches as if it had independent manorial rights. It will be shown that there is little room for doubting that Byrches and Mockbeggars are identical.

A further problem lies in the possibility that Mockbeggars may, at some time or times, have been, in effect, the manor house of Claydon. An article by Mr. R. C. Jaye in the "East Anglian Magazine" of February, 1936, with subsequent comment in the July number, has bearing upon this. It appears that John Ogilby, no mean map-maker, in his "road-map" published in 1675, indicates Mockbeggars and calls it "Claydon Hall." The Ordnance Survey, 1926/7, shows Claydon Hall, "on site of castle," with a moat, South-East of Claydon Church and nearly a mile North-East of Mockbeggars, which is there described as "Old Hall."

In Joseph Hodkinson's map of 1783 Mockbeggars Hall is so described and "Claydon Hall" is shown near the Church on the moated site.

Doubtless the original manor house of Claydon was an early building on the moated site where the later Claydon Hall is now occupied by the owner, Mr. R. Derwent Hawker, who farms the land.

Claydon Hall and Mockbeggars were both farm-houses in 1836. Both were called farms in 1646. It may be that both, in turn, have been occupied by the lord or the steward of Claydon Manor and have, in turn, been known locally as Claydon Hall.

Dr. Edward Aylmer, Samuel's second son, devised his manor of Claydon and his manor of Byrches to his wife Anne with reversion to son Edward at the age of 24, subject to a somewhat uncertain provision that Claydon should remain with his wife for forty years if she should live so long.

Dr. Edward's will was proved in 1656. He was married in 1637, his wife then being 25. In 1669 Anne died and bequeathed "all my estate whatsoever to my sonne Edward Aylmer excepting one hundred pounds." Her will was nuncupative.

Edward, the son, died at Bury St. Edmunds, March 1675/6, having devised his goods, chattells, etc., and "leases together with that lease of the scite of the manor of Newton in the County of Cambridge . . . unto my very loveing kinsman Mr. Brabazon Aylmer of Muglington Hall in the County of Essex." Newton had been assured to Dr. Edward Aylmer by Robert Hills his wife's brother, presumably for money to pay Robert's and another brother's fines to the Committee for Compounding.

There is no mention of Claydon in the younger Edward's will. The manor had before his death become the property of one of the Bacon family. An evidence of this may be noted here.

In the Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, under the date "? 1637" is a reference to a petition by one David Stott regarding an inheritance of £9 per annum "laying at Cloydon Suffolk." This petition was undated, but it could not have been made in 1637. Probably it was found with other papers of that year.

David Stott claimed that the inheritance had been detained from him "these 11 years" by one Brookes, guardian to Alexander Stott, upon pretence of a surrender from petitioner's grandfather. He prays reference to Robert Sparrow, a magistrate of Ipswich, and Edmund Harvey, Counsellor-at-law, to command Mr. Bacon, lord of the manor and Mr. Chapman, the steward, to resolve whether there be any such surrender or no.

Now Mr. Robert Sparrowe, then bailiff, was sworn Justice of the Peace for Ipswich 27th February, 1664. Incidentally a Mr. Harvy paid tax on seven hearths in Claydon in 1674 (but not in 1666).

1673 would be a more likely date for the petition.

With Claydon manor Samuel Aylmer held the adjoining manor of Akenham and at Akenham Hall he lived and died, although he was buried, at night, in the chancel of Claydon Church. He was High Sheriff of Suffolk in 1626. Dr. Edward Aylmer succeeded to both manors and to all his father's properties in the county of Suffolk. He

was fined £1,900 by the Committee for Compounding in 1646. How much he contributed to the King's Cause is a matter for conjecture.

He became bound, on or about 26th February, 1646, to Edward Arris; Barber Surgeon of London; in the sum of £2,000. There was a further similar bond dated 10th February, 1650, for £1,800. Edward Aylmer the younger said in a pleading in January, 1669, "both which obligacōns have been long sithens paid and sattisfied." Edward Arris in reply admits certain payments, but says that Aylmer entered into a further bond for £5,000 on 15th May, 1651, which was not to be enforced if he (Arris) should quietly and peaceably enjoy Akenham manor for the space of thirty years.

