
SUMMARY: The documents below consist of interrogatories and depositions from 19 and 20 January 1585 taken in connection with a lawsuit brought by Hugh Key against Richard Masterson for possession of the manor of Ashton in Cheshire. The depositions were taken on behalf of the defendant, Richard Masterson.

Oxford's mother, Margery Golding had been granted a life estate in the manor of Ashton and other properties in Cheshire by the 16th Earl's indenture of 2 June 1562 (TNA C54/626). Oxford inherited these Cheshire properties after her death in 1568 (see also TNA WARD 9/518, in which the Queen claimed the rentals from these properties from Margery Golding's death in 1568 until Oxford reached the age of majority in 1571). Oxford later sold the reversion of some of the Cheshire properties, including the manor of Ashton, to Sir Christopher Hatton. However during the 16th Earl's lifetime the 16th Earl had leased the manor of Ashton to Margaret Key and her son Hugh, the complainant in this lawsuit, for 80 years or their lifetimes, at an annual rent of 34s 4d, and this lease still had many years to run when Oxford sold the reversion to Hatton. After Oxford's sale of the reversion to Hatton, Richard Masterson attempted an entry into possession of the manor of Ashton in contravention of the 16th Earl's lease to Margaret and Hugh Key (by what pretended right Masterson did this is not specified in the interrogatories), resulting in the lawsuit by Hugh Key against Masterson.

None of the five witnesses was able to depose anything regarding this aspect of the lawsuit. Their entire testimony was concerned with the issue of whether the 16th Earl's marriage to Margery Golding had been lawful.

The object of this line of questioning on behalf of the defendant, Richard Masterson, is unclear. Had the 16th Earl's marriage to Margery Golding been found to be unlawful, the provisions in the 16th Earl's indenture of 2 June 1562 whereby he gave Margery Golding a life estate in the manor of Ashton with the reversion to Oxford would likely have been rendered invalid, but the validity of the 16th Earl's lease to Margaret and Hugh Key would not have been affected. It was therefore perhaps somewhat to Richard Masterson's advantage to raise the issue of the lawfulness of the 16th Earl's marriage to Margery Golding. On the other hand, had the marriage been found to be unlawful, it would have invalidated Oxford's right to the earldom of Oxford and therefore the Queen's right to Oxford's wardship, and her right to assign Oxford's lands during his minority to Leicester, and the Queen and Leicester would presumably have had to repay to those now found to be the legitimate heirs of the earldom all the profits the Queen and Leicester had taken under Oxford's wardship from 1562 to 1585. It was perhaps for this reason that the Queen appointed her two highest-ranking legal officers, her Attorney-General, John Popham, and her Solicitor-General, Thomas Egerton, to conduct the examinations of the five witnesses.

As the depositions make clear, there was no real issue involving the lawfulness of the 16th Earl's marriage to Margery Golding. The 16th Earl had married Margery Golding on 1 August 1548 after his first wife, Dorothy Neville, died on or about 6 January of that year. A witness testified that before the death of his first wife, the 16th Earl had gone through a

form of marriage ‘about Corpus Christi tide at White Colne Church in the lifetime of the said Lady Dorothy, the which the said Lady Dorothy took very grievously, and it was about half a year after the Lady Dorothy departed from the said Earl’. The reason for this bigamous marriage is unclear. A possible reason is that Joan Jockey had a son by the 16th Earl, and that the Earl, who at the time had no possible hope of a male heir since his wife, Dorothy Neville, had left him, had considered legitimizing this son, as Henry VIII had planned to do with his own illegitimate son, the Earl of Richmond. Whatever the 16th Earl’s reason, his ‘marriage’ to Joan Jockey (if it in fact took place) was clearly bigamous and thus had no legal effect on the 16th Earl’s subsequent legal marriage to Margery Golding. And although witnesses testified that the 16th Earl had planned to marry a woman named Dorothy Foster, he had not done so, and had made no legally binding pre-contract with her.

