

SUMMARY: The document below is a copy of the private Act of Parliament authorizing the sale of the manor of Bretts to help finance Elizabeth Trentham's recent repurchase of Castle Hedingham. For the original Act of Parliament see HL/PO/PB/1/1609/7J1n33.

Copy of the Act of Parliament anno 7 Regni for the sale of the manor of Bretts etc. towards the repurchasing of Hedingham, the ancient seat of the Earls of Oxenford.

The charge of this copy, viz.

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Summa	18s 1/2d

Anno 7 Regni Jacobi

Soit faict come il est desire

An Act for the sale of the manor of Bretts and farm of Playstowe in the county of Essex, parcel of the possessions of Henry, Earl of Oxenford, towards the repurchasing of the castle, manor, & parks of Hedingham in the same county, being the ancient inheritance and chief mansion-house of the Earls of Oxenford.

IN ALL HUMBLENESS beseecheth your most excellent Majesty your dutiful and obedient subject Elizabeth, Countess Dowager of Oxenford, that whereas Edward, Earl of Oxenford, your suppliant's late husband, deceased, was in his lifetime seised in his demesne as of fee of and in the manor of Bretts with th' appurtenances in the county of Essex under such provisos, conditions, and limitations as are expressed in certain indentures bearing date the 7 day of March in the 26<sup>th</sup> year [=March 7, 1584] of the late Queen Elizabeth made between Edward, late Earl of Oxenford, father of the said Henry, now Earl, on the one part, and Roger Townshend of East Rainham in the county of Norfolk, esquire, on the other part, and of some other lands thereunto adjoining, lying in the towns and parishes of West Ham and Flatwick in the said county of Essex, by purchase from Sir Roger Townshend, knight, which said manor and lands were extended in the lifetime of the said Earl and for his debt to continue for the term of fourscore years,

AND was likewise seised in fee of the farm of Playstowe in the county of Essex, and of certain portions of tithes in Sible Hedingham, Stansted, Maplestead, Aldham, and Bures

in the county of Essex, and in Lavenham and Aldham in the county of Suffolk, part whereof are conveyed to your suppliant for term of her life, and the said Earl afterwards of such estate in the said manor and other the premises died seised, after whose decease the reversion of the same manor and other the premises descended to Henry, now Earl of Oxenford, his son and heir apparent, who being within age, and for that the same manor is held of your Majesty by knight's service in capite, the said Henry, Earl of Oxenford, was and yet is in ward to your Majesty and his wardship and marriage is granted over to your suppliant, which said manor of Bretts and other the lands aforesaid, if they were in the now Earl's possession, are in yearly value in demesne upon the rack two hundred pounds by year three and forty shillings five pence freehold rents, and three pounds four shillings and four pence copyhold rents, and the said farm of Playstowe and portion of tithes are but of the value of nine pounds by year,

AND whereas your said suppliant, being very desirous to uphold and raise the ancient and most honourable house of Oxenford what in her doth lie, to that end hath lately bought the castle and manor of Hedingham in the said county of Essex which was the ancient inheritance and chief seat of the said Earls of Oxenford and hath continued in their name and possession almost from the time of the Conquest until the same was lately sold by the said Edward, Earl of Oxenford, which manor of Hedingham is of the value of seven hundred pounds by year besides divers liberties, royalties, and privileges that that [sic] are thereto belonging, which said castle and manor your suppliant hath caused to be assured to herself for life and after to the said Henry, Earl of Oxenford, and the heirs of his body, and the same hath cost your suppliant a great sum of money, towards the payment whereof your suppliant hath sold above four hundred pounds by year of her own inheritance, and besides your suppliant was enforced by herself and her friends to take up a great sum of money at interest for which your suppliant standeth yet still engaged, and hath no sufficient means of her own to satisfy the same but by sale of some part of the lands of the said Earl, and for that there is no part of his lands more fit to be sold than the said manor of Bretts and other the premises, which both your suppliant (that hath the interest of the said extent for fourscore years and an estate for your suppliant's life in part of the rest as aforesaid), and also the said Earl himself, are willing to depart with but as yet can make no good assurance thereof for that the said Earl is still your Majesty's ward and not of the full age of one and twenty years but wanteth some few years thereof, and for that if present sale may not be made of the said manor of Bretts and farm of Playstowe and other the said premises then the said manor of Hedingham must be dismembered which will be much to the hurt of the said Earl,

IN REGARD WHEREOF may it please your most excellent Majesty that it may be enacted by your Majesty, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and be it ordained and enacted by authority of the same that it shall and may be lawful to the said Henry, now Earl of Oxenford, at all times from and after the end of this present session of Parliament by and with the consent of Robert, Earl of Salisbury, Master of your Majesty's Wards and Lord Treasurer of England, and of your suppliant, Sir Edward More of Odiham in the county of Southampton, knight, and Francis Trentham of Rocester in the county of Stafford, esquire, or of any three or two of them (whereof the said Robert, Earl of Salisbury, during the time of the minority of the

said Earl to be one) expressed in writing under their hands and seals to make sale of the said manor of Bretts and the said farm of Playstowe and all other the lands and tithes above expressed (other than the said castle, manor, and lands in Hedingham) to any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, that shall be willing to buy the same, and that all and every such estate, conveyance, and assurance so to be made by the said Earl of the said manor of Bretts, farm of Playstowe, and other the said premises so to be sold shall be and stand good & effectual in law against the said Henry, Earl of Oxenford, and his heirs notwithstanding his said minority, and that all and every person and persons, bodies politic and corporate, to whom the said Earl shall make any such conveyance in form aforesaid of the said manor, lands, and tithes or any part thereof shall and may have, hold, and enjoy the premises so to them to be conveyed according to the state to them limited without impeachment or eviction of the said Earl or his heirs for or by reason of his said minority or being within the age of 21 years at the time of such assurance made,

SAVING ALWAYS, and be it ordained and enacted, that this Act nor anything therein contained shall be hurtful or prejudicial to your Majesty, your heirs or successors, or to any other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, their heirs or successors, for or in regard of livery to be sued of the premises out of your Majesty's hands at the full age of the said Earl, or for or in regard of any estate, right, title, action, lease, interest, condition, service, rent, profit, charge, emoluments, hereditaments, and other demands whatsoever which your Majesty or any other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, or any of of [sic] them lawfully have or claim or of right ought to have or claim of, in, to, or out of the said manor, farm, tithes, and other the said lands and premises or any part thereof, but that the same shall be, continue, and remain in as ample and beneficial manner to all intents and purposes as if this Act had never been made,

AND your said subject shall daily pray to God for your Majesty in all honour, prosperity, and safety long to reign over us.

Soit baille aux Communs  
A ceste Bill lez Comuns ont assentuz

[Translation: Let it be delivered to the Commons. To this bill the Commons have assented.]

Ex{aminatus}  
Jo: Brocone clericus  
Parliamentorum