

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls of the Queen's licence, dated 2 March 1592, authorizing Oxford and his second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612), to alienate the rectory of Walter Belchamp to Elizabeth Trentham's brother, Francis Trentham (d.1626), and maternal uncle, Ralph Sneyd (d.1620). For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 22 May 1592 by which clear title to the rectory of Walter Belchamp passed from Oxford and his second wife, Elizabeth Trentham to Francis Trentham and Ralph Sneyd, see TNA CP 25/2/135/1726/34ELIZITRIN, Item 31.

The transaction is mentioned in Oxford's inquisition post mortem (see TNA C 142/286/165), where it is stated that by indenture dated 12 March 1592 Oxford and his wife sold the rectory of Walter Belchamp to Francis Trentham and Ralph Sneyd under a condition which allowed Oxford to take the profits from the rectory during his lifetime. The transaction is also mentioned in a lawsuit brought by Francis Trentham and Ralph Sneyd against Edward Coe in 1602 for unpaid rent for the rectory of Walter Belchamp (see TNA REQ 2/276, Item 62).

The rectory of Walter Belchamp had been among the properties included in Henry VIII's grant of Colne Priory to John de Vere (1482-1540), 15th Earl of Oxford, and his heirs on 22 July 1536 (see TNA C 66/668, mm. 26-7).

Licence to alienate for Francis Trentham, esquire, & others

The Queen to all to whom etc., greeting. Know ye that we of our especial grace and for fifty-three shillings & four pence paid to our farmers 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, & Elizabeth, his wife, that they 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 themselves, the Earl & Elizabeth, to our beloved Francis Trentham & Ralph Sneyd, esquires, the rectory of Walter Belchamp alias Belchamp Water with the appurtenances and the tithes of grain, hay, wool, lambs, wood & sheep, and all other tithes, oblations, obventions & emoluments whatsoever with the appurtenances in Walter Belchamp alias Belchamp Water in our county of Essex which are held of us in chief, as it is said, to have & to hold to the same Francis & Ralph and their 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 Francis & Ralph that they might be able to receive from the forenamed Earl & Elizabeth & hold to themselves and their heirs & assigns forever of us, our heirs & successors by the services aforesaid, as is aforesaid, the foresaid rectory and other all & singular the premises above expressed & specified with the appurtenances;

Not willing that the foresaid Earl & Elizabeth or their heirs, or the forenamed Francis & Ralph or their heirs by reason of the premises 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 might be troubled therefore, molested, interfered with, vexed in anything or oppressed, nor any of them might be 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 ffrancisco Trentham Armigero & alijs

1 Regina Omnibus ad quos &c salutem Sciatis quod nos de gracia nostra speciali ac pro quinquaginta tribus

2 solidis & quatuor denarijs solutis ffirmarijs nostris virtute litterarum nostrarum patentium concessimus

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

4 & licenciam damus Carissimo Consanguineo nostro Edwardo Comiti Oxonie & Elizabethhe vxori

5 eius quod ipsi Rectoriam de Water Belchampe alias Belchampe Water cum pertinentijs ac

6 decimas granorum feni lane agnellorum bosci & Ovum ac omnes alias decimas oblaciones obvenciones

7 & emolumenta quecumque cum pertinentijs in Water Belchampe alias Belchampe Water in Comitatu

8 nostro Essex Que de nobis tenentur in Capite vt dicitur dare possint & concedere alienare

9 aut cognoscere per finem vel per recuperacionem in Curia nostra coram Iusticiarijs nostris de Banco

10 aut aliquo alio modo quocumque ad libitum ipsorum Comitis & Elizabethhe dilectis nobis ffrancisco

11 Trentham & Radulfo Sneade Armigeris habendum & tenendum eisdem ffrancisco & Radulfo ac heredibus &

12 assignatis suis imperpetuum de nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia inde debita & de iure consueta

13 Et eisdem ffrancisco & Radulfo quod ipsi predictam Rectoriam ac cetera omnia & singula premissa superius

14 expressa & specificata cum pertinentijs a prefatis Comite & Elizabetha recipere possint & tenere sibi

15 ac heredibus & assignatis suis de nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia predicta sicut predictum est

16 imperpetuum tenore presencium similiter licenciam dedimus ac pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris predictis

17 damus specialem Nolentes quod predicti Comes & Elizabetha vel heredes sui aut prefati ffranciscus

18 & Radulfus vel heredes sui ratione premissorum per nos heredes vel successores nostros aut per Iusticiarios

19 Escaetores vicecomites Balliuos aut alios Officiarios seu Ministros nostros aut dictorum heredum

20 vel successorum nostrorum quoscumque inde occasionentur molestentur impetantur vexentur in aliquo seu

21 grauentur nec eorum aliquis occasionetur molestetur impetatur vexetur in aliquo seu grauetur In cuius

22 rei &c Teste Regine apud Westmonasterium secundo die Marcij