

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls, dated 10 November 1602, of the Queen's pardon of alienation to Oxford for having purchased thirty messuages and other property in the parish of St Botolph without Bishopsgate, from Richard Wolriche and his wife, Anne, in Trinity term, 1582. For the fine, dated 11 June 1582, by which clear title to these properties passed from Richard and Anne Wolriche to Oxford, see TNA CP 25/2/170/2949/24ELIZITRIN, No. 14.

The lands in question had been the property of Jasper Fisher (d.1579), whose London mansion, Fisher's Folly, Oxford owned from circa 1580 until 1588. According to his inquisition post mortem taken at the Guildhall on 10 November 1580, Fisher's heirs were two female cousins, Katherine Norwood, widow, and Anna Woulrytche, wife of Richard Woulrytche, the daughters and heirs of Cecily Taylor, late wife of Robert Taylor and sister of John Fisher, father of the said Jasper Fisher, both of whom were aged 40 years and more at the time of the taking of the inquisition.

Of the properties left by Jasper Fisher, the inquisition states:

Jasper Fysshher was seised in his demesne as of fee of 1 capital messuage with all the buildings, yards, gardens, &c., thereto belonging, situate at Bishopsgate, London, which formerly were the 6 gardens late purchased of Martin Bowes, Knight, deceased, and of Thomas Bowes and Martin Bowes his sons, and of William Clopton, esq.; all that alley called Toddess Alley with all the houses, &c., within the same; and divers cottages, orchards, gardens, lands, &c., situate in the parish of St. Botolph without Bisshopsgate in London, now or late in the several tenures of Nicholas Parkinson and Robert Egles: which said alley and other the premises last mentioned were late of Christopher Campyon and afterwards of Nicholas Culverwell, and by him conveyed to the said Jasper Fysher and his heirs; and 9 gardens now reduced into one with certain cottages or tenements in Houndesdytche within the said parish of St. Botolph with the gardens thereto adjoining, now or late in the tenure of the said Jasper Fysshher, John Goodwyn, Knight, William Savage, Thomas Milles, Robert Medcaulf, Edward Strete, John Powell, — Goustone, widow, Henry Glyne alias Glyme, Nicholas Hollidaye, Thomas Maynerd, Christopher Lawrence, Hugh Wattes alias Walker, William Nicholls and John Wilkensonne: which said gardens and tenements were late purchased of William Ryges and William Bugberd, gentlemen.

The capital messuage and other the premises lately purchased of Martin Bowes are held in free burgage of the city of London, and are worth per ann., clear, £20. The said alley and other the premises late purchased of Christopher Campyon and Nicholas Culverwell are held of the Queen in chief, by knight's service, but by what part of a knight's fee the jurors do not know, and are worth per ann., clear, £5. The tenements, gardens, &c., late purchased of William Ryges and William Bugberd are held of the Queen as of her manor of East Greenwich in co. Kent, by fealty only, in free socage and not in chief, and are worth per ann., clear, £5.

See 'Inquisitions: 1580', Abstracts of Inquisitiones Post Mortem for the City of London: Part 3 (1908), pp. 19-32. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=65888>.

It would appear that in Trinity term 1582 Oxford purchased Toddes Alley and the other cottages, orchards, gardens and lands in Bishopsgate mentioned in the inquisition. As stated in the inquisition, these properties were held of the Queen in chief. According to the pardon below, Oxford purchased them in 1582 without the Queen's licence. Why this came to light as late as 1602 is unknown. It may be that Oxford sold the properties at that time.

For the will of Jasper Fisher (d.1579), see TNA PROB 11/61, ff. 362-3.

