

SUMMARY: The document below is the inquisition post mortem taken 13 August 1608 at the Guildhall in London on Oxford's Great Garden property in the parish of St. Botolph's, Aldgate. It is possible that Oxford's Great Garden property had been overlooked when the earlier inquisition post mortem was taken at Brentwood on 27 September 1604, three months after Oxford's death (see TNA C 142/286/165). It is also possible that Oxford's ownership came to the fore because of legal actions taken by the Master and Fellows of Magdalene College in connection with their claim for the property.

By indenture dated 4 July 1591 Oxford had sold the Great Garden property to John Wolley (d.1596) and Francis Trentham (d.1626) on condition that they reconvey the property to him upon request, and if not, that he receive the profits from it during his life, and after his death that Wolley and Trentham would dispose of it to the benefit of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612). See TNA C 54/1393, mm. 22-3.

The jurors state that they do not know who has taken the profits from the Great Garden property during the four years since Oxford's death. It would appear from the terms of Oxford's indenture that the profits would have gone to Oxford's widow, Elizabeth (nee Trentham) de Vere, Countess of Oxford. It is stated in other documents that the property was valuable. The profits could thus not have been as low as £15 a year, the figure given in the inquisition. That figure appears to represent merely the perpetual annual rent of £15 which Oxford was required to pay for the Great Garden property to the Master and Fellows of Magdalene College.

The fact that the jurors did not assess the property at its real value suggests that King James was content to allow matters to continue as they had done for the four years since Oxford's death. It is also noteworthy that the writ which initiated this second inquisition omits the usual instruction that the lands are to be seised into the King's hands. In fact, this second inquisition has the appearance of a pro forma exercise, with no real effort made to find out what was happening to the profits from the Great Garden or to take the property into wardship.

For further information on Oxford's Great Garden property see the Magdalene College documents on this website, as well as TNA REQ 2/178/60, STC 1057, TNA SP 15/39, f. 141, BL MS Harleian 6806/78, *English Reports*, Vol. 77, pp. 1235-1252 and *English Reports*, Vol. 21, pp. 485-9. For the will of George Kirkham, who is mentioned as having been involved with Oxford in the purchase of the Great Garden property, see TNA PROB 11/122, f. 230.

The text of the inquisition below is preceded by the writ from King James dated 12 August 1608 directing that the inquisition be held.

James by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., to his beloved & faithful William Bowyer, knight, Roger Dallison, knight, and to his beloved Edmund Ferrand, gentleman, deputy escheator of our city of London, Ellis Churchill, esquire, feodary of the foresaid city, Francis Rame, gentleman, James Necton, gentleman, greeting.

Be it known that we have assigned you, five, four or three of you, of whom we will you the forenamed deputy escheator & feodary to be two, to inquire by the oath of good & law-worthy men of our foresaid city of London, as well within the liberties as without, by whom the truth of the matter shall be able better to be known, what lands & tenements the right honourable Edward, late Earl of Oxford, Great Chamberlain of England, deceased, or any other or any others to his use held (s. & pl.) of us in chief, as well in demesne as in service, in the foresaid city on the day on which the same Earl died, & how much of others & by what service, and how much those lands & tenements held as well of us as of others are worth by year in all issues, & on what day the same Earl died, & who is his next heir, & of what age, and who (s. & pl.) has or have occupied those lands & tenements from the time of the death of the foresaid Earl and has or have perceived the issues & profits thereof by what title in whatever way & manner, and [+to inquire] of other articles & circumstances by whatever right concerning the premises more fully [+to know] the truth;

And therefore we command you, five, four or three of you, of whom we will you the forenamed deputy escheator & feodary to be two, that at certain days & places which for the purpose you will have provided, diligently to make an inquisition concerning the premises, and to send the same without delay, clearly & openly made, to us in our Chancery under your seals [+or] the seals of the five, four or three of you by whom it was made, of whom we will you the forenamed deputy escheator & feodary to be two, & these our letters patent;

We command indeed by the tenor of these presents our sheriffs of our City aforesaid that at certain days & places which you will have made known to him he cause to come before you, five, four or three of you, of whom we will you the forenamed deputy escheator & feodary to be two, so many & such good & law-worthy men of his bailiwick, as well within the liberties as without, by whom the truth of the matter in the premises shall be able better to be known & inquired;

In testimony of which thing we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witnessed by me at Westminster the twelfth day of August.

