

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £800 acknowledged by Oxford to John Gardiner of the University of Cambridge on 2 February 1583 in connection with indentures of the same date for the sale of the manor of Easton Hall to John Gardiner, Anthony Watson and Michael Gardiner. Easton Hall had been part of the jointure of Oxford's mother, Margery Golding (d.1568).

For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 3 February 1583 by which clear title to the manor of Easton Hall passed from Oxford to John Gardiner, Anthony Watson and Michael Gardiner, see TNA CP 25/2/131/1688/25ELIZIHIL, Item 29. It seems likely that the purchaser Anthony Watson was the Anthony Watson (d.1605), later Bishop of Chichester, who was a friend of Oxford's kinsman, John (c.1533-1609), Baron Lumley. From the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*:

Watson, Anthony (d. 1605), bishop of Chichester, was the son of Edward Watson of Thorpe Thewles in co. Durham. He matriculated as a pensioner at Christ's College, Cambridge, in Michaelmas term 1567 and proceeded BA in 1571/2. A college fellowship followed in 1573, the year he was ordained; he commenced MA in 1575 and graduated BTh in 1582, the year in which he was licensed as a university preacher. A lifelong bachelor, Watson was by this time friendly with the Catholic peer, antiquary, and bibliophile John, sixth Baron Lumley, who in 1581 secured for him the rectory of Cheam in Surrey. Other preferments followed: the deanery of Bristol in April 1590, the prebend of Wedmore Secunda in Wells and the chancellorship of that cathedral, both in July 1592, and also in that year a second living from Lumley, the rectory of Storrington in Sussex. In 1596 Watson succeeded Richard Fletcher, bishop of London, as Queen Elizabeth's chief almoner. Meanwhile, Lumley pressed Watson's case for a bishopric and on 15 August 1596 he was duly consecrated bishop of Chichester, probably through the influence of Sir Robert Cecil with the queen.

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

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford & Gardiner

Edward, Earl of Oxford, Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck, Lord of Badlesmere and Scales, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to John Gardiner of the University of Cambridge, gentleman, eight hundred pounds of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the same John or his designated attorney, executors, administrators 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 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 John Gardiner, his executors, administrators & assigns, wheresoever they may be found within the kingdom of England;

Witness the said Lady Queen at Westminster on the second day of February 1582 in the twenty-fifth 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-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 John Gardiner and one Anthony Watson and Michael Gardiner of the said University, clerks, on thother 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 & Gardiner

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

2 et Scales coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus recognouit se debere Iohanni Gardiner

3 de Vniuersitate Cantabrigie generoso Octingentas libras bone & legalis monete Anglie Soluendas eidem

4 Iohanni aut suo certo Attornato executoribus administratoribus vel assignatis suis in festo Annunciacionis beate Marie

5 Virginis 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 Iohannis Gardiner executorum
administratorum & assignatorum suorum

8 vbicumque fuerint inuentis infra Regnum Anglie Teste dicta domina Regina apud
Westmonasterium Secundo die ffebruarij

9 1582 Anno Regni domine nostre Elizabethhe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie
Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo

10 quinto