

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter endorsed 30 May 1600 from Oxford's daughter, Bridget Vere (1584-1631), to Sir Robert Cecil (1563-1612) concerning wrongs done to her mother-in-law, Elizabeth (nee Morison) (died c. 4 July 1611), by her second husband, Henry Clinton (1539-1616), 2nd Earl of Lincoln, whom she had married after 20 October 1586.

For the Earl of Lincoln, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/clinton-sir-henry-1616>.

See also Sisson, Charles J., ed., *Thomas Lodge and Other Elizabethans* (New York: Octagon Books, 1966), p. 263:

*This peer [Lincoln] is one of the riddles of his time. He was a most eccentrically quarrelsome man, but his excuse may have been insanity.*

For a letter dated 14 May 1600 from Bridget Vere's husband, Francis Norris (1579-1622), to Sir Robert Cecil on the wrongs done to his mother by the Earl of Lincoln, see CP 79/48.

For Elizabeth (nee Morison), see also the will of her brother, Sir Charles Morison (1549 - 31 March 1599), TNA PROB 11/94/168.

For Francis Norris' maternal grandmother, Bridget (nee Hussey), Dowager Countess of Bedford, mentioned in the letter below, see her will, TNA PROB 11/97/10.

For the Earl of Lincoln's manor of Chelsea, which he had purchased from Sir Robert Cecil in 1599, see Sisson, Charles J., ed., *Thomas Lodge and Other Elizabethans* (New York: Octagon Books, 1966), p. 262.

For an incident in 1603 involving Oxford and the Earl of Lincoln, see TNA SP 14/3/77, ff. 134-5 and TNA SP 14/4/14, ff. 27-9.

Good Uncle,

I give you many thanks for your honourable favours showed lately to my Lady Lincoln, by whose good means I did well hope that she should have been released of her long bondage, and that Mr Norris might have obtained leave of him [=Earl of Lincoln] to see his mother, which he cannot, wherefore my earnest suit unto you is that at your good leisure you would once again entreat this unkind Lord that he would, in regard of her health and the necessity she hath to take physic, give her leave to come and lie at Chelsea for a time, for where she is no physician may come to her.

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Thus am I bold to trouble your weighty affairs with this work of charity, for which both I and many more shall think ourselves greatly favoured therein. And so I commit you to God this (blank) of May 1600.

Your loving niece, Bridget Norris

My Lady Bedford desires to be remembered in all kindness unto you. So do I, and Mr Norris likewise.

Endorsed: To my very loving uncle, Mr Secretary, give these

Endorsed: 30(?) May, Lady Bridget Norris to my master