

SUMMARY: The document below is Oxford's deed of 9 December 1583 in fulfilment of indentures into which he had entered on 30 November 1583 with Richard Peacock, Rowland Martin and Thomas Skinner for the sale of his manors of Overhall and Netherhall, Lavenham park, and the advowson of the church of Lavenham, all in Lavenham in Suffolk. For the fine by which Oxford had earlier transferred clear title to the manors of Overhall and Netherhall to Richard Peacock and Rowland Martin on 20 January 1583 for £800, see TNA C 146/6976. The legal transfer of title to Peacock and Martin by means of this fine was a preliminary step in the eventual transfer of these manors to the use of the heirs of Thomas Skinner. It is not clear whether Oxford knew from the outset that the ultimate purchaser of the manors of Overhall and Netherhall would be Skinner on behalf of his heirs, and that Peacock and Martin were merely acting as trustees. For Oxford's acknowledgement on 30 November 1583 of the receipt of £13,400 from Peacock, Martin and Skinner for the sale of the manors of Overhall and Netherhall and the park of Lavenham in Suffolk, as well as the manors of Castle Camps and Fowlmere in Cambridge, see TNA C 146/7040. Oxford's acknowledgement does not imply that £13,400 was paid to him on 30 November 1583 since the total of £13,400 would necessarily have included monies Oxford had received earlier from Peacock, Martin and Skinner, including the £5000 which Skinner had paid for Castle Camps and Fowlmere on 16 September 1580, as well as whatever sum Peacock and Martin had paid at the time of the levying of the fine for Overhall and Netherhall on 20 January 1583. For the indenture tripartite of 4 January 1585 providing for a recovery by which the manors of Overhall and Netherhall would be held to the use of the heirs of Thomas Skinner, see TNA C 147/231. For Oxford's original sale of the manors of Castle Camps and Fowlmere to Skinner on 16 September 1580, and the indenture of 13 November 1582 granting Oxford the right to repurchase Castle Camps and Fowlmere which led to their eventual inclusion in the sale of Overhall and Netherhall and the park of Lavenham, see TNA C 54/1159 and TNA C 54/1176.

To all the faithful of Christ to whom this present deed shall have come, the right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck and Lord of Badlesmere and Scales, greeting in the Lord everlasting. Know that I, the forenamed Earl, so for and by way of fulfilment of certain covenants, grants, articles and agreements contained and specified in certain indentures bearing date the last day of November in the twenty-sixth year [=30 November 1583] of the reign of Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc. made between me, the forenamed Earl, of the one part, and Richard Peacock and Rowland Martin, citizens and leather-sellers of London, and Thomas Skinner, citizen and cloth-worker of the city of London, of the other part, as for divers other reasonable causes and considerations me, the forenamed Earl, specially at the immediate present moving, have given, granted, enfeoffed, delivered, demised and by this my present deed confirmed to the forenamed Richard Peacock and Rowland Martin, their heirs and assigns, all those the manors of Overhall and Netherhall with all their rights, members, hereditaments & appurtenances whatsoever situate, lying and being in the towns, fields,

hamlets and parishes of Lavenham, Thorpe Morieux, Cockfield, Preston, Brent Eleigh, Acton, Melford, Shimpling and Alpheton or any of them in the county of Suffolk, and all [+and] singular and all manner the messuages, houses, buildings, structures, gardens (horta), garden plots, gardens (gardina), dovecots, curtilages, cottages, mills, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, meadows, leasows, pastures, woods, underwoods, arbours, and the soil of the same, commons, heaths, moors, marshes and waste lands, ways, footpaths, waters, watercourses, fisheries, fowlings, stanks, courts, leets, perquisites and profits of courts and leets, escheats, fines, heriots, strays, amerciaments, advowsons, gifts, presentations, advowsons of churches, rectories, chapels and vicarages and the rights of the same, and also the fair (nundinum), fairs (ferias), markets, profits, commodities, casualties, advantages and all other privileges, liberties, franchises, jurisdictions and hereditaments whatsoever with their appurtenances which at any time were or were reputed hereditaments or freehold[s] of me, the foresaid Earl, situate, lying and being in the towns, fields, hamlets or parishes of Lavenham, Thorpe Morieux, Cockfield, Preston, Brent Eleigh, Acton, Milford, Shimpling and Alpheton aforesaid or any of them, or accepted, reputed, had, used, occupied, esteemed, delimited or acknowledged as part, parcel or member of the said manors or either of them;

