

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £1200 acknowledged by Oxford to William Brewster (d.1583), gentleman, Robert Plombe, William Bigg & William Adams alias Butcher, yeomen, on 16 December 1581 in connection with indentures dated 28 November 1581 concerning the sale of property to them by Oxford. The property has not yet been identified.

William Brewster (d.1583) was the son of Robert and Joan Brewster of Castle Hedingham. For the will of Joan Brewster, dated 26 April 1573, see ERO D/AMR 3/210. Both Robert Brewster and his son William (d.1583) had served John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford. Robert Brewster was bailiff of Castle Hedingham, and by deed dated 2 July 1556 the 16th Earl granted William Brewster the offices in reversion of bailiff and constable of Castle Hedingham and keeper of the parks and game there. On 4 September 1561 the 16th Earl granted William Brewster an annuity of £6 13s 4d on. See TNA C 142/136/12.

For the will of William Brewster (d.1583) of Castle Hedingham, dated 30 March 1579 and proved 11 May 1583, see TNA PROB 11/65, ff. 214-15.

For the pedigree of Brewster of Hedingham, see Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry*, Vol. III, (London: Henry Colburn, 1850), p. 332, available online.

William Brewster (d.1583) was the father of William Brewster, gentleman, who died 10 August 1607 in or near Jamestown, Virginia, "of a wound given by the Savages". See Hunt, John G., "William Brewster, Gent., of Virginia", *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 75, No. 4 (Oct., 1967), pp. 407-409, available online at <http://www.jstor.org/pss/4247341>.

Robert Plombe is mentioned in the will of William Brewster (d.1583). His sons, Thomas Plombe and Edmund Plombe, later purchased the manor of Great Yeldham from Oxford (see TNA CP 25/2/132/1692/26ELIZIHIL, Item 43).

William Bigg later purchased the manors of Barwicks and Scotneys from Oxford (see TNA CP 25/2/132/1695/26/7ELIZIMICH, Item 9).

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

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

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to William Brewster, gentleman, Robert Plombe, William Bigg & William Adams alias Butcher, yeomen, one thousand & two

hundred pounds of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the same William, Robert, William & William, their executors & administrators;

And if he shall have defaulted in payment of the debt aforesaid, then he wishes & grants that the foresaid debt be levied of himself & all his lands, tenements & chattels within the kingdom of England;

Witness the said Lady Queen at Westminster on the sixteenth day of December in the twenty-fourth 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 if the above-bound Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns and every of them, shall well and truly observe, perform and keep all and singular the covenants, grants, promises and agreements which on his and their parts and behalves are to be observed, performed, fulfilled and kept comprised and specified in one pair of indentures made between the said Earl of Oxenford of the one party and the above-named William Brewster, Robert Plombe, William Bigg and William Adams alias Butcher of thother part bearing date the eight and twentieth day of November in the said four and twentieth year of the reign of our said Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth etc., that then this present recognizance to be frustrate and void, or else to stand and abide in full force and strength.

LM: Recognitio inter Oxonie Comitem et Brewster & alias

1 Edwardus de Vere Comes de Oxenford coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus

2 recognouit se debere Willelmo Brewster Generoso Roberto Plombe Willelmo Bigge & Willelmo Adams alias

3 Butcher yomen Mille & ducentas libras bone & legalis monete Anglie Soluendas eisdem Willelmo Roberto

4 Willelmo & Willelmo executoribus & administratoribus suis Et si defecerit in solutione debiti predicti tunc vult

4 & concedit quod predictum debitum leuetur de se & de omnibus terris tenementis & catallis suis infra Regnum Anglie Teste

5 dicta domina Regina apud Westmonasterium sextodecimo die Decembris Anno regni domine nostre Elizabethae dei gracia

6 Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo quarto