

SUMMARY: The document below is the indenture dated 31 December 1587 by which Geoffrey Gates (living 1623) transferred to Roger Harlakenden (d. 21 January 1603) his interest in a 21-year lease of Colne Priory which had been granted by Oxford on 12 February 1577 to Richard Kelton (d.1578), the Earl's receiver. Geoffrey Gates had acquired his interest in this lease on 11 February 1580, when his first cousin, Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton, transferred to him by indenture of that date the interest in the lease which she had inherited from her late husband, Richard Kelton. For further background, see the indenture dated 11 February 1580, D/DPPr/175, and the will of Geoffrey Gates (d.1550?), TNA PROB 11/37/210.

After Richard Kelton's death, his widow, Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton, married Roger Harlakenden (d. 21 January 1603), who a decade later defrauded Oxford in the sale of Colne Priory. Roger Harlakenden's marriage into a family which had numbered among its members trusted servants of the Earls of Oxford may have facilitated his fraud. For the will of Roger Harlakenden, see TNA PROB 11/101/320.

For the indenture dated 9 November 1584 by which Roger Harlakenden acquired the interest in the lease of Colne Priory held by Richard Kelton's nephew, Thomas Kelton, see ERO D/DPPr/176.

For a lawsuit in Chancery brought by Roger Harlakenden's nephew, George Harlakenden, in 1595 against Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton nephew, Thomas Josselyn, in which depositions were taken concerning Jane's transfer of her assets to her relations in trust prior to her marriage to Roger Harlakenden see TNA C 24/244/35. In that lawsuit, Richard Kelton's nephew, Thomas Kelton, deposed that the reason for the transfer of Jane (nee Josselyn) Kelton's assets to her relations was that she had been unable to obtain administration of Richard Kelton's assets until an agreement was reached whereby those assets would be put into trust for the protection of Jane herself, who was entitled to two-thirds interest in them, and of Thomas Kelton and his sister, Jane Kelton, between whom the remaining one-third interest was to be divided.

Geoffrey Gates (living 1623) has been identified as the author of *The Defense of Military Profession*, dedicated to Oxford on 23 December 1578. See STC 11683, the *ODNB* entry for Geoffrey Gates, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/gates-geoffrey-1550>

In the dedicatory epistle to *The Defense of Military Profession*, the author describes himself as an 'unlettered man' who has had to 'take unto me a notary to set down [my book] in writing':

*Experience hath taught me to love and to honour arms, and in the zeal of a good heart to covet the advancement of martial occupation, which made me (an unlettered man) to take unto me a notary to set down in writing this drift in the defence and praise of warlike*

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*prowess against all contemners of the same for the benefit and encouragement of my country & countrymen.*

However the author's claim to be 'unlettered' cannot be taken at face value in view of the style, vocabulary and rhetorical skill of the dedicatory epistle itself.

Be it known to all men by these presents that I, Geoffrey Gates of Lincoln's Inn in the county of Middlesex, for divers good considerations me thereunto moving, have granted, assigned, set over & conveyed & by these presents do grant, assign, set over & convey unto Roger Harlakenden of Earls Colne in the county of Essex, esquire, all my right, title, interest & term of years which I, the said Geoffrey Gates, have of or in the site of the manor of Colne Priory or Colne House, with all gardens, orchards, ponds, fishings, courts, yards, houses, barns, stables & edifices thereunto belonging, together with all the tithe corn belonging to the parsonage of Earls Colne aforesaid, & all the meadows, pastures, lands, feedings & demesne lands with their appurtenances belonging unto the said Priory or site of the said Priory of Colne House, or used or occupied to or with the same by the said Roger Harlakenden or his assigns, or to any other lands, tenements & other hereditaments in Earls Colne in the said county of Essex whatsoever, to have & to hold all & singular the above-recited premises with their appurtenances unto the said Roger Harlakenden, his executors, administrators & assigns forever in as ample & large manner as I, the said Geoffrey, may or might enjoy the same by force, virtue or colour of any grant, gift, assignment or bargain & sale to me heretofore made by Jane Harlakenden, now the wife of the said Roger, in her widowhood before her marriage with the said Roger, or by any other means whatsoever;

In witness whereof I, the said Geoffrey Gates, have set my hand & seal to these presents the last day of December in the thirtieth year [=31 December 1587] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France & Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc.

By me, Geoffrey Gates.

Sealed & delivered in the presence of Jeremy Bettenh{a}m, ba: Hughes & John Oxley, Nicho{las} Rande