

SUMMARY: The document below is the fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated one month after Easter Sunday in the year 1588 by which Oxford transferred title to Colne Priory and the manor of Bretts to the Queen; in 1588 Easter Sunday fell on 7 April, dating the fine to 6 May. The sum of £4000 mentioned in the fine merely represents a valuation of the properties for purposes of the fine. No money would have changed hands as indicated by the fact that by letters patent of 8 June 1588 Queen Elizabeth regranted the properties to Oxford (see TNA C 66/1393, mm. 11-16 and ERO T/B 177/3). As a result of the Queen's letters patent of 8 June 1588 Oxford held Colne Priory and Bretts to himself and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten (at the time, these were his three daughters by his first wife, Anne Cecil, who had died on 5 June 1588), and failing such issue, to the heirs of the body of John de Vere (1482-1540), 15th Earl of Oxford.

Four years later, Oxford sold Colne Priory to Roger Harlakenden (d.1603). For Harlakenden's fraud against Oxford in the sale of Colne Priory, see TNA C 78/104, mm. 27-8.

The manor of Bretts had once belonged to the Countess of Salisbury, had presumably escheated to the Crown when she was executed for treason in 1541, and was thus likely the subject of a grant from Henry VIII to some third party. Oxford had purchased Bretts on 7 March 1584 from Roger Townshend (see HL/PO/PB/1/1609/7J1n33). For the licence dated 2 March 1584 authorizing Townshend (c.1544-1590) to alienate the manor of Bretts to Oxford, see TNA C 66/1248, m. 27.

The manor of Hinxton in Cambridge and the rectories of Dovercourt and Harwich named in the original grant of Colne Priory made by King Henry VIII to John de Vere (1482-1540), 15th Earl of Oxford, and his heirs on 22 July 1536 (see TNA C 66/668, mm. 26-7) are not mentioned in either the fine of 6 May 1588 by which Oxford granted Colne Priory to the Queen or the Queen's regrant to Oxford of 8 June 1588. The rectories of Dovercourt and Harwich had been granted back to King Henry VIII on 29 April 1544 by the 16th Earl (see TNA C 66/766, mm. 5-8). At Oxford's suit, the manor of Hinxton was granted by the Queen to John Machell by letters patent dated 24 May 1588 (see TNA C 66/1304, mm. 31-2). The letters patent indicate that Oxford had surrendered the manor of Hinxton to the Queen prior to the Queen's grant to Machell. It thus seems likely that the underlying purpose of Oxford's grant of Colne Priory to the Queen on 6 May 1588 and the Queen's regrant of Colne Priory to Oxford on 8 June 1588 was to break the entail and sever the manor of Hinxton from the original grant.

This is the final agreement made in the court of the Lady Queen at Westminster one month after Easter day in the thirtieth year [=6 May 1588] of the reigns of Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France & Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, etc. from the Conquest before Edmund Anderson, Francis Wyndham, William Peryam & Francis Rodes, justices, & others faithful to the Lady Queen then there present, between the same

Lady Queen, querent, & Edward, Earl of Oxford, deforciant, of the site of the late priory or monastery of Blessed Mary the Virgin & Saint John the Evangelist of Colne Comitibus alias Earls Colne with the appurtenances;

And of the site of the late house or priory of Blessed Mary, Saint James & the Holy Cross of Castle Hedingham with the appurtenances;

And the house & late priory of Earls Colne & Hedingham with the appurtenances;

And of the manors of Barwick alias Barwike in White Colne, Inglethorpe & Bretts with the appurtenances, and of sixty messuages, forty cottages, forty tofts, fifteen mills, six dovecots, sixty gardens, sixty orchards, two thousand acres of land, five hundred acres of meadow, eight hundred acres of pasture, five hundred acres of woods, three hundred acres of furze & heath, three hundred acres of moor, three hundred acres of uncultivated marsh, free fisheries, free warrens, common of pasture for all draft animals, & eighty pounds of rent with the appurtenances in Colne Comitibus alias Earls Colne, Barwick, White Colne, Colne Engaine, Colne Wake, Pedmarsh, Lamarsh, Mount Bures, Walter Belchamp, Great Bentley, Messing, Stansted, Sible Hedingham, Great Maplestead, Little Maplestead, Inglethorpe, Castle Hedingham, Gosfield & Stambourne;

