

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £1000 acknowledged by Oxford to John Waterhouse on 31 January 1581 in connection with indentures of the same date for the sale of the manor of Whitchurch.

See also:

'Parishes: Whitchurch', A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 3 (1925), pp. 442-449. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42596>

*The earldom of Oxford passed to his cousin, also John de Vere. His grandson Edward, the seventeenth earl, owner of Whitchurch Manor in 1575, sold it in 1581 to John Waterhouse, with the exception of the site and demesne lands previously purchased by Thomas Duncombe. John Waterhouse died seised in 1583, leaving the manor to his wife for life with certain exceptions, including the courts and a water-mill, to his son Thomas.*

As mentioned in the foregoing excerpt, Thomas Duncombe (d.1601) had earlier purchased the site and demesne lands of Whitchurch from Oxford, and these were excepted from the sale to Waterhouse. For the recognizance in the amount of £800 acknowledged by Oxford to Duncombe on 17 August 1579 in connection with this sale, see TNA C 54/1065, Part 19. For the licence dated 1 July 1579 authorizing Oxford to alienate the honour or manor of Whitchurch to Duncombe, see TNA C 66/1180, m. 33.

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

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford and Waterhouse

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck & Lord of Badlesmere & Scales, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to John Waterhouse of Whitchurch in the county of Buckingham, esquire, one thousand pounds of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the same John or his designated attorney, executors or assigns on the feast of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary the Virgin next to come after the date of this recognizance;

And if he shall not have done [+so], he has granted & by these presents for himself & his heirs wishes & grants that then the said sum of money be levied & recovered of all & singular the manors, messuages, lands, tenements, goods, chattels & possessions of the same Earl of Oxford to the sole & proper use & behoof of the same John, his heirs, executors & administrators, wheresoever they may be found by these presents;

Witness the said Lady Queen at Westminster on the last day of January in the twenty-third 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 where the said Earl of Oxenford hath bargained and sold by his indenture bearing date the day of the date of these presents to the said John Waterhouse the manor of Whitchurch with th' appurtenances in the county of Buck', if the said Earl, his heirs, executors and administrators, shall and will from time to time and at all times hereafter acquit and discharge or otherwise within six months after request thereof to be publicly or notoriously made at or in the Castle of Hedingham sufficiently save harmless as well the said John Waterhouse, his heirs and assigns, as also the said manor of Whitchurch with th' appurtenances of and from all former bargains, sales, leases, gifts, grants and encumbrances whatsoever done by the said Earl or the late Earl, his father, or by their or either of their assents, except as in and by the said indenture is excepted, and also do within three years next after the date hereof within six days next after reasonable request make, do and knowledge or cause to be made, done and knowledged at the costs and charges in the law of the said John Waterhouse all and every such further act and acts, thing and things for the better assurance and sure making of the premises as shall be reasonably devised, with warranty only against the said Earl and his father and their heirs, so as the said Earl or his heirs travel not from the place where he shall be at the request making of the same assurance, that then this present recognizance to be void and of none effect, or else to stand in full strength and virtue.

LM: Recognitio inter Oxonie Comitem et Waterhouse

1 Edwardus de Veer Comes Oxonie dominus magnus Camerarius Anglie Vicecomes Bulbeck & dominus de Badlesmere

2 & Scales coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus recognouit se debere Iohanni Waterhouse

3 de Whitchurch in Comitatu Buck' Armigero Mille libras bone & legalis monete Anglie Soluendas eidem Iohanni

4 aut suo certo attornato executoribus vel assignatis suis in ffesto Annunciacionis beate Marie Virginis proxime futuro

5 post datum huius Recognicionis Et nisi fecerit concessit & per presentes pro se & heredibus suis vult & concedit quod

6 tunc dicta summa leuetur & recuperetur de omnibus & singulis Manerijs mesuagijs terris tenementis bonis catallis

7 & possessionibus ipsius Comitibus Oxonie ad solum & proprium opus & vsum ipsius Iohannis heredum executorum &

8 administratorum suorum vbicumque inuentis fuerint per presentes Teste dicta domina Regina apud Westmonasterium vltimo die

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