

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £2000 acknowledged by Oxford on 19 May 1580 to Nicholas West (d.1586) of Marsworth in connection with indentures dated 15 May 1580 for the sale of the manors of Chesham Higham and Chesham Bury. The recognizance is struck through, and cancelled by a vacat in the left margin dated 22 February 1581. The document has the signatures of Nicholas West and William Cordell, Master of the Rolls.

The condition of the recognizance states that the indentures of 15 May 1580 were made between Oxford and Nicholas West, his wife Joan, and his son and heir apparent, William. William West died in 1583, and Nicholas was succeeded by his son Edmund (see 'Parishes: Marsworth', *A History of the County of Buckingham*: Volume 3 (1925), pp. 391-397. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42586>).

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>

Edward, the seventeenth earl, who succeeded to Chesham in 1562, demised the manor for a term of years to Luke Atslow, whose brother Dr. Edward Atslow brought an action against the copyholders in 1574 to prevent the cutting down of timber. In 1580 Edward Earl of Oxford obtained the royal licence to alienate Chesham to Nicholas and Joan West and their son and heir William, with whom he united in the following year to convey it to Thomas Farmer. By 1588 Chesham Higham had come into the possession of Miles Sandys, lord of Latimer, with which Chesham has since been held.

For the licence dated 2 May 1580 authorizing Oxford to alienate the manors of Chesham Higham and Chesham Bury to Nicholas West, Joan his wife, and William West, see TNA C 66/1197, m. 23. For the licence dated 1 December 1580 authorizing Oxford, Nicholas West, Joan his wife, and William West to alienate to Thomas Farmer, Matthew Smyth and Edward Amerydeth the manors of Chesham Higham and Chesham Bury, together with a yearly rent of £7 reserved to Oxford in an earlier grant (see below) by Oxford to Thomas Ashfield and Alexander Hampden, see TNA C 66/1207, m. 14.

For an earlier licence dated 16 August 1579 authorizing Oxford to alienate the site and certain demesne lands of the manors of Chesham Higham and Chesham Bury, with reservation of specified rights, to Thomas Ashfield and Alexander Hampden, see TNA C 66/1180, m. 24. For the recognizance which Oxford acknowledged in Chancery on 17 August 1579 to Thomas Ashfield in connection with that sale, see TNA C 54/1065, Part 19.

In TNA C 66/1180, mm. 32-3, TNA C 66/1180, m. 47, and TNA C 66/1197, m. 23 Nicholas West is described as one of the Six Clerks in Chancery. In his will, dated 28 March 1586 and proved 10 November 1586, he describes himself as 'one of the Masters of the Queen's Majesty's High Court of Chancery' (see TNA PROB 11/69, ff. 496-7).

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford and West

Edward, Earl of Oxford, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery at Westminster, acknowledged himself to owe to Nicholas West of Marsworth alias Maxworth in the county of Buckingham, esquire, two thousand pounds of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the same Nicholas West or his designated attorney, executors or assigns on the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next to come after the date of this recognizance;

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

Witness the Queen at Westminster on the nineteenth day of May in the twenty-second 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 Oxendford, 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 fifteenth day of this present month of May made between the said Earl on the one party and the above-named Nicholas West, Joan his wife, and William West, gentleman, son and heir apparent of the said Nicholas, 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 th' 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 Oxonie Comitem et West

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

2 Nicholao West de Masworthe alias Maxworthe in Comitatu Buck' Armigero Duas Mille libras bone & legalis monete Anglie

3 soluendas eidem Nicholao West aut suo certo Attornato executoribus vel assignatis suis
in festo sancti Michaelis Archangeli proxime futuro post

4 datum huius Recognicionis Et nisi fecerit predictus Comes vult & concedit pro se
heredibus executoribus & administratoribus suis

5 quod predicta pecunie summa leuetur de omnibus terris tenementis bonis & cattallis
suis ad opus & vsum ipsius Nicholai heredum & assignatorum

6 suorum vbicumque fuerint inuentis Teste Regina apud Westmonasterium decimo nono
die Maij Anno regni dicte domine nostre Elizabethe dei gracia

7 Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo secundo

LM: Vacata ista Recognitio vnacum condicione eiusdem pro eo quod vicesimo secundo
die ffebruarij Anno regni Regine Elizabethe xxij infranominatus Nicholaus West coram
dicta domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus fatebatur se de omnibus
& singulis pecuniarum summis in ista Recognicione & condicione eiusdem specificatis
plenarie fore satisfactum & persolutum Ideo ad specialem requisicionem prefati Nicholai
Cancellatur & omnino dampnatur

[=This recognizance vacated, together with the condition of the same, because on the
twenty-second day of February in the 23rd year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth the
within-named Nicholas West, having appeared personally before the said Lady Queen in
her Chancery, confessed himself to be completely satisfied & paid of all & singular the
sums of money specified in that recognizance & the condition of the same; therefore at
the special request of the forenamed Nicholas it was cancelled & entirely annulled.]