

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £3000 acknowledged by Oxford to William Bigg of Toppesfield on 15 October 1584 in connection with indentures of the same date for the sale of the manors of Barwicks and Scotneys. For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas on 12 November 1584 by which clear title to the manors of Barwicks and Scotneys passed from Oxford to William Bigg, see TNA CP 25/2/132/1695/26/7ELIZIMICH, Item 9.

For an earlier recognizance in the amount of £1200 which Oxford acknowledged in Chancery on 16 December 1581 to William Brewster, Robert Plombe, William Bigg and William Adams alias Butcher in connection with a sale of property, see TNA C 54/1145 Part 25.

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

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford and Bigg

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Viscount Bulbeck, Lord Great Chamberlain of England and Lord of Badlesmere & Scales, in his own person having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to William Bigg of Toppesfield in the county of Essex, yeoman, three thousand pounds of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the same William, his executors or administrators;

And if he shall not have done [+so], he wishes & grants etc.;

Witness the forenamed Lady Queen at Westminster on the fifteenth day of October in the twenty-sixth year of the reign of our said 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, administrators and assigns and every of them, do well and truly hold, keep, execute, perform and fulfil such covenants, grants, articles and agreements which on the part and behalf of the said Earl, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns are to be holden, kept, executed, performed or fulfilled contained and especified in a pair of indentures bearing the date of this recognizance made between the said Earl of the one party and the said William Bigg on the other party, one covenant in the said indenture contained concerning the delivery of writings and evidences only excepted, that then this recognizance to be void, or else to stand in his force.

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LM: Recognitio inter Oxonie Comitum et Bigg

1 Edwardus deVeer Comes Oxonie Vicecomes Bulbeck dominus magnus Camerarius Anglie ac dominus de Badlesmere & Scales in

2 propria persona sua coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus recognouit se debere Willelmo Bigg de

3 Toppesfeild in Comitatu Essex yeoman tres Mille libras bone & legalis monete Anglie Soluendas eidem Willelmo executoribus

4 vel administratoribus suis Et nisi fecerit vult & concedit &c Teste prefata domina Regina apud Westmonasterium decimo quinto die

5 Octobris Anno regni dicte domine nostre Elizabethae dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c vicesimo sexto