

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 3 February 1602 from Dorothy Clerke Long Morison (d.1618) to Sir Robert Cecil (1563-1612) proposing that her son, Charles Morison (1587-1628), grandson of Bridget (nee Hussey) Morison Manners Russell (d. 12 January 1601), Dowager Countess of Bedford, should marry Oxford's youngest daughter, Susan Vere (1587-1629).

The close relationship between the Dowager Countess of Bedford and the Cecil family is indicated by the fact that the Countess' step-grandson, Edward Russell (1572-1627), 3rd Earl of Bedford, was in 1591 suggested as a husband for Oxford's eldest daughter, Elizabeth Vere (1575-1627) (see TNA SP 12/238/69, f. 100); that her grandson, Francis Norris (1579-1622), 2nd Baron Norris of Rycote, married Oxford's middle daughter, Bridget Vere (1584-1631); and that her grandson, Charles Morison (1587-1628), was proposed as a husband for Oxford's youngest daughter, Susan Vere.

For Dorothy Clerke Long Morison (d.1618), see the will of her mother, Elizabeth Ramsey Clerke Alford, TNA PROB 11/92/437; the will of her first husband, Henry Long (d. 15 April 1573), TNA PROB 11/55/169; and the will of her second husband Sir Charles Morison (1549 - 31 March 1599), TNA PROB 11/94/168.

For an undated letter endorsed '1601', likely 1602 New Style, from Oxford's youngest daughter, Susan Vere, to Sir Robert Cecil concerning Dorothy Morison's proposal, see CP 183-123.

I beseech your Honour, seeing it pleaseth not God to afford me the happiness to be able myself to attend your Honour, grant leave to these lines to answer a conceived error that I should commit which I entreated my honourable Lord Grey to deliver the truth of to your Honour, both touching myself and my son, who forbare to presume to wait on you then, in respect he heard you were so much incensed against us both for seeking to take unfitting courses towards my honourable Lady Susan Vere, to whom neither of us will live to be so forgetful of the honour we owe to yourself, as also the due that we will ever acknowledge to her, whom I assured myself would do nothing without your knowledge and honourable consent, which I had no good grounds to presume to trouble your Honour for, of whose favour, as my son and I have already tasted, and rest most bound to your Honour for, so would we further have presumed to have acquainted your Honour with the cause before it had been laid open to the speech of the world, which I beseech you think proceeded from neither of us, nor with our consents.

But seeing it hath so fallen out to be brought in question, and that it rests wholly in your honourable liking and consent, I humbly entreat you to allow my son the favour to seek to deserve the pretty Lady's affection (who both for the virtues and kindness we have found from her will ever honour, holding it more precious than what she shall be worth besides), which we only leave to your honourable favour and direction and the rest of her honourable friends, and my son by you to be disposed of, who is most dear unto me, and

shall be much the more if it will please your Honour to grace him with your good conceit, which I will do my best to make his deserts worthy of.

And so desiring my well meaning may answer my presuming in troubling your Honour thus far, I humbly take leave, remaining your Honour's to be commanded,

Dorothy Moryson

Cassio[bury], the 3rd of February 1601 [=1602]

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

Endorsed: 1601, February 3rd, Lady Morison to my master