

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy enrolled on the Close Rolls on 13 March 1564 of a deed dated 10 February 1564 by which the Queen's Attorney-General, Gilbert Gerard, and Lord Burghley's servant, Robert Alford, released to Oxford's father-in-law, Sir William Cecil, later Lord Burghley, all the rights they had acquired as Cecil's trustees in the manor of Theobalds alias Tongs under an indenture with Robert Burbage dated 11 December 1563. For the indenture, see TNA C 54/662, No. 8. Lord Burghley built his mansion of Theobalds on the site.

For the rent of £83 mentioned in the deed below, see TNA C 54/583, Nos. 18-19.

In his 1575 will (see TNA PROB 11/57/448), Robert Burbage states that he had sold the manor of Tongs [=Theobalds alias Tongs] to Lord Burghley:

Item, I do also require you that there be paid yearly unto my brother, Edmund Burbage, his annuity which I granted unto him of four marks by the year going out of the manor of Tongs before I sold the same unto my Lord Treasurer, and so much the rather because I stand bound to my Lord Treasurer in recognizance to save him harmless for the said payment of four marks by the year, which recognizance may be extended upon such lands of mine in Middlesex which I have executed estate unto you; I have found my foresaid brother very natural unto me and that is all the countenance that he hath to take to.

For Sir Gilbert Gerard (d. 4 February 1593), see the *ODNB* article. For Roger Alford (d. 16 July 1580) of Hitcham, Buckinghamshire, see his will, TNA PROB 11/62/442.

Although the link between the family of Robert Burbage of Park Hall in Hayes, Middlesex, and the family of the builder of the first London theatre, James Burbage, has not been found, Robert Burbage of Park Hall bore the same Burbage coat of arms as James Burbage's son, Cuthbert Burbage. See the pedigree of Burbage of Park Hall in Armytage, George John, ed., *Middlesex Pedigrees as Collected by Richard Mundy*, (London: Harleian Society, 1914), Vol. LXV, p. 80 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/middlesexpedigre65mund#page/78/mode/2up>.

See also the pedigree of Cuthbert Burbage in Howard, Joseph Jackson and Joseph Lemuel Chester, eds., *The Visitation of London*, (London: Harleian Society, 1880), Vol. XV, p. 121 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationoflond01stge#page/120/mode/2up>.

LM: D(?) Script{um} int{er} Gilb{er}t{um} Gerard Ar{migerum} Rog{er}um Alford Ar{migerum} & Will{elmu}m Cecill Militem

To all men to whom this present writing shall come, Gilbert Gerard, General-Attorney to the Queen's Majesty, and Roger Alford, esquire, send greetings in Our Lord God everlasting;

Where Robert Burbage, esquire by his indenture bearing date the eleventh day of December in the sixth year of our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty that now is by the appointment of Sir William Cecil, knight, Principal Secretary to the Queen's Majesty, hath given, granted, bargained and sold unto us, the said Gilbert Gerard and Robert Alford, our heirs and assigns, one yearly rent of fourscore and three pounds going out of the manors of Theobalds, Clays, Darcies, Cressbroke, Thomas Williams and Clerkes in the county of Hertford, and also the suit of court due to be done for the said manors to the said Robert Burbage to his manor of Cowley Peachey in the county of Middlesex, as by the same indentures amongst divers other things therein contained more plainly appeareth;

Know ye us, the said Gilbert Gerard and Roger Alford, at the request of the said Sir William Cecil, and for certain good causes and considerations us specially moving, to have given and granted and by these presents do give and grant unto the said Sir William Cecil, knight, now being seised in fee simple and in peaceable and quiet possession of the said manors in the said county of Hertford, all the said rent of fourscore and three pounds and all the said suit of court and penalty or penalties hereafter to be due for the same;

To have and to hold the said yearly rent of four score and three pounds and suit of court with the penalty or penalties due for the same unto the said Sir William Cecil, his heirs and assigns, forever;

And further we, the said Gilbert Gerard and Roger Alford, do by these presents clearly release unto the said Sir William Cecil, his heirs and assigns, all our estate, right, title and interest which we have of and in the said yearly rent of four score and three pounds and of and in the said suit of court and penalty;

And also all such right, title, interest and demand which we or either of us have or can or may by any means claim or demand of or in the said manors of Theobalds, Clays, Darcies, Cressbroke, Thomas Williams and Clerkes or of or in any lands, tenements or hereditaments reputed, taken, known, used or occupied as part, parcel or member of the said manors or any of them in the said county of Hertford;

In witness whereof we, the said Gilbert Gerard and Roger Alford, to these presents have put our seals and subscribed our names the 10th day of February in the sixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the Faith etc.

Et memorand{um} q{uo}d decimo tercio die Martij Anno sup{ra}scripto p{re}d{i}c{t}us Gilb{er}tus Gerrard venit coram d{i}c{t}a d{omi}na Regina in

Cancellar{ia} sua et recognouit Script{um} p{re}d{i}c{tu}m ac om{n}ia & singula in eodem content{a} & specificat{a} in forma supradicta

[=And be it remembered that on the thirteenth day of March in the year above-written the forenamed Gilbert Gerard came before the said Lady the Queen in her Chancery & acknowledged the deed aforesaid and all & singular in it contained & specified in form abovesaid.]