

SUMMARY: The document below is a petition which, although endorsed 1594, likely dates from circa 1587 since it is a suit to Lord Burghley by the purchasers of Oxford's lands requesting that the leaseholders of those lands be assessed to pay a proportionate share in the scheme for repayment of Oxford's debt of £3300 to the Court of Wards.

For a partial list of penal bonds amounting to almost \$150,000 entered into by Oxford in connection with sales of his lands, including the bonds acknowledged to Lord Darcy and Sir William Waldegrave mentioned below, see TNA 30/34/14, No. 3.

For the will of Oxford's first cousin, John Darcy (d. 5 March 1581), 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Darcy of Chiche, co-guarantor of Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards, see TNA PROB 11/63/135.

Our humble suit is unto my Lord Treasurer, that whereas we are to pay unto her Majesty for the debt of the right honourable the Earl of Oxenford the sum of three thousand three hundred pounds, for the which debt all those lands stand charged which have been bought of the foresaid Earl, most of which lands were leased by the said Earl before they were sold to us, and so the farmers & occupiers of the said leases are also in law to be charged, we, the purchasers, do yield to a voluntary contribution, and do desire that if the farmers will not in like sort contribute, being chargeable both by law & equity, that where such farmers be found, we may have the aid of the honourable Court of Wards to extend those farmers, and thereby to enforce them to join with us in an equality of charge.

We also humbly pray that every man's sum due to be paid to her Majesty may be divided into (blank) parts, & payments at days, for the payment whereof good assurance shall be delivered into the Court.

And thereupon we pray that the Earl's bonds may be delivered, and in like sort the counterbonds of the Earl's which are knowledged to the Lord Darcy & Sir William Waldegrave.

Endorsed: The humble petition of the purchasers touching the debts of the Earl of [-of] Oxenford in the Court of Wards etc. to your good Lordship etc.

Endorsed in Lord Burghley's hand(?), but crossed out: Earl of Oxenford

Endorsed in another hand: The Earl of Oxford, the petition of the purchasers

Endorsed in another hand: 1594