

SUMMARY: The document below is an undated letter endorsed '1601', likely 1602 New Style, from Oxford's youngest daughter, Susan Vere (1587-1629), to her uncle, Sir Robert Cecil (1563-1612), protesting that she would never marry without his consent.

After Lord Burghley's death, Oxford two younger daughters, Susan Vere and Bridget Vere, were sent to live with Bridget (nee Hussey) Morison Manners Russell (d. 12 January 1601), Dowager Countess of Bedford, at Chenies in Buckinghamshire. Shortly after 28 April 1599, Bridget Vere married the Dowager Countess' grandson, Francis Norris (1579-1622), later 2nd Baron Norris of Rycote and 1st Earl of Berkshire, and Susan Vere was left alone at Chenies with the aged Dowager Countess. On 23 June, the Dowager Countess wrote to Henry Maynard insisting that Cecil send someone to Chenies to advise with respect to Susan's situation, and in August the Countess wrote to Cecil himself, reminding him that he was to deliver Susan from this 'solitary imprisonment'. See TNA SP 12/270/101, f. 176, and TNA SP 12/272/95, f. 150. Susan may have been sent to live with her newly-married sister, Bridget, at Rycote.

For the background to Susan Vere's letter below, see the letter dated 3 February 1602 from the Dowager Countess of Bedford's daughter-in-law, Dorothy Clerke Long Morison (d.1618), to Sir Robert Cecil, CP 85/8.

For Dorothy Clerke Long Morison (d.1618), see the will of her mother, Elizabeth Ramsey Clerke Alford, TNA PROB 11/92/437; the will of her first husband, Henry Long (d. 15 April 1573), TNA PROB 11/55/169; and the will of her second husband Sir Charles Morison (1549 - 31 March 1599), TNA PROB 11/94/168.

Right honourable my very good uncle, now give me leave to presume to write these lines in grief for fear of your hard opinion of me. I hear by my brother [=brother-in-law] Norris that there is some speeches given out, which I am very sorry that you should have such a hard conceit of me, which I protest, as I have any truth in me, I will never match with any without your consent. I desire nothing so much than to have the truth to be known in this matter, and then I trust you would be satisfied.

I know not what to say or do, but remain in sorrow for the speeches that many will speak of, but I hope you will not give credit unto them. I beseech you to think so much as my heart doth vow to you, that I will never see nor hear of any in that sort but such as shall be appointed by you. So I humbly take my leave.

Your obedient niece,

Susanna Veare

Endorsed: To the right honourable and my very good uncle, Sir Robert Cecil, knight,
Principal Secretary to her Majesty

Endorsed: 1601 [=1602?], Lady Susan Vere to my master