

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls of the licence dated 2 January 1577 by which Oxford was granted permission to alienate his manor of Thorncombe to John Freke (d.1581) and Matthew Bragge, gentlemen. John de Vere (1516-1562), 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, and his first wife, Dorothy (nee Neville) had been granted the manor of Thorncombe by King Henry VIII on 29 April 1544 in exchange for Dovercourt, Harwich and other manors (see C 66/740, m. 5). For the will of John Freke (d.1581), see TNA PROB 11/63, f. 146. For lawsuits concerning Oxford's former manor of Thorncombe mentioning John Freke (d.1581) and Matthew Bragge, see TNA C 2/Eliz/B25/34 and TNA C 2/Eliz/C19/36. The testator's executor, and the principal beneficiary of his will, was his brother, Robert Freke (d.1592?), one of the Tellers of the Exchequer. Nothing further is known of the testator's wife, Jane.

The Queen to all to whom etc., greeting. Know that we, of our special grace, and for three pounds sixteen shillings & eight pence paid to our farmer, by virtue of our letters patent do grant and give licence, and for us, our heirs & successors, by how much is in us by these presents do grant and give licence to our dearest cousin Edward, Earl of Oxford, that they [sic] might be able to give & grant, alienate or acknowledge by fine or recovery in our court before our Justices of the Common Pleas or by any other manner whatsoever at his pleasure, to our beloved John Freke & Matthew Bragge, gentlemen, the manor of Thorncombe with the appurtenances and fifty messuages, twenty tofts, one fulling mill, fifty gardens, forty orchards, one thousand acres of land, one hundred acres of meadow, one thousand acres of pasture, three hundred acres of wood, three hundred acres of furze and heath, one hundred acres of alder, & six pounds & twelve pence of rent, and the rent of two [libr' cere] with the appurtenances in Thorncombe & Axminster, and also all tithes of grain & hay coming of three messuages, three hundred acres of land, forty acres of meadow & two hundred and sixty acres of pasture with the appurtenances in Thorncombe, and also the advowson of the church of Thorncombe in our county of Devon, which are held of us in chief, as it is said;

To have & to hold to the same John & Matthew and to the heirs and assigns of the same John to the sole & proper behoof & use of the same John and Matthew and the heirs & assigns of the same John forever of us, our heirs and successors, by the services owed therefore, & by right customary;

And similarly by the tenor of these presents we give, and for us, our heirs & successors do give special licence to the same John & Matthew that they might be able to receive from the forenamed Earl, & hold to them and the heirs & assigns of the same John of us, our heirs & successors, forever the foresaid manor, messuages, tofts, gardens, orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, woods, rents and the advowson and all and singular other the premises above expressed and specified with the appurtenances, by the services aforesaid, as is aforesaid;

Not willing that the foresaid Earl or his heirs, or the forenamed John & Matthew or the heirs of the same John by reason of the premises might be troubled therefore, molested, interfered with, vexed in anything, or oppressed by us, our heirs or successors, or by our justices, escheators, sheriffs, bailiffs or other officers or ministers or [+those] of our said heirs or successors whatsoever, nor might be by any of them troubled, molested, interfered with, vexed in anything, or oppressed. In [+testimony] of which thing etc. Witness the Queen at Westminster on the second day of January.

LM: D(?) licen{cia} alienand{o} p{ro} Ioh{ann}e ffreake & al{ijs}

1 Regina om{n}ib{us} ad quos &c Sal{u}t{e}m Sciatis q{uo}d nos de gr{aci}a n{ost}ra Sp{ec}iali ac p{ro} trib{us} libris

2 sexdecim solid{is} & octo denar{ijs} solutis ffirmario n{ost}ro virtute l{itte}rar{um} n{ost}rar{um} paten{tium} concessim{us}

3 & licenciam dedim{us} ac p{ro} nob{is} hered{ibus} & success{oribus} n{ost}ris quantum in nob{is} est p{er} p{re}sentes

4 concedim{us} & licenciam dam{us} Charissimo Consanguineo n{ost}ro Edwardo Comiti Oxon{ie} q{uo}d

