

GB 2158 Leathersellers

Leathersellers Company

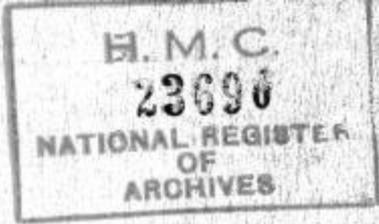
This catalogue was digitised by The National Archives as part of the National Register of Archives digitisation project

NRA 23690



The National Archives

JUN 1980



LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM LIBRARY SERVICE
ARCHIVES AND LOCAL HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Leathersellers' Company Records

Notes on records relating to Lewisham among the archives of the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers, 15 St. Helens Place, London EC3. (tel. 588 4615)

Examined 31 May and 7 June 1979

Note: The bay and shelf numbers were assigned by counting from left to right round the muniment room and are not marked on the shelves.

A Papers relating to Rev. Abraham Colfe

1. "Colfe MSS 1614. L.Co. 1834". Folio vol. bound in red leather, consisting 17thc. papers guarded or stuck to sheets. Some papers fragile, some unskillfully repaired, the whole in need of skilled conservation. Contents [pencilled numbers on each item]:
 - (1) Accounts of monies received from freeholders and expended "about our ground at Westwood" April 1614 - June 1615. "A note of that which hath bene given to the suite for the common of Westwood" - names and sums. 11pp. in all.
 - (2) "A sease... towards the payment of one hundred pounds laid out more than hath bene gathered about the suit for the Common of Westwood in Lewisham" 9 July 1616. 7pp.
 - (3) Note of moneys laid out by Thomas Coomes. 1p.
 - (4) Account of monies laid out "about ye defense of Westwood at and after ye tryall had therupon in mechaellmas terme A^o xii mo. R. Jacobi" 4pp.
 - (5) Further list of sums given, including £70 from Mayor and Commonality of London. 2pp.
 - (6-7) "The order of the plea before the Barons of the Exchequer on the 14th October 1614 touching the common of Westwood of 500 acres of ground lying in the parish of Lewisham". Arguments for its being common land. 2 copies, 1p. each plus 1 endorsement.
 - (8-9) "A copy of the proofes which we can shew for the common in Westwood". 2 copies, 1p. each.
 - (10) List of "Some of the Jewrymen as the second tryall... crossed". [The next two items appear in the order given].
 - (12) Draft petition of the "poore inhabitants of Lewisham". 1p.
 - (11) Petition of Robert Rayne, Innocent Lanyere and Henrie Newport. 2pp.
 - (13) Petition of his Majesty's "poore tenantes the Inhabitanes of Lewisham". 1p.

- (14) Petition of the inhabitants of Lewisham upon the 31 of March concerning a riot on 2 Mar. 2pp.
- (15) Petition of "poore inhabitantes and tenants of Lewisham" to Privy Council. Endorsed: draft of further petition. 2pp.
- (16) Petition of "distressed" inhabitants and tenants to Privy Council. 2pp.
- (17) Petition of "poor" inhabitants and tenants to King. 1p.
- (18) Petition of King's tenants of Lewisham to Earl of Suffolk, Lord High Treasurer. 1p.
- (19) Draft petition to Sir Fulke Grevill, Chancellor of the Exchequer. 1p.
- (20) Petition of poor inhabitants to Lord Chief Baron and rest of Barons of Exchequer. With signatures and marks of Petitioners. 1p.
- (21) Petition of poor distressed inhabitants to Privy Council. With signatures and marks. 2pp.
- (22) Description of an attack by one Southwell alias Thomas Foxe on Charles Parker of Lewisham on 20 April - .
- (23) Description of an attack by Anthony Witherings on Thomas Coomes and Henry Hunt of Lewisham while they waited to present their suit to the Privy Council at the Royal Court at the Royal Court at Greenwich. 11 June.
- (24) Description of an attack by Henry Benden, Mr. Henry Newport's son and a brother of Mr. Robert Raynes on Thomas Muscrop of Beknam and Edward Caustin after they had broken through the new hedges into Westwood in search of sheep. 1p. with account of numbers of sheep lost on small slip of paper.
- (25) Opinion of Peter Phesaunt concerning ability of William Carter to assure tenements in Lewisham by fine and recovery. 14 Feb. 1633/4 1p.
- (26) Receipt from J. Parker to Mr. Lockyer for various papers concerning the Westwood suite, including "A strange Rental of the Lordship of Lewisham". 11 July 1755. 1p.

Loose at front of vol: Summons to Elizabeth Colfe alias Man, widow, sister of Abraham Colfe, Ann Judson and Elizabeth Farmer his neices, and all interested parties, to attend the Court of Probate to hear proceedings on Colfe's will. 25 May 1658. 1p. With second copy omitting reference to Elizabeth Farmer. 19 June 1658. Housed in Box "5 Sundry Bound Books".

