

SUMMARY: The document below is the licence dated 18 May 1596 by which the Queen pardoned Oxford's former longtime servant, Edmund Felton, for the purchase without licence of Oxford's lands in Brundon, Bulmer and Ballingdon in Essex (now in Suffolk) by indenture dated 13 August 1592. In his lawsuit against Roger Harlakenden (d.1603) for fraud in the sale of Colne Priory, Oxford accused Harlakenden of having bribed Felton to recommend him to Oxford's service and to concur with him in the undervaluation of Colne Priory. Felton's purchase of lands from Oxford in August 1592 without licence from the Queen, only a few months after Harlakenden had purchased Colne Priory in February 1592, appears to be related in some way to Felton's confederacy with Harlakenden. For Oxford's allegation that Harlakenden had bribed Felton, see TNA C 24/239/46, which includes the following interrogatories to be put to witnesses:

2 Item, whether do you not know, or have you not credibly heard, that the said Roger Harlakenden, one of the defendants, about three years now last past [=1591] did by himself, or some other for him, make means to serve the said Earl and to be his officer of surveyor of the honours, manors, lands, tenements & hereditaments of the said Earl & receiver of his rents, revenues, issues & profits, & by whom did the said Roger make means to serve the said Earl? And was not Edmund Felton, sometimes the said Earl's servant, a mean to the said Earl therefore? Or who was a mean therefore, as you think or have credibly heard?

7 Item, what sum or sums of money do you know or have you credibly heard that the said defendant, Roger Harlakenden, or any other for him did give or pay unto Edmund Felton or to any other to his use? And when and in what place was the same money so paid?

8 Item, whether do you know or have you credibly heard that the same money so paid as aforesaid to the said Edmund Felton or to some other to his use was in consideration that the said Felton, being then the said Earl's servant, should concur in report with the said defendant, Roger Harlakenden, touching the yearly value of the said lands, and should also report to the said Earl that the said defendant, Roger Harlakenden, endeavoured the profit and benefit of the said Earl? If not for that cause, for what other cause was the same money so paid to the said Felton as you do think or have credibly heard?

See also TNA C 2/JasI/O1/58.

LM: Grant(?) of pardon of alienation to Edmund Felton, gentleman

The Queen to all her bailiffs & faithful to whom etc., greeting. Whereas Edmund Felton, gentleman, by a certain indenture bearing date the thirteenth day of August in the thirty-fourth year [=13 August 1592] of our reign purchased for himself and his heirs & assigns of our dearest cousin, Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, all those rents or tenements & hereditaments whatsoever with the appurtenances situate, lying, being & renewing in

Brundon, Bulmer & in the hamlet of Ballingdon in our county of Essex which are held of us in chief, as it is said, to have & to hold to the same Edmund and to his heirs & assigns forever, which certain alienation was made without our licence therefore having been beforehand obtained;

Know therefore that we, of our especial grace and for fifteen shillings paid to our farmers, by virtue of our letters patent do pardon the transgression in this respect made, and further we have granted, and for us, our heirs & successors, by how much is in us by these presents we do grant to the forenamed Edmund that he may have & hold, by the services owed therefore & of right customary, the forenamed rents & services & other the premises with the appurtenances to himself and his heirs & assigns of us, our heirs & successors, forever, without interference, molestation, annoyance, hindrance or injury of us or our heirs or successors or any of our justices, escheators, sheriffs, bailiffs or ministers or [+those] of our said heirs or successors whatsoever by reason of the foresaid alienation;

In [+testimony] of which thing etc. Witness the Queen at Westminster the 18th day of May.

LM: D(?) perdona Alienacionis Edmundo ffelton Generoso

1 Regina Omnibus Balliuis & fidelibus suis ad quos &c Salutem Cum Edmundus ffelton generosus

2 per quamdam Indenturam gerentem datum terciodecimo die Augusti Anno regni nostri tricesimo quarto

3 acquisiuerit sibi ac heredibus & assignatis suis de precharissimo consanguineo nostro Edwardo de

4 veere comite de [sic?] Oxonie omnia illa redditus siue tenementa & hereditamenta quecunque cum

5 pertinentijs situata iacentia existentia & renouantia in Brundon Bullmer & in hamletto de

6 Bolingdon in Comitatu nostro Essex Que de nobis tenentur in Capite vt dicitur habendum & tenendum

7 eidem Edmundo ac heredibus & assignatis suis imperpetuum Quequidem alienacio facta fuit licencia

8 nostra regia inde prius non obtenta Sciatis igitur quod nos de gracia nostra speciali ac pro quindecim

9 solidis solutis ffirmarijs nostris virtute literarum nostrarum patentium perdonamus transgressionem in hac parte

10 factam Et vltimo concessimus ac pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris quantum in nobis est per

11 presentes concedimus prefato Edmundo quod ipse predicta redditus & seruicia & cetera premissa cum pertinentijs

12 habeat & teneat sibi ac heredibus & assignatis suis de nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia

13 inde debita & de iure consueta imperpetuum absque impeticione molestacione vexacione impedimento

14 siue grauamine nostri aut heredum vel successorum nostrarum aut aliquorum Iusticiorum Escaetorum

15 vicecomitum Balliuorum seu Ministrorum nostrarum aut dictorum heredum vel successorum nostrarum quorumcunque

16 ratione Alienacionis predictae In cuius rei &c Teste Regine apud Westmonasterium xvij die Maij