Once this specious issue of the lawfulness of the 16th Earl’s marriage to Margery Golding was clarified by the evidence of the five witnesses, the lawsuit brought by Hugh Key against Richard Masterson was doubtless resolved on some other legal point. There is a strong possibility that Oxford’s half-sister, Katherine Windsor, only child of the 16th Earl and his first wife, Dorothy Neville, was behind the raising of this specious claim (see also TNA SP12/29/8, ff. 11-12, which involves an attempt in 1563 by Katherine Windsor to challenge the legitimacy of Oxford and his sister Mary, presumably on the same grounds).

One of the witnesses, Rooke Greene (d. 9 April 1602), provided considerable evidence based on his own personal knowledge. He testified in his answers below that the 16th Earl and his first wife, Dorothy Neville (d. circa 6 January 1548), often visited the home of his father, Sir Edward Greene (d.1555), and that after Dorothy Neville’s death one Dorothy Foster was at Sir Edward Greene’s home in attendance on the 16th Earl’s daughter, Katherine de Vere, in 1548-9:

after which they were both sent for away by the appointment of the Duke of Somerset, after which the same Dorothy Foster returned to this examinant’s father’s house, and the Duke of Somerset, understanding that the said Earl had good liking unto the same Dorothy, gave order to this examinant’s father that the Earl should not be suffered to have access to the same Dorothy at his house, who took as much care thereunto as he might, and yet nevertheless the same Earl by his servants got her to be taken away to th’ intent that the said Earl might have married the same Dorothy, but in the meantime, before the said Earl met with the said Dorothy, the same Earl in his way toward the place where the same Dorothy was went to the house of the said Margery Golding’s brother, where seeing the same Margery he grew into such a present liking of her as he presently married her, whereupon the same Dorothy Foster returned to this examinant’s father’s house and found herself greatly grieved with the said Earl in that he had married the said Margery & not herself, the same Dorothy, and saith that the same Dorothy did never to this examinant’s knowledge affirm that she was either married or contracted to the same Earl but that he had deceived her in not marrying with her as he had promised whereupon she had had her banns once asked in the church, and saith hereupon the same Dorothy complained to the Council of the Earl’s abuse towards her, who thereupon was

awarded to pay her ten pound yearly during her life, and thereupon the same Dorothy after returned & within a year or thereabouts after married with one John Anson, then this examinant's father's clerk.

Rooke Greene was the son of Sir Edward Greene (d.1555) of Little Sampford, Essex, the grandson of Sir John Greene (d.1530) of Little Sampford, the great-grandson of William Greene (d.1488), and the great-great-grandson of John Greene of Widdington, Essex, and his wife, Agnes Duke. For John Greene (d. 1 May 1473), esquire, of Gosfield and Widdington, Essex, Speaker of the House of Commons, brother of Rooke Greene's great-grandfather, William Greene (d.1488), see the *ODNB* entry. See also the wills of Sir John Greene (d.1530), TNA PROB 11/24/9, and the will of Sir Edward Greene, TNA PROB 11/37/405.

It appears that Rooke Greene and his son, William Greene (d. 11 July 1621) were Catholic recusants. See his will, TNA PROB 11/138/403, and Pollen, J.H., 'Recusants and Priests March 1588', *Catholic Record Society Miscellanea XII*, (Leeds: J. Whitehead and Son Ltd., 1921), p. 122 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/miscellaneaxii22unknuoft#page/122/mode/2up>

*Mr Rooke Greene of Sampford
Mr Greene the younger and his wife*

John Greene (b. 14 September 1575), the son of William Greene (d. 11 July 1621), married Frances Russell, the daughter of Sir John Russell (1552-1593) of Strensham, brother of Thomas Russell (1570-1634), overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford. See the will of Sir John Russell, TNA PROB 11/92/96.

ELIZABETH DEI GRACIA . . .

Interrogatories to be ministered to witnesses on the part & behalf of Richard Masterson,
gentleman, defendant, against Hugh Key, complainant

1 Inprimis, whether do you know the said complainant or defendant or no?

2 Item, whether do you know one messuage with th' appurtenances in Ashton in the county of Chester, now in the tenure & occupation of the said complainant, & late parcel of the inheritance of the right honourable John, late Earl of Oxford, deceased, or no?