2. In box "11" labelled "Colfe — Miscellaneous Documents":

(a) Envelope marked "Westwood Common", containing:

- (i) "Note of sundry... that were seased last to the suit of Westwood, but... not." With brief memorandum on history of the dispute [in Colfe's hand(?), c.1614-15?] 3pp. in poor condition.
- (ii) Draft petitions to Earl of Somerset, Lord High Chamberlain, and Archbishop of Canterbury, one of the Priory Council 2pp.
- (iii) Memorandum [by Colfe?] concerning further hindrance to inhabitants' common rights despite interim injunctions from courts. "My answer to Bendens accusation 27 June 1615". 1p.
- (iv) Order of Court of Exchequer for a trial concerning Westwood. 13 May 49 (Scot.) Jas I. [1616]. Parchment, badly damaged, lacking seal.
- (v) Exemplification of verdict in Attorney Gen. V. Eaton. 14 Jas I [1616-17]. Parchment, badly damaged, fragment of seal.

(b) Envelope containing:

- (i) Induction of Abraham Colfe to vicarage of Lewisham 1619.
- (ii) Lease by Colfe of his Lewisham tithes ("Lewisham Vicarage") 1644.

(c) Envelope containing deeds and papers re Colfe family lands at Ashford.

(d) Envelope containing deeds and papers re Richard (?) Tollesbury's lands at Sydenham, including a decree declaring the manor of Sydenham to be gavelkind and list of assize rents from manor of Bellingham. Early 17th c.

(e) Envelope containing papers re tanner's business involving Richard Valentine, Jasper Valentine and John Smith, at Southend, Lewisham: partnership agreements, apprenticeship indentures etc. c.1621.

3. Draft (?) declaration by inhabitants of Lewisham as to character of Rev. A. Colfe. With 19th c. note that this is Colfe's hand! Framed ms. 17th c. loose on top of picture cabinet.

4. Rolled in tin cases, bay 10, shelf 4:

- (a) original probate copy of Colfe's will. 1657.
- (b) Act of Parliament for settling charitable giftes of Abraham Colfe and for erecting and endowing two free schools and an almshouse at Lewisham. Both parchment, somewhat brittle.

5. In first unnumbered box, bay 5, shelf 3:

- (a) Ms. copy of Colfe's will and extracts from same [18-19th c.]
- (b) Colfe's Library: short title catalogue supplementary to W.H. Black's 'Bibliothecae Colfanae Catalogus'. Typescript 1943.

B Estate Records

1. Plan and "Terrar" of lands belonging to Leathersellers Co. in parish of Lewisham and manor of Sydenham. 1723. Parchment, framed and glazed. Stored in large picture cabinet, 3rd bay from wall.
2. Copy of above plan (1836?). Rolled in metal case, bay 10, shelf 4.
3. "Survey of Co's Estates", including lands given by Colfe etc. and listing details of benefactions. Written survey no plans. 1753. Bound Vol. in box "5".
4. Survey and plans of Company's estates in Kent, Middlesex and Herts by John Willock 1793, including:
 - (a) premises at "Piggs - Hill", adjoining Sydenham Common.
 - (b) farm at Perry Street.
 - (c) 3 fields called Riddlesdown at Sydenham.
 - (d) messuage and lands at Perry Street.
 - (e) 2 fields near Perry Street.
 - (f) 3 Fields etc. at Perry Street.
 - (g) Land called "Woolhawes", adjoining Green Street Lane, Lewisham.
 - (h) 3 fields called Great Ozey Lands, adjoining "Sandy Hurst Lane", Lewisham.
 - (i) 3 meadows called Long Meadows and Rushey Mead, adjoining Pool River, Sydenham.
 - (j) almshouses and other premises in Lewisham High Street.
 - (k) free Grammar School.
Bound vol. in box "0".
5. Large vol. of "Plans of Estates belonging to the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers... and to Various Trusts under their Management". Andrew Wilson, Surveyor 1871. Includes:
 - p.4 Key plan to properties in Lewisham
 - p.5 Properties in Peak Hill, Peakhill Road and Kirkdale (tracing showing division of the property interleaved).
 - P.6-7 Large scale plans from leases of above properties (including engine house and well on Peak Hill, opposite end of Peakhill Road).
 - p.8 Property at Gulls Grove, Perry Vale, with detailed lease plans.

