

SUMMARY: The document below is the indenture dated 22 June 1578 by which Oxford sold his manor of Easton Maudit in Northamptonshire to Christopher Yelverton (1536/7-1612) for £1200. A note by Sir Edward Stanhope (c.1546–1608) indicates that the indentures were acknowledged before him by Oxford at Oxford's then residence in Broad Street, London.

For Sir Christopher Yelverton, see the entry in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*:

*Yelverton, Sir Christopher (1536/7–1612), judge and speaker of the House of Commons, was the third of five sons of William Yelverton, of Rougham, Norfolk (b. in or before 1505, d. 1586), lawyer, and his first wife, Anne, daughter of Sir Henry Farmer of East Barsham, Norfolk, and his wife. He had four sisters. He was a member of an East Anglian legal family and was a direct descendant of William Yelverton, judge of the court of king's bench between 1443 and 1471.*

See also 'Parishes: Easton Maudit', *A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 4* (1937), pp. 11-17. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66306>

*On 23 January 1481 Sir William Trussell died seised of the manor of Easton Maudit, one part of which, called the West Side of the Over Bury, was held of the queen as of her manor of Higham Ferrers, and the rest of Richard Duke of Gloucester, as of his castle of Thorpe, Bucks. Sir William's son Edward, aged 2 at his father's death, died while still a minor, leaving a year-old son John, on 16 June 1499. This baby died on 20 December following, and the manor passed to Edward Trussell's daughter Elizabeth, aged 4, and later to John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, by her marriage with that earl.*

*The manor was held by the Earls of Oxford until 1578 when it was sold by Edward Earl of Oxford to Christopher Yelverton, esq., of Yelverton in Rougham, co. Norfolk. Sir Christopher Yelverton died, seised of the manor, in London, on 31 October 1612, and was buried in Easton Maudit Church, with an inscription that he was Sergeant-at-Law 1589, Sergeant to the Queen 1598, Judge of the King's Bench 1601–2 until his death, and Speaker of the House of Commons 1597.*

As Oxford was investing in the Frobisher expedition at this time, it is possible that he sold the manor of Easton Maudit to raise cash for that purpose (see TNA SP 12/149/42(15), f. 108v).

For the recognizance in the amount of £2000 acknowledged by Oxford to Christopher Yelverton on 22 June 1578 in connection with the sale of Easton Maudit, see TNA C 54/1043, Part 20.

Sir Henry Compton (d. 10 December 1589), Lord Compton, to whom the indenture indicates that Oxford's woods pertaining to the manor of Easton Maudit were sold was the dedicatee of *The Paradise of Dainty Devices*, published in 1576, which contained eight

songs by Oxford. Compton was married to Anne Spencer, one of the daughters of Sir John Spenser (d.1586) to whom the poet Edmund Spenser dedicated *Prosopopoeia, or Mother Hubbard's Tale*, and whom he praised, along with two of her sisters, in *Colin Clout's Come Home Again*. See Rollins, Hyder Edward, ed., *The Paradise of Dainty Devices (1576-1606)* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1927), p. 180, and the entry for Edmund Spenser in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, both available online. For the will of Henry, Lord Compton, dated 7 May 1589 and proved 12 November 1589, see TNA PROB 11/74, ff. 292-3.

This indenture made the twentieth & two day of June in the twentieth year [=22 June 1578] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France & Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc., between the right honourable Edward, Earl of Oxenford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck and Lord of Badlesmere & Scales, of the one party, and Christopher Yelverton of Easton Maudit in the county of Northampton, esquire, of the other party;

