

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter from John Herdson to Lord Burghley concerning Oxford's lease of Aveley. The background to the letter is Oxford's assignment of his lease of Aveley to the Queen on 16 May 1588 for two years in satisfaction of an old debt of £200 owed to the Queen by Oxford's father (see Lord Burghley's letter of 8 March 1588 regarding the debt, TNA SP 46/35, f. 28, and the assignment of the lease by Oxford to the Queen dated 16 May 1588, TNA E 354/1). In a letter to Lord Burghley dated 5 August 1590, Oxford says that he had mortgaged his lease of Aveley to John Herdson (see BL Lansdowne 63/71, ff. 181-2). Whether Oxford's mortgage of the lease to John Herdson had occurred before or after Oxford's assignment of the profits from the lease to the Queen for two years is not clear. In any event, it would appear from Herdson's letter below that Oxford's assignment to the Queen of the profits from the lease for two years had not satisfied the old debt of his father's for £200, and that in order to get the lease out of the Exchequer, Herdson had been required to enter into a bond to pay those profits to the Queen himself if he could not obtain a discharge of the assignment of lease by the end of the current law term.

For an indenture dated 24 March 1590 by which Oxford and John Herdson granted to the Queen a one-hundredth part interest for the term of three years in lands in Aveley, see TNA E 210/10742. For interrogatories administered in Easter term 1590 to one Wilfred Luty on behalf of the Queen in her lawsuit against Richard Payne concerning Aveley, see TNA E/133/6/907.

A document dating from 1592/3 suggests that Oxford had parted with his interest in Aveley by that time:

E 210/9983

John Herdson to the Queen: Demise, indented, for three years, of messuages and land, parcel of the farm or demesnes of the manor of Aveley: Essex. 35 Eliz.

For a letter from Lord Burghley to Thomas Fanshawe which may be a response to the letter below, see TNA SP 46/41, f. 134.

Thomas Fanshawe (c.1533–1601) obtained the reversion of the office of Queen's Remembrancer in July 1568, and succeeded his uncle, Henry Fanshawe, Queen's Remembrancer, who died on 28 October 1568. The office of Queen's Remembrancer was one of the three key administrative elements in the upper Exchequer, and the Queen's Remembrancer was frequently called on to give advice to the Treasurer or the Chancellor and Under-treasurer (see the entry for Thomas Fanshawe in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography*).

Right Honourable, I have through your Lordship's especial favour received the lease of Alvethlie [=Aveley], the which remained by order of the Court in Mr Fanshawe's custody, and have further according to your Lordship's direction entered into bond to

answer the two years' profits due unto her Majesty by virtue of an assignment made by the Earl of Oxford if I shall not procure a discharge thereof before the end of this present term. Now my humble suit unto your Lordship is (being left destitute by my Lord of Oxford, who by general covenant ought not only to discharge that assignment, but also to defend and clear the lease from all other encumbrances) to appeal unto your Lordship's honour and equity, unto whom the cause of that assignment is not unknown, and that I may by your Lordship's goodness receive some order therein, and not to be referred unto the Court of Exchequer, where I fear they will proceed according to the apparancy of the lease assigned unto her Majesty without remorse or further examination of the cause thereof. So humbly beseeching your Lordship's censure what I shall do for discharge of her Majesty's lease, I do with all humility remain at your Lordship's service, whose safety and long life I pray God grant unto us.

Your Lordship's most humble at commandment,
John Herdson

Mr Fanshawe to certify me the state of this cause, and what were fit to be done therein.
W. Burghley

Endorsed:

- (1) To the Right Honourable the Lord Burghley, Lord High Treasurer of England.
- (2) Mr Herdson.
- (3) I take this to be in good form according to the docket annexed.