

**Ref Code: GB 172 S[WS]**

# **Sneyd Papers**

**A calendar of correspondence  
to William Sneyd**

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CORRIGENDA

MS. 18, for 'Mr Walker' read 'Mr Walter'.  
MS. 32, for 'Gratwick' read 'Gratwich'.  
MS. 43, for 'Clipston' read 'Clipstone'.

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CORRESPONDENCE

To William Sneyd (d.1695)

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|----|---------------------------|--|
| 1. | 26 Jan.<br>1651/52        | Robert Milwarde to William Sneyd, at Nerton.<br><br>Begged his pardon for not writing to him on Saturday, but truly had always been of an opinion that a fine <u>sur concessit</u> was not competent security to the lessees in trust, and he [Sneyd] was bound by covenant to levy no other, nor was there other (as far as he was able to judge) acknowledged by him. Wished all [ ? ]s might be carried forward between himself and sister Sneyd, and conceived the agreement was no disadvantage to him. |
| 2. | Keele.<br>17 Apr.<br>1652 | Jane Sneyd to the same, in London.<br><br>Had received his last letter, 'and should be glad you might come of[f] from the Charge of the fine, but if you thinke to ease your selfe by bringing the personall estate into question[,] either as liable to the fine or upon a second delinquencie[,] you may do well to consider how farre   |

these new queries may extend to the reall estate and so prove more preiudicia[ll] to you,...' Was sure he well knew she had already paid above the value of the personal estate, and must therefore excuse her if she sought the best remedy for herself. Was still her desire that all differences might be composed in love between them, 'to that end[,] if you please to waite upon Sir or[lando] Bridgman[,] who will be in london the end of the next weeke[,] and unto whom I referre all things [sic] which concernes me[,] and what he shall please to undertake on my part shall be made good....' Adds a postscript, that [as for the] Mr Bowker business, she did not think that ever she should have received such an unkindness from him [Sneyd].

3. Stafford.  
7 May,  
1652

Ro[bert] Milwarde to the same.

Had no doubt that if there were a tenant in tail, with the remainder in tail, and the tenant in tail committed treason and died without issue, that he in the remainder was safe by the former law, 'but I am afrayde this present parliam[en]t for all matters of delinque[n]cy looke uppo[n] ten[an]ts in taile as ten[an]ts in Fee Simple[,] because they hadde power to sell if they pleased by fine or Recovery[,] as the Case stooode. Y[ou]r Brother hadde power by Recovery to have made a sale of K. wthout his brother[']s ioyneing wth him[,] and it was his intentio[n] in Case of refusall[,] and then unquestionablely K. hadde been lyable for ever to [?]all Judg[m]ent ag[ains]t y[ou]r brother...' Considers the issue further. 'I must Confesse the sc[r]uple has been longe in my headde and doe not desire that there shudd be too Curious a search made into y[ou]r estate. I writt to y[ou]r mother that sealing the door could be noe pre[i]udice to her. That it was a surrender of Norton. to inable you to suffer a Co[mm]on Recovery[,] and if 5[,000]li were not paid her such a day[,] the Surrender to be Voyde.' His [Sneyd's] wife had thought it not material to press his mother in it. Had then thought that a fine from his brother and him competent security, but on second thoughts remembered that the fee simple was in his brother's daughter's hand, therefore a recovery was necessary. Wished there might be amity between his sister and himself.

4. 'Salop.'  
8 Jan.  
1652/53

Jane Sneyd to the same, 'at norton farme or Keele....'

Had received his letter by John Hypsley, and truly much wondered he should so much vary from what he had agreed to concerning (?) Bradwall, it seemed, as she supposed, by some new advice he had found another way, then never thought on when the business was in debate. Believed that had it been intended for her to contribute weekly with him, it would have been then urged by him. He knew there had been no mention of any such thing, neither would she go on on those terms, 'you absolutely agreed[,] Brother[,] before

the witnesses then present[,] to repaire the roof and to give 50li.0.0. towards the rest, and allow materialls[,] this I dare affirme upon oath...' Had no present money and could not but take it very unkindly to see his dealing and uncertainty with her. 'I thanke god and strangers I hope I shall not want a house[,] though it seems I might for you, I am sure if I had foreseene what ridgednesse and strictnesse I had I should have bene more wise[,] and it may be not have wanted a house now...', etc. Her humble duty to her brother Richard and all her cousins. Adds a postscript, 'Brother, you have formerly often tould me, that if I liked not a towne life, I should come to Keele againe if I pleased[:] if you will set it, and admitt of no other tenant, if you will I will rent it as a stranger will give...'