And also of the rectories of Earls Colne, White Colne, Great Bentley, Walter Belchamp alias Beauchamp Walter alias Walter Belchampe, Messing, Sible Hedingham, Great Maplestead, Little Maplestead, Inglethorpe, Castle Hedingham & Gosfield with the appurtenances;

And of the chapels of Earls Colne, White Colne, Castle Hedingham, Sible Hedingham, Great Yeldham & Little Yeldham with the appurtenances;

And also of all & all manner of tithes, portions, pensions, oblations & obventions whatsoever coming, growing or renewing of & in the parishes of Earls Colne, White Colne, Colne Engaine, Colne Wake, Pedmarsh, Lamarsh, Mount Bures, Walter Belchamp, Great Bentley, Messing, Stansted, Sible Hedingham, Great Maplestead, Little Maplestead & Inglethorpe with the appurtenances;

And also of knights' fees, wards, marriages, reliefs, goods & chattels of felons & fugitives, escheats, fairs, markets, tolls, liberties & franchises with the appurtenances in Earls Colne, White Colne, Colne Engaine, Colne Wake, Castle Hedingham, Stambourne, Sible Hedingham, Gosfield, Great Yeldham & Little Yeldham;

And of view of frankpledge & whatever to view of frankpledge belongs in Earls Colne, White Colne, Colne Engaine, Colne Wake, Castle Hedingham, Stambourne, Gosfield, Great Yeldham, Little Yeldham & Sible Hedingham with the appurtenances;

And also of the advowsons & right of patronage of the churches of Earls Colne, White Colne, Colne Engaine, Colne Wake, Great Bentley, Walter Belchamp, Castle

Hedingham, Messing, Stansted, Sible Hedingham, Great Maplestead, Little Maplestead, Inglesthorpe & Gosfield in the county of Essex;

And of the rectory of Wickham with the appurtenances, and of one hundred acres of land, twenty acres of meadow, twenty acres of pasture, ten acres of woods, & eight pounds of rent with the appurtenances in Wickham, and also of the advowson & right of patronage of the church of Wickham in the county of Cambridge;

And of the rectories of Lavenham & Aldham with the appurtenances;

And of one messuage, two gardens, two orchards, one hundred acres of land, ten acres of meadow, twenty acres of pasture, ten acres of woods, twenty acres of furze & heath, common of pasture for all animals, & five pounds of rent with the appurtenances in Lavenham & Aldham;

And also all & all manner of tithes of sheaves of corn, grain & hay whatsoever coming, growing or renewing in Lavenham & Aldham in the county of Suffolk;

Whereof a plea of covenant was summoned between the same Lady Queen and the foresaid Earl in the same court, namely that the foresaid Earl acknowledged the foresaid sites, houses, priories, manors, tenements, fisheries, warrens, common of pasture, rents, rectories, chapels, tithes, portions, pensions, oblations, obventions, knights' fees, wards, marriages, reliefs, goods & chattels of felons & fugitives, escheats, fairs, markets, tolls, liberties, franchises & views of frankpledge with the appurtenances and the advowsons aforesaid to be the right of the same Lady Queen as those which the same Lady Queen has of the gift of the foresaid Earl, and he has remised & quit-claimed them from himself & his heirs to the foresaid Lady Queen, her heirs & successors, forever;

And besides the same Earl has granted for himself & his heirs that they will warrant to the foresaid Lady Queen, her heirs & successors, the foresaid sites, houses, priories, manors, tenements, fisheries, warrens, common of pasture, rents, rectories, chapels, tithes, portions, pensions, oblations, obventions, knights' fees, wards, marriages, reliefs, goods & chattels of felons & fugitives, escheats, fairs, markets, tolls, liberties, franchises & views of frankpledge with the appurtenances, and the advowsons aforesaid against the foresaid Earl & his heirs forever;

And for this recognizance, remise, quit-claim, warrant, fine & agreement the same Lady Queen has given to the foresaid Earl four thousand pounds sterling.

