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SUMMARY: The document below is the Court of Wards copy of the inquisition post mortem taken on 13 August 1608 concerning Oxford's great garden property in London. For a fuller discussion, see the original document, TNA C 142/305/103.

Copy by William Ravenscroft

The right honourable Edward, late Earl of Oxford                      City of London

[LM: City of London]

Indented inquisition taken at the Guildhall of the city of London on the thirteenth day of August in the sixth year [=13 August 1608] of the reign of our Lord James by the grace of God King of England, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc. & of Scotland the forty-second, before Edmund Ferrand, gentleman, deputy escheator of the city of London aforesaid, Ellis Churchill, esquire, feodary of the foresaid city, Francis Rame, gentleman, and James Necton, gentleman, commissioners of the said Lord King by virtue of a commission of the same Lord King in the nature of a writ of mandamus directed to the same Commissioners and to a certain William Bowyer & Roger Dallison, knights, & to this inquisition attached, to inquire after the death of the right honourable Edward, late Earl of Oxford, Great Chamberlain of England, deceased, by oath etc.;

Who say upon their oath aforesaid that the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, named in the foresaid commission, long before his death & on the day of his death was seised in his demesne as of fee of & in one messuage or tenement called the Gatehouse with its appurtenances, and of & in that whole great garden commonly called or known under the description of Le Great Garden alias the Covent Garden of Christchurch, and of & in all & singular the houses, messuages, tenements & buildings on the foresaid great garden newly constructed & built, with all & singular their entire appurtenances to the same great garden belonging or in whatever manner appertaining, lately in the tenure or occupation of a certain Thomas Casey or of his assigns, situate, lying & being within the parish of Saint Botolph without Aldgate in London and lately purchased by the forenamed Edward, late Earl of Oxford, to himself & his heirs from a certain George Kirkham, Hugh Beeston & William Walter, gentlemen, and that the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, thus of all & singular the premises being seised, on the twenty-fourth day of June in the second year [=24 June 1604] of the reign of our Lord James now King etc. died thus seised thereof;

And the foresaid jurors say upon their oath aforesaid that the foresaid great garden & the rest of the premises with the appurtenances are held, & at the time of the death of the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, were held of the said Lord King but by which services the foresaid jurors do not know, and that they are worth clear by year in all issues beyond reprises fifteen pounds;

And the foresaid jurors further say upon their oath aforesaid that Henry, now Earl of Oxford, & now being in the custody of the said Lord King by reason of his minor age for other lands held of the said Lord King in chief by knight-service is & at the time of the death of the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, was son and next heir of the said Edward, late Earl, and that the foresaid Henry, now Earl of Oxford, was aged at the time of the death of the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, his father, eleven years & four months;

And the foresaid jurors further say upon their oath aforesaid that they do not know who has perceived & had (s. & pl.) the issues & profits of all & singular the premises from the time of the death of the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, until the day of the taking of this inquisition;

And at last the foresaid jurors say upon their oath aforesaid that the foresaid Edward, late Earl of Oxford, named in the foresaid commission had or held no other or more messuages, lands, tenements or hereditaments, nor any other or any others to his use had or held any other messuages, lands, tenements or hereditaments held of the said now Lord King in chief or otherwise, or of any other person or of any other persons in demesne, service, reversion or in remainder or in use on the day of his death in the said city of London or elsewhere in the suburbs of the same city to their knowledge;

In [+testimony of] which thing etc.