5.       Leeke.  
28 Dec.  
1654

George Parker to the same, at Keele.

Had had some conveyances brought to him to peruse, which concerned an estate which had been the inheritance of James Rowly, and now belonged to his [Rowly's] son-in-law Mr Ford. On view thereof, had found that when those lands had been made freehold by Sneyd's father and grandfather, there had been a heriot reserved on the death of every person seized thereof of any estate of inheritance. Found that Rowley [sic], on the marriage of his daughter to Ford, had conveyed the lands to himself for life, and afterwards to his daughter and her issue, who was still living and had 4 sons and 3 daughters, so that the estate of inheritance rested in her and her issue, and no heriot could be due on his death by colour of that reservation. Had perused this, which was dated 22 or 23 years since. Knew he desired nothing but what was due, and if he pleased to refer it to his cousin Robert Milward, 'or any other Councell', Mr Ford would yield what an indifferent man would adjudge.

6.       Stafford.  
11 May,  
1657

Robert Milwarde to the same.

Sneyd had covenanted that the premises granted were worth (?) £100 per annum, besides all charges and reprises, so that if by reason of any charge or reprise the premises became of less value than £100, he was obliged to make it up. Therefore it was his advice that by all means be procured an order from the commissioners, to be directed to indifferent persons, to survey the premises, and return their value, otherwise he much feared they would urge the charitable use upon him. Considers further possible disadvantages. 'This post fro[m] London in formes me that the L[or]<sup>d</sup> Protector hath with some Contempt refused the Crowne, and the souldiery have brought a remonstrance into y<sup>e</sup> house[,] full of high Language adviseing the parlia[me]<sup>nt</sup> to make noe further addresses to his highness as to Kingshippe, soe that for any thinge I Canne Coniecture, we are liked to be govern'd wholly by the souldiery. and the Maior Generalls.



God Blesse us all.'

7. Stafford.  
17 Aug.  
1657

R.Milwarde to the same.

Had perused the deeds made by Lord Audeley to his grandfather, and had found, amongst other things, two messuages, supposed copyhold in his ancestor's and one Turner's possession, and all lands belonging to them, etc., passed to his ancestor. The Turners had been in possession above 60 years, paying 8/- per annum rent, which they had constantly paid, 'and I am further Informed that Turner hath an old Copie but noe rent particulariz'd in't, soe that uppon the whole matter I feare both a Judge and Jury[,] Consideringe the Turners['] long possession, will be apt to thinke that y<sup>e</sup> freehold and inheritance at lawe of the said Copiholds was passed to y<sup>r</sup> Ancestor[,] and as to y<sup>t</sup> messuage in his possession the Copihold was extinguished but y<sup>t</sup> Turner's did still remaine Copihold though severed fro[m] the mann<sup>or</sup>.' By law, the ancient rent of his copyhold was payable to him. If he could give any probable testimony of a lease made by any of his ancestors to Turner or his ancestors, his title might appear probable.

8. 20 Apr.  
1659

The same to the same.

Perceived that when his brother was married and the settlement made on the marriage, the estate was transferred by bargain and sale, and release, of which the deeds he sent him were counterparts. The principal deeds, sealed by his father, are or were in the custody 'of my Cose[n] your sister[']s friends, for uppon them did depend the strength of her Joynture and the provision made for her daughters.' But if it happened that the principal deeds were lost, which belonged to his sister, 'for the Counterpartes properly belonged to y[ou]<sup>r</sup> father and his heires males', he conceived that these deeds should be deposited in some indifferent hands and preserved for both their use. If there were no settlement of the estate in these deeds, his brother was tenant in fee simple, and his estate liable to all judgments obtained against him. Urges the deposit of the deeds for both his and his sister's sake.

9. 20 Nov.  
1660

John Caulton, William Bourne, William Dicknson, Richard Podmore, Randull Kettell, John Burslen [sic], John Salmon, Thomas Badley, Robert Burslem, to the same, 'one of the Knightes of the parlement of England...'

