

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the Close Rolls of a recognizance in the amount of £400 acknowledged by Oxford to his servant, Nicholas Bleake on 16 November 1584 in connection with indentures dated 13 November 1584 for the sale of a messuage and other property in Sible Hedingham and Gosfield. For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 18 November 1584 by which clear title to a messuage and other property in Sible Hedingham and Gosfield passed from Oxford to Nicholas Bleake, see TNA CP 25/2/132/1695/26/7ELIZIMICH, Item 41.

For other documents concerning Oxford's servant, Nicholas Bleake, see his last will and testament, dated 17 November 1600 and proved 16 January 1601, TNA PROB 11/97, ff. 53-4.

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

LM: Recognizance between the Earl of Oxford and Bleake

Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, having appeared personally before the Lady Queen in her Chancery, acknowledged himself to owe to Nicholas Bleake four hundred pounds of good & lawful money of England, to be paid to the same Nicholas or his designated attorney, executors or administrators;

And if he shall not have done [+so], then the foresaid Earl wishes & grants for himself, his heirs, executors & administrators that etc.;

Witness the said Lady Queen at Westminster on the sixteenth day of November 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 de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns and every of them, do well and truly hold, keep, execute, perform and fulfil all and singular the covenants, grants, articles, promises 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 & fulfilled contained and specified in a pair of indentures bearing date the thirteenth day of November in the year above-written made between the said Earl of thone part and the said Nicholas Bleake of thother part, that then this recognizance to be void, or else to remain in full force.

LM: Recognitio inter Oxonie Comitem et Bleake

1 Edwardus de Veer Comes Oxonie dominus magnus Camerarius Anglie coram domina Regina in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus

2 recognouit se debere Nicholao Bleake Quadringentas libras bone & legalis monete Anglie Soluendum eidem Nicholao aut

3 suo certo Attornato executoribus vel administratoribus suis Et nisi fecerit tunc predictus Comes vult & concedit pro se heredibus

4 executoribus & administratoribus suis Quod &c Teste dicta domina Regina apud Westmonasterium sexto decimo die Nouembris Anno

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