

BEAUMONT OF WHITLEY BEAUMONT

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Introduction

Sir Richard Beaumont (1574-1631), of Whitley Hall, Kirkheaton, Yorkshire, succeeded his father, Edward, who bequeathed to his son estates occupying about "2000 acres in upper Calderdale, including the manor of Whitley and half the manor of Huddersfield, both in the honour of Pontefract."¹ The estate was located about six miles east of Huddersfield on lands north of the A642. Knighted in July 1603, he represented Pontefract in parliament in 1624 and 1625. Thomas Beaumont, of Colne Bridge and Tibnether-end in Kirkheaton, was Sir Richard's cousin, son of Sir Richard's aunt, Rosamund Beaumont, who had married her distant relative William Beaumont of Lascelles Hall, Yorkshire.

News of entertainments at court was standard fare in the correspondence between country gentry and their family and friends at court. The first of these letters alludes to the pageants produced for the formal reception of King James I by the City of London. The royal entry into the city did take place, as projected, on 15 March. For the most detailed accounts of the pageants, the "greate shewes", see Thomas Dekker, *The Magnificent Entertainment given to King James* (London, 1604), STC # 6510; Stephen Harrison, *Arches of Triumph* (London, 1604), STC # 12863; and Ben Jonson, *His Part of King James His Royal Entertainment* (London, 1604), STC # 14756. "Shrofetuesday" in 1603/4 fell on 21 February. Although no court records of a bear baiting appear to be extant, W.R. Streitberger notes that "Unnamed plays were performed for the king by the Children of Paul's on 20 February and by the Children of the Queen's Revels on 21 February" ("Jacobean and Caroline Revels Accounts, 1603-1642," Malone Society *Collections* VI (Oxford, 1986), p. 3.

The second letter reports on Ben Jonson's masque for the celebration of the wedding of the Scottish nobleman, John, Lord Ramsay, Viscount Haddington, to the English lady, Elizabeth Radcliffe, daughter of Robert Radcliffe, earl of Sussex. The marriage took place at Theobalds on February 9th, 1608. Written by Jonson, *The Hue and Cry after Cupid* had sets and costumes designed by Inigo Jones and music composed by Alfonso Ferrabosco. The author of this letter was Sir Henry Savile Jr. (1579-1632), of Methley, Yorkshire. He was knighted in July 1603, succeeded his father in 1607, and in the fall of that year married Mary Dent, daughter and co-heir of John Dent, Salter of London and Mitcham, Surrey, who

had died in 1595. In 1596, John Dent's widow and Mary's mother, married Sir Julius Caesar, chancellor of the Exchequer, in April 1596.

The dance book in the Whitley Beaumont collections at the Kirklees Archives is one of eight manuscripts containing this list of dances along with their choreographies. These documents, which range in date from the mid-16th century to the late 17th century, provided the information needed for men and women to practice dances that might be performed at court, at the Inns of Court (with which most of the manuscripts are connected), or in a stately home. No two copies of the material are exactly the same: six of them have been transcribed by D.R. Wilson, in "Dancing in the Inns of Court," *Historical Dance* 2 (1986-7), 3-16, or collated by Robert Mullally in "More about the Measures," *Early Music* 22 (1994), 417-38. The other copy of 'the old measures', the only other copy associated with a provincial collection, has been published by James Stokes and Ingrid Brainart, "'The olde Measures' in the West Country: John Willoughby's Manuscript," *REEDN* 17:2 (1992), 1-10.

¹Lynne Hulse, John P. Ferris, and Simon Healy, "Beaumont, Sir Richard (1574-1631), of Whitley Hall, Kirkheaton, Yorkshire," *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1604-1629*, ed. Andrew Thrush and John P. Ferris. Cambridge: University Press, 2010.
<<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/beauumont-sir-richard-1574-1631>>.

Records

1603/4

Family Letter

WEST YORKSHIRE ARCHIVES SERVICE, KIRKLEES

Sir Thomas Beaumont in London to Sir Richard Beaumont in Whitley

21 February

Sir my dewty remembred &c: I did send to Hor<....>¹ a packett of New pamphletes and then wanted tyme to write, the Court is at white hall and lykely there to Continewe till the parliament² be ended, the xvth of this next moneth is apointed for the greate shewes in London and that day his maiestie to Come from the Tower throwe the Citty, this [day] Shrofetuesday³ is apointed beare beatinge [&] before the Court gate & a play within the Court accordinge to the ould order & further newes I haue none to write of.

...

¹Hor<....>: text lost from right corner; perhaps Horbury

²parliament: The first session of King James's first parliament sat from March 19 to July 7, 1604.

³shrofetuesday: the 'f' written over a 'u' or vice versa

1607/8

Family Letter

BODLEIAN LIBRARY, OXFORD

Sir Henry Savile in London to Sir Richard Beaumont in Whitley

f 15 (18 February)

... yesterday [st] was *the* great mariage of the vicount Hadington & a singular braue maske of Englishe & scottes att *which* I stayed with my wyfe [&] her mother & my sister Vere¹ till three a clocke in the morninge. The kinge drunke a health to the Bridegrome & his Bryde in a Cuppe of goulde & when he hade donne sent ytt by my lord of Fenton² | & therin a pension out of th'Exchequer of six hundred pound a yeare to him & to her & to the longer lyuer of them. Att the maske | I sawe Thomas Beaumont, & sett | in annother place a certain gentlewoman called Mrs Greseley³ attended vpon by yonge sir Gervaise Clifton⁴ and wat Hastings⁵ ...