Aylmer sues for cancellation or return of bonds: Arris denies that he has them and pleads that he cannot be compelled to cancel or return them till the thirty years have expired (*Aylmer v. Arris*, 1669).

In another suit an agreement dated 12th December, 1650, for the sale of Akenham Manor by Dr. Edward Aylmer to an agent of Edward Arris, for the sum of £4,779 10s. 0d. is recited. (*Aylmer v. Eldred*, 1656).

These Akenham transactions are recorded here to show the complications of the Aylmer finances, which suggest that the name Mockbeggars might well have become appropriate to a house in Claydon in the troubled times during and following upon the Civil War.

Further records of the Aylmer connection with Claydon follow with some regard to chronological sequence.

In 1584-8 Dr. John Aylmer, Bishop of London and formerly tutor to Lady Jane Grey, in conjunction with Samuel Aylmer his son, acquired the manor and lordship of Claydon from Sir Robert Southwell of Woodrising in county Norfolk knt. by deeds of conveyances "bearing date on or about the 26 qu. Elizabeth." (*Aylmer v. Oxborrow*, 1659). Copinger gives the reference "Fine Hil. 30 Eliz." which probably accounts for the generally accepted statement that the Aylmer acquisition was in 1588.

In 1594 Dr. John Aylmer made his will, and therein refers "to landes purchased . . . either as jointe purchaser with my said son Samuel or by my selfe alone." Dr. John had previously settled most of his properties by an "indenture octopartite" under which Samuel became sole possessor of Claydon and Akenham.

In 1594, by indenture 20th May 36 Eliz. Samuel Aylmer acquired a title to the manor of Knight-Thorpe als. Booth-Thorpe, County Leicester, from the Earl of Huntingdon, who at some time granted an annuity of 100 marks out of the manor to Francis Lord Hastings and to Lady Sara his wife, afterwards wife of Edward Lord Zouche.

The Earl was "indetted unto or late sováigne Lady Queen Elizabeth in sundry great sumes of money." After his death (Inquisition Oct. 38 Eliz.) this manor, with others, was seized by Elizabeth for payment of the debt. Elizabeth granted the manor to Lady Hastings who, in

turn, reconveyed it to Samuel Aylmer, reserving the annuity of 100 marks. Samuel, in 1608, "did grant bargain & sell" his interest to one Henry Skipwith, of county Leicester, and prolonged litigation followed as to the payment of the annuity and certain extent rents.

Claydon Manor became involved thereby as will be explained. (Aylmer v. Skipwith, 1615).

In 1599, John Holland, of Cleydon, county Suffolk, gent. states that "ffyve or six years past and dyvers times since" he was requested by Samuel Aylmer to keep the Courts and Leetes of his Suffolk manors and to survey them. Aylmer said that Holland, "principally desiring yt same office in respect of ye credit he should get thereby . . . demanded not any other recompense." Holland, however, wanted more than Aylmer paid him, and withheld certain writings. Aylmer sued for their return. Of the surveys Holland says that Aylmer "hath by the same platts of late tyme taken "his dyrecōn and instructōn for the lettīng . . . a great quantity of the demeanes of the manor of Claydon aforesaid wch are lately come into his hands by reason of some auncyent lease or leases therein determ . . . lyke leases yet unexpired . . . to his greate bnefyte & p'ffit." (Aylmer v. Holland, 1599).

This seems to foreshadow the building of Mockbeggars.

Further sidelights on this early development of Claydon are revealed in the course of an action brought by Anne Aylmer in 1659 against Mary Oxborrow, Mary being executrix of Stephen Downeinge who was Robert Levell's daughter's son.