So it was that they had had some conference with their neighbours, concerning that money which was left for the bishop's rent, and so it was that there was not above £15 that would be had, 'the Reste is in such men[']s handes as we Canot Compas'. As they would give him a true account at his coming down, concerning the repair of the chancel, the time was not now

seasonable. They had viewed it with some others, who thought £6 or £6.13.0. would do it sufficiently, but they would keep £8 in their hands for the repair of it, 'yf it neide soe muche[.] And for the other vijli we would Intreat yo[u]<sup>r</sup> worship[.] accordinge to your promisse[.] we maye aplye it for the preching of Gode[']s word at [(?)] nue Chapell'.

10. 12 Feb.  
1660/61

George Parker to the same.

Had received his letter of the 7th, but had formerly been with the Chancellor of the Duchy about his lease. Could have no assurance of renewing it until the surveyor had made his certificate of the value of 'the Castle place' and the perquisites of the courts. If Colonel Shalcrosse had any aim at it for himself, he would put a great trouble on him, 'for hee is a man made upp onely for profitt to himself and soe I found itt in the poore widowe[']s case att Newcastle[.] And therefore yo[u]<sup>r</sup> work wilbee to mak him yo[u]<sup>r</sup> frend and then the business wilbee easely effected'. Concerning the Newcastle business, the defendants had appeared and taken the copy of the bill, and taken down a commission to answer in the country. As for Turner's Farm, he would peruse his deed of purchase from Lord Audeley after the assizes, and then send for a subpoena out of the Chancery. 'About 2 monethes since my Lord of Manchester[.] Lord Chamberlen[.] searched generall Moncke[']s Cellars[.] lest in steed of Beere and wyne they had beene Barrells of powder and amunition[.] upon wch the Lady Monck went redd hott to the Kinge and tould him that my Lord Chamberlen had searched her husband[']s Cello<sup>rs</sup>[.] and swore by god that the Lord Chamberlen had more treason in his heart then all the disbande souldiers and that lo[rdshi]<sup>pe</sup> searched for Powder and amunition that he might be enabled to raise a new Rebellion against him as he had formerly done against his father: my information of this was from a noble lord that was present when shee spok the wordes to the Kinge...'

111. Lich[field].  
4 Mar.  
1660/61

Ellis Froggatt to the same.

That day a letter had come to his hands from him, directed to Mr Chancellor, who had not yet come down to Lichfield. Had presumed to break up his letter and finding therein his desire to aim for a licence to eat flesh for certain [persons] remaining with him, 'whose constitucōns are unapt for fishe', had sent 3 licences to be filled up. For the fees of them he would leave it to Mr Chancellor, until Sneyd and he met at Stafford assizes.

12. 26 Sept.  
1664

Thomas Bagnall to the same.

Had made a search for John Forde[']s surrender

and payment of his 'FareFee', but in the time that he [the writer] had kept the court, he found none, and in some rolls he had had from Sneyd in Mr Chetwinde's time, and never had any of the rolls in Mr Rell's or Mr Wedgwoode's time. If it were paid it would appear by their own copy, but found, upon discourse with John Sheratt, that he conceived it was not paid when he surrendered, but some time after, 'wch is a thing not usuall, & I much question it.' The best course, he conceived, would be to seize, '& if they can hee[r]after make it appeare they ought to be discharged of it, you will doe them right...' Adds a postscript that the bailiff desired him to send his pleasure [in the above] and he would go along with them or seize.

13. 6 Nov.  
1666

Rob[er]t Milward to the same.

'In the first place I must begg y[ou]<sup>r</sup> pardon, that I have not sooner answer'd your letter, but really we have been in such tediousse and hott debates concerning the means of his Ma[jes]ties supply, that I am almost excuseable, considering I was tied to the chayre, and have scarce had time to eate or sleepe.' As to his mill business, he would wait on Mr Ellis, and certainly if they obtained not an injunction, they would procure the case to be heard next term. 'S<sup>r</sup>[,] we have yet fixed on noe way for his Ma[jes]ties supply, but at a Committee of y<sup>e</sup> whole house debated all. now I hope we shall retourne to an house againe. and fasten uppo[n] some thinge[, ] for it's more the[n] time[, ] some, of which opinion I am one, would willingly ease the Lande fro[m] taxes, if not in all[, ] yet in part[, ] by Imposinge some thing on the Consumption of such forre[ign] and home Commodities, as are rather matters of Luxurie and ornament, the[n] necessity, but what way will be Concluded on is yet uncertayne. we have noe newes, but what y<sup>e</sup> Gazet will furnish you wth all.'

14. Gray's Inn.  
16 Feb.  
1666/67

William Pargiter to the same.

