George Wyatt



No Picture Available Born: 1550 Arlington Castle, Kent, England Married: Jane Finch

Died: 16 Sep 1623 Boxley Abbey, Kent, England Parents: Thomas Wyatt & Jane Hawte

In 1571 **George** and family restored in blood and arms after having been deprived of them in consequence of Bill of Attainment and execution of his father, Sir Thomas in 1554. Admitted to Grays' Inn when 17. When age 18 married **Jane Finch** (24) daughter of **Sir Thomas Finch**, (deceased) an heiress, which restored family fortunes. He wrote the "Life of Anne Boleyn" which was published and a history of the Wyatt family which is in the British Museum in manuscript form. Saw active service as a soldier, lived to 73, wife outlived him by 20 years. Ancestry.com

Information on the restoration of property to the Wyatt family after the execution of Thomas Wyatt, George's father:

On her death, (Jane Wyatt) her son, <u>George Wyatt</u>, succeeded to them; but the abbey(Boxley)seems to have continued in the crown, for queen Elizabeth, in her 11th year, granted the scite and mansion of it to John Astley for a term of years. In the 13th year of that reign, George Wyatt, esq. was restored in blood by act of parliament, after which he became possessed of this seat, and resided here, having the fee of it granted to him by the crown. He died in 1624, and was buried in the chancel of this church, as were his several descendants, who bore for their arms, Per fess azure and gules, a barnacle argent, the ring or; he left several sons and daughters, of whom the second son, Haute Wyatt, was vicar of this parish; From: 'Parishes: Boxley', The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 4 (1798), pp. 324-353. URL: http://www.british-

history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=53810&strquery=wyatt Date accessed: 30 August 2010.



Boxley Parish Church where George Wyatt and other Wyatt family are buried.

then on hand, if I did propond a to y learning. It would not be at ober, as a thinge I delieve I dutie towards your Lo, then I have to beginninge of an account extraintie offers towards to park things is consabid to a sudden as it a rather everpe, then five

An elegant manuscript letter by Sir George Wyatt with significant literary associations. Wyatt writes to William Brooke, the tenth Lord Cobham and Warden of the Cinque Ports in 1593 shortly before Cobham became Lord Chamberlain and took control of London's theatres, and by implication the dramatic fortunes of Shakespeare and his company of players. Sir George Wyatt was himself the grandson of the Tudor poet Thomas Wyatt who is credited with introducing the sonnet into English. This letter relates to 'A treatise on the defence of Calais' which Wyatt sent to Cobham on 5 December 1593. (The manuscript of the treatise is in the British Library - Add. Mss 62135 - in a volume which matches the dimensions of this letter.) The text suggests that the diplomatic commission concerning Calais came from Cobham who was at the time one of the great figures of Elizabethan England. Calais had only been been back in French hands for a little over three decades, and its loss was a major blow to British foreign policy. In the letter Wyatt apologises for the delay in completing his treatise, 'my nature would not suffer me to be idle and my duty would inforce me in what I could to shew at ye lest ye desiere I have to serve her Matie though otherwise les furnished therunto then any other.' Wyatt plays down the value of his discourse: 'as a thinge I desiere shuld rather keep wt in ye limits of a private dutie... The thinge is conceaved wt a sudden Pen and hatched wt a weake iudgmet, so as it ca rather creepe, then flye, otherwise then as you shal beare it up wt your accustomed good opinion.' The document runs to 31 lines and around 450 words. It would appear to have been written in three hands. The superscript dedication to Lord Cobham is in one hand, a second hand, presumably secretarial, completes the body of the letter (leaving the actual date blank to be filled in later) and George Wyatt's own signature is written by the author at the foot of the page. The Wyatt and Brooke families were relatives as well as allies during the sixteenth century - in 1554 Brooke had sided with Sir George Wyatt's father in the ill-fated Wyatt rebellion. George Wyatt is credited with restoring the family's fortunes after his father's execution. In addition to the treatise he also wrote a History of Ann Boleyn with whom his grandfather's name was linked with nearly fatal consequences in the 1530s. Sir George Wyatt's son Sir Francis Wyatt became the first English colonial Governor of Virginia from 1621. The volume of documents in the British Library to which this letter relates also contains several letters from father to son. The paper of this letter is browned and there is some loss to the top right hand corner with the loss of about three words. The script is legible throughout. Tudor letters with substantive content like this one are now very scarce. (VI10)