

---

SUMMARY: The document below is Oxford's bill of complaint filed in Chancery circa 1599 alleging that Roger Harlakenden had in his possession evidences belonging to Oxford. For Harlakenden's answer, and a fuller discussion of the particulars of the allegations, see ERO D/DPr/424.

The outcome of the suit is unknown. Roger Harlakenden died on 1 January 1603, and Oxford on 24 June 1604.

The transcript below was originally prepared from a transcript on the Earls Colne Project Database website which contains a number of transcription errors, and was corrected against an original-spelling transcript made by Christopher Paul.

Edwardus Comes Oxon querent, Rogerus Harlakinden, defendant

The complainant showeth that he was lawfully possessed of sundry letters patents, charters, evidences & ledger-books & other escripts & muniments concerning the office of Great Chamberlain of England & the fees, duties & profits thereunto belonging, & divers manors, lands etc. given to his ancestors with the said office or in respect thereof & now of right belonging to the said complainant;

And of other letters patents, charters, evidences & ledger-books, court rolls & rentals, escripts & muniments concerning Colne Priory & divers lands & tenements to the same belonging, and divers other lands etc. in the counties of Middlesex, Essex, Cambridge, Warwick & Hertford conveyed to the said complainant in fee-simple, fee-tail or for term of life, all which letters patents etc. in property & right do belong & appertain to the said Earl;

And that all the said letters patents, charters etc. came to the hands of Edward Hubberd, Hugh Beeston, Roger Harlakenden, Israel Amyce, Thomas Hampton, Nicholas Bleake, Simon Ive or some or one of them having access unto the said evidences, being his servants & carrying them to & fro about the affairs of the said Earl;

And that the same do remain in the hands of the said defendants or some of them or of some other pertaining to the said Earl by the defendants or some of their consent, delivery or procurement;

And that the defendants refuse to deliver the said evidences to the Earl, pretending title to some lands which the same concern, notwithstanding they have not any conveyance from the said Earl of the said evidences nor any of them.