

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls of the licence dated 20 April 1580 authorizing Oxford to alienate his manor of Weybourne to Sir Edward Clere (b. 15 June 1536, d. 8 June 1606). For the recognizance acknowledged by Oxford to Sir Edward Clere on 12 May 1580 in connection with this sale, see TNA C 54/1095, Part 25.

For a copy of the lease of the manor of Weybourne granted by Oxford to his servant, Roger Clopton, on 10 December 1571, see Norfolk Record Office NRS 16422 32 C6.

In his will Sir Edward Clere (see TNA PROB 11/108, ff. 377-8) left the manor of Weybourne to his second wife, Agnes (nee Crane) Clere, the daughter of Robert Crane of Chilton, Suffolk:

And I will that my said wife over and beside the dowry I made to her my manor of Weybourne with the appurtenances in the county of Norfolk . . .

Sir Edward Clere was the son of Sir John Clere (d.1557) and his wife, Anne Tyrrell, and the grandson of Sir Robert Clere (d.1529) of Ormesby and his second wife, Alice Boleyn, the aunt of Henry VIII's Queen, Anne Boleyn. He was thus a second cousin of Queen Elizabeth. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 35-6. For further details of the Clere family, see also the will of Sir Thomas Tyrrell (1472?-1551) of Gipping, Suffolk, TNA PROB 11/34, ff. 172-4.

The manor of Weybourne appears to have come to John de Vere (1482-1540), 15th Earl of Oxford, through his wife, Elizabeth Trussell. See *Report on the Manuscripts of the Family of Gawdy* (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1885), p. 74, available online. In his will (see TNA PROB 11/46, ff. 174v-6), the 16th Earl granted his servant, Robert Christmas, a 21-year lease of Weybourne, a remarkably generous grant considering that the lease was worth £28 8s 9d per annum (see TNA Ward 8/13, Part 78), and that its total value over a period of 21 years amounted to £597 3s 9d. Robert Christmas quitclaimed the remainder of his interest in Weybourne, likely in return for a lump sum payment, by a release dated 20 March 1581 (see Norfolk Record Office NRS 10865 25 4D).

Sir Edward Clere is mentioned as the recipient of an annuity of £20 in the inquisition post mortem of Oxford's father, the 16th Earl (see TNA C 142/136/12):

And the foresaid jurors say that the foresaid late Earl, by a certain deed of his sealed by his seal at arms and subscribed by his own hand dated the eighteenth day of November in the first year [=18 November 1547] of the reign of the late King Edward the Sixth, in consideration that John Clere, knight, had surrendered two several rents containing together thirty pounds which the same John Clere had of the gift of a certain Peter Watts by two several charters of the late Earl issuing of his manor of Thorncombe in the county of Devon during the natural life of the same Peter Watts, granted to Edward Clere, esquire, son of the said John Clere, one yearly rent of twenty pounds of lawful money of England issuing of his foresaid manor of Thorncombe & of all other his lands & hereditaments in Thorncombe aforesaid, to have the foresaid yearly rent to the forenamed

Edward Clere & his assigns during the natural life of the said Edward, to be paid yearly at the feasts of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary the Virgin & Saint Michael the Archangel by equal portions, with a clause of distraint for non-payment of the said yearly rent, as by the foresaid deed to the foresaid jurors upon the taking of this present inquisition in manifest evidences more fully appears.

LM: Grant(?) of licence to alienate for Edward Clere, knight

The Queen to all to whom etc., greeting. Know ye that we, of our especial grace and for nine pounds six shillings & eight pence paid to our farmer, by virtue of our letters patent have granted & given licence, and for us, our heirs & successors, by how much is in us by these presents do grant & give licence to our dearest cousin Edward, Earl of Oxford, that he might be able to give & grant, alienate or acknowledge by fine or by recovery in our court before our Justices of the Common Pleas or by any other manner whatsoever at the pleasure of the same Earl to our beloved & faithful Edward Clere, knight, the manor of Weybourne Hoope alias Walborne alias Woborne with the appurtenances and twenty messuages, thirty tofts, three mills, three gardens, one thousand acres of land, forty acres of meadow, one thousand acres of pasture, forty acres of wood, one hundred acres of moor, one thousand acres of furze & heath, twenty pounds rent & the liberty of three folds with the appurtenances in Weybourne Hoope alias Walborne alias Woborne, Salthouse, Holt, Wyton, Cley Next the Sea, Kelling, Letheringsett, Bodham, Felbrigg, Sheringham, Wells, Croxton, and the advowsons of the churches of Weybourne alias Walborne alias Woborne & Lynforde in our county of Norfolk, which are held of us in chief, as it is said, to have & to hold to the same Edward and his heirs & assigns forever of us, our heirs & successors, by the services owed therefore, & of right customary

And by the tenor of these presents we have similarly given, and for us, our heirs & successors aforesaid, we do give special licence to the same Edward that he might be able to receive from the forenamed Earl, & hold forever to him and his heirs & assigns of us, our heirs & successors, the foresaid manor, lands, meadows & pastures, woods, rents & advowsons and other all & singular the premises above expressed & specified with the appurtenances by the services aforesaid, as is aforesaid;

Not willing that the foresaid Earl or [+his] heirs, or the forenamed Edward or his heirs by reason of the premises might be troubled therefore, molested, interfered with, vexed in anything, or oppressed by us, our heirs or successors, or by our justices, escheators, sheriffs, bailiffs or other officers or ministers or [+those] of any our said heirs or successors, nor might be by any of them troubled, molested, interfered with, vexed in anything, or oppressed;

In [+testimony] of which thing etc. Witness the Queen at Westminster on the twentieth day of April.