Conyers

It was delivered to the court the 7th day of October in the sixth year [=7 October 1608] of the reign of King James, subscribed by the hand of the deputy escheator

LM: City of London

Indented inquisition taken at the Guildhall of the city of London on the thirteenth day of August in the sixth year [=13 August 1608] of the reign of our Lord James by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc. and of Scotland the forty-second, before Edmund Ferrand, gentleman, deputy escheator of the city of London aforesaid, Ellis Churchill, esquire, feodary of the foresaid city, Francis Rame, gentleman, and James Necton, gentleman, commissioners of the said Lord King by virtue of a commission of the same Lord King in the nature of a writ of mandamus directed to the same Commissioners and to a certain William Bowyer and Roger Dallison, knights, & to this inquisition attached, to inquire after the death of the right honourable Edward, late Earl of Oxford, Great Chamberlain of England, deceased, by the oath of John Jennings, Andrew Field, Humfrey Hooper, Edward Catcher, Ellis Parry, Hugh Sharrett, William Downing, William Mormay, Henry Riley, Nicholas Warren, John Cowdwell(?), Henry Marsh, Robert Sanders, Samuel Grey, Gregory(?) Andrews, Thomas Blathwayte, and Roger Ive, good and law-worthy men of the city of London aforesaid;

Who say upon their oath aforesaid that the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, named in the foresaid commission, long before his death & on the day of his death was seised in his demesne as of fee of and in one messuage or tenement called the Gatehouse with its appurtenances and of and in all that great garden commonly called or known under the description of Le Great Garden alias the Covent Garden of Christchurch, and of and in all & singular the houses, messuages, tenements and buildings on the foresaid great garden newly constructed & built with all & singular their entire appurtenances to the same great garden belonging or in whatever manner appertaining lately in the tenure or occupation of a certain Thomas Casey or of his assigns, situate, lying and being within the parish of Saint Botolph without Aldgate in London and lately purchased by the forenamed Edward, late Earl of Oxford, for him & his heirs from a certain George Kirkham, Hugh Beeston and William Walter, gentlemen, and that the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, thus of all & singular the premises being seised, on the twenty-fourth day of June in the second year [=24 June 1604] of the reign of our Lord James now King etc. died thus seised thereof;

And the foresaid jurors say upon their oath aforesaid that the foresaid great garden & the rest of the premises with the appurtenances are held, and at the time of the death of the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, were held of the said Lord King, but by which services the foresaid jurors do not know, and that they are worth clear by year in all issues beyond reprises fifteen pounds;

And the foresaid jurors further say upon their oath aforesaid that Henry, now Earl of Oxford, and now being in the custody of the said Lord King by reason of his minor age for other lands held of the said Lord King in chief by knight-service, is and at the time of the death of the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, was son & next heir of the said Edward, late Earl, and that the foresaid Henry, now Earl of Oxford, was aged at the time of the death of the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, his father, eleven years & four months;

And the foresaid jurors further say upon their oath aforesaid that they do not know who (s. & pl.) has perceived and had (s. & pl.) the issues & profits of all and singular the premises from the time of the death of the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, until the day of the taking of this inquisition;

And at last the foresaid jurors say upon their oath aforesaid that the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, named in the foresaid commission, had or held no other or more messuages, lands, tenements or hereditaments, nor any other or any others to his use had or held any other messuages, lands, tenements or hereditaments held of the said now Lord King in chief or otherwise, or of any other person or of any other persons in demesne, service, reversion or in remainder or in use on the day of his death in the said City of London or elsewhere in the suburbs of the same city to their knowledge;

In testimony of which thing to one part of this inquisition indented remaining in the possession of the forenamed commissioners, as well the forenamed commissioners as the foresaid jurors have affixed their seals;

To the other true part of this inquisition indented remaining in the possession of the first juror aforesaid, the foresaid commissioners have affixed their seals, dated the day, year & place first abovesaid.