3 Item, whether do you know or have you heard that the said John, late Earl of Oxford, deceased, father to the right honourable Edward, now Earl of Oxford, did by his indenture sufficient in the law lease unto Margaret Key, mother to the said complainant, & to this complainant, the same messuage with th' appurtenances for fourscore years if the same Margaret & this complainant or either of them should so long live, reserving the

yearly rent of 34s & 4d payable at the terms there usual & other suits & services according to the custom of the manor of Ashton, and what feasts or terms in the year be most usual & accustomed in the said county of Chester for payment of rents reserved upon leases for years or lives?

4 Item, whether did the said Margaret & this complainant by force of the same lease enter into the said messuage & tenement with the appurtenances, & ever since have quietly occupied & possessed the same until now of late that the said Richard Masterson entered upon the said complainant, and have well & truly paid the said yearly rent reserved by the said lease at the said usual days of payment of the same to those in the reversion until after such time as the said now Earl sold the reversion of the premises and divers other lands & tenements to the right honourable Sir Christopher Hatton, knight, Captain of the Guard of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, Vice-Chamberlain to her Highness, and one of her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council?

5 Item, whether the said John, late Earl of Oxford, were first of all married to the Lady Dorothy Neville, sister to Henry, late Earl of Westmorland, deceased, and what day, year, and month was that marriage?

6 Item, whether the said John, late Earl of Oxford, & the said Lady Dorothy, Countess of Oxford, his wife, were ever divorced or not, and if any such divorce were, then when, where, & for what cause was the same divorce, and before what judge, and if any such divorce were, whether were they after reconciled again or lived together after, and when & where was such their reconciliation?

7 Item, what issue had the said late Earl of Oxford & the said Lady Dorothy, his first wife, between them, and whether was that issue born before the said divorce (if any such were) or after, and whether had they any other issue than the Lady Katherine Vere, now Lady Windsor, widow?

8 Item, what day, year & month and where did the said Lady Dorothy, Countess of Oxford, his first wife, die?

9. Item, whether did the said John, late Earl of Oxford, in the life of the said Lady Dorothy, his first wife, marry one Joan Jockey or not, and what day, month & year & where was the said marriage between the said Earl & the said Joan?

10 Item, whether did the said Joan Jockey (at the time of the pretended marriage with the said Earl of Oxford) know or understand that the said Lady Dorothy, the first wife of the said Earl of Oxford, was then living, and by what reasons or arguments do you know that the said Joan had knowledge thereof?

11 Item, whether did the said John, Earl of Oxford, likewise in the life of the said Lady Dorothy, his first wife, marry one other woman called by the name of Anne or by any other name, which woman he kept at Tilbury Hall in Essex or whom one Phillips after married, and what was the name of that woman, and what day, year & month & where

was this marriage so had & made, and whether did she then know that the said Lady Dorothy, the said Earl's first wife, was then living as you know or have heard, and how know you this to be so?

12 Item, whether did the said John, Earl of Oxford, ever marry any other woman either in the lifetime of his said first wife or after her decease other than the said Joan Jockey & the woman called Anne or by any other name that was kept at Tilbury or which was after wife to the said Phillips, and the Lady Margery, his last wife, and if any such other marriage or marriages were, what day, year & month and where were the same marriage or marriages so made, and whether did any of the said women so by him married then know that the said Earl's said first wife was then living as you know or have heard, and how you know this to be so?

13 Item, how long did the said John, late Earl of Oxford, keep the said Joan Jockey and the other woman called Anne or otherwise whom he kept at Tilbury or which was after wife of the said Phillips or any of the said other women as his wife or wives, and how long did they live so with him in the life of his said first wife, and how long after her death, and how long lived they from him, and when & where and at what several times died they?

14 Item, at what day, year, time and place did the said John, late Earl of Oxford, marry the said Lady Margery, and whose daughter was she, and by whom & in what manner was the said marriage?

15 Item, whether did the said John, late Earl of Oxford, marry the said Lady Margery during the life of the said Lady Dorothy, his first wife, or during the life of any other of his supposed wives or not?

16 Item, whether did the said John, late Earl of Oxford, make a contract of marriage with one Dorothy Foster, and when was that contract so made, and whether any marriage ensued between them thereupon, and when & where died the said Dorothy Foster, and whether the said late Earl made any other pre-contract of marriage with any other woman or women, and if so, when & where were the said pre-contract or pre-contracts made, and when & where died the said woman or women so pre-contracted?