LM: D(?) licen{cie} alien{ando} p{ro} Edwardo Clere Milite

1 Regina Om{n}ib{us} ad quos &c Sal{u}t{e}m Sciatis q{uo}d nos de gr{aci}a n{ost}ra sp{eci}ali ac p{ro} novem libris

2 sex solidis & octo denarijs solutis ffirmario n{ost}ro virtute l{itte}rar{um} n{ost}rar{um} patenciu{m} concessim{us}

3 & licenciam dedim{us} ac p{ro} nob{is} hered{ibus} & successorib{us} n{ost}ris quantum in nob{is} est p{er} p{re}sentes

4 concedim{us} & licenciam dam{us} Charissimo Consanguineo n{ost}ro Edwardo Comiti Oxon{ie} q{uo}d

5 ip{s}e Man{er}iu{m} de Waborne Hoope alias Walborne alias Woborne cum p{er}tin{entijs} ac

6 viginti mesuagia triginta tofta tria molendina tria gardina Mille acras terr{e}

7 quadraginta acras prati Mille acras pastur{e} quadraginta acras bosci Centum acras

8 more Mille acras Iampnor{um} & bruer{e} viginti librat{as} reddit{us} & lib{er}tat{em} triu{m} faldag{iorum} cum

9 p{er}tin{entijs} in Waborne Hoope alias Walborne alias Woborne Salthouse Holte Wystem

10 Clay iuxta mare Kellinge Letheringsett Bodham ffelbridge Sheringham Well{es} Croxton

11 ac aduocac{i}o{n}es Eccl{es}iar{um} de Waborne alias Walborne alias Woborne & Lynforde in

12 Com{itatu} n{ost}ro Norff Que de nob{is} tenent{ur} in Capite vt dicit{ur} dare possit & concedere

13 alienare aut cognosc{er}e p{er} finem vel p{er} recup{er}ac{i}o{n}em in Cur{ia} n{ost}ra coram Iustic{iarijs} n{ost}ris de

14 Banco seu aliquo alio modo quocumq{ue} ad libitum ip{s}ius Comit{is} dil{e}c{t}o & fideli n{ost}ro

15 Edwardo Clere Militi h{ab}end{um} & tenend{um} eidem Edwardo ac hered{ibus} & assign{atis} suis imp{er}p{etuu}m

16 de nob{is} hered{ibus} & successorib{us} n{ost}ris p{er} s{er}uicia inde debita & de iure consueta Et eidem

17 Edwardo q{uo}d ip{s}e p{re}dict{a} Man{er}iu{m} mesuagia terr{as} prat{a} & pastur{as} bosc{os} reddit{us} & Aduocac{iones}

18 ac cet{er}a om{n}ia & singula p{re}missa sup{er}ius exp{re}ssa & sp{ec}ificat{a} cum p{er}tin{entijs} a p{re}fat{o} Comite

19 recip{er}e possit & tenere sibi ac hered{ibus} & assign{atis} suis de nob{is} hered{ibus} & successorib{us} n{ost}ris p{er}

20 s{er}uicia p{re}d{i}c{t}a sicut p{re}d{i}c{tu}m est imp{er}p{etuu}m tenore p{re}senciu{m} similit{er} lienciam dedim{us} ac p{ro}

21 nob{is} hered{ibus} & successorib{us} n{ost}ris p{re}d{i}c{t}is dam{us} sp{eci}alem Nolentes q{uo}d p{re}d{i}c{t}us Comes

22 vel hered{es} aut p{re}fat{us} Edwardus vel hered{es} sui r{ati}one p{re}missor{um} p{er} nos hered{es} vel

23 successores n{ost}ros aut p{er} Iustic{iarios} Escaetores vicecomites Balliuos aut alios officiar{ios}

24 seu Ministros n{ost}ros aut d{i}c{tor}{um} hered{um} vel successor{um} n{ost}ror{um} quoscumq{ue} inde occ{asi}onent{ur}

25 molestent{ur} impetant{ur} vexent{ur} in aliquo seu g{ra}uent{ur} nec eor{um} aliquis occ{asi}onet{ur}

26 molestet{ur} impetat{ur} vexet{ur} in aliquo seu g{ra}uet{ur} In cuius rei & T{este} R{egine} apud

27 West{monasteriu}m vicesimo die Aprilis