

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £2000 acknowledged by Thomas Woodhouse of Hickling, Norfolk, to Oxford on 14 August 1580 in connection with indentures of the same date for the sale of the manor of Hickling in Norfolk. The recognizance is struck through, and cancelled by a vacat in the left margin dated 3 December 1581. The document has Oxford's signature, the signature of Gilbert Gerrard, Master of the Rolls, and the signature of Lawrence Hurd(?).

Nothing further is known of Oxford's purchase of the manor of Hickling from Thomas Woodhouse, and the sale appears not to have taken place. On 30 May 1581 Thomas Woodhouse had licence to alienate Hickling and other manors to the London alderman, Martin Calthorpe (see TNA C 66/ 1202, m. 21).

Sir William Woodhouse (b. in or before 1517, d. 22 November 1564) of Hickling, Norfolk, had three sons, Henry, Thomas and William, two married daughters, the wives of Ralph Shelton and William Heydon, esquires, and two unmarried daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret (see his will, dated 15 November 1564 and proved 23 February 1565, TNA PROB 11/48 ff. 43-4). According to the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, his heir, Henry, was the son of his first marriage, while Thomas was the son of his second marriage to Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Philip Calthorpe, and widow of Sir Henry Parker.

Thomas Woodhouse is also mentioned in the will of his uncle, Sir Thomas Woodhouse (b. by 1514, d. 21 January 1572), for whose will, dated 18 January 1571 and proved 9 June 1572, see TNA PROB 11/54, ff. 139-40. See also Bindoff, S.T., *The House of Commons 1509-1558*, Vol. III (London: Secker & Warburg, 1982), pp. 652-5, available online.

Either Thomas Woodhouse or his brother, Henry Woodhouse, is referred to as Oxford's companion in a document dating from January 1581 containing miscellaneous allegations against Oxford by Charles Arundel (d.1587). See SP/12/151/45, ff. 100-2:

*Whether this hath passed him [=Oxford] I leave it to the report of my Lord Charles Howard, my Lord Windsor, my Lord Compton, my Lord Harry Howard and my Lord Thomas Howard, Raleigh, Gorges, Gifford, Waldose [=Woodhouse?], Noel and Southwell, with divers other gentlemen that hath accompanied him.*

Oxford and Thomas Woodhouse are also mentioned by Hakluyt as among those who served prince and country against the Spanish Armada. See Hakluyt, Richard, *The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffics and Discoveries of the English Nation*, ed. by Edmund Goldsmid, Vol. VII (Edinburgh: E. & G. Goldsmid, 1888), pp. 148-9, available online:

*The English navy in the meanwhile increased, whereunto out of all havens of the realm resorted ships and men, for they all with one accord came flocking thither as unto a set*

*field where immortal fame and glory was to be attained, and faithful service to be performed unto their prince and country. In which number there were many great and honourable personages, as namely the Earls of Oxford, of Northumberland, of Cumberland etc., with many knights and gentleman, to wit, Sir Thomas Cecil, Sir Robert Cecil, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir William Hatton, Sir Horatio Palavicino, Sir Henry Brooke, Sir Robert Carew, Sir Charles Blount, Mr Ambrose Willoughby, Mr Henry Nowell, Mr Thomas Gerard, Mr Henry Dudley, Mr Edward Darcy, Mr Arthur Gorges, Mr Thomas Woodhouse, Mr William Harvey etc.*

The Thomas Woodhouse of Hickling who entered into the recognizance below may also be the Thomas Woodhouse mentioned in a letter from Arthur Milles to Sir Robert Cecil concerning Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (see Nelson, Alan, *Monstrous Adversary* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2003), pp. 402-3).

