

SUMMARY: The document below is a petition said to date from 1608 from Thomas Gurlyn to King James I, claiming that Queen Elizabeth had intended to grant him a pension of £200 a year for services rendered and that King James had also promised him a pension of £200 under certain conditions.

For other documents concerning Gurlyn see CP 37/66, CP 37/67, CP 173/27, CP 176/64, and CP 129/54.

For Sir Francis Walsingham (c.1532–1590); Sir Thomas Chaloner the younger (1563/4–1615); Sir Julius Caesar (1558-1636); George Horne (d.1611), Earl of Dunbar; Sir Walter Raleigh (1554-1618); Anne (nee Russell) Dudley (1548/9–1604), Countess of Warwick; Richard Topcliffe (1531–1604); Thomas Sackville (c.1536-1608), 1st Earl of Dorset, appointed Lord High Treasurer in 1599; and Sir Lawrence Tanfield (c.1551-1625), appointed Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer on 26 June 1607, all of whom are mentioned in the petition, see the *ODNB* articles.

Richard Carmarden (d.1603), mentioned in the petition, was the son of Thomas Carmarden and Dorothy Alexander, the daughter of Paul Alexander, and held the office of Surveyor of Customs for the City of London.

The Earl of Oxford mentioned in the petition was Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty

Most humbly showeth:

That amongst many things which her late Majesty intended to your Majesty's faithful subject, Thomas Gurlyn, in lieu of his many duties performed, a bill was drawn upon her Majesty's commandment by her then Attorney-General whereby he should have received £200 yearly during his life out of forfeitures brought into the Exchequer, which bill was not signed by reason of her Majesty's death, and it pleased your Majesty to condescend that £200 should have been yearly paid out of your Majesty's Exchequer unto the longer liver of his wife and himself so soon as £700 yearly should have been by his means abated out of the entertainment of thirteen needless Surveyors then of his Majesty's Customs in the outports.

Now forasmuch as he hath performed the said service, with a further benefit to your Majesty as doth appear in the 7th article in a brief hereunto annexed of his services, and never received recompense from her said Majesty nor from your Majesty according to both your Majesties' pleasures but only £106 13s 4d at several times in 22 years, although he hath spent and lost in giving performance more than £5000, and purchased many enemies thereby, and received many dangerous hurts;

His humble suit is therefore that your Majesty's pleasure may be signified to the Earl of Dunbar and Sir Julius Caesar, Chancellor of your Majesty's Exchequer, to examine his services herein mentioned, and that their Honours may certify your Majesty what they shall think fit your Majesty shall grant unto him in full recompense of the premises;

And although by the laws of this your Majesty's realm every subject is to have the moiety of all such benefit as by his means shall be brought to your Majesty, yet your Majesty's said subject doth crave but the 8th part of all such benefit as shall hereafter be brought into your Majesty's receipts or shall be therein preserved by his means which is now yearly paid out of the same.

Particular services performed unto your Majesty and her late Majesty by your Highness' faithful subject, Thomas Gurlyn, the copy whereof (one service excepted, being the last sum in the 7th service) were delivered unto your Majesty by Sir Thomas Chaloner in the first year of your Majesty's reign, with a project for the advancement of the book of rates, he having also been the first motive in the 32nd year of her late Majesty's reign, as appeareth in the 6th service

1 He did in Anno 1584 discover unto Sir Francis Walsingham how her Majesty was defrauded of her customs in the outports, by which they were increased from Michaelmas 1585 until Michaelmas 1603 £10,367.

Besides so honourable a Privy Councillor recompense thereby.

2 By his discovery of the deceits used by brewers there hath been saved the 3 part of that which hath been spent in your Majesty's and her late Majesty's house and shipping ever since 1586, as appeareth by a statute Anno 31 Elizabeth, which cannot amount to so little as the sum of £20,000.

3 He did discover unto her said Majesty how she was deceived of her impost of French & Gascon wines, by which it was advanced from Michaelmas 1593 until 1603 the sum of £100,000.

And the farmers (illegible) gained so much.

4 By his discovery of the gain Sir Walter Raleigh had by the overlengths of cloths there was saved from Michaelmas 1593 until 1603 the sum of £50,000.

5 By his discovering of the deceits used by officers in suffering of corn to be transported and so little custom paid, wheat was raised from 12d the quarter to 2s, and all other grain from 8d the quarter to 16d, as appeareth by a statute Anno 35 Elizabeth, by which the customs were increased from 1591 until 1603 £48,000.

6 He did in Anno 1591 discover unto her Majesty that she had lost more than £20,000 yearly ever since her Majesty's reign, and more than £200,000 in every of the said years of her trees(?) carried out of the realm by strangers, for that her Majesty did receive custom according to the book of rates Anno 4 et 5 Mary, and in not receiving poundage as it was given her Majesty Anno 10 of her reign, which was in some sort reformed but respited until a time of more peaceable trade, he being also the first motive thereof since your Majesty's reign, and by your Majesty advanced.

7 There was abated out of th' entertainment of the Surveyors of the Customs in the outports by his means from 1591 until Michaelmas 1605 £14,000.

By his means also yearly £1333 3s 4d more abated.

8 In Anno 1601 he was the cause that a Customer was displaced, whereby the custom hath been increased £2000 yearly in that port, so from 1601 until 1606 £10,000.

The total of these 7 sums brought into your Majesty's Exchequer from 1585 by his said discoveries until 1603 do amount to the sum of £343,367.

Besides the succeeding increase thereby to your Majesty and successors forever, which God grant.

He did lose by reason of restraints and proclamations made by her said Majesty during the time that he was farmer of the impost of mines in the North parts, being in Anno 1585, 86, 87, 88, more than £3000, and never had recompense.

The foresaid services known to these honourable personages and others under-named

The 1 to the Countess of Warwick, and her said Majesty hath acknowledged all of these services done to her Majesty to have been performed by him unto Sir Julius Caesar, and of her gracious pleasure to have recompensed him.

The 2 to Mr Topcliffe.

The 3 to the Earl of Oxford.

The 4, 5, 6, 7 to the Earl of Oxford and Mr Carmarden.

The 8 to the Lord Chief Baron that now is, who was then counsellor in the cause.

The 9 to the Lord High Treasurer of England that now is, who had the examination by th' appointment of her said Majesty.

When the copy hereof was delivered unto your Majesty by Sir Thomas Chaloner all these personages were living.

Endorsed: The humble petition of your Majesty's faithful subject, Thomas Gurlyn