Since his last to him, he had received two from him, to which he would have returned an answer before that, but had expected every day to have conferred with Mr Milward about his business. Had met with him at Westminster Hall, and they agreed to bring a bill on the whole matter, and Sneyd to leave it to the court whether they would make good the last articles, or relieve the children on the first settlement. Was to have further discourse with Mr Milward and to that end had drawn up a breviate for him, but he was out of town, and had carried with him the bill he [the writer] had drawn up, which he had sent him to peruse. That bill had to be altered in many places if Mr Beaumont intended to stand suit. 'I am very sorry you have lost soe much time but I must confesse I never thought but y<sup>t</sup> Mr Beaumont would before this have complied wth y[ou]<sup>r</sup>



desires without suit,...' Must now get leave from the Lord Chamberlain to sue him before anyone would dare to serve a subpoena on him. Would speak to a smart [sic] solicitor that would see that done. If Sneyd would procure the bill from Mr Milward and send it to Northampton, he would prepare it for Mr Leete to see the subpoenas served. Adds a postscript that he was to go towards Northampton on Tuesday next.

15. 'Syford'.  
17 [blank],  
1667

R. Milward to the same.

In regard most of the business was transacted in Nottinghamshire, and the monies were there, and the deeds were to be sealed there, for avoiding his trouble it was designed that he would pass over his trust in 'Eaton' to Mr Charles Hall of Nottinghamshire, who was a person of great estate and was willing to undertake the trust with his [the writer's] cousin Pigot. The trust had been for raising £2,000 for discharging debts of any he found engaged for his brother William, and £1,000 for his brother William, and this declared only by his brother and son. He freely gave his consent for his assigning over his trust to Mr Charles Hall, and William Prince would engage with him [Sneyd] not to part with the deeds forth of his hands until his [the writer's] brother and son had sealed. Blessed be God, he found himself in a good way of recovery. Humbly desired his service to his lady and all at Keele.

16. 29 Mar.  
1668

John Beaumont to the same.

His wife and he were that day going into Lincolnshire, where, if she liked, they intended, God willing, to live for the future. Their return to Sywell would be within ten days. Hoped they would see him as he went to London, 'that we may discourse our busines,...' Had sent for a commission to take his wife's answer in the country, and by that time the term was 10 days old and she might have answered. He would find him as forward as himself to put an end to all their disputes. Desired him to write to her to quicken her in answering, for she would do nothing without his [Sneyd's] instructions. Desired he would take Sywell in his way to London.

117. 29 May,  
1669

The same to the same.

What sums of money Sneyd should pay to Salathiehl Lovell esq., of Northamptonshire, for the writer's use, Lovell's acquittance would be his discharge.

18. Uttoxeter.  
20 Oct.  
1669

W. Gilbirt to the same.

Had received his of the 19th instant, together with 40s. (by Mr Walker). Hoped by such time as

he should go to London that Mr (?) Winnington would have drawn up the case. 'I would have yo<sup>u</sup> to be here yo[u]rselfe w<sup>ch</sup> will put on yo[u]r business [ ? ] forwarded then it will goe in yo[u]r absence, & likew[i]se when yo<sup>u</sup> are here yo[u]rselfe if yo<sup>u</sup> doe not very well approve of that way of proceeding yo<sup>u</sup> may proceed by way of Peticon[,] &c[.,] & w<sup>th</sup>all yo<sup>u</sup> are uppon my Lord of Devon['s] Tryall & I acquainted his Lor[dshi]pp that yo<sup>u</sup> would appare here[,] whoe tooke it very kindly & therefore I desire yo<sup>u</sup> will please to appare here att the Tryall;...' It would be about the 6th or 8th of November before the writer would go for London, and before that time he would willingly wait upon Sneyd, either at Stone or 'Mear Lane end', on Monday week, 1st November.

19. Boycott.  
22 Nov.,  
1671

Row[land] (?) Niccolls to the same.

It was a great satisfaction to him to hear of Sneyd's, the writer's aunt's, and Sneyd's family's good health. Had received £100 from his servant for Sister Kat's use. For the bill of sale men, he had ordered them to be questioned in Chancery and the prerogative court. For his deed he mentioned, he had not yet looked over those writings, they were in sister Kat's custody. On her return thither he would 'per use' them, and if he found any that concerned not her and himself, they would be sent him.

20. Scarborough.  
27 Jan.  
1671/72

John Beaumont to the same.

