

SUMMARY: The document below, dating from shortly after the death on 20 March 1540 of John de Vere (1482-1540), 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, is a list of the lands inherited in possession by his son John de Vere (1516-1562), the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl, in counties throughout England, the annual rental value of which amounted to £1772 19s 1-1/2d, almost half of this total coming from lands in Essex. When various fees and annuities left by the 15<sup>th</sup> Earl amounting to £135 7s 6d are deducted, the net annual rental value of the lands inherited in possession by the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl amounts to £1637 11s 7-1/2. The 16<sup>th</sup> Earl also inherited from his father certain lands in reversion (that is, lands which would only come to the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl after the death of certain other individuals), the value of which amounted to £290 3s 11-1/4d per year. The total for the lands inherited in possession by the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl (£1772 19s 1-1/2d) and the lands inherited in reversion (£290 3s 11-1/4d) is thus £2063 3s 3/4d. From this must be deducted the reprises mentioned earlier, i.e. £135 7s 6d, yielding a total annual rental value for the lands inherited by the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl, both in possession and in reversion, of £1927 15s 6-3/4d. However the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl would never have received this amount in any one year since almost £300 worth of the lands were held in reversion, and did not come to him until the deaths of certain other individuals, principally Lady Anne (d.1558/9), Dowager Countess of Oxford, the widow of John de Vere (1499-1526), 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford. Moreover several of the manors mentioned in the document below were sold by the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl during his lifetime, which further reduced his annual revenue. The total net annual revenue inherited by the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl was therefore something less than £2000. This document thus lends further support to the many other documents which indicate that the inheritance the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl left to his own son, the 17<sup>th</sup> Earl, was approximately £2250. The first membrane of the document is damaged on both the right and left sides, leaving parts of it illegible, as indicated by square brackets in the transcript of its title below.

[ ] of all

[ ] the castles, honours, lordships, manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances [ ]

[ ] unto John, now Earl of Oxenford, by and after the decease of the right honourable John, [ ]

[ ] the father, deceased, or by or after the decease of the right honourable Lady Elizabeth, Countess [ ]

[ ] late Earl of Oxenford died the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March in the 31<sup>st</sup> year [=20 March 1540] of the reign [ ]

[ ] Henry the 8<sup>th</sup>, at which day the said John, now Earl of Oxenford, was of [ ]

[ ] as hereafter followeth.

## The County of Essex

The castle of Hedingham is worth by year £23 15s 9d.

The manors of Grays [£12 13s 4d], Prayors alias Bower Hall [£33 21-1/2d] in Sible Hedingham are worth by year £45 15s 1-1/2d.

The manors or lordships of Little Yeldham [£24], Earls Colne [£19 17s 4d], Crepping Hall [£26 12s 1-1/2d], Beaumont Old Hall [£10], & Sheriffs [66s 8d] are worth by year £83 16s 1-1/2d.

The manors of Wennington [£21 3s 4d], Kennington [£12 15s], Stansted [£22 14s 11-1/2d], Netherhall in Gestingthorpe [£12], Gibcrack [51s] are worth by year £71 4s 3-1/2d.

The castle of Colchester is worth by year £32 3s 4d.

The manors of Pevers [46s 8d], Peppers [58s 8d], and Easton Hall [£10] are worth by year £15 5s 4d.

Harwich & Dovercourt are worth by year £36 14s 2-1/4d.

The manors of Guttridge [£11], Much Oakley [£33 3s 5-1/4d], Little Oakley [£48], and Mose [£32] are worth by year £124 3s 5-1/4d.

The lordship of Wivenhoe is worth by year £40 19s 3-1/2d.

The manors of Earls Fee in Bowers Gifford [£9], Fingrith [£43 5s 8d], Doddinghurst [£21], Battles Hall in Stapleford Abbots [£13 6s 8d], and Vaux [£14 13s 4d] are worth by year £101 5s 8d.

The manors or lordships of Much Canfield [£55 5s 2d], and Much Bentley [£34 12s 4-1/2d] are worth by year £89 17s 6-1/2d.

