

SUMMARY: The document below is a copy of a letter said to be dated 13 September 1574 from Oxford's wife, Anne Cecil, to Thomas Radcliffe (1526/7-1583), 3rd Earl of Sussex, requesting an additional chamber at Hampton Court.

For the letter, see Ward, B.M., *The Seventeenth Earl of Oxford 1550-1604*, (London: John Murray, 1928), pp. 97-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/in.ernet.dli.2015.176090/2015.176090.The-Seventeenth-Earl-Of-Exford#page/n115/mode/2up>.

The full citation given for the letter by Ward on p. 3 is:

<https://archive.org/stream/in.ernet.dli.2015.176090/2015.176090.The-Seventeenth-Earl-Of-Exford#page/n19/mode/2up>

a MS. volume written circa 1826 and entitled, An Account of the Most Ancient and Noble Family of the de Veres, Earls of Oxford, now preserved in the Colchester Public Library

The copy referenced by Ward may be a manuscript of the same title owned and perhaps authored by Henry Holgate Carwardine which may have been acquired by the Colchester Public Library after Carwardine's death in 1867. See Markham, Clements R., *The Fighting Veres*, (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1888), p. 465 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=4hFqAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA465&lpg=PA465&dq=%22An+Account+of+the+Most+Ancient+and+Noble+Family+of+the+de+Veres%22&source=bl&ots=tCICo_T8pe&sig=nJA8nWpviCEOURGC1TrurKaU51c&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi0-v-j1s_TAhVB7GMKHdoeDPkQ6AEIjAA#v=onepage&q=%22An%20Account%20of%20the%20Most%20Ancient%20and%20Noble%20Family%20of%20the%20de%20Veres%22&f=false

It is clear from Ward's citation that he had not seen Anne Cecil's original letter, and Alan H. Nelson describes the 1826 manuscript from which Ward transcribed it as also 'lost'. See *Monstrous Adversary* (Liverpool University Press, 2003), p. 459.

Inquiries made by the author of this website on 2 May 2017 to the Essex Record Office and the Colchester Library confirm that there is no record at either location of the manuscript entitled 'An Account of the Most Ancient and Noble Family of the de Veres'.

In the letter below, Anne Cecil refers to the Queen's 'coming to Hampton Court'. According to Ward, the Queen arrived there on 1 October 1574.

'Lord Arundel's men' mentioned in the letter below were servants of Henry Fitzalan (1512-1580), 12th Earl of Arundel.

'My Lord Howard' may have been Oxford's first cousin, Lord Henry Howard (1540-1614).

Ward also transcribes an earlier letter from p. 150 of the manuscript held by the Colchester Public Library. The letter is dated 27 June 1573, and was written by Lord Burghley to the Earl of Sussex. See p. 93:

My good Lord, I heartily thank you for your gentle remembrance of my daughter of Oxford, who as I think meaneth, as her duty is, to wait on her Majesty at Richmond except my Lord, her husband, shall otherwise direct her. And so I take my leave,

*Your Lordship's assuredly,
W. Burghley*

My good Lord, because I think it long since I saw her Majesty, and would be glad to do my duty after her Majesty's coming to Hampton Court, I heartily beseech your good Lordship to show me your favour in your order to the ushers for my lodging that, in consideration that there is but two chambers, it would please you to increase it with a third chamber next unto it which was reserved last time for my Lord Arundel's men, and as I was informed by my Lord Howard, he had it when he lay in the same lodging.

I shall think myself greatly bound to you for it, for the more commodious my lodging is, the willinger I hope my Lord, my husband, will be to come thither, thereby the oftener to attend her Majesty.

Thus trusting in your Lordship's favourable consideration I leave to trouble your Lordship any further, with my most hearty commendations to my good Lady, your wife.

From my father's house at Theobalds.

Your Lordship's poor friend,

Anne Oxenforde