

SUMMARY: The document below, dated 24 March 1590, is the indenture by which Oxford and John Herdson granted to the Queen a one-hundredth part interest for the term of three years in lands in Aveley. Oxford's lease of Aveley is referred to in his letter to Lord Burghley written on 5 August 1590 (see BL Lansdowne 63/71, ff. 181-2):

My very good Lord, where I mortgaged my lease of Aveley to Mr Herdson, and not as yet redeemed, and now, as well for the supply of my present wants, as also to have some three hundred pounds of ready money to redeem certain leases at Hedingham which were gotten from me very unreasonably for divers years yet enduring, and are of as good clear yearly value as my said lease of Aveley is, I therefore most earnestly desire your Lordship to signify your liking to me in writing to dispose of the said lease at my pleasure; otherwise, there is not any will deal with me for the same nor for any part thereof, wherein I shall be greatly beholding to your Lordship, as I am in all the rest of my whole estate. The 5th of August. Your Lordship's to command, Edward Oxenford

The lease dependeth upon divers casualties, which lease I hold chiefly by your Lordship's favour, and the casualties & defects are as follow.

First, the lease is made by the name of The Master and Chaplains Called the Hospital of the Savoy, where the corporation is The Master & the Chaplains of the Hospital of the Savoy, & not 'Called the Savoy', & therefore the lease supposed void.

Secondly, Mr Payne's claim and pretending interest to the said lease doth cost me one hundred pound by the year to defend.

Thirdly, any creditor of mine to whom I am indebted may by writ of elegit or fieri facias or levari facias extend and sell the said lease for a trifle and utterly defeat me thereof. And I intend for £300 in money to redeem leases of mine own land of a greater yearly value.

For Oxford's assignment of his lease of Aveley to the Queen on 16 May 1588 for two years, see TNA E 354/1. For interrogatories administered in Easter term 1590 to one Wilfred Luty on behalf of the Queen in her lawsuit against Richard Payne concerning Aveley, see TNA E/133/6/907.

It would appear that at this time Aveley was the property of St Thomas's Hospital (see *The History of St Thomas's Hospital*, p. 221, available online:

Alvethly, of Aveley as it is now called, lies close to Thurrocks and Purfleet, on the north bank of the Thames. It was give to the City by Edward VI in the charter as part of the Savoy Estates and contained 734 acres. Among our documents is a very full and interesting account of the village and the life which was led there in the sixteenth century. A good deal of the land consisted of marsh and saltings and could have been of little value. In 1589 John Herdson, who later became our tenant, claimed that he had bought the manor from the Earl of Oxenford, and the case was referred to a "learned counsel" who,

apparently, decided in our favour. Aveley was sold in 1921, but the possession of unredeemed quit rents still makes us lords of the manor there.

A document dating from 1592/3 suggests that Oxford had parted with his interest in Aveley by that time:

E 210/9983

John Herdson to the Queen: Demise, indented, for three years, of messuages and land, parcel of the farm or demesnes of the manor of Aveley: Essex. 35 Eliz.

Some researchers have suggested that the surname Hudson is a variant of Herdson, and that the explorer Henry Hudson may have been a relation of Henry Herdson (d.1555), a London alderman and member of the Company of Skinners. From the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*:

Hudson, Henry (d. 1611), explorer, was almost certainly a native of London, although nothing is known of his antecedents or early life. A Henry Hudson (or Herdson), skinner, alderman of Aldersgate ward until his death in December 1555 (Beaven, 1.4), may have been a relative, but this cannot be determined.

For the will of Henry Herdson (d.1555), see TNA PROB 11/37, ff. 276-7. Whether or not Henry Herdson was related to the explorer Henry Hudson, it seems likely that the John Herdson to whom Oxford mortgaged his lease of Aveley was the son of Henry Herdson (d.1555), who mentions in his will his sons Edward, Henry, John and Kellam.