17 Item, whether did the said Lady Dorothy, Countess of Oxford, first wife of the said late Earl, overlive the said Joan Jockey & the said woman called Anne or otherwise that was kept at Tilbury or which was after wife unto the said Phillips and all the other wives of the said late Earl, if any other were, except the said Lady Margery, and when & where died the said Lady Dorothy, his first wife?

18 Item, what suit, entry, claim or demand did Edward, Lord Windsor, lately deceased, who married the said Lady Katherine Vere, daughter of the said late Earl and the said Lady Katherine, his wife, now widow, or either of them at any time heretofore attempt against the said Edward, now Earl of Oxford, to bring in question the lawfulness or unlawfulness either of the marriage between the said late Earl and the said Lady Margery,

his wife, or of the birth of the said now Earl, and in what court or place or in what other manner was any such suit or suits, entry, claim or demand so attempted?

19 Item, who were of counsel with the said late Lord Windsor in the said suit, claim or demand, and whether Doctor Dale, Dr Jones, & Dr Aubrey were of his counsel, and what other doctors, proctors or other persons were of his counsel or towards him therein?

20 Item, what other matter or thing have you heard, known or can you say touching the premises or any part thereof or touching the lawfulness or unlawfulness of the birth of the said Edward, now Earl of Oxford?

Examinations taken the 19th day of January in the 27th year [=19 January 1585] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth by John Popham, esquire, her Majesty's Attorney-General, and Thomas Egerton, esquire, her Majesty's Solicitor-General, by virtue of her Highness' commission unto them in that behalf directed and hereunto annexed

Rooke Greene of Little Sampford in the county of Essex, esquire, aged about 62 years, being sworn & examined upon his oath, to all the interrogatories to him ministered saith.

To the first, second, third, & fourth that he can say nothing.

5 To the fifth interrogatory he saith that John, late Earl of Oxford, was first married to one Dorothy, daughter to one of the Earls of Westmorland, & the same marriage was about fifty years past [=1535], and this he remembereth for that this examinant's father dwelling near unto the same Earl's father's house, this examinant heard his father speak of that match, what a great match it was, and otherwise the certain time he remembereth not.

6 To the sixth he saith he never heard of any divorce between the said John, Earl of Oxford, & the said Dorothy, but knoweth well that they lived long after the same marriage in good liking together and came often together to this examinant's father's house, and more he saith not to that interrogatory.

7 To the seventh he saith that they never had any issue between them but the Lady Katherine, the now Lady Windsor.

8 To the eight he saith that the said Lady Dorothy, Countess of Oxford, died about the second year of King Edward the Sixth [=1548-9], but otherwise he cannot speak of the time in certain, nor where she died.

9 To the ninth he cannot depose but by report that he was married to the same Joan Jockey, but when it was he remembereth not.

10 To the tenth he cannot depose.

11 To the 11th he saith that about forty years past [=1545] he saw a woman near Tilbury Hall of whom it was then reported to this examinant that the said John, Earl of Oxford, kept her, but more or otherwise he cannot depose to the same interrogatory.

12 To the 12th he saith he doth not know or hath heard of any that the said Earl married but the said Dorothy, his first wife, & Margery, his last wife, other than that he heard as aforesaid that he had also married the said Joan Jockey, and more saith not to that interrogatory.

13 To the 13th he can say nothing otherwise than as he hath said already.

14 To the 14th he saith the marriage between the said Margery and John, late Earl of Oxford, was, as this examinant hath heard, at Pauls Belchamp about the third year of King Edward the Sixth [=1549-50], and sure he is it was after the death of the said Dorothy, his first wife, & in the summertime, which Margery was the sister of Sir Thomas Golding, but what her father's name was this examinant knoweth not, and more he cannot say to that interrogatory.

15 To the 15th he saith that the same Earl married the said Margery after the death of the said Dorothy, his first wife, and doth not know of any other wife that the same Earl had living at the time of the marriage between the said Earl and Margery.

