SUMMARY: The document below is the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 20 January 1580 by which clear title to lands in Doddinghurst in Essex passed from Oxford to Richard Stonley for 130 marks.

By licence dated 1 December 1579 Oxford had been authorized to alienate Doddinghurst Park to Richard Stonley, reserving the jointure of Oxford's wife, Anne (see TNA C 66/1194, m. 34). The fine below appears to relate to this licence.

By a later licence dated 1 March 1580 Oxford was authorized to alienate the manor of Doddinghurst to Richard Stonley (see TNA C 66/1194, m. 16), and by a fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 18 April 1580 clear title to the manor of Doddinghurst passed from Oxford to Stonley (see TNA CP 25/2/131/1677/22ELIZIEASTER, Item 19). For the recognizance in the amount of £1600 entered into by Oxford in connection with his sale of the manor of Doddinghurst, see TNA C 54/1093, Part 23.

Richard Stonley (d.1600) of London and Doddinghurst, who held an appointment for life as one of the four Tellers of the Exchequer, was the first recorded purchaser of Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis*:

Richard Field entered Venus and Adonis in the Register at Stationers' Hall on 18 April 1593. Less than two months later, an elderly gentleman, Richard Stonley, Esq., saw the poem on the stalls at the sign of the White Greyhound in Paul's Churchyard, and bought a copy for sixpence. One of the four tellers of the Exchequer, Stonley had a London house in Aldersgate, but spent his weekends on his Doddinghurst estate in Essex; at the advanced age of seventy-seven this civil servant who had spent his whole career dealing with Crown finances found himself imprisoned in the Fleet because of massive personal debt. A figure of consequence in his own day, but later forgotten, Stonley has the minor distinction of being the first recorded purchaser of Shakespeare's first publication.

See Schoenbaum, Samuel, William Shakespeare: A Compact Documentary Life, rev. ed., (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987), pp. 175-6.

This is the final agreement made in the court of the Lady Queen at Westminster on the octave of Hilary in the year of the reigns of Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc. from the Conquest the twenty-second [=20 January 1580], before James Dyer, Robert Monson, Thomas Meade & Francis Wyndham, justices, & others faithful to the Lady Queen then there present, between Richard Stonley, gentleman, querent, and Edward, Earl of Oxenford, Great Chamberlain of England, deforciant, of one messuage, two tofts, two gardens, eighty acres of arable land, twenty acres of meadow, sixty acres of pasture, eighty acres of wood & ten acres of furze & heath with the appurtenances in Doddinghurst;

Whereof a plea of covenant was summoned between them in the same court, namely that the foresaid Earl has acknowledged the foresaid tenements with the appurtenances to be the right of himself, Richard, as those which the same Richard has of the gift of the foresaid Earl, and he has remised & quit-claimed them from himself & his heirs to the foresaid Richard & his heirs forever;

And besides the same Earl has granted for himself & his heirs that they will warrant to the foresaid Richard & his heirs the foresaid tenements with the appurtenances against the foresaid Earl & his heirs and against the heirs of John, late Earl of Oxenford, father of the same Earl, forever;

And for this acknowledgement, remission, quit-claim, warrant, fine & agreement the same Richard has given to the foresaid Earl one hundred & thirty marks of silver.

Essex

Examined

According to the form of the statute the first proclamation was made on the sixth day of February in Hilary term in the twenty-second year of the within-written Queen;

The second proclamation on the eighth day of February in the same term;

The third proclamation on the tenth day of February in the same term;

The fourth proclamation on the twelfth day of February in the same term.

The fifth proclamation was made on the ninth day of May in Easter term in the twenty-second year of the within-written Queen;

The sixth proclamation on the eleventh day of May in the same term;

The seventh proclamation on the thirteenth day of May in the same term;

The eighth proclamation on the sixteenth day of May in the same term.

The ninth proclamation was made on the fifteenth day of June in Trinity term in the twenty-second year of the within-written Queen;

The tenth proclamation on the seventeenth day of June in the same term;

The eleventh proclamation on the twentieth day of June in the same term;

The twelfth proclamation on the twenty-second day of June in the same term.

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The thirteenth proclamation was made on the twenty-first day of November in Michaelmas term in the twenty-third year of the within-written Queen;

The fourteenth proclamation on the twenty-third day of November in the same term;

The fifteenth proclamation on the twenty-sixth day of November in the same term;

The sixteenth proclamation on the twenty-eighth day of November in the same term.

Examined

- 1 Hec est finalis concordia facta in Curia Domine Regine apud Westmonasterium in Octabis sancti
- 2 Hillarij anno regnorum Elizabethe dei gratia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei
- 3 defensoris &c A conquesto vicesimo secundo coram Iacobo Dyer Roberto Mounson Thoma
- 4 Meade & ffrancisco Wyndam Iusticiarijs & alijs domine Regine fidelibus tunc ibi presentibus
- 5 Inter Ricardum Stonley Generosum querentem et Edwardum Comitem Oxonie Magnum
- 6 Camerarium Anglie deforciantem de vno mesuagio duobus Toftis duobus Gardinis octoginta
- 7 acris terre viginti acris prati sexaginta acris pasture octoginta acris bosci &
- 8 decem acris Iampnorum & bruere cum pertinentijs in Dodinghurst Vnde Placitum conuencionis
- 9 summonitum fuit inter eos in eadem Curia Scilicet quod predictus Comes recognovit predicta tenementa cum
- 10 pertinentijs esse Ius ipsius Ricardi Vt illa que Idem Ricardus habet de dono predicti Comitis
- 11 Et illa remisit & quieteclamavit de se & heredibus suis predicto Ricardo & heredibus suis

12 Imperpetuum Et preterea Idem Comes concessit pro se & heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt

13 predicto Ricardo & heredibus suis predicta tenementa cum pertinentijs contra predictum Comitem & Heredes

14 suos ac contra heredes Iohannis nuper Comitis Oxonie patris ipsius Comitis Imperpetuum Et pro

15 hac recognicione remissione quietaclamacione Waranto fine & concordia Idem Ricardus

16 dedit predicto Comiti Centum & triginta Marcas Argenti

Essex

examinatus

Secundum formam Statuti

Prima proclamatio facta fuit sexto die ffebruarij termino sancti Hillarij Anno vicesimo secundo Regine infrascripte

secunda proclamatio octavo die ffebruarij eodem termino

tercia proclamatio decimo die ffebruarij eodem termino

quarta proclamatio duodecimo die ffebruarij eodem termino

Quinta proclamatio facta fuit nono die Maij termino Pasche Anno vicesimo secundo Regine infrascripte

sexta proclamatio vndecimo die Maij eodem termino

septima proclamatio terciodecimo die Maij eodem termino

octaua proclamatio sextodecimo die Maij eodem termino

Nona proclamatio facta fuit quinto decimo die Iunij termino sancte Trinitatis Anno vicesimo secundo Regine infrascripte

decima proclamatio decimo septimo die Iunij eodem termino

vndecima proclamatio vicesimo die Iunij eodem termino

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duodecima proclamatio vicesimo secundo die Iunij eodem termino

Terciadecima proclamatio facta fuit vicesimo primo die Novembris termino sancti Michaelis Anno vicesimo tercio Regine infrascripte

quartadecima proclamatio vicesimo tercio die Novembris eodem termino quintadecima proclamatio vicesimo sexto die Novembris eodem termino sextadecima proclamatio vicesimo octauo die Novembris eodem termino examinatus