It was asserted that Robert Levell, husbandman of Whitton, had secured from "Thomas" Southwell, before the purchase by the Aylmers, the lease of a close called Doussehouse [Dovehouse], containing by estimation three score acres more or less, for the term of the lives of himself, his wife and his daughter's son, at the rent of £6 13s. 4d. per annum, and on condition that he built thereon a good and sufficient dwelling house within three score years.

Anne sued for possession and Mary alleged a 99 years lease.

The dwelling house was built, and was valued at £30 and upwards per annum by Anne, and at £28 by Mary.

Incidentally records of another property are given, and as two accounts are at variance both are appended.

In Anne Aylmer's complaint it is stated:—

The sd. Downeinge . . . not having . . . any other right title or interest . . . and the rather that the sd. Sr. Robert [Southwell] beinge a person of knowne and full integrity did upon his sd. sale to the Bishop of London & his sonne declare & manifest in a Deed wrightinge ready to be p'duced that the said manor etc . . . were then free and shd. continewe to the sd. purchasers and their heires free and cleare from all leases, claimes etc. except one lease made by him to Robert Scott of certaine lands (by estm. 130 acres) and p'misses containing 3 score & 8 acres etc. at the yearly rent of 16£ and one other lease made by him to Robert Levell . . . and fower sev'all other leases to sev'll other persons.

The other version is contained in a statement by Thos. Edgar who was Anne's counsel in another suit in 1656, and who (or another of his name—"of Gray's Inn, Esq.") was steward of Claydon Manor in 1627. His version is otherwise similar to that in Anne's complaint but reads:—

... free and clear from leases claymes & right except one lease made by him to Robert Scott of certaine lands containing by estm. 130 acres . . . 20 years from the feast of St. Michael the Archangell. then last past at and under ye yearly rent of 16 Li one other lease to Mr. Robt. Levell of one mess. & premisses with a cottage and certeyn lands cont'g 68 acres and half a roodd of land and pasture . . . during the lives etc. etc. and under ye rent of £6 13 4 and 4 several other leases.

Edgar's account is the more intelligible one and according to it the lease of 130 acres would expire in or about 1604.

Between the last day of January, 1615, and a date after the death of Samuel Aylmer in 1635, but before the death of Thomas Lord Coventry in January, 1639-40, a dispute was maintained between the Aylmers and Henry Skipwith about the payment of the annuity to Lady Sara Hastings, and the extent rents previously referred to.

The records are imperfect, but the story is sufficiently revealed. Claydon is concerned in this way:—

By an indenture dated 6th April 9 Jas. I. Samuel Aylmer mortgaged to Henry Skipwith, as a security for the payment of annuity and extent rents, certain parcels of his manors of Akenham and Claydon—"so muche of the sayd two entyer manors as should amount unto the clere yearly value of one hundred pounds."

The several parcels charged are variously described in the pleadings as follows:—

Breeches Porters wales Hal maple and Winnesham fields [Aylmer's complaint 1615].

Hal maples Breeches Witnessham feilds and Porters Walles [Skipwith's answer].

Breeches Hall maples Witnesham feildes and Porters Walles [Answer of Walter Royle 1633].

breeches hall maples Wytnesham feildes and Porters Walles [Edward Aylmer's complaint 1635-40].

Upper Porters and Lower Porters, 38 acres of arable in all, were part of the Claydon Hall farm, occupied by Jonathan Seaman in 1837. (Tithe commutation). Witnessham fields would only have arable or pasture value. The rest of the £100 yearly value was contained in a property called Breeches, and in another called Hall Maples.

It will be seen that Breeches, or Byrches, was worth £70 a year in 1646. In absence of evidence of a considerable property called Hall Maples the inference is that Byrches was built by or before 1611.

In 1646 Dr. Edward Aylmer was before the Committee for Compounding as already stated. The accounts of his estate at that time are interesting enough to be quoted at length.

Edward Aylmer's statement :—

A true p'ticuler of the Estate reall and p'sonall of Mr. Edward Aylmer of Akenham in the County of Suffolk vizt.