Witnesseth that the said Earl, as well for & in consideration of the sum of twelve hundred pounds to him aforehand paid, whereof he doth acquit & discharge the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs, executors & administrators by these presents, as for sundry other good causes & considerations him hereto moving, hath bargained & sold and by these presents doth fully, clearly & absolutely bargain & sell unto the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs & assigns, forever all that his manor of Easton Maudit with the appurtenances in the county of Northampton, and all & singular the messuages, houses, buildings, barns, stables, granges, tofts, crofts, curtilages, dovehouses, orchards, gardens, yards, backsides, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, feedings, commons, woods, underwoods, fishings, fishing places, waters, stanks, pools, springs, wastes, heaths, rent-charges, rent secks, rents & services of all manner of tenants whatsoever they be, rent-hens, rent capons, rent chickens, rent pepper, rents & services reserved upon any manner of grant, demise or lease of any part or parcel of the said manor or of other the premises, farms, fee-farms, annuities, knights' fees, wards, marriages, escheats, reliefs, heriots, strays, waifs, goods & chattels of felons [+&] fugitives, forfeitures, pains, penalties, ways, paths, courts, leets, view of frankpledge & all & singular other manner of thing or things whatsoever to a court, leet or view of frankpledge belonging or appertaining, rights, jurisdictions, franchises, privileges, pre-eminences, profits, pleasures, commodities, emoluments & hereditaments with their appurtenances whatsoever to the said manor of Easton Maudit in any manner of wise belonging or appertaining or before this time had, used, occupied, reputed, demised, letten, accepted, taken or known to be part, parcel, member or appurtenant of or to the said manor or of or to any other the premises with their appurtenances whatsoever, and all & singular other lands, tenements & hereditaments with their appurtenances whatsoever of the said Earl set, situate, lying or being in Easton Maudit aforesaid, Bozeat & Grendon or any of them in the said county of Northampton, and all the estate, right, title, interest, use, possession, reversion, remainder, claim or demand which he, the said Earl, hath in & to the said premises with their appurtenances or in or to any part or parcel thereof;

Together with all & singular evidences, deeds, charters, surveys, terriers, rentals, accounts, court rolls, counterpanes of leases, escripts, writings & muniments touching & concerning only the said premises or any part or parcel of them or any of them, which evidences, writings, deeds, charters, surveys, terriers, rentals, court rolls, escripts, writings, counterpanes of leases & muniments or as many of them as the said Earl now presently hath in his possession or custody or any other person or persons to his use or by his delivery & which he may lawfully come by without suit in the law, the said Earl for him, his heirs, executors & administrators & every of them doth covenant & grant to & with the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs, executors, administrators & assigns & every of them to deliver or cause to be delivered unto the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs & assigns or some of them on this side & before the feast of Pentecost now next ensuing the date of these presents;

To have and to hold all and singular the said manor, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances and the said writings, deeds, charters, surveys, terriers, rentals, court rolls & accounts & all & singular other the premises with their appurtenances whatsoever to the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs & assigns, to the only proper use & behoof of him, the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs and assigns forever absolutely without any manner of condition, mortgage, redemption or limitation;

And the said Earl for him, his heirs, executors & administrators & every of them doth covenant & grant to & with the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs, executors, administrators & assigns & every of them by these presents that he, the said Earl, at the time of the sealing & delivery of these presents is seised of the said premises above bargained & sold of a lawful & rightful estate of inheritance in fee simple or fee-tail general or special with the fee simple expectant to the said Earl, and hath such power, good right & lawful authority as a tenant in fee simple, tenant in tail general or special with the fee simple expectant to himself may have to bargain, sell, convey & assure the said premises with their appurtenances & every part & parcel thereof to the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs & assigns, forever in manner & form abovesaid;

And the said Earl for him, his heirs, executors & administrators & every of them doth covenant & grant to & with the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs, executors, administrators & assigns & every of them by these presents that he, the said Earl, his heirs, executors & administrators, shall & will from time to time & at all times hereafter acquit, exonerate, discharge or otherwise sufficiently save & keep harmless as well the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs, executors, administrators & assigns, as all & singular the said manor & other the premises above bargained & sold of & from all & all manner of former bargains, sales, gifts, grants, jointures, dowers, leases, wills, uses, executions, titles, statutes merchant, statutes of the Staple, judgments, recognizances, annuities, fees, fines, amerciements, forfeitures, escheats, extents, condemnations, pains, penalties, alienations, licences of alienation, intrusions, fines, amerciements for respite of homage, rentcharges, rent secks, arrearages of rents, & of & from all and all manner of other charges & encumbrances, whatsoever they be, had, made, done, executed or wittingly & willingly suffered or procured to be had, made, done, executed or wittingly &

