

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated July 1599 from Sir Charles Danvers (c.1568–1601) to Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Southampton, mentioning, among other things, the death of Henry Mackwilliam, who is named in Charles Arundel's 1581 libels against Oxford (see the will of his father, also named Henry Mackwilliam, TNA PROB 11/70/244, and TNA SP 12/151/46, ff. 103-4).

Thomas Compton, by whom Henry Mackwilliam was slain, has not been definitively identified. However it appears likely that he was Sir Thomas Compton (d.1626), the second son of Henry Compton (1538-1589), 1st Baron Compton, by his first wife, Frances Hastings (d.1574), one of the daughters of Francis Hastings (1513/14-1560), 2nd Earl of Huntingdon, by Katherine Pole (d.1576), a descendant of George, Duke of Clarence (1449-1478. For the will of his father Henry Compton, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Compton, see TNA PROB 11/74/434.

The principal matter discussed in the letter is the Queen's refusal to confirm the command given to Southampton by Robert Devereux (1565-1601), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Essex. From the *ODNB*:

*Seeking employment in war, Southampton set out for Ireland in March 1599 with his friend Essex, the lord deputy, who nominated him general of the horse, though the queen refused to confirm this appointment. The young earl fought well in minor skirmishes, but by the autumn he was back idling in London where, with the fifth earl of Rutland, he saw 'plays every day' (Collins, 2.132).*

Persons mentioned in the letter, together with excerpts from the *ODNB* to provide context for Danvers' mention of them, can be identified as:

\*Sir Henry Danvers (1573-1644), younger brother of the writer of the letter. From the *ODNB*:

*Danvers soon crossed to Ireland, his patrons Essex, Southampton, and later Charles, eighth Baron Mountjoy, ensuring his employment in the army there. He showed outstanding bravery in the more important engagements of the Nine Years' War, being wounded three times. Under Lord-Deputy Essex in 1599 he was prominent in the reduction of Cahir Castle, and was shot in the face while aiding Essex and Lord Barry near Mallow, co. Cork; in July that year his command of the cavalry near Arklow in Wicklow was significant in the defeat of Feagh McHugh O'Byrne's men.*

\*Sir Thomas Egerton (1540–1617), Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.

\*Thomas Sackville (c.1536-1608), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Buckhurst, Lord Treasurer.

\*Oxford's brother-in-law, Thomas Cecil (1542–1623), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Burghley.

\*Sir Edward Stafford (1552-1605). From the *ODNB*:

*He was said to have been promised the chancellorship of the duchy of Lancaster by Elizabeth, but the gift was not honoured by James I.*

\*Sir John Fortescue (1533-1607). From the *ODNB*:

*Fortescue was chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster from 24 September until 3 October 1601, and then again from 4 November 1601 until his death.*

\*Roger Manners (1576–1612), 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rutland. From the *ODNB*:

*[In early 1599] he went to join Essex's expedition in Ireland, even though the queen had repeatedly denied him permission to go. Rutland served as an infantry officer but received a peremptory summons from Elizabeth to return to England. Before his return he was knighted by Essex at Cahir Castle on 30 May. Claiming ill health and aided by the intercession of friends such as Sir Robert Cecil, he narrowly avoided imprisonment for his defiance of the queen.*

\*Sir Charles Cavendish (1553-1617):

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/cavendish-sir-charles-1553-1617>.

\*John Stanhope (c.1545-1621) of Harrington:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/stanhope-john-1545-1621>.

Stanhope had married, on 6 May 1589, Margaret Mackwilliam, the sister of Henry Mackwilliam slain by Thomas Compton.

\*Cardinal Andrea of Austria and Jerome Coomans. See Allen, Paul C., *Philip III and the Pax Hispanica*, (Yale University Press, 2000), pp. 20 and 255 at:

[https://books.google.ca/books?id=T7cSzo3RAhOC&pg=PA255&lpg=PA255&dq=%22Cardinal+Andrea%22+%221599%22&source=bl&ots=PngFSkN4yp&sig=yyAVP2qNWHMKcgQSKw8Y-jSb2\\_E&hl=en&sa=X&ei=g839VNnaG4rUoATj8YHAAQ&ved=0CB0Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Cardinal%20Andrea%22%20%221599%22&f=false](https://books.google.ca/books?id=T7cSzo3RAhOC&pg=PA255&lpg=PA255&dq=%22Cardinal+Andrea%22+%221599%22&source=bl&ots=PngFSkN4yp&sig=yyAVP2qNWHMKcgQSKw8Y-jSb2_E&hl=en&sa=X&ei=g839VNnaG4rUoATj8YHAAQ&ved=0CB0Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Cardinal%20Andrea%22%20%221599%22&f=false).

\*Henriette de Balzac d'Entragues, Marquise de Verneuil, mistress of Henri IV of France.

\*Elizabeth Russell (October 1575-July 1600), Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth, elder daughter of Lord John Russell (d.1584) and Elizabeth Cooke (c.1528-May 1609).

