

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls of the Queen's licence, dated 12 August 1592, authorizing Oxford to alienate the rectory of Great Bentley to Henry Smith and John Glascock. For the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 2 November 1592 by which clear title to the rectory of Great Bentley passed from Oxford to Henry Smith and John Glascock for £180, see TNA CP 25/2/135/1727/34/5ELIZIMICH, Item 23.

The rectory of Great Bentley had been among the properties included in Henry VIII's grant of Colne Priory to John de Vere (1482-1540), 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, and his heirs on 22 July 1536 (see TNA C 66/668, mm. 26-7).

The schedule of Oxford's debts in his indenture of 30 January 1575 shows a debt to Henry Smith of 32 shillings (see ERO D/DRg2/25). This Henry Smith may be the Henry Smith who purchased the rectory of Great Bentley.

The John Glascock who purchased the rectory of Great Bentley from Oxford may have been John Glascock of Roxwell, for whose will, dated 1 May 1594 and proved 29 January 1595, see TNA PROB 11/85, ff. 17-19.

Grant(?) of licence to alienate for Henry Smith, esquire, & others

The Queen to all to whom etc., greeting. Know ye that we of our especial grace and for three pounds paid to our farmers by virtue of our letters patent have granted & given licence, and for us, our heirs & successors, by how much is in us by these presents do grant & give licence to our dearest cousin Edward, Earl of Oxford, that he might be able to give & grant, alienate or acknowledge by fine or by recovery in our court before our justices of the Common Pleas or by any other manner whatsoever at the pleasure of the same Earl to our beloved Henry Smith & John Glascock, esquires, the rectory of Great Bentley alias the rectory of Bentley with the appurtenances and one messuage, two barns, two gardens, eighty acres of land, twenty acres of meadow, forty acres of pasture & twenty acres of wood with the appurtenances in Great Bentley & Little Bentley in our county of Essex which are held of us in chief, as it is said, to have & to hold to the same Henry & John and the heirs & assigns of the same Henry forever of us, our heirs & successors, by the services owed therefore, & of right customary;

And by the tenor of these presents we have similarly given, and for us, our heirs & successors aforesaid we do give special licence to the same Henry & John that they might be able to receive from the forenamed Earl & hold to themselves and the heirs of the same Henry forever of us, our heirs & successors by the services aforesaid, as is aforesaid, the foresaid rectory with the appurtenances and other all & singular the premises above expressed & specified with the appurtenances;

Not willing that the foresaid Earl or his heirs, or the forenamed Henry & John or the heirs of the same Henry by reason of the premises by us, our heirs or successors, or by our justices, escheators, sheriffs, bailiffs or other officers or ministers or [+those] of our said heirs or successors whatsoever might be troubled therefore, molested, interfered with, vexed in anything or oppressed, nor any of them might be troubled, molested, interfered with, vexed in anything or oppressed. In [+testimony] of which thing etc. Witness the Queen at Westminster on the twelfth day of August.

LM: D' licencie Alienando pro Henrico Smith Armigero & alijs

1 Regina Omnibus ad quos &c salutem Sciatis quod nos de gracia nostra speciali ac pro tribus libris

2 solutis ffirmarys nostris virtute litterarum nostrarum patentium concessimus & licenciam dedimus ac pro nobis heredibus

3 & successoribus nostris quantum in nobis est per presentes concedimus & licenciam damus Charissimo

4 Consanguineo nostro Edwardo Comiti Oxonie quod ipse Rectoriam de magna Bentley alias

5 Rectoriam de Bentley cum pertinentijs ac vnum mesuagium duo horrea duo gardina octoginta acras terre

6 viginti acras prati quadraginta acras pasture & viginti acras bosci cum pertinentijs in Bentley magna

7 & Bentley parua in Comitatu nostro Essex Que de nobis tenentur in Capite vt dicitur dare

8 possit & concedere alienare aut cognoscere per finem vel per recuperacionem in Curia nostra coram

9 Iusticiarijs nostris de Banco aut aliquo alio modo quocunque ad libitum ipsius Comitis dilectis

10 nobis Henrico Smith & Iohanni Glascocke Armigeris habendum & tenendum eisdem Henrico & Iohanni ac

11 heredibus & assignatis ipsius Henrici imperpetuum de nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia inde debita & de

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12 iure consueta Et eisdem Henrico & Iohanni quod ipsi predictam Rectoriam cum pertinentijs ac cetera omnia &

13 singula premissa superius expressa & specificata cum pertinentijs a prefato Comite recipere possit [sic?] &

14 tenere sibi ac heredibus ipsius Henrici de nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia predicta sicut

15 predictum est imperpetuum tenore presencium similiter licenciam dedimus ac pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris

16 predictis damus specialem Nolentes quod predictus Comes vel heredes sui aut prefati Henricus & Iohannes

17 vel heredes ipsius Henrici ratione premissorum per nos heredes vel successores nostros aut per Iusticiarios Escaetores

18 vicecomites Balliuos aut alios Officiarios seu ministros nostros aut dictorum heredum vel successorum

19 nostrorum quoscumque inde occasionentur molestentur impetantur vexentur in aliquo seu grauentur nec eorum

20 aliquis occasionetur molestetur impetatur vexetur in aliquo seu grauetur In cuius rei &c Teste Regine apud

21 Westmonasterium duodecimo die Augusti