

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £400 acknowledged by Oxford to Edward Atslove (d.1594) on 15 August 1579. The recognizance is struck through, and cancelled by a vacat in the left margin dated 31 October 1584. The document has the signatures of Edward Atslove and Gilbert Gerard, Master of the Rolls.

For another recognizance in the amount of £500 acknowledged by Oxford to Edward Atslove (d.1594) on 15 August 1579 in connection with indentures of the same date, see TNA C 54-1065, Part 19.

On 2 November 1573 Edward Atslove had married Oxford's cousin-german, Frances Wingfield (d. 1605), at Stoke Newington. In 1584 Atslove purchased the manor of Downham from Oxford in the name of his son Henry (see TNA CP 25/2/132/1696/27ELIZIHIL, Item 29). The recognizance below provides that Oxford is to pay Atslove £400 on 25 December 1579. However the condition states that the recognizance will be void if Oxford pays Atslove £200 on 24 June 1591 at the Chapel of the Rolls. This unusual penalty, which provides that £400 is to be paid within four months, but if not, only £200 need be paid twelve years later, suggests that there is more to this recognizance than meets the eye. It may be that the recognizance served as a guarantee that Oxford would eventually sell the manor of Downham to Atslove.

For further details concerning the relationship between Oxford and the Atslove family, see TNA C 2/ELIZ/A2/56; TNA C 2/Eliz/A6/36 and the entry for Edward Atslove in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*.

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford & Atslove

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Viscount Bulbeck, Lord Scales & Badlesmere and Lord Great Chamberlain of England, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to Edward Atslove of London, esquire, Doctor in Medicines, four hundred pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid to the same Edward Atslove, his executors, administrators or assigns on the feast of the Birth of the Lord next to come after the date of these presents;

And if he shall not have done [+so], the foresaid Earl wishes & grants for himself, his heirs, executors & administrators that the said sum of money be levied of his lands & tenements, goods & chattels wheresoever they may be found within the kingdom of England to the use & behoof of the same Edward Atslove, his executors, administrators & assigns;

Witness the Queen at Westminster on the fifteenth day of August in the twenty-first 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 the right honourable the Earl of Oxenford, his executors, administrators or assigns or any of them, do well and truly content and pay or cause to be contented and paid unto the above-named Edward Atslove, his executors or assigns, the sum of two hundred pounds of lawful money of England on the feast-day of the Nativity of Saint John Baptist which shall be in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred fourscore and eleven at or in the Chapel of the Rolls in or near Chancery Lane in the suburbs of the city of London without fraud or covin, that then this present recognizance to be void and of none effect, or else it to stand and remain in full strength and virtue.

LM: Recognitio inter Oxonie Comitem & Atslove

1 Edwardus de Veer Comes Oxonie Vicecomes Bulbeck dominus Scales & Badlesmere ac dominus magnus Camerarius

2 Anglie coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus recognouit se debere Edwardo Atslove de

3 London Armigero in medicinis doctori quadringentas libras legalis monete Anglie Soluendas eidem Edwardo

4 Atslove executoribus administratoribus vel assignatis suis in festo Natalis domini proxime futuro post datum presencium Et nisi

5 fecerit vult & concedit predictus Comes pro se heredibus executoribus & administratoribus suis quod dicta pecunie summa

6 leuetur de terris & tenementis bonis & catallis suis vbicunque inuentis fuerint infra regnum Anglie ad opus & vsum ipsius

7 Edwardi Atslove executorum administratorum & assignatorum suorum Teste Regina apud Westmonasterium quintodecimo die Augusti

8 Anno regni domine nostre Elizabethhe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo primo

LM: Vacata ista Recognitio vnacum Condicione eiusdem pro eo quod xxxjo die Octobris Anno regni domine Regine Elizabethhe vicesimo sexto infrascriptus Edwardus Atslove venit coram eadem domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter & fatebatur se plenarie

fore satisfactum & persolutum de omnibus pecuniarum summis in ista Recognitione & Condicione contentis & specificatis Ideo ad requisicionem predicti Edwardi Atslowe ista Recognitio cancellatur & dampnatur

[=This recognizance vacated, together with the condition of the same, because on the 31st day of October in the twenty-sixth year of the reign of the Lady Queen Elizabeth the within-written Edward Atslowe came personally before the same Lady Queen in her Chancery & confessed himself to be completely satisfied & paid of all sums of money in the recognizance & condition contained & specified; therefore at the request of the foresaid Edward Atslowe the recognizance was cancelled & annulled.]