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D Lysons, *Environs of London*

vol 1 (Surrey) 1796

Bermondsey 546–58

(547) Parish bounded by St John, St George, St Olave Southwark; by Deptford and Rotherhithe. In 1641 said to contain 514 acres (recorded in Vestry). (548) Queen Katharine died at B on 3 January 1436/7. Those buried there include 'Loufstane provost of of London' around 1115, Margaret de la Pole (1473) and Dame Anne Audley, widow of John lord Audley (Stow, ed Strype).

Near the churchyard at B is an ancient gateway, and towards the east some old buildings called King John's Palace. These buildings, which consist partly of bricks and partly of timber intermixed with lath and plaster, carry the appearance of having part of the convent or its appurtenances. Attribution to King John entirely unsupported. (549) It is said in Aubrey's work [*Antiquities of Surrey*] that Sir Thomas Pope built a house on the site of the priory which afterwards came to the earls of Sussex. Some traces of the residence of the earls of Sussex at B are to be found in the parish register for 1595 but I have not met with the name in any title deeds or other records relating to the site of the convent. A considerable part thereof was sold by Thomas Pope to Robert bishop of St Asaph, the last prior, and having passed through various hands is now the property of William Richardson esq in whose garden is an ancient wall with crosses and various emblematical devices worked with glazed bricks. The remainder of the site is for the most part if not entirely the property of William Smith esq of Chichester.

The manor passed from Sir Robert Southwell Master of the Rolls to Sir Thomas Pope in the same year as he acquired it (33 Henry VIII [1541–2]), and Pope alienated it to Robert Trappes in 1556.

O Manning & W Bray, *History and antiquities of the county of Surrey*

vol 1 (1804) Bermondsey, 185–241

(203) On 8 July 1541 the site of the abbey, being especially mansion of the manor, was granted to Sir Robert Southwell, heirs and assigns at a reserved rent of 10s. On 30 August following Southwell sold it to Sir Thomas and Elizabeth Pope, confirmed by the Crown on 16 March Anno 36 [1545] 'and who is said to have taken down the church and adjacent buildings, and to have erected a dwelling-house on his manor from the materials.' Thenceforth called Bermondsey House (together with yards, gardens and edifices thereto belonging, containing by estimation 20 acres). He reconveyed to Southwell on 4 March 1554/5; and it is supposed to be the same that afterwards came into the hands of Thomas earl

of Sussex who died here in 1583. The remainder of the premises belonging to the site of the abbey, and heretofore purchased of Sir Robert Southwell on 30 August [1541], the said Sir Thomas by deed dated 10 November 1556 conveyed (together with manor, demesne, lands, advowson of rectory etc of which he had a grant in 36 Henry VIII [1544–45]) to Robert Trapps citizen & goldsmith of London. From this family it passed by marriage, 1n 1711, to Thomas Thurland (etc)

What is said here of the estates which formerly made a part of the site of the abbey and were then sold to Trapps is only part of those granted to Southwell on 8 July 1541; divers other parcels of the same having been granted to other purchasers, which are now in the hands of different proprietors.

All that remain of this ancient structure are a few scattered portions of its outer walls; occupying the present churchyard, and all that space to the southward of it, which was called the base or lower court, and is now known by the name of King John's Court. These buildings consist partly of brick, partly of timber intermixed with the lath and plaster. At the north-west corner of this court is one of the abbey gates, having a postern open, on the north side, to the churchyard, but shut up on the south... The Grange was half a mile to the south-east. Another gate, with its postern, east of this, drawn in 1756 by Mr Grose and engraved by Godfrey, has been taken down (*Gent's Magazine*).

(206) Hospital. A reference to the Hospital of St Mary Magdalene Bermondsey occurs only in a grant of Agnes, sister of Thomas Becket, of a 10s rent from her property in the parish of Staining: no later records).

E W Brayley, *Topographical history of Surrey*

vol 3 (1850)

(181) It is now almost in vain to search for any remains of this extensive and once-splendid abbey, which occupied the ground between Grange-walk (where was a farm) and Long Walk, which was a passage between the monastic buildings and the conventual church. The latter was situated near the middle of an attached burial ground, and separated by a stone wall from the parochial churchyard of St Mary Magdalene.

