

John Lawrence, an Englishman, purchased, in June, 1659, this house, where Willem Beeckman had formerly lived. Although not an imposing looking building, it was sold, in 1656, for 2,600 Carolus guilders.—*Powers of Attorney*, trans. by O'Callaghan, 179. During Beeckman's occupancy, there had been a mill-house on the rear of the plot, removed in 1656.—*Liber Deeds*, A: 58; *Rec. N. Am.*, I: 414. John Lawrence, patentee at Hempstead and Flushing in 1644-5, and town clerk of the latter place in 1648 (*Laws & Ord.*, *N. Neth.*, 42, 48, 97), was also an early trader in New Amsterdam. He did not speak Dutch, which hampered him, and led to a sharp misunderstanding with Notary Solomon La Chair, who was accused of "having slandered the whole English Nation as a deceitful people," because of his quarrel with this one Englishman.—*Rec. N. Am.*, II: 151, 180, 259. Lawrence resented Flodder's neglect of his adjoining property, and prevailed upon the court to write a letter to the court at Albany, in 1666, calling Flodder's attention to the decay of his fences and sheet piling, "to the injury of his neighbors."—*Ibid.*, VI: 37-8. In 1667, he alleges that he "has been now for some years at the expence of keeping up the fence on one side of Jacob Flodders lot, lying next" his own.—*Ibid.*, VI: 92. Evidently, he had trouble, also, with Andries Joghimsen, his neighbour on the other side.—*Ibid.*, III: 299. He was still taxed here in 1677.—*M. C. C.*, I: 50.

During the Dutch régime, Mr. Lawrence did not hold office, although, with Van Ruyven and Van Cortlant, he went to Hartford, in October, 1663, to remonstrate against the aggressive measures adopted by the colony of Connecticut. (See the *Journal* of these commissioners, printed in Jameson's *Nar. N. Neth.*, 425-45.) When the English appeared before New Amsterdam, Lawrence "begged that he might be allowed to remain neutral in the impending conflict."—*Cal. Hist. MSS.*, *Dutch*, 268. He afterwards took the oath of allegiance, among the Dutchmen.—*N. Y. Col. Docs.*, III: 74-77. He was a member of the first board of aldermen under Nicolls (*Rec. N. Am.*, I: 213; V: 249-50), mayor, in 1672-3 and in 1691 (*M. C. C.*, VIII: 149); alderman, in 1684, 1687, and 1689 (*ibid.*, I: 157, 191, 205), and deputy mayor under Andros, in 1674.—*Ibid.*, VIII: 145.

He was councillor of the province from 1672 to 1679, except during the period of Dutch re-occupation, and again from 1692 to 1698 (*Cal. Coun. Min.*, 7, 8); sheriff of Queens County in 1699 (*ibid.*, 137); and judge of the supreme court in 1693 (*ibid.*, 53), an office which he held until his death, in 1699. For further particulars regarding John Lawrence (or Laurence), see *Exec. Coun. Min.*, ed. by V. H. Paltsits, I: 152 n.