

SUMMARY: In this letter dated 7 December 1563 to Thomas Williams, feodary of Devonshire, John Chidley, bailiff of Oxford's manor of Thornecombe, states that he has paid £92 16s 7d to Geoffrey Thomas of Exeter, as due to the Queen for the year and a half ended on 29 September 1563, but that the only acquittance he has received is from Thomas, which is insufficient for his discharge. He therefore requests an acquittance signed by Williams' own hand, and advice as to where and to whom the revenues from Thornecombe are to be paid in future. In the 16th Earl's inquisition post mortem (PRO C 142/136/12) the manor was stated to be worth £62 5s 8-1/2d in net yearly revenue, and in Part 36 of WARD 8/13 the sum of £18 15s 2-1/2d was added to that figure for rent increases resulting from a survey by the feodary of Devonshire, bringing the net yearly revenue for the manor of Thornecombe to £81 11d. Despite the rent increases, the amount paid by John Chidley in 1563 of £92 16s 7d appears to represent the net revenue for one and half years as per the value of the manor found in the 16th Earl's inquisition post mortem.

1563

Worshipful & my singular good Master, my duty premitted, pleaseth it you to be advertised I have (upon the reported [sic] of my servant Master Pole his letters, & also by letters which I received from your servant Peter Lyde dated on the last Wednesday of November last past), paid unto Geoffrey Thomas of Exeter of the rents, issues, & revenues of the manor of Thornecombe in Devon the sum of £92 16s 7d of good current money due unto the Queen's Majesty by reason of the minority of age of the Earl of Oxford for one year & half ended at the feast of Saint Michael th' Archangel last past [=29 September 1563] before the date of these my letters, and have received [] but only th' acquittance of the said Geoffrey Thomas for the said sum, which is no matter sufficient for my discharge, as your Mastership doth well understand. Praying you therefore, & that every man is mortal, that it may please you (upon your convenient leisure) to direct your acquittance under your own hand unto me for the said sum of money, and to send him to the said Geoffrey or to mine host in Exeter, Master Michael Brown in Southgate Street, his father-in-law. Thus further to trouble you at this time I will not, but desiring your leeful favour & to know your further pleasure where & to who {m} the rent shall be hereafter paid, & so commit your Mastership to the Almighty, who preserve you in long life & much worship. Scribbled at Exeter on the 7th of this December, an {n}o sext {o} Eliz {abethe} Re {gi}ne, by yours to command,

John Chidley, bailiff there.