Impr. he is seized of an Estate Taile to him & his heirs males of & in ye Mannor of Akenham hall lying in Akenham aforesaid of the yearly value before these troubles at a rack rent	}	£190.	00.	00.	
Item he is seized of a Farme lying & being in Akenhā aforesaid of ye yearly value before these troubles at rack rent		024.	13.	04.	
Item Rents of Assize in Akenham Claydon, Hemington & other Townes adjacent to ye yearly value of	}	012.	00.	00.	
Item he is seized of a like Estate Tayle to him & his heirs males of and in ye Mannor of Claydon hall lying in Claydon aforesaid at ye yearly value before these troubles at rack rent		110.	00.	00.	
He is also seized of a Farm lying and being in Claydon called Birches of ye yearly value before these troubles at rack rent	}	070.	00.	00.	
He is likewise seized of a Smith's shopp lying & being in Claydon aforesaid of ye yearly rent of		004.	00.	00.	
Item he is seized of a Taverne called ye Falkon with its appurtenances lying & being in Claydon aforesaid of the yearly value before these troubles	}	027.	00.	00.	
He is also seized of ye moyety of a Mill lying & being in Claydon aforesaid wch hath not yeilded any rent for these 7 or 8 years being in great decay formerly lett at ye yearly rent of		004.	00.	00.	
Item he is seized of a Farme lying in Claydon aforesaid at ye yearly rent of	}	006.	13.	04.	
		Sum total	448.	06.	08.

He hath no p'sonall estate.

Out of wch he cräveth allowance of those p'ticulers following vizt.

First an annuity charged upon his whole lands aforementioned of 100£ pr. ann. unto his brother Anthony Aylmer as by ye last will & Testament of yr pet's father appeareth	}	100£	p. ann.	
Also one other annuity of C marc' p. ann. granted by his said father's last will & Testmt unto Alice Aylmer, sister to yr petr. and to her heirs & assignes to issue out of all ye aforesaid lands with this Provisoe that if this petr. should pay the sume of a thousand Marc' unto ye sd Alice her heirs or assignes within 2 years next after ye decease of yr petr. said father then ye said annuity to determine. For accomplishmt of wch sd sum' of a m' marc' yr petr. was constrayned to take up ye same upon bond for wch he yet stands engaged besides ye use thereof for V years or thereabouts. All wch amounts unto			L s. d.	
		1092.	13.	04.
As also 13. 6. 8. wch is for halfe a year's Annuity behynde and unpayd of a certain annuity of 26. 13. 4. granted by the petr's. father by his last will unto Sir John Aylmer his brother to issue out of ye lands aforesaid since ye decease of wch Sr. John Aylmer ye executor of ye sd. Sr. John claymeth ye sd halfe year's Annuity & saying he will come on ye land for		0013.	06.	08.
		1106.	00.	00.

And that consideration may be had for his

	debts following vizt.	£
pr. bonds.	To Mrs. Aylmer of Boreham in Essex. widd.	50
	& use of same for 6 months	02
	To John Webb of London, gent.	50
	& use for 4 years	16
	To Mr. John Acton of Lond. gent.	90
	To Mr. Dickson of Ipswich. Scrivenr.	50
	To Mr. Toby Aylmer of London, gent.	20
	more due to him	10
	To Mrs. Cooe of Boreham aforesaid	10
	To Lionell Allum of Ipswich	10
		<hr/>
		308
	He hath of his woods cutt down since these troubles worth	£300
		<hr/>
		608

This is a true p'ticular of all my estate reall and p'sonall for wch I only desire to compound to free it out of sequestration & doe submitt unto and undertake to satisfie such fine as by this Committee for Composicōns with Delinquents shalbe imposed & sett to pay ye same in order to ye freedome and discharge of my p'son & estate.

EDWARD AYLMER.

The Committee's Summary :

A p'ticular of the Estate reall & p'sonall of Mr. Edward Aylmer of Akenham in the County of Suff.

Akenham,

Inprimis Abraham Denney his farme	pr. ann.	190.	00.	00.
The rents of assize		012.	00.	00.
Item pinner his farme	pr. ann.	024.	13.	04.

