

SUMMARY: The document below is an entry, dated 5 May 1571, from the Entry Books for orders made by the Court of Wards. The entry indicates that Oxford first tendered his livery on 7 February 1571, two months prior to his twenty-first birthday on 12 April 1571. It was necessary for an heir to tender his livery in advance of his coming of age in order to ensure that the profits from the lands which accrued between his twenty-first birthday and the date on which livery was ultimately granted were not lost to him :

*On the day before the heir comes of age, or even a day or two earlier, he must present what is called a 'tender' for livery; otherwise he will get none of the profits from the lands between his coming of age and the day of tender. See Hurstfield, Joel, *The Queen's Wards* (New York: Longman, 1958), p.170.*

According to the entry below, Oxford had been granted permission to complete the process of suing his livery by 'tres Pasche' [=third of Easter]. Since Easter fell on 15 April in 1571, the anticipated date of completion was 18 April 1571. However the entry states that the process was delayed because of 'arrearages charged upon the said Earl's lands'. These 'arrearages' appear to have consisted of claims made by the Queen in her lawsuit against Oxford as reported in the judgment of Sir James Dyer. The entry below indicates that a continuance of the tender was therefore granted until 25 June 1571. However a later entry indicates that the matter was further adjourned on that date as well, and Oxford did not finally obtain a grant of livery, i.e. permission to enter on his lands, until 30 May 1572 (see TNA C 66/1090, mbs. 29-30), presumably after Sir James Dyer's judgment had been rendered. In his report of Dyer's judgment in the Queen's lawsuit against Oxford, J.H. Baker notes the various entries in the order book as follows: 'Court of Wards. Record: Order Book, WARD 9/518 (traverse tendered 7 Feb. 1571; continued on 5 May and 25 June 1571)'. See J.H. Baker, ed., *Reports from the Lost Notebooks of Sir James Dyer* (London: Selden Society, 1994), pp. 196-8). See also the copy of the judgment of Sir James Dyer on this website.

LM: vto Majj

Ter{mi}no pasche Anno xiiijo D{omi}ne Eliz{abeth}e R{egi}ne

Com{itatus} Essex

LM: Th' Earl of Oxford

Where the right honourable Edward, Earl of Oxford, son & heir of John, late Earl of Oxford, deceased, tendered his livery the vijth day of February a{nn}o xiiijo d{omi}ne Regine etc. [=7 February 1571], which was granted until tres Pasche [=18 April 1571] in this term, and laboured the prosecution thereof and could not proceed because there stand arrearages charged upon the said Earl's lands, in consideration whereof a continuance of the said tender is granted unto the said Earl until the quindecim of Trinity term next

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coming [=25 June 1571] without loss of any mean profits, and that the Auditor-General of this Court and the Clerk of the Liveries may then proceed accordingly.