

SUMMARY: The document below is a memorandum drawn up for the Lord Treasurer, Thomas Sackville (c.1536-1608), 1st Baron Buckhurst, which is endorsed ‘the opinion of Mr Serjeants Harris, Mr Hele, Mr Tanfield and Mr Digges what proceedings are best for Danvers’ escheat for entitling the Queen’s Majesty’, with a note in Lord Buckhurst’s hand dated 30 June 1601 indicating that ‘the Queen’s learned counsel are to consider & set down what course is best for her Majesty’.

From the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online:

Sir Charles Danvers (c.1568–1601), soldier and conspirator, was the eldest son of Sir John Danvers (1540–1594) of Dauntsey, Wiltshire, and thus heir to extensive estates in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and Yorkshire. Through his mother, Elizabeth (1545×50–1630), youngest daughter and coheir of John Neville, fourth Baron Latimer (d. 1577), he was connected to the Cecil, Percy, and Cornwallis families. According to family tradition, Lady Danvers exhibited ‘prodigious parts for a woman’, having ‘Chaucer at her fingers’ ends’ and being fluent in Italian (Brief Lives, 1.193).

For Sir Charles Danvers, see also:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/danvers-charles-1568-1601>.

Oxford was related to Sir Charles Danvers’ mother, Elizabeth (nee Neville) Danvers (1545x50-1630). For the relationship, see TNA C 54/1000, Part 19. For Oxford’s attempt to recover for the Queen lands which had escheated to her on the attainder of Sir Charles Danvers, see ERO D/DRg2/26 and CP 146/19, ff. 146/19. Presumably Oxford was familiar with the lands which had descended to Sir Charles Danvers through Elizabeth Neville because of their common descent from John de Vere (1408-1462), 12th Earl of Oxford.

For Thomas Harris, serjeant-at-law, see:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/harris-thomas-i-1547-1610>.

For the serjeants-at-law Sir John Hele (1541/2-1608), and Sir Lawrence Tranfield (c.1551-1625), see the entries in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online.

For the lawyer Richard Digges (d.1634), see:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/digges-richard-1634>.

For a letter dated 7 August 1601 from Lord Buckhurst and Sir John Fortescue (1533-1607), Chancellor of the Exchequer, to the Queen's Attorney-General, Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634), on the same topic, see TNA SP 12/281/45, f. 90.

The resolution for my Lord of Oxford's proceedings

First, it was resolved that the parties now brought up should be examined upon interrogatories, and their examinations seen and viewed, and if by them sufficient light be gotten for the land or for the evidences, then some order to be moved to be taken by my Lord Treasurer for the bringing in of the evidences and writings.

Secondly, that a bill be exhibited presently into the Court of Exchequer Chamber against all those that pretend any interest in the land, or that are suspected to have any of the evidences.

Thirdly, that a commission be awarded to certain commissioners to inquire what lands, tenements, goods or chattels Sir Charles Danvers was seised or possessed of respectively at the time of his attainder or at the time of the treason committed.

(in another hand) John Hodgkinson, Richard Atwood, clerk, Richard Danvers & Jeffrey Bathe to be detained for embezzling of goods to the value of £1000 & for conveying of evidences, besides many other misdemeanours, to be proved by witnesses already delivered unto your Honour in articles, with a note of the witnesses' names to every article against them.

Also we humbly pray that their examinations may be seen & perused before they 4 be discharged.

(in Lord Buckhurst's hand) The Queen's learned counsel are to consider & set down what course is best for her Majesty. 30 June 1601. Thomas Buckhurst.

Endorsed: (1) The opinion of Mr Serjeants Harris, Mr Hele, Mr Tanfield and Mr Digges what proceedings are best for Danvers' escheat for entitling the Queen's Majesty; (2) Also a note for the detaining of Richard Danvers, Richard Atwood, clerk, Jeffrey Bathe & John Hodgkinson for sundry abuses by them committed for the right honourable the Lord Treasurer of England his remembrance.