

SUMMARY: As indicated in a note in the left margin, the manor of Lavenham (referred to in this document as Laneham), which had been purchased from Oxford by Thomas Skinner, was currently in the Queen's hands by means of an extent issued against it on the basis of £2100 worth of forfeited penal bonds made by Oxford on 1 July 1571 to guarantee payment of £1400 to the Court of Wards (the £1400 being part of the £2000 fine originally levied against Oxford by the Court of Wards for his marriage to Anne Cecil, often referred to as the fine for his 'wardship'). It is worth noting that by the date of this indenture a considerable portion of Oxford's original debt of £3306 to the Court of Wards had already been repaid under the scheme instituted in 1587 whereby the purchasers of Oxford's lands undertook to repay his original debt to the Court of Wards (but not the amounts forfeited by Oxford under penal bonds). In consequence, the extent by the Queen against Lavenham on 21 February 1589 was issued, as the indenture itself states, not for payment of Oxford's original debt to the Court of Wards, but on the basis of the £11,446 worth of bonds which Oxford had forfeited to the Court of Wards for non-payment of his original debt. Having extended against Lavenham on 21 February 1589, the Queen leased it to Oxford's servant Arthur Milles on 13 April 1590 for as many years as the extent should remain in force at the yearly rent of £66 13s 4d (i.e., 100 marks). Other documents indicate that this lease and a lease of Castle Camps and Fowlmire to another of Oxford's servants, Nicholas Mynne, were granted by the Queen for the purpose of relieving Oxford from the consequence of the felony by which Skinner had caused Oxford to forfeit a penal bond in the amount of £20,000. However, through the fraud of Thomas Hampton, Skinner quickly regained control of all three manors.

[LM: Indentura Arthuri Milles armigeri pro manerio et Parco de Laneham in Comitatu Suff' in manibus domine Regine existente racione extente pro debito Edwardi Comitit Oxonie]

[TRANSLATION: Indenture of Arthur Milles, esquire, for the manor and park of Lavenham in the county of Suffolk being in the Queen's hands by reason of an extent for the debt of Edward, Earl of Oxford]

THIS INDENTURE made between the most excellent Princess and our most dread Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc., of th' one party, and Arthur Milles of Yaxforth in the county of Suffolk, esquire, of th' other party, witnesseth that where it appeareth to the Master and Council of the Queen's Majesty's Court of Wards & Liveries that the right honourable Edward, Earl of Oxenford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, standeth indebted to the Queen's Majesty in the sum of £2100 forfeited to her Majesty by several obligations by him made and knowledged in this Court bearing date the first day of July, anno xiiijto dicte domine Elizabethhe Regine [=1 July 1571] for non-payment of £1400 due to her said Highness for part of the fine heretofore by the said Master and Council set and assessed for the marriage of the said Earl, as by the said several obligations more at large appeareth, for levying whereof process of extent was heretofore awarded out of the same Court to

Philip Tilney, esquire, late sheriff of the county of Suffolk, who, by virtue of the said extent to him, the said sheriff, directed, dated the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February anno xxxjmo dicte domine Elizabethe Regine, etc. [=21 February 1589], did extend the manor and park of Laneham with th' appurtenances in the said county of Suffolk in the tenure of Thomas Skinner, gentleman, or his assigns, being parcel of the possessions and inheritance of the said Edward, Earl of Oxford, at the time of the said obligations knowledged, and is by year above all reprises £66 13s 4d, as by the said extent remaining of record in the said Court likewise more at large doth and may appear, our said Sovereign Lady, the Queen's Majesty, with th' advice of the Master and Council of her Highness' said Court of Wards & Liveries, is contented and pleased to grant, and by these presents doth grant, demise, and to farm let unto the said Arthur Milles the said manor and park of Laneham with th' appurtenances in the said county of Suffolk before set forth and declared with their particular rents by year;

To have and to hold the said manor and park with th' appurtenances to the said Arthur Milles, his executors and assigns, from the feast of th' Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin St. Mary last past [=25 March 1590] before the date hereof, for such term and during such time and term of years as the same demised premises shall remain in her Majesty's hands by virtue of the said extent, yielding and paying therefore yearly during the said term to the Queen's Majesty's Receiver-General for the said Court of Wards and Liveries, or to his lawful deputy for the time being, to her Highness' use the sum of £66 13s 4d of lawful English money at the feasts of St. Michael th' Archangel and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin St. Mary by even and equal portions;

And the said Arthur Milles covenanteth and granteth for him and his assigns by these presents that if at any time hereafter during the said term, and whilst the premises shall remain in her Majesty's hands by virtue of the said extent aforesaid, it fortune the said manor and park with th' appurtenances to be above the said yearly rent of £66 13s 4d, that then the said Arthur Milles, his executors and assigns, shall content and pay yearly during the said grant or lease to the Receiver-General of the said Court for the time being to her Highness' use so much further yearly rent as the said manor and park with th' appurtenances shall be found or known to the said Master and Council by any further survey or otherwise to be above the said yearly rent of £66 13s 4d during such time and term as the said premises with th' appurtenances shall remain in her Majesty's hands by virtue of the said extent;

And further that neither he, the said Arthur Milles, ne his assigns shall give, grant, commit, bargain, or sell this lease or grant, or his or their interest in the same, unto any person or persons without knowledge, licence, and agreement of the said Master and Council for the time being;

And it is provided on the behalf of the Queen's Majesty by the said Master and Council that if at any time hereafter during the said term it fortune the said yearly rent of £66 13s 4d or any part thereof to be behind unpaid after any of the said feasts in which it ought to be paid by the space of one month, or if any of the said covenants be broken, unkept, and

not reformed within two months next after lawful warning to the said Arthur Milles thereof given, that then this present lease to be void and of none effect;

And that it shall be lawful to the said Master and Council for the time being, or any other by them authorized, into the said manor and park with th' appurtenances and every part thereof not only to re-enter, and the same to repossede and commit(?) to the use of the Queen's Majesty, but also to distrain the goods and chattels of the said Arthur Milles and his assigns, and the same to drive and carry away, withhold, bargain, and sell to the use of the Queen's Majesty until her Highness be fully answered and paid, as well of the said rent and th' arrearages thereof as of the value of the detriment and damage sustained by the breaking of the said covenants or of any clause or article before mentioned, the said lease or anything therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding;

And the said Arthur Milles doth further covenant and grant by these presents that he, the said Arthur Milles or his assigns, within one month next after the delivery of this lease to him, shall bring or send his part thereof to th' Auditor-General of the said Court to be enrolled, as the same Auditor may have perfect knowledge and understanding as well to charge the said rent as of th' order taken for the said debt;

In witness whereof to th' one part of these indentures remaining with the said Arthur Milles our said Sovereign Lady's seal of her Highness' Court of Wards and Liveries with the advice of the Master and Council of the same Court is affixed and set, and to th' other part, remaining with our said Sovereign Lady in her Grace's said Court, the said Arthur Milles hath put to his hand and seal the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April in the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of our said Sovereign Lady's most gracious reign [=13 April 1590].

Examinatur.