16 To the 16th he saith that by the appointment of the said Earl the same Dorothy Foster was at this examinant's father's house attending on the said Katherine, now Lady Windsor, about the second year of King Edward [=1548-9], after which they were both sent for away by the appointment of the Duke of Somerset, after which the same Dorothy Foster returned to this examinant's father's house, and the Duke of Somerset, understanding that the said Earl had good liking unto the same Dorothy, gave order to this examinant's father that the Earl should not be suffered to have access to the same Dorothy at his house, who took as much care thereunto as he might, and yet nevertheless the same Earl by his servants got her to be taken away to th' intent that the said Earl might have married the same Dorothy, but in the meantime, before the said Earl met with the said Dorothy, the same Earl in his way toward the place where the same Dorothy was went to the house of the said Margery Golding's brother, where seeing the same Margery he grew into such a present liking of her as he presently married her, whereupon the same Dorothy Foster returned to this examinant's father's house and found herself greatly grieved with the said Earl in that he had married the said Margery & not herself, the same Dorothy, and saith that the same Dorothy did never to this examinant's knowledge affirm that she was either married or contracted to the same Earl but that he had deceived her in not marrying with her as he had promised whereupon she had had her banns once asked in the church, and saith hereupon the same Dorothy complained to the Council of the Earl's abuse towards her, who thereupon was awarded to pay her ten pound yearly during her life, and thereupon the same Dorothy after returned & within a year or thereabouts after married with one John Anson, then this examinant's father's clerk, and more saith not to that interrogatory.

17 To the 17th he cannot otherwise depose than he hath already deposed to the former interrogatory.

18, 19 To the 18th & 19th he saith that the late Lord Windsor, deceased, writ to this examinant to know whether this examinant could speak anything of any marriage or contract had between the said Earl and Dorothy Foster, who did answer that he knew of no such marriage or contract, but that the said Earl caused her to be taken away from this examinant's father's house and after married the said Margery Golding, after which the said Lord Windsor meeting this examinant said he would put the matter in suit, but otherwise he cannot say to any of these interrogatories.

20 To the 20th he can say no more than he hath said but that the now Earl is the lawful issue of the said late Earl of Oxford for anything that this examinant ever knew or heard of.

John Anson, clerk, parson of Weston Turville in the county of Buckingham, aged about threescore years & somewhat upward, sworn & examined, to all the interrogatories saith.

To the first, second, third, & fourth interrogatories that he cannot depose.

5 To the 5th he saith he hath heard that the same Earl of Oxford did marry the said Lady Dorothy, sister to the same Earl of Westmorland, and saith that he knew the same Lady Dorothy & had seen her.

6 To the 6th he saith he never knew or heard of any such divorce, but hath heard Dorothy Foster say & affirm, who was the said Lady Dorothy's maid in her house & her god-daughter, that there was never any divorce between the same Earl & Lady Dorothy.

7 To the 7th he saith the Lady Katherine, now Lady Windsor, was & is the only issue of the body of the same Earl & Lady Dorothy.

8 To the 8th he saith that, as he hath heard, the said Lady Dorothy died about Salisbury, and that she died in January in the first year of King Edward the Sixth near about Twelfthtide [=6 January 1548].

9, 10 To the 9th & 10th he saith that he heard the said Earl of Oxford married with the said Joan Jockey about two years before the said Lady Dorothy died, and this he knoweth by the report of the said Dorothy Foster, with whom this examinant after married, and by her report, to this examinant's remembrance, the same Joan Jockey knew that the said Lady Dorothy was living at the time she married the said Earl.

11 To the 11th he saith that one Phillips married one that the same Earl of Oxford had before kept, but whether the same Earl ever married the same woman or what her name was he knoweth not, and the acquaintance that the said Earl had with that woman also

was in the lifetime of the said Lady Dorothy, and the same woman, as this examinant hath heard & doth verily believe, knew that the said Lady Dorothy was living when the same Earl did accompany with her, and saith all these women were shaken off by the same Earl of Oxford by the advice & working of his council before the said Lady Dorothy died, as this examinant heard the said Dorothy Foster say.

12 To the 12th he saith he never heard or knew that the said Earl of Oxford married any other then the said Lady Dorothy & Margery, his last wife, save the same Joan Jockey in the lifetime of his said first wife.