¹my sister Vere: *Elizabeth (née Dent) de Vere, was a sister-in-law of Sir Henry Savile. On October 26, 1607, she married the renowned soldier Sir Francis Vere (c 1560-1609).*

²my lord of Fenton: *Lord Fenton (1566-1639) was Thomas Erskine, Lord Viscount Fenton, later (1619) the first earl of Kellie. He was created Lord Fenton in 1606, and at the time of the marriage was Captain of the Guard and Groom of the Stool.*

³Mrs Greseley: *Susanna Gresley (1585-1624) was a daughter of Sir Humphrey Ferrers of Tamworth, Warwickshire, and the wife of Sir George Gresley, of Drakelow*

⁴sir Gervaise Clifton: *Sir Gervais Clifton (1587-1666), of Clifton-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire, had been studying at St. John's College, Cambridge since 1603 and was at the Inner Temple in 1607. In 1609, he became one of the Justices of the Peace for Nottinghamshire and would be its Member of Parliament for several sessions between 1614 and 1666.*

⁵wat Hastings: *Walter Hastings (1544-1616), born in Braunston, Leicestershire, a son of Francis Hastings, 2nd earl of Huntingdon and Catherine Pole*

Undated Dance Book

WEST YORKSHIRE ARCHIVES SERVICE, KIRKLEES

the ould messurs

*The Pavine

To singles and a *Double* forward/ to singles sid and a *Double* back iiij times over/ And so ennd

*2 Torcalony

A *Double* forward and a *Double* back iiij times to singles sid a *Double* [fron] forward & a *Double* back twise a *Double* forward and a *Double* back iiij times

*3 therll of essex messure

A *Double* forward and one *Step* back iiij times/ to *Steps* sid a *Double* forward And A *Double* Back/ then begine all againe

*4 Tinternell

A *Double* forward and a *Double* back Once to *Steps* and a *Double* rovnd by the handes bothe waise/ a *Double* forward and a *Double* Back iij times to *Steps* and a *Double* rovnd by the

handes bothe waise againe

*5 the ould Allman

Tow *Steps* and a *Double* rovnd by bothe handes bothe waise/ iij *Doubles* forward/ to *Steps* and a *Double* rovnd by bothe handes bothe waise

*6 the qvenes Allman

A *Double* forward and a *Double* Back sett to *Steps* sid face to face and torne a *Double* round in your owne place twice/ iij *Doubles* forward A *Double* forward and a *Double* Back sett to *Steps* sid face to face And torne a *Double* rovnd in your owne place twice/ agane.

*7 Siscilia Allman

To *Steps* and a *Double* forward and one *Steps* back twice / parte handes And do to *Steps* sid face to face and honor / chang places with / to *Steps* and a *Double* honor and imbrace/ to *Steps* sid and honor/ to *Steps* And a *Double* in to your owne place/ honor & imbrace/ againe as before

*8 The Black Allman

iij *Doubles* forward parte handes and do a *Double* back one frome another mete againe with a *Double*/a *Double* to your left hand and a *Double* to your right hand/ the men sett to *Steps* and torne a *Double* rovnd the women do as much/ chang places by bothe handes with a *Double* and travise iij one your right handes/ a *Double* into your owne place by bothe handes and travise iij one your right hand againe / Back a *Double* one from another & mete againe withe a *Double*/ begine all againe

The Ennd of The ould messurs

Document Descriptions

1603/4 Family Letter

Thomas Beaumont in London to Richard Beaumont in Whitley; West Yorkshire Archive Service, Kirklees (www.wyjs.org.uk/archive-service), DD/ WBC/ 5; 1603/4; English; paper; 1 fol; 300mm x 200mm; fragmentary condition, parts of margins missing; not repaired. Internally dated in the last line of the body of the letter: "this xxjth of februarij 1603".

1607 Family Letter

Sir Henry Savile in London to Sir Richard Beaumont in Whitley; Oxford, Bodleian Library, Add. C. 259; 1482-1645; Latin and English; paper; 150 letters, varying sizes; 1 fol; 310 mm x 205 mm; internally dated "this Ashe wensday 1607"; the collection of letters received by the Beaumont family is repaired and bound into a single board and leather binding; fair condition; titled on spine, "Beaumont Letters."

Joseph Hunter's 1819 copy of this extract, entitled "5. From Sir Henry Savile junior. 1607. Extract," is in BL Add. MS 24475; it agrees with the original except for a few accidental differences. W.D. Macray, ed. *Beaumont Papers: Letters relating to the Family of*

Beaumont, of Whitley, Yorkshire, from the Fifteenth to the Seventeenth Centuries, Roxburghe Club (London: Nichols & Son, 1884), pp. 16-18 prints the entire letter; the part dealing with the masque occupies pp. 17-18.

Undated Dance Book

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Kirklees, DD/WBM/20; n.d. [16 or 17 cent.]; bifolium, English, paper, list of dances with choreographies; 300mm x 210 mm; fair condition. This is an item in an assorted group of miscellanea in the large Whitley Beaumont collection.