

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £2800 acknowledged by Oxford to Sir John Danvers (1540-1594) on 15 July 1576 in connection with the sale of the manor of Christian Malford.

Danvers' wife, Elizabeth Neville (1545x50-1630), was related to Oxford, both being descendants of John de Vere (1408-1462), 12th Earl of Oxford. Elizabeth Neville's grandfather was John Neville (1493-1543), 3rd Baron Latimer, whose first wife was Dorothy de Vere (d. 7 February 1527), sister and co-heir of John de Vere (1499-1526), 14th Earl of Oxford, by whom he had two surviving children, his son and heir John Neville (d.1577), 4th Baron Latimer, and a daughter, Margaret Neville (d.1545). John Neville (d.1577), 4th Baron Latimer, died without surviving male heirs, and his lands were eventually divided among his four daughters and co-heirs, Katherine (1545/6-1596), Dorothy (1548-1609), Lucy (c.1549-1608), and Elizabeth (1545x50-1630), who married, respectively, Henry Percy (c.1532-1585), 8th Earl of Northumberland; Thomas Cecil (1542-1632/3), 1st Earl of Exeter; Sir William Cornwallis (c.1551-1611) of Brome; and Sir John Danvers (1540-1594) of Dauntsey. For the will of Sir John Neville (1493-1543), 3rd Baron Latimer, see TNA PROB 11/29, ff. 134-6.

In the entry for Sir Charles Danvers (c.1568-1601) in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, it is said that his mother, Elizabeth (1545x50-1630) Neville Danvers:

According to family tradition . . . exhibited 'prodigious parts for a woman', having 'Chaucer at her fingers' ends' and being fluent in Italian (Brief Lives, 1.193).

On 20 January 1575 Oxford had conveyed Christian Malford and other manors to Sir William Cordell (1522-1581), Master of the Rolls, Thomas Bromley (c.1530-1587), the Queen's Solicitor-General, and Edward Hubbard (d.1602), Oxford's receiver-general, for £6000 by an indenture of bargain and sale (see SRO D615/D 45 (1)). It would appear that Cordell and Bromley represented the Queen's interests, since when Oxford sued his livery in 1572, he had been required to pledge all his lands as security for his debt to the Queen in the Court of Wards. Legal title to the manors passed from Oxford to the three trustees by a fine of 27 January and 18 April 1575 (see CRO AR/1/854). Oxford intended to use the proceeds of the sale to finance his trip to the continent.

For a lawsuit between Sir John Danvers and John Curtis concerning the lands in the tenure of John Curtis mentioned in the condition to the recognizance below, see TNA C 2/Eliz/D4/46.

The recognizance below is also mentioned in TNA PROB 30/34/14, No. 3.

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford and Danvers, knight

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck, Lord of Badlesmere & Scales, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to John Danvers, knight, two thousand & eight hundred pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid to the same John or his designated attorney, executors, administrators or assigns;

And if he shall not have done [+so] etc.;

Witness the Queen at Westminster on the fifteenth day of July in the eighteenth year of the reign of our said Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France & Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc.

The condition of this recognizance is such that whereas the above-bounded Edward, Earl of Oxenford, before this time, as well by indenture enrolled in the Queen's Majesty's Court of Chancery as also by other good and sufficient conveyance and assurance in the law, hath given, granted, bargained and sold to Sir William Cordell, knight, Master of the Rolls of the said Court of Chancery, Thomas Bromley, esquire, Solicitor-General of our said Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty, and Edward Hubberd, esquire, receiver-general to the said Earl, and to their heirs and assigns forever and to the only use of them and their heirs, all that the manor of Christmalford alias Christian Malford, with all rights, members and appurtenances to the same belonging in the county of Wiltshire, and all and singular mills, messuages, tofts, dovehouses, orchards, gardens, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods, underwoods, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments whatsoever to the said manor belonging or in any wise appertaining or accepted, reputed or taken as part, parcel or member of the same;

And where also sithence that time the said Sir William Cordell, knight, Thomas Bromley and Edward Hubberd, esquires, in consideration of the sum of two thousand eight hundred pounds of lawful money of England by the above-named Sir John Danvers, knight, satisfied and paid to the said Edward Hubberd to the use of the said Earl, have likewise by indenture dated the eighteenth day of May in the seventeenth year [=18 May 1575] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty that now is and enrolled in the said Court of Chancery, bargained and sold unto the said Sir John Danvers and his heirs and assigns forever to the use and behoof of the said Sir John and his heirs all the said manor, messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments aforesaid, excepting and reserving only to the said Sir William Cordell, Thomas Bromley and Edward Hubberd, their heirs and assigns, certain messuages, lands and tenements, parcel of the said manor, situate and being in the said parish of Christian Malford then or late before in the tenure or occupation of one John Curtis or of his assignee or assignees by the demise of the said Earl;

If now the said Sir John Danvers, his heirs and assigns, shall and may at all times from henceforth peaceably and quietly have, hold, occupy and enjoy to his and their proper use and behoof all and singular the said manor, messuages, lands, tenements and

hereditaments whatsoever, except before mentioned to be excepted, without any lawful let, suit, vexation, contradiction, eviction or expulsion of the said Edward, Earl of Oxenford, or of any other person or persons whatsoever coming in or lawfully claiming by, from or under the said Earl, and discharge[d], acquitted or otherwise saved harmless to the said Sir John, his heirs and assigns, of and from all former grants, bargains, estates, recognizances, assurances, charges and other encumbrances whatsoever heretofore had, made, done or procured by the said Earl, the said assurance and conveyance heretofore made by the said Earl to the said Sir William Cordell, Thomas Bromley and Edward Hubberd and all leases, demises and grants before mentioned and excepted and the rents and services from henceforth to be due for the same or any part thereof to the chief lord or lords of the fee or fees thereof only except and forprised, that then this present recognizance to be void and of none effect, or else to stand in full strength and virtue.

LM: D' recognitio inter Comitem Oxonie et Danvers Militem

1 Edwardus de Veer Comes Oxonie dominus magnus Camerarius Anglie vicecomes Bulbeck dominus de Badlismere & Scales coram domina Regina in

2 Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus recognouit se debere Iohanni Danvers Militi duas Mille & octingentas libras legalis monete

3 Anglie Soluendas eidem Iohanni aut suo certo Attornato executoribus administratoribus vel assignatis suis Et nisi fecerit &c Teste Regina apud Westmonasterium quintodecimo die

4 Iulij Anno regni dicte domine nostre Elizabethe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c decimo octauo