Had received his and did not doubt but his counsel might tell him that all annuities and rent charges were to allow their proportion to the grate taxes that should be laid; 'but had you put my case Rite, I doe not Question but it would be there judgement[,] as I am confident it's yours, that I ought to be accepted in this case, since for so small a proportion I quitted so grate an estate of so grat[e] a vawew...' Not that he had not done so voluntarily, conditioning with him that what he had agreed should be paid to him should be without deductions. What he [the writer] had done for the children, 'particularly for her you mention', he dared confidently to say, if her father had lived, she would not have been so well provided for. Was his satisfaction that he had done more for the children than could have been expected. Repented nothing he had done for them, but would be glad to do more if he were able, 'but giving this five pounds[,] as you desire[,] I will never consent; for that will be to leave a nother to dispose of mine, and not as it[']s pretended benefitt the Child, but better enable a loose woman to continue her ill practices.' If he submitted, it might be a precedent thereafter. Wherefore he desired him to order Cross to pay it with what would be due to him [the writer] at Lady Day next, 'for [h]is

not paying it so the last halfe yeare I will make it apeare to you prejudiced me almost twenty pound[s]'. Feared not the rantings of a scolding woman, but it would trouble him to have any dispute with him who he had ever found both just and civil.

21. Rugeley.  
19 Apr.  
1672

William Chetwynd to the same.

Found the affair between them was come to that point that he must either submit to extraordinary security, or by an uncharitable logic, be concluded to have a bad title; and the more to confirm Sneyd's jealousy that it was so, Sneyd had said to the writer that the land had been bought of Michael Biddulph of Polesworth, and Michael Biddulph of Elmhurst was mentioned in the deed. 'Sr[, ] I shall never have the confidence to make the least pretence to your Friendshipp, should I once trifle wth, or delude you; therefore I do wth greate Truth & assurance tell you againe, y<sup>t</sup> I purchas'd from Mr Biddulph of Polesworth,...' etc. Did not imagine his [the writer's] refusal of the bond to be a rational ground of suspicion, rather the contrary, but would comply and seal it, 'being loath that any thing should looke like unkind betwixt us; though give mee leave to assure you, y<sup>t</sup> as you affirm you might have disposed the money to better Advantage, so I could (had I dream't of soe much difficulty) have borrowed the little sum, uppon little advantage but wth a much easier incumbrance uppon[, ] Sr[., ] your obedient serv[an]<sup>t</sup>...' etc.

22. 11 May,  
1672

R. Milward to the same.

Perceived that the present revenue of his [the writer's] cousin Davenport's estate was not above £220 per annum, and out of that several payments to be made, besides a debt of £600 and charge of £2,000 for his [the writer's] cousin Davenport's daughter's portion. How that estate had come to be preserved he knew not, but rather thought it best that it were sold, and so that the daughters, which would shortly be marriagable, would be provided for in some reasonable time, but in case it should not be thought fit to sell the estate, he conceived it best to limit an estate to trustees for some considerable term of years, to the intent that out of the issues and profits they might make such payments and raise such sums as should be agreed, and the trusts performed, the term to wait on the reversion, as also the surplus of the profits over and above what should be sufficient to discharge the payments, and after the expiration or determination of the term an estate might be limited to Jo: Davenport for life, the remainder to his son in tail male, the remainder to (?) Vivian for life, with like remainder to his sons, the remainder in fee to the right heirs of Jo: Davenport. As to what lands should be agreed on for sale, they would have to be limited to the trustees and their heirs for ever, to the intent they might sell them for



raising the £600. All after all, do what could be done, it would probably prove but a voluntary conveyance.

23. Stoke.  
17 Oct.  
[(?) 1674]

Francis Crane to the same.

They were glad to hear of any occasion that might give them hopes of kissing his hands at Stoke, and now that parliament was sitting they hoped the honour of his company would not much longer be deferred. Thought that in his last letter he had given an account of the receipt of the bills of £100 and £50, which had been exactly paid according to order, and Mr Gandern [? Gaudern] had also paid the £200 due Lady Day 1675. Lady Compton had made two visits to Stoke, 'but I cannot say freindly ones, y<sup>e</sup> last time my Nephew was not at home, soe y<sup>t</sup> shee spent hir Powder wholly against mee, & because their were discreet persons privye to hir behaviour towards mee, I will not give a Judgment of hir deportment to mee, but leave it to be spoke by others, but I think [']twas not a suitable treatment from a Court lady to y<sup>e</sup> meanest person y<sup>t</sup> calls him selfe a gentleman:/:' Humble duty to his worthy lady, all the good company at Bradwell, Mrs Elizabeth and Mrs Cotten. Adds a postscript about his niece's cheese.

