

SUMMARY: The document below is the release, dated 20 March 1581, to Sir Edward Clere (d. 8 June 1606) by Robert Christmas of his interest in Oxford's manor of Weybourne in Norfolk. As mentioned in the release, Robert Christmas acquired his interest from John de Vere (1512-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford. In his will (see TNA PROB 11/46, ff. 174v-6), the 16th Earl granted his servant, Robert Christmas, a 21-year lease of Weybourne, a remarkably generous grant considering that the lease was worth £28 8s 9d per annum (see TNA Ward 8/13, Part 78), and that its total value over a period of 21 years amounted to £597 3s 9d.

For a 21 year lease of the manor of Weybourne granted by Oxford to his servant, Roger Clopton, on 10 December 1571, see NRS 16422 32 C6.

For the licence dated 20 April 1580 authorizing Oxford to alienate the manor of Weybourne to Sir Edward Clere (d. 8 June 1606), see TNA C 66/1197, mm. 15-16. For the recognizance in the amount of £2000 which Oxford acknowledged in Chancery on 12 May 1580 in connection with the sale to Clere, see TNA C 54/1095, Part 25.

Be it known unto all men by these presents that I, Robert Christmas of Lavenham in the county of Suffolk, esquire, have remised, released, quitclaimed and discharged and by these presents for me, mine heirs, executors and administrators forever do remise, release, quitclaim and discharge unto Sir Edward Clere, knight, all the right, title, interest, use, possession, claim and demand which I, the said Robert Christmas, have, may, might, should or of right ought to have of, in or to the manor of Weybourne alias Waborn in le Hoope with the appurtenances in the county of Norfolk or of, in or to any part or parcel thereof by force and virtue of the last will and testament of the right honourable John de Vere, late Earl of Oxenford, deceased, father of the right honourable Edward de Vere, now Earl of Oxenford, or by any other ways or means whatsoever, so as by force and virtue hereof I, mine heirs and assigns, be forever hereafter clearly excluded and barred of and from all and every action, suit, claim and demand for, in and to the premises and for, in and to every or any part or parcel thereof;

In witness hereof I have hereunto set my seal the twentieth day of March in the 23rd year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.

Robert Christmas

Sigill {auit} et delib {er} auit hec p {ri} us scriptu {m} in p {re} sencia Io {hannis} Myners

Endorsed (in hand of John Myners?): [] Rob {ert} Xmas release of his interest in Weybourne xxmo M {ar} tij Ao xxijjtio R {egni} R {egine} Eliz {abethe}