

SUMMARY: The document below is an extract from the Acts of the Privy Council consisting of a recognizance in which Sir Thomas Golding (d.1571) was bound in £100 to 'do what lieth in him for the recovery of one Rooke of Braintree, lately escaped'. A marginal note states that the recognizance was cancelled because Golding had become otherwise obligated. The recognizance appears to have been entered into on 15 February 1555 [=1556], since in the rough copy of the Acts of the Privy Council it precedes a letter written on that date to Lord Dacre. An editorial note indicates that in the rough copy both the recognizance and the marginal note are crossed out. Sir Thomas Golding (d.1571) was a brother-in-law of the 16th Earl of Oxford. He appears to have been in the service of the Protector Somerset in 1549, and according to Thomas Wright's *The History and Topography of the Count of Essex* (London: George Virtue, 1836), vol I, p. 575, Golding subsequently held other offices:

[Sir Thomas Golding] was one of the commissioners for taking account of the chantry lands in Essex, and did not fail to improve the opportunity this commission offered of securing a considerable fortune. In 1561, he was sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire, and of Essex alone in 1569.

It is not known in what capacity Golding was acting in being charged with reapprehending Thomas Rooke, innkeeper of Braintree, who had escaped from custody on or about 30 January 1556 (see Dasent, p. 232). The excerpt below is taken from Dasent, John Roche, ed., *Acts of the Privy Council of England*, New Series, 32 vols., (1890-1964) at vol. V, p. 370. For other actions taken by the Privy Council in connection with the highwayman, Thomas Rooke, innkeeper of Braintree, see Dasent, pp. 223, 261 and 264.

The 16th Earl of Oxford had a yeoman servant named Thomas Robinson to whom he left annuities in both his will of 21 December 1552 and his will of 28 July 1562 (see BL MS Stowe Charter 633-4 and TNA PROB 11/46, ff. 174v-176). Since the highwayman Thomas Rooke, innkeeper of Braintree, used the alias 'Robinson' when he was in Norfolk in hiding from the authorities, certain commentators have stated that Thomas Rooke, innkeeper of Braintree, and Thomas Robinson, yeoman servant of the 16th Earl from 1552-1562, were one and the same person, a conclusion which is as bizarre as it is baseless.

LM: Vacat quia alias obligatur [=Voided because he is otherwise obligated]

Thomas Golding, miles, recognovit se debere dominis Regi et Regine centum libras, etc. [=Thomas Golding, knight, acknowledges himself to owe to the Lords King and Queen one hundred pounds etc.]

The condition of this recognizance is such that if the above-bounden Sir Thomas Golding, knight, do what lieth in him for the recovery of one Rooke of Braintree, lately

escaped, and either cause him to be presented corporally before the Justices of Assize at the next sessions to be holden within the county of Essex, or else appear himself personally within 8 days after before the Lords of the Council to receive such further order as then shall be thought meet by their wisdoms, that then, etc., or else, etc.
(Signed) By me, Thomas Golding