24. 'y<sup>e</sup> Golden Tunn  
by Ivey in y<sup>e</sup>  
strand'.  
24 Feb.  
1674/75

Fran[cis] Arundell to the same.

Since he had written by the last post, he had received this from Mr Philip Folley, who had promised to pay Arundell £500 there, on notice from Mr Wheeler of so much money received by him from Sneyd, for Arundell's use. Desired, if possible, that it therefore be paid on Tuesday next. If Sneyd pleased to take Wheeler's receipt, it should be a good discharge to him, 'for soe much monye in part of my wives portion & I shall give you any further discharge, for soe much upon y<sup>e</sup> receipt theirow as m<sup>r</sup> Archbold or any other person you shall intrust here, shall approve of'.

Subscribed, with a note by Fran. Morgan, that (?) he was for the country the following day, ' & if my Cos: Arundell had not undertooke it I had not faile of answering y<sup>r</sup> letters'.

25. London.  
4 Mar.  
1674/75

J. Dryden to the same.

Mr Checkly on Friday last had taken his journey towards Wales and would wait on Sneyd on his return. In his absence he [the writer] had been desired to receive from Thomas Baddely the £200 that Sneyd had sent, for which he had given his porter a receipt. The same day had come Mr Crane, who he thought was uncle or a near relation of Mr Arundell, to know if he had received the money from Sneyd, and an order to pay it to Arundell. Next day had come Arundell and Crane for the money, which he had paid, 'but the first Bagge we told



over (w<sup>ch</sup> was sealed[, ] as was both[, ] w<sup>th</sup> yo[u]<sup>r</sup> seale[, ] as they was both satisfied y<sup>t</sup> it was as it was delivered to y<sup>e</sup> Carryer) wanted 4s, m<sup>r</sup> Arundell[, ] m<sup>r</sup> Crane & my Selfe told it twice over as carefully as could bee; the other Bagge was right[.]' Had put 4/- to it to make it up. Had been at his cousin Richard Pickering's, who had gone out of town for Cambridge, but his lady had told him he had written two letters to Sneyd about the horse, and that a relation of his would meet Sneyd at Stafford assizes '& to take y<sup>e</sup> Horse or else y<sup>t</sup> yo<sup>u</sup> would send him to S<sup>r</sup> Robert Dryden's & hee would send for him there, for hee depends upon the Horse,...'

Subscribed, with a copy of a receipt for £200, 'in part of the money due to mee in right of my Wife to whome hee[, ] y<sup>e</sup> said Mr. Sneyd[, ] was Guardian...', signed by Francis Arundell.

26. 'ye Golden Tunn  
in y<sup>e</sup> strande by  
Ivy Bridge.'  
6 Mar.  
1674/75

Fran[cis] Arundell to the same.

Had received his of the 27 February, since which he had received the £200, as he had ordered, and given a discharge for it. Had forborne to give sooner notice in order to advise him also by that post concerning the bill of £500, 'w<sup>ch</sup> m<sup>r</sup> Phillip Folio desired should be paid to m<sup>r</sup> Wheeler in Stafford Shire upon Tuesday last, upon notice of w<sup>ch</sup> he hath promist to pay y<sup>e</sup> same summe to mee in town, not hearing from you any thing of y<sup>e</sup> paying of this summe to m<sup>r</sup> Wheeler, I went this evening to m<sup>r</sup> Folio['s] lodging[, ] y<sup>t</sup> I might understand, whether he had received any advice from m<sup>r</sup> wheeler, His agent told mee y<sup>t</sup> m<sup>r</sup> Wheeler had sent word y<sup>t</sup> he kept home all y<sup>e</sup> day upon Tuesday last, in expectation of hearing from you, but y<sup>t</sup> he receiv[e]d nothing from you[.]' If he would please to pay the £50, according to Mr Folio's instructions, he would accept it. Lady Compton and his wife joined with him in their service to him and his aunt.

27. Thre~~e~~ Tunns,  
'by Ivy bridg'.  
16 Mar.  
1674/75

The same to the same.