Claydon.

Item Robt. More his farme	pr. ann.	110.	00.	00.
Item Robt. May his farme	pr. ann.	006.	13.	04.
Item Birchers farme	pr. ann.	070.	00.	00.
Item The Smith's Shoppe	pr. ann.	004.	00.	00.
Item The falcken	pr. ann.	027.	00.	00.
The moyety of a mill.				
noo rent payd in our tyme but reparations		004.	00.	00.

Out of which Estate is issueinge as a Rent charge

To Mr. Anthony Aylemer	pr. ann.	100.	00.	00.
And Mr. Aylemer affirme that there is an anewity to Sr. John Aylemer p. ann. of		026.	13.	04.
or the wine license of the Taverne		001.	00.	00.
To Mr. Gosnall	pr. ann.	000.	10.	00.

W. Heveningham.

W. Bloys.

Thos. Blossie.

Ro. Dunkon.

S. John Base
Solicitor.

Dr. Edward Aylmer was buried at Claydon 1st February, 1655. Ann his daughter was buried there twenty days after, and Samuel and Thomas his sons both in the July following. Mirabella Garrard, the sister of his widow Anne, who had lived with the Aylmers and was married at Claydon, was also buried there on the 1st of August next ensuing.

Anne Aylmer's mother and her step-father, Dr. Thomas Willson, had previously died within two days of each other while visiting her in 1652. Three, if not four, of her brothers had been dispossessed for their loyalty. Anne herself paid hearth tax for one hearth only at Claydon in 1663 and in 1666. She died in 1669 in the parish of St. Paul, Covent Garden, after having lived for a short time at Bury St. Edmunds where her son Edward had settled.

Small wonder that Anne could not hold Claydon, and that records of its passing have remained so long in obscurity.

After the devising of Claydon Manor, with "all the Demesne land rente service and perquesites of Courte Leete viewe of ffrancke pledge and all other previliges," etc., etc., Dr. Edward's will reads as follows:—

Also I give and bequeath to my said wife my Mannor of Byrches and all the Demesne lands Rente service Court and purquesites of Courte and all other previledges Libertyes ffranchises and immunities any wayes parcell of incident to or belonging to the same mannour and all other my lands Tenements and hereditaments whatsoever and wheresoever in the County of Suff. not herein formerly devised to hold to and for the use and benefitt of my said wife untill such tyme as the said Edward my eldest sonne shall attain his age of twenty and fower years. The imediate Reversion or Estate thereof afterwards I give to my said eldest sonne and his heires.

In 1657 the first legal evidence appears of the impending loss of Claydon by the Aylmers in a fine recorded with the Feet of Fines, Suffolk, in the Easter term of that year.

This is the final agreement made in the Court of the Comōn Bench at Westmr. from Easter day one month in the yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty seven before Oliver St. John, Edward Atkyns, Mathew Hall and Hugh Wyndham, Justices, & others then & there p'sent Between Robert Hill gent. & William Collett clerke plts. and Anne Aylmer widdow & Edward Aylmer gent. Deforcts. of the Mannors of Claydon and Burches with the appurtennecs & of nyne messuages one cottage nyne gardens six orchards five hundred & nynty acres of Land forty acres of meadow one hundred and ten acres of pasture & six pounds Rent with the appurtennecs in Claydon Akenham Whitton with Thurlston Blakenham upon the water Bramford Barham & Hemingston. And also of the advowson of the church of Claydon

The said Robert & William have given to the aforesd. Anne & Edward three hundred and twenty pounds sterling.

This agreement was duly proclaimed "according to the forme of the statute," in Easter, Trinity, Michaelmas and Hilary terms, all in 1657. Apparently however it lapsed or by some means was set aside, for there are two later fines showing the Aylmers still in legal possession of Byrches in 1662, and of Claydon in 1668.

