

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £1000 acknowledged by Oxford to George Knightley of Frating on 27 March 1580 in connection with indentures of the same date for the sale of the manor of Gutteridge. For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 18 April 1580 by which clear title to the manor of Gutteridge passed from Oxford to Knightley, see TNA CP 25/2/131/1677/22ELIZIEASTER, Item 6.

A life estate in the manor of Gutteridge had been allotted to the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's brother, Geoffrey de Vere, by the private Act of Parliament of 23 January 1552 which restored the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's lands to him after Somerset's extortion (see TNA WARD 8/13 and HL/PO/PB/1/1551/5E6n35). For the nuncupative last will and testament, dated 3 April 1572, of Geoffrey de Vere, see ERO D/DABW 38/187.

The George Knightley who purchased the manor of Gutteridge from Oxford would appear to have been the George Knightley of London, gentleman, whose will was probated on 29 January 1608 (see TNA PROB 11/111, ff. 29-30). His wife was the sister of Edmund Pyrton, esquire, whose wife Constance (nee Darcy) was Oxford's first cousin.

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

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford & Knightley

Edward, Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck & Lord of Badlesmere & Scales, in his own person having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to George Knightley of Frating in the county of Essex, esquire, one thousand pounds of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the same George 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 one thousand pounds be levied of the goods & chattels, lands, tenements & hereditaments of the same Earl to the use & behoof of the same George, his heirs & assigns forever, wheresoever they may be found within the kingdom of England;

Witness the Queen at Westminster on the twenty-seventh day of March 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 whereas the above-bounden Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, hath by his indenture bearing the date of these presents made between the said Earl on the one party and the said George Knightley on thother party for

the considerations in the said indenture mentioned aliened, bargained and sold unto the said George Knightley, his heirs and assigns, forever all that the manor, messuage, farm or tenement commonly called Gutteridge alias Custriche alias Custrich Hall in the county of Essex, and all lands, tenements, profits, commodities and hereditaments whatsoever to the said manor, messuage, farm or tenement belonging or appertaining, as by the same indenture, amongst other things therein contained, more plainly appeareth;

If therefore the said Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs, executors or administrators or any of them shall from time to time and at all times hereafter acquit, discharge or otherwise within six months next after lawful request thereof made in Hedingham Castle in the said county of Essex save and keep harmless the said manor, messuage, farm or tenement, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in the said-recited indenture mentioned to be bargained and sold of and from all charges, titles and encumbrances whatsoever had, made or done by the said Earl and the right honourable John de Vere, late Earl of Oxenford, late father unto the said now Earl, or either of them, except as in the said-recited indenture is excepted;

If also the said Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, shall at all times and from time to time during the space of three years next ensuing the date hereof within six days after reasonable request and at the costs and charges in the law of the said George, his heirs or assigns, do make and knowledge and suffer to be made, done and knowledged all and every such further reasonable act and acts, thing and things, assurance and assurances, devices and conveyances for the further assurance and conveyance of the premises in the said-recited indenture mentioned to be bargained and sold and every part and parcel thereof with th' appurtenances unto the said George Knightley, his heirs and assigns, to the use of the said George Knightly, his heirs and assigns, forever, as by the same George Knightley, his heirs or assigns or his or their learned counsel in the law shall be reasonably devised, advised or required, so as the said further conveyance or assurance do not comprise any further or other warranty than against the said Earl and his heirs, and so as the said Earl and his heirs be not bound thereby for the making or doing any act or thing touching or concerning the said further assurance or conveyance to travel from the place where he or they at the time of the request shall be, that then this recognizance to be void and of none effect, or else to remain and abide in full strength and virtue.

LM: Recognitio inter Oxonie Comitem & Knightley

1 Edwardus Comes Oxonie dominus magnus Camerarius Anglie Vicount Bulbeck & dominus de Badlesmere & Scales in propria persona

2 sua coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus recognouit se debere Georgio Knightley de ffratinge

3 in Comitatu Essex Armigero Mille libras bone & legalis monete Anglie soluendas eidem Georgio aut suo certo Attornato

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4 executoribus vel assignatis suis Et nisi fecerit vult & concedit pro se heredibus executoribus & administratoribus suis per presentes

5 quod tunc predicte Mille libre leuentur de bonis & catallis terris tenementis & hereditamentis ipsius Comitis ad opus & vsum

6 ipsius Georgij heredum & assignatorum suorum imperpetuum vbicumque inuentis fuerint infra Regnum Anglie Teste Regina apud Westmonasterium vicesimo septimo

7 die Marcij Anno regni dicte domine nostre Elizabethhe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo

8 secundo