

SUMMARY: The document below is the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 15 June 1584 by which clear title to the manor of Little Yeldham passed from Oxford to John Mabbe the younger for £300. Little Yeldham had been among Oxford's manors granted by the Queen to Leicester on 22 October 1563 for the term of Oxford's minority. In 1591/2, Mabbe sold Little Yeldham for £400 (see CP 2/25/135/1724/34ELIZIHIL, Item 33).

Earlier Oxford had sold another of his manors to John Mabbe the younger. For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 22 May 1581 by which clear title to the manor of Gibcrack in Essex passed from Oxford to John Mabbe the younger, see TNA CP 25/2/131/1683/23/4ELIZIMICH, Item 54. For the recognizance in the amount of 2000 marks which Oxford acknowledged to Mabbe on 16 February 1581 in connection with that sale, see TNA C 54/1118, Part 22. For the pardon of alienation dated 9 November 1581 granted to Oxford for alienating the manor of Gibcrack to John Mabbe without licence, see TNA C 66/1206, m. 30.

In addition, a sale by John Mabbe, gentleman, and his wife Martha of yet another of Oxford's manors, Great Yeldham, is recorded in 1595 (see TNA CP 25/2/137/1737/37ELIZIEASTER, Item 14). Oxford had sold this manor in 1584 to Thomas Plome and Edmund Plome (see TNA CP 25/2/132/1692/26ELIZIHIL, Item 43).

There were other connections between Oxford and the Mabbe family. In his 1552 will, the 16th Earl of Oxford had granted an annuity to a John Mabbe who was at the time a yeoman in his household (see BL MS Stowe Charter 633-4). The schedule annexed to Oxford's indenture of 30 January 1575 includes a debt in the amount of £95 6s 8d to one Mabbe (see ERO D/Drg2/25), presumably the London goldsmith John Mabbe the elder (c.1515-1582), father of the 'John Mabbe the younger' who purchased the manors of Gibcrack and Little Yeldham from Oxford in 1581 and 1584. John Mabbe the younger and his wife Martha (nee Denham) were the parents of James Mabbe (1572-1642?), who wrote commendatory verses signed 'I.M.' for the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays. From the online *Dictionary of National Biography* entry for the translator James Mabbe:

Mabbe [Mab], James (1571/2–1642?), translator, was born in Surrey, in the diocese of Winchester, the son of John Mabbe and Martha, daughter of William Denham of London. His grandfather, also named John Mabbe, was a well-known member of the Goldsmiths' Company who served as chamberlain of London in 1577.

For the wills of John Mabbe (c.1515-1582), goldsmith, and Chamberlain of London, see TNA PROB 11/65, ff. 6-7 and TNA PROB 11/71, ff. 70-1).

This is the final agreement made in the court of the Lady Queen at Westminster on the morrow of Holy Trinity 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-

sixth [=15 June 1584], before Edmund Anderson, Thomas Meade, Francis Wyndham & William Periam, justices, & others faithful to the Lady Queen then there present, between John Mabbe, querent, and Edward, Earl of Oxford, deforciant, of the manor of Gelham alias Geldham alias Over Yeldham alias Upper Yeldham alias Over Yeldham Hall alias Little Yeldham alias Little Geldham alias Yeldham alias Ieldham with the appurtenances and of twenty messuages, twenty cottages, ten tofts, one mill, one dovecot, thirty gardens, five hundred acres of arable land, a hundred & fifty acres of meadow, five hundred acres of pasture, three hundred acres of wood, a hundred acres of furze & heath, forty acres of moor, forty acres of marsh & ten pounds' rent with the appurtenances in Over Yeldham alias Little Yeldham, Nether Yeldham, Stambourne, Tilbury-juxta-Clare, Toppesfield, Castle Hedingham, Sible Hedingham, Gestingthorpe, Belchamp St Paul, Belchamp Otten, Ridgewell [+&] Belchamp William, and of the advowson of the church of Yeldham alias Gelham alias Geldham alias Over Yeldham alias Upper Yeldham alias Little Yeldham alias Yeldham alias Ieldham;

Whereof a plea of covenant was summoned between them in the same court, namely that the foresaid Earl acknowledged the foresaid manor, tenements & rents with the appurtenances and the foresaid advowson 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 and his heirs to the foresaid John and 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 with the appurtenances & the foresaid advowson against all men forever;

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

Essex

Examined

1 Hec est finalis Concordia facta in Curia Domine Regine apud Westmonasterium in Crastino sancte Trinitatis Anno regnorum Elizabethe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie

2 Regine fidei defensoris &c A Conquesto vicesimo sexto coram Edmundo Anderson Thoma Meade ffrancisco Wyndam & Willelmo Peryam Iusticiarijs & alijs

3 domine Regine fidelibus tunc ibi presentibus Inter Iohannem Mabbe querentem et Edwardum Comitem Oxonie deforciantem de Manerio de Gelham alias Geldham

4 alias Over Yeldham alias Vpper Yeldham alias Over Yeldham Hall alias lyttle Yeldham alias litle Geldeham alias Yeldham alias Ieldham

5 cum pertinentijs ac de viginti Mesuagijs viginti Cotagijs decem toftis vno Molendino vno columbare triginta gardinis quingentis acris terre

6 Centum & quinquaginta acris prati quingentis acris pasture trescentis acris bosci Centum acris lampnorum & bruere quadraginta acris More

7 quadraginta acris marisci & decem libratis redditus cum pertinentijs in Over Yeldham alias litle yeldham Nether yeldham Stamborne Tylbury

8 iuxta Clare Toppesfeild Castle Heddingham Heddingham Sible Gestingthorpe Belchampe Seynt Pawle Otton Belchampe Reddiswell

9 Belchampe William ac de aduocacione ecclesie de yeldham alias Gelham alias Geldeham alias Over yeldham alias upper yeldham alias

10 litle yeldham alias yeldham alias Ieldham Vnde Placitum conuencionis summonitum fuit inter eos in eadem Curia Scilicet quod predictus Comes recognovit predicta

11 Manerium tenementa & redditus cum pertinentijs Ac Advocacionem predictam esse ius ipsius Iohannis Vt illa que Idem Iohannes habet de dono predicti Comitis Et illa remisit &

12 quieteclamavit de se & heredibus suis predicto Iohanni & heredibus suis Imperpetuum Et preterea Idem Comes concessit pro se & heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt predicto

13 Iohanni & heredibus suis predicta Manerium tenementa & redditus ac Advocacionem predictam cum pertinentijs contra omnes homines Imperpetuum Et pro hac recognicione remissione quietaclamacione Waranto fine &

14 concordia Idem Iohannes dedit predicto Comiti trescentas libras sterlingorum

Essex

examinatus