

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter, dated 17 October 1531, from Gregory Cromwell (d.1551), later 1st Baron Cromwell, to his father. According to the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*, Gregory Cromwell was the only surviving son of Henry VIII's minister, Thomas Cromwell (b. in or before 1485, d. 1540), Earl of Essex, and his wife, Elizabeth (nee Wykys) Williams (d.1527), whose first husband, Thomas Williams, had been a yeoman of the guard, and whose father, Henry Wykys, had served as a gentleman-usher to Henry VIII.

Gregory Cromwell married Elizabeth Seymour, the sister of Edward Seymour (c.1500-1552), Duke of Somerset, and widow of Sir Anthony Oughtred. The parliamentary diarist Thomas Cromwell (c.1540-1610/11) was their third son.

The Earl who took young Gregory Cromwell and his cousins hunting was Oxford's grandfather, John de Vere (1482-1540), 15th Earl of Oxford.

See also Ellis, Henry, *Original Letters Illustrative of English History*, Third Series, Vol. I, (London: Richard Bentley, 1846), p. 339, available online.

Right worshipful father, I commend me unto you, desiring you of your daily blessing, satisfying you that I am in good health with my cousins Bersfourd [=Beresford?] and Wellyfed, thanks be unto God omnipotent, and apply our books diligently, as shall appear, I trust, to your worship and our profits.

Father, I beseech you, when you meet with the right honourable Lord of Oxford, to give thanks unto his Lordship, for when he came to a town called Yeldham to the parson's thereof to hunt the fox, he sent for me and my cousins, and made us good cheer, and let us see such game and pleasure as I never saw in my life. Moreover, father, I beseech you to give thanks to the foresaid parson of Yeldham, which since I came into the country hath divers times sent for me and for my cousins, and made us high cheer, and showed us great pleasure.

For all other things concerning my raiment, I beseech you give credence to my singular good friend, Master Doctor Lee.

Thus Jesu have you in his keeping. From Toppesfield the 17 day of October. By your lowly son, Gregory Cromwell.

To his right worshipful father, Master Cromwell, be these given