

SUMMARY: The document below is the indenture dated 31 December 1587 by which Geoffrey Gates transferred to Roger Harlakenden (d.1603) his interest in a 21-year lease of Colne Priory which had been granted by Oxford on 12 February 1577 to Richard Kelton (d.1578), the Earl's receiver. Geoffrey Gates had acquired his interest in this lease on 11 February 1580, when his first cousin, Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton, transferred to him by indenture of that date the interest in the lease which she had inherited from her late husband, Richard Kelton (d.1578). For the indenture dated 11 February 1580, see D/DPr/175.

Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton was the daughter of Sir Thomas Josselyn (b. 1507, d. 24 October 1562) and his wife, Dorothy (nee Gates) Josselyn (d.1583?). Dorothy (nee Gates) Josselyn (d.1583?) was at court during the years 1540-42 in the household of Queen Katherine Howard (1518x24-1542). For the will of Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton's father, Sir Thomas Josselyn (b. 1507, d. 24 October 1562), see TNA PROB 11/47, ff. 213-14. For the will of Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton's mother, Dorothy (nee Gates) Josselyn (d.1583?), see TNA PROB 11/65, ff. 79-80.

Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton's first husband, Oxford's receiver, Richard Kelton, is mentioned as a friend in the will of Oxford's stepfather, Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), and was a witness to Charles Tyrrell's will:

Item, I do give unto my brother, Philip Tyrrell, and my friend, Master Kelton of Colne, all that my lease and term of years yet to come which I have of the said house, manor and priory of Colne with th' appurtenances by any means or ways, as well by force of one indenture made by the late Earl, deceased, to John Booth and Thomas Coe, which said John and Thomas have, by their deed signed and sealed, released over their interest to my late wife, the Countess of Oxford, in her widowhood, as by all other means and ways whereby any right or title of the same might or may accrue or grow to me;

Item, I do make my brother, Philip Tyrrell, my sole executor of all other my goods and chattels yet ungiven upon condition he do pay all such debts and duties as may lawfully be demanded of me and shall justly be proved as above-written to be my debts, these being witnesses hereof, Master John Seymour, esquire, one of the Queen's Majesty's Gentlemen-Pensioners, and Mr Richard Kelton, gentleman.

For the will of Charles Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/52, f. 105. For the earlier 21-year lease of Colne Priory made by the 16th Earl of Oxford on 6 May 1558 to John Booth and Thomas Coe, which was assigned to the 16th Earl's widow, Margery Golding, inherited by her second husband, Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), and bequeathed by him to Philip Tyrrell and Richard Kelton (d.1578), see TNA WARD 8/13, Part 17. This earlier lease expired on 29 September 1579, and in anticipation of its expiration Oxford made a new 21-year lease on 12 February 1577 to his receiver, Richard Kelton.

After Richard Kelton's death, his widow, Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton married Roger Harlakenden (d.1603), who later defrauded Oxford in the sale of Colne Priory. Roger

Harlakenden's marriage into a family which had numbered among its members trusted servants of the Earls of Oxford may have facilitated his fraud. For the will of Roger Harlakenden (d.1603), see TNA PROB 11/101, ff. 392-3.

As mentioned earlier, Geoffrey Gates of Lincoln's Inn was Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton's first cousin. He was the son of Geoffrey Gates (d.1554?) by either his first wife, said to have been a member of the Pascall family of Essex, or by his second wife, Elizabeth (nee Walsingham) Gates (d.1596), the daughter of William Walsingham and his wife, Joyce (nee Denny) Walsingham, and the sister of Sir Francis Walsingham (1532-1590). For the will of Geoffrey Gates (d.1554?), see TNA PROB 11/37, f. 123.

Geoffrey Gates of Lincoln's Inn and his brother, Anthony Gates, are mentioned in the will of their father's brother, Sir Henry Gates (d.1588/9), as well as in the will of their aunt, Mary (nee Denny) Gates, the wife of their father's eldest brother, Sir John Gates (1504-1553). For the will of Sir Henry Gates (d.1588/9), see TNA PROB 11/73, ff. 376-9. For the will of Mary (nee Denny) Gates, see TNA PROB 11/65, ff. 218-19.

The entry for Geoffrey Gates of Lincoln's Inn in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography* identifies him as the author of *The Defence of Militarie Profession* (London, 1579), a work dedicated to Oxford by a Geoffrey Gates who describes himself as an 'unlettered man' who required a notary to help him write *The Defence*, a description clearly unsuited to a lawyer of Lincoln's Inn:

Experience hath taught me to love and to honour arms, and in the zeal of a good heart to covet the advancement of martial occupation, which made me (an unlettered man) to take unto me a notary to set down in writing this drift in the defence and praise of warlike prowess against all contemners of the same for the benefit and encouragement of my country & countrymen.

For the indenture dated 9 November 1584 by which Roger Harlakenden (d.1603) acquired the interest in the lease of Colne Priory held by Richard Kelton's nephew, Thomas Kelton, see ERO D/DPPr/176.

For a lawsuit in Chancery brought by Roger Harlakenden's brother, George Harlakenden, in 1595 against Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton Harlakenden's nephew, Thomas Josselyn, in which depositions were taken concerning Jane's transfer of her assets to her relations in trust prior to her marriage to Roger Harlakenden (1541-1603), see TNA C 24/244/35.

Be it known to all men by these presents that I, Geoffrey Gates of Lincoln's Inn in the county of Middlesex, for divers good considerations me thereunto moving, have granted, assigned, set over & conveyed & by these presents do grant, assign, set over & convey unto Roger Harlakenden of Earls Colne in the county of Essex, esquire, all my right, title, interest & term of years which I, the said Geoffrey Gates, have of or in the site of the manor of Colne Priory or Colne House, with all gardens, orchards, ponds, fishings, courts,

yards, houses, barns, stables & edifices thereunto belonging, together with all the tithes corn belonging to the parsonage of Earls Colne aforesaid, & all the meadows, pastures, lands, feedings & demesne lands with their appurtenances belonging unto the said Priory or site of the said Priory of Colne House, or used or occupied to or with the same by the said Roger Harlakenden or his assigns, or to any other lands, tenements & other hereditaments in Earls Colne in the said county of Essex whatsoever, to have & to hold all & singular the above-recited premises with their appurtenances unto the said Roger Harlakenden, his executors, administrators & assigns forever in as ample & large manner as I, the said Geoffrey, may or might enjoy the same by force, virtue or colour of any grant, gift, assignment or bargain & sale to me heretofore made by Jane Harlakenden, now the wife of the said Roger, in her widowhood before her marriage with the said Roger, or by any other means whatsoever;

In witness whereof I, the said Geoffrey Gates, have set my hand & seal to these presents the last day of December in the thirtieth year [=31 December 1587] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France & Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc.

By me, Geoffrey Gates.

Sealed & delivered in the presence of Jeremy Bettenham, ba: Hughes & John Oxley, Nicholas Rande