

SUMMARY: The document below is a recognizance in the amount of £2000 acknowledged by Oxford to Roger Townshend (c.1544-1590) and Robert Buxton on 22 June 1578 in connection with Oxford's sale to them of the lordship, manor and castle of Rising in Norfolk. For the indenture of 22 June 1578 by which Oxford sold Castle Rising to Roger Townshend and Robert Buxton for £2396 13s 4d, see NOR HOW 144 342 x 6. Castle Rising had been part of the lands and possessions of Oxford's first cousin, Thomas Howard (1538-1572), 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk, attainted of treason and executed in 1572. The Queen granted Castle Rising to Oxford by letters patent dated 15 January 1578 (see TNA C 66/1165, mm. 34-7). According to the entry for Sir Roger Townshend in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, he 'followed his grandfather into the service of the Howard family, becoming man of business to Thomas Howard, fourth duke of Norfolk', and later 'continued in the service of the Howards, taking charge of the affairs of Philip Howard, earl of Arundel, after the execution of his father in 1572'.

It appears that Townshend and Buxton were acting as trustees, and that the real purchaser from Oxford was Norfolk's eldest son and heir, Philip Howard (1557-1595), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Arundel. In 1584, Townshend and Buxton conveyed Castle Rising to Arundel's feoffees, and in 1588 Arundel's trustees conveyed it to trustees in connection with a marriage settlement between Arundel's sister, Lady Margaret Howard (c.1560-1591), and Robert Sackville (1560/1-1609), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Dorset (see How 146 342 x 6, and <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=153-how&cid=-1&Gsm=2008-06-18#-1>).

The recognizance below is also mentioned in TNA PRO 30/34/14.

As Oxford was investing in the Frobisher expedition at this time, it is possible that he sold Castle Rising to raise cash for that purpose (see TNA SP 12/149/42(15), f. 108v).

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford and Townshend

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Viscount Bulbeck, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Lord of Badlesmere & Scales, having appeared personally before our Lady the Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to Roger Townshend, esquire, & Robert Buxton, gentleman, two thousand pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid to the same Roger & Robert, their executors, administrators or assigns, on the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next to come after the date of these presents;

And if he shall not have done [+so], he wishes & grants by these presents that the said money be levied of his lands, tenements, goods & chattels wheresoever they may be found within the kingdom of England to the sole and proper use & behoof of the same Roger & Robert, their executors, administrators & assigns;

Witness the Queen at Westminster on the twenty-second day of June in the twentieth year of the reign of our 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 if the above-bounden Edward, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, do at all times well and truly observe, perform, accomplish, fulfil and keep all and singular the covenants contained and specified in an indenture bearing date of the recognizance above-written which on the part and behalf of the said Earl, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns are to be observed, performed, accomplished, fulfilled and kept according to the true intent, purport and meaning of the same covenants, that then this present recognizance to be void and of none effect, or else to remain and abide in full power, strength and virtue.

LM: Recognitio inter Comitem Oxonie et Towneshend

1 Edwardus de Veer Comes Oxonie Vicecomes Bulbecke dominus magnus Camerarius Anglie dominus de

2 Badlesmere & Scales coram domina nostra Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus recognouit se debere

3 Rogero Towneshend Armigero & Roberto Buxton Generoso duas Mille libras legalis monete Anglie

4 Soluendas eisdem Rogero & Roberto executoribus administratoribus siue assignatis suis in ffesto sancti Michaelis

5 Archangeli proxime futuro post datum presencium Et nisi fecerit vult & concedit per presentes quod dicta pecunia leuetur

6 de terris tenementis bonis & catallis suis vbicumque inuentis fuerint infra Regnum Anglie ad solum ac proprium

7 opus & vsum ipsorum Rogeri & Roberti executorum administratorum & assignatorum suorum Teste Regina apud Westmonasterium

8 vicesimo secundo die Iunij Anno regni domine nostre Elizabethae dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei

9 defensoris &c vicesimo