And also all that the park and land or enclosed land called Lavenham Park with the appurtenances, and the land and soil and ground of the same containing by estimation nine hundred and twenty acres of land or ground, be it more or less, together with all and singular the messuages, houses, buildings, palings, fisheries, ponds, stanks and waters situate, lying and being within the precinct or circuit of the foresaid park of Lavenham or to the same belonging or appertaining or accepted or reputed parcel of the same, and also all my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever known, called or named under the description of le Lavenham park, and all fences and enclosures in English called the pales and fences of the same park, and also one meadow containing by estimation seven acres of land commonly used and occupied with the said park for fallow-deer;

And also the advowson, presentation and patronage of the church of Lavenham;

And all other profits, commodities and advantages whatsoever to the premises or any part of the same belonging or appertaining, and also all other the lands, tenements and hereditaments of me, the foresaid Earl, situate, lying and being in the towns, fields, hamlets and parishes aforesaid or any of them;

Except one yearly rent of the charge of twenty-five pounds issuing from the manor of Earls Hall in Cockfield aforesaid with the penalty for non payment of the same, and all that portion of tithes lately belonging to the priory called Colne Priory and lately being parcel of the same priory and to me, the forenamed Earl, my heirs and assigns, entirely reserved;

To have and to hold forever by these presents of the chief lords of that fee by the services thereof formerly owed and of right customary the foresaid manors of Overhall and Netherhall with all their rights, members, hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever aforesaid, and also the foresaid park called Lavenham park and all and singular the

messuages, lands, tenements, gardens (horta), garden plots, gardens (gardina), dovecots, cottages, curtilages, mills, rents, reversions, services, woods, underwoods, commons, heaths, courts, leets, liberties, franchises, jurisdictions, advowsons (advocaciones), presentations, advowsons (patronagia) and hereditaments aforesaid, and all and singular the rest of the premises with all and singular their appurtenances and commodities whatsoever to the forenamed Richard Peacock and Rowland Martin, their heirs and assigns, to the sole behoof and use of the foresaid Richard Peacock and Rowland Martin, their heirs and assigns;

And I, the forenamed Earl, and my heirs by these presents will truly warrant and forever defend against all people the foresaid manors, parks, messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments and the rest of all and singular the premises with all and singular their appurtenances and commodities whatsoever to the forenamed Richard Peacock and Rowland Martin, their heirs and assigns;

Moreover know that I, the forenamed Earl, have made, constituted, appointed, deputed, and in my place placed my beloved to me in Christ Richard Forster and Nicholas Scott, my true and lawful attorneys, jointly or severally to enter for me, as and in my name, into the foresaid manors, park, messuages, lands, tenements and the rest of all & singular the premises with all and singular their appurtenances and commodities whatsoever, and into any or any parcel thereof in the name of the whole, and to take possession and seisin thereof as and in my name, and after such possession and seisin thus thereof taken and had, thereafter for me, as and in my name, to deliver to the forenamed Richard Peacock and Rowland Martin, their heirs and assigns, to the behoof and use of the same Richard Peacock and Rowland Martin, their heirs and assigns, according to the force, form and effect of this present charter, full and peaceful possession and seisin of and in all and singular the premises or any parcel thereof, the whole and whatever my said attorneys jointly or severally will have done, or either of them will have done, in the premises or any parcel thereof having and to have approval by these presents;

And I, the forenamed Earl, and my heirs will truly warrant and forever by these presents defend against all people the foresaid manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments and all and singular the rest of the premises with all and singular their appurtenances to the forenamed Richard Peacock and Rowland Martin, their heirs and assigns;

In testimony of which thing I, the forenamed Earl have affixed my seal to this my present deed dated the ninth day of December in the twenty-sixth year [=9 December 1583] of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth, Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.

Edward Oxford

Acknowledged before me, Edward Stanhope, Master of Chancery, on the ninth day of December. Edward Stanhope

Memorandum. That full and peaceful possession, estate, and seisin of and in one part of the within-specified lands and tenements in the name of the whole was taken by the within-named attorneys of the Earl on the sixteenth day of December in the twenty-sixth year [=16 December 1583] of the within-written Queen, and afterwards on the same day delivered to the attorneys of the within-named Richard Peacock and Rowland Martin according to the force, form and effect of this present deed in the presence of those whose names are subscribed, viz.

