

SUMMARY: The document below is the indenture, dated 14 June 1580, made between Oxford and his servants George Kirkham, Hugh Beeston and William Walter in connection with Oxford's purchase of the Great Garden property at Aldgate from Benedict Spinola. For further details, see also Magdalene College documents on this website.

The indenture mentions two leases, one made to Oxford's maternal uncle, George Golding (d.1584), and another to 'one William Couche, citizen and innholder of London', who may have been the William Couche of Stepney, gentleman, who married Johanna Hemmynge, widow, of St Botolph, Aldgate, on 14 November 1573 (see Armytage, George J., ed., *Allegations for Marriage Licences Issued by the Bishop of London 1520 to 1610*, Vol. I, (London: Harleian Society, 1887), p.58, available online).

LM: Indentura inter kirkehame et alias & Oxonie Comitem

This indenture made the fourteenth day of June in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred and fourscore and in the two and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defendress of the Faith etc., between the right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck and Lord of Scales and Badlesmere, of the one part, and George Kirkham, gentleman, Hugh Beeston, gentleman and solicitor unto the said Earl, and William Walter, gentleman servant also unto the said Earl, of thother part;

Witnesseth that the said George Kirkham, Hugh Beeston and William Walter for a certain sum of good lawful money of England to them in hand paid by the said Earl, whereof and wherewith they acknowledge themselves well and truly satisfied, contented and paid and the said Earl, his heirs, executors and administrators thereof and of every part and parcel thereof clearly acquitted and discharged forever, by these presents have aliened, bargained and sold, confirmed and released and by these presents do alien, bargain and sell, confirm and release unto the said Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs and assigns, all that the Great Garden situate, lying and being in the parish of Saint Botolph without Aldgate, London, commonly called or known by the name of the Great Garden or Covent Garden of Christ Church with th' appurtenances, and also all that the messuage or tenement called the Gatehouse with a backside thereunto belonging and a pathway leading to the said Great Garden, and all houses and buildings of, in or upon them or any of them now being with all and singular their appurtenances, and the reversion and reversions of them and every of them, and all the estate, right, title, interest and demand whatsoever of them, the said George, Hugh and William, out of, in and to the premises before by these presents mentioned to be aliened, bargained and sold, confirmed and released, together with an indenture of bargain and sale made from Benedict Spinola, merchant of Jeane [=Genoa] now resident in London and free denizen of England, unto them, the said George Kirkham, Hugh Beeston and William Walter, their heirs and

assigns, of the premises above specified, to have and to hold the said Great Garden, messuage and tenement with all other the premises with th' appurtenances together with the same indenture unto the said Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs and assigns, forever;

And the said George Kirkham, Hugh Beeston and William Walter & every of them for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators, doth covenant, promise and grant to and with the said Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs and assigns, by these presents in manner and form following:

That they, the said George, Hugh and William, their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, shall and will at all and every time and times hereafter and from time to time at his and their own proper costs and charges clearly acquit, discharge, save or keep harmless as well the said Earl, his heirs, executors and assigns, as the said Great Garden, messuage, gatehouse, backside and pathway and all and singular other the premises with th' appurtenances of and from all dowers, titles of dowry, annuities, fees, judgments, bargains, charges, titles, troubles, demands and encumbrances whatsoever had, made knowledged, committed, suffered or done by the said George Kirkham, Hugh Beeston and William Walter or any of them or by any other person or persons by or under their or any of their estates, rights, titles, means, assents or procurements(?), one lease made by them, the said George, Hugh and William, unto George Golding, gentleman, his executors and assigns, for fourscore and ten years if the said George Kirkham [sic?] and Frances, then his wife, or either of them, do so long live, of two messuages and tenements with the yards and two gardens to the same belonging, late in the occupation of one (blank) Crispe, esquire, and also one cherry-tree garden to the same gardens adjoining, parcel of the said premises, and also one lease made unto one William Couche, citizen and innholder of London, of one other garden also parcel of the said premises for one and twenty years only excepted and forprised;

In witness whereof the parties first above-named either to other of these indentures interchangeably have put their hands and seals the day and years first abovewritten.

Et memorandum quod vicesimo secundo die Iunij Anno suprascripto prefati Georgius Kyrkehame hugo Beestonne et Willelmus Walter venerunt coram dicta domina Regina in Cancellaria sua et recognouerunt Indenturam predictam ac omnia & singula in eadem contenta & specificata in [-in] forma supradicta

Irrotulatur tercio die Iulij Anno predicto

[=And be it remembered that on the twenty-second day of June in the year abovewritten the forenamed George Kirkham, Hugh Beeston and William Walter came before the said Lady Queen in her Chancery and acknowledged the foresaid indenture and all & singular in the same contained & specified in form abovesaid.]

[=Enrolled on the third day of July in the year abovesaid.]