

Final Concord between the Prior of Merton plaintiff and Gilbert Morin defendant, concerning land between Morden and Carshalton [2.2.1196]

This is the final concord made in the Court of the lord King at Westminster the Tuesday next after the octave of the Purification of St Mary 7 Richard [I], before H Archbishop of Canterbury, R of London and G of Rochester Bishops, William of St Mary's church, R Herfordin' and R Elien Archdeacon[s],* William de Warenne, Richard White, Osbern son of Henry, Simon de Pateshill Justice of the lord king and many others faithful to the lord King etc at the same place being present. Between the Prior of Merton plaintiff and Gilbert Morin defendant, concerning all the land which is between the thorn tree of Poellose# and land which Sedmar' de Lathorn' held between Morden and Alton. A placitum was made between them in the same Court. Namely that the same Gilbert grants to of the aforesaid Prior and the convent at the same place all that part of the aforesaid land that is below the road towards the north, which road proceeds from Morden towards Awlton, to hold to the same Prior and the aforesaid convent of the same Gilbert and of his heirs in perpetual alms free and quit from all secular exaction. And the same Prior quitclaims his whole right and claim that he has in all the other part and of the aforesaid land above the aforesaid road towards the South to the same Gilbert and his heirs forever.

Surrey

* ie The archdeacons of Hertford and Ely

The first letter is odd, but it could be *spina* meaning 'thorn tree' of [?] Poellose – Dr Mark Page November 2009

NOTES:

Here we have Gilbert Morin owning land alongside a road leading from Morden to Carshalton. Before Middleton Road was created in the 20th century, the way from Morden to Carshalton would have been along Green Lane directly into Wrythe Lane (or possibly from Green Lane via Bishopsford Road into Green Wrythe Lane).

What properties did Merton Priory possess in Carshalton? Apart from the parish church, the only properties mentioned in Merton Priory's records at this time are small properties, the large estate known as Mareslond apparently being given to them in the 14th century.¹ But it did possess two large estates within Morden during the medieval period. Hobalds, with 100 acres in Morden and a further 30 acres in each of Merton and Malden, was given to Merton Priory in the 1230s.² The North East Surrey Crematorium occupies much of this estate. It is not known when Merton Priory received its other estate in Morden, the 150-acre Spital estate, which occupied the area between Central Road, Green Lane, Farm Road, and Bishopsford Road.

If it was already in possession of the Spital estate in 1196, Merton Priory may well have wanted to add the adjoining 11 acres in Carshalton between the Morden parish boundary and Green Lane to round off the estate. And Gilbert Morin may well have been happy to increase his standing with God by granting them an odd bit of land separated from his other properties by the main road. It was certainly shown as part of the 'Spital Farm alias The Lodge' estate in 19th-century estate maps and in the tithe map.³

Even the physical geography works. The piece of land released to Merton Priory is described as being 'below the road towards the north', and the remainder of the Oldfields as being 'above the aforesaid road towards the south'. Green Lane runs SE from Love Lane to Rose Hill, so the Spital land would have been to the NE of the road and the Oldfields to the SW. At this point the houses on the NE side of Green Lane are slightly below the level of the road, and Canterbury Road slopes down from Green Lane.

1 *Victoria County History: Surrey* IV, 233

2 British Library Add Ch 8139; Westminster Abbey Muniments 9287; CAF Meekings *The 1235 Surrey Eyre* Surrey Record Society Vol XXXII, 481-2, note 188; Westminster Abbey Muniments 1915*; Westminster Abbey Muniments Book 11 fo 169b; Heales *op cit* 101

3 eg London Borough of Sutton Archive 2361/2/2 Sales Particulars and map of Henry Hoare's estates in Mitcham, Carshalton and Morden 1828; Morden Tithe Map 1838 (published by Merton Historical Society as *Local History Notes 13*)