

SUMMARY: In this letter of 7 May 1565 to Sir William Cecil, Oxford's mother, Margery Golding, urges that the portion of her son's inheritance which is due to come to him in his minority be entrusted to herself and other persons of substance so that, as his father the 16th Earl had intended, it would be available when he reached the age of majority to meet the expenses of suing his livery and furnishing his household. The relevant clause in the 16th Earl's will of 28 July 1562 (see PROB 11/46, ff. 174v-6) reads:

Item, I will, give and bequeath unto my son Edward, Lord Bulbeck, one thousand marks [=£666 13s 4d] of lawful money of England, to be paid unto him by my said executors as it may conveniently be levied of the manors, lands and tenements hereafter by me bequeathed to the use of this my last will

Unfortunately, Margery Golding's request was not acceded to.

My commendations to you remembered, whereas my Lord of Oxenford my son, now the Queen's Majesty's ward, is by law entitled to have a certain portion of his inheritance from the death of my late Lord and husband, his father, and presently to his use to be received, and as I understand the same portion particularly is set forth by order of the Queen's Majesty's honorable Court of Wards and Liveries, if it might stand with your pleasure that the same portion so set forth might by your order be committed to some such of his friends during his minority so as he might be truly answered of the whole issues and profits of the same at his full age, he should have good cause to think himself much bound to you for the same, for otherwise when he shall come to his full age he shall not be able either to furnish his house with stuff or other provision meet for one of his calling, neither be able to bear the charges of the suit of his livery, which charges were foreseen and provided for by my said late Lord and husband and his counsel learned by such devises as they made that his said son should thus be entitled to a portion of his inheritance during his minority. And if the same portion should remain in the hands of my Lord now in his minority, and not committed to some such persons as should be bound to answer him the same at his full age, the care which my said Lord, his father, and his counsel learned had for the aid and relief of him at his full age might come to small effect, which matter moveth me earnestly to become a suitor to you in this behalf. And in case it might please you to think me, being his natural mother, meet to be one to have the order, receipt and government of the said portion, joined with some other of worship and substance and Robert Christmas for the true answering of the mean profits of the same to my Lord at his full age, I would willingly travail to procure such persons to join with me in it as shall be to your contentation, and therewith they to be bound in such bonds for the true answering of the said revenues and profits as shall seem unto you good. And herein I shall especially pray you I may understand your pleasure by the bringer hereof. And so with my hearty thanks for your gentleness toward me showed, I take my leave this 7th day of May, 1565.

Margery Oxenford

Addressed: To the right honourable Sir William Cecil, knight, Master of the Wards and one of the Queen's Majesty's Privy Council be these delivered(?).

Endorsed: 7 Maij 1565
The Countess of Oxford
The Earl of Oxford's money