5 ip{s}e man{er}iu{m} de Thornecombe cum p{er}tin{entijs} ac quinquaginta mesuagia viginti tofta vnu{m}

6 molendinu{m} fullonicum quinquaginta gardina quadraginta pomar{ia} mille acras t{er}re

7 Centum acras p{ra}ti Mille acras pasture trescentas acras bosci trescent{as} acras iam p{ra}torum &

8 bruere Centum acras Alnet{a} & sex librat{as} & duodecim denariat{as} reddit{us} ac reddit{us} duar{um}

9 libr' cere cum p{er}tin{entijs} in Thornecombe & Axmyster Necnon om{n}imod{as} decimas g{ra}nor{um} &

10 feni p{ro}uenien{tes} de trib{us} mesuagijs trescent{is} acr{is} t{er}re quadragint{is} acr{is} prati & ducent{is} &

11 sexagint{is} acr{is} pastur{e} cum p{er}tin{entijs} in Thornecombe Aceciam aduocac{i}o{n}em Eccl{es}ie de

12 Thornecombe in Com{itatu} n{ost}ro Devon{ie} Que de nob{is} tenent{ur} in capite vt dicit{ur} dare possint [sic]

13 & concedere alienare aut cognosc{er}e p{er} finem vel p{er} recup{er}ac{i}o{n}em in Cur{ia} n{ost}ra coram Iustic{iarijs}

14 n{ost}ris de Banco seu aliquo alio modo quocumq{ue} ad libitum ip{s}ius Comitis Dil{i}c{t}is nob{is}

15 Ioh{ann}i ffreake & Matheo Bragge Gen{er}osis h{ab}end{um} & tenend{um} eisdem Ioh{ann}i & Matheo ac

16 hered{ibus} & assign{atis} ip{s}ius Ioh{ann}is ad solum & p{ro}priu{m} opus & vsum ip{s}or{um} Ioh{ann}is & Mathei ac

17 hered{um} & assign{atorum} ip{s}ius Ioh{ann}is imp{er}p{etuu}m de nob{is} hered{ibus} & success{oribus} n{ost}ris p{er} s{er}uicia inde debita

18 & de iure consueta Et eisdem Ioh{ann}i & Matheo q{uo}d ip{s}i p{re}dict{a} Maner{ium} mesuag{ia} toft{a} gardin{a}

19 pomar{ia} terr{as} p{ra}t{a} pastur{as} bosc{os} reddit{us} ac aduocac{ionem} ac cet{er}a om{n}ia & singula p{re}missa

20 sup{er}ius exp{re}ssa & specificat{a} cum p{er}tin{entijs} a p{re}fato Comite recip{er}e possint & tenere sibi ac

21 hered{ibus} & assign{atis} ip{s}ius Ioh{ann}is de nob{is} hered{ibus} & success{oribus} n{ost}ris p{er} s{er}uicia p{re}d{i}c{t}a sicut p{re}d{i}c{tu}m

22 est imp{er}p{etuu}m tenore p{re}sentiu{m} similit{er} lienciam dedim{us} ac p{ro} nob{is} hered{ibus} & success{oribus} n{ost}ris p{re}dict{is} dam{us}

23 sp{e}c{i}alem Nolentes q{uo}d p{re}d{i}c{t}us Comes vel hered{es} sui aut p{re}fatus Ioh{ann}es & Matheus vel

24 hered{es} ip{s}ius Ioh{ann}is r{ati}one p{re}missor{um} p{er} nos hered{es} vel success{ores} n{ost}ros aut p{er} Iustic{iarios} Escaetor{es}

25 vicecomit{es} Balliuos aut alios Officiar{ios} sue Ministros n{ost}ros aut d{i}c{t}or{um} hered{um} vel successor{um}

26 n{ost}ror{um} quocumq{ue} inde occ{asi}onent{ur} molestent{ur} impetant{ur} vexent{ur} in aliquo seu g{ra}uent{ur} nec eor{um}

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27 aliquis occ{asi}onet{ur} molestet{ur} impetat{ur} vexet{ur} in aliquo seu  
g{ra}uet{ur} In cuius rei &c T{este} R{egine} apud

28 West{monasteriu}m s{e}c{un}do die Ianuarij