

SUMMARY: The document below is the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 3 February 1583 by which clear title to the manor of Easton Hall passed from Oxford to John Gardiner, Anthony Watson and Michael Gardiner for 400 marks. Easton Hall had been part of the jointure of Oxford's mother, Margery Golding (d.1568). It seems likely that the purchaser Anthony Watson was the Anthony Watson (d.1605) who was Queen Elizabeth's Lord High Almoner, and Bishop of Chichester from 1596 until his death in 1605. Watson was an associate of Oxford's kinsman by marriage, John (c.1533-1609), Baron Lumley, and was appointed rector of Cheam by Lumley in 1581. For the recognizance in the amount of £800 which Oxford acknowledged to John Gardiner in connection with this transaction, see TNA C 54/1169, Part 23.

This is the final agreement made in the court of the Lady Queen at Westminster on the morrow of the Purification of Blessed Mary 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-fifth [=3 February 1583], before Edmund Anderson, Thomas Meade, Francis Wyndham & William Peryam, justices, & others faithful to the Lady Queen then there present, between John Gardiner, gentleman, Anthony Watson, clerk, & Michael Gardiner, clerk, querents, and Edward, Earl of Oxford, Great Chamberlain of England, deforciant, of the manor of Easton Hall with the appurtenances and of four messuages, four cottages, four gardens, two hundred acres of arable land, forty acres of meadow, a hundred acres of pasture, forty acres of wood & forty shillings' rent with the appurtenances in Belchamp Walter, Belchamp Otten & Foxearth;

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

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

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

Essex

Examined

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1 Hec est finalis Concordia facta in Curia Domine Regine apud Westmonasterium in Crastino Purificacionis beate Marie Anno regnorum Elizabethæ

2 dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c a conquesto vicesimo quinto coram Edmundo Anderson Thoma Meade

3 ffrancisco Wyndam & Willelmo Peryam Iusticiarijs & alijs domine Regine fidelibus tunc ibi presentibus Inter Iohannem Gardner generosum

4 Antonium Watson Clericum & Michaellem Gardner Clericum querentes et Edwardum Comitum Oxonie magnum Camerarium Anglie deforciantem

5 de Manerio de Easton Hall cum pertinentijs ac de quatuor Mesuagijs quatuor Cotagijs quatuor gardinis ducentis acris terre

6 quadraginta acris prati Centum acris pasture quadraginta acris bosci & quadraginta solidatis redditus cum pertinentijs in

7 Walter belchamp Ottonbelchamp & ffoxehearth Vnde Placitum conuencionis summonitum fuit inter eos in eadem Curia

8 Scilicet quod predictus Comes recognovit predicta Manerium & tenementa cum pertinentijs esse ius ipsius Iohannis Vt illa que ijdem Iohannes

9 Antonius & Michelis habent de dono predicti Comitum Et illa remisit & quieteclamavit de se & heredibus suis predictis Iohanni

10 Antonio & Michaeli & heredibus ipsius Iohannis Imperpetuum Et preterea idem Comes concessit pro se & heredibus suis quod ipsi

11 Warantizabunt predictis Iohanni Antonio & Michaeli & heredibus ipsius Iohannis predicta Manerium & tenementa cum pertinentijs contra omnes homines

12 Imperpetuum Et pro hac recognicione remissione quieteclamacione Waranto fine & concordia ijdem Iohannes Antonius & Michelis

13 dederunt predicto Comiti quadringentas Marcas Argenti

Essex

examinatus