

SUMMARY: The document below contains statements taken on 24 and 26 June 1582 from Daniel Botham and William Crouch, witnesses to a fray on Friday, 22 June 1582, between one Gastrell, and three or four of Thomas Knyvet's (1545/6-1622) men. The word 'maned' appears twice in the document in connection with Gastrell. It is unlikely to be an error for 'named' and appears to mean that Gastrell conducted himself as though he were one of Oxford's men. According to the evidence of both witnesses, Gastrell was hurt in this fray, and according to one witness, Daniel Botham, Oxford's man Harvey was hurt as well.

For an earlier fray on Monday, 18 June 1582, involving Gastrell and Knyvet's men, see TNA SP 12/154/13, ff. 23-4, and TNA SP 12/154/11, ff. 20-21. As TNA SP 12/154/13, ff. 23-4 makes clear, the fray of Monday, 18 June 1582, was deliberately provoked by a third party hoping to set Oxford on Knyvet and vice versa.

These frays had their origin in the birth of Oxford's illegitimate son by Anne Vavasour on 21 March 1581. Oxford's mistress, Anne Vavasour, was related to the Knyvet family as follows. Sir Henry Knyvet (d.1546) and Anne Pickering had four daughters, one of whom, Margaret Knyvet, married Henry Vavasour of Copmanthorpe in Yorkshire. According to Chambers, the couple had four children, Oxford's mistress Anne Vavasour, her sisters Frances and Margaret, and her brother Thomas Vavasour (1560-1620) (see Chambers, E.K., *Sir Henry Lee* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1936), p. 151). The courtier Sir Henry Knyvet (1537?-1598) and his younger brother, Thomas Knyvet (1545-1622), were therefore both uncles to Anne Vavasour.

xxiiijto Iunij 1582

Daniel Bothame of Fleet Street, chirurgeon, saith upon his oath that upon Friday last in the afternoon he did see one which they called Gastrill, & maned to be my Lord of Oxford's man, & drew his sword upon 3 or 4 of Mr Knyvet's men, whereunto one of them said, Gastrill, we will not deal with thee here; there is no place here, & desired the street to bear witness thereof. Gastrill replied & said he would fight with them, & thereupon struck at one of Mr Knyvet's men 5 or 6 blows, wherein the said Gastrill was hurt. The rest of Mr Knyvet's men had their swords drawn, but struck not, & one Harvey, my Lord of Oxford['s man?], with his swords [sic] drawn would have parted the affray, & as he thinketh was hurt by chance by Gastrill, for he did not see any of Mr Knyvet's men strike at him, or he at any of them.

LM: (in another hand) Harvey would have parted the fray

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William Crowche of Fleet Street, mercer, saith upon his oath that upon Friday last in the afternoon he did see one which was called Gastrill, & maned to be my Lord of Oxford's man, draw his sword upon 3 or 4 of Mr Knyvet's men, & one of Mr Knyvet's men, whose name he knoweth not, said twice or thrice, Gastrill, put up thy sword; we will not meddle with thee, & desired the street to bear witness, & thereupon one Harvey, my Lord of Oxford's man, willed Gastrill to put up his sword, which he did accordingly, & then one of Mr Knyvet's men said, Gastrill, another time use thy discretion, whereupon Gastrill drew again, & ran upon one of Mr Knyvet's men furiously, & they struck 5 or 6 blows, & Mr Knyvet's man hurt Gastrill. The other of Mr Knyvet's men & Harvey struck not at all that he did mark.

LM: (in another hand) Harvey willed Gastrill to put up his sword

Endorsed: 22 June 1582

Examinations touching the fray between Gastrell and Mr Knyvet's man