

SUMMARY: The document below is the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 12 April 1592 by which Oxford and his second wife, Elizabeth Trentham, transferred clear title to the ‘manors of Castle Hedingham and Gosfield’ to Lord Burghley and his heirs and to Oxford’s three daughters by his first marriage, Elizabeth, Bridget and Susan. Proclamation of the fine was made four times, beginning on 8 May 1592 and ending on 25 January 1593.

For the Queen’s licence dated 2 December 1591 authorizing Oxford to alienate the manors of Castle Hedingham and Gosfield to Lord Burghley and Oxford’s daughters, Elizabeth, Bridget and Susan Vere, see TNA C 66/1392, mm. 30-1.

For an earlier fine by which Oxford transferred the ‘honour and castle of Hedingham and the manors of Hedingham, Shetleford, and Parkes’ to Lord Burghley and his heirs on 25 November 1591 see TNA CP 25/2/135/1723/33/34ELIZIMICH, Item 74. No mention is made in either the 16th Earl’s inquisition post mortem (see TNA C 142/136/12) or TNA WARD 8/13 of Shetleford or Parkes as manors. In the Queen’s grant of 8 June 1592 (see TNA C 66/1385, mm. 9-10), Shetleford is referred to as ‘all that farm called Shetleford’, while Parkes is referred to as ‘all the manor or farm called Parkes’. In Part 25 of TNA WARD 8/13, Shetleford is referred to as ‘one messuage with th’ appurtenances called Shetleford & Takeley’ while Parkes is referred to as ‘the farm called Parkes in Gestingthorpe’. In TNA C 66/1318, mm. 14-15, Shetleford is referred to as ‘all that our farm called or known by the name of Shetleford’, while Parkes is referred to as ‘all that our farm called Parkes’. In ERO D/DU 65/72, Shetleford is referred to as ‘a messuage with th’ appurtenances called Shetleford and Takeley’, while Parkes is referred to as ‘one messuage called Parkes in Gestingthorpe’.

It thus appears that the earlier fine was in error in transferring the ‘manors’ of Shetleford and Parkes to Lord Burghley and his heirs.

Although no mention is made in either the 16th Earl’s inquisition post mortem (see TNA C 142/136/12) TNA WARD 8/13 of Gosfield as a manor, there was a manor of that name which apparently belonged to the Earls of Oxford and constituted part of the demesne lands of Castle Hedingham. See Wright, Thomas, *The History and Topography of the County of Essex*, Vol. 2, p. 3, available online:

The manor of Gosfield, or Bellowes, continued, for several ages after the Conquest, in possession of the noble family of Vere, forming part of the demesne lands of the honour of Hedingham Castle.

It thus appears that one reason for the fine below was to correct the error in the earlier fine by which the ‘manors’ of Shetleford and Parkes had been transferred to Lord Burghley and his heirs, and to substitute the manor of Gosfield, which had somehow been inadvertently omitted from the 16th Earl’s inquisition post mortem and other documents.

Oxford also included additional properties in the fine below, namely the rectories which had earlier formed part of the priory of Blessed Mary, Saint James & the Holy Cross of Castle Hedingham, commonly known as Hedingham Nunnery. These rectories were part of King 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), and were included in the Queen's regrant of Colne Priory to Oxford on 8 June 1588 (see TNA C 66/1321, mm. 8-9):

And those rectories of the parish churches of Castle Hedingham & Gosfield with the appurtenances [+belonging] to the same late priory or monastery of Hedingham aforesaid in our said county of Essex which lately we have had of the gift or grant of the foresaid Earl;

And that advowson & patronage of the rectories and vicarages of Castle Hedingham and Gosfield aforesaid in our said county of Essex which lately we have had of the gift or grant of the foresaid Earl.

It thus appears that a second reason for the fine below was to transfer these two rectories situated in Castle Hedingham to Lord Burghley and Oxford's daughters.

It should be noted that Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham, and Oxford's daughters are parties to the fine below, although the earlier fine had been solely between Oxford and Lord Burghley.

Certain differences in the descriptions of the locations of the properties in the two fines may reflect the fact that Lord Burghley had had Israel Amyce prepare a survey of Castle Hedingham in 1592 (see ERO D/DMh M1 and D/DMh M2).

The consideration is stated to be £800; however fines were fictitious lawsuits, and the consideration stated in them is often fictitious as well.

