

SUMMARY: The document below is an excerpt from a record of grants made by King James which includes the King's grant to Oxford, his heirs & assigns, on 18 July 1603 of 'the office of keeping the park & house of Havering & Steward of the same Forest with the Bailiwick of Essex'.

For an undated memorandum of the offices and rights claimed by Oxford in the Forest of Essex (also called Waltham Forest), and the evidence offered by him in support of his claim, see TNA SP 14/2/63, f. 160. For the copy on the patent rolls of the writ of privy seal by which King James restored to Oxford his rights to the keepership and stewardship of the Forest and of the King's park and houses of Havering, see TNA C 66/1612, mm. 29-30.

For an earlier plea made on 17 August 1489 concerning the claim by John de Vere (1442-1513), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, to rights in the Forest, see TNA DL 39/2/25.

For a letter dated 8 December 1558 from Oxford's father, John de Vere (1516-1562), 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, to Sir William Cecil, advising the latter of the current state of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's claim to the office of the Lieutenancy of Waltham Forest, see TNA SP 12/1/22, f. 53. For mention by the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of his right to 'the Lieutenantship of the Forest of Waltham with the keeping of the house and park of Havering', in his indenture of 2 June 1562, see TNA C 54/626.

Oxford's efforts to reclaim his rights in the Forest of Essex during Queen Elizabeth's lifetime were unsuccessful, with Oxford stating that the Queen 'flatly said whether it were mine or hers she would bestow it at her pleasure'. For letters and memoranda in which Oxford mentions his legal claim to rights in the Forest, see BL Lansdowne 68/6, ff. 12-13; BL Lansdowne 68/11, ff. 23, 28; BL Lansdowne 68/11, f. 22; BL Harley 6996/22, ff. 42-3; Cecil Papers 35/84; Cecil Papers 172/81; Cecil Papers 99/161; and Cecil Papers 100/99. For a deposition by Oxford's former receiver-general, Edward Hubberd (d.1601/2), attributing to Oxford's servant, Israel Amyce, the suggestion that Leicester was behind the Queen's refusal to restore Oxford's rights in the Forest ('I pray God my Lord of Leicester have not gotten it and burned it because of my Lord's title to the stewardship of the Forest'), see TNA C 24/277/35.

For a letter written by Oxford to King James on 30 January 1604 complaining that Sir John Grey (d.1611) had killed deer in Havering park without the King's warrant, see ERO D/DMh C1.

Shortly before his death on 24 June 1604, Oxford transferred his rights in the Forest to his first cousin, Sir Francis Vere (1560/61-1609), and his son-in-law, Francis (1579-1622), Lord Norris (see Oxford's inquisition post mortem, TNA C 142/286/165).

In the original document, the information regarding the grants is given in table form under the six headings noted below. However in the present transcription the information corresponding to the 6 headings is transcribed in block form.

It should also be noted that in the original document under the entry for the grant to Oxford there is a note in what appears to be a contemporary hand recording Oxford's death ('d 1604 June 24').

| Names                                  | Consideration     | Gifts   | Value     | Term                                | Date    |
|--|-------------------|---|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Thomas Conway & Edmund Conway, his son | Of grace especial | The office of Constable & Keeper of the castle of Bagshot in the county of Southampton                      | 20d a day | To him & his heirs for term of life | 21 July |
| Edward, Earl of Oxon                   | For divers causes | The office of keeping the park & house of Havering & Steward of the same Forest with the Bailiwick of Essex | Fee usual | To him, his heirs & assigns         | 18 July |
| John Treiber                           | Of grace especial | The office of keeping the fortress near Chatham   | Fee usual | For term of life                    | 18 July |
| Thomas Evans                           | Of grace especial | Divers lands & tenements in the county of Middlesex   | (blank)   | For 30 years in reversion           | 11 July |
| Francis Norris                         | Of grace especial |   |           |                                     |         |

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The office of bailiff of the hundred of Eynsford & Forhowe [=Fowerhoe?] in the county of Norfolk

Fee usual

For term of life

27 January

Richard Bonython

Of grace especial

The office of Controller of the Store [=Stannaries?] in the county of Cornwall

Fee usual

For term of life

18 July

Stephen & John Riddlesden

Of grace especial

The office of Clerk of the Ordinance throughout the realm of England

2s a day

For term of life

23 February

Martin(?) More

Of grace especial

Divers messuages in the city of London

£76

for term of 40 years

23 February

Thomas Somerset

Of grace especial

The office of Clerk of the Arches of the Common Pleas

Fee

For term of life

4 February

Henry & Richard Tichborne, knights

In consideration of service

The office of Constable of Winton Castle

£20 per annum

During pleasure

16 February