

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 6 September 1596 from Oxford to Sir Robert Cecil, apparently concerning the allowance of £1000 a year promised by William Stanley (1561 – 29 September 1642), 6th Earl of Derby, to Oxford's daughter, Elizabeth de Vere (1575-1627), whom he had married on 26 January 1595.

For other documents concerning Elizabeth de Vere's allowance and jointure see CP 31/106, CP 44/101 and CP 54/110.

For the Earl of Derby's officer 'Ireland' see CP 116/42, and the History of Parliament entry for George Ireland (d.1596) of the Hutt in Halewood, Lancashire, which mentions a Thomas Ireland of Gray's Inn, 'servant and lawyer to the 5th [sic] Earl of Derby from 1596 onwards':

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/ireland-george-1596>

Oxford indicates that Sir Thomas Egerton, Master of the Rolls and Lord Keeper, was employed in the preparation of the document mentioned in the letter. Egerton was appointed Master of the Rolls on 10 April 1594, and succeeded Sir John Puckering as Lord Keeper on 6 May 1596.

The 'Mr Barnardeux' mentioned in the letter was Lord Burghley's trusted servant, Bernard Dewhurst (c.1533-c.1597). For his will, dated 6 December 1596 and proved 11 February 1597, see TNA PROB 11/89/138. For reasons which are unclear, he was commonly referred to by correspondents as 'Mr Barnard' rather than 'Mr Dewhurst', and in a letter from Lord St John dated 11 April 1595 was referred to as 'my verie lovinge frende Mr Bernarde Deowx, attendinge on the right hon{or}able the Lo{rd} Treasurer'. See CP 132/20 and:

<https://archive.org/stream/calendarofmanusc05grea#page/166/mode/2up>

For Bernard Dewhurst see also Barnett, Richard C., *Place, Profit and Power: A Study of the Servants of William Cecil, Elizabethan Statesman*, (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1969), pp. 59-63.

For Bernard Dewhurst's involvement in Oxford's affairs, see his letter to Lord Burghley dated 2 September 1573, CP 159/110.

For Michael Hicke, see Barnett, *supra*, pp. 80-87.

The writing which I have is in the country, for I had such care thereof as I carried it with me in a little desk; tomorrow or the next day I am to go thither, and so soon as I come home, by the grace of God, I will send it you. The Earl of Derby should have set his

hand and seal to this copy as he had done to yours, but his promises being but delays and shifts, in the mean season I caused his officer Ireland and another to set their hands unto it to witness that it was a true copy.

I named to you in haste in my last letter Mr Hickes, but I had forgot myself; it was Mr Barnarddeux whom my Lord employed in that cause, and therefore I think him able to satisfice all such doubts as my Lord may cast. I do not doubt but if my Lord had then any care thereof, or Mr Barnarddeux, but that this assurance is as firm as the law can make it; there was employed in it the Master of the Rolls, then and now Lord Keeper, and others of my Lord's learned counsel in law, who I hope are sufficient to pass greater matters than it.

Thus taking my leave from Cannon Row, this 6 of September 1596,

I remain your loving friend,

Edward Oxeford

Endorsed: To his very well beloved and honourable friend, Sir Robert Cecil, Principal Secretary to her Majesty, and one of her Highness' Privy Council, give these

Endorsed: 6 September 1596, Earl of Oxford to my Master