

SUMMARY: The document below is a notice of a failed attempt to serve a writ of outlawry on Sunday, 10 June 1599, at Totteridge, Hertfordshire, on Robert Mabbe, owner of the Tabard Inn in Southwark, and uncle of James Mabbe (1571/2-1642?), who wrote commendatory verses for the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays in 1623.

Robert Mabbe was the fourth son of John Mabbe (c.1515-1582), goldsmith, Chamberlain of London, and owner of the Tabard Inn in Southwark (i.e. the Tabard Inn of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*), and his wife, Isabelle (nee Colley) Mabbe. For the wills of John Mabbe (c.1515-1582), see TNA PROB 11/65/10 and TNA PROB 11/71/109. For the will of Isabelle (nee Colley) Mabbe, see TNA PROB 11/92/424.

Robert Mabbe's eldest brother, John Mabbe the younger, purchased Oxford's manors of Gibcrack and Little Yeldham (see TNA C 66/1206, m. 30, and TNA CP 2/25/132/1694/26ELIZITRIN, Item 26) and was the father of James Mabbe, who wrote commendatory verses for the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays in 1623.

For Robert's Mabbe's financial difficulties concerning the Tabard, see TNA C 2/Eliz/M8/53 and Rendle, William and Philip Norman, *The Inns of Old Southwark and their Associations* (London: Longmans, 1888), pp. 185-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924032404950#page/n219/mode/2up>.

For an article on the association of members of the King's Men with The Tabard, see Carlin, Martha, 'The Bard at the Tabard', *Times Literary Supplement*, 24 September 2014:

<http://www.the-tls.co.uk/tls/public/article1462934.ece>.

For John Cage of Totteridge see the will of his father, Anthony Cage (d. 24 June 1583), citizen and salter of London, TNA PROB 11/66/91, who purchased Oxford's manor of Hormead, and the pedigree of Cage in Maclean, John and W.C. Heane, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Gloucester Taken in the Year 1623*, (London: Harleian Society, 1885), Vol. XXI, pp. 33-4 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun00inchit#page/34/mode/2up>.

Upon Sunday, being the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1599, Richard Paulfreyman and George Harryson, authorized for special bailies by a writ of *capias ad ligat{um}* for the Queen from the High Sheriff of the county of Hertford, and being accompanied with William Brystowe, did repair unto a town near unto Barnet called Totteridge in the said county of Hertford to serve upon one Robert Mabbe of the same town of Totteridge, gentleman, her Majesty's writ of outlawry and knowing that the said Robert Mabbe was in the parish church there at service before noon, did attend the end of the service-time to have taken him coming

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from the church for that they would not in the church at time of divine service procure any offence to the minister and parishioners there;

But Mabbe, doubting his estate, as it should seem, understanding of strange men to be in the town and abouts the church, acquainted his neighbours of his fear, and in coming out of the church after service-time was guarded with the company of one Richard Cage, son unto one John (blank?) Cage of the same town, gentleman, and one other, as I think his man, of each side of Mabbe one, and behind near unto him four others, and after them 20 others at the least.

When one of the parties approached to have arrested him and was ready to have laid his hands upon Mabbe, young Cage and his man drew their daggers upon him, and they and so many of the rest as could come unto him laid hands on him, drew their daggers, and offered to stab him, and tare [=tore] his cloak and the band from his neck, and cried out to Mabbe, *Now run, run, and make shift for thyself.*

This violence was begun in the churchyard. With that, Richard Paulfreyman, seeing one of his company to be distressed, made so much haste as he could to him, and drew his rapier to have succoured him, but the said elder Cage himself, the constable of the town and the rest of the townsmen in [-in] like manner as to the other came behind him, and by violence wrested from him his rapier and threatened to stab him and to beat him down, notwithstanding they certified them all that it was at her Majesty's suit, and requested aid, which they contradicted and rescued the said Mabbe, and plotted the same rescue in manner and force as is above declared.

Endorsed: Concerning the outrage done by the townsmen of Totteridge in Hertfordshire, 10 June 1599.