

SUMMARY: The document below consists of two extracts from the Acts of the Privy Council, the first of which states that on 30 January 1555 [=1556], the Privy Council bound in £40 apiece the four men who had been responsible for bringing the highwayman, Thomas Rooke of Braintree, before the Justices at the gaol delivery at Brentwood, and who had somehow allowed him to escape. The second extract is a summons to Sir Thomas Golding (d.1571) which is likely related to the recognizance for £100 into which Golding entered on 15 February 1556 for the reapprehension of Rooke (see Dasent, p. 370). The excerpt below is taken from Dasent, John Roche, ed., *Acts of the Privy Council of England*, New Series, 32 vols., (1890-1964) at vol. V, p. 232. For other actions taken by the Privy Council in connection with the highwayman, Thomas Rooke of Braintree, see Dasent, pp. 223, 261 and 264.

The 16th Earl of Oxford had a yeoman servant named Thomas Robinson to whom he left annuities in both his will of 21 December 1552 and his will of 28 July 1562 (see BL MS Stowe Charter 633-4 and TNA PROB 11/46, ff. 174v-176). Since the highwayman Thomas Rooke, innkeeper of Braintree, used the alias 'Robinson' when he was in Norfolk in hiding from the authorities, certain commentators have stated that Thomas Rooke, innkeeper of Braintree, and Thomas Robinson, yeoman servant of the 16th Earl from 1552-1562 were one and the same person, a conclusion which is as bizarre as it is baseless.

LM: Escape of a notorious highwayman

William Garret, William Usher, Richard Cornwall and William Huet of the county of Essex, who were heretofore bounden before the Lord Rich in £40 apiece to have brought the body of Thomas Rooke, late committed to their custody, before the Justices of Assize at the gaol delivery at Brentwood, acknowledge themselves to owe unto our Sovereign Lord and Lady, the King and Queen's Majesties, the like sum of £40 apiece, to be levied of their goods and chattels etc.

The condition of this recognizance is such that if the abovenamed William Garret, William Usher, Richard Cornwall and William Huet do all they possible [=possibly] can for the search and finding out of the said Thomas Rooke, and present his body before the Justices of Assize at the next sessions to be holden in the said county of Essex according to their former band, or else in case they cannot recover him, do then eftsoons make their personal apparence before the Lords of the Council within 8 days after next following the same sessions, that then this recognizance to be void, or else to stand, etc.

LM: A summons

A letter of apparence to Sir Thomas Golding.