The series of transactions leading up to the fine below are here summarized for ease of reference:

1 July 1587

Queen's grant of lands of Edward Jones to Robert Cecil and Hugh Beeston for Oxford's benefit (TNA C 66/1291, mm. 5-7)

3 July 1587

Oxford's deed acknowledging Queen's grant of 1 July 1587, and in consideration agreeing to grant Castle Hedingham to Queen on condition that she regrant it to Oxford and the heirs of his body by his first wife, Anne Cecil

3 July 1587

Oxford's bond in the amount of £4000 guaranteeing his performance of the conditions in his deed of the same date (TNA E 211/35)

6 October 1587

Oxford's fine transferring Castle Hedingham to the Queen in compliance with his deed of 3 July 1587 (TNA CP 25/2/133/1707/29/30ELIZIMICH, Item 45)

18 November 1587

Queen's regrant of Castle Hedingham to Oxford and the heirs of his body by his first wife, Anne Cecil (TNA C 66/1318, mm. 14-15)

8 March 1588

Lord Burghley's letter to Thomas Fanshawe directing that extents be issued against Castle Hedingham to preserve it from 'utter spoil' (TNA SP 46/35, f. 28)

25 November 1591

Oxford's fine transferring Castle Hedingham to Lord Burghley and his heirs (TNA CP 25/2/135/1723/33/34ELIZIMICH, Item 74)

2 December 1591

Queen's licence authorizing Oxford to alienate 'manors of Castle Hedingham and Gosfield' to Lord Burghley and Oxford's three daughters (TNA C 66/1392, mm. 30-31)

27 January 1592

Queen's pardon of alienation to Lord Burghley for having purchased Castle Hedingham without licence via the fine of 25 November 1591 (TNA C 66/1387, mm. 18-19)

12 April 1592

Oxford's fine alienating the manors of Castle Hedingham and Gosfield and to Lord Burghley and Oxford's three daughters (TNA CP 25/2/135/1725/34ELIZIEASTER, Item 44)

8 June 1592

Queen's grant to John Drawater and John Holmes of a 100-year lease of properties of Oxford's which had been seised into the Queen's hands for Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards, including the honour or manor of Castle Hedingham

For Oxford's settlement of Castle Hedingham on his daughters by Anne Cecil, see also HL/PO/JO/10/1/329/136 and 136a.

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 thirty-fourth [=12 April 1592], before Edmund Anderson, Francis Wyndham, William Peryam & Thomas Walmesley, justices, & others faithful to the Lady Queen then there present, between William Cecil, knight of the right honourable Order of the Garter, Lord

Burghley, Great Treasurer of England, Elizabeth Vere, Bridget Vere & Susan Vere, querents, and Edward, Earl of Oxford, Great Chamberlain of England, & Elizabeth his wife, deforciant, of the manors of Castle Hedingham & Gosfield with the appurtenances, and two hundred messuages, two hundred cottages, one hundred tofts, ten mills, forty dovecots, two hundred gardens, two hundred orchards, three thousand acres of land, one thousand acres of meadow, four thousand acres of pasture, one thousand acres of woods, four thousand acres of furze & heath, two hundred acres of moor, one thousand acres of fresh marsh, free fisheries, free warrens, common of pasture for all beasts, & ten pounds rent with the appurtenances in Castle Hedingham, Hedingham Sible, Gosfield, Great Yeldham, Little Yeldham, Finchingfield, Toppesfield, Tilbury juxta Clare, Stambourne, Pebmarsh, Foxearth, Hempstead, Bulmer, Great Maplestead, Little Maplestead, Halstead, Gestingthorpe, Belchamp Walter, Belchamp Otten, Belchamp St. Paul, Ridgewell, Sturmer, Havenell, Steeple Bumpstead & Helions Bumpstead, and also the rectories & chapels of Castle Hedingham & Gosfield with the appurtenances, and also all & all manner of tithes, portions, pensions, oblations, mortuaries, & obventions whatsoever coming, growing or renewing of & in the parishes of Castle Hedingham, Gosfield, Sible Hedingham, Great Yeldham Little Yeldham, Finchingfield, Toppesfield, Tilbury juxta Clare, Stambourne, Pebmarsh, Foxearth, Hempstead, Bulmer, Great Maplestead, Little Maplestead, Halstead, Gestingthorpe, Belchamp Walter, Belchamp Otten, Belchamp St. Paul, Ridgewell, Sturmer, Havenell, Steeple Bumpstead & Helions Bumpstead, and also knights' fees, wards, marriages, reliefs, goods & chattels of felons & fugitives, escheats, fairs, markets, tolls, liberties & franchises with the appurtenances, and views of frankpledge & whatever to view of frankpledge belongs with the appurtenances in Castle Hedingham, Sible Hedingham, Gosfield, Great Yeldham & Little Yeldham, and also the advowsons of the vicarages of the churches of Castle Hedingham & Gosfield;

