

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of 2000 marks acknowledged by Oxford to Thomas Skinner on 17 September 1580 in connection with indentures dated 16 September 1580. The condition of the recognizance indicates that Castle Camps was part of the jointure of Oxford's wife, Anne Cecil, and that Oxford had entered into a lease with her brother, Sir Thomas Cecil, and William Cooke on 20 January 1575 concerning the revenues from Castle Camps.

For a recognizance in the amount of £7000 acknowledged by Oxford to Thomas Skinner a day earlier, on 16 September 1580, in connection with indentures of the same date for the sale of the manors of Castle Camps and Fowlmere, see TNA C 54/1094, Part 24.

For an earlier recognizance in the amount of £5000 acknowledged by Oxford to his receiver-general, Edward Hubberd (d.1602), on 2 March 1579 in connection with repayment of a debt of £2500 which Oxford owed to Skinner, see TNA C 54/1067, Part 21.

For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 9 February and 12 April 1581 by which clear title to Castle Camps and Fowlmere passed from Oxford to Skinner, see TNA CP 25/2/260/23ELIZIEASTER.

Oxford purchased both the London mansion of Fisher's Folly and the Great Garden property at Aldgate about this time, and it may be that Oxford's sale of Castle Camps and Fowlmere to Skinner was related to his purchases of Fisher's Folly and the Great Garden property.

For the judgment granted to Thomas Skinner on 20 October 1590 against Oxford for 2000 marks pursuant to the recognizance below, see TNA C 43/10/340.

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

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford and Skinner

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery acknowledged himself to owe to Thomas Skinner, citizen & cloth-worker of London, two thousand marks of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the same Thomas Skinner or his designated attorney or executors;

And if he shall not have done [+so], then he wishes & grants by these presents that the said sum of money be levied of his goods & chattels, lands & tenements [+& those] of his heirs, executors & administrators to the use & behoof of the forenamed Thomas Skinner, wheresoever they may be found within this kingdom of England;

Witness the said Lady Queen at Westminster on the seventeenth day of September in the twenty-second 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 proviso or condition mentioned and contained in one pair of indentures bearing date the sixteenth day of this instant month of September made between the said Thomas Skinner on thone party and the said Earl on thother party shall not be performed according to the true intent and meaning of the same, if then the said Thomas Skinner, his heirs and assigns, shall or may peaceably and quietly have, hold and enjoy the manor and lordship of Camps in the counties of Cambridge and Essex and all lands, tenements and hereditaments to the same belonging or appertaining with th' appurtenances in the said indenture specified and contained and every part and parcel thereof, except as in one indenture of bargain and sale bearing date the said sixteenth day of this instant September made between the said Earl and the said Thomas Skinner is excepted, without any lawful let, eviction or disturbance of Sir Thomas Cecil, knight, or William Cooke, esquire, or either of them, his or their executors, administrators or assigns, during the joint lives of the said Earl and of the right honourable the Lady Anne, Countess of Oxon', now wife of the said Earl, the said Thomas Skinner, his heirs or executors, paying yearly upon reasonable request to be made by the said Earl or his assigns unto the said Thomas Skinner, his executors or administrators, at the now dwelling-house of the said Thomas Skinner situate in Cheapside, London, the sum of one hundred fifty and four pounds and five shillings of lawful English money unto the said Earl, Sir Thomas Cecil and William Cooke or any of them, their or any of their executors or assigns, during the joint lives of the said Earl and Countess unto the use of the said Countess, or else if the said Thomas Skinner, his heirs and assigns, shall not enjoy the aforesaid premises according to the true intent and meaning aforesaid, if then the said Earl do well and truly content, satisfy and pay yearly unto the said Thomas Skinner, his heirs and assigns, at the tendering place in the Royal Exchange, London, during the said joint lives of the said Earl and Countess within one month after public request to be made unto the said Earl at Hedingham Castle in the county of Essex so much lawful money of England as the said Thomas Skinner should or might have had or received of the rents or revenues of the premises if one lease made by the said Earl to the said Sir Thomas Cecil and William Cooke bearing date the twentieth day of January in the seventeenth year [=20 January 1575] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty that now is had not been had or made, deducting yearly the said sum of one hundred fifty and four pounds and five shillings, that then this recognizance to be void and of none effect, or else the same to stand, remain and be in full power, strength and virtue.

LM: Recognitio inter Oxonie Comitem et Skynner

1 Edwardus de Veer Comes Oxonie dominus magnus Camerarius Anglie coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter

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2 constitutus recognouit se debere Thome Skynner Ciui & Clothworker London duas Mille Marcas bone & legalis

3 Monete Anglie soluendas eidem Thome Skynner aut suo certo attornato vel executoribus suis Et nisi fecerit tunc vult

4 & concedit per presentes quod dicta pecunie summa leuetur de bonis & cattallis terris & tenementis suis heredum executorum &

5 administratorum suorum ad opus & vsum prefati Thome Skynner vbicumque inventis fuerint infra hoc regnum Anglie Teste

6 dicta domina Regina apud Westmonasterium decimo septimo die Septembris Anno regni domine nostre Elizabethe dei gracia Anglie

7 ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo secundo