

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £2000 acknowledged by Oxford to Sir Edward Clere (b. 15 June 1536, d. 8 June 1606) of Blickling on 12 May 1580 in connection with indentures dated 26 April 1580 for the sale of the manor of Weybourne in Norfolk. For the licence dated 20 April 1580 authorizing Oxford to alienate his manor of Weybourne to Sir Edward Clere, see TNA C 66/1197, mm. 15-16.

For a copy of the lease of the manor of Weybourne mentioned in the condition of the recognizance below which had been granted by Oxford to his servant, Roger Clopton, on 10 December 1571, see Norfolk Record Office NRS 16422 32 C6.

In his will Sir Edward Clere (see TNA PROB 11/108, ff. 377-8) left the manor of Weybourne to his second wife, Agnes (nee Crane) Clere, the daughter of Robert Crane of Chilton, Suffolk:

*And I will that my said wife over and beside the dowry I made to her my manor of Weybourne with the appurtenances in the county of Norfolk . . . .*

Sir Edward Clere was the son of Sir John Clere (d.1557) and his wife, Anne Tyrrell, and the grandson of Sir Robert Clere (d.1529) of Ormesby and his second wife, Alice Boleyn, the aunt of Henry VIII's Queen, Anne Boleyn. He was thus a second cousin of Queen Elizabeth. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), pp. 35-6. For further details of the Clere family, see also the will of Sir Thomas Tyrrell (1472?-1551) of Gipping, Suffolk, TNA PROB 11/34, ff. 172-4.

The manor of Weybourne appears to have come to John de Vere (1482-1540), 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, through his wife, Elizabeth Trussell. See *Report on the Manuscripts of the Family of Gawdy* (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1885), p. 74, available online. In his will (see TNA PROB 11/46, ff. 174v-6), the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl granted his servant, Robert Christmas, a 21-year lease of Weybourne, a remarkably generous grant considering that the lease was worth £28 8s 9d per annum (see TNA Ward 8/13, Part 78), and that its total value over a period of 21 years amounted to £597 3s 9d. Robert Christmas quitclaimed the remainder of his interest in Weybourne, likely in return for a lump sum payment, by a release dated 20 March 1581 (see Norfolk Record Office NRS 10865 25 4D).

The recognizance below is also mentioned in TNA PRO 30/34/14, No. 3.

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford and Clere, knight

The right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Viscount Bulbeck, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Lord Badlesmere & Scales, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery acknowledged himself to owe to Edward Clere of

Blickling in the county of Norfolk, knight, two thousand pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid to the same Edward Clere, knight, his executors or assigns;

And if he shall not have done [+so], then the forenamed Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, for himself, his heirs, executors & administrators wishes & grants by these presents that the said sum of money be levied of his lands, tenements, goods & chattels [+and those] of his heirs, executors & administrators, wheresoever they may be found, by these presents;

Witness the Queen at Westminster on the twelfth day of May in the twenty-second 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 whereas the above-bounden Edward, Earl of Oxenford, by his indenture bearing date the six and twentieth day of April last past for divers considerations therein expressed have [sic] bargained and sold unto the above-named Sir Edward Clere, knight, his heirs and assigns, all that the manor and lordship of Weybourne alias Waborne Hoope alias Walborne alias Woborne in the said county of Norfolk, and all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances to the said manor and lordship in any wise belonging;

And all those messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, leasows, pastures, commons, waste grounds, furze, heaths, marshes, woods, underwoods, waters, fishings, rents, services, courts, profits of courts, leets, views of frankpledge and all that to view of frankpledge doth appertain, goods and chattels waived and strayed, goods and chattels of felons and goods and chattels of fugitive persons, fees, wards, marriages, escheats, reliefs, heriots, fines, amercements, liberties, privileges, franchises, wrecks, groundages, fold-courses and all other profits, commodities, emoluments and hereditaments whatsoever in Weybourne alias Waborne Hoope alias Walborne alias Woborne, Holt, Wyston, Cley iuxta Mare, Salthouse, Kelling, Felbrigg, Sheringham, Wells, Bodham and Croxton and elsewhere in the said county of Norfolk to the said manor and lordship belonging or in any wise accepted, reputed or taken as part, parcel or member of the said manor and lordship and other the messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments of the said Earl in Weybourne alias Waborne Hoope alias Walborne alias Woborne, Holt, Wyston, Cley iuxta Mare, Salthouse, Kelling, Felbrigg, Sheringham, Wells, Bodham and Croxton in the said county of Norfolk, and all those the advowsons, gifts, free dispositions and rights of the patronage of the rectories and churches of Weybourne alias Waborne Hoope alias Walborne alias Woborne and Linforde in the said county, and all the estate, right, title, reversion, remainder, use and demand of the said Earl of, in or to the said premises and every part and parcel thereof, to have and to hold the said manor, lordship, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, remainders, services and hereditaments and all other the premises with their appurtenances to the said Sir Edward Clere, his heirs and assigns, to the only use and behoof of the said Sir Edward Clere, his heirs and assigns absolutely without any condition, as by the same indenture more at large appeareth;