Whereof a plea of covenant was summoned between them in the same court, namely that the foresaid Earl & Elizabeth, his wife, have acknowledged the foresaid manors, tenements, fisheries, warrens, common of pasture, rents, rectories, chapels, tithes, portions, pensions, oblations, mortuaries, obventions, knights' fees, wards, marriages, reliefs, goods & chattels of felons & fugitives, escheats, fairs, markets, tolls, liberties, franchises & views of frankpledge with the appurtenances and advowsons aforesaid to be the right of the same William as those which the same William, Elizabeth Vere, Bridget & Susan have of the gift of the foresaid Earl & Elizabeth, his wife, and have remised & quit-claimed them from themselves, the Earl & Elizabeth, his wife, & their heirs, to the foresaid William, Elizabeth Vere, Bridget & Susan & to the heirs of the same William forever;

And besides the same Earl & Elizabeth, his wife, have granted for themselves & for the heirs of the same Earl that they will warrant to the foresaid William, Elizabeth Vere, Bridget & Susan, & to the heirs of the same William, the foresaid manors, tenements, fisheries, warrens, common of pasture, rents, rectories, tithes, portions, pensions, oblations, mortuaries, obventions, knights' fees, wards, marriages, reliefs, goods & chattels of felons & fugitives, escheats, fairs, markets, tolls, liberties, franchises & views of frankpledge with the appurtenances and advowsons aforesaid against all men forever;

And further the same Earl & Elizabeth, his wife, have granted for themselves & for the heirs of the same Elizabeth that they will warrant to the foresaid William, Elizabeth Vere, Bridget & Susan & to the heirs of the same William the foresaid manors, tenements, fisheries, warren[s], common of pasture, rents, rectories, chapels, tithes, portions, pensions, oblations, mortuaries, obventions, knights' fees, wards, marriages, reliefs, goods & chattels of felons & fugitives, escheats, fairs, markets, tolls, liberties, franchises & views of frankpledge with the appurtenances and advowsons aforesaid against the foresaid Earl & Elizabeth, his wife, & the heirs of the same Elizabeth forever;

And for this acknowledgement, remission, quit-claim, warrant, fine & agreement the same William, Elizabeth Vere, Bridget & Susan have given to the foresaid Earl & Elizabeth, his wife, eight hundred pounds sterling.

Essex

Examined

According to the form of the statute, the first proclamation was made on the eighth day of May in Easter term in the thirty-fourth year of the within-written Queen.

The second proclamation was made on the thirtieth day of May in Trinity term in the thirty-fourth year of the within-written Queen.

The third proclamation was made on the tenth day of November in Michaelmas term in the thirty-fourth year of the within-written Queen.

The fourth proclamation was made on the twenty-fifth day of January in Hilary term in the thirty-fifth year of the within-written Queen.

Examined

1 Hec est finalis Concordia facta in Curia Domine Regine apud Westmonasterium a die Pasche in quindecim dies Anno regnorum Elizabethe dei gratia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris

2 &c A Conquesto tricesimo quarto coram Edmundo Anderson ffrancisco Wyndam Willelmo Peryam & Thoma Walmysley Iusticijs & alijs domine Regine fidelibus tunc ibi presentibus Inter Willelmum

3 Cecill prenobilis ordinis Garterij Militem Dominum Burghley Magnum Thesaurarium Anglie Elizabetham Veere Brigittam Vere & Susannam Vere querentes et Edwardum Comitem Oxonie Magnum Camerarium Anglie &

4 Elizabetham vxorem eius deforciantes de Manerijs de Hedingham ad Castrum & Gosfelde cum pertinentijs ac de ducentis mesuagijs ducentis Cotagijs Centum toftis decem Molendinis

5 quadraginta Columbarijs ducentis gardinis ducentis pomarijs tribus millibus acrarum terre Mille acris prati quatuor Millibus acrarum pasture Mille acris bosci quatuor

6 Millibus acrarum Iampnorum & bruere ducentis acris more Mille acris marisci frisci libera piscaria libera Warrenna communia pasture pro omnibus auerijs & decem libratas

7 redditus cum pertinentijs in Hedingham ad Castrum Hedingham Sible Gosfeld yeldham Magna yeldham parua ffinchefeld Toppesfeld Tilbury iuxta Clare Stamborne

8 pedmershe ffoxearth Hempsted Bulmer Maplested Magna Maplested parua Halsted Gestingthorpe Belcham Water Belcham Otten Belchamp sancti

9 Pauli Rigewell Sturmer Havenell Bumsted ad turrim & Bumsted Helyon ac eciam de rectorijs & Capellis de Hedingham ad Castrum & Gosfield cum

