

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls of the licence, dated 2 September 1583, by which Oxford was granted permission to alienate his manors of Tilbury-juxta-Clare, Northtofts and Skaths to his servant, Israel Amyce. For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas by which Oxford transferred clear title to the manors of Tilbury-juxta-Clare, Northtofts and Skaths to Amyce, see TNA CP 25/2/132/1692/26ELIZIHIL, Item 1.

Six months later, on 2 March 1584, Oxford was granted licence to alienate his manor of Vaux to Amyce. For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 6 May 1584 by which Oxford transferred clear title to the manor of Vaux to Amyce, see TNA CP 25/2/132/1693/26ELIZIEASTER, Item 43. By another fine on the same day, 6 May 1584, clear title to the manors of Rayhouse and Cranbrook passed from Amyce and his wife, Martha, to Oxford for £300 (see TNA CP 25/2/132/1693/26ELIZIEASTER, Item 39). It seems likely that the latter two transactions were related, and involved an exchange of manors for a purpose which is as yet unclear.

Only a month after Oxford was licenced to alienate the manor of Vaux to Amyce on 2 March 1584, Amyce was outlawed for debt, with serious consequences for Oxford since two bonds of Oxford's to Amyce totalling £7000 were forfeited to the Queen by the outlawry (see ERO D/DPr/161). It seems likely that one of these forfeited bonds was a bond granted by Oxford to Amyce in connection with the sale of the manor of Vaux (see TNA 30/34/14, No 3). Oxford granted such bonds, usually for a sum twice the value of the land sold, to purchasers of his property in order to guarantee that he would indemnify them in case lands purchased from him were extended by the Queen in connection with his debt to the Court of Wards. Such bonds did not represent money actually owed by Oxford, but were merely guarantees in case the Queen extended against lands purchased from him. However if the lands were actually extended against, Oxford was liable for the total sum stated in the bond.

The inquisition post mortem taken after Oxford's death states that Oxford had also granted Amyce a 31-year lease of the profits of the office of Lord Great Chamberlain, and that that lease was likewise forfeited to the Queen at the time of Amyce's outlawry for debt (see TNA C 142/286/165). All the assets forfeited by Amyce were granted gratis by the Queen to John Drawater and John Holmes by letters patent under the Great Seal of England on 3 May 1591 (see TNA C 66/1385, mm 9-10).

LM: Grant(?) of licence to alienate for Israel Amyce, esquire

The Queen to all to whom etc., greeting. Know ye that we, of our especial grace and for ten pounds thirteen shillings & four 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 his pleasure to our beloved Israel Amyce, esquire, to have & to hold to the same Israel and to his heirs & assigns forever of us, our heirs & successors, by the services therefore owed & of right customary, the manors of Tilbury, Northtofts & Skaths with the appurtenances and three messuages, three tofts, two gardens, six hundred acres of land, one hundred acres of meadow, six hundred acres of pasture, one hundred acres of wood, one hundred acres of furze & heath, forty acres of marsh & five pounds of rent with the appurtenances in Tilbury, Belchamp St Paul, Belchamp Otten, Great Yeldham, Little Yeldham, Ovington, Ridgewell & Toppesfield, and also the advowson of the church of Tilbury in our county of Essex which are held of us in chief, as it is said;

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 Israel 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 manors, messuages, lands, meadows, pastures, woods, rents & advowson and all & singular other the premises above expressed and specified with the appurtenances by the foresaid services, as is aforesaid;

Not willing that the foresaid Earl or his heirs, or the forenamed Israel 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 our said heirs or successors whatsoever, 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 second day of September.

LM: D(?) licencia alienando pro Israele Amyce Armigero

1 Regina Omnibus ad quos &c Salutem Sciatis quod nos de gracia nostra speciali ac pro decem libris tresdecim

2 solidis & quatuor denarijs solutis ffirmario nostro virtute litterarum nostrarum patencium concessimus & licenciam

3 dedimus ac pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris quantum in nobis est per presentes concedimus & licenciam

4 damus Charissimo Consanguineo nostro Edwardo Comiti Oxonie quod ipse Maneria de Tylburye

5 Nortoftes & Skathes cum pertinentijs ac tria mesuagia tria tofta duo Gardina sexcentas acras terre

6 Centum acras prati sexcentas acras pasture Centum acras bosci Centum Acras iampnorum & bruere

7 quadraginta acras marisci & quinque libratas redditus cum pertinentijs in Tylburye Belchamp sancti Pauli

8 Belchamp Otten Yeldham magna Yeldham parua Ovington Redgwell & Toppisfyld

9 Necnon aduocacionem Ecclesie de Tylburye in Comitatu nostro Essex Que de nobis tenentur in Capite

10 vt dicitur dare possit & concedere alienare aut cognoscere per finem vel per recuperacionem in Curia

11 nostra coram Iusticiarijs nostris de Banco seu aliquo alio modo quocumque ad libitum ipsius Comitis Dilecto

12 nobis Israeli Amyce Armigero habendum & tenendum eidem Israeli ac heredibus & assignatis suis imperpetuum de nobis

13 heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia inde debita & de iure consueta Et eidem Israeli quod ipse

14 predicta Maneria mesuagia terras prata pasturas boscos redditus & aduocacionem ac cetera omnia & singula premissa

15 superius expressa & specificata cum pertinentijs a prefato Comite recipere possit & tenere sibi ac heredibus &

16 assignatis suis de nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia predicta sicut predictum est imperpetuum tenere

17 presencium similiter lienciam dedimus ac pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris predictis damus specialem

18 Nolentes quod predictus Comes vel heredes sui aut prefatus Israel vel heredes sui ratione premissorum per

19 nos heredes vel successores nostros aut per Iusticiarios Escaetores vicecomites Balliuos aut alios Officiarios seu

20 Ministros nostros aut dictorum heredum vel successorum nostrorum quoscumque inde occasionentur molestentur

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21 impetantur vexentur in aliquo seu grauentur nec eorum aliquis occasionetur molestetur  
impetatur

22 vexetur in aliquo seu grauetur In cuius rei &c Teste Regine apud Westmonasterium  
secundo die Septembris