

SUMMARY: The document below is a recognizance in the amount of £1500 acknowledged by Oxford to Thomas Ashfield on 17 August 1579 in connection with Oxford's sale of the manor of Chesham Bury to Ashfield on that date. For the licence dated 16 August 1579 authorizing Oxford to alienate the manor of Chesham Bury, reserving a life estate to his wife, Anne, see TNA C 66/1180, m. 24.

See also:

'Parishes: Chesham', A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 3 (1925), pp. 203-218. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42547>

*For some reason unknown Chesham Bury escheated to the Crown, by whom it was granted a month after Thomas Lynde's death to John Earl of Oxford. In 1490 the earl obtained a pardon for all past alienations, and seems to have acquired it in fee, as its descent is henceforth identical with that of Chesham Higham (q.v.), already held by the Earls of Oxford.*

*The site of the manor of Chesham Bury, including woods and solums called Wuckeridge Wood, Higham Park and Cowcroft, was alienated in 1579 by the Earl of Oxford to Thomas Ashfield and his heirs, to hold of the queen in chief, reserving a rent of £7 to the earl and his successors. Thomas Ashfield, who had formerly been bailiff to the Earl of Oxford, had received a grant of Chesham advowson (q.v.) in 1571, with which the site of Chesham Bury then descended.*

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

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford and Ashfield

Edward, Earl of Oxford, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to Thomas Ashfield of Chesham in the county of Buckingham, esquire, one thousand & five hundred pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid to the same Thomas or his designated attorney, executors or assigns on the feast of Saint Bartholomew the Apostle next to come after the date of this recognizance;

And if he shall not have done [+so], then the foresaid Earl wishes & grants for himself, his heirs & executors, that the foresaid sum of money be levied of all his lands, tenements, goods & chattels to the use & behoof of the same Thomas, his heirs & assigns, wheresoever they may be found;

Witness the Queen at Westminster on the seventeenth day of August in the twenty-first 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 if the above-bounden Edward, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs, executors and assigns and every of them, do well and truly for his and their parts hold, observe, perform, fulfil and keep all and singular the covenants, grants, articles and agreements contained and specified in a pair of indentures bearing date the seventeenth day of this present August made between the said Earl of thone party and the above-named Thomas Ashfield & one Alexander Hampden, esquire, on thother party, except such covenants in the same indentures specified as do concern the delivery of evidences, which on the part and behalf of the said Earl, his heirs, executors and assigns and every of them are to be holden, observed, performed, fulfilled and kept, except before excepted, according to the intent and true meaning of the same indentures, that then this present recognizance to be void and of none effect, or else to stand in full force, effect and virtue.

LM: Recognitio inter Comitem Oxonie et Asshefield

1 Edwardus Comes Oxonie coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus recognouit se

2 debere Thome Asshefield de Chessham in Comitatu Buck' Armigero mille & quingentas libras legalis

3 monete Anglie soluendas eidem Thome aut suo certo Attornato executoribus vel assignatis suis in

4 festo sancti Bartholomeii Appostoli proxime futuro post datum huius Recognicionis Et nisi fecerit predictus Comes vult &

5 concedit pro se heredibus & executoribus suis quod predicta pecunie summa leuetur de omnibus terris tenementis bonis &

6 catallis suis ad opus & vsum ipsius Thome heredum & assignatorum suorum vbicumque fuerint inuentis Teste Regina apud

7 Westmonasterium decimo septimo die Augusti Anno regni dicte domine nostre Elizabethhe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie

8 Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo primo