13 To the 13th he saith he never heard or understood that the said Earl of Oxford kept any of the said women after the death of the said Lady Dorothy, but saith as before he hath heard that they were put from him in the said Lady Dorothy's lifetime, and to the rest thereof he cannot depose otherwise than as he hath before deposed.

14 To the 14th he saith that the said Earl of Oxford was married unto the said Margery Golding about St James tide next after the death of the said Lady Dorothy, as this examinant understood it commonly reported at that time, and the said Dorothy Foster told this examinant that the same Earl was married to the same Margery on a Tuesday in the morning at Belchamp Hall in the house late Sir Thomas Golding's, and that the same Earl had appointed with the same Dorothy Foster to have married with her, the same Dorothy, the next day, being the Wednesday following, at Haverhill, and saith he hath heard that the vicar of Clare, being chaplain & almoner to the same Earl of Oxford, did marry the same Earl & Margery as aforesaid.

15 To the 15th he saith the same Earl of Oxford married the said Margery after the death of the said Lady Dorothy & not in her lifetime, but whether any other his supposed wife was then living or not he cannot say, but he saith & verily believeth that he had no lawful married wife living at the time that he, the same Earl, married the said Margery Golding.

16 To the 16th he saith that, as this examinant hath heard, the same Dorothy Foster was contracted unto the said Earl of Oxford at Sir Edward Greene's at Sampford Hall, but saith that there followed no marriage upon that contract for that after the banns asked and a licence for the marriage obtained, the day before the marriage should have been accomplished the same Earl married with the said Margery Golding, and this [+this] examinant understood by the report of the same Dorothy herself, with which Dorothy this examinant after married, and for any other contract with any other woman made by the same Earl this examinant never heard of, and saith that the said Dorothy Foster died at Felsted in Essex about the fourth year of the late Queen Mary [=1556-7].

17 To the 17th he saith that he verily thinketh that the said Joan Jockey & the other woman that Phillips married overlived the said Lady Dorothy, and for the rest he saith no otherwise than as he hath before deposed.

18, 19 To the 18th & 19th interrogatories he saith he never knew of any such suit presented by the said Lord Windsor, but doth remember that there was a consultation had

with Doctor Dale, Doctor Jones, Doctor Aubrey, Mr Vaughan, & Proctor Biggs about the contract pretended to have been between the same Earl of Oxford and Dorothy Foster, who gave advice to sue a commission to prove that contract, affirming if it were proved that then the marriage of the Earl with the said Margery was *matrimonium clandestinum*, after which this examinant heard no more of the matter.

20 To the 20th he can say no more than he hath already before deposed in this matter.

Richard Ennows of Earl's Colne in the county of Essex, aged 92 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined saith.

To the first, second, third, & fourth he cannot depose.

5. To the 5th he saith that John, Earl of Oxford, married with the Lady Dorothy Neville, sister to the Earl of Westmorland, and that he knoweth for that this examinant was at the marriage and waited thereat, to which marriage King Henry the Eight came in the afternoon, and it was about seven years before that the same King went to Boulogne [=1537].

6. To the 6th he saith that the same Earl of Oxford was never divorced from the same Lady Dorothy by any law although they lived not together somewhat before her death through the unkind dealing of the same Earl, but the Duke of Norfolk caused this examinant to move the same Lady Dorothy to come to the Earl again, but she said she would never go home again amongst such a bad company as were about the Earl of Oxford at that time.

7. To the 7th he saith that the same Earl & Lady Dorothy had issue the said Lady Katherine, now Lady Windsor, & one other daughter that died in the swaddling-clouts & no more to this examinant's knowledge.

8. To the 8th he saith that the said Lady Dorothy died at a parsonage about half a mile from Salisbury in King Edward's time before the rebellion in Norfolk [=1549] & very shortly after the Christmas holidays, and was buried at Salisbury, at which burial Mr Clare & one Jasper Jones, the Earl's officers, by the same Earl's appointment were.

9. To the 9th he saith that the same Earl married with the said Joan Jockey about Corpus Christi tide at White Colne Church in the lifetime of the said Lady Dorothy, the which the said Lady Dorothy took very grievously, and it was about half a year after the Lady Dorothy departed from the said Earl.

