

SUMMARY: The document below is the indenture dated 26 January 1580 by which Oxford granted a 21-year lease of a meadow called Hall Mead, parcel of Colne Priory, to Richard Simon of Birchanger. For a memorandum from Roger Harlakenden (b. about 1539, d. 1603) to Lord Burghley written in 1587 which mentions this lease, see BL Lansdowne 77/81, f. 198. For the sale of Colne Park, which included the sale of Hall Mead, to Roger Harlakenden on 17 November 1583, see ERO D/DPr 181.

The transcript below was made from the copy on the Earls Colne Project Database website at <http://linux02.lib.cam.ac.uk/earlscolne//freehold/32400111.htm>.

It would appear from the Earls Colne Project Database that the following two notes also appear on the document:

*A lease of Hall Meadow from the Earl of Oxford to Richard [sic?] Harlakenden in [rest illegible] Michaelmas in 21 Elizabeth [=29 September 1579] for twenty-one years, the same upon the [ ] side hereof by me, Richard Symons. George Golding, auditor. 30 March 1580.*

*Memorandum. That the said Richard Simons for a good consideration of a competent sum of money to him beforehand paid hath bargained, sold and assigned the whole term and interest yet to come contained in these presents unto Henry Josselyn of Torrells Hall in the county of Essex, and unto Geoffrey Gates of Lillingstone Lovell in the county of Oxon in the presence of us whose names are underwritten. Thomas Kelton, Richard Amyas, Thomas Stannton.*

This indenture made the 26<sup>th</sup> day of the first month of the two and twentieth year [=26 January 1580] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc., between the right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck and Lord of Badlesmere and Scales on the one part, and Richard Symons of Birchanger in the county of Essex on the other part;

Witnesseth that the said Earl for and in consideration of the sum of £10 of lawful money of England to him at the ensealing of these presents by the said Richard well and truly paid, whereof the said Earl knowledgeth himself satisfied and paid and thereof doth acquit and discharge the said Richard, his executors and assigns, by these presents hath demised, granted and to farm letten and by these presents doth demise, grant and so [sic] farm let unto the said Richard Symon one meadow called Hall Mead with the appurtenances lying and being in Earls Colne in the said county of Essex;

To have and to hold the said meadow called Hall Mead with the appurtenances unto the said Richard Symons, his executors and assigns, from the feast of St Michael th' Archangel last past before the date of these presents unto the end and term of twenty-one

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years from thence next ensuing fully to be complete and ended, yielding and paying therefore yearly during the said term unto the said Earl, his heirs and assigns, £20 of lawful money of England at the feast of Michaelmas only;

And the said Earl doth covenant and grant for him, his heirs and assigns, to and with the said Richard Symons, his executors and assigns, by these presents that it shall and may be lawful from time to time during the said term for the said Richard, his executors and assigns, to take in and upon every of the grounds of the said Earl in the said parish of Colne competent hedge-boot to be spent in and upon or about the demised premises and not elsewhere;

Provided always and it is nevertheless agreed between the said Earl and the said Richard Symons that if the said Earl or his heirs shall or will at any time during the said term have again the demised meadow for his or their own person, then upon the payment of £10 of lawful money of England unto the said Richard, his executors or assigns, by the said Earl or his heirs it shall be lawful for the said Earl and his heirs at Michaelmas which next shall come after the payment of the said £10 and notice given that the said Earl or his heirs have the said meadow for his or their own provision as aforesaid, unto [sic] the demised meadow to re-enter and the same to have again only for his own provision as if this lease had never been made, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding;

In witness whereof the parties to these present indentures have interchangeably set their hands and seals, given the day and year first above-written.

Edward Oxeford.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of us, George Golding, William Walter, Nicholas Bleake.