

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £900 acknowledged by Lewis (b. 21 September 1538, d. 16 June 1601), 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Mordaunt, through the Fitzlewes family, which had settled in Horndon by 1438, when the head of the family was Sir Lewes John, who married Alice, the daughter of Aubrey de Vere (1338x40–1400), 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford. Sir Lewes's heir was Lewes Fitzlewes. As a supporter of the Lancastrian cause and a near kinsman of the de Vere family, when Edward IV seized the throne Lewes Fitzlewes was attainted and his lands in Essex forfeited. He was succeeded by his son, Sir Richard Fitzlewes (d. 12 July 1528), who is commemorated by a monumental brass at Ingrave, Essex (see <http://www.mbs-brasses.co.uk/page94.html>).

John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Mordaunt (1508-1571), married firstly Ela, the daughter of John, son and heir apparent of Sir Richard Fitzlewis (d. 12 July 1528) of West Horndon, Essex, by Alice, daughter and co-heir of John Harleston. He married secondly Joan, the widow of Robert Wilford, merchant tailor of London, and daughter of Sir Richard Fermor of Easton Neston, Northamptonshire, by Anne, 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. After Lord Mordaunt's death, she married thirdly, as his third wife (settlement 20 December 1571), Sir Thomas Kempe of Boughton Aluph and Chilham Castle, Kent, who died 7 March 1591.

For the will of John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Mordaunt, dated 16 April 1571 and proved 19 October 1571, see TNA PROB 11/53, ff. 286-7. For the will of Joan, Lady Mordaunt, dated 6 October 1591 and proved 5 April 1592, see TNA PROB 11/79, ff. 186-7.

Lewis, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Mordaunt, was the only son and heir of his father's first marriage, and as noted above, was thus related to Oxford through the Fitzlewis family. He married Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Arthur Darcy by Mary, 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.

For the Mordaunt tombs in the parish church of All Saints at Turvey in Bedfordshire, see <http://turvey.homestead.com/monu2.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: Recognitio inter Mordaunte dominum et Oxonie Comitem

1 Lodovicus dominus Mordant coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus recognouit se

2 debere Edwardo Comiti Oxonie Noningentas libras bone & legalis monete Anglie soluendas eidem

3 Edwardo Comiti Oxonie aut suo certo attornato executoribus vel assignatis suis Et nisi fecerit vult &

4 concedit pro se heredibus executoribus & administratoribus suis per presentes quod tunc dicta pecunie summa

5 leuetur de bonis & catallis terris tenementis & hereditamentis ipsius Lodovici domini Mordant heredum & assignatorum

6 suorum ad opus & vsum ipsius Edwardi Comitis Oxonie heredum & assignatorum suorum imperpetuum vbicumque

7 inuentis fuerint infra Regnum Anglie Teste prefata domina Regina apud Westmonasterium vicesimo sexto die

8 Novembris Anno regni dicte domine nostre Elizabethhe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei

9 defensoris &c vicesimo tercio 1580

LM: Vacata ista recognitio vnacum condicione eiusdem pro eo quod xxo die Nouembris Anno regni domine Regine infrascripte infranominatus Comes Oxonie venit coram dicta domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter & fatebatur se plenarie fore satisfactum & persolutum tam de omnibus pecuniarum summis in ista recognitio contentis quam de omnibus articulis conuentionibus concessionibus & agreamentis in Indenturas in Condicione ista specificatis Ideo ad requisicionem predicti Comitris recognitio & condicio predictae euacuantur cancellantur & omnino dampnantur

[=This recognizance vacated, together with the condition of the same, because on the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.]