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\*Anne Russell (c.1578-April 1, 1639), Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth, younger daughter of Lord John Russell (d.1584) and Elizabeth Cooke (c.1528-May 1609).

\*Anne Russell Dudley (1548/9-1604), Countess of Warwick.

For Elizabeth Russell, Anne Russell, and the Countess of Warwick, see the entries at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenQ-R.htm>.

My Lord, I humbly thank your Lordship for the pains you have taken in delivering the particularities of my brother's harting [=hurting?] amendment and freedom from danger, which being now past I hope will turn him to some good for that wounds in the wars, being the marks of well-deservers, cannot lose their reward in a grateful time.

I doubt not but by this time your Lordship hath received the verdict which hath passed against you here, wherein, as you will find sufficient cause of discontentment in that it is a proof of your Prince's displeasure, so have you this cause of comfort, that your greatest enemies, by the proof you have given of yourself, are forced to confess you to be more worthy of the place you hold than any can be named, and unto your deserts and government are not able to take the least exceptions.

There is great expectation what course will be taken by my Lord of Essex and yourself upon the receipt of your discharge. It is vulgarly conceived that the Council's letters written in the Queen's name will be presently obeyed, and that your Lordship will presently dispose yourself to return, they looking no farther than into the ordinary course which men in this time do take in cases of such disfavour, and some friends of yours do persuade the like, both for the same cause, and judging it, moreover, in their conceit not altogether so honourable for you to remain there if you be sequestered from your commands. But those which love you no less do wish that my Lord of Essex, retaining you in your place, would reply and expect the redoubling of the former commandment, so much being held, as the case stands, very warrantable, or else that your Lordship would of yourself, at the first, without show of esteeming it, resign your authority into my Lord's hands where it might rest undisposed of to any other so long as you continued in the army, which should be even as long as otherwise you were determined. In the first place your friends do judge that such reasons and unanswerable arguments may be alleged by my Lord as may move her Majesty to alter her mind, and that, they assure themselves, would be much the more easily effected if you would be moved to use your own pen in such a style as is no less fit for this time than contrary to your disposition, it being apparent that her Majesty's ill conceit is as much grounded upon the sternness of your carriage as upon the foundation of any other offence. And though this course take not such effect as is wished, yet your continuance there will show that you embarked not yourself into the journey for the authority of such a place but for higher and more worthy respects, esteeming not to have taken reputation from your office but to have given very much thereunto. I know all this is needless, both for that I am acquainted with your

Lordship's mind in this case and that you are of all other the wisest to give yourself advice, yet have I thought good to deliver you the conceits of others as matter for your own judgment to work upon.

The progress was first appointed to Wimbledon, to my Lord Keeper's at Barford [=Pyrford?], to my Lord Treasurer's at Horsley, to Oatlands, and so to Windsor, but by reason of an intercepted letter wherein the giving over of long voyages was noted to be sign of age, it hath been resolved to extend the progress to Basing and so to Wilton, and unto Wimbledon the Queen goes on Tuesday next.

Since the Mastership of the Wards, no office hath been bestowed save the Presidentship of York, which is promised to my Lord Burghley, but his patent is not yet signed. Sir Walter Raleigh is now the earnestest suitor for the Chancellorship of the Duchy, and Sir Edward Stafford challengeth a promise from the Queen, but it is not likely it will be suddenly bestowed for that the Queen hath committed it during the vacancy to Sir John Fortescue, and finds herself very well served by him.

My Lord of Rutland hath so well satisfied all parties here as we hope he will scape the Fleet and all other punishment save the punishment of being kept at home.

Sir Charles Cavendish, accompanied with three of his servants, was lately set upon in his own ground near his house by Mr Stanhope. Sir Charles and one of his men were hurt in three or four places, and Mr Stanhope left three of his people behind him.

Harry Macwilliams is slain by Tom Compton, who is likewise hurt in divers places, but now past danger of death.

The treaty with Spain is still entertained underhand, and to that effect there hath one been secretly here of late from the Cardinal Andrea, only to keep on foot the motion made by one Coomans who was sent in the same sort to the same effect this last winter. This Coomans was sent at his return from hence by the Cardinal into Spain, from whence he is looked for very shortly to return. Thus much notice touching this matter will serve you to inform yourself from those which are best able to acquaint you with the particularities of all this business.

Mademoiselle d'Entragues is now publicly declared to be the King's mistress.

Your Lordship shall do me a favour to burn these letters.

And so I rest your Lordship's most humbly to command. From London the (blank) of July, 1599.

Charles Danvers

Postscript: Mrs Bess Russell, when I was last at the court, desired me to remember her to your Lordship. Her sister was then absent in the country with my L[ady]? of Warwick.

Endorsed: (1) To the right honourable the Earl of Southampton; (2) Sir Charles Danvers to the Lord of Southampton, July 1599.