

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 5 August 1590 in which Oxford requests Lord Burghley's authorization to dispose of a lease of the manor of Aveley in order to redeem other leases of Castle Hedingham which are of more value.

The complex background to this lease is outlined in a bill of complaint filed by Oxford in the Star Chamber in 1587 (see TNA STAC 5/03/35 and 5/08/52).

Oxford's lease of the manor of Aveley originated with the Master and Chaplains of the Savoy, who were seised of the manor, and on 17 June 1551 leased it to Henry Saxty for 31 years from 29 September 1585. Saxey assigned his interest on 5 May 1554 to John Elliott, the husband of Eleanor (nee Newton) Elliott (d.1588), one of the twenty-one children of Sir John Newton (c.1505-1568) or Cradock of East Harptree, Somerset, and Hanham, Gloucestershire, by Margaret Poyntz (c.1505-1559). Eleanor Newton Elliott was the sister of Jane (new Newton) Cartwright Fitzjames; Nazareth (nee Newton) Southwell Paget; and Frances (new Newton) Brooke, second wife of William Brooke (1527-1597), 10th Baron Cobham. For Lady Cobham, one of Queen Elizabeth's favourite gentlewomen, see the *ODNB* entry. For the will of Eleanor Newton Elliott, see TNA PROB 11/73/55.

John Elliott was outlawed for debt on 21 November 1566. According to McKeen, Elliott 'died a charity case', and was buried in the parish church of West Malling. On 19 March 1571, Queen Elizabeth awarded the forfeitures to the Crown occasioned by Elliott's outlawry for debt to Eleanor Newton Elliott's youngest sister, Nazareth Newton, the widow of Thomas Southwell of Woodrising, Norfolk, and later the wife of Thomas Paget (c.1544-1590), 4th Baron Paget. See McKeen, David, *A Memory of Honour; The Life of William Brooke, Lord Cobham* (Salzburg: Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, 1986), pp. 140-3, citing *CPR Elizabeth*, V, 164. See also the *ODNB* entry for Thomas Paget.

Nazareth Newton Southwell immediately granted her interest on 10 October 1571 to her niece, Anne Elliott, who subsequently married Robert Harris, who sold his interest to Oxford, as a result of which on 30 September 1585, Oxford entered into possession of the manor of Aveley. However Richard Payne and others fraudulently altered the documents pertaining to John Elliott's outlawry, thereby negating Oxford's interest in the lease of Aveley and bringing about Oxford's bill of complaint in the Star Chamber.

The outcome of the Star Chamber case is not known. However on 16 May 1588, Oxford assigned his lease of Aveley to the Queen for two years in satisfaction of an old debt of £200 owed to the Queen by Oxford's father (see Lord Burghley's letter of 8 March 1588 regarding the debt, TNA SP 46/35, f. 28, and the assignment of the lease by Oxford to the Queen dated 16 May 1588, TNA E 354/1). In the letter below, Oxford says that he had mortgaged his lease of Aveley to John Herdson, but whether this occurred before or after Oxford's assignment of the profits from the lease to the Queen for two years is unclear.

For an undated letter from John Herdson to Lord Burghley concerning Oxford's lease of Aveley, see TNA SP 46/41, f. 133. It appears from Herdson's letter that Oxford's assignment to the Queen of the profits from the lease for two years had not satisfied the old debt of his father's for £200, and that in order to get the lease out of the Exchequer, Herdson had been required to enter into a bond to pay those profits to the Queen himself if he could not obtain a discharge of the assignment of lease by the end of the current law term.

For an indenture dated 24 March 1590 by which Oxford and John Herdson granted to the Queen a one-hundredth part interest for the term of three years in lands in Aveley, see TNA E 210/10742. For interrogatories administered in Easter term 1590 to one Wilfred Luty on behalf of the Queen in her lawsuit against Richard Payne concerning Aveley, see TNA E/133/6/907.

A document dating from 1592/3 suggests that Oxford had parted with his interest in Aveley by that time:

E 210/9983

John Herdson to the Queen: Demise, indented, for three years, of messuages and land, parcel of the farm or demesnes of the manor of Aveley: Essex. 35 Eliz.

For the will of Henry Herdson (d.1555), who was likely the father of John Herdson to whom Oxford mortgaged his lease of Aveley, see TNA PROB 11/37/504.

My very good Lord, where I mortgaged my lease of Aveley to Mr Herdson, and not as yet redeemed, and now, as well for the supply of my present wants as also to have some three hundred pounds of ready money to redeem certain leases at Hedingham which were gotten from me very unreasonably for divers years yet enduring, and are of as good clear yearly value as my said lease of Aveley is, I therefore most earnestly desire your Lordship to signify your liking to me in writing to dispose of the said lease at my pleasure; otherwise, there is not any will deal with me for the same nor for any part thereof, wherein I shall be greatly beholding to your Lordship, as I am in all the rest of my whole estate. The 5th of August.

Your Lordship's to command,
Edward Oxenford

The lease dependeth upon divers casualties, which lease I hold chiefly by your Lordship's favour, and the casualties & defects are as follow.

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.

Secondly, Mr Payne's claim, and pretending interest to the said lease, doth cost me one hundred pound by the year to defend.

Thirdly, any creditor of mine to whom I am indebted may, by writ of elegit, or fieri facias or levary facias, extend and sell the said lease for a trifle, and utterly defeat me thereof. And I intend for £300 in money to redeem leases of mine own land of a greater yearly value.

Addressed: To the right honourable and his very good Lord, the Lord Treasurer of England, give these.

Endorsed: 5 August 1590, the Earl of Oxenford to my Lord. [*In another later hand:* That his Lordship would signify his liking in writing to dispose of his lease of Aveley without which none would deal with him for it.]