
SUMMARY: The document below is an extract from the Acts of the Privy Council stating that on 4 April 1556 the Council sent a letter to John Sulyard, Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, instructing him to send to them the escaped highwayman, Thomas Rooke of Braintree, innkeeper, who had been apprehended at Thetford in Norfolk by the Earl of Sussex' men while living under the alias 'Robinson'. In the extract below he is referred to as 'Booke', and whether his true name was 'Rooke' or 'Booke' is not known. 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. 261. For other actions taken by the Privy Council in connection with the highwayman Thomas Rooke, innkeeper of Braintree, see Dasent, pp. 223, 232, 264 and 370.

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: An arrest

A letter to Mr Sulyard, Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, to send up hither either (sic?) to the Lords under sure custody the body of one Booke (sic) of Braintree, Essex, innkeeper, now naming himself Robinson, lately apprehended at Thetford in Norfolk, by th' Earl of Sussex his men.