

SUMMARY: The document below is the fine of 18 April 1580 by which clear title to the manor of Battles Hall in Essex passed from Oxford to John Byrd for 400 marks. Battles Hall had been allocated by the Act of Parliament of 22 January 1552 by which the 16th Earl's lands were restored to him after Somerset's fraud and extortion to Oxford's uncle, Aubrey Vere (see Ward 8/13 and HL/PO/PB/1/1551/5E6n35). By an earlier fine of 20 January 1577 (see CP 25/2/130/1665/19ELIZIHIL, Item 31), clear title to the manor of Battles Hall in Essex had passed from Oxford to his friend and kinsman, Charles Arundel, and was returned to Oxford by Arundel. It seems likely that Oxford's uncle Aubrey Vere had died by 1577, and that the fine of 20 January 1577 by Oxford to Charles Arundel was a means of regularizing Oxford's title to the property. Oxford then held Battles Hall for three years, but eventually sold it to John Byrd on 18 April 1580 by the fine below. John Byrd was a member of a well known Elizabethan family. He and his elder brother Symond were choristers of St Paul's Cathedral as boys in 1554, and their younger brother was the musician William Byrd. In later life, John Byrd was a shipowner and a member of the Drapers Company (see Harley, John, *Merchants and privateers: a window on the world of William Byrd*, Musical Times, Autumn 2006). For the recognizance in the amount of £1000 which Oxford acknowledged to John Byrd, presumably in connection with this transaction, see TNA 30/34/14.

This is the final agreement made in the court of the Lady Queen at Westminster on the quindene of Easter in the year of the reigns of Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc. from the Conquest the twenty-second [=18 April 1580], before James Dyer, Thomas Meade & Francis Wyndham, justices, & others faithful to the Lady Queen then there present, between John Byrd, querent, and Edward, Earl of Oxenford, Great Chamberlain of England, deforciant, of the manor of Battishall alias Battles Hall with the appurtenances, and of two messuages, two cottages, six tofts, six gardens, five hundred acres of arable land, forty acres of meadow, one hundred acres of pasture, one hundred & sixty acres of wood, three hundred acres of furze & heath, ten pounds rent & common of pasture for all animals with the appurtenances in Stapleford Abbots;

Whereof a plea of covenant was summoned between them in the same court, namely that the foresaid Earl has acknowledged the foresaid manor, tenements, rents & common of pasture with the appurtenances to be the right of himself, John, as those which the same John has of the gift of the foresaid Earl, and he has remised & quit-claimed them from himself & his heirs to the foresaid John & his heirs forever;

And besides the same Earl has granted for himself & his heirs that they will warrant to the foresaid John & his heirs the foresaid manor, tenements, rents & common of pasture with the appurtenances against the foresaid Earl & his heirs forever;

And for this acknowledgement, remission, quit-claim, warrant, fine & agreement the same John has given to the foresaid Earl four hundred marks.

Essex

According to the form of the statute the first proclamation was made on the ninth day of May in Easter term in the twenty-second year of the within-written Queen;

The second proclamation on the eleventh day of May in the same term;

The third proclamation on the thirteenth day of May in the same term;

The fourth proclamation on the sixteenth day of May in the same term.

The fifth proclamation was made on the fifteenth day of June in Trinity term in the twenty-second year of the within-written Queen;

The sixth proclamation on the seventeenth day of June in the same term;

The seventh proclamation on the twentieth day of June in the same term;

The eighth proclamation on the twenty-second day of June in the same term.

The ninth proclamation was made on the twenty-first day of November in Michaelmas term in the twenty-third year of the within-written Queen;

The tenth proclamation on the twenty-third day of November in the same term;

The eleventh proclamation on the twenty-sixth day of November in the same term;

The twelfth proclamation on the twenty-eighth day of November in the same term.

The thirteenth proclamation was made on the seventh day of February in Hilary term in the twenty-third year of the within-written Queen;

The fourteenth proclamation on the ninth day of February in the same term;

The fifteenth proclamation on the eleventh day of February in the same term;

The sixteenth proclamation on the thirteenth day of February in the same term.

Examined

1 Hec est finalis Concordia facta in Curia Domine Regine Apud Westmonasterium A die Pasche in

2 quindecim dies Anno regnorum Elizabethhe dei gratia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine

3 fidei defensoris &c A Conquesto vicesimo secundo coram Iacobo Dyer Thoma Meade &

4 ffrancisco Wyndam Iusticiarijs & alijs domine Regine fidelibus tunc ibi presentibus Inter

5 Iohannem Birde querentem et Edwardum Comitem Oxonie Magnum Camerarium Anglie

6 deforciantem de Manerio de Battysshall alias Battylshall cum pertinentijs ac de duobus

7 mesuagijs duobus Cotagijs sex toftis sex gardinis sex pomarijs quingentis

8 acris terre quadraginta acris prati Centum acris pasture Centum &

9 sexaginta acris bosci trescentis acris Iampnorum & bruere decem libratis

10 redditus & communia pasture pro omnibus animalibus cum pertinentijs in Stapleford Abbott Vnde

11 Placitum conuencionis summonitum fuit inter eos in eadem Curia Scilicet quod predictus

12 Comes recognovit predicta Manerium tenementa redditus & communiam pasture cum pertinentijs esse Ius ipsius

13 Johannis Vt illa que Idem Iohannes habet de dono predicti Comitis Et illa remisit & quieteclamavit

14 de se & heredibus suis predicto Iohanni & heredibus suis Imperpetuum Et preterea Idem Comes

15 concessit pro se & heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt predicto Iohanni & heredibus suis predicta

16 Manerium tenementa redditus & communiam pasture cum pertinentijs contra predictum Comitem & heredes

17 suos Imperpetuum Et pro hac recognitione remissione quietaclamacione Waranto fine &

18 Concordia Idem Iohannes dedit predicto Comiti quadringentas Marcas

19 Argenti

Essex

Secundum formam statuti

Prima proclamatio facta fuit Nono die Maij termino Pasche Anno vicesimo secundo Regine infrascripte

Secunda proclamatio vndecimo die Maij eodem termino

Tercia proclamatio terciodecimo die Maij eodem termino

quarta proclamatio sextodecimo die Maij eodem termino

Quinta proclamatio facta fuit quintodecimo die Iunij termino sancte Trinitatis Anno vicesimo secundo Regine infrascripte

sexta proclamatio decimo septimo die Iunij eodem termino

septima proclamatio vicesimo die Iunij eodem termino

octava proclamatio vicesimo secundo die Iunij eodem termino

Nona proclamatio facta fuit vicesimo primo die Novembris Termino sancti Michaelis Anno vicesimo tercio Regine infrascripte

decima proclamatio vicesimo tercio die Novembris eodem termino

vndecima proclamatio vicesimo sexto die Novembris eodem termino

duodecima proclamatio vicesimo octavo die Novembris eodem termino

Terciadecima proclamatio facta fuit septimo die ffebruarij termino sancti Hillarij Anno vicesimo tercio Regine infrascripte

quartadecima proclamatio nono die ffebruarij eodem termino

quintadecima proclamatio vndecimo die ffebruarij eodem termino

sxtadecima proclamatio terciodecimo die ffebruarij eodem termino

examinatus