

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 12 August 1573 written to Lord Burghley by four Chaplains of the Hospital of the Savoy concerning a lease allegedly made to Oxford by the former Master of the Savoy, Thomas Thurland, who had been deprived of his office in 1570.

For a brief history of the Savoy, see Seymour, Robert, *A Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster*, Vol. I, (London: T. Read, 1733), pp. 207-8 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=nGVZAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA207&lpg=PA207&dq=%22Thomas+Thurland%22+%22Savoy%22&source=bl&ots=_gSDwzxlUx&sig=Oq1Sf02cV2SR3h6qDIJMzdSWOKs&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwifn6GudnUAhVCwWMKHSsIC-EQ6AEIOjAG#v=onepage&q=%22Thomas%20Thurland%22%20%22Savoy%22&f=false.

For additional documents concerning Thomas Thurland and the Savoy, see *A Catalogue of the Lansdowne Manuscripts* (1819), p. 41 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=LpTFh89XXFQC&pg=PA41&lpg=PA41&dq=%22Hospital+of+the+Savoy%22+%22leases%22&source=bl&ots=tdgIrk7_tk&sig=X4N6hMAS0UzSY8vQcGrwqYkJIFo&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjviNecg9rUAhUJpXQKHV_ICJcQ6AEIKzAC#v=onepage&q=%22Hospital%20of%20the%20Savoy%22%20%22leases%22&f=false.

For another lease of Oxford's with connections to the Savoy, see his letter to Lord Burghley dated 5 August 1590, BL Lansdowne 63/71, ff. 181-2, in which he notes that one of the defects of his lease of the manor of Aveley is that:

First, the lease is made by the name of 'the Master and Chaplains called the Hospital of the Savoy', where the corporation is 'the Master & the Chaplains of the Hospital of the Savoy', & not 'called the Savoy', & therefore the lease supposed void.

Our most humble and bounden duty unto your Honour remembered, may it please you to understand that we have received a certain writing from Thomas Thurland, clerk, late Master of our Hospital, the true copy whereof we have sent to your Honour herein enclosed, whereby he doth not only claim himself to be still Master of the Savoy, but also requireth and chargeth us to be answerable unto him at the next account, and likewise warneth us out of commons in the same Hospital, wherein he pretendeth not only to frustrate the sentence of deprivation and other the doings of the Queen's Majesty's Commissioners, and to justify himself of such crimes & offences as he hath been manifestly convicted of before the said Commissioners, but likewise seeketh the vexation of us, the poor Chaplains.

Wherefore our humble suit is to your Honour that as you have been a special patron & protector of the said poor Hospital, so it may please you to continue, and to defend & deliver us from such injuries as the said Thomas Thurland by his subtile practice doth offer unto the said Hospital, Right Honourable, touching certain lodgings within the said Hospital with a garden belonging to the Master of the Savoy, which the said Thomas Thurland maketh claim unto by virtue of a forged lease which is not good nor never heard of till after his deprivation.

We, the poor Chaplains, for the special goodwill that we bear to your Honour, are contented that the Earl of Oxford shall have the occupation thereof, and of all other lodgings above the stairs belonging to the Master of the Savoy, so that he keep them in good reparations, until such time as we shall have a Master. But as for the rooms beneath the stairs, viz., the parlour, hall, buttery, kitchen & wood-yard, we cannot spare them, being so necessary for the provision of the poor & us.

We also humbly crave of your Honour that we may not be further troubled with the said Thomas Thurland's pretenced title to be Master, both for that he is notoriously known to have been the spoiler of the said poor Hospital, and doth owe £2000 to the same at the least, and also that he hath been & is vehemently suspected for dishonesty of life.

Thus referring ourselves and our whole cause to your Honour's charitable consideration, we shall be contented with any good & reasonable order which your Honour or they of the Commission shall think convenient and most commodious for us and the poor of this Hospital according to the intent and godly meaning of our noble founder.

And thus with our continual prayer we humbly take our leave from our said Hospital of the Savoy the 12th of August Anno Domini 1573.

Your Honour's most humble orators,

William Neale, John Parke, John Hodgeson, Thomas Chambers

[At foot of page] The poor Chaplains of the Savoy

Endorsed in Lord Burghley's hand (but perhaps pertaining to another document?): Savoy, arrearages of rents due at Michaelmas 15o