

SUMMARY: The document below describes the triple wedding ceremony at Holywell on 2 July 1536 in which Oxford's father, John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, married Dorothy Neville (d. 6 January 1548?), eldest daughter of Ralph Neville (1498-1549), 4th Earl of Westmorland; Henry Neville (1524/5-1564), later 5th Earl of Westmorland, married Anne Manners (d. in or after 1549), second daughter of Thomas Manners (c.1497-1543), 1st Earl of Rutland; and Henry Manners (1526-1563), later 2nd Earl of Rutland, married Margaret Neville (c.1525 – 13 October 1559), another of the daughters of Ralph Neville, 4th Earl of Westmorland.

After the death of Dorothy Neville, the 16th Earl of Oxford married Margery Golding (d.1568), by whom he was the father of Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, and Mary de Vere, who married Peregrine Bertie, Lord Willoughby d'Eresby.

After the death of Margaret Neville, the 2nd Earl of Rutland married Bridget Hussey (1525/6-1601), widow of Sir Richard Morison (c.1510-1556) and daughter of John Hussey (1465/6-1537), Lord Hussey, by Anne Grey (d.1545/6). After the 2nd Earl of Rutland's death, his widow, Bridget, married, about June 1566, Francis Russell (1527-1585), 2nd Earl of Bedford. Bridget Hussey Morison Manners Russell (1525/6-1601), Countess of Bedford, was a close friend of Oxford's father-in-law, Lord Burghley, and after Lord Burghley's death Oxford's two youngest daughters, Bridget Vere and Susan Vere, were placed in her care. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/97/10.

For the marriage of Dorothy Neville's younger sister, Mary Neville (c.1531 - 14 March 1591), to Sir Thomas Danby (c.1530 – 13 September 1590), see the will of Sir William Sneyd, TNA PROB 11/54/430 on this website.

[f. 199v]

The marriage of the Earl of Oxenford, Westmorland and Rutland's children, solemnized, celebrate and made the 2 day of July in the year of Our Lord God 1536 and in the 28 year of the reign of our dread Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th, King of England & of France, Defensor of the Faith of Christ, Lord of Ireland, and in earth the Supreme Head under Christ immediately of the Church Catholic of England

On Monday the 2 day of July were solemnised & made the day & year above rehearsed the marriages of these 3 noble Earls' children, their sons & their heirs, under one solemnization at Holywell at the Earl of Rutland's place, with as great rialty & honour as ever chanced unto any Earl's children the day of their spousage or wedding.

And thus were these weddings ordered:

First, Lord John, Viscounty Bulbeck, son & heir to Sir John Vere, Earl of Oxinford, married the Lady Dorothy Neville, eldest daughter of Sir Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmorland;

And Lord Henry Neville, son & heir to Sir Ralph Neville, Earl aforesaid, married the Lady Anne, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Manners, Earl of Rutland;

And Lord Henry Rose [=Ros], son & heir to the said Earl of Rutland, married the Lady Margaret, daughter of the foresaid Earl of Westmorland, in the church at Holywell, all 3 at one Mass, as hereafter shall be declared.

The preparation towards the church and the order of setting forth & the description of the spousal apparel

First, in the morning at the 10th hour of the day were made ready all the spousals aforesaid to go to the church for the receiving of the holy sacrament of matrimony, the bridegrooms & their spouses ornately garnished of & after one manner, in no kind of apparel disagreeing, the kind whereof was this:

The 3 young Lords were indued with doublets & coats of radiant gold, and gowns of pure white damask with broad guards of white velvet laced with silver;

The 3 ladies in kirtles of yellow damask and gowns of white damask, & upon their heads circlets of gold set with pearls & stones rich & of great value [f. 200r] and precious, besides their chains of fine gold & pearled carcanets artificially wrought wherewith their necks were environed & garnished to the goodly, decent & seemly setting forth of their natural beauty, [+to?] the delight of the beholders & the great magnificence, praise & honour of their progenitors' and parents' nobility;

The church also was hanged with cloth of arras, rich & sumptuous, the pavements strewed & covered with goodly carpets & stools also, and upon the form where they should kneel a carpet of great riches, & thereupon 4 cushions of clean gold, most ornately wrought, and other 4, no less precious, were laid for them to kneel upon;

Unto the which church these goodly ladies were brought with the young gentlemen bachelors of their lineage with a great number of knights, esquires & gentlemen, a 100 or mo, which did precede them, and after them followed the barons, earls & dukes as hereafter followeth:

First

Sir Thomas Audley, Lord Chancellor of England
Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk & Lord & Treasurer & Marshall of England
Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk
Marquess Dorset Gray
Marquess Exeter Henry
Earl of Oxinford, John
Earl of Westmorland, Ralph

th' Earl of Surrey, son of the Duke of Norfolk
th' Earl of Essex Bouchier
th' Earl of Derby Stanley
th' Earl of Cumberland Clifford
th' Earl of Rutland Manners
th' Earl of Sussex Radcliffe
th' Earl of Huntingdon Hastings