(182–3) In Wilkinson's *Londina illustrata* is an engraved ground-plan of the site and precinct of Bermonsey abbey, copied from the 'original Survey or Drawing taken in the year 1679'. It exhibits a ground plot of the old conventual church with gardens enclosed by stone walls and bounded on the north by the churchyard of St Mary Magdalene; the west and north gates leading into the base courtyard, the site of the mansion, with its long gallery, built by Sir Thomas Pope, and the east gate leading into Grange-walk. In the same work is a general view of the remains of the monastery and other old buildings, with the adjacent country, taken in 1805 from the steeple of the adjoining church; and also an east view of the ancient Gateway with several other engravings relating to the abbey and its attached buildings.

The east gate of the monastery in Grange-walk was pulled down in about the year 1760. The great gate-house, or principal entrance, the front of which was composed of squared flints and dark-red tiles, ranged alternately, was nearly entire in 1806; but shortly afterwards it was wholly demolished, together with nearly all the adjacent ancient buildings, and Abbey-street was erected on their site. The north-gate led into the great close of the abbey, now Bermondsey-square, and surrounded by modern houses. Grange-road, which was built on the pasture-ground belonging to the monastery, commences near the south-east corner of the square, and extends to what was lately called the Grange (the farm before noticed) and continues onward to the ancient water-course called the Neckinger, over which is a bridge leading to the waterside division of the parish. In 1810 the present churchyard (which had previously been extended in 1783), was enlarged by annexing to it a strip of land sixteen feet in width, that formed part of the conventual burial ground; in so doing, many vestiges of sepulture were found, together with a stone coffin. The Neckinger was formerly navigable, for small craft, from the Thames to the abbey precincts, and gives name to Neckinger road.

W L Bell, *The history of Bermondsey* (London 1880)

(11) Though every vestige of this building is gone, the position of its chief court-yard is marked by the present Bermondsey Square. It had three principal gates; one facing Long Lane, another opposite the parish church and (12) a third in Grange Walk. The approach from the river was by a causeway across the marshes, known from the earliest times as Bermondsey Street.

(14) In 1296 the church of St Mary Magdalene is mentioned in the Bermondsey [annals] as belonging to the convent. This afterwards became the parish church, and was built outside the north gate for the use of the tenantry. In 1338 the bishop of Corbavia consecrated a large and imposing structure called the 'greater church of St Saviour of Bermondsey'. This is the abbey church which corresponded in length to Long Walk, being situated a little to the north of where Abbey Street is now. In 1380 the cloisters and refectory were rebuilt, and in the same year the convent ceased to be an 'alien' house.

(15–16) (On the foundation of his chapel at Westminster Abbey Henry VII caused the abbots of Westminster and Bermondsey to sign and seal the same [*sic*] document. By it the two abbots were bound to sing masses [where?] on 6 February each year for the repose of the souls of the king's parents, himself and wife Elizabeth. Tapers to be lit and the great bell of Bermondsey abbey to be rung).

(22–23) (After the Dissolution and Sir Thomas Pope) nothing remained of Bermondsey Abbey but the three gates and broken walls of the refectory. It suited the fancy of Sir Thomas to make a few restorations, and these were done in red brick ornamented after the French fashion with figures in black glaze. (23) It is the recollection of some persons in Bermondsey that a wall existed thirty-five years since at the rear of Abbey Street with singular ornaments of this kind. This wall belonged to what was then known as 'Bermondsey Park'...

(24–25) A curious stone cross of Saxon workmanship built into a house adjoining the north gate and long preserved in a neighbouring garden, has of late years disappeared, but is

believed to be still in existence. This cross was regarded with great veneration all through the 17th and 18th centuries. The north gate was taken down in 1805 for the construction of Abbey Street, and the Grange Walk gate in 1750; the hooks on which the latter gate hung may still be seen in the front of house in Grange Walk.

G R C Davis, *Medieval cartularies of Great Britain* (London 1958)

7 45. Bermondsey

Untraced. General cartulary made 1363 by W. de Preston from which extracts down to f 277 are in BM Harley 4757, ff. 2–15 and Cotton Claudius A.viii, ff 115–22. Owned in 16th century by Robert Trappis, lord of the manor of B. Possibly identical with the volume listed, 1621, as MS 231 in Sir Robert Cotton's library (BM Harley 6018, f 104; *cf* f 148, 'a long book old bound in folio') and subsequently, *c.* 1655, that of John Selden (Bodl. Selden supra 111, f 7).

Other registers, etc

BM Harley 231 Annals 1042–1432, ed H R Luard, *Annales monastici*, iii (RS 1866), 423–87. Extracts 1648 in Bodl. Dodsworth 55 (S.C. 4197), ff 97ff. FO: Ld William Howard 1590; Sir S. D'Ewes.