Essex
Cambridge
Suffolk

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

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

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

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

The fifth proclamation was made on the twentieth day of June in Trinity term in the thirtieth year of the within-written Queen;

The sixth proclamation on the twenty-second day of June in the same term;

The seventh proclamation on the twenty-fifth day of June in the same term;

The eighth proclamation on the twenty-sixth day of June in the same term.

The ninth proclamation was made on the twenty-first day of November in Michaelmas term in the thirty-first 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-sixth 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 sixth day of February in Hilary term in the thirty-first 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] A die Pasche in vnum Mensem Anno regnorum Elizabethhe dei gracia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &c A Conquesto tricesimo coram

2 Edmundo Anderson ffrancisco Wyndam Willelmo Peryam & ffrancisco Rodes Iusticiarijs & alijs domine Regine fidelibus tunc ibi presentibus Inter ipsam Dominam Reginam querentem et Edwardum Comitem

3 Oxonie deforcientem de Scitu nuper Prioratus siue Monasterij beate Marie virginis & sancti Iohannis Evangeliste de Colne Comitibus alias Earles Colne cum pertinentijs Ac de Scitu nuper domus siue Prioratus beate Marie sancti

4 Iacobi & sancte Crucis de Hedingham ad Castrum cum pertinentijs ac domus & nuper Prioratus de Colne Comitibus & Hedingham cum pertinentijs Ac de Manerijs de Barwick alias Barewike in Colne alba

5 Ingesthorpe & Brettes cum pertinentijs Ac de sexaginta mesuagijs quadraginta Cotagijs quadraginta toftis quindecim Molendinis sex Columbarijs sexaginta gardinis sexaginta pomarijs duobus

6 Millibus acrarum terre quingentis acris prati octingentis acris pasture quingentis acris bosci trescentis acris Iampnorum & bruere trescentis acris more trescentis acris marisci frisci libera piscaria libera

7 Warrenna comunia pasture pro omnibus auerijs & octoginta libratis redditus cum pertinentijs in Colne Comitibus alias Earles Colne Barwike Colne alba Colne Engayne Colne Wake Padmarshe Lammarshe Bures ad

8 montem Walter Belchamp Bentley magna Messinge Stanstede Hedingham Sibley Maplestede magna Maplestede parua Inglesthorpe Hedingham ad Castrum Gosfield & Stamburne Necnon

9 de Rectorijs de Colne Comitibus Colne alba Bentley magna Walter Belchamp alias Beuchamp Walter alias Walter Belchampe Messinge Hedingham Sibley Maplestede magna Maplestede

10 parua Inglesthorpe Hedingham ad Castrum & Gosfield cum pertinentijs Ac de Capellis de Colne Comitibus Colne alba Hedingham ad Castrum Hedingham Sibley yeldham magna & yeldham parua cum pertinentijs

11 aceciam de omnibus & omnimodis decimis porcionibus pencionibus oblacionibus & obuencionibus quibuscunque crescentibus prouenientibus seu renouantibus de & in parochijs de Colne Comitibus Colne alba Colne Engayne Colne Wake

12 Padmarshe Lammarshe Bures ad montem Walter Belchamp magna Bentley Messinge Stanstede Hedingham Sibley Maplestede magna Maplestede parua & Inglesthorpe cum pertinentijs Necnon de

13 feodis Militum Wardis Maritagijs releuijs bonis & catallis felonum & fugitiuorum escaetis Nundinis Mercatis Tolnetis libertatibus & ffranchesijs cum pertinentijs in Colne Comitibus Colne alba Colne Engayn

14 Colne Wake Hedingham ad Castrum Stamburne Hedingham Sibley Gosfield yeldham magna & yeldham parua Ac de visu ffranci plegij & quicquid ad visum ffranci plegij pertinet in Colne Comitibus