5. p.9 Plan of properties at Perry Hill, adjoining Perry Hill, Perry Vale, Clerks Lane, Bell Green, Southend Lane, and Mid-Kent Railway. (Field names given).
 - p.10 Meadow land at Perry Hill called the Long Mead, adjoining Ravensbourne and Pool rivers.
 - p.11 Properties at Perry Hill and Forest Hill (Stanstead Road, Kemble Road, Loxton Road, Cranston Road).
 - p.12 Lease plans of properties abutting on road from Perry Hill to Lewisham.
facing p.13. Tracing of plan of Colfe's School showing drains, 1899-1900.
 - p.13 Properties at Lewisham Hill (including Colfe's School) and Lewisham Road High Street (including Almshouses).
 - p.14 Lease plans of properties abutting on Lewisham Road High Street, including Grove Place.
 - p.15 Lease plans of Colfe's Villas, Lewisham Hill.
Loose at rear:
 - (a) Printed copy of "Reference Plan to the Lewisham enclosure Award 1819". Attested by Deputy Clerk of Peace for Kent, 1851.
 - (b) Plan of Peak Hill and Kirkdale properties 1851.
 - (c) Sale plan of "The Retreat", formerly the property of Mr. Baxter, and other properties including Park Road Cottage and Camden House in Sydenham Park, and Albert Cottage Kirkdale, all in Upper Sydenham. With bird's eye view of grounds of "The Retreat". Printed 1865.
 - (d) Ms. plan of Sydenham Common by E. Lance, Rushey Green. 1813.
 - (e) Plan of Peak Hill properties with names of tenants. Printed 1844.
6. On bay 10, shelf 4:
 - (a) O.S. maps of Sydenham and Forest Hill showing Leathersellers' estates in 1863, 1894.
 - (b) O.S. map of Lewisham showing Leathersellers' estates: Colfe's almshouses and Grammar School etc. 1894.
 7. "Estate Book and Schedule of Title Deeds". 2 vols., second in use to c.1962. Gives description and origins of each property and lists relevant deeds and leases. 2 vols shelved next to box "0". Lewisham sections include:
 - (a) Sydenham deeds 1359-1651 (pp.79-88)
 - (b) Lewisham deeds (Colfe's endowments) 1495-1655 (pp.115-125,129).

8. Current Estate Book, stored in Clerk's office. Arranged as last item but with less detailed descriptions of properties. Local references:

- P.86 Lands at Sydenham called (1) Half Acre Piece, (2) Hawkes Cottage (3) River Mead (4) and (5) pieces of land at rear of Fir Hill Lodge (6) piece of ground at Perry Hill, 1864. (box 2)
- p.87 3 level crossings over Mid Kent Railway at Bell Green, Lower Sydenham, 1853-6. (box 6)
- p.88-97 Lands at Sydenham known as Hawkes Meadow, Annables and Tanners, Brongers, Perry Hill Farm, Priests Fields, Swallands, Gulls Grove, Peak Hill, Perry Hill Cottages, land around Fir Hill Lodge, Tomlins Croft (part) 1359-1651 (box 20)
- p.101 Piece of land at Sydenham next Tomlins Croft, purchased 1884. 1803-84. (box 6)
- p.102 2 roods adjoining Tomlins Croft, purchased 1898. 1898 (box 6)
- p.103-104 Nos. 198-228 (even) Perry Rise and houses in Adamsrill Road and Champion Park erected on Tomlins Croft and land adjoining. 1886-1964. (box 6)
- P.106-107 1 - 23 Peak Hill. 1884-8. (box 6, "disposed of")
- p.108-110 2 - 18 (even) and 1 - 19 (odd) Kinver Road North and 2 - 14 (even) and 1 - 13 (odd) Kinver Road South. 1886-1965. (box 6, majority "disposed of")
- p.111 Lands at Sydenham known as Clare Lodge, Swanley Cottage, Pease Croft and Pear Tree Croft, and Perry Hill Farm House. 1611-34. (box 6). The 1723 plan and "terrar" noted above, and the 19thc. copy, are also listed here.
- p.112 Tithe Rent Charge on lands in Lewisham. 1905-14 (box 6)
- p.114-118 Colfe's Educational Foundation (beginning with Colfe's will). 1659-1977. (box 12)
- p.119-127 Lands bequeathed by Rev. Abraham Colfe, described as:
"parcel of waste ground now enclosed containing two acres and edifices builded and yet further to be builded upon it for a Grammar School and dwelling house for the Schoolmaster and Usher etc... on the side of the Hill ascending from Lewisham to the Common of Blackheath, abutting east upon a field called Conneyberry Field, on the west upon the high road way, on the north on Blackheath and on a field full of springs adjoining the Conneyberry Field, and on the south east upon lands and a tenement belonging to the Bridge House. Acquired from Raynold Grahme, Lord of the Manor of Lewisham". The deeds listed on pp.120-127 in fact concern nos. 10-28 Lewisham Hill (formerly 1-10 Colfe Villas), described as "disposed of".