To take first the last mentioned fine, which is imperfect, Claydon Manor was in Hilary term, 1668, quit claimed by Edward Aylmer and Anne Aylmer, widow, to "Cristoferum Milton armigerum" (and heirs) and "Thomam . . ." for the sum of four hundred and sixty pounds sterling. A Christopher Milton had nine hearths in Ipswich in 1674.

The 1662 transaction has particular interest in view of the association of Byrches with Mockbeggars. It is a Michaelmas term fine under which "Edwardum Aylmer generosum & Annam Aylmer, viduam" quit claimed the manor of "Burches" with six messuages, two cottages, six gardens, four orchards, one hundred and forty acres of land, twenty acres of meadow and thirty acres of pasture in "Claydon, Whitton-cum-Thurlston, Blakenham super acquam & Bramford" to "Edwardum Keene generosum & William Collett clicus" for the sum of two hundred and sixty pounds sterling.

An Edward Keene had six hearths in Ipswich in 1674 and Edward Keen, son of Edward, of Ipswich, gent., was admitted sizar at Jesus College in March, 1670/1. William Collett was at school in Ipswich (Venn's Alumni Cantabrigiensis).

It is obvious that there would be a strong case for assuming that Mockbeggars was formerly called Byrches or Burches if no other evidence were available. The coincidences of situation and extent alone would warrant the assumption. Fortunately there is later corroboration.

The Hon. Jasper N. Ridley, O.B.E., who at present owns and lives at Mockbeggars has very courteously permitted a perusal of his title deeds, and the evidences which follow are gleanings therefrom.

The title to the holding of Mockbeggars descends from two quite distinct sources. This is illustrated by the fact that when the property changed hands by deed of gift in 1883 two separate deeds were drawn. One is in respect of "the messuage or tenement, etc., etc., containing by a survey sometime since made 158 acres 1 rood 18 perches formerly called or known by the name of Mockbeggars Hall but now called or known by the name of Old Hall."

The other deed relates to that portion of the estate which is in Bramford parish: "All those two closes of land formerly one piece called or known by the name of Kingsfield and now distinguished by the names of Braky Field and Further Bolton and containing together by estimation 21 ac. 2 ro. 37 perches."

The survey above referred to was evidently that made for the sale of "Mock Beggars Hall" by auction in Ipswich in May, 1836, when the same acreage was given, the details showing that the Bramford portion was not then included. This sale is recorded by Copinger in his *Manors of Suffolk*.

In the catalogue "Outgoings" are given, as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Land Tax to Claydon ..	7	16	0
Ditto to Whitton ..	3	8	0
Free rent Lovetofts Manor		2	0
	<hr/>		
	£11	6	0
	<hr/>		

The title to the larger portion comes from the will of William Acton of Bramford made 3rd May, 1742, and proved by Nathanael Acton 5th March, 1743.

The documents supporting the title to the Bramford portion are of much interest and begin with a declaration "to all Xtian people," by the Rt. Hon. Thomas Wentworth, Knight, that by Indenture bearing date the last day of October 12 James 1st he "did grant bargain and sell" to Thomas Lewes of Akenham, yeoman, the close of 22 acres in Bramford known as Kingsfield.

A very much later document, however, has special interest at the moment. It appears that Kingsfield was a parcel of the Manor of Lovetofts in Bramford and that the free rent of two shillings per annum was a charge on the whole of Mockbeggars in respect of Kingsfield.

It remained a charge until February 3rd, 1902, when it was redeemed, the then Lord of the Manor of Lovetofts, in the terms of the enfranchisement, releasing all that free rent of two shillings issuing out of certain lands called Burches in Claydon in the County of Suffolk, and all other Free Rents (if any others) payable to the lord of the said manor and issuing out of the said lands.

Thus the records of Lovetofts Manor preserve the name Burches which appears to have been forgotten in Claydon for very many years past.

Here the sorrows of Claydon, and the problems of Mockbeggars are left pending further enlightenment.

Since the going of the Aylmers the enquiry becomes more strictly a local one. Doubtless in Ipswich archives much of the later history of Mockbeggars and of Claydon Hall is discoverable.

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