Edmund Ferrand
E. Churchill, feodary
Francis Rame
James Necton

Transcript thereof [] in the Court of Wards & Exchequer by William Ravenscroft

1 Iacobus dei gracia Anglie Scocie ffrancie & Hibernie Rex fidei defensor &c dilectis & fidelibus suis Willelmo Bowyer Militi Rogero Dallison

2 Militi Ac dilectis sibi Edmundo fferrand Generoso deputato Escaetori Ciuitatis nostre Londonie Elizeo Churchill Armigero ffeodario Ciuitatis predicte

3 ffrancisco Rame Generoso Iacobo Necton Generoso Salutem Sciatis quod assignauimus vos quinque quatuor vel tres vestrum quorum vos prefatos deputatum

4 Escaetorem & ffeodarium duos esse volumus ad inquirendum per sacramentum proborum & legalium hominum de predicta Ciuitate nostra Londonie tam infra libertates quam extra per

5 quos rei veritas melius sciri poterit que terre & tenementa prenobilis Edwardus nuper Comes Oxonie magnus Camerarius Anglie defunctus aut aliquis

6 alius siue aliqui alij ad eius vsum tenuit aut tenuerunt de nobis in Capite tam in dominico quam in seruicio in Ciuitate predicta die quo idem Comes

7 obijt & quantum de alijs & per quod seruicium et quantum terre & tenementa illa tam de nobis quam de alijs tente valeant per annum in omnibus exitibus & quo die

8 idem Comes obijt & quis propinquior heres eius sit & cuius etatis Et quis vel qui terras & tenementa illa a tempore mortis predicti Comitum occupauit

9 vel occupauerunt ac exitus & proficua inde perceptit vel perceperunt quo titulo qualiter & quomodo Ac de alijs articulis & circumstantijs premissa

10 qualitercumque concernentibus plenius veritatem Et ideo vobis quinque quatuor vel tribus vestrum quorum vos prefatos deputatum Escaetorem & ffeodarium

11 duos esse volumus mandamus quod ad certos dies & loca quos ad hoc prouideritis diligenter super premissis facere inquisitionem Et eam distincte & aperte

12 factam nobis in Cancellariam nostram sub sigillis vestris quinque quatuor vel trium vestrum quorum vos prefatos deputatum Escaetorem & ffeodarium duos esse

13 volumus et sigillis eorum per quos facta fuit sine dilacione mittatis & has literas nostras patentes Mandamus enim tenore presentium vicecomitibus nostris Ciuitatis

14 predictae quod ad certos dies & loca quos ei scire feceritis venire faciet coram vobis quinque quatuor vel tribus vestrum quorum vos prefatos deputatum Escaetorem &

15 ffeodarium duos esse volumus tot & tales probos & legales homines de Balliua sua tam infra libertates quam extra per quos rei veritas in premissis melius sciri

16 poterit & inquiri In cuius rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium duodecimo die Augusti

17 Conyers

Liberatum fuit Curie vij die Octobris Anno Regni Regis Iacobi sexto subscriptum per manus deputati Escaetoris

LM: Civitas Londonie

1 Inquisicio Indentata capta apud Guildhall Civitatis Londonie decimo Tercio die Augusti Anno Regni domini nostri Iacobi dei gracia Anglie ffrancie et Hibernie Regis fidei defensoris &c Sexto Et Scocie

2 Quadragesimo secundo Coram Edmundo fferrand generoso deputato Escaetore Civitatis Londonie predictae Elizeo Churchill Armigero ffeodario Civitatis predictae ffrancisco Rame generoso et Iacobo Necton generoso Comissionarijs dicti domini Regis virtute Comissionis

3 eiusdem domini Regis in natura brevis de Mandamus eisdem Comissionarijs et quibusdam Willelmo Bowyer et Rogero Dallison militibus directi et huic Inquisicioni annexi Ad Inquirendum post mortem prenobilis Edwardi nuper Comitis Oxonie magni Camerarij Anglie defuncti

4 per sacramentum Iohannis Iennyngs Andree Field Humfridi Hooper Edwardi Catcher Elizei Parrey Hugonis Sharrett Willelmi Downinge Willelmi Mormay Henrici Riley Nicholi Warren Iohannis Cowdwell Henrici Marshe Roberti