8. p.128-9 Land and buildings in Granville Park used as All Saints Orphanage. 1888-1929. (box 12, "disposed of").
- p.130 No.80 Granville Park and land adjoining, purchased 1928. 1859-1938. (box 12, "disposed of").
- p.131 No.84 Granville Park. 1891-1929. (box 12, "disposed of")
- p.132-3 No.15 Waterland Road. 1856-1948. (box 12, "disposed of")
- p.134-6 Field called Woolhouses in Woolstone Road, Forest Hill. 13-19 Woolstone Villas and 19-112 (even) Woolstone Road. 126-114 Woolhawes Road. 1923-1954. (box 12, "disposed of")
(pp.137-148 headed "Colfe's Bequest")
- p.137-143 House, yard, orchard, meadow etc. (1 rood 8 perches), abutting east on High Road, west on Lordship meadows, 1515-1651. (box 21, pp.115-123 in earlier Estate Book).
- p.144 Field called Wool-Hawes (4 acres 1 rood) in manor of Sydenham, abutting on Greenstead alias Green Street lands. 1495-1632. (box 21, p.125 in earlier Estate Book).
- p.145 Great Ozey Lands with 6 acres more lately "Shaws" now grubbed up (22 acres) in all, abutting on Half-Years (Lammas) ground west and Staryhurst Lane north. 1641-55. (box 21, p.126 in earlier Book).
- p.146 3 pasture fields (16½ acres) called Riddles Downs alias Randles Downs, parcel of Sydenham manor. 1626-1920 (sale) (box 21).
- p.147 Long Meadow (11 acres). 1630/1-1634/5. (box 21)
- p.148 Lands at Edmonton bequeathed to Company by Colfe. (box 21)
- p.173 Long Meadows. 1922-1962. (box 9)
- p.174-5 Kirkdale and Peak Hill. 1904-6 (box 9, "disposed of")

Note: Numbers of title deeds and expired leases survive in the muniment room. They seem to be no longer boxed, but stacked on the upper shelves. Many have been damaged by damp. They were not examined in detail. The medieval deeds are still in a deed box, on another shelf.

9. Estate records on bay 1 shelf 5:

- (a) Vol. of accounts for legal expenses on Estates business. 1802-11.
- (b) Vol. of memoranda re Estate Leases 1803-5.
- (c) Estates rental 1823-4.
- (d) Tenants' rental accounts. 9 (?) vols. 1827-1932.
- (e) Colfe's Trust Estates tenants' rental accounts', 1865-85 (on shelf 4), 1886-1910, 1910-23, 1923-37, 1937-50.

C. Other financial records:

1. Colfe's Trust ledgers 1827-61, 1862-82, 1883-94, 1894-1905, 1906-20 (damaged), 1920-27. Bay 1 shelf 4.
2. Accounts of payments to Lewisham almswomen. 1844-63, 1864-79. Bay 8 shelf 1.
3. Colfe's Foundation and School annual reports and accounts. 2 files: 1909/10-1932/3, 1933/4-1958/9. Bay 5 shelf 3 in second unnumbered box.
4. Colfe's Foundation ledgers. 1912-20 (bay 1 shelf 4), 1928-41, 1942-54 (bay 5 shelves 4-5)
5. Colfe's Foundation cash accounts. 1928-41, 1941-51, (bay 1 shelf 4), 1951-61 (bay 5 shelf 4).
6. Colfe's Grammar School governors' ledgers. 1928-36, 1936-48. Bay 1 shelf 5.
7. Colfe's Grammar School governors' cash accounts. 1928-51. Bay 1 shelf 4.
8. Colfe's School fees books 1904-9, 1910-14, 1914-19. Bay 1 shelves 3-4.

D. Minute Books

1. "Committees". General vol. including Estates Committee dealing, inter alia, with Lewisham Estate. 1872-9. Box "F".
2. Estates Committee 1883-8, 1888-95, 1895-1912, 1912-21, 1921-27, 1927-33, 1933-37, 1937-47, 1947-52 (Box "J"), 1960-66, 1966-70, (2 copies, Clerk's and Master's, loose on wooden picture cabinet)
3. "Sundry Committees", including Colfe Committee 1884-98; ditto (with one meeting of Special Colfe Committee 26 Sept. 1923) 1916-51. Box "F".
4. Colfe's Foundation Committee 1887-95, 1895-1921 Box "F".
5. Colfe's Foundation 1887-99 (includes inserted article from Daily Graphic 14 May 1890 re opening of new Colfe's school), Box "F".
6. Colfe's Grammar School governors 1921-24, 1924-6 (vol. includes also governors of Colfe's Foundation 1898-1921), 1927-33, 1933-42, 1943-52 (box "F"), 1953-69 (Clerk's copy, loose on wooden picture cabinet).

E. Miscellaneous

1. "Lewisham, Kent: Reading and Writing School", attendances and progress of foundation scholars. 1 vol., tabular form. 1859-78. Bay 1 shelf 3.