

SUMMARY: The document below is the fine of 9 February and 12 April 1581 by which clear title to the manors of Castle Camps and Fowlmere passed from Oxford to Thomas Skinner for the stated price of £1200. Proclamation of the fine was made sixteen times, beginning on 1 May 1581 and ending on 12 February 1582. Oxford had originally sold Castle Camps and Fowlmere to Skinner on 16 September 1580. The fine was merely a routine legal procedure to ensure that clear title passed to Skinner, free of any potential problems which might have encumbered Oxford's own title. For the indenture of 6 February 1584 reciting Oxford's original sale of the manors of Castle Camps and Fowlmere to Skinner for £5000 on 16 September 1580 see TNA C 54/1176. The fact that the sale price is stated in the fine as £1200, whereas the indenture of 6 February 1584 establishes that the sale price was actually £5000, provides an example of the unreliability of the purchase prices given in the fictitious lawsuits known as fines. Another document connected to the original sale is a recognizance made by Oxford to Skinner on 16 September 1580 for £7000 (see TNA 3/34/14, no. 3, which contains a list of £150,000 worth of such penal bonds which Oxford was required to enter into when he sold his properties in order to save the purchasers harmless from possible extents by the Queen against the lands in question for Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards). For the indenture of 13 November 1582 granting Oxford the right to repurchase Castle Camps and Fowlmere from Skinner under certain conditions, see TNA C 54/1159, and for Oxford's decision not to exercise his right to repurchase Castle Camps and Fowlmere, see TNA C 54/1176. For Thomas Skinner's later fraud against Oxford, see BL Lansdowne 63/76, ff 191-2.

This is the final agreement made in the court of the Lady Queen at Westminster on the octave of the Purification of Blessed Mary 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-third [=9 February 1581], before James Dyer, Thomas Meade & Francis Wyndham, justices, and afterwards on the quindene of Easter in the abovesaid year of the reigns of the same Queen Elizabeth [=12 April 1581] there granted & recorded before James Dyer, Thomas Meade, Francis Wyndham & William Periam, justices, & others faithful to the Lady Queen then there present, between Thomas Skinner, querent, and Edward, Earl of Oxenford, Great Chamberlain of England, deforciant, of the castle of Great Camps with the appurtenances;

And of the manors of Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps & Fowlmere with the appurtenances;

And also of the parks of Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps with the appurtenances;

And also of three hundred messuages, two hundred tofts, eight water-mills, four windmills, four fulling-mills, twenty dovecots, three hundred gardens, four thousand acres of arable land, two thousand acres of meadow, three thousand acres of pasture, two

thousand acres of wood, two thousand acres of furze & heath, one thousand acres of moor, one thousand acres of marsh & forty shillings rent with the appurtenances in Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps, Campes Sudy alias Shudy Camps alias Sytty Camps, Horshead alias Horseheath, Fowlmere, Wethersfield, Melbourn alias Melleborne, Shepreth alias Sheperthorp, Foxton & Thriplow;

And of free warrens with the appurtenances in Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps & Fowlmere;

And also of free fishings in Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps & Fowlmere;

And also of view of frankpledge with the appurtenances in Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps & Fowlmere;

And also of the advowsons of the churches of Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps & Fowlmere in the county of Cambridge;

And of the castle of Great Camps with the appurtenances;

And of the manor of Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps with the appurtenances;

And also of the parks of Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps with the appurtenances;

And also of two hundred messuages, one hundred tofts, four water-mills, two windmills, two fulling-mills, ten dovecots, two hundred gardens, three thousand acres of arable land, one thousand acres of meadow, two thousand acres of pasture, one thousand acres of wood, one thousand acres of furze & heath, one thousand acres of moor, one thousand acres of marsh & twenty shillings rent with the appurtenances in Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps, Shudy Camps alias Sytty Camps, Horshead alias Horseheath & Wethersfield;

And of free warrens with the appurtenances in Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps;

And also of free fishings with the appurtenances in Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps;

And of view of frankpledge with the appurtenances in Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps;

And also of the advowson of the church of Great Camps alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castle Camps in the county of Essex;

Whereof a plea of covenant was summoned between them in the same court, namely that the foresaid Earl has acknowledged the foresaid castle, manors, parks, tenements, warrens, fishings & views of frankpledge with the appurtenances, and the advowsons aforesaid, to be the right of himself, Thomas, as those which the same Thomas has of the gift of the foresaid Earl, and he has remised & quit-claimed them from himself & his heirs to the foresaid Thomas & his heirs forever;

And besides the same Earl has granted for himself & his heirs that they will warrant to the foresaid Thomas & his heirs the foresaid castles, manors, parks, tenements, warrens, fishings & views of frankpledge with the appurtenances, and the advowsons aforesaid, against the foresaid Earl & his heirs and against the heirs of John, late Earl of Oxenford, deceased, father of himself, the Earl, forever;

And for this acknowledgement, remission, quit-claim, warrant, fine & agreement the same Thomas has given to the foresaid Earl one thousand two hundred pounds sterling.

Cambridge
Essex

According to the form of the statute the first proclamation was made on the first day of May in Easter term in the twenty-third year of the within-written Queen;

The second proclamation on the third day of May in the same term;

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

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

The fifth proclamation was made on the eighth day of June in Trinity term in the twenty-third year of the within-written Queen;

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

The seventh proclamation on the twelfth day of June in the same term;

The eighth proclamation on the fourteenth day of June in the same term.

