

MIDDLESEX HUNDRED MOOTS SPELTHORNE

THE word Spelthorne means "speech thorn-tree" and is comparable with the name of Spelhoe Hundred in Northants. and Spellow in Lancashire. "The site of the meeting-place" of Spelthorne, we read in the Middlesex volume of the English Place-name Society, "may have been somewhere near Ashford, since in 1819 (Greenwood's map) the road which leads from Ashford to Kempton Park is named *Spelthorne Lane*." In a footnote it is observed that the names Spelthorne Grove and Spelthorne Cottage appear close to this road (the Staines Road) on the modern 6 in. map, but not on that of 1862-70, and may therefore be antiquarian revivals.

If the reader refers to the map of Sunbury in the last part of *Transactions* (Vol. X, Pt. III, p. 304), he will find to the W of Windmill Road a cross which stands for *Spelthorne Cottage* and another denoting *Spelthorne Grove* below Staines Road in the centre of the map.

I am able to add a fourth *Spelthorne* to the three mentioned above. The Ashford Award map of 1811, now in the County Record Office at the Middlesex Guildhall, places a field called *Spelthorne Pasture* at the spot marked X in the left top corner of the above map of Sunbury. I suggest that Spelthorne Hundred met at this spot on Ashford Common, that it gave to the modern Staines Road the name of Spelthorne Lane, and that Spelthorne Grove and Cottage took their title from the latter.

F. W. M. D.