

SUMMARY: The document below is a recognizance in the amount of £400 acknowledged by Oxford to William Aylofffe (c.1535-1584) of Lincoln's Inn, on 30 June 1574 in connection with indentures of the same date.

Oxford's paternal uncle, Robert Vere (d.1598), sold his life interest in the manors of Kennington and Wennington to Aylofffe by a fine dated 29 June 1579 (see TNA CP 25/2/131/1674/21ELIZITRIN, Item 12). Oxford's reversionary interest in these manors was sold at the same time, and by a fine dated 6 July and 6 October 1579 Oxford also sold 40 acres of salt-marsh pertaining to these manors to Aylofffe (see TNA CP 25/2/131/1675/21/22ELIZITRIN, Item 10; ERO D/DL/T1/676; and ERO D/DL/T1/678). The sale of the manors of Wennington and Kennington was later contested by Robert Vere (d.1598) and his second wife, Joan (nee Hubberd), in a series of lawsuits against Aylofffe's son and heir, also named William, in which Oxford's one-time receiver-general, Edward Hubberd (d.1602), one of the Six Clerks of Chancery and the brother of Robert Vere's second wife, Joan Hubberd, was accused of fraud in the sale of the manors. Aylofffe is also mentioned in two other documents directly concerning Oxford (see CP 159/110-11 and CP 9/91).

For details of William Aylofffe's career, see the entry for him in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/67, f. 296.

The recognizance below appears to be mentioned in TNA PRO 30/34/14, No. 3. However in that document Oxford is said to have acknowledged a recognizance in the amount of £400 to Edward Aylofffe.

#### LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford and Aylofffe

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Lord 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 Aylofffe of Lincoln's Inn in the county of Middlesex, esquire, four hundred pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid to the same William, his executors, administrators or assigns, on the feast of the Birth of the Lord next to come after the date of these presents;

And if he shall not have done [+so], the foresaid Earl of Oxford wishes & grants for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns that the said sum of money be levied of his lands, tenements, goods & chattels and [+those of] his heirs, executors, administrators & assigns to the use & behoof of the same William Aylofffe, his heirs, executors, administrators & assigns, wheresoever they may be found;

Witness the said Lady Queen at Westminster on the thirtieth day of June in the sixteenth 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-named Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, do observe, fulfil and keep all and singular covenants, grants, articles and agreements comprised and specified in one pair of indentures made between the said Earl of the one party and the said William Aylofffe of thother party bearing date the 30 day of June in the sixteenth year of the reign of our said Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth which on the part and behalf of the said Earl of Oxenford, his heirs, executors and administrators, are to be observed, fulfilled and kept, that then this present recognizance to be void, frustrate and of none effect, or else to remain, abide and be in his full force, strength and virtue.

LM: Recognitio inter Comitem Oxonie et Ailoff

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

2 de Badlismere & Scales coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus

3 recognouit se debere Willelmo Ailoffe de Lincolnes Inne in Comitatu Middlesexie Armigero

4 quadringentas libras legalis monete Anglie soluendas eidem Willelmo executoribus administratoribus

5 vel assignatis suis in festo Natalis domini proxime futuro post datum presencium Et nisi fecerit predictus

6 Comes Oxonie vult & concedit pro se heredibus executoribus administratoribus vel assignatis suis quod dicta

7 pecunie summa leuetur de terris tenementis bonis & catallis suis ac heredum executorum administratorum

8 & assignatorum suorum ad opus & vsum ipsius Willelmi Ailoff heredum executorum administratorum &

9 assignatorum suorum vbicumque inuentis fuerint Teste dicta domina Regina apud Westmonasterium tricesimo

10 die Iunij Anno regni dicte domine Elizabethe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & hibernie Regine fidei

11 defensoris &c sextodecimo