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Bisley boundary stone

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BISLEY BOUNDARY STONE

In a deed of 4 July 1654, recorded in a manuscript book begun in the 17th century touching land held by the Rodborough Feoffees in the parish of Bisley, mention is made of half an acre 'shooting down towards the Lord's Stone' to the south and bounded with the land of John Stephens to the east.

In the same book, a portion of King's tenement is described as '6 acres in Lypiatt lower field and 3 in Lypiatt upper field near the Lord's Stone'.

In the court roll of the court baron of Mrs Anne Stephens, widow of Thomas Stephens, held at Over Lypiatt 13 October 1724, the homage 'present the Stone near Stancombe Ash to be the out bounds of the manor of Over Lypiatt towards Bisley and doe order the Lady of the Manor to fix a Merestone by it'.

It would appear from the charter of Hugh, earl of Chester (*Carta Cott.* x, 7) dated between 1175 and 1180, granting Humphrey de Bohun the part of the fee of Bisley which was not held by Philip de Belmis, that the manor of Lypiatt was then separated from that of Bisley. This appears more clearly in later manuscripts, where the over-lords of Lypiatt are distinctly indicated as earls of Hereford and their descendants. It seems reasonable to suppose that the Lord's Stone was erected either at the time of the division of the manors or subsequently.

The above references make it clear that the Lord's Stone has no connexion with the ancient cross that stood at the corner of the Cross Field opposite the original entrance to Lypiatt Park, which I believe is referred to in a grant by Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford, as 'the Cross of Mary'. In considering whether any part of that cross remains it may be mentioned that there is a portion of what appears to be a medieval monument of some sort which might have formed part of

such a cross, though the tradition of its purpose in that particular spot is to mark where someone met with a fatal fall from his horse in Lypiatt Park.

MARY A. RUDD

THE BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Council have pleasure in submitting their report for the year 1929-30.

The first ordinary General Meeting of the Trust was held on 14 January 1929, and at this, and subsequent council meetings, 125 members of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society were elected members. Three have died, leaving the number at the date of this report 122, of whom 6 are life members.

The Council have met five times during the year and have considered several cases where it was thought the services of the Trust might be of assistance, but have so far only accepted the trusteeship in one instance, viz. Arlington Row, Bibury. A committee of management has been appointed and it is hoped that the deed of conveyance will soon be completed.

As will be seen from the balance sheet, the expenses in connexion with the formation of the Trust have been heavier than was expected. In order to create a greater interest in the work and provide adequate funds, it is desirable that the membership shall be increased. Members are asked to report any cases where the services of the Trust may be useful and also to endeavour to increase the membership.

J. J. SIMPSON, *Chairman.*

H. STRATTON DAVIS, *Hon. Secretary.*

14 April 1930