10. To the 10th that Joan Jockey did know that the said Dorothy was living at the time of her marriage with the Earl, for she dwelled in Earl's Colne, and after that marriage the Lady Dorothy wrote to Mr Tyrrell, then the same Earl's comptroller, to know if it were true that the said Joan were married to the same Earl.

11. To the 11th he saith that the woman that the same Earl kept at Tilbury Hall was never married to the same Earl of Oxford, but that woman's name this examinant remembereth not.

To the 12th he saith the same Earl of Oxford never married any other woman than the said Lady Dorothy & Margery save the said Joan Jockey, whom he married in the lifetime of the said Lady Dorothy as is aforesaid.

13 To the 13th he saith that both the said Joan Jockey and also the woman that the same Earl of Oxford kept at Tilbury Hall were put from the said Earl in the lifetime of the said Lady Dorothy, and for the said Joan Jockey, in the absence of the Earl the Lord Darcy and Lord Sheffield came to Earl's Colne, and this examinant & two more with him brake open the door where the same Joan was and spoiled her, and this examinant's fellow, John Smith, cut her nose, and thereupon after she was put away.

14, 15 To the 14th & 15th he saith the same Earl did marry the said Margery Golding after the death of the said Lady Dorothy at Pauls Belchamp, Mr Golding's house, as this examinant heard, and it was in the summertime about St. James tide, and this examinant was one of them that with the rest of the Earl's men did fet the same Margery after the marriage to Hedingham Castle, and that the same Earl had no other wife living at the time of the marriage between him & the said Margery Golding.

16 To the 16th he saith Dorothy Foster he knew very well, and that she was the said Lady Dorothy's god-daughter & waited on the same Lady Dorothy, and knoweth not of any contract between the said Earl & the same Dorothy Foster, but saith there was a time appointed that the same Earl should have married the same Dorothy, before which time by the means of the vicar of Clare he was drawn to Mr Golding's where he married the said Margery Golding, and never heard that he was pre-contracted with any other woman.

17 To the 17th he saith Joan Jockey overlived the said Lady Dorothy, and for the rest of that interrogatory he can say no more than he hath said before.

18, 19 To the 18th & 19th he cannot depose.

20 To the 20th he can say no more than he hath deposed already.

John Popham Thomas Egerton

Examinations taken the 20th day of January [=20 January 1585] by John Popham, esquire, her Majesty's Attorney-General, and Thomas Egerton, esquire, her Majesty's Solicitor-General, by virtue of her Majesty's said commission unto them in that behalf directed

Thomas Knollys of Cottingham in the county of Northampton, gentleman, aged 58 years & upward, sworn & examined saith.

To the first, second, third, & fourth interrogatories he cannot depose.

5, 6 To the 5th & 6th interrogatories he saith he knew the Lady Dorothy, wife of John, late Earl of Oxford, five years before she died, and that until about two years before her death she lived with the same Earl as his wife, and she was sister to the late Earl of Westmorland, but never heard or knew of any divorce that was between the same Earl of Oxford & Lady Dorothy, and saith that she separated herself from him upon some unkindness, as he hath heard, and this examinant served in house with the same Earl one Mr Colt.

7 To the 7th he never knew any issue that the said Earl of Oxford had by the same Lady Dorothy but the Lady Katherine, now Lady Windsor.

8 To the 8th he saith that the same Lady Dorothy died near about this time 37 years [=1548] at a parsonage besides Sarum.

9, 10 To the 9th and 10th he heard the same Earl of Oxford say he had married the said Joan Jockey and that it was in the life of the said Lady Dorothy, and thinketh the same Joan knew that the said Lady Dorothy was living at the time that the same Joan married the same Earl for that her father dwelt in the said town of Earl's Colne where the Earl dwelt.

11 To the 11th he saith he knew one other woman which the same Earl of Oxford kept at Tilbury Hall who was called Anne, sometime servant to one Mr Cracherode, and that she was never married to the said Earl.

12 To the 12th he saith he never heard or understood that the same Earl was ever married to any other woman but to the said Lady Dorothy, his first wife, and the Lady Margery, his last wife, save the said Joan Jockey whom he married in the lifetime of the same Lady Dorothy.

