

SUMMARY: The document below is an indenture dated 2 January 1570 and acknowledged in Chancery on 4 January 1570 which mentions Jane Wriothesley, elder sister of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*.

According to the *ODNB*, the 3rd Earl's eldest sister, Jane Wriothesley, died before 1573. She is not mentioned in the will of her grandmother, Jane Wriothesley (d. 15 September 1574), Countess of Southampton. See TNA PROB 11/56/535.

The indenture concerns certain lands called Millfields in the parish of St Pancras in London. Its purpose was to vary an earlier indenture of 10 May 1569 which Henry Wriothesley (21 April 1545 – 4 October 1581), 2nd Earl of Southampton, had entered into with his father-in-law, Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1st Viscount Montagu, and John Hippisley (d.1570) which settled Millfields and other lands on the 2nd Earl's wife, Mary Browne (born in or before 1552, d.1607), his daughter, Jane Wriothesley, and other children yet to be born, his sisters Mabel Wriothesley and Mary Wriothesley, and his nephews Michael Lister and Robert Cornwallis.

The indenture of 10 May 1569 is held by the Hampshire Record Office (HRO 5M53/579).

For further details, see the 2nd Earl's will, TNA PROB 11/65/88.

LM: D(?) script{um}(?) int{er} Henr{icum} Comit{em} Southampt{on} & Anthoniu{m} Comit{em} Montague & al{ios}

1 To all Christian people to whom this present writing shall come to be heard, seen or read, the right

2 honourable Henry, Earl of Southampton, sendeth greeting in Our Lord God everlasting. Know ye that

3 whereas the said Earl by his writing indented made between the said Earl of thone party

4 and the right honourable Anthony, Viscount Montagu, knight of the most noble Order of the Garter,

5 and John Hippisley of Cameley in the county of Somerset(?), esquire, of the other party, bearing date

6 the tenth day of May in the eleventh year [=10 May 1569] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady the Queen's

7 Majesty that now is for and in consideration of a marriage had between the said Earl and

8 the Lady Mary, now his wife, and for and in consideration of the great affection and love that

9 the said Earl did bear to the Lady Jane, his daughter, and for her advancement and for the

10 preferment, provision and stay of living of such issues males as God should send to the said Earl, and

11 for the continuance of the possession and inheritance [-of the possession and inheritance] of the said Earl

12 in the blood and name of the said Earl, and for the brotherly goodwill, zeal and affection which the said

13 Earl did bear towards the Lady Mabel, his sister, and for the goodwill, zeal and affection which

14 the said Earl did bear to Michael Lister, son and heir of the Lady Mary, deceased, sometime

15 wife of Richard Lister, esquire, also deceased, one other of the sisters of the said Earl, and to

16 Robert Cornwallis, esquire, son and heir apparent of one Thomas Cornwallis and of the Lady

17 Katherine, his wife, one other of the sisters of the said Earl, and for the preferment and advancement

18 in living of the Lady Mabel, his sister, and of the said Michael Lister and Robert Cornwallis,

19 nephews to the said Earl, and also for divers and sundry other good causes and considerations the

20 said Earl then moving, did for him and his heirs covenant and grant to and with the said

21 Viscount Montagu and John Hippisley and their heirs that he, the said Earl, his heirs

22 and assigns, and all other person and persons and their heirs which did stand and were seised

23 or at any time after should stand and be seised amongst other things of and in certain closes or

24 fields of land and pasture called Millfields with all and singular their appurtenances situate, lying

25 and being in the parish of Saint Pancras in the county of Middlesex should stand and be seised

26 from and immediately after the date and delivery of the said writing indented to the use of the said

27 Earl for term of his natural life without impeachment of any manner of waste, and after the

28 decease of the said Earl to the use of the said Viscount Montagu, Ralph Scrope of Crondall in

29 the county of Southampton, esquire, and of the said John Hippisley, their executors, administrators & assigns,

30 until the time that one of the sons of the said Earl after that time to be born, if God should

31 send him any, should first come to his full age of 21 years, and if the said Earl should have no

32 issue male that should come unto that age, then until the said Lady Jane should come to

33 her full age of 21 years, upon hope nevertheless and to th' intent that the said Viscount

34 Montagu, Ralph Scrope and John Hippisley, their executors and assigns, should with the issues

35 and profits of the said close of pasture and of certain other lands, tenements and hereditaments satisfy,

36 content and pay the debts and legacies of the said Earl, and also pay such other sum

37 and sums of money and to such person and persons as the said Earl by his writing signed

38 and sealed with his own proper hand and seal in the presence of three sufficient witnesses

39 or by his last will and testament in writing should name or appoint, and after the said term

40 ended and determined, then to the use of the first son of the said earl which he should after

41 that time have of his body lawfully begotten and of the heirs males of the body of the said

42 first son lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the use of the second son

43 of the body of the said Earl lawfully to be begotten and of the heirs males of the body of the said

44 second son lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the use of the third son

45 of the body of the said Earl lawfully to be begotten and of the heirs males of the body of the

46 said third son lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the use of the fourth son

47 of the body of the said Earl lawfully to be begotten and of the heirs males of the body of the said

48 fourth son lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the use of the fifth son of

49 the body of the said Earl lawfully to be begotten and of the heirs males of the body of the said

50 fifth son lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the use of the sixth son of