This indenture made the four and twentieth day of March in the two and thirtieth year [=24 March 1590] 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 our said Sovereign Lady on thone part and the right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Viscount Bulbeck, Lord of Badlesmere and Scales, and Lord Great Chamberlain of England, and John Herdson of London, esquire, on thother part;

Witnesseth that the said Earl and John Herdson for and in consideration of the satisfaction of the sum of ten pounds which they, the said Earl and John Herdson, do confess to owe unto our said Sovereign Lady, have demised, granted and to farm letten and by these presents do demise, grant and to farm let unto our said Sovereign Lady the hundredth part of all that messuage and of all the barns, stables, yards, dovehouses and curtilages to the same belonging, situate in Alveley [=Aveley], now or late in the occupation of one Rowland Dawes or his assigns, and the hundredth part of that parcel of land called Church Field, and the hundredth part of the field called Bean Croft, and the hundredth part of the field called Park Field, and the hundredth part of the field called Welfield, and the hundredth part of the field called Cockyn Croft, and the hundredth part of the fields called Home Croft, and the hundredth part of the field called Rye Field, and the hundredth part of the field called Brome Field, and the hundredth part of the field

called Cawseybridge Field, and the hundredth part of the field called the Deane, and the hundredth part of the field called Carters Field, and the hundredth part of the meadows called the Salt Meadows containing by estimation eleven acres, and the hundredth part of the meadow called the Common Meadow, and the hundredth part of the field called Ten Acre, and the hundredth part of the field called Middleship, and the hundredth part of the field called Lower Field, and the hundredth part of the field called Butfield, and the hundredth part of the field called Nine Acres, and the hundredth part of the meadow called the Salt Meadow containing by estimation seven and twenty acres, and the hundredth part of the marsh called Powles Marsh, and the hundredth part of the field called Horshelays, and the hundredth part of the field called Jacke Pindle, and the hundredth part of the field containing by estimation five acres late in the occupation of (blank) Powle, and the hundredth part of the marsh called the Great Mill Marsh, and the hundredth part of the marsh called Grayes Marsh, and the hundredth part of the marsh called Great Crosse Marsh, and the hundredth part of the marsh or grounds containing by estimation five and thirty acres late in the occupation of (blank) Collins, and the hundredth part of the marsh called Great Oade(?) Marsh, and the hundredth part of the marsh called Little Oade(?) Marsh, and the hundredth part of the marsh called Dovehouse Marsh, and the hundredth part of reed ground called Puttockes Hill, and the hundredth part of the land in the field containing by estimation fifteen acres late in the occupation of (blank) Serse, and the hundredth part of the marsh called Little Crosse Marsh, and the hundredth part of the field called Paynes New Piece, and the hundredth part of the lands situate and being in the common piece in the heath, and the hundredth part of the marsh called Little Mill Marsh, all which premises before by these presents mentioned to be demised are parcel of the farm or demesnes of the manor of Aveley in the county of Essex, and are situate and being in the said county of Essex;

To have and to hold the said several parts and parcels of the said messuages, land, meadows, common and marsh and of other the premises before by these presents mentioned to be demised unto our said Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth from the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary next ensuing the date hereof unto the end and term of three years from thence next ensuing and fully to be complete and ended;

In witness whereof to the one part of these presents remaining in the Court of Exchequer to the use of our said Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty the said Earl and John Herdson have set to their hands and seals the day and year abovesaid, and to thother part remaining with the said Earl and John Herdson our said Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty hath caused the Broad Seal of England to be set, also the day and year abovesaid.

[Signatures of] Edward Oxford, John Herdson

LM: Sealed and delivered by the said Earl in the presence of George Ingham, and of me, Simon Butterton

Recognitum coram me Johanne Sotherton vno Baronum Scaccarij Domine Regine Decimo die mensis Augusti Anno regni dicte Domine nostre Regine Elizabeth Tricesimo secundo supradicto

[Signature of] John Sotherton

[=Acknowledged before me, John Sotherton, one of the Barons of the Exchequer of the Lady Queen on the tenth day of the month of August in the abovesaid year of the reign of our said Lady, Queen Elizabeth, the thirty-second]

RM: Sealed and delivered by the said John Herdson in the presence of me, Frauncis Straunge, servant to William Serche, scrivener. Samvell Bidlye

Captum et recognitum coram me Iohanne Sotherton vno Baronum Scaccarij Domine Regine xxiiijto die Marcij Anno regni dicte Domine nostre Regine Elizabethe xxxijdo supradicto per supranominatum Iohannem Herdson

[Signature of] John Sotherton

[=Taken and acknowledged before me, John Sotherton, one of the Barons of the Exchequer of the Lady Queen on the 24th day of March in the abovesaid year of the reign of our said Lady, Queen Elizabeth, by the above-named John Herdson]