13 To the 13th he saith the said Joan Jockey was rid away from the same Earl in the lifetime of the same Lady Dorothy, and so he taketh that the said Anne was also, and that it was by the means of the Lord Darcy & others, but they overlived the said Lady Dorothy, but what is become of them this examinant knoweth not, neither whether they be dead or not.

14, 15 To the 14th & 15th he saith that the Lady Margery was married unto the said Earl of Oxford after the death of the said Lady Dorothy in August about 36 years past [=1548] and saith that marriage was wrought by the vicar of Clare who had £10 yearly of the same Earl for his labour, and this marriage was, as he taketh it, at Mr Golding's her brother's house, and saith the said Earl of Oxford had no lawful wife living at the time of his marriage with the same Margery that was known or understood in the same Earl's house.

16 To the 16th he saith he heard there was a contract between the said Dorothy Foster & the said Earl, but he married her not, for the day before the same Earl should have married with the same Dorothy he married with the said Margery, whereupon afterwards the same Dorothy Foster in the life of the same Earl of Oxford married with John Anson, now parson of Weston Turville in the county of Buckingham, but never understood that the same Earl was after the death of the said Lady Dorothy contracted to any other than to the said Dorothy Foster as aforesaid.

17 To the 17th he saith that the said Joan Jockey & Anne overlived the said Lady Dorothy, which Lady Dorothy died besides Salisbury, as he hath said before.

18, 19 To the 18th & 19th he cannot depose.

20 To the 20th he can say no more than he hath before already deposed.

William Walforth [=Walford?] of Finchingfield in the county of Essex, yeoman, aged sixty years & upward, sworn and examined.

To the first, second, third, and fourth interrogatories he cannot depose.

5, 6, 7 To the 5th, 6th and 7th he saith he knew that the same Earl of Oxford was married to the said Lady Dorothy for that this examinant served the same Earl 20 years in his lifetime, & never knew or heard of any divorce between the same Earl and Lady Dorothy, and that they had issue between them the Lady Katherine, now Lady Windsor.

8 To the 8th he saith the said Lady Dorothy died about 37 years now past at this Twelfthtide [=6 January 1548] about Sarum, as he hath heard, and more saith not to that interrogatory.

9, 10 To the 9th & 10th he saith the same Earl of Oxford married with the same Joan Jockey in the life of the said Lady Dorothy, and thinketh the same Joan must needs know that the same Lady Dorothy was living when she married the Earl for that she dwelled in the same town of Earl's Colne where the said Earl dwelt.

11 To the 11th he knew the woman called Anne which the Earl kept at Tilbury Hall, which Anne had before served Master Cracherode, but saith that the Earl was never married to that woman.

12 To the 12th he saith in everything as Thomas Knollys, the former examinant, hath said to the same interrogatory.

13 To the 13th he saith that both the said Joan Jockey and Anne were rid from the Earl in the lifetime of the said Lady Dorothy, and that the same Joan Jockey was disfigured by one John Smith, the Earl's servant.

14, 15 To the 14th & 15th he saith that in or near about August next after the death of the said Lady Dorothy the said Earl of Oxford married with the said Lady Margery, sister to Mr Golding, and that this marriage was at Pauls Belchamp, and this he knoweth & remembereth for that this examinant killed a buck at Hedingham great park, where this examinant was then keeper, for the same marriage, and saith this marriage was brought to pass by the vicar of Clare, and that the same Earl had no other lawful wife living at the time of his marriage with the same Margery.

16 To the 16th he saith he heard it reported that the same Earl of Oxford was contracted to the said Dorothy Foster and a time appointed for her marriage, but he saith that before the day in which that marriage should have been the said Earl married the said Margery Golding as is aforesaid by him, and that thereupon afterwards the said Dorothy married with John Anson, now parson of Weston Turville, in the life of the same Earl.

17 To the seventeenth he saith he thinketh the same Joan Jockey is yet living, and for the said Anne, she overlived the same Lady Dorothy, but what is become of her he knoweth not, and more saith not but as he hath before said for those matters.

18, 19, 20 To the 18th, 19th & 20th he can say no more than he hath before deposed.