

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 30 June 1578 from Oxford's steward in Cheshire, Edward Fitton (d. 4 March 1606), to Lord Burghley concerning Oxford's manor of North Rode, at the time part of Oxford's wife Anne's jointure. For another letter from Fitton to Lord Burghley dated 3 July 1578 mentioning Oxford's manor of North Rode, see CP 10/4. For letters from Fitton to Oxford's brother-in-law, Sir Robert Cecil, see CP 54/110, CP 54/15 and CP 54/21.

For Sir Edward Fitton, see his will, TNA PROB 11/107/223; the *ODNB* article; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/fitton-edward-1548-1606>.

See also the will of his uncle, Francis Fitton (d. 17 June 1608), TNA PROB 11/112/118.

Fitton's kinsman, Sir Randle Brereton (d. 8 May 1611) of Malpas, mentioned in the letter below, married Frances Throckmorton, the daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton (for whose will see TNA PROB 11/63/17). See Rylands, John Paul, ed., *Cheshire and Lancashire Funeral Certificates, A.D. 1600 to 1678*, (Manchester: The Record Society, 1882), Vol. VI, p. 31 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cheshireandlanc00britgoog#page/n73/mode/2up>.

See also the pedigree of Brereton in Ormerod, George, *History of the County Palatine and City of Chester*, (London: Lackington, Hughes, 1819), Vol. II, p. 377 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historyofcountyp02orme#page/376/mode/2up>.

Right Honourable, my bounden duty remembered, forsomuch as I think myself in conscience bounden to my very good Lord, the Earl of Oxford, whose tenant I hope to be, and presently exercise the stewardship of his tenants inhabiting in North Rode within this county of Chester by his Lordship's sufferance, and do acknowledge myself bounden to your Lordship above all in duty, and so will remain to all yours, and therefore I, thinking the same lordship to appertain to my Lady of Oxford by way of jointure or dower, am the willinge to do anything that is or can be in my power to further anything that may purchase quietness to her Ladyship's living, presently I am therefore to require as well your Honour to direct me what to do in a cause lately happened, as also to understand my Lord of Oxford his pleasure for that it toucheth his Lordship's inheritance, to wit, a great portion of land lying waste which hath ever been reputed my Lord's as appertaining to his lordship of North Rode called by the name of Rode Heath, and his tenants have enjoyed the use of the same, as well by pasturing of their cattle as by digging turfs and peats for their fuel, but now by some sinister information given to two gentleman, Mr Randle Mainwaring and Randle Brereton, esquires, they make title to most part of the

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same heath as parcel of their manor of Eaton, and if I had not been, and this bearer, who got turfs in my Lord's right, I fear they would have taken away the turfs gotten by my Lord's tenants, but by my persuasion in respect of their friendship and kindred to me and the duty they bear to both your Honours, they are desirous to have the matter ended without law by friends or sight of evidences upon both parties, if it shall so please my Lord of Oxford, or as shall seem good to your Honour.

And for that purpose have I sent up this bearer, John Passe, whose true dealing and honesty towards my Lord, and willingness to bestow his travel and life to do my Lord his master service, deserveth in my conceit a remembrance of his faithfulness. He liveth upon a mean farm of a mark rent by year.

Thus resting at your Lordship's commandment in this and in all other things above all men, my father excepted, I humbly take my leave. Aldford the 30th of June 1578.

Your Honour's to command during life,

E. Fitton.

Endorsed: To the right honourable my singular good Lord, the Lord Burghley, Lord High Treasurer of England.

Endorsed: 30 Iunii 1578, Mr Fitton to my Lord, claim laid to parcel of the manor of North Rode, being of the Earl of Oxford's possessions.