willingly suffered by the said Earl or by any other person or persons whatsoever lawfully claiming in, by, from or under the said Earl, the rents & services therefore due or hereafter to be due to the chief lord or lords of the fee or fees of the said premises, and one lease granted unto the said Christopher Yelverton of the said manor house & demesnes of the same, and one lease granted unto Henry, Lord Compton, of all the woods parcel of the said manor & other the premises, and one other lease of parcel of the said premises granted unto William Orpin, and one other lease of parcel of the said premises granted unto William Whight [=White], and one other lease of parcel of the said premises granted unto John Creke, and one other lease of parcel of the said premises granted unto (blank) Browne, deceased, and one other lease of parcel of the said premises granted unto Richard Hoite, and one other lease of parcel of the said premises granted unto John Tommes, and one lease of parcel of the said premises granted unto William Deredge(?), and one lease of parcel of the said premises granted unto John Hartwell, and one lease of parcel of the said premises granted unto Nicholas Corby, and one other lease of parcel of the said premises granted unto one Wickens, and the sale of all the trees & woods growing & being upon the said manor made to the said Lord Compton, and a fee of forty shillings by the year granted unto the said Christopher Yelverton for the bailiwick of the said manor & all other rents & charges granted out of the said premises to the said Christopher only excepted & forprised;

And the said Earl for him, his heirs, executors & administrators and every of them doth covenant & grant to & with the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs, executors, administrators & assigns & every of them by these presents that he, the said Earl, his heirs & assigns & every of them, shall from time to time & at all times hereafter within the space of two years now next ensuing the date of these presents, upon lawful request to him or them to be made by the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs or assigns or any of them, and at the costs & charges in the law of the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs & assigns, do, knowledge & suffer to be done & knowledged all & every such further & lawful act & acts, devise & devises in the law as by the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs or assigns, or by his & their learned counsel in the law shall be reasonably devised or advised for the further, better & more perfect assurance, surety & sure making of all & singular the said premises with their appurtenances & of every part & parcel thereof unto the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs & assigns, to the only proper use & behoof of him, the said Christopher Yelverton, his heirs & assigns, forever without any manner of condition, limitation, mortgage or redemption, be it by fine, feoffment, recovery with single or double voucher or vouchers, deed or deeds enrolled, enrolment of these presents, release, confirmation with warranty or warranties against the said Earl, his heirs & assigns, and by all these ways & means or some of them;

In witness whereof the parties aforesaid to these present indentures interchangeably have put to their seals & subscribed their names the day & year above-written.

Edward Oxenford

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Sealed & delivered in the day & year above-written in presence of Willelmus Mill, Hugh Beston [=Beeston]

LM: Recognitum per Honoratissimum Oxoniensem Comitem Coram me Edouardo stanhope Cancellarie domine Regine Magistrorum vno in Edibus dicti Comitis in Brod Streat 22 Iunij 1578. Edward Stanhope

[=Acknowledged by the right honourable Earl of Oxford before me, Edward Stanhope, one of the Lady Queen's Masters of Chancery, at the house of the said Earl in Broad Street, 22 June 1578. Edward Stanhope]

Endorsed: Irrotulatum in dorso Clausarum Cancellarie infrascripte domine Regine vicesimo tercio die Iunij Anno similiter infrascripto [=Enrolled on the dorse of the Close Rolls of the Chancery of the within-written Lady Queen on the twenty-third day of June in the year similarly within-written]

per Willelmum Herd et Iohannem Baylye Deputatus Clericis Irrotulamentorum [=By William Herd and John Bayley, Deputies of the Clerk of the Enrolments]

Comes Oxenford & Yeluer-ton

In Yelverton's hand(?): The bargain & sale from the Earl of Oxenford to me of the manor of Easton Maudit.