

SUMMARY: The document below is a memorandum dating from 1601 prepared for Oxford concerning Sir Charles Danvers' interest in a lease at the time of his attainder, and the fraudulent attempts by his mother, Lady Danvers, her husband, Sir Edmund Carey, and others to defeat the Queen of her interest in the lands of Sir Charles Danvers which had escheated to the Crown at his attainder. According to the memorandum Oxford desires that warrants be issued authorizing that the houses of certain persons be searched, and that certain persons be caused to appear before the Privy Council for questioning.

For background concerning Oxford's involvement in the Danvers escheat case see CP 181/99 and documents mentioned there.

To prove the lease and assignment of the lease made by the Lady Danvers in her widowhead as followeth:

First, after Sir John Danvers' decease the said Lady Danvers leased over all the lands in Gloucestershire & Wiltshire unto the right honourable Sir Robert Cecil & others (habendum), for 50 years if she so long lived, yielding her £400 per annum, which lease was always in the keeping of the said Lady Danvers until her marriage with Sir Edmund Carey, and then delivered unto one Richard Danvers, one of the lessees, and afterwards he, the said Richard, kept courts, publishing the said lease unto the tenants of Christian Malford & Dauntsey, affirming then that the lease was to the use of his cousin, Sir Charles Danvers, who being pardoned for the murder of one Long, caused the steward appointed by the lessees to be removed, [+and?] appointed an new, who there openly unto the tenants published the said lease together with an assignment of the same unto himself, made copies & ret [=wrought?] great fines to the value of £1000, sold woods to the like value, granted leases for lives, had of his tenants three years rents as a benevolence, besides was assessed in the subsidy for his lands in Wiltshire.

To prove the lease made before the coverture with Sir Edmund Carey, all the tenants and her own confession to Mr Knyvet & Mr Savage & divers others.

Sir Edmund Carey proved this lease made since his marriage by one of his wife's daughters & one of her servants, which no doubt were suborned by sinister practices.

Sir Edmund Carey never challenged anything but his £400 per annum until Sir Charles' late attainder of treason.

One Richard Atwood, clerk, parson of Broad Somerford, being sworn before the sheriff & setting down his deposition with his own hand, did afterwards allege that it was tumultuously taken, & denied the material points of his own oath;

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Also the sheriff, having called up all such papers as concerned the accounts or otherwise that touched Sir Charles' estate (Atwood being his dealer & receiver), and after search made of part, left the[m](?) sealed in the custody of the said Atwood, who being sent for and summoned by the said sheriff not only to appear before the jurors but also to bring with him all those papers which were left in his custody, the said Atwood appeared, & the said writings & evidences being by the sheriff required of him, Atwood protested that he had by the way lost the said writings, which indeed he hath embezzled.

The like course in some sort one Richard Webbe of Clackke [=Clack?] used in denying his deposition which he had subscribed & heard openly read, all which was proved by oath of others against him, the said Webbe, which Webbe was & yet is a servant to the Lady Carey & by rest(?) to Sir John Danvers.

My Lord of Oxford requesteth a special warrant for search of one Martha Cawley's house, Roger Garrard's house & Richard Danvers' house; also desireth a pursuivant to bring up the said Atwood & Richard Webbe to be here before some of the Lords of the Council strictly examined for his sundry abuses & for th' embezzling of evidences, which would breed such a terror to the rest that the truth would plainly appear.

LM: Richard Atwood and John Hodgkinson['s] houses to be also searched, and to be bound over to appear before the Council.

Endorsed: A note concerning Sir Charles Danvers' interest by lease at the time of his attainder, for the Earl of Oxford, 1601