

Manor of Battersea
and Wandsworth in
the County of Surrey -

At a General Court held for
the said Manor on the 11th day
of May 1824

Also at this Court was read a Report of George Hyde Wollaston
Esquire one of the Common Keepers of this Manor addressed to the
Deputy Stewards and which is in the following terms that is
to say. —

To,

Charles Bicknell Esq^r } the Deputy Stewards of the Manor
and } of Battersea and Wandsworth
Anthony Spedding Esq^r }

Clapham Common
the 8th May 1824.

Gentlemen.

Having lately obtained an
authentic copy of the Perambulation of the Manor of
Battersea and Wandsworth in the time of James
1st dated the 6th Feb^y. 1605 and which was certified
by a Jury of 18 persons it becomes incumbent upon
me to inform you what I have thought it my duty
to do under the appointment dated the 13th April
1818 of one of the Common Keepers of that Manor.

I have long been in possession of a partial extract
from the above mentioned Document which I conceived
to be that of the Perambulation of the Parish of Battersea
and it was not till very lately that I understood it to
be an extract from the Perambulation of the Boundary
of the Manor. With the knowledge I have of the lands
bordering upon the Parish of Clapham I felt perfectly
secure in proving the line of Boundary of the Manor
of Battersea upon the whole of that part which could
have any reference to the Parish of Clapham and
through the Medium of a Friend I communicated
my view of the State of the Case to the present Lord
of the Manor of Clapham W^m Bowyer Atkins Esq^r
of Regency Square Brighton but I have been disappointed

in my expectations of the result of the communication
& I have to report to you. —

"That upon mature consideration of the subject he does not
"perceive any reason that should induce him to depart
"from the course which his Predecessors have pursued for
"more than a century in relation to the disputed
"boundary of the Manor". —

I have therefore now to return to you the Map which
I made some years ago for the use of Lord Spencer
this Map or Plan was designed to show the discordant
state of the Boundary of the Parishes hoping however
that it might throw some light upon the uncertain
boundary of the Manor which has been the cause of
that negative line of Duty which I have been obliged
to pursue since my appointment. —

You will collect from the line of Krambulation of
the Manor in the time of James 1st which we have
before us that after proceeding from the Parish of Putney
of course through Battersea by the River side the
Boundary of the Manor joins the Parish of Lambeth
at a place called The Lady Acre & from thence by the
Common Sewer adjoining the Parish of Clapham to
a close called "Little Holborn" a spot well known by
the Parishioners of Battersea here you will enter upon
the Map which I now return you being part of that
which I made for my amusement several years
past without any idea of showing a boundary
line either of the Parishes or of the Manors. —

From "Little Holborn" that part of the boundary line
which is of importance to us is thus described. —

"Then from the common "Sewer leading to a "ditch end at Brownells "Corner in the Heath "called the East Heath	It does not appear that any doubt can be entertained that this part of the boundary line is the present footway leading from the Wandsworth Road up to Clapham Common by the
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Blind Lane now called Mix's Lane. Old Title Deeds shew that in that cause there was a Field called Broom Hill & that the common was called Washington or Battersed common or East Fleath in contradistinction to Wandsworth Common which was called West Fleath. —

And from Brownell's Corner leading along by a bounded ditch made by the Inhabitants of Battersea to a close in the Parish of Sheatham.

At the end of Mix's Lane there is a boundary post of the Parish of Battersea & another across the Road upon the common leading evidently to the ditch always asserted as having been made & perambulated by the Parishioners of Battersea to a close in the Parish of Sheatham which must be that spot of ground now built upon on the corner of the Road leading to Footing as there is no other spot upon Clapham Common which belongs to Sheatham Parish. —

then it proceeds thus,

Leading along by certain Lands belonging to the Parish of Clapham down Balaam Lane to the Common Sewer.

This description of the boundary of the Manor corresponds most minutely with the ditch in front of the lands acknowledged to be in Clapham Parish & running down Balaam Lane now called Nightingale Lane to the common sewer. —

Having now done with the Perambulation made in the time of James 1st. I must beg leave to remark upon the other proceedings relating to the Manor & I shall begin in point of date by an Inquisition stated to have been taken the 30th August 1639 after the death of Sir Henry Atkins altho' this Paper is in my hand writing I can only say that it was given me by the late M^r. Baldwin about the year 1800 as a Document among others relating to the

manorial rights & perhaps you will at least find it worthy of remark that concluding the boundary line to be where I state it to run i.e. diagonally across the common there will still remain as belonging to the Manor of Clapham the whole quantity of land contained in that Inquisition. —

We come now to the proceedings in Chancery in 1718 and here I have to observe that the boundary of the Manor of Clapham as described in the Bill put in by Sir Henry Atkins is quite unintelligible but that the Answer on the part of Lord St. John then Lord of the Manor of Battersea evidently corresponds with the Boundary Line we have now before us (of James 1st) altho' it must appear that his Lordship was then ignorant of the existence of a Document of that importance. —

I am aware that the proceedings in Chancery in 1718 were followed by depositions taken in 1719 I have not perused them but as far as I have heard of their boasted merit they do not at all relate to the boundary of the Manor but that they merely record the usages of the Neighbours in those times tending to prove the custom of inter-commonage & that it was not known that Cattle were impounded for straying from one part of the common to the other & I will submit to you here whether it may not appear upon a nice examination of those depositions that both the boundary of the Manor and of the Parish may be very decidedly ascertained. —

I cannot doubt for one moment that the right boundary of the Manor of Battersea runs in the line which I have now marked upon the Map which I ~~have~~ presented to you some years ago & which I now return you. —

Having thus stated to you my view of the Boundary of the Manor I rejoice that at the General Court Baron held at Wandsworth on the 18th day of April 1823 Mr. Robert Winter was allowed to remove the Spring Well which was a constant nuisance to the Neighbours & to the Publick. I have to report that I have taken away a fallen Tree from the spot of the old Spring Well & I shall account for it to you but I do not feel authorized to stop the depredations which are committed by John Smith (upon a part of the common which I conceive to be in the Manor of Battersea) altho' he acts as agent for the Manor of Clapham he allows the turf soil & gravel to be carried away charging upon the spot. —

5th p hundred of Turf } cutting the Turf & loading
5th p Load of mould } the mould & gravel being
4th p Load of coarse gravel } included in the
4th p Load of fine Hoggins } price. —

I have to observe that the above mentioned Manorial privileges are carried indifferently to the Inhabitants of either Parish but that according to the boundary line of the Manor and of the Parish of Battersea We have too much reason to complain that our part of the common is laid waste by the Lord of the Manor of Clapham while only a very trifling quantity of Turf is ever taken by his Agent from that part of the common which indisputably belongs to him. —

It is understood that my Lord Spencer some years ago forbore to establish his rights because the Lord of the Manor of Clapham had alienated his Manorial rights for his lifetime & that he was residing abroad perhaps in obscure circumstances

that is now no longer the case I have heard
likewise that it was understood between my
Lord Spencer and Mr. Thornton while he
enjoyed the Manorial dues of Clapham that
they were not to trespass upon their
respective rights but with due deference
I must be allowed to say that even such
an understanding is not adhered to by the
Lord of the Manor of Clapham and I
must express with due respect the most
earnest wish of the Inhabitants that some
steps be taken to settle the rights of the
parties as the only way to prevent that
rapacious conduct which is pursued to the
disgrace of the parties & the annoyance of the
Neighbourhood. —

I am

Gentlemen

Your Obedt. Hble Servt.

G. H. Mollastone