If the said Edward, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs, executors and administrators or any of them do from time to time and at all times hereafter well and sufficiently discharge or otherwise within six months after request thereof to be made by the said Sir Edward Clere, knight, his heirs, executors or assigns or any of them save and keep harmless as well the said Sir Edward Clere, knight, his heirs, executors or assigns and every of them as the said manor & lordship of Weybourne alias Waborne Hoope alias Walborne alias Woborne and all and singular the said messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, leasows, pastures, commons, waste grounds, furze, heaths, marshes, woods, underwoods, waters, fishings, rents, services, courts, profits of courts, leets, view of frankpledge and all that to view of frankpledge doth appertain, goods and chattels waived and strayed, goods and chattels of felons and goods and chattels of fugitive persons, fees, wards, marriages, escheats, reliefs, heriots, fines, amercements, liberties, privileges, franchises, wrecks, groundages, fold-courses and also all other profits, commodities, emoluments and hereditaments whatsoever in Weybourne alias Waborne Hoope alias Walborne alias Woborne, Holt, Wyston, Cley iuxta Mare, Salthouse, Kelling, Felbrigg, Sheringham, Wells, Bodham and Croxton or elsewhere in the county of Norfolk part, parcel or member or accepted, reputed, taken or called as part, parcel or member of the said manor and lordship or to the said manor and lordship belonging or in any wise appertaining, and all other the messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments of the said Earl in Weybourne alias Waborne Hoope alias Walborne alias Woborne in the said county of Norfolk, and also the advowsons, gifts, free dispositions and rights of the patronage of the rectories and churches of Weybourne alias Waborne Hoope alias Walborne alias Woborne and Lynforde in the said county of Norfolk, and also the reversion and remainder of the premises in the said-recited indentures mentioned to be bargained and sold unto the said Sir Edward Clere, his heirs and assigns, and every part and parcel thereof with all other things to the same premises or any part, parcel or member of the same in any wise belonging or appertaining or accepted, reputed, taken or called as part, parcel or member of the manor and lordship or with the same manor or lordship commonly used or to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining of and from all bargains, sales, gifts, grants, jointures, dowers, entails, bonds, charges, titles and encumbrances whatsoever had, made, done or wittingly and willingly suffered by the foresaid Edward, Earl of Oxenford and by the late Earl, his father, or either of them, one estate for term of life heretofore made unto the Lady Anne, now wife of the said now Earl, to commence after the decease of the said now Earl, and one such lease as is made of the foresaid premises or of some part thereof unto Roger Clopton of Beeston in the county of Norfolk, gentleman, for divers and sundry years, whereof there are not yet to come above the number of twelve years, and upon which lease the yearly rent of thirty-one pounds two shillings one penny and a halfpenny is so reserved as the same shall be yearly payable unto the said Sir Edward Clere, his heirs and assigns, during all the said term if the now Earl shall survive and overlive the said Lady Anne, his now wife, or if the said now Earl and the said Lady Anne shall so long live jointly together, notwithstanding any act or acts, thing or things made or done by the said now Earl and the said John, late Earl of Oxenford, or either of them, and the covenants and grants mentioned in the said lease which on the part of the said now Earl, his heirs or assigns, are to be performed and kept, and all lawful estate of the premises or of any part thereof made by the said now

Earl or by the said John, late Earl of Oxenford, by copy of court roll whereupon the accustomed rents, duties and services or near thereabouts or more are reserved and shall be yearly payable unto the said Sir Edward Clere, his heirs and assigns, and the rents & services hereafter to be due unto the chief lord or lords of the premises excepted and forprised, that then this present recognizance to be void and of none effect, or else to remain and be in full force, strength and effect.

LM: Recogn{itio} int{er} Oxon{ie} Comit{em} et Clere Milit{em}

1 Prenobilis Edwardus de Veere Comes Oxonie vicecomes Bulbeck d{omin}us magnus Camerarius Angl{ie} d{omin}us Badlesmere

2 & Scales coram d{omi}na Regina in Cancellar{ia} sua p{er}sonalit{er} constitut{us} recognouit se debere Edwardo Clere de

3 Blicklinge in Com{itatu} Norff<sup>r</sup> Milit{i} duo Mille libras legalis monete Angl{ie} soluend{as} eidem Edwardo Clere Milit{i}

4 executorib{us} vel assign{atis} suis Et nisi fec{er}it tunc p{re}fat{us} Edwardus de Veere Comes Oxonie p{ro} se hered{ibus} executorib{us} &

5 administratorib{us} suis vult & concedit p{er} p{re}sentis q{uo}d d{ic}t{a} pecunie sum{m}a de t{er}ris tenementis bonis & cattall{is} suis

6 hered{um} executor{um} & administrator{um} suor{um} vbicumq{ue} fu{er}int inuent{is} p{er} p{re}sentis leuet{ur} T{este} R{egina} apud Westm{onasterium} duodecimo die

7 Maij Anno regni d{omi}ne n{ost}re Elizabeth{e} dei gr{aci}a Angl{ie} ffranc{ie} & Hib{er}n{ie} Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo s{ec}c{un}do