
SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 29 January 1598 from Bridget (nee Hussey), Countess of Bedford, to Sir Robert Cecil (1563-1612) expressing gratitude that Cecil has agreed to her request that her grandson, Francis Norris (1579-1622), later 2nd Baron Norris of Rycote and 1st Earl of Berkshire, be permitted to accompany Cecil on an embassy to France. In 1599 Norris married Oxford's daughter, Bridget Vere.

For the Countess' letter of request, see CP 48/83.

For the Countess of Bedford, see also her will, dated 2 and 14 June 1600 and proved 12 January 1601, TNA PROB 11/97/10.

Sir, that it hath pleased you so kindly to accept of Francis Norris in this journey I hold as an exceeding favour, thinking myself very much beholding unto you, and therefore do now wholly commend him (under God) to your wise and friendly protection, nothing doubting your continuing favour for the supplying of his young experience with your grave advice and direction, whereon both I and he do especially rely.

And so praying to the Almighty for your happy success and safe return, I do, with my very hearty commendations to yourself, end. Whitefriars, this 29(?) of January 1597.

Your assured friend,

B. Bedford

Endorsed: To the right honourable Sir Robert Cecil, knight, Principal Secretary to her Majesty

Endorsed: 1597, 2 February, Countess of Bedford to my master