

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 24 June 1609 written by Sir Henry Maynard (b. after 1547, d.1610) to Sir Robert Cecil (1563-1612), Earl of Salisbury, concerning the purchase of Castle Hedingham.

Maynard had been secretary to Robert Cecil's father, Lord Burghley, to whom he was distantly related by marriage. According to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online, Henry Maynard was the son of John Maynard (1508/9-1556) and his second wife, Dorothy, widow of John Bridge (or Bridges) and daughter of Robert Perrot and his wife, Margaret. However John Maynard's first wife was Margery Rowlett, one of the five sisters of Sir Ralph Rowlett (b. by 1513, d.1571). See Barnett, Richard C., *Place, Profit and Power: A Study of the Servants of William Cecil, Elizabethan Statesman*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1969), p. 95. Thus, although Henry Maynard was a son by his father's second marriage, he was related to the Rowletts through his father's first marriage to Margery Rowlett, and in this way distantly related to Lord Burghley, since Sir Ralph Rowlett's second wife was Lady Burghley's sister, Margaret Cooke. Margaret Cooke, a maid-in-waiting to Queen Mary, married Sir Ralph Rowlett in 1558, but died only a few weeks later. For the will of Sir Ralph Rowlett, dated 28 July 1566, see TNA PROB 11/53, ff. 248-50. For Rowlett's career, see:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/rowlett-sir-ralph-1513-71>.

For the will of John Maynard, see TNA PROB 11/39, ff. 17-18.

It would appear from the letter below that Cecil had encouraged Henry Maynard to purchase Castle Hedingham from Oxford's daughters. However Oxford's widow, Elizabeth (nee Trentham) de Vere (d.1613), Countess of Oxford, was attempting at the time to purchase the manor from Oxford's daughters for Oxford's son and heir, Henry de Vere (1593-1625), 18th Earl of Oxford. As a result of the conversations Maynard had with the Countess, her son Henry de Vere, and her brother Francis Trentham (d.1626) reported in the letter below, Maynard expressed to Cecil his willingness to give up the bargain, and the Countess completed the purchase shortly thereafter.

For Maynard's life, see the entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online, and Barnett, pp. 94-103.

For the Countess of Oxford's purchase of Castle Hedingham, see <http://1609chronology.blogspot.com/2009/07/castle-hedingham-and-countess-oxford-in.html>.

My honourable and singular good Lord, I received this day, the 24th of this month, your letters of the 17th containing your most favourable acceptance of mine lately written to you and of your Lordship's like honourable advice for the carriage of myself in the

business of Hedingham, assuring your Lordship that what conceit soever might be taken by the Countess of Oxenford for my not yielding to her desire, yet I trust your Lordship, understanding the reason thereof, will not disallow of the same, for as it is very true that before my coming from London I was very earnestly pressed, first by the young Earl and his uncle, Mr Trentham, and afterwards by the Lady herself, to give over the bargain and to leave her to proceed therewith, telling me she had obtained my Lady of Derby's consent thereunto, which I no otherwise understood than by her own saying, so knowing with whom I had contracted, and not knowing how such my yielding and turning them over to your Lordship might give you just cause of offence, not having any way had understanding of your Lordship's mind therein, it made me the more unwilling to yield to her Ladyship's desire, and yet I trust my refusal was in such respectful & dutiful terms as her Ladyship could not justly take exception thereat, which I the rather write for that I have understood her Ladyship hath otherwise reported of me.

The bargain, I must confess to your Lordship, now I have looked into it, would prove profitable, but the many inconveniences, whereof it hath pleased your good Lordship to remember me of your honourable love and favour, are of far greater moment than any such uncertain profit can countervail, which were the same much more than by any means it can be. I will set aside and reserve all to your good Lordship's pleasure, and do that which you shall direct me to do upon any further motion to be made for my relinquishing, if it shall not seem good to your Lordship in your wisdom to take knowledge thereof from me, which I humbly desire if it may so stand with your good Lordship's liking.

And as for consideration for losses or charges, I will not for my part stand thereupon, but as of your honourable favour your Lordship preferred me to the purchase, so will I leave the same wholly to your good Lordship's pleasure. And therewith do most humbly take my leave. From Easton Lodge this 24th of June 1609.

Most humbly at your good Lordship's command,

H. Maynard

Endorsed: (1) To the right(?) honourable his singular good Lord the Earl of Salisbury, Lord High Treasurer of England; (2) 24o Iunij 1609, Sir Henry Maynard to my Lord concerning the Lady Oxenford.