Exemplum per Willelmum Ravenscrofte

Prenobilis Edwardus nuper Comes Oxonie

Civitas Londonie

[LM: Civitas Londonie]

1 Inquisicio indentata capta apud Guildhall Ciuitatis Londonie decimo tercio die Augusti Anno regni Domini nostri Iacobi dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regis fidei defensoris &c Sexto

2 & Scocie quadragesimo Secundo Coram Edmundo fferrand Generoso deputato Escaetore Ciuitatis Londonie predictae Elizeo Churchill Armigero ffeodario Ciuitatis predictae ffrancisco Rame

3 Generoso et Iacobo Necton Generoso Comissionarijs dicti domini Regis virtute Commissionis eiusdem domini Regis in natura brevis de mandamus eisdem Comissionarijs et quibusdam Willelmo

4 Bowyer & Rogero Dallison Militibus directi & huic Inquisicioni annexi ad inquirendum post mortem Prenobilis Edwardi nuper Comitum Oxonie magni Camerarij Anglie defuncti per sacramentum &c

5 Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum predictum quod predictus Edwardus nuper Comes Oxonie in predicta Commissione nominatus diu ante obitum suum & die obitus sui fuit seisitus in dominico suo vt

6 de feodo de & in vno Mesuagio siue tenemento vocato le Gatehowse cum suis pertinentijs Ac de & in toto illo magno Gardino communaliter vocato siue cognito per nomen de Le greate Garden alias the

7 Covent Garden of Christchurch Ac de & in omnibus & singulis domibus mesuagij tenementis & edificijs desuper predictum magnum Gardinum de novo constructis & edificatis cum omnibus &

8 singulis suis pertinentijs vniuersis eidem magno Gardino spectantibus seu quoquo modo pertinentibus nuper in tenura siue occupatione cuiusdam Thoma Casye vel assignatorum suorum scituatis iacentibus &

9 existentibus infra parochiam sanc(t)i Bottolphi extra Algate Londonia Ac nuper perquisitis per prefatum Edwardum nuper Comitem Oxonie sibi & heredibus suis de quibusdam Georgio Kirkham

10 Hugone Beeston & Willelmo Walter Generosis Et quod predictus Edwardus nuper Comes Oxonie sic de omnibus & singulis premissis seisitus existens vicesimo quarto die Iunij Anno regni

11 Domini nostri Iacobi Regis nunc &c secundo obiit sic inde seisitus Et Iuratores predicti dicunt super sacramentum suum predictum quod predictum magnum Gardinum & cetera premissa cum pertinentijs tenentur & tempore

12 mortis predicti Edwardi nuper Comitis Oxonie tenebantur de dicto domino Rege sed per que seruicia Iuratores predicti ignorant Et quod valent clare per Annum in omnibus exitibus vltra reprisas quinque

13 libras Et Iuratores predicti vltius dicunt super sacramentum suum predictum quod Henricus nunc Comes Oxonie & modo existens in Custodia dicti domini Regis ratione minoris etatis sue pro alijs terris tentis de dicto domino

14 Rege in Capite per seruicium Militare est & tempore mortis predicti Edwardi nuper Comitis Oxonie fuit filius & proximus heres dicti Edwardi nuper Comitis Et quod predictus Henricus modo Comes

15 Oxonie fuit etatis tempore mortis predicti Edwardi nuper Comitis Oxonie patris sui vndecim Annorum & quatuor mensium Et Iuratores predicti vltius dicunt super sacramentum suum predictum quod ignorant

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16 quis vel qui exitus & proficua omnium & singulorum premissorum a tempore mortis predicti Edwardi nuper Comitis Oxonie vsque diem capcionis huius Inquisicionis percepit & habuit siue perceperunt &

17 habuerunt Ac postremo Iuratores predicti dicunt super sacramentum suum predictum quod predictus Edwardus nuper Comes Oxonie in Commissione predicta nominatus nulla alia siue plura mesuagia

18 terras tenementa siue hereditamenta habuit siue tenuit nec aliquis alius neque aliqui alij ad eius vsum habuerunt siue tenuerunt aliqua alia mesuagia terras tenementa siue

19 hereditamenta tenta de dicto Domino Rege nunc in Capite seu aliter aut de aliqua alia persona siue de aliquibus alijs personis in dominico seruicio Reuercione siue in Remanere aut in vsum

20 die obitus sui in dicta Ciuitate Londonie aut alibi in Suburbijs eiusdem Ciuitatis ad eorum noticiam In cuius rei &c