

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated Wednesday 7 [sic?] August 1604 from Sir Richard Warburton to Sir Robert Cecil in which mention is made of Oxford's illegitimate son, Captain Edward Vere. Oxford's mistress, Anne Vavasour (fl. 1580-1621), gave birth to Edward Vere at court on the night of Tuesday, 21 March 1581, and was committed to the Tower the next day, 22 March. See Huntingdon Library HA 13066.

For Sir Richard Warburton (d.1610), see the History of Parliament at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/warburton-richard-1610>.

The History of Parliament entry confuses Sir Richard Warburton's wife, Anne Vavasour, with Oxford's mistress, Anne Vavasour. The distinction between the two Anne Vavasours is clarified by Steven May in the *ODNB* entry for Oxford's mistress:

[Oxford's mistress] is often confused with her niece, also Anne Vavasour, who served as a gentlewoman of the privy chamber, c.1601–3. In 1603 she married Sir Richard Warburton of London (d. 1610), the third son of Peter Warburton of Hefferston Grange, Weaversham, Cheshire, with Alice, daughter of John Cooper. Their son Cecil was Warburton's heir. This Anne was related to Anne Clifford and in the service of Lucy, countess of Bedford, before coming to court. She attended Elizabeth's funeral and received a pension of £66 13s. 4d. early in James's reign.

The events described by Warburton are summarized in Jacques, Tony, *Dictionary of Battles and Sieges*, (Issues Outcomes Proprietary Ltd., 2007), p. 952:

Prince Maurice of Orange was attempting to relieve the long Spanish siege of Ostend, when he took an army into Flanders against Sluys (modern Sluis). After driving off Don Loius de Velasco (May 1604), he besieged the garrison under Aurelio Spinola, nephew of the Spanish Netherlands commander [=Ambrogio Spinola]. Sluys was finally starved into surrender, though too late to save Ostend (19 May – 19 August 1604).

For Ambrogio Spinola (1569-1630), Genoese commander in the Spanish Netherlands, to whose forces Ostend fell on 22 September 1604, see:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/560183/Ambrogio-di-Filippo-Spinola-marquis-de-los-Balbases>.

For Jan van Olden Barneveldt (1547-1619), also mentioned in the letter below, see Crowe, Eyre Evans, *The Cabinet Encyclopedia*, Vol. I, (London: Longman, Rees, 1833), pp. 153-210:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=zo0MAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA153&lpg=PA153&dq=%22olden+barneveldt%22&source=bl&ots=A49_mGvwZi&sig=z8BxfhZxrZn-

19SJPO7Zq5LIH5o&hl=en&sa=X&ei=f7-MU_moF8KhogSjoYKICQ&ved=0CCYQ6AEwATgU#v=onepage&q=%22olden%20barneveldt%22&f=false.

My very good Lord,

Although I am well assured your Lordship hath been advertised of his Excellency's [=Prince Maurice of Orange] proceedings before Sluis, as also of such occurrences which have happened since Spinola's sitting down near the drowned lands upon his Excellency's quarters, yet(?) it shall no ways impeach my humble desire to inform your Lordship upon what terms both sides now stand.

Spinola having given too much time to his Excellency to protect his entrenchments, especially in the drowned lands next the Spanish army, and finding himself not able without an assured blow to give either upon that or any other quarter, this last day, being Tuesday, rose and marched with all his troops by Arembergh [=Aardenburg?] over against the islands of Cassant [=Cadzand?] to Isendyke [=Zeedijk?], a fort taken in the main of Flanders over against Cassant, where he is now encamped, whither his Excellency hath sent eight companies under the command of Monsieur Rowlett, so that with his new fortification almost ended, and with the said eight companies, Isendyke is held for well assured.

The same day the Spaniard offered to put over some companies upon the ebb into Cassant, but was repulsed by certain English sent with Sir Charles Morgan and Captain Edward Vere, with some loss to the Spaniard. The Spaniard hath only taken a poor redoubt guarded with some 30 men, which were either slain or put to the sword.

Now, Sir, touching Sluis, I gather by the opinion of our best captains, and by confession of such swimmers as are taken with letters to the Archduke this day, that the town cannot long hold out. It is now like a lamp which yieldeth it[s] last blaze and ready to extinguish for want of oil, else impossible to be taken either by bridges or galleries or assaults or any way but by the bridges of famine, so that circumstances considered, I am persuaded the town is near a rendition. That part of Flanders near Isendyke is already in contribution with the States, and this day proclamation there made that none of the States' army should either loot or make spoil of one doit upon pain of death.

In two points the Archduke hath been ill advised: first to suffer Spinola to give over Ostend, now livered(?) for three months at least, which or [=ere] this had been brought to extremity or taken had not his departure given intermission and means to make good their works; secondly that Spinola, being resolved to leave Ostend, had not at first charged his Excellency before his entrenchment, and so might with less difficulty have given him a blow, wherein he hath in the judgment of our best colonels not proceeded with soundness of judgment.

Other news I have not to advertise your Lordship more than that this last night Monsieur Barneveldt is come to the leaguer expecting, as it is said, the speedy possession of the town.

Sir, it now remaineth that upon the knees of my heart I beg at your Lordship's hands to be godfather to my child if it be a son, and that your Lordship will be pleased to name him Cecil, which suit if it may stand with your pleasure to grant, I know not as I shall be saved in this world how to give my heart a higher comfort and contentment. Besides it will give good assurance in these parts where I must now live that I am not a castaway, but am as heretofore in your Lordship's favour, to which in all humbleness I recommend my life and service, and shall think the same happily dedicated if the hazard thereof may have any operation tending to your Lordship's good.

From the leaguer before Sluis this Wednesday the 7th of August.

Most humbly at your Lordship's service,

Richard Warburton

Endorsed: 7 August 1604, Sir Richard Warburton to my Lord from the camp before Sluis