

SUMMARY: In the document below dated 30 November 1583, and acknowledged before Edward Stanhope, Master in Chancery, on 9 December 1583, Oxford acknowledges receipt of the sum of £13,400 from Richard Peacock, Rowland Martin and Thomas Skinner for the sale of the manors of Castle Camps and Fowlmere in Cambridge and Essex, and the manors of Overhall and Netherhall and the park of Lavenham in Suffolk. 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 (see TNA C54 1159, TNA C 54/1176 and TNA C 146/6976). The document was endorsed on the Close Rolls on 7 May 1584. For other documents related to this sale see TNA C 147/152 and TNA C 147/231.

To all faithful people to whom this present writing shall come, the right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck, and Lord of Badlesmere and Scales sends greeting;

Know that I, the said Earl, have received and had at and before th' ensealing hereof of Richard Peacock and Rowland Martin, leather-sellers, and of Thomas Skinner, clothworker, citizens of London, the sum of thirteen thousand and four hundred pounds of lawful money of England of and for the full, clear and absolute purchase of the manors of Camps and Fowlmere with all the rights, members and hereditaments whatsoever to the same manors or to either of them belonging or appertaining, situate, lying and being within the counties of Cambridge and Essex;

And also of and for the manors of Overhall and Netherhall [+and] the park of Lavenham with all the rights, members, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever to the same manors and park belonging or appertaining, situate, lying and being within the county of Suffolk;

Of the which sum of thirteen thousand and four hundred pounds so by me received as aforesaid and of all actions, suits and demands whatsoever touching or concerning the same sum I thereby acquit, exonerate and discharge the said Richard Peacock, Rowland Martin and Thomas Skinner and every of them and the heirs, executors and administrators of them and [+of every of] them forever by these presents;

In witness whereof I, the foresaid Earl, to this my present have put my seal. Given the last day of November in the six and twentieth year [=30 November 1583] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.

Edward Oxford

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Recognitum Coram me Edwardo Stanhope Cancellarie Magistro nono die decembris 1583 Edward Stanhope [=Acknowledged before me, Edward Stanhope, Master of Chancery, on the ninth day of December 1583. Edward Stanhope]

Irrotulatum in dorso Clausarum Cancellarie infrascripte domine Regine Septimo die Maij Anno infrascripto per Willelmum Herd et Iohannem Baylie deputates Clericis Irrotulamentorum [=Enrolled on the dorse of the Close Rolls of the Chancery of the within-written Lady Queen on the seventh day of May in the year within-written by William Herd and John Bailey, deputies to the Clerks of the Enrolments]

Oxonie Comes et Peacocke