[MS: imperfect] ...his[the writer's] receipt for £200 returned to Mr Chec[kly]... of his expectation for the receipt of the £500 returned... send up the other £100 as Sneyd formerly did... to one Mr Thomas Langham, an apothecary. To-morrow morning the writer intended going home, with his wife and Lady Compton. Entreated Sneyd to favour him with his letter, directed to be left at the post house at Towcester, to be sent to Stoke. Supposed his occasions would in a short time call him to London. If he pleased to give him and his wife the honour of his company as he passed by, they should be most heartily welcome. [Fragment - only].

28. London.  
16 Dec.  
1675

Ed[ward] Checkly to the same.

Had received his with a bill of exchange for

£107.10.0. As soon as Warwick assizes were past he would make up his account and send it down, because the next assize they should have the other (?) trial with Sir John Knightly, 'and then we shall know what to tright [sic] for,...'

Subscribed, [by (?) William Sneyd], 'this 107li.10s. is the last of my Cosen Ka: Sneyd[']s 1[, ]000li. porcōn[, ] wch she assign[']d me to pay to m<sup>r</sup> Chekly.'

29. Goostrey.  
19 Jan.  
1675/76

Samuel Leadbeater to the same.

Had been yesterday with Mr Francis Moseley, who was much troubled at the great charge that Mr Davenport was at upon the account of suitors, '& requests you to be Instrumentall for the Tableing [sic] M[i]ss Eliz: either wth him your selfe or else where[, ] for I conceive she unhandsonly casts of[f] m<sup>r</sup> Davenport of Calveley[, ] wch as m<sup>r</sup> Moseley & my selfe both thinke to be the best of any that as yet wee have heard of, upon the way as I was going yesterday[, ] overtak[e]s me a messenger from her[, ] to goe this morning w<sup>th</sup> one m<sup>r</sup> Davis of Manley[, ] to view his estate, wch as I am Informed hath bene in her Company but Three tymes & all wthin this fortnight, I Acquainted m<sup>r</sup> Moseley of it & he was of the same mind wth me[, ] not to goe till shee had made a more orderly end wth m<sup>r</sup> Davenport[:] this m<sup>r</sup> Davyes is meanly des[c]ended[, ] onely is well Educated & lately come from University[, ] his father[, ] as I am Informed[, ] hath 400li per ann[um] & married [h]is mayd & hath Allready two daughters by her[, ] wch seems to me to be a great hindranc[e] to his heire,...' Mr Moseley had thought it fitt for him forthwith to send Mr Daniel a letter concerning it, '& to manyfest that if she desented that it was her owne doing & not relacons...' Considers further details. Had found Sneyd's with Mr Unwin's letter at his house and would inform himself concerning it, and then repair to him to see what could be done, 'but pray if you thinke fitt require Mr Middleton to put him on to Answer our Bill....' Mr Moseley and he had fixed on 1 February to come to Keele.

30. Rushton.  
8 Mar.  
1676/77

Viscount Cullen to the same.

By the enclosed [missing] he would see what his requests were in parliament. By that settlement mentioned in the bill, he [Sneyd] and Mr Thomas Cokaine had an interest in Elmhethorpe (which in the bill he desired might be disengaged from the entail) and Rushton for 99 years, to raise portions for daughters, to be paid them after the writer's death, if he did not dispose of them in marriage in his lifetime. To recompense the settling of that, he tied himself from the power of settling a jointure of £500 per annum upon a second wife, and from the power of waste in Rushton, in both which he had a liberty by the settlement. He and his wife had a present

interest in Elmesthorpe, for their lives, and he charged Elmesthorpe with £2,500, for a portion for his daughter, and he concluded his bill that if he preferred her not in marriage in his lifetime, then the same provision which was made for her out of Elmesthorpe and Rushton, should be saved to her. The courtesy he asked was very mean, but might prove of great advantage to his son, 'for by my beeing able to preferre my Daughter in Marriage in my life time[,] I may save him a good part of that 5[, ]000li which otherwise she must infallibly have, if not Married in my lifetime, Besides which I shall bee able to give my sonn an Education fit for him, which by reason of the p<sup>re</sup>sent debts upon mee and paying my Sisters porcion[,] I am not att p<sup>re</sup>sent able to doe/'. If these things were very unreasonable he would not have confidence to desire his furthering them with some of the Members of the House of Commons by signifying that he was well pleased that it should pass, 'and Please to sende up this inclosed Bill that yo<sup>r</sup> Freinds may see that it is the same with what is already read in the House...'

Subscribed, 'S<sup>r</sup>/ It is my Earnest desire that this Bill passe For I am very well assured it is for my advantage, Therefore Begg yo[u]<sup>r</sup> utmost furtherance in it[,] by which you will Oblige me to bee for ever/...' etc. [Signed] Charles Cokayne.

