

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls of the licence, dated 2 March 1584, by which Oxford was granted permission to alienate his manor of Vaux to his servant, Israel 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 Israel 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 Israel Amyce and his wife, Martha, to Oxford for £300 (see TNA CP 25/2/132/1693/26ELIZIEASTER, Item 39). It seems likely that the two transactions were related, and involved an exchange of manors for a purpose which is as yet unclear.

Only a month after the granting of the licence to alienate below, 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. 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 Edward, Earl of Oxford

The Queen to all to whom etc., greeting. Know that we, of our especial grace and for five pounds 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, all that his manor called by the name of Vaux alias le Foes with all its rights, members & appurtenances in our county of Essex, and all & singular the messuages, edifices, buildings, orchards, gardens, waters, stanks, dovecots, lands, tenements, granges, messuages, pastures, woods, underwoods, rights of common, marshes, moors, rents,

reversions, services, commodities, prerogatives, liberties, emoluments & hereditaments whatsoever situate, lying & being in Happenyng [sic?] or in the towns, parishes, hamlets or fields of Belchamp Otten, Belchamp Walter, Belchamp St. Paul, Over Yeldham, Gestingthorpe & Tilbury or in any of them or elsewhere belonging to the foresaid manor or before this time accepted, reputed, esteemed or had as part, parcel or member of the same in the said 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 manor, messuages, lands, tenements & hereditaments 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 March.

LM: D(?) licencia alienando pro Edwardo Comite Oxonie

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

2 solutis ffirmario nostro virtute litterarum nostrarum patentium concessimus & licenciam dedimus ac pro nobis

3 heredibus & successoribus nostris quantum in nobis est per presentes concedimus & licenciam damus

4 Charissimo Consanguineo nostro Edwardo Comiti Oxonie quod ipse totum illud manerium suum vocatum

5 per nomen de Vawce alias le ffoes cum omnibus suis iuribus membris & pertinentijs in Comitatu nostro

6 Essex Ac omnia & singula mesuagia edificia structuras pomaria gardina aquas stagna

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7 Columbaria terras tenementa grangias mesuagia pasturas boscos subboscos Communias mariscos moras redditus

8 reuerciones seruicia commoditates regalitates libertates emolumenta & hereditamenta quecumque scituata iacentia

9 & existentia in Happenyng[e] [sic?] siue in villis parochijs hameletis seu Campis de Otton Belchamp

10 Water Belchamp Belchamp sancti Pawli Over Yeldham Gestingthorpe & Tilburye

11 seu in earum aliqua seu alibi predicto Manerio pertinentibus vel vt pars parcella vel membrum

12 eiusdem antehac accepta reputata estimata seu habita in dicto Comitatu Essex Que de nobis

13 tenentur in capite vt dicitur dare possit & concedere alienare aut cognoscere per finem vel

14 per recuperacionem in Curia nostra coram Iusticiarijs nostris de Banco seu aliquo alio modo quocumque

15 ad libitum ipsius Comitis Dilecto nobis Israeli Amyce Armigero habendum & tenendum eidem Israeli

16 ac heredibus & assignatis suis imperpetuum de nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia inde debita & de

17 iure consueta Et eidem Israeli quod ipse predicta Manerium mesuagia terras tenementa & herediamenta ac

18 cetera omnia & singula premissa superius expressa & specificata cum pertinentijs a prefato Comite

19 recipere possit & tenere sibi ac heredibus & assignatis suis de nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per

20 seruicia predicta sicut predictum est imperpetuum tenore presencium similiter lienciam dedimus ac pro nobis

21 heredibus & successoribus nostris predictis damus specialem Nolentes quod predictus Comes vel heredes sui

22 aut prefatus Israel vel heredes sui ratione premissorum per nos heredes vel successores nostros aut

23 per Iusticiarios Escaetores vicecomites Balliuos aut alios Officiarios seu Ministros nostros aut dictorum heredum

24 vel successorum nostrorum quoscumque inde occasionentur molestentur impetantur vexentur in

25 aliquo seu grauentur Nec eorum aliquis occasionetur molestetur impetatur vexetur in aliquo

26 seu grauetur In cuius rei &c Teste Regine apud Westmonasterium secundo die Marcij