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

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

The eleventh proclamation on the twenty-fifth day of November in the same term;

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

The thirteenth proclamation was made on the second day of February in Hilary term in the twenty-fourth year of the within-written Queen;

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

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

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

Examined

1 Hec est finalis concordia facta in Curia Domine Regine apud Westmonasterium in Octabis Purificacionis beate Marie Anno regnorum Elizabethe dei gratia Anglie ffrancie

2 & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c A conquesto vicesimo tercio coram Iacobo Dyer Thoma Meade & ffrancisco Wyndam Iusticiarijs Et postea a die

3 Pasche in quindecim dies Anno regnorum eiusdem Regine Elizabethe supradicto ibidem concessa & recordata coram Iacobo Dyer Thoma Meade

4 ffrancisco Wyndam & Willelmo Peryam Iusticiarijs & alijs domine Regine fidelibus tunc ibi presentibus Inter Thomam Skynner querentem et Edwardum

5 Comitum Oxonie Magnum Camerarium Anglie deforciantem de Castro de magna Campes cum pertinentijs ac de Manerijs de magna Campes alias Campes ad

6 Castrum alias Castell Campes & ffulmer cum pertinentijs aceciam de parcis de magna Campes alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castell Campes cum pertinentijs necnon de

7 de [sic] trescentis mesuagijs ducentis toftis octo molendinis aquaticis quatuor molendinis ventriticis quatuor molendinis fullonicis viginti columbarijs

8 trescentis gardinis quatuor Millibus acrarum terre duobus Millibus acris prati tribus Millibus acris pasture duobus Millibus acris bosci duobus Millibus acris iamprorum

9 & bruere Mille acris more Mille acris marisci & quadraginta solidatis redditus cum pertinentijs in magna Campes alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castell

10 Campes Campes Sudy alias Sudy Campes alias Sytty Campes Horshed alias Horsheath ffulmer Wethersfeild Melborne alias Melleborne

11 Seprethorp alias Sheperthorp ffoxton & Triplowe ac de liberis Warrennis cum pertinentijs in magna Campes alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castell

12 Campes & ffulmer [sic?] aceciam de liberis piscarijs in magna Campes alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castell Campes & ffulmer necnon de visu

13 franci plegij cum pertinentijs in magna Campes alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castell Campes & ffulmer aceciam de aduocacionibus ecclesiarum de magna

14 Campes alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castell Campes & ffulmer in Comitatu Cantebrigie Et de Castro de magna Campes cum pertinentijs Ac de Manerio

15 de magna Campes alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castell Campes cum pertinentijs Necnon de parcis de magna Campes alias Campes ad Castrum alias

16 Castell Campes cum pertinentijs Aceciam de ducentis mesuagijs Centum toftis quatuor molendinis aquaticis duobus molendinis ventriticis duobus

17 molendinis fullonicis decem Columbarijs ducentis gardinis tribus Millibus acrarum terre Mille acris prati duobus Millibus acrarum pasture Mille acris bosci

18 Mille acris iamprorum & bruere Mille acris more Mille acris marisci & viginti solidatis redditus cum pertinentijs in magna Campes alias Campes ad Castrum alias

19 Castell Campes Sudy Campes alias Sytty Campes Horshed alias Horsheathe & Wethersfeild Ac de libera Warrenna cum pertinentijs in magna Campes

20 alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castell Campes necnon de libera piscaria cum pertinentijs in magna Campes alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castell Campes

21 ac de visu franci plegij cum pertinentijs in magna Campes alias Campes ad Castrum alias Castell Campes necnon de aduocacione ecclesie de magna Campes alias

22 Campes ad Castrum alias Castell Campes in Comitatu Essex Vnde Placitum conuencionis summonitum fuit inter eos in eadem Curia Scilicet quod predictus Comes recognovit

23 predicta Castra Maneria parcos tenementa Warrennas piscarias & visus franci plegij cum pertinentijs ac aduocaciones predictas esse ius ipsius Thome Vt illa que idem

24 Thomas habet de dono predicti Comitum Et illa remisit & quieteclamavit de se & heredibus suis predicto Thome & heredibus suis Imperpetuum Et preterea idem

25 Comes concessit pro se & heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt predicto Thome & heredibus suis predicta Castra Maneria parcos tenementa Warrennas piscaria &

26 visus franci plegij cum pertinentijs ac aduocaciones predictas contra predictum Comitum & heredes suos ac contra heredes Iohannis nuper Comitum Oxonie defuncti

27 patris ipsius Comitis Imperpetuum Et pro hac recognicione remissione
quietaclamacione Waranto fine & concordia idem Thomas dedit predicto Comiti Mille

28 ducentas libras sterlingorum

Cantebrigia
Essex

Secundum formam statuti

Prima proclamatio facta fuit primo die Maij termino Pasche Anno vicesimo tercio Regine
infrascripte

Secunda proclamatio tercio die Maij eodem termino

tercia proclamatio sexto die Maij eodem termino

quarta proclamatio octavo die Maij eodem termino

Quinta proclamatio facta fuit octavo die Iunij termino sancte Trinitatis Anno vicesimo
tercio Regine infrascripte

sexta proclamatio decimo die Iunij eodem termino

septima proclamatio duodecimo die Iunij eodem termino

octava proclamatio quartodecimo die Iunij eodem termino

Nona proclamatio facta fuit vicesimo primo die Novembris termino sancti Michaelis
Anno vicesimo quarto Regine infrascripte

decima proclamatio vicesimo tercio die Novembris eodem termino

undecima proclamatio vicesimo quinto die Novembris eodem termino

duodecima proclamatio vicesimo octavo die Novembris eodem termino

Terciadecima proclamatio facta fuit secundo die februaryj Termino sancti Hillarij Anno
vicesimo quarto Regine infrascripte

quartadecima proclamatio octavo die februaryj eodem termino

quintadecima proclamatio decimo die februaryj eodem termino

sexdecima proclamatio duodecimo die february eodem termino
examinatus