

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls of the pardon of alienation, dated 4 May 1586, by which the Queen pardoned Leicester for his purchase of the manors of Cranbrook and Rayhouse from Oxford without prior licence. Two days later, by a fine dated 6 May 1584, clear title to the manors of Cranbrook and Rayhouse passed from Oxford's servant, Israel Amyce, and his wife, Martha, to Oxford for £300 (see TNA CP 25/2/132/1693/26ELIZIEASTER, Item 39).

Another pardon of alienation had been granted to Leicester on 3 February 1586 for his purchase of the manor of Rayhouse from Oxford and Israel Amyce by indenture dated 9 June 1585 (see TNA C 66/1278, m. 5).

On 2 September 1583 Oxford had been granted licence to alienate his manors of Tilbury-juxta-Clare, Northtofts and Skaths to Amyce. For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas by which Oxford transferred these manors to Amyce, see TNA CP 25/2/132/1692/26ELIZIHIL, Item 1.

By another licence, dated 2 March 1584, Oxford was granted permission to alienate his manor of Vaux to 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 the manor of Vaux to Amyce, see TNA CP 25/2/132/1693/26ELIZIEASTER, Item 43.

For 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, see TNA C 66/1278, m.5.

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).

For an entry in Leicester's household account book dated 15 June 1585 recording a payment by Leicester to Oxford in the amount of £50 in connection with the sale of the manors of Cranbrook and Rayhouse, see Evelyn MS 258b.

LM: Grant(?) of pardon of alienation for Robert, Earl of Leicester

The Queen to all her bailiffs & faithful to whom etc., greeting. Whereas our most noble & well-beloved cousin & faithful counsellor Robert, Earl of Leicester, lately, namely in the term of Holy Trinity in the twenty-seventh year [November 17 1584–1585] of our reign, by fine levied in our court before Edmund Anderson, knight, & his fellows then our Justices of the Common Pleas and afterwards on the octave of Michaelmas in the abovesaid twenty-seventh year of our reign before the same Justices there granted & recorded, purchased to himself and his heirs of our most noble & well-beloved cousin, Edward, Earl of Oxford, the manors of Cranbrook alias Cranebrookes & Rayhouse with the appurtenances and twenty messuages, ten tofts, three dovecots, twenty gardens, eight orchards, five hundred acres of land, two hundred acres of meadow, three hundred acres of pasture, one hundred acres of wood, six hundred acres of furze & heath, & eight pounds of rent with the appurtenances in Cranbrook alias Cranebrookes, Rayhouse, Barking, Great Ilford, Little Ilford, Wanstead, Romford, Havering, Hornchurch, Dagenham & Woodford 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 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 & remit not only the transgression in this respect made but also the rents, issues & profits of the foresaid manors & other the premises with the appurtenances forfeited to us, owed, to be rendered or to be paid in our Exchequer because of the alienation aforesaid made without our royal licence, as is aforesaid;

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 Robert, Earl of Leicester, that he might be able to have & hold the foresaid manors & other the premises with the appurtenances to himself and his heirs 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 fourth day of May.

LM: D(?) perdona alienando pro Roberto Comite Leicestrie

1 Regina Omnibus Balliuis & fidelibus suis ad quos &c Salutem Cum prenobilis & predilectus Consangineus &

2 fidelis Consilarius noster Robertus Comes Leicestrie muper [sic] scilicet Termino sancte Trinitatis Anno regni nostri vicesimo

3 septimo per finem in Curia nostra coram Edmundo Anderson Milite & socijs suis adtunc Justiciarijs nostris de

4 Banco leuatum ac postea in Octabis sancte Michaelis Anno regni nostri vicesimo septimo supradicto coram

5 eisdem Iusticiarijs ibidem concessum & recordatum acquisiuerit sibi ac heredibus suis de prenobili & predilecto Consanguineo

6 nostro Edwardo Comite Oxonie Maneria de Cranebroke alias Cranebrookes & Rayhouse cum pertinentijs ac

7 viginti mesuagia decem tofta tria Columbaria viginti gardina octo pomaria quingentas acras terre

8 ducentas acras prati trescentas acras pasture Centum acras bosci sexcentas acras Iampnorum

9 & bruere & octo libratas redditus cum pertinentijs in Cranebrooke alias Cranebrookes Rayhouse Barkinge

10 magna Ilforde parua Ilforde Wansted Romford Haveringe Hornechurche Dagenham & Woodford

11 in Comitatu nostro Essex Que de nobis tenentur in Capite vt dicitur habendum & tenendum eidem Comiti Leicestrie

12 ac heredibus suis imperpetuum Quequidem alienacio facta fuit licencia nostra regia inde prius non obtenta

13 Sciatis igitur quod nos de gracia nostra speciali ac pro viginti libris solutis firmario nostro virtute litterarum

14 nostrarum patentium perdonamus & remittamus non solum transgressionem in hac parte factam veroreciam(?) redditus

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15 exitus & proficua predictorum Maneriorum & ceterorum premissorum cum pertinentijs nobis forisfactura debita computanda siue

16 soluenda in Scaccario nostro eo quod alienacio predicta facta fuit absque licencia nostra regia vt predicatur Et vlterius

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

18 Roberto Comiti Leicestrie quod ipse predicta Maneria & cetera premissa cum pertinentijs habeat & teneat sibi ac

19 heredibus suis de nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia inde debita & de iure consueta imperpetuum absque

20 impeticione molestacione vexacione impedimento siue grauamine nostri aut heredum vel successorum nostrorum aut

21 aliquorum Iusticiariorum Escaetorum Vicecomitum Balliuorum seu Ministrorum nostrorum aut dictorum heredum vel successorum

22 nostrorum quorumcumque In cuius rei &c Teste Regine apud Westmonasterium quarto die Maij