
SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 9 February 1605 from Oxford's widow, Elizabeth (nee Trentham) de Vere, Countess of Oxford, to Sir Robert Cecil, who had been created Viscount Cranborne on 20 August 1604.

For the writ of privy seal dated 18 July 1603 by which King James restored to Oxford his rights to the keepership and stewardship of Waltham Forest see TNA C 66/1612, mm. 29-30. At Oxford's death on 24 June 1604, his rights in the Forest had been inherited by his eleven year old son, Henry de Vere (1593-1625), 18th Earl of Oxford, and the Countess complains that the grant to Sir Edward Coke is an impairment of her son's inheritance.

For Sir Edward Coke (1552–1634), see the *ODNB* article.

My very good Lord, whereas Sir Edward Coke hath lately obtained a grant of the stewardship of the manor of Havering which I know of right to be my son's inheritance, and hath never been given by the Kings nor Queens of this realm when the Earls of Oxford, my son's ancestors, have been in possession of their office of the Forest & Havering, as by many evidences and records plainly appeareth, and I am informed that to permit this grant now made to Sir Edward Coke to be by him quietly enjoyed would be an evil precedent for future times and turn to the disherison of my son and his heirs in that part of their right, wherefore I desire your Lordship's honourable favour in my son's behalf that in his young years his rights may be preserved according to equity and justice.

Thus with my hearty commendations to your Lordship I take my leave from Cannon Row this 9 of February 1604 [=1605].

Your Lordship's assured friend,

E. Oxenford

Endorsed: To the right honourable my very good Lord, the Lord Viscount Cranborne

Endorsed: 9 February 1604 [=1605], Countess of Oxenford to my Lord