

SUMMARY: The document below is an excerpt from an account by John Fisher in which he mentions that Oxford and others met Leicester and his entourage at the house of Thomas Fisher, the Priory, near Warwick on Wednesday 26 September 1571.

John Fisher served as town clerk of Warwick between 1563 and 1590. See the *ODNB* entry for his elder brother, Thomas Fisher (d. 12 January 1577).

Leicester had come to Warwick to celebrate his membership in the French Order of St Michael. Charles IX had first nominated him to the Order in 1564; however the Queen did not permit his election until January 1566, and then only jointly with the Duke of Norfolk. See Doran, Susan, *Elizabeth I & her Circle*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015), at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=q67qBgAAQBAJ&pg=PT142>

See also Rapple, Rory, *Martial Power and Elizabethan Political Culture: Military Men in England and Ireland, 1558-1594*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009), p. 93 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=7WkMyKjS44gC&pg=PA93>

Leicester's celebration seems to have been deliberately designed as a humiliating contrast to his fellow member: Norfolk had been committed to the Tower only three weeks earlier, on 7 September 1571. Equally pointed was Leicester's inclusion in his entourage of Norfolk's brother-in-law, Lord Berkeley, and Oxford, Norfolk's first cousin.

Other persons mentioned in the excerpt include:

Edward Seymour (1539?-1621), 1st Earl of Hertford, for whom see the *ODNB* entry.

Sir Henry Sidney (1529-1586), for whom see the *ODNB* entry.

Sir Henry Lee (1533-1611), for whom see the *ODNB* entry, and his will, TNA PROB 11/117/490. Oxford's mistress, Anne Vavasour, the mother of Oxford's illegitimate son, Sir Edward Vere, was later the mistress of Sir Henry Lee.

John Spencer (1524-1586), for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/spencer-sir-john-1524-8>

Sir Richard Knightley (1533-1615), for whom see the *ODNB* entry. He was a first cousin of Sir John Spencer and the brother-in-law of the Earl of Hertford. Martin Marprelate's *Epitome* was printed on a secret press at his house at Fawsley in November 1588.

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William Parr (1513-1571), Marquess of Northampton, for whom see the *ODNB* entry. Parr died on 28 October 1571 in Thomas Fisher's house, the Priory. His third wife was Helena Snakenborg (1548–1635), for whom see the *ODNB* entry.

Henry Berkeley(1534-1613), 7th Baron Berkeley. His wife, Katherine Howard (d. 7 April 1596), was Oxford's first cousin. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/123/109.

Edward Sutton (d.1586), 4th Baron Dudley.

Edmund Brydges (d.1573), 2nd Baron Chandos, for whom see the *ODNB* entry.

The transcript below is taken from Kemp, Thomas, ed., *The Black Book of Warwick*, (Warwick: Henry T. Cooke and Son, 1898), p. 33 at:

<https://archive.org/details/blackbookofwarwi00warw/page/32/mode/2up>

And so the said Earl [of Leicester], expecting as before [i.e., to be met outside the town of Warwick by the burgesses], was thereof disappointed, though for that purpose he came riding through the said borough by the cross, & so through the streets accompanied with the Earl of Hertford, Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy of Ireland & President of Wales, Sir John Spencer, Sir Henry Lee, Sir Richard Knightley and many others of good calling, and passed to the house of Mr Thomas Fisher, where met him & came to him the Lord & Lady Marquess of Northampton, the Earl of Oxford, the Lord Berkeley, the Lord Dudley, the Lord Chandos and many other lords, knights and gentlemen.