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Israell Amyce
 Robert Sharpe
 Thomas Chyffynge
 Robert Lynche
 Robert Smyth
 Roger Grome
 Thomas Wally
 Wyllyam Whatlocke

1 Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos hoc presens Scriptum peruenerit Prenobilis Edwardus

2 de veere Comes Oxonie Dominus Magnus Camerarius Anglie Vicecomes Bulbeck et Dominus de Baddlesmere et Scales Salutem in Domino sempiternam Sciatis me prefatum

3 Comitem tam pro et in partem Complementum quarundam Convencionum Concessionum articulorum et agreementorum contentorum et specificatorum in quibusdam Indenturis gerentibus datum vltimo

4 die Novembris Anno regni Elizabethhe dei gratia Anglie ffrancie et Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo sexto factis inter me prefatum Comitem ex vna parte et

5 Richardum Peacocke et Rowlandum Martyn Ciues et Lethersellers Londonie et Thomam Skynner Ciuem et Clothworker Ciuitatis Londonie ex altera parte Quam pro

6 diuersis alijs rationabilibus causis et consideracionibus me prefatum Comitem specialiter ad instans moventibus dedisse concessisse feoffasse liberasse tradidisse et hoc presenti scripto meo

7 confirmasse prefatis Ricardo Peacocke et Rowlando Martyn heredibus et assignatis suis Omnia illa Maneria de Overhalle et Netherhall cum omnibus suis Iuribus membris

8 hereditamentis & pertinentijs quibuscumque scituatis iacentibus et existentibus in villis Campis hamletis et parochijs de Lavenham Thorpe Morieaux Cockefeild Preston Brent Illeighe Acton

9 Milford Shymplinge et Alpheton aut eorum aliquo in Comitatu Suffolcie Et omnia [+et] singula et omnimoda mesuagia Domus edificia structuras horta orta gardina Columbaria

10 Curtilagia Cotagia molendina terras tenementa redditus reverciones servicia prata lesuras pasturas boscos subboscos Arbores et solum eorundem Comunia brueras moras mariscos et vastas terras vias

11 semitas Aquas aquarum cursus piscarias aucupaciones stagna Curia leta perquisita et proficua Curiarum et letarum escaetas fines heriotas extrahuras amerciamenta advocaciones Donaciones presentaciones

12 patronagia ecclesiarum rectoriarum Capellarum et vicariarum et recta eorundem Ac etiam nundinum [sic?] ferias fora proficua Comoditates Casualitates advantagia et omnia alia privelegia libertates

13 ffranchesias Iurisdicciones et hereditamenta quecumque cum suis pertinentijs que vnquam fuerunt siue reputata fuerunt hereditamenta sive liberum Tenementum mei predicti Comitis Scituata iacentia et existentia

14 in villis Campis hamletis siue parochijs de Lavenham Thorpe Moryeaux Cockefeild Preston Brente Illeighe Acton Milford Shimplinge et Alpheton predictis aut eorum aliquo vel

15 accepta reputata habita vsitata occupata estimata diuisata aut cognita vt pars parcella vel membrum dictorum Maneriorum aut eorum vtriusque Necnon Totum illud Parcum et Terram

16 sive terram inclusatam vocatum Lavenham Parke cum pertinentijs et terram et solum et fundum eorundem continentia per estimacionem Noningentas et viginti Acras terre siue fundi sive habeatur plus

17 sive minus simull cum omnibus et singulis mesuagijs Domibus edificijs palis piscarijs polis stagnis et aquis scituatis iacentibus et existentibus infra precinctum sive circuitum predicti parci de Lavenham

18 sive eidem spectantibus vel pertinentibus seu acceptis vel reputatis parcella eiusdem Ac etiam omnia terre Tenementa et hereditamenta mea quecumque cognita vocata seu nuncupata per nomen le Lavenham

19 Parke Ac omnes clasure et muniamente [sic?] Anglice vocata the pales and fences eiusdem parci Ac etiam vnum pratum continens per estimacionem septem acras terre comuniter vsitatum et

20 occupatum cum dicto parco pro Damis Necnon advocacionem presentacionem et patronagium Ecclesie de Lavenham Ac omnia alia proficua Comoditates et advantagia quecumque

21 premissis sive aliquo parte eorundem spectantia sive pertinentia Ac etiam omnia alia terre tenementa et hereditamenta mei predicti Comitis scituata iacentia et existentia in villis Campis hamletis et

