

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £800 acknowledged by Oxford to William Lewin (d.1598), Doctor of the Laws, on 16 December 1581 in connection with indentures of the same date for the sale of the manor of Flanderswick to William Lewin, Anthony Luther of the Middle Temple, gentleman, and Thomas Gooche the younger of Roxwell, gentleman. For Lewin's copy of the indentures, signed by Oxford, see BL Add.Ch 5981. For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 20 January 1582 by which Oxford transferred clear title to the manor of Flanderswick to Lewin, Luther and Gooche, see TNA CP 25/2/131/1684//24ELIZIHIL, Item 13.

According to the entry in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, William Lewin (d.1598) was 'one of five known children of Edmund Lewin (son of John, of Cuffley, Hertfordshire), and his wife, Juliana, daughter of William Goche, feodary of Essex'. The pedigree of Gooch in *The Visitation of Essex* shows that Juliana Gooch had a brother, Thomas Gooch (d.1589) of Roxwell in Essex, who married the daughter of Thomas Wiseman. Thomas Gooch (d.1589) was William Lewin's uncle, and his eldest son, also named Thomas, was William Lewin's first cousin, and apparently the co-purchaser with him of the manor of Flanderswick. For the Gooch pedigree, see Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex* (London: Harleian Society, 1878), p. 56, available online. For the will of Thomas Gooch of Roxwell, dated 20 January 1589 and proved 26 November 1589, see TNA PROB 11/74, ff. 269-70.

In his will, William Lewin (d.1598) mentions his 'brethren' Richard Luther and Anthony Luther. Their father, Thomas Luther (d.1586), refers in his own will to 'my well-beloved son-in-law, William Lewin, Doctor of the Civil Law'. It thus appears that William Lewin's first wife was a daughter of Thomas Luther (d.1586) and a sister of the Anthony Luther who was a co-purchaser with him of the manor of Flanderswick. William Lewin's first marriage to a daughter of Thomas Luther (d.1586) is not noticed in the entry for William Lewin in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*. For the will of William Lewin (d.1598), dated 15 November 1597 and proved 23 May 1598, see TNA PROB 11/91, ff. 1-6. For the will of Thomas Luther, dated 21 March 1586 and proved 16 May 1586, see TNA PROB 11/69, ff. 201-2.

William Lewin left Oxford a bequest in his will:

*Item, I give unto my special good Lord, the Earl of Oxford, in token of my duty toward his Lordship, another hundred ounces of gilt plate or fifty marks in money, to be delivered unto Mr Young, one of his Lordship's gentleman, to buy the said plate of fashion to his Lordship's best liking.*

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

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford & Lewin

Edward, Earl of Oxford, 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 William Lewin of London, Doctor of the Laws, eight hundred pounds of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the said William Lewin or his designated attorney, executors, administrators or assigns on the feast of the Purification of Blessed Mary the Virgin 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 that the said sum of money be levied & recovered of his goods & chattels, lands, tenements & hereditaments & [+those] of his heirs to the use & behoof of the same William Lewin, his executors, administrators & assigns, wheresoever they may be found 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 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 if the above-bounden Edward, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns and every of them, do at all times hereafter well and truly observe, perform, fulfil and keep all and singular the covenants, grants and agreements comprised in a certain pair of indentures bearing date with these presents made between the said Earl of Oxenford of thone party and the above-named William Lewin and one Anthony Luther of the Middle Temple in the suburbs of London, gentleman, and Thomas Gooche the younger of Roxwell in the county of Essex, gentleman, on the other party which on the part and behalf of the said Earl, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns or any of them are to be observed, performed, fulfilled and kept, except only one covenant therein contained made for the delivery of evidences, deeds, charters, surveys, terriers, rentals, accounts, court rolls, counterpanes of leases, escripts, writings and other muniments together with the copies of writings and evidences, as in and by the said indenture appeareth, that then this present recognizance to be void and of none effect, or else to stand and remain in full force, strength and virtue.

LM: *Recognitio inter Oxonie Comitem et Lewyn*

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

2 coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus recognouit se debere Willelmo Lewyn de

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3 London legum doctori Octingentas libras bone & legalis monete Anglie Soluendas eidem Willelmo Lewyn aut

4 suo certo attornato executoribus administratoribus vel assignatis suis in ffesto Purificacionis beate Marie Virginis

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

6 administratoribus suis quod dicta pecunie summa leuetur & recuperetur de bonis & catallis terris tenementis & hereditamentis

7 suis & heredum suorum ad opus & vsum ipsius Willelmi Lewyn executorum administratorum & assignatorum suorum vbicumque

8 fuerint inuentis infra Regnum Anglie Teste dicta domina Regina apud Westmonasterium sextodecimo die Decembris

9 Anno regni dicte domine nostre Elizabethe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo quarto