15 Colne alba Colne Engayn Colne Wake Hedingham ad Castrum Stamburne Gosfield yeldham magna yeldham parua & Hedingham Sibley cum pertinentijs Ac eciam de Aduocacionibus & Iure patronatus ecclesiarum

16 de Colne Comitibus Colne alba Colne Engayn Colne Wake Bentley magna Walter Belchamp Hedingham ad Castrum Messinge Stanstede Hedingham Sibley Maplestede magna Maplestede

17 parua Inglesthorpe & Gosfield in Comitatu Essex Et de Rectoria de Wickham cum pertinentijs Ac de Centum acris terre viginti acris prati viginti acris pasture decem acris bosci & octo libratis redditus cum pertinentijs

18 in Wickham Necnon de Aduocacione & iure patronatus ecclesie de Wickham in Comitatu Cantebrigie Et de Rectorijs de Lavenham & Aldham cum pertinentijs Ac de vno mesuagio duobus gardinis duobus pomarijs Centum acris

19 terre decem acris prati viginti acris pasture decem acris bosci viginti acris Iampnorum & bruere comunia pasture pro omnibus animalibus & quinque libratis redditus cum pertinentijs in Lavenham & Aldham Necnon de

20 omnibus & omnimodis decimis garbarum granorum & feni quibuscumque crescentibus prouenientibus seu renouantibus in Lavenham & Aldham in Comitatu Suffolcie Vnde placitum conuencionis summonitum fuit inter ipsam Dominam Reginam &

21 predictum Comitem in eadem Curia Scilicet quod predictus Comes recognouit predicta Scitus domos prioratus Maneria tenementa piscaria Warrenna comunias pasture redditus Rectorias Capellas decimas porciones penciones

22 oblaciones obuenciones feoda Militum Warda Maritagia relevia bona & Catalla felonum & fugitiuorum escaetas Nundinas Mercata tolnetas libertates ffranchesias & visus ffranci plegij cum pertinentijs Ac Aduocaciones

23 predictas esse ius ipsius Domine Regine vt illa que eadem Domina Regina habet de dono predicti Comitibus Et illa remisit & quietaclamavit de se & heredibus suis predictae Domine Regine heredibus & successoribus suis Imperpetuum

24 Et preterea idem Comes Concessit pro se & heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt predictae Domine Regine heredibus & successoribus suis predicta Scitus domos prioratus Maneria tenementa piscaria Warrenas Comunias pasture redditus

25 rectorias Capellas decimas porciones penciones oblaciones obvenciones feoda Militum Warda Maritagia releuia bona & catalla felonum & fugitiuorum escaeta Nundinas Mercata tolnetas

26 libertates ffranchesias & visus ffranci plegij cum pertinentijs Ac Aduocaciones predictas contra predictum Comitem & heredes suos Imperpetuum Et pro hac recognicione remissione quietaclamacione Waranto fine & Concordia eadem domina

27 Regina dedit predicto Comiti quatuor Mille libras sterlingorum

Essex
Cantebrigia
Suffolicia

Secundum formam statuti

Prima proclamatio facta fuit terciodecimo die Maij termino Pasche Anno tricesimo Regine infrascripte

Secunda proclamatio quintodecimo die Maij eodem termino

tercia proclamatio decimo septimo die Maij eodem termino

quarta proclamatio vicesimo die Maij eodem termino

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

sexta proclamatio vicesimo secundo die Iunij eodem termino

septima proclamatio vicesimo quinto die Iunij eodem termino

octaua proclamatio vicesimo sexto die Iunij eodem termino

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

decima proclamatio vicesimo tercio die Novembris eodem termino

vndecima proclamatio vicesimo sexto die Novembris eodem termino

duodecima proclamatio vicesimo octauo die Novembris eodem termino

Terciadecima proclamatio facta fuit sexto die ffebruarij termino sancti Hillarij Anno tricesimo primo Regine infrascripte

quartadecima proclamatio octauo die ffebruarij eodem termino

quintadecima proclamatio decimo die ffebruarij eodem termino

sextadecima proclamatio duodecimo die ffebruarij eodem termino

examinatus