

SUMMARY: The document below is the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 20 January 1583 by which clear title to the manors of Stansted Mountfitchet and Burnells passed from Oxford to John Southall for £480. Stansted Mountfitchet and Burnells had been among Oxford's manors granted by the Queen to Leicester on 22 October 1563 for the term of Oxford's minority. For the recognizance in the amount of £2000 which Oxford acknowledged to John Southall, presumably in connection with this transaction, see TNA C 54/1169, Part 23.

John Southall was the father of Jane Southall, first wife of Oxford's receiver-general, Edward Hubberd (d.1602), eldest son of Richard Hubberd of Birchanger. In 1579 and 1580 Hubberd had purchased lands and a manor from Oxford in the area of Stansted Mountfitchet (see TNA CP 25/2/130/1672/21ELIZIHIL, Item 10 and TNA CP 25/2/131/1677/22ELIZIEASTER, Item 17).

For the will of John Southall, dated 4 October 1590 and proved 31 May 1592, see TNA PROB 11/79, ff. 283-4. The will contains this bequest:

Item, I give unto Gabriel Spencer that did dwell with me five pounds, to be paid unto him at the age of twenty-one years.

It is possible that the recipient of this bequest was the Gabriel Spencer who was later killed in a duel by Ben Jonson.

This is the final agreement made in the court of the Lady Queen at Westminster on the octave of Saint 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-fifth [=20 January 1583], before Edmund Anderson, Thomas Meade, Francis Wyndham & William Peryam, justices, & others faithful to the Lady Queen then there present, between John Southall, querent, and Edward, Earl of Oxford, Great Chamberlain of England, deforciant, of the manors of Stansted Mowntfitchet alias Stansted Hall alias Stansted Mountfitchet alias Stansted Mountfizet & Burnells with the appurtenances and of a hundred messuages, a hundred tofts, a hundred gardens, a hundred orchards, a thousand acres of arable land, a hundred acres of meadow, six hundred acres of pasture, two hundred acres of wood, a hundred acres of moor & thirty pounds' rent with the appurtenances in Stansted alias Stansted Mountfitchet alias Stansted Mountfizet, Elsenham, Takeley & Birchanger, and also of the advowson of the church of Farnham;

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

And besides the same Earl has granted for himself & his heirs that they will warrant to the foresaid John & his heirs the foresaid manors, tenements & rents with the appurtenances & the foresaid advowson against all men forever;

And for this acknowledgement, remission, quit-claim, warrant, fine & agreement the same John has given to the foresaid Earl four hundred & eighty pounds sterling.

Essex

Examined

Certified in Chancery in Easter term in the 26th year of Queen Elizabeth

1 Hec est finalis Concordia facta in Curia Domine Regine apud Westmonasterium in Octabis sancti Hillarij Anno regnorum

2 Elizabethe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c a conquesto vicesimo quinto coram Edmundo

3 Anderson Thoma Meade ffrancisco Wyndam & Willelmo Peryam Iusticiarijs & alijs domine Regine fidelibus tunc

4 ibi presentibus Inter Iohannem Sowthall querentem et Edwardum Comitem Oxonie magnum Camerarium Anglie deforciantem

5 de Manerijs de Stansted Mowntfitchett alias Stansted Hall alias Stansted Mountfitchett alias

6 Stansted Mountfizett & Burnelles cum pertinentijs ac de Centum Mesuagijs Centum toftis Centum gardinis

7 Centum pomarijs Mille acris terre Centum acris prati sexcentis acris pasture ducentis acris bosci

8 Centum acris More & triginta libratis redditus cum pertinentijs in Stansted alias Stansted Mountfitchett alias

9 Stansted Mountfizett Elsenham Takeley & Byrchanger necnon de aduocacione ecclesie de ffarneham

10 Vnde Placitum conuencionis summonitum fuit inter eos in eadem Curia Scilicet quod predictus Comes recognovit predicta

11 Maneria tenementa & redditus cum pertinentijs ac advocacionem predictam esse ius ipsius Iohannis Vt illa que idem Iohannes

12 habet de dono predicti Comitum Et illa remisit & quieteclamavit de se & heredibus suis predicto Iohanni & heredibus suis

13 Imperpetuum Et preterea Idem Comes concessit pro se & heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt predicto Iohanni & heredibus

14 suis predicta Maneria tenementa & redditus cum pertinentijs ac Advocacionem predictam contra omnes homines Imperpetuum Et pro

15 hac recognitione remissione quieteclamacione Waranto fine & concordia Idem Iohannes dedit predicto Comiti

16 quadringentas & octoginta libras sterlingorum

Essex

examinatus

Certificata in Cancellaria termino Pasche Anno xxvj Elizabethhe regine