51 the body of the said Earl lawfully begotten and of the heirs males of the body of the said sixth

52 son lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue then of thone moiety of the said closes

53 or fields of land and pasture called Millfields amongst other manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments

54 to the use of the said Lady Jane and of the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, and of the other

55 moiety of the said closes or fields of land and pasture amongst other lands, tenements and hereditaments

56 to the use of such other daughters of the body of the said Earl as God should send him and of

57 the heirs of the bodies of the said other daughters lawfully begotten, and for default of such

58 issue to the use of the Lady Mary, then wife of the said Earl, and of her heirs and assigns forever,

59 in which writing indented is also provided, covenanted, concluded, condescended and agreed between

60 the said parties to the said writing indented that if the said Earl should at any time or times

61 after the date of the said writing indented be minded or disposed to alter, change or make void

62 the said use or uses or any of them of and in the said closes or fields of land and pasture called

63 Millfields or of [-or?] all or any part or parcel of the manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said

64 writing indented expressed or mentioned or in any part or parcel thereof, or to have again the said

65 closes or fields of lands and pasture and other the manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments or any

66 part or parcel thereof to him, the said Earl, his heirs and assigns absolutely in fee simple, or to

67 have the bestowing thereof or of any part thereof in any other manner and form or to any other

68 use or uses than in the said writing indented were and are limited and declared, and there-

69 upon by his deed or writing signed with his seal and subscribed with his own proper

70 hand and enrolled in any of the courts of record of the Queen's Majesty, her heirs or successors,

71 should or did notify and signify the same to the said Viscount Montagu, John Hippisley,

72 the said Lady Jane or to any of them or to the heirs, executors or administrators of any of them,

73 that then such use and uses of and in such and so much of the premises as the said Earl

74 by his said writing should notify and declare to be void from thenceforth should cease,

75 end and determine and be utterly void and of none effect, anything in the said writing

76 indented contained to the contrary notwithstanding, and that then and from thenceforth the

77 said Earl and his heirs and all other person and persons and their heirs and assigns should stand

78 and be seised of such and so much of the said manors and hereditaments mentioned

79 in the said writing indented with the appurtenances of which the use and uses should be

80 so signified or declared to be altered, changed, bestowed or void to the use of the said

81 Earl and of his heirs and assigns forever in fee simple, as by the same writing indented

82 more at large appeareth, with a further proviso that notwithstanding all and every such signification or

83 notification all and all manner of leases, demises and grants then after to be made by the said Earl

84 of all or any the manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments of the said Earl should stand, remain and

85 continue in their full force, strength and virtue, Now know ye the said Earl, being fully and

86 wholly minded and disposed to alter, change and make void the said use and uses mentioned in the

87 said writing indented of, in and concerning the said closes or fields of lands and pasture with the

88 appurtenances called Millfields lying and being in the said parish of Saint Pancras in the said

89 county of Middlesex in the said writing indented to any person or persons whatsoever limited, appointed and

90 declared, and to have the same again to him, the said Earl, his heirs and assigns, absolutely in

91 fee simple, doth by these presents, according to the proviso, covenant, grant, agreement and liberty to him,

92 the said Earl, given, reserved and saved in and by the said writing indented, notify and signify

93 to the said Viscount Montagu and John Hippisley and to either of them and to all and every

94 other person and persons to whom this present writing shall come or be seen that the full and whole

95 mind and pleasure of the said Earl is and that he doth by these presents notify, signify and declare

96 that from and immediately after the date and delivery of these presents the said use and uses of for [sic for 'or?'] touching

97 and concerning the said closes or fields of land and pasture called Millfields with the appurtenances

98 limited, appointed and declared to any person or persons whatsoever or to their heirs for term of years

99 in fee tail general or special in possession or remainder in or by the said writing indented or by any

100 covenant, article, clause or sentence contained or specified in the same touching or concerning

101 only the said close and pastures called Millfields shall and do immediately cease, end, determine

102 and be utterly frustrate, void and of none effect, and that from henceforth the said Earl and

[NEXT MEMBRANE]

1 his heirs and all and every other person and persons which shall hereafter stand or be seised of the said

2 closes or fields of land and pasture with the appurtenances called Millfields shall stand and be

3 seised thereof and of every part and parcel thereof to the only use and behoof of the said Earl, his

4 heirs and assigns, absolutely in fee simple and to no other use, intent or purpose, any use or uses,

5 covenant, grant or agreement in the said writing indented contained or specified to the contrary

6 thereof notwithstanding. In witness whereof the said Earl hath to these present put his hand and seal,

7 given the second day of January in the twelfth year [=2 January 1570] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth

8 by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.

Et memorand{um} q{uo}d quarto die februar{ij} Anno sup{ra}script{o} p{re}d{i}c{t}us Henricus Comes Southampton venit coram d{i}c{t}a d{omi}na Regina in Cancellar{ia} sua apud West{monasteriu}m & recognouit script{um} p{re}d{i}c{t}um ac om{n}ia & singula in eodem content{a} in forma p{re}d{i}c{t}a

[=Be it remembered that on the fourth day of February in the year above-written the foresaid Henry, Earl of Southampton, came before the said Lady the Queen in her Chancery at Westminster & acknowledged the writing aforesaid and all & singular contained in the same in form aforesaid.]