
SUMMARY: This entry in George Golding's notebook is the source of our knowledge of the date of Oxford's wedding, and of the fact that it was a double wedding at which Oxford married Anne Cecil while Lord Herbert married Elizabeth Hastings, one of the two sisters of the Earl of Huntingdon to whom Oxford had been contracted at age 12 by the marriage contract made between the 16th Earl and Henry Hastings, 3rd Earl of Huntingdon on 1 July 1562 (see HAP o/s Box 3(19)). Did the Queen stipulate that the two marriages must take place on the same day in order to underline the fact that Oxford's marriage contract to one of the Hastings sisters was well and truly broken? As Oxford's legal guardian, the Queen had full control of his marriage, and although it is unlikely that she would have done anything so overt as to formally break the contract herself, one suspects that it was broken by the Earl of Huntingdon shortly after the 16th Earl's death because the Queen encouraged Huntingdon to do so. There was royal blood in the Hastings veins, and the Queen obviously did not want Oxford married to a sister of the Earl of Huntingdon.

EDWARD DE VERE, Earl of Oxenford, did the 16th day of December 1571 anno xiiiijto Regine Elizabethe marry the Lady his wife named Anne Cecil, one of the daughters of Sir William Cecil, knight, Lord of Burghley, at the court then being at Whitehall by Westminster. The same day, year, and place the Lord Herbert, son and heir of the Earl of Worcester, did marry the Lady Hastings, sister to Henry, Earl of Huntingdon.