

SUMMARY: The document below is an excerpt from a letter dated 20 November 1602 from Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham, to Sir Julius Caesar, concerning a suit in the Court of Requests against Thomas Coe for non-payment of rent and refusal to present his lease.

For Oxford's earlier bill of complaint filed in Chancery on 1 July 1595 against Thomas Coe and his sons, Roger Coe and Edward Coe, concerning the rectory of Walter Belchamp, see TNA C 2/Eliz/O2/13.

Although Elizabeth Trentham states in the letter below that the 1602 suit is against Thomas Coe, this may be an error, as the 1602 suit appears to have been brought against Thomas Coe's son, Edward Coe. See TNA REQ 2/276, Item 62.

The pleadings in both lawsuits suggest that although Oxford did grant Thomas Coe a 21-year lease of the rectory of Walter Belchamp in 1577, that lease expired in 1598, and the alleged lease under which Edward Coe claimed possession of the rectory for 21 years from 29 September 1598 owed its existence to the fraudulent practices of Oxford's former servant, Thomas Hampton. Whether Edward Coe was aware that the lease was fraudulent is unclear; the circumstances suggest that he was.

Oxford's servant, Thomas Hampton was still living on 3 March 1600, when he gave a deposition in which he described himself as 'Thomas Hampton of London, gentleman, of th' age of 58 years or thereabouts'. See TNA C 24/277/35.

For documents mentioning Oxford's servant, Thomas Hampton, and his participation in the Skinner and Harlakenden frauds, see BL Lansdowne 68/6, ff. 12-13; BL Lansdowne 68/11, f. 24; TNA C 24/239/46; TNA C 24/275/77; TNA REQ 2/276/62; TNA SP 46/35, f. 28; TNA WARD 9/118, ff. 234v-235; ERO D/DPr/161; and ERO D/DPr/262.

For Sir Julius Caesar (1558?-1636), see the *ODNB* entry.

For Sir Roger Wilbraham, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/wilbraham-sir-roger-1553-1616>.

As this is a Special Access manuscript at the British Library, the excerpt below is taken from Nelson, Alan H., *Monstrous Adversary*, (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2003), p. 408.

Master Doctor Caesar, I should have delivered a request from my Lord unto you concerning a suit depending in the Court of Requests against an insolent tenant that for

---

the space of many years hath neither paid any rent nor will show his lease for my Lord's satisfaction.

And now being by a late mischance in my coach prevented from the hope of any present opportunity to meet you at the court, I do earnestly entreat you that whensoever my Lord's counsel shall move against one Thomas [sic?] Coe of Walter Belchamp for the discovery of his lease and satisfaction of his rent, that either yourself or Mr Wilbraham will give the cause that expedition as in your favourable justice it shall deserve, and prevent this dilatory pleadings which the injustice of Coe's cause will offer unto you.