The rents and services [£50 10s 11-1/4d] and the demesnes [£10 17s 2d] with Barwick Hall [£9 19s 8d], Inglesthorpe [£4 10s] in White Colne, Colneford mill [40s] and Chalkney mill [£4], parcel of the possessions of the late priory of Colne, are worth by year £81 17s 9-1/4d.

The parsonages of Bentley [£7 11s], Dover [£15], Belchamp [£16 3s 4d], Messing [113s 8d], Wickham [£6], the chapel of Harwich [40s] belonging to the said late priory of Colne are worth by year £52 8s.

The portions of tithe in Stansted in Halstead [40s], Maplestead [13s 4d], Sible Hedingham [10s], Aldham [10s] in comitatu Essex, Lavenham [33s 4d] and Bures [9s] &

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Aldham [26s 8d] in comitatu Suffolk, late parcel of the said late priory of Colne, are worth by year £7 2s 4d.

The late priory of nuns in Castle Hedingham is worth by year £20 16s.

Divers lands in Pentlow [33s 4d], Stambourne [60s], and Gaines Colne [26s 8d] are worth by year £6.

### **The County of Cambridge**

Hinxton, late parcel of the possessions of the late priory of Colne, is worth by year £42 18s 11-1/4d.

The manor of Swaffham Bulbeck is worth by year £23.

### **The County of Hertford**

The manors of Much Hormead [£32], Barkway [£16 4s 4d], Rokey [£6 13s 4d], and Newsells [£16 16s] are worth by year £71 13s 8d.

### **The County of Suffolk**

The manors of East Bergholt [£47 15s 1/2d], Earls Hall in Cockfield [£25], and Aldham [£32 14s 6d] are worth by year £105 9s 6-1/2d.

The manor or lordship of Lavenham is worth by year £64 19s 10-3/4d.

### **The County of Norfolk**

The lordship of Weybourn is worth by year £27 18s.

### **The County of Buckingham**

The manors of Chesham Higham [£39 6s 5-1/4d] and Chesham Bury [£30 8s 3d] are worth by year £69 14s 8-1/4d.

### **The County of Berkshire**

The manors of Shottesbrook [£14 13s 4d] and Eaton Hastings [£40] are worth by year £54 13s 4d.

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**The County of Northampton**

The manors of Easton Maudit [£22 14s 11d], Thorpe Malford [£14 10s 8d], Marston Trussell [£19 9s 4d], and Lamport [£20 13s] are worth by year £77 7s 11d.

**The County of Warwick**

The manor of Bilton is worth by year £15 10s 1/2d.

**The County of Leicester**

The manor of Elmsthorpe [£44] and certain tenements in Shilton [35s] are worth by year £45 15s.

**The County of Stafford**

The manors of Acton Trussell [£27 17s] and Sheriff Hales [£20 16s 9d] are worth by year £48 13s 9d.

**Comitatus Salopie**

The lordships of Norton in Hales [£7 16s], Aldon, Bromfield et Munslow with their members [£42 8s 2-1/2d] are worth by year £50 4s 2-1/2d.

**The County of Chester**

The manors or lordships of Blacon [£15 10s], Ashton [£22 9d], Willaston [£20 9-1/2d], the East Gate of Chester [£10 12s 9-1/2d], Warmingham [£55 3s 4d], and North Rode [£19 13s 11d] are worth by year £143 19d.

**The County of Devon**

The manors of Colebrook and Dorwick, with other rents there and in Bishop Morchard(?), Silverton, Bradninch, Bradmore(?), Exeter, and Newton Abbott, are worth by year £31 7s 11-1/2d.

### The County of Cornwall

The manors of Roseworthy [£19 10s 10-1/2d], Tregenna Wollas [74s 10-1/2d], Bejowan [£11 14s 11-1/2d], Domellick [£11 11s 1d], Tregenna Wartha [58s 10d], Tresithney [59s 3d], and Tregorrick [75s 6-1/2d] are worth by year £56 10s 5d.

### London

The chief mansion at London Stone with certain tenements thereunto annexed is worth by year, besides the King's tenth thereof, £10 16s.

Sum total of the yearly valor of all and singular castles, lordships, manors, lands, tenements, and other hereditaments abovesaid amounteth to the sum of **£1772 19s 1-1/2d**.

