

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 24 April 1595 from Oxford to Sir Robert Cecil concerning the allowance of £1000 a year promised by William Stanley (1561 – 29 September 1642), 6th Earl of Derby, to Oxford's daughter, Elizabeth de Vere (1575-1627), whom he had married on 26 January 1595.

Oxford states in the letter that 'my Lady Russell . . . was herself the first that moved this allowance'. Elizabeth (nee Cooke) Russell (1528–1609) was the sister of Mildred (nee Cooke) Cecil (1526–1589), Lady Burghley, and was thus the aunt of both Sir Robert Cecil and his sister, Anne Cecil (5 December 1556 - 5 June 1588), Oxford's first wife and the mother of Elizabeth de Vere. Elizabeth Cooke's first husband, whom she married on 27 June 1558, was Sir Thomas Hoby (1530 – 13 July 1566), translator into English of Castiglione's *Il Cortegiano*. On 23 December 1574 she married John Russell (d. 24 July 1584), heir to Francis Russell, 2nd Earl of Bedford. Lord Burghley recorded his death in a memorandum of family events, CP 140/13:

1584, July—John, Lord Russell, died at Highgate.

Lord Russell was buried in Westminster Abbey. Letters of administration were granted to his widow, as of St Anne in the Blackfriars, on 9 October 1584, and after her death to his daughter, Anne, Lady Herbert, on 22 October 1618. See Cokayne, G.E., *The Complete Peerage*, (London: St Catherine Press, 1912), Vol. II, p. 77. See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 467 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA2-PA467>

See also the History of Parliament entry for Lord Russell:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/russell-john-i-1584>

For Lady Elizabeth Russell, see also Laoutaris, Chris, *Shakespeare and the Countess*, (London: Fig Tree, 2014).

For other letters concerning Elizabeth de Vere's allowance and jointure see CP 44/63, CP 44/101 and CP 54/110.

Sir Robert Cecil, whereas I have dealt with the Earl of Derby about my daughter's allowance, and that he hath promised me to assure her to that intent a thousand pound a year, forsomuch as I now understand upon some discontentment that he hath not attained to that honour which it seemeth he did at this time expect, he determines tomorrow to depart into Lancashire, and that he hath neither in his house or for herself set down any stay whereby either in her own lodging or if she shall follow her attendance upon her Majesty she is provided as his wife.

I do therefore most heartily desire you as her uncle and good friend to deal earnestly with my Lord Treasurer, unto whom I have also written, that he would send unto him or else speak with him to the end that either he should fulfil his promise, or until such time as he shall, to take that order which is fit for her place wherein she serves her Majesty, and for his wife.

I do understand by my daughter how good an uncle she finds you, and how ready to friend her, wherein I also take myself beholding unto you. Of what fancies his humours are compounded you know well enough, and therefore I pray you to be earnest with my Lord that he may deal effectually upon so good a ground as his word and honour which he hath given.

Also I understand that my Lady Russell, for some offence conceived of my daughter, hath lately written to my Lord Treasurer to discourage and dissuade him to urge the Earl of Derby, but for that she was herself the first that moved this allowance, and hath sithence altered her mind upon some conceit, I hope my Lord will not be carried away upon such unconstant balance. Yet if you find any such hindrance, I pray you nevertheless stick to your niece and further her in what you can, sith her desire is just in that it is his promise, & reasonable in that she is his wife.

Thus what you shall do for her, esteeming it mine own bond, I refer her whole cause to your kindness.

Your assured friend,

Edward Oxeford

Endorsed: To the right honourable & his very good friend, Sir Robert Cecil, one of her Majesty's Privy Council, give these

Endorsed: 24 April 1595, Earl of Oxford to my Master