

SUMMARY: The document below is a recognizance in the amount of £1950 acknowledged by Oxford on 14 June 1576 to Sir William Cordell, Master of the Rolls, Thomas Bromley, the Queen's Solicitor-General, and Edward Hubberd, Oxford's receiver-general, who had acted as trustees for Oxford and the Queen in connection with the sales of Oxford's lands during his absence from England while he was on his continental tour. It would appear that the recognizance below was entered into by Oxford after his return as a guarantee that he would indemnify his three trustees against any claims made against them with respect to their sale of his manor of Acton Trussell.

See also:

'Parishes: Acton Trussell and Bednall', A History of the County of Stafford: Volume 5: East Cuttlestone hundred (1959), pp. 11-17. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=53394>.

The manor descended with the Earldom of Oxford until 1575 when Edward Earl of Oxford conveyed it to trustees, probably for the purpose of sale. The manor was divided into three main estates at this date, all subsequently designated the manor of Acton Trussell and Bednall. The manorial rights and much of the land but not the capital messuage (see below) passed to Thomas Fowke and William Hankyn in whose names the court was held in 1575. Thomas Fowke was holding what was described as half the manor at his death in 1586. The other half, held by William Hankyn, was acquired by Thomas Fowke's son and heir John who appears as sole lord in 1591. . . .

In 1575 the trustees of Edward Earl of Oxford conveyed to Matthew Moreton of Engleton (in Brewood parish) the capital messuage and manor of Acton Trussell with messuages and tenements there. In 1593 Edward Moreton of Engleton sold to Lewis Dickenson the messuage and tenements then in his occupation.

For a copy of the indenture of bargain and sale of 20 January 1575 between Oxford and his three trustees for the sale of Oxford's manors in Staffordshire, Wiltshire and Cornwall for £6000, see SRO D615/D 45 (1).

For the indenture of 10 February 1575 by which certain parcels of land in Bednall and Acton Trussell in Staffordshire were sold for £5 to Thomas Hill of Haughton by Oxford's three trustees, see SRO D615/ D48/10.

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford & Cordell, knight, & others

Edward de Vere, 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 Cordell, knight, Master of the Rolls, Thomas Bromley, esquire, Solicitor-General to the Queen, & Edward Hubberd one

thousand nine hundred & fifty pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid to the same William Cordell, Thomas Bromley & Edward Hubberd or any of them or their designated attorney or executors on the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next to come after the date of these presents. And if he shall not have done [+so], etc.

Witness the Queen at Westminster on the fourteenth day of July in the eighteenth year of the reign of the 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 where th' above-bownden Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxon, hath heretofore by his indenture of bargain and sale bearing date the twentieth day of January in the seventeenth year [=20 January 1575] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty bargained and sold to the above-named Sir William Cordell, knight, Thomas Bromley, esquire, and Edward Hubberd and their heirs all that the manor of Acton Trussell within the county of Stafford with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances, as by the same indenture amongst other things doth and may more at large appear;

If therefore the said William Cordell, Thomas Bromley and Edward Hubberd, their heirs and assigns and th' heirs and assigns of every of them, may and shall at all time and times hereafter have, hold, occupy and enjoy the said manor of Acton Trussell with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances clearly acquitted, discharged or otherwise sufficiently saved harmless of and from all former bargains, sales, gifts, grants and other encumbrances and charges whatsoever at any time before the date of the said indenture had, made or done by the said Earl or by any other person or persons by or under his right, title, interest, means or procurement according to the tenor and true meaning of the said indenture, that then this present recognizance to be void and of none effect, or else to stand in his full strength and virtue.

LM: Recognitio inter Comitem Oxonie & Cordell Militem & alias

1 Edwardus de Veer Comes Oxonie magnus Camerarius Anglie vicecomes Bulbecke & Dominus de Badlesmere &

2 Scales coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus recognouit se debere Willelmo Cordell Militi

3 Magistro Rotulorum Thome Bromeley Armigero generali Sollicitatoris Regine & Edwardo Hubberte Mille Noningentas

4 & Quinquaginta libras legalis monete Anglie soluendas eidem Willelmo Cordell Thome Bromeley & Edwardo

5 Hubberte aut eorum alicui seu eorum certo Attornato vel executoribus suis in festo sancti Michaelis Archangeli proxime futuro post

6 datum presentium Et nisi fecerit &c Teste Regina apud Westmonasterium decimo quarto die Iulij Anno regni domine Elizabethhe dei

7 gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c decimo octauo