22 parochijs predictis aut eorum aliquo Exceptis vno annuali reddito oneris viginti Quinque librarum exeunte de Manerio de Earles hall in Cockefeild predicto cum pena pro non solucione eiusdem

23 Et tota illa porcione decimarum nuper spectante Prioratui vocato Colne Pryorye et nuper parcella eiusdem prioratus existente et mihi prefato Comiti heredibus et assignatis meis omnino

24 reseruata Habendum et Tenendum predicta maneria de Overhall et Netherhall cum omnibus suis Iuribus membris hereditamentis et pertinentijs quibuscumque predictis Necnon predictum

25 Parcum vocatum Lavenham Parke et omnia et singula Mesuagia terre Tenementa horta orta gardina Columbaria Cotagia Curtilagia molendina redditus reverciones servicia boscos

26 subboscos comunia brueras Curia letas libertates ffranchesias Iurisdicciones Advocaciones presentaciones patronagia et hereditamenta predicta ac omnia et singula cetera premissa

27 cum omnibus et singulis suis pertinentijs et Comoditatibus quibuscumque prefatis Ricardo Peacocke et Rowlando Martyn heredibus et assignatis suis ad solum opus et vsum predictorum

28 Ricardi Peacocke et Rowlandi Martyn heredum et assignatorum suorum imperpetuum De capitalibus Dominis feodi illius per servicia inde prius debita et de iure consueta per presentes Et ego

29 vero prefatus Comes et heredes mei predicta Maneria Parcum Mesuagia terras Tenementa et hereditamenta ceteraque omnia et singula premissa cum omnibus et singulis suis pertinentijs et

30 Comoditatibus quibuscumque prefatis Ricardo Peacocke et Rowlando Martyn heredibus et assignatis suis contra omnes gentes warrantizabimus et imperpetuum defendemus per presentes

31 Sciatis insuper me prefatum Comitem fecisse constitutisse ordinasse deputasse et in loco meo posuisse dilectes mihi in Christo Richardum fforster et Nicholaum Scott

32 meos veros et legitimos Attornatos coniunctim vel divisim ad intrandum pro me vice et nomine meo in predicta Maneria Parcum mesuagia terras tenementa ceteraque omnia et singula

33 premissa cum omnibus et singulis suis pertinentijs et Comoditatibus quibuscumque et in quamlibet seu aliquam inde parcellam nomine totius et possessionem et seisinam inde vice et nomine meo

34 capiendam Et post huiusmodi possessionem et seisinam sic inde captam et habitam deinde pro me vice et nomine meo ad deliberandum prefatis Richardo Peacocke et Rowlando Martyn

35 heredibus et assignatis suis ad opus et vsum eorundem Ricardi Peacocke et Rowlandi Martyn heredum et assignatorum suorum secundum vim formam et effectum huius presentis Carte

36 plenam et pacificam possessionem et seisinam de et in omnibus et singulis premissis vel aliqua inde parcella Ratum et gratum habens et habiturum totum et quicquid dicti Attornati mei

37 coniunctim vel divisim fecerint vel eorum alter fecerit in premissis vel aliqua inde parcella per presentes Et ego vero prefatus Comes et heredes mei predicta Maneria terras Tenementa

38 hereditamenta ac omnia et singula cetera premissa cum omnibus et singulis suis pertinentijs prefatis Ricardo Peacoke et Rowlando Martyn heredibus et assignatis suis contra omnes

39 gentes warrantisabimus et imperpetuum per presentes defendemus In cuius rei testimonium huic presenti scripto meo ego prefatus Comes sigillum meum apposui Datum

40 nono die mensis Decembris Anno regni Domine nostre Elizabethae dei gratia Anglie ffrancie et Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c Vicesimo Sexto

Edward Oxeford

Recognitum Coram me eduardo Stanhope Cancellarie magistro nono die decembris Edward Stanhope

Memorandum quod plena et pacifica possessio status et seisisina de et in vna parte terrarum et Tenementorum infraspacificatorum in nomine totius capta fuit per Attornatos infranominatos Comitibus decimo sexto die Decembris Anno vicesimo sexto Regine infrascripte Et postea eadem die deliberata Attornatis infranominatis Ricardi Pecock et

Rowlandi Martin secundum vim formam et effectum huius presentis Scripti in presencia eorum quorum nomina subscribuntur viz.

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Israell Amyce

Robertus Sharpe

Thomas Chyffynge

Robert Lynche

Robert Smyth

Roger Grome

Thomas Wally

Wyllyam Whatlocke