

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £900 acknowledged by Lewis Mordaunt (21 September 1538 - 16 June 1601), 3rd Baron Mordaunt, to Oxford on 26 November 1580 in connection with indentures of the same date. The subject of the indentures is unknown. The recognizance is struck through, and cancelled by a vacat in the left margin dated 20 November 1581(?). The document has the signatures of Oxford and Gilbert Gerard, Master of the Rolls.

Oxford was related to Lewis Mordaunt, 3rd Baron Mordaunt, through the Fitz Lewes family, which had settled in Horndon by 1438, when the head of the family was Sir Lewes John (d. 27 October 1442), whose first wife was Alice de Vere, the daughter of Aubrey de Vere (c.1338 – 15 February 1400), 10th Earl of Oxford.

Sir Lewes John's heir was his eldest son by Alice de Vere, Lewes Fitz Lewes, who died between 1477 and 1480. When Edward IV seized the throne, Lewes Fitz Lewes, as a supporter of the Lancastrian cause and a near kinsman of the Earls of Oxford, was attainted, and his lands in Essex forfeited. He was succeeded by his son, Sir Richard Fitz Lewes, who is commemorated by a monumental brass at Ingrave, Essex. See:

<http://www.mbs-brasses.co.uk/page94.html>

Sir Richard Fitz Lewes (born c.1446, d. 12 July 1528) married firstly, before 1466, Alice Harleston, one of the two daughters of John Harleston of Shimpling, Norfolk, by Margaret Bardwell, the daughter and heir of William Bardwell of Bardwell, Suffolk; secondly (possibly) a wife named Maud, a relative of Elizabeth Latimer; thirdly Elizabeth Shelton (d. 2 January 1523), the daughter of Sir Ralph Shelton; and fourthly Jane Hornby (d.1535), who after his death married Sir John Norton of Faversham and Milton near Sittingbourne, Kent. Sir Richard Fitz Lewes survived all his sons, as well as his father's male descendants, his next heir at his death being Ella Fitz Lewes (1510 – 2 June 1543). Ella Fitz Lewes was the daughter of John Fitz Lewes, eldest son of Sir Richard Fitz Lewes. She married John Mordaunt (1508-1571), 2nd Baron Mordaunt, son of Sir John Mordaunt (d.1563), 1st Baron Mordaunt of Turvey. Alice Harleston, first wife of Sir Richard Fitz Lewes, had a sister, Margaret Harleston (d.1489), who married Thomas Darcy (d. 25 September 1485), esquire, of Danbury, by whom she was the ancestress of the Barons Darcy of Chiche.

See Elliot, H.L., 'Fitz Lewes, of West Horndon, and the Brasses at Ingrave', *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. VI, New Series, (Colchester, 1898), pp. 28-59 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/transactionssess04socigoog#page/n45>

As noted above, John Mordaunt (1508-1571), 2nd Baron Mordaunt, married firstly Ella Fitz Lewes.

He married secondly Joan Fermor, the widow of Robert Wilford (d.1545), Merchant Taylor of London, and daughter of Sir Richard Fermor of Easton Neston, Northamptonshire, by Anne Browne, the daughter of Sir William Browne. Lord Mordaunt's second wife was a Maid of Honour to Princess Mary, and attended her at her coronation. For Sir Richard Fermor, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/fermor-richard-148084-1551>

For Robert Wilford, son of the London merchant and alderman, James Wilford, (d.1526), see the will of James Wilford, TNA PROB 11/22/6, and the History of Parliament entry for Robert Wilford's younger brother, Nicholas Wilford (c.1495-1551), at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/wilford-nicholas-1495-1551>

For John Mordaunt (1508-1571), 2nd Baron Mordaunt, see also his will, dated 16 April 1571 and proved 19 October 1571, TNA PROB 11/53/462, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/mordaunt-sir-john-1508-71>

After Lord Mordaunt's death, Joan Fermor married thirdly, as his third wife (by settlement 20 December 1571), Sir Thomas Kempe of Boughton Aluph and Chilham Castle, Kent, who died 7 March 1591. For Sir Thomas Kempe (d. 7 March 1591, see the will of his father, Sir William Kempe (1487 – 28 January 1539), TNA PROB 11/27/500; the will of his mother, Eleanor Browne Fogge Kempe, TNA PROB 11/43/638; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/kempe-sir-thomas-1517-91>

For Joan Fermor Wilford Mordaunt Kempe, see her will, dated 6 October 1591 and proved 5 April 1592, TNA PROB 11/79/239, and Emerson at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=675

Joan Fermor (1516 – April 1592) was the daughter of Sir Richard Fermor of Easton Neston, Northamptonshire (1482-November 17, 1551) and Anne Browne (d.1551+). At some point before 1536, she was a maid of honor to Princess Mary. In that year, she married Robert Wilford (d. September 1545), a merchant tailor and London alderman. They had at least one child, a daughter. On December 3, 1545, she married Sir John Mordaunt (1508-1571), son and heir of the 1st baron Mordaunt, as his second wife. At an unspecified date after that, Sir John's son and heir, Lewis Mordaunt, who was only around seven years old when his father remarried, compromised his stepsister, Joan's

daughter. Joan insisted that they marry and her husband supported her in this, but Lord Mordaunt, the boy's grandfather, objected. He took Lewis in and disinherited his own son when Sir John threatened to bar Lewis from succeeding to his mother's lands. They were apparently reconciled before Mordaunt died on August 18, 1562. Lewis married someone else the following year. Joan married Sir Thomas Kempe of Ollantigh, Wye, Kent (1517-March 7, 1591) by a settlement dated December 20, 1571, as his third wife. They had no children. They were recusants and in 1578 the couple was noted for not receiving communion. In 1583, he was charged with absenting himself from church. According to his entry in the History of Parliament, Lady Kempe was "a hindrance to true religion [who] refuseth stubbornly to communicate." In her third widowhood, Joan lived with her stepson, Moyle Kempe, in Cornwall. She left a will proved April 5, 1592. Portrait: effigy on the Mordaunt tomb in All Saints Church, Turvey.