10 pertinentijs Necnon de Omnibus & omnimodis decimis porcionibus pencionibus oblacionibus mortuarijs & obuencionibus quibuscumque crescentibus prouenientibus siue renouantibus de & in

11 parochijs de Hedingham ad Castrum Gosfield Hedingham Sible yeldham Magna yeldham parua ffinchefeld Toppesfield Tilbury iuxta Clare Stamborne

12 pedmershe ffoxearth Hempsted Bullmer Maplested magna Maplested parua Halsted Gestingthorp Belcham Water Belcham Otten Belcham sancti Pauli

13 Rigewell Sturmer Havenell Bumsted ad turrim & Bumsted Helyon necnon de feodis Militum Wardis Maritagijs releuijs bonis & Catallis felonum &

14 fugitiuorum escaetis Nundinis mercatis tolnetis libertatibus & ffranchesijs cum pertinentijs ac de visibus ffranci plegij & quicquid ad visum ffranci plegij pertinet cum pertinentijs

15 in Hedingham ad Castrum Hedingham Sible, Gosfeld yeldham Magna & yeldam Parua ac eciam de aduocacionibus vicariarum ecclesiarum de Hedingham ad

16 Castrum & Gosfeld Vnde Placitum Conuencionis summonitum fuit inter eos in eadem Curia Scilicet quod predicti Comes & Elizabetha vxor eius recognoverunt predicta Maneria tenementa piscaria

17 Warrenna communiam pasture redditus rectorias Capellas decimas porciones penciones oblaciones Mortuaria obuenciones feoda Militum Warda Maritagia relevia bona & catalla

18 felonum & fugitiuorum escaetas Nundinas Mercata tolmeta libertates ffranchias & visus ffranci plegij cum pertinentijs ac Aduocaciones predictas esse ius ipsius Willelmi vt illa que

19 idem Willelmus Elizabetha Veere Brigitta & Susanna habent de dono predictorum Comitum & Elizabethae vxoris eius Et illa remiserunt & quieteclamaverunt de ipsis Comitibus &

20 Elizabetha vxore eius & heredibus suis predictis Willelmo Elizabethae Veere Brigitte & Susanne & heredibus ipsius Willelmi Imperpetuum Et preterea ijdem Comes & Elizabetha vxor

21 eius Concesserunt pro se & heredibus ipsius Comitum quod ipsi Warantizabunt predictis Willelmo Elizabethae Veere Brigitte & Susanne & heredibus ipsius Willelmi predicta Maneria tenementa

22 piscaria Warrenna Communiam pasture redditus rectorias decimas porciones penciones oblaciones Mortuaria obuenciones feoda Militum Warda Maritagia relevia

23 bona & catalla felonum & fugitiuorum escaetas Nundinas mercata tolmeta libertates ffranchias & visus ffranci plegij cum pertinentijs ac Aduocaciones predictas contra

24 omnes homines Imperpetuum Et vltimo ijdem Comes & Elizabetha vxor eius concesserunt pro se & heredibus ipsius Elizabethae quod ipsi Warantizabunt predictis Willelmo Elizabethae

25 Veere Brigitte & Susanne & heredibus ipsius Willelmi predicta Maneria tenementa piscaria Warrennam [sic?] Communiam pasture redditus rectorias Capellas decimas porciones penciones

26 oblaciones Mortuaria obuenciones feoda militum Warda maritagia relevia bona & catalla felonum & fugitiuorum escaetas Nundinas mercata tolmeta

27 libertates ffranchias & visus ffranci plegij cum pertinentijs ac Aduocaciones predictas contra predictos Comitem & Elizabetham vxorem eius & heredibus ipsius Elizabethae

28 Imperpetuum Et pro hac recognitione remissione quieteclamacione Waranto fine & Concordia ijdem Willelmus Elizabetha Veere Brigitte [sic?] & Susanna dederunt predictis

29 Comiti & Elizabethae vxori eius octingentas libras sterlingorum

Essex

examinatus

Secundum formam statuti

Prima proclamatio facta fuit octavo die Maij termino Pasche Anno tricesimo quarto Regine infrascripte

Secunda proclamatio facta fuit tricesimo die Maij termino sancti Trinitatis Anno tricesimo quarto Regine infrascripte

Tercia proclamatio facta fuit decimo die Novembris termino sancti Michaelis Anno tricesimo quarto Regine infrascripte

Quarta proclamatio facta fuit vicesimo quinto die Ianuarij termino sancti Hillarij Anno tricesimo quinto Regine infrascripte

examinatus