

SUMMARY: The document below is a recognizance in the amount of £2000 acknowledged by Oxford to John Pepys (d.1589) of Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, on 5 August 1578 in connection with Oxford's sale of the manor of Gaywood to John Pepys and his brother, Robert Pepys, on 30 July 1578. Gaywood had been part of the lands and possessions of Oxford's first cousin, Thomas Howard (1538-1572), 4th Duke of Norfolk, attainted of treason and executed in 1572. The Queen granted the manor to Oxford by letters patent dated 15 January 1578 (see TNA C 66/1165, mm. 34-7). For the pardon of alienation dated 5 February 1580 granted to Oxford in connection with the sale of the manor of Gaywood to John and Robert Pepys on 30 July 1578, see TNA C 66/1190, mm. 36-7. On 1 May 1580, John and Robert Pepys had licence to sell the manor of Gaywood to Thomas Thoresby (see TNA C 66/1197, m. 16).

John Pepys of Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, was the great-grandfather of the diarist, Samuel Pepys (1633–1703). See the entry for Samuel Pepys in *The Dictionary of National Biography* and the Pepys pedigree in Braybrooke, Richard, *The Diary and Correspondence of Samuel Pepys*, Vol IV, (London: Henry G. Bohn, 1858), pp. 456-7, both available online.

For the will of John Pepys of Cottenham, dated 2 July 1589 and proved 26 November 1589, see TNA PROB 11/74, ff. 275-7.

The recognizance below is also mentioned in TNA PRO 30/34/14.

As Oxford was investing in the Frobisher expedition at this time, it is possible that he sold the manor of Gaywood to raise cash for that purpose (see TNA SP 12/149/42(15), f. 108v).

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford and Pepys

The right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Viscount Bulbeck, Lord Great Chamberlain of England and Lord of Badlesmere & Scales, having appeared personally before our Lady the Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to John Pepys of Cottenham in the county of Cambridge, gentleman, two thousand pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid to the same John Pepys or his designated attorney, executors or administrators on the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next to come after the date of this recognizance;

And if he shall not have done [+so], then the foresaid Earl for himself, his heirs, executors & administrators wishes & grants by these presents that then the said sum of money be levied & recovered of the goods & chattels, lands & tenements of the same Earl, his heirs, executors & administrators, to the sole & proper use & behoof of the same John Pepys, his executors & administrators, wheresoever they may be found within the kingdom of England;

Witness the said Lady Queen at Westminster on the fifth day of August in the twentieth year of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France & Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc.

The condition of this recognizance is such that if the above-bounden Edward, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs, executors and administrators and every of them, do at all times well and justly observe, perform, fulfil and keep all and singular the covenants which on his and their parts and behalves are or ought to be observed, performed, fulfilled and kept comprised and specified in one pair of indentures bearing date the thirtieth day of July in the year above-written made between the said Earl on thone part and the above-named John Pepys and Robert Pepys, his brother, on the other part, and that in all things according to the tenor and true meaning of the same indentures, that then this present recognizance to be utterly void and of no effect, or else it to stand and abide in full strength, force and virtue.

LM: Recognitio inter Comitem Oxonie et Pepys

1 Prenobilis Edwardus de Veere Comes Oxonie Vycecomite [sic?] Bulbecke dominus magnus Camerarius Anglie

2 ac dominus de Badlesmere & Scales coram domina nostra Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus

3 recognouit se debere Iohanni Pepys de Cottenham in Comitatu Cantebrigie Generoso duas Mille libras

4 legalis monete Anglie Soluendas eidem Iohanni Pepys aut suo certo attornato executoribus vel administratoribus

5 suis in ffesto sancti Michaelis Archangeli proxime futuro post datum huius Recognicionis Et nisi fecerit predictus Comes

6 pro se heredibus executoribus & administratoribus suis vult & concedit per presentes quod tunc dicta pecunie summa

7 leuetur & recuperetur de bonis & catallis terris & tenementis ipsius Comitis heredum executorum & administratorum

8 suorum ad solum & proprium opus & vsum ipsius Iohannis Pepys executorum & administratorum suorum vbicumque

9 inuentis fuerint infra Regnum Anglie Teste dicta domina Regina apud
Westmonasterium quinto die Augusti Anno regni

10 domine nostre Elizabethhe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei
defensoris &c vicesimo