

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 10 January and 12 January 1605 from Charles Howard (1536-1624), 2nd Baron Howard of Effingham and 1st Earl of Nottingham, to Sir Thomas Lake (bap. 1561, d. 1630) concerning the payment of fees to George Harper and Henry Humerston, keepers of walks in the Forest of Essex. As noted in the letter, the cessation of the payment of the keepers' fees was the result of a dispute between Oxford and Sir John Grey (d.1611), which continued after Oxford's death on 24 June 1604.

Oxford's efforts to reclaim his rights in the Forest of Essex during Queen Elizabeth's lifetime were unsuccessful, with Oxford stating that the Queen 'flatly said whether it were mine or hers she would bestow it at her pleasure'. For letters and memoranda in which Oxford mentions his legal claim to rights in the Forest, see BL Lansdowne 68/6, ff. 12-13; BL Lansdowne 68/11, ff. 23, 28; BL Lansdowne 68/11, f. 22; BL Harley 6996/22, ff. 42-3; Cecil Papers 35/84; Cecil Papers 172/81; Cecil Papers 99/161; and Cecil Papers 100/99. For a deposition by Oxford's former receiver-general, Edward Hubberd (d.1601/2), attributing to Oxford's servant, Israel Amyce, the suggestion that Leicester was behind the Queen's refusal to restore Oxford's rights in the Forest ('I pray God my Lord of Leicester have not gotten it and burned it because of my Lord's title to the stewardship of the Forest'), see TNA C 24/277/35.

For the rights claimed by Oxford in Waltham Forest, see TNA SP 14/2/63, f. 160. For the writ of privy seal by which King James restored to Oxford his rights to the keepership and stewardship of the Forest and of the King's park and houses of Havering, see TNA C 66/1612, mm. 29-30.

For a letter written by Oxford to King James on 30 January 1604 complaining that Sir John Grey (d.1611) had killed deer in Havering park without the King's warrant, see ERO D/DMh C1.

For the indenture of 18 June 1604 by which Oxford transferred his offices in the Forest of Essex to his first cousin, Sir Francis Vere (1560/61-1609), and his son-in-law, Francis (1579-1622), Lord Norris, see ERO D/DCw T1/565.

See also Fisher, William Richard, *The Forest of Essex: Its History, Laws, Administration and Ancient Customs*, (London: Butterworth's, 1887), pp. 118-19, 127, available online.

After my hearty commendations, I am given to understand by one George Harper and Henry Humerston, keepers of Hainault and Chapel Hainault walks in his Majesty's Forest of Waltham, that in regard of the question which hath been and yet is between the Earl of Oxenford and some others touching those walks, there is a stay made of the keepers' fees of 8d per diem which hath been formerly allowed and paid to each of them by the Treasurer of his Majesty's Chamber, and that for the continuance thereof unto them they are forced to become petitioners to his Majesty for the signing of a new bill, which suit of

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theirs being reasonable, I have thought good hereby to desire you to draw a bill for them ready for his Majesty's signature containing a grant of the same fee of 8d per diem to each of them, to be paid as it hath been accustomed, for which your so doing this shall be your warrant. From Arundel House the 10th of January 1604.

Your very loving friend,

Nottingham

I am given to understand that the said keepers have been unpaid their accustomed fee of 8d per diem since Our Lady Day 1603 [=25 March 1604?], as by the pay-books may appear. Therefore I pray let their bill be drawn as well to include those arrearages as to continue the said fee unto them. From Arundel House the 12th of January 1604.

Your very loving friend,

Nottingham

Endorsed: (1) To my very loving friend, Sir Thomas Lake, knight, or in his absence to any other of the Clerks of his Majesty's Signet, give these; (2) 1604(?), 10 January, for a warrant [ ] fees of Humerston not paid [ ] in Waltham Forest.