5 Sanders Samuelis Grey Gregory(?) Androwes Thome Blathwayte et Rogeri Ive proborum et legalium hominum Civitatis Londonie predictae Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum predictum quod predictus Edwardus nuper Comes Oxonie in predicta Comissione

6 nominatus diu ante obitum suum et die obitus sui fuit seisitus in dominico suo vt de feodo de et in vno Mesuagio siue Tenemento vocato le gatehowse cum suis pertinentijs ac de et in toto illo magno gardino communaliter vocato siue cognito per nomen de le great garden alias the Covent garden of Christchurche Ac de et in omnibus & singulis domibus Mesuagijs

7 Tenementis et edificijs desuper predictum magnum Gardinum de novo constructis et edificatis cum omnibus & singulis suis pertinentijs vniuersis eidem magno gardino spectantibus seu quoquo modo pertinentibus nuper in tenura siue occupacione cuiusdam Thome Casye vel Assignatorum suorum scituatis iacentibus et existentibus infra parochiam sanc(t)i Bottolphi extra Algate Londonia

8 Ac nuper perquisitis per prefatum Edwardum nuper Comitem Oxonie sibi & heredibus suis de quibusdam Georgio Kirkhame Hugone Beeston et Willelmo Walter generosis Et quod predictus Edwardus nuper Comes Oxonie sic de omnibus & singulis premissis seisitus existens

9 Vicesimo quarto die Iunij Anno Regni domini nostri Iacobi Regis nunc &c Secundo obiit sic inde seisitus Et Iuratores predicti dicunt super sacramentum suum predictum quod predictum magnum gardinum & cetera premissa cum pertinentijs tenentur

10 et tempore mortis predicti Edwardi nuper Comitis Oxonie tenebantur de dicto domino Rege sed per que seruicia Iuratores predicti Ignorant Et quod valent clare per Annum in

11 omnibus exitibus vltra Reprisas Quinque libras Et Iuratores predicti vlterius dicunt super sacramentum suum predictum quod Henricus nunc Comes Oxonie et modo existens

in Custodia dicti domini Regis ratione minoris etatis sue pro alijs terris tentis de dicto domino Rege in Capite per seruicium militare est et tempore mortis predicti

12 Edwardi nuper Comitis Oxonie fuit filius & proximus heres dicti Edwardi nuper Comitis Et quod predictus Henricus modo Comes Oxonie fuit etatis tempore mortis predicti Edwardi nuper Comitis Oxonie patris sui Vndecim Annorum & quatuor Mensium Et Iuratores

13 predicti vltius dicunt super sacramentum suum predictum quod Ignorant quis vel qui exitus & proficua omnium et singulorum premissorum a tempore mortis predicti Edwardi nuper Comitis Oxonie vsque diem Capcionis huius Inquisicionis percepit et habuit siue perceperunt et

14 habuerunt Ac postremo Iuratores predicti dicunt super sacramentum suum predictum quod predictus Edwardus nuper Comes Oxonie in Comissione predicta nominatus nulla alia siue plura Mesuagia terras Tenementa siue hereditamenta habuit siue tenuit nec aliquis alius neque aliqui alij

15 ad eius vsum habuerunt siue tenuerunt aliqua alia Mesuagia terras Tenementa siue hereditamenta tenta de dicto domino Rege nunc in Capite seu aliter aut de aliqua alia persona siue de aliquibus alijs personis in dominico servicio Reuercione siue in Remanere aut in vsum die

16 obitus sui in dicta Civitate Londonie aut alibi in Subvrbijs eiusdem Civitatis ad eorum noticiam In Cuius rei Testimonium vni parti huius Inquisicionis indentate penes prefatos Comissionarios remanenti tam prefati Comissionarij quam Iuratores

17 predicti sigilla sua apposuerunt Alteri vero parti huius Inquisicionis indentate penes primarium Iuratorem predictum remanenti prefati Comissionarij sigilla sua apposuerunt dato die Anno et loco primo supradictis

Edmund fferand
E Churchill feodarius
ffranciscus Rame
Iacobus Necton

Transcriptum inde mitt(?) in Curia Wardorum & Scaccarij per Willelmum Ravenscrofte