

## THE MIDDLESEX-HERTS BOUNDARY AT STANMORE

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THE northern boundaries of Great and Little Stanmore consist of nothing more than a hedge and a ditch along a part of which a small stream trickles. The old east-west trackway from Barnet to Watford via Elstree and Bushey, now a made-up and much used road, is only a short distance to the north of this boundary and one would have expected to find this the dividing line.

In the register of the incomplete cartulary of St. Alban's Abbey, which is in the library at Chatsworth, there are abbreviated transcriptions of deeds and charters, among which are those relating to land transactions between the Abbey and Stanmore landowners. These throw some light on the origin of the boundary.

The first is an agreement between Symon, Abbot of St. Alban's (A.D. 1166-83) and Robert, son of Serlo of Stanmore, concerning the grant of land and a moiety of a grove in Stanmore in exchange for a quit claim for one hide of land in Greneffburgh. This agreement was supplemented by a fine in the king's court at Westminster. The moiety of a grove was soon after granted to Gilbert of Hendon and his heirs, but not the piece of land.

The second is a gift by Adam, son of Ranulf Bocointe and Alice his wife, of all land lying between the land of St. Alban's and that of St. Bartholomew's which is of the fee of William de Rames, next to the wood of Aldenham, for 40 acres. This gift is confirmed by a charter of Henry II cited in a charter of Edward I (Charter Roll 87, A.D. 1301).

At the extreme north of Great Stanmore is an estate known as The Grove from time immemorial. North of the present boundary and between it and the Bushey-Elstree road and a road which was an old trackway from Harrow to the north is a piece of land of about 100 acres. To the east of this is another piece of land of almost exactly 40 acres lying between the northern boundary of Little Stanmore and the Bushey-Elstree road just mentioned. This 40 acres must have been that granted by Adam Bocointe because all the other land in the

present parish of Little Stanmore is accounted for in the numerous documents in the Public Record Office and elsewhere.

These two pieces of land are now described on the O.S. maps as the glebe land of the parish of Aldenham and in the county of Hertfordshire. It appears that, when they became the property of St. Alban's Abbey, they were included in the manor of Aldenham and thus became transferred from Middlesex to Hertfordshire.