

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 30 January 1604 from Oxford to King James, complaining of Sir John Grey's abuses 'in destroying of the deer' and 'spoiling' of the King's 'demesne wood' in Havering Park and Waltham Forest.

The letter was first noticed in the Essex Record Office in April 2000 by Oxfordian researcher Sue Campbell. See Paul, Christopher, 'A Monument Without A Tomb', *The Oxfordian*, Vol. VII, 2004, p. 17.

For the writ of privy seal dated 18 July 1603 by which King James had restored to Oxford his rights to the keepership and stewardship of Waltham Forest see TNA C 66/1612, mm. 29-30.

For Sir John Grey, see the will, dated 17 July 1615, of his grandmother, Mary (nee Browne) Grey Capell, sister of Anthony Browne, 1st Viscount Montague, TNA PROB 11/130/133.

Seeing that it hath pleased your Majesty of your most gracious inclination to justice & right to restore me to be keeper of your game as well in your forest of Waltham as also in Havering Park, I can do no less in duty and love to your Majesty but employ myself in the execution thereof.

And to the end you might the better know in what sort both the forest & the park have been abused, and yet continued, as well in destroying of the deer as in spoiling of your demesne wood by such as have patents & had licences heretofore for felling of timber in the Queen's time lately deceased, presuming thereby that they may do what they list, I was bold to send unto your Majesty a man skilful, learned & experienced in forest causes who being a dweller and eye-witness thereof might inform you of the truth. And because your Majesty upon a bare information could not be so well satisfied of every particular as by lawful testimony & examination of credible witness upon oath, according to your Majesty's appointment by commission a course hath been taken in which your Majesty shall be fully satisfied of truth. This commission, together with the depositions of the witness, I do send to your Majesty by this bearer, who briefly can inform you of the whole contence.

So that now, having lawfully proved unto your Majesty that Sir John Grey hath killed and destroyed your deer in Havering Park without any warrant for the same, his patent is void in law, & therefore I most humbly beseech your Majesty to make him an example for all others that shall in like sort abuse their places, & to restore me to the possession thereof, in both which your Majesty shall do but justice and right to the one & other.

This 30 of January 1603.

Your Majesty's most humble subject and servant, E. Oxenforde

Addressed: For his most excellent Majesty