LM: Recognizance between Woodhouse and the Earl of Oxford

Thomas Woodhouse of Hickling in the county of Norfolk, esquire, in his own person having appeared personally before the said Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, two thousand pounds of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the same Earl or his designated attorney, executors or assigns;

And if he shall not have done [+so], he wishes & grants for himself, his heirs, executors & administrators by these presents that then the foresaid two thousand pounds be levied of the goods & chattels, lands, tenements & hereditaments of the same Thomas to the use & behoof of the same Earl, his heirs & assigns forever, wheresoever they may be found within the kingdom of England;

Witness the forenamed Lady Queen at Westminster on the fourteenth day of August 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. 1580.

The condition of this recognizance is such that whereas the above-bounden Thomas Woodhouse hath by one indenture bearing the date of this recognizance given, granted, bargained and sold unto the said Earl of Oxenford and his heirs the manors, lordships, farms or tenements called or known by the name or names of Hickling alias Hicklyn lying and being in the county of Norfolk or elsewhere with all and singular their appurtenances upon the condition in the said indenture mentioned, as by the same more at large it doth and may appear;

Now if the said Thomas Woodhouse at the ensealing and delivery of the said indenture was solely, lawfully and rightfully seised of the said manors or lordships, farms or

tenements and of all and singular other the premises in the said indenture mentioned to be given, granted, bargained and sold of a good, absolute and rightful estate in fee simple to his own use without any condition or limitation of use over to alter or change the same or any part thereof;

If also the said Thomas Woodhouse, his heirs, executors or administrators, shall and will at all times hereafter from time to time acquit and discharge or otherwise within two months after request thereof to be publicly and notoriously made by the said Earl, his heirs or assigns, at the mansion house of the said Thomas Woodhouse in Hickling aforesaid sufficiently save and keep harmless as well the said Earl, his heirs, executors and assigns as the said manors or lordships, lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said indenture mentioned to be bargained and sold of and from all and singular bargains, sales, titles, charges, demands and encumbrances whatsoever had, made or done before th' ensealing and delivery of the said indenture by the said Thomas Woodhouse or any of his ancestors or by any other person or persons whatsoever lawfully having or claiming any estate, right, title or interest of, in, to or out of the said manors or lordships, farms or tenements and other the premises in the said indenture mentioned to be bargained or sold or any part thereof by, from or under them or any of them, except as in the said indenture is excepted, that then this recognizance shall be void.

LM: Recognitio inter Woodhowse et Oxonie Comititis

1 Thomas Woodhowse de Hicklinge in Comitatu Norff<sup>o</sup> Armiger in propria persona sua coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua

2 personaliter constitutus recognouit se debere Edwardo de Veer Comitem Oxonie duo Millia librarum bone & legalis monete Anglie

3 soluendarum eidem Comiti aut suo certo attornato executoribus vel assignatis suis Et nisi fecerit vult & concedit pro se heredibus

4 executoribus & administratoribus suis per presentes quod tunc predicte duo Mille libre leuentur de bonis & cattallis terris tenementis & hereditamentis

5 ipsius Thome ad opus & vsum ipsius Comititis heredum & assignatorum suorum imperpetuum vbicunque inventis fuerint infra regnum Anglie

6 Teste prefata domina Regina apud Westmonasterium decimo quarto die Augusti Anno regni dicte domine nostre Elizabethhe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie

7 & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo secundo 1580

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LM: Vacata ista recognicio vnacum condicione eiusdem pro eo quod tercio die Decembris Anno regni infrascripto domine Regine vicesimo quarto infranominatus Edwardus Comes Oxonie coram dicta domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus fatebatur se plenarie satisfactum & persolutum de omnibus & singulis condicionibus(?) & pecuniarum summis in ista recognicione & condicione eiusdem specificatis Ideo ad specialem requisicionem prefati Comitis Cancellatur & omnino dampnatur

[=This recognizance vacated, together with the condition of the same, because on the third day of December in the within-written twenty-fourth year of the Lady Queen the within-named Edward, Earl of Oxford, having appeared personally before the said Lady Queen in her Chancery, confessed himself to be completely satisfied & paid of all & singular the conditions(?) & sums of money specified in that recognizance & the condition of the same; therefore at the special request of the forenamed Earl it was cancelled & entirely annulled.]