Thereof in

Fees of officers and others granted by the right noble John, late Earl of Oxenford, now deceased, that is to say,

Of the receiver [£20], auditor [£20] and surveyor [£20] of all and singular castles, honours, lordships, manors and other above specified; also of John Church, steward of the said lordships within the county of Essex [53s 4d], Hugh Trevelyan, steward of the manors and lordships in the county of Cornwall [40s], Richard Rich, knight, Chancellor of the King's Court of Augmentation [40s], John Lucas, gen{er}os{us} [66s 8d], (blank) Bradbury [20s], William Coningsby [40s] of the law learned, and Thomas Bromley [40s], in the whole by year £75.

Fees & annuities as well by letters patents & also by the will of the noble John, sometime Earl of Oxenford, as by the codicil of same sometime Earl, that is to say,

Of Humphrey Wingfield [66s 8d], John Fowle [£4], Thomas Vere, esquire [£13 6s 8d], Katherine Slack [53s 4d] & Margaret Lambard [53s 4d], for their fees as well by letters patents as by the will of the noble John, sometime Earl of Oxenford, to them granted, and also the annuities of Humphrey Wingfield [53s 4d], William Pirton [53s 4d], knights, John Fowle, gentleman [53s 4d], Thomas Vere, esquire [53s 4d], Robert Tyrrell [53s 4d], Thomas Tey, knight [53s 4d], Thomas Tey, esquire [53s 4d], Robert Skerne [53s 4d], George Tracy [40s], Lawrence Foster [53s 4d], Robert Goldingham [53s 4d], John Swayne [60s 10d] by the codicil of the said sometime Earl to them granted, £57 14s 2s

The annuity of the grant of the executors of the said sometime Earl, that is to say,

Of John St. Leger, by year 53s 4d

**£135 7s 6d**

And so they are worth clear by year **£1637 11s 7-1/2**.

The very yearly valor of all and singular castles, honours, lordships, manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances which shall or may revert, remain or come unto the said John, now Earl of Oxenford, by or after the decease of the right honourable Lady Anne, Countess of Oxenford, or by or after the decease of [sic] deceases of any other tenant or tenants in dower for term of life or otherwise, as hereafter followeth:

Divers lordships and manors which shall revert or remain to the said John, now Earl of Oxenford, after the decease of the said Lady Anne, now Countess of Oxenford:

### **The County of Kent**

The lordships or manors of Fleet [£34 6s 8d] & Badlesmere [£21] are worth by year £55 6s 8d.

### **The County of Essex**

The manors of Bumpstead [£31], Waltons in Purleigh [£11], and Waltons in Mucking [£26 7s 2-1/2d] & Gobions in Tilbury are worth by year £68 7s 2-1/2d.

### **The County of Cambridge**

The manors of Fowlmere [£37 7s 8-1/4d] and Camps [£43 16s 5d] are worth by year £81 4s 1-1/4d.

### **The County of Buckingham**

The manors of Aston Sandford [£12 10s] & Whitchurch [£30 15s 11-1/2d] are worth by year £43 5s 11-1/2d.

### **The County of Essex**

The valor of certain lands in the hands of Lady Margaret Vere, after whose decease they shall remain to the said John, now Earl:

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The manor of Langdon is worth by year £20.

Divers lands in the hands of Nicholas White, after whose decease they shall revert to the said John, now Earl of Oxenford:

Certain lands in Mount Bures and Wakes Colne are worth by year 40s.

Divers lands in the hands of (blank) Wentworth in the right of (blank), his wife, late the wife of (blank) Mountney, the which after her decease shall revert to the said now Earl:

The manor of Mountnessing is worth by year £20.

Sum total of the clear yearly value of all and singular lordships and manors abovesaid in reversion by year **£290 3s 11-1/4d.**

Sum total of the lands and possessions before rehearsed, as well in possession as in reversion, are worth by year **£2063 3s 3/4d.**

Thereof

In divers reprises as above particularly doth appear, by year **£135 7s 6d.**

And so they are worth clearly by year **£1927 15s 6-3/4d.**