

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls of the Queen's pardon of alienation to Leicester, dated 3 February 1586, for having purchased the manor of Rayhouse from Oxford and Israel Amyce by indenture dated 9 June 1585.

For a later pardon of alienation granted to Leicester on 4 May 1586 for his purchase from Oxford of the manors of Cranbrook and Rayhouse, see TNA C 66/1281, m. 38.

For the licence, dated 2 March 1584, by which Oxford's servant, Israel Amyce, and his wife, Martha, were granted permission to alienate their manor of Rayhouse to Oxford, see TNA C 66/1248, mm. 23-4. By a fine dated 6 May 1584, clear title to the manors of Cranbrook and Rayhouse passed from Israel Amyce and his wife, Martha, to Oxford for £300 (see TNA CP 25/2/132/1693/26ELIZIEASTER, Item 39).

By another licence dated 2 March 1584, Oxford had been granted permission to alienate his manor of Vaux to Israel Amyce (see TNA C 66/1248, mm. 22-3). 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.

All these transactions were obviously related, and involved an exchange of manors among Oxford, his servant, Israel Amyce, and Leicester for a purpose which is as yet unclear.

In April 1584 Israel 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 pardon of alienation for the Earl of Leicester

The Queen etc. to all her bailiffs & faithful to whom etc., greeting. Whereas our most dear cousin, Robert, Earl of Leicester, by a certain indenture tripartite bearing date the ninth day of June in the twenty-seventh year of our reign purchased to himself & his heirs of our most dear cousin, Edward, Earl of Oxford, & Israel Amyce, esquire, inter alia, the manor of Rayhouse in the north part of Great Ilford in the parish of Barking and all the lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, grazing lands, commons, woods, underwoods, rents, reversions, services & all other profits, commodities & hereditaments whatsoever to the foresaid manor belonging or in any way appertaining, and all those lands, tenements & hereditaments commonly called or known by the name of Rayhouse or commonly reputed or taken as part, parcel or members of the premises or of any parcel thereof in our county of Essex which are held of us in chief, as it is said, to have & to hold to the same Earl of Leicester and his heirs & assigns forever, which certain alienation was made without our royal licence therefore having been beforehand obtained;

Know ye therefore that we, of our especial grace and for twenty pounds paid to our farmer, by virtue of our letters patent do pardon the transgression in this respect made;

And further we have granted and for us, our heirs & successors, by how much is in us by these presents do grant to the forenamed Earl of Leicester that he might be able to have & hold the foresaid manor, tenements & hereditaments and other the premises with the appurtenances to himself and his heirs & assigns of us, our heirs & successors, by the services therefore owed & of right customary forever, without interference, molestation, vexation, hindrance or oppression of us or our heirs or successors or of any of our justices, escheators, sheriffs, bailiffs or ministers or [+those] of our said heirs or successors whatsoever;

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

LM: D con perdona alienando pro Comite Leicestrie

1 Regina &c Omnibus Balliuis & fidelibus suis ad quos &c Salutem Cum Charissimus consangineus

2 noster Robertus Comes Leicestrie per quandam Indenturam tripartitam gerentem datum nono die Iunij Anno

3 regni nostri vicesimo septimo acquisiuerit(?) sibi & heredibus suis de charissimo consanguineo nostro

4 Edwardo Comite Oxonie & Israeli Amyce Armigero (inter alia) Manerium de Rayhouse in boreali

5 parte de magna Ilford in parochia de Barkinge Ac omnia terras tenementa prata pasturas pascuas

6 communias boscos subboscos redditus reuerciones seruicia & omnia alia proficua comoditates &

7 hereditamenta quecunque predicto Manerio spectantia seu aliquo modo pertinentia Ac omnia illa terras

8 tenementa & hereditamenta communiter vocata seu cognita per nomen de Rayhowse aut communiter reputata seu

9 capta vt pars parcella vel membra premissoum aut alicuis inde parcella in Comitatu nostro Essex Que

10 de nobis tenentur in Capite vt dicitur habendum & tenendum eidem Comiti Leicestrie ac heredibus & Assignatis

11 suis imperpetuum Quequidem alienacio facta fuit licencia nostra regia inde prius non obtenta

12 Sciatis igitur quod nos de gracia nostra speciali ac pro viginti libris solutis firmario nostro

13 virtute litterarum nostrarum patentium perdonammus transgressionem in hac parte factam Et vlterius concessimus

14 ac pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris quantum in nobis est per presentes concedimus prefato

15 Comiti Leicestrie quod ipse predicta Manerium tenementa & hereditamenta ac cetera premissa cum pertinentijs

16 habeat & teneat sibi ac heredibus & Assignatis suis de nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia

17 inde debita & de iure consueta imperpetuum absque impetitione molestacione vexacione impedimento

18 seu grauamine nostri aut heredum vel successorum nostrorum aut aliquorum Iusticiariorum Escaetorum Vicecomitum

19 Balliuorum seu ministrorum nostrorum aut dictorum heredum vel successorum nostrorum quorumcunque In cuius rei

20 &c Teste Regine apud Westmonasterium tercio die ffebruarij