LM: Grant(?) of pardon of alienation for Edward, Earl of Oxford

The Queen etc. to all her bailiffs & faithful to whom etc., greeting. Whereas Edward, Earl of Oxford, our Great Chamberlain of England, lately, namely in the term of Holy Trinity in the twenty-fourth year of our reign [=1582] by fine levied in our court before Edmund Anderson, knight, & his fellows then our Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, purchased to himself & his heirs of Richard Wolriche & Anne, his wife, thirty messuages, twenty cottages, twenty tofts, thirty gardens, ten orchards and the moiety of one reservoir and the water-pipes of lead belonging to the same reservoir with the appurtenances in the parish of Saint Botolph without Bishopsgate in our city of London, of which certain premises one alley called Toddes Alley and the tenements to the same alley belonging, being parcel of the premises, are held of us in chief, as it is said, to have & to hold to the same Earl & his heirs forever, which certain alienation was made without our royal licence therefore having been beforehand obtain,

Know ye therefore that we, of our especial grace and for four pounds paid to our farmers, by virtue of our letters patent do pardon & release not only the transgression in this respect made, but also the rents & profits of the foresaid premises held of us with the appurtenances, as previously mentioned, forfeited to us duly(?) to be rendered or paid in our Exchequer, inasmuch as the alienation aforesaid was made without our royal licence, as is beforesaid;

And further we have granted and for us, our heirs & successors, by how much is in us by these presents do grant [-&] to the forenamed Earl of Oxford that he might be able to have & hold the foresaid premises with the appurtenances, inter alia, held of us, as previously mentioned, to him and his heirs of us, our heirs & successors, by the services therefore owed & of right customary forever, without interference, molestation, vexation, hindrance or oppression of us or our heirs or successors or of any of our justices, escheators, sheriffs, bailiffs or ministers or [+those] of any our said heirs or successors by reason or pretext of the alienation aforesaid;

In [+testimony] of which thing etc. Witness the Queen at Westminster on the tenth day of November.

LM: D' perdone alienando pro Edwardo Comite Oxonie

1 Regina Omnibus Balliuis & fidelibus suis ad quos &c Salutem Cum Edwardus

2 Comes Oxonie magnus Camerarius noster Anglie nuper scilicet in termino sancte

3 Trinitatis anno regni nostri vicesimo quarto per finem in Curia nostra coram

4 Edmundo Anderson Milite & socijs suis adtunc Iusticiarijs nostris de Banco

5 levatem acquisiuerit(?) sibi & heredibus suis de Richardo Wolriche & Anna vxore eius

6 triginta Mesuagia viginti Cotagia viginti tofta triginta gardina decem

7 pomaria ac medietatem vnus Castelli & Canalium plumbi eidem

8 Castello spectantem cum pertinentijs in Parochie sancti Botholphi extra

9 Bishoppisgate in Ciuitate nostra Londonie Quorumquidem premissorum vna

10 Allea vocata Toddes Alley ac tenementa eidem Allee spectantia parcella

11 premissorum existentia de nobis tenentur in Capite vt dicitur Habendum

12 & tenendum eidem Comiti & heredibus suis imperpetuum Quequidem alienacio

13 facta fuit licencia nostra regia inde prius non obtenta Sciatis igitur quod nos

14 de gracia nostra speciali ac pro quatuor libris solutis ffirmarijs nostris virtute litterarum
nostrarum

15 patencium perdonamus & remittimus non solum transgressionem in hac parte factam

16 verimeciam [sic?] redditus & proficua predictorum premissorum de nobis tentorum
cum pertinentijs vt prefertur

17 nobis forisfacta debite(?) computanda siue solenda [sic?] in Scaccario nostro eo quod
alienacio

18 predicta facta fuit absque licencia nostra Regia vt predicatur Et vlterius concessimus

19 ac pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris quantum in nobis est per presentes

20 concedimus & [sic] prefato Comiti quod ipse predicta premissa cum pertinentijs inter

21 alia de nobis tenta vt prefertur habeat & teneat sibi ac heredibus suis de nobis

22 heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia inde debita & de iure consueta
imperpetuum Absque

23 impeticione molestacione vexacione impedimento siue grauamine nostri aut

24 heredum vel successorum nostrorum aut aliquorum Iusticiariorum Escaetorum
vicecomitum Balliuorum seu

25 ministrorum nostrorum aut dictorum heredum vel successorum nostrorum
quorumcumque ratione

26 aut pretextu Alienacionis predicte In cuius rei &c Teste Regine apud Westmonasterium
decimo

27 die Novembris