Lewis Mordaunt (1538-1601), 3rd Baron Mordaunt, was the only son and heir of his father's first marriage, and as noted above, was thus related to Oxford through the Fitz Lewes family. He married Elizabeth Darcy, the daughter of Sir Arthur Darcy by Mary Carew, the daughter and co-heir of Sir Nicholas Carew. His will, dated 1 October 1593, was not proved. See G.E.C., ed., *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. IX, (London: St. Catherine Press, 1936), pp. 195-7.

See also the History of Parliament entry for Lewis Mordaunt, 3rd Baron Mordaunt, at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/mordaunt-lewis-1538-1601>

For the Mordaunt tombs in the parish church of All Saints at Turvey in Bedfordshire, see:

<http://www.turveybeds.com/mordaunts.html>

LM: Recognizance between Lord Mordaunt and the Earl of Oxford

Lewis, Lord Mordaunt, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to Edward, Earl of Oxford, nine hundred pounds of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the same Edward, Earl of Oxford, 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 said sum of money be levied of the goods & chattels, lands, tenements & hereditaments of the same Lewis, Lord Mordaunt, [+& those] of his heirs & assigns, to the use & behoof of the same Edward, Earl of Oxford, his heirs & assigns forever, wheresoever they may be found within the kingdom of England;

Witness the forenamed Lady Queen at Westminster on the twenty-sixth day of November 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. 1580

The condition of this recognizance is such that if the above-bounden Lewis, Lord Mordaunt, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, shall well and truly observe, perform, fulfil and keep all and singular the covenants, grants, articles and agreements specified and contained in one pair of indentures bearing the date of these presents made between the said Lewis, Lord Mordaunt, of thone party and the above-named Edward, Earl of Oxenford, on thother party which on the party and behalf of the said Lewis, Lord Mordaunt, his executors, administrators and assigns are and ought to be observed, performed, fulfilled and kept according to the true intent and meaning of the said indentures, that then this present recognizance shall be utterly void and of none effect.

LM: Recogn{itio} int{er} Mordaunte d{omin}um et Oxon{ie} Comit{em}

1 Lodovicus d{omin}us Mordant coram d{omi}na Regina in Cancellar{ia} sua p{er}sonalit{er} constitut{us} recognouit se

2 debere Edwardo Comiti Oxon{ie} Noningentas libras bone & legalis monete Angl{ie} soluend{as} eidem

3 Edwardo Comiti Oxon{ie} aut suo c{er}to attorn{ato} executorib{us} vel assignat{is} suis Et nisi fec{er}it vult &

4 concedit p{ro} se hered{ibus} executorib{us} & administratorib{us} suis p{er} p{re}sentis q{uo}d tunc d{ic}t{a} pecunie sum{m}a

5 leuet{ur} de bonis & catall{is} terr{is} ten{ementis} & hereditamen{tis} ip{s}ius Lodovici d{omi}ni Mordant hered{um} & assign{atorum}

6 suor{um} ad opus & vsum ip{s}ius Edwardi Comitis Oxon{ie} hered{um} & assign{atorum} suor{um} imp{er}p{etuu}m vbicumq{ue}

7 inuent{is} fuer{int} infra Regnu{m} Angl{ie} Teste p{re}fat{a} d{omi}na Regina apud Westm{onasterium} vicesimo sexto die

8 Novembris Anno regni d{ic}t{e} d{omi}ne n{ost}re Elizabeth{e} dei gr{acia} Angl{ie} ffranc{ie} & Hib{er}n{ie} Regine fidei

9 defensoris &c vicesimo t{er}cio 1580

LM: Vac{ata} ista rec{ognitio} vnacum condic{ione} eiusdem p{ro} eo q{uo}d xxo die Nouembr{is} Anno regni d{omi}ne R{egine} infrascr{i}pte infrano{m}i{n}at{us} Comes Oxon{ie} venit coram d{i}c{t}a d{omi}na R{egina} in Cancellar{ia} sua p{er}sonalit{er} & fatebat{ur} se plenar{ie} fore satisf{a}c{tu}m & p{er}solut{um} t{a}m de om{n}ib{us} pecuniar{um} sum{m}is in ista rec{ognitio} content{is} q{ua}m de om{n}ib{us} articulis conuen{tionibus} concess{ionibus} & agreament{is} in Inden{turas} in Condic{ione} ista sp{ec}ificat{is} I{de}o ad requisic{ionem} p{re}d{i}c{t}i Comitis rec{ognitio} & condic{io} p{re}dict{e} euacuant{ur} can{cellantur} & omni{n}o dampnant{ur}

[=This recognizance vacated, together with the condition of the same, because on the 20th day of November in the year of the reign of the within-written Lady Queen the within-named Earl of Oxford came personally before the said Lady Queen in her Chancery & confessed himself to be completely satisfied & paid, both of all sums of money contained in the recognizance and of all articles, covenants, grants and agreements specified in the indentures in the condition; therefore at the request of the foresaid Earl the recognizance & condition aforesaid were voided, cancelled & entirely annulled.]