31. Coleshill.  
19 Dec.  
1679

S[?]. Andrews to the same.

Had come out of London on Wednesday morning and that evening had come that far homewards, hoped to have come to Lichfield, but the road was very bad and his horse not in very good condition. Intended, God willing, being at Newcastle the following night, though he hired another. Would not have him give himself the trouble of coming thither, 'the way being so foule, & no moonlight'. Designed, some time the following day, to 'Holines Chappell'. Had enclosed a bill [missing], which he might consider at his leisure.

32. Gratwick.  
13 [blank],  
1681

E. Bayly to the same.

Had entreated his uncle Norman and his son, and could not understand by their answers what they intended doing, but to prolong time, and was very doubtful there was but little care taken by them, 'y<sup>t</sup> troubles me very much that you[,] from whom I have received soe much civility from[,] should through theire carelesnes be disappointed of yo<sup>r</sup> moneys...'

33. Knipersley.  
16 Jan.  
1681/82

John Bowyer to the same.

Was heartily sorry he could not wait on him and Mr Leveson Gower on Friday or any day that



week. Wished the reason were not too apparent, 'for I have a great could upon mee and a sore throate....' Hoped Mr Leveson might defer his journey longer and then they might meet and make an end of the business referred to him. No man in the world wished more than he [the writer] to have a good correspondence and entire friendship with the family of Keele, and nothing should be wanting on his part to promote those ends. 'I shall not therefore meddle any more with keeping a Courte Leete for Tunstall till it bee finally decided by Mr Leveson[,] to whom it is reffered....' 'For what is due to you from mee for amerciaments in not appearing att y[ou]<sup>r</sup> Court[,] God Forbid[,] if itt bee my due to pay[,] y<sup>t</sup> I should hinder you of a Penny[,] tho' the kinder I am used y<sup>e</sup> more thankefull shall I bee: I suppose my father never payed any[,] how itt comes to be my due I am to Learne[,] but shall intirely submitt all to y<sup>e</sup> decission of yr worthy Freind and mine Mr Leveson....'

34. Fleet Street.  
2 Feb.  
1681/82

Edward Checkly to the same..

Mr Smith, at the writer's coming to London, had shown him a letter which had come from Sneyd, wherein the latter desired to be satisfied whether satisfaction was acknowledged on the judgment which the writer's father had obtained on Sneyd's brother Richard. 'Sr[.], as to this I doe not know of any other Judgment but what was ag[ains]<sup>t</sup> Richard Sneyd of Stafford Esq<sup>re</sup>, if he bee the person that you mencon in yo[u]<sup>r</sup> Letter....' Could assure him that the judgment was satisfied, for when the writer was in Staffordshire he had given him a release of errors on the judgment, so that there remained nothing due, except 18/-, being the charge for entering the judgment, which he had promised to pay. The writer had forgotten to speak to [William] Sneyd when he had been at his house concerning some monies he had laid out for Mr Walters, for writs, books and several bottles of metheglin, which came to above £14, besides £100 which he supposed he had heard he had received of his father. Knew not how to get the money unless he would be pleased to be assistant therein.

35. 14 June,  
1690

Jo[h<sup>n</sup>] Large to the same.

When last with him at Keele had told him he had the counterparts of Mr Mainwaring's leases, but that in case Mainwaring should fail to pay the charge, there would be occasion to make use of the counterparts upon further proceedings, whereupon Sneyd had been pleased that he should keep the counterparts till the remainder of the debt and costs had been



cleared. However, had therewith sent the counterparts, and should there be occasion, would send thereafter for them.

36. 'Namp<sup>th</sup>wh'  
[recte Nantwich].  
10 Aug.  
1694

John Gouldsmyth to the same.

Had received his by Mr Austin. Had perused both deeds of enfranchisement and taken an abstract of that to Mr Lawton, both being to the same effect. Until he had prepared the papers he could not tell how the case would fall out. Considers the issues, including that of the heriots [estate unspecified]. Adds a postscript that he had seen his note to Mr Fenton relating to Walklett, and Mr Fenton's answer, concerning a dispute with a tenant. [MS. imperfect].

37.. Shelton.  
10 Sept.  
[1694]

(?)C. Fenton to the same.

In obedience to a letter received on Saturday from his friend Captain Sneyd, he had read over the papers and therewith returned them to him. Clearly agreed that