

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £500 acknowledged by Oxford to Humphrey Drywood of South Benfleet and Robert Drywood of Dunton on 19 March 1581 in connection with indentures dated 10 March 1581 for the sale of the manor of Earls Fee in Bowers Gifford. For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 27 October 1581 by which clear title to the manor of Earls Fee passed from Oxford to Humphrey and Robert Drywood, see TNA CP 25/2/131/1683/23/4ELIZIMICH, Item 10.

The Act of Parliament of 22 January 1552 which restored the 16th Earl's lands to him after Somerset's extortion allocated a life estate in the manor of Earls Fee to Oxford's uncle, Aubrey de Vere (see TNA WARD 8/13 and HL/PO/PB/1/1551/5E6n35). For the will of Aubrey de Vere, dated 18 January 1580, see ERO D/AMR 3/281.

Humphrey and Robert Drywood may have been related to Lord Burghley's servant, Bernard Dewhurst. For the latter's will, which mentions 'my son-in-law, Mr Drywood', see TNA PROB 11/89, f. 54.

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

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford and Drywood & others

The right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck & Lord of Badlesmere and Scales, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to Humphrey Drywood of South Benfleet in the county of Essex, yeoman, & Robert Drywood of Dunton in the said county of Essex, yeoman, five hundred pounds of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the same Humphrey Drywood & Robert Dyrwood or their or either of their designated attorney or attorneys, their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns or any of them, or to any (s. & pl.) of them, on the feast of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary the Virgin now next to come after the date of this recognizance;

And if he shall not have done [+so], he wishes & grants for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators & assigns & any of them that the foresaid sum of five hundred pounds be levied & recovered of all his goods, chattels, lands, tenements & hereditaments & any of them to the use & behoof of the same Humphrey Drywood & Robert Drywood, their heirs, executors, administrators & assigns & any of them, to whose hands soever they shall have come within the kingdom of England;

Witness the said Lady Queen at Westminster on the nineteenth day of March in the twenty-third 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, by his indenture bearing date the tenth day of March in the three and twentieth year of the reign of our said Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty hath granted, bargained and sold unto the above-named Humphrey Drywood and Robert Drywood and to their heirs and assigns forever, amongst other things, all that his manor or farm of Earls Fee in Bowers Gifford in the county of Essex, and all those closes or crofts called Earls Crofts, otherwise called Earls Fields, being three closes or crofts or thereabout lying and being in the parish of Bures Gifford alias Bowers Gifford in the said county of Essex, and also all that salt-marsh called or known by the name of Northstincknes alias Northstynas set, lying and being the parish of Bowers Gifford aforesaid, and divers other lands, tenements and hereditaments, as by the said indenture more at large it doth appear;

If therefore the said Earl, his heirs, executors or administrators, shall and will from time to time and at all times hereafter acquit and discharge or otherwise within six months next after request thereof publicly and openly made at or in the Castle of Hedingham in the said county of Essex sufficiently save and keep harmless as well the said Humphrey Drywood and Robert Drywood and each of them and each of their heirs and assigns as also the said manor or farm and all and singular other the premises in and by the said-recited indenture mentioned or intended to be bargained and sold of and from all bargains, sales, titles, charges, demands and encumbrances whatsoever had, made or done by the said Edward de Vere, now Earl of Oxenford, or by the right honourable John de Vere, late Earl of Oxenford, deceased, his late father, or by either of them, or by, from or under their or either of their assents, means, titles, rights or procurements, except as in the said-recited indenture is excepted;

And if also the said Earl and his heirs shall and will at all times hereafter and from time to time during the space of five years next ensuing the date hereof within convenient time after reasonable request thereof made make, do and knowledge at the costs and charges in the law of the said Humphrey and Robert or one of them, their or one of their heirs or assigns or of some or one of them, all and every such further act and acts, thing and things, devise and devises in the law for the further, better or any other conveying and assuring of the said manor or farm and other the premises in and by the said-recited indenture mentioned or intended to be bargained and sold and of every or any of them in any and every such manner and form as shall be reasonably devised or advised by the said Humphrey and Robert Drywood, their heirs or assigns, or by their or any of their learned counsel in the law, with warranty only against the said now Earl and the said Earl, his late father, their and each of their heirs and assigns, so as the said now Earl nor his heirs be not bound for the making or doing of any the acts or things touching the said further assurance to travel from the place where he or they shall be at the time of the said request, that then this present recognizance shall be utterly void and of none effect.

LM: Recognitio inter Oxonie Comitem et Drywood & alias

1 Prenobilis Edwardus de Veer Comes Oxonie dominus magnus Camerarius Anglie Vicecomes Bulbecke & dominus de

2 Badlesmere et Scales coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus recognouit se debere

3 Humfrido Drywood de Southbeniflete in Comitatu Essex yoman & Roberto Drywood de Dunton in dicto Comitatu

4 Essex yoman Quingentas libras bone & legalis monete Anglie Soluendas eisdem Humfrido Drywood & Roberto

5 Drywood seu eorum alteri aut suo certo attornato seu attornatis suis heredibus executoribus administratoribus vel

6 assignatis suis seu eorum alicuius vel alicui vel aliquibus eorundem in ffesto Annunciacionis beate Marie Virginis

7 iam proxime futuro post datum huius Recognicionis Et nisi fecerit vult & concedit pro se heredibus executoribus

8 administratoribus & assignatis suis & quolibet eorum quod predicta summa quingentarum librarum leuetur & recuperetur de

9 omnibus bonis catallis terris tenementis & hereditamentis suis & eorum cuiuslibet ad opus & vsum eorundem Humfridi

10 Drywood & Roberti Drywood heredum executorum administratorum & assignatorum suorum & eorum cuiuslibet ad quorumcumque

11 manus deuenerint infra Regnum Anglie Teste dicta domina Regina apud Westmonasterium decimo nono die Marcij

12 Anno regni domine nostre Elizabethhe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo tercio