

SUMMARY: The document below is an entry, dated 31 January 1604, in a docket-book of a licence granted by King James to Edward Kirkham, Alexander Hawkins, Thomas Kendall and Robert Payne to train the Children of the Revels to the Queen, and to have them perform at the Blackfriars.

Edward Kirkham, Yeoman of the Revels, was the cousin of Oxford's trustee, George Kirkham. For the indenture dated 14 June 1580 for the purchase of the Great Garden property made between Oxford and his trustees George Kirkham, Hugh Beeston and William Walter, see TNA C 54/1080. For the will of George Kirkham, in which he mentions his cousin, Edward Kirkham, Yeoman of the Revels, see TNA PROB 11/122, f. 230.

Samuel Daniel (1562/3–1619), appointed as licencer in the grant below, failed to carry out his duties successfully. From the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online:

*[Daniel's] disdain for the public theatre may have been costly to him in other ways too. Even the sinecure of monitoring a few stage-plays—the queen had made him licenser of the Children of the Queen's Revels in February 1604—was something he couldn't bring himself to do with any care. It is not impossible that he let the controversial plays *The Dutch Courtesan* and *Eastward Ho!* get by him simply because he hadn't read them closely enough before they were performed.*

*The following years were the most difficult of Daniel's life. The first disaster was with *The Tragedy of Philotas*, performed before the king by the Children of the Queen's Revels early in January 1605. Daniel was immediately called before the privy council to answer the charge that his treatment of the subject—the downfall of *Philotas*, a favourite of Alexander the Great—was seditious comment on the trial and execution of Robert, earl of Essex, in 1601.*

A docket is defined in the *Oxford English Dictionary* as 'a brief summarized statement', and specifically as 'the abstract of a proposed letter patent written upon the King's bill which authorized the preparation of such letter for the Great Seal, and also copied into a register or docket-book'.

The other entries for 31 January 1604 in the docket-book have not been transcribed below.

Vltimo die Ian{uarij} 1603

A licence granted to Edward Kirkham, Alexander Hawkins, Thomas Kendall & Robert Payne to provide and train up a convenient number of children to be called Children of the Revels to the Queen, and them to exercise in playing within the Blackfriars in London

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or in any other convenient place, provided that no plays or shows shall be presented by them before the Queen or publicly acted but by the allowance of Samuel Daniel, whom her Majesty's pleasure is to appoint for that purpose.

p{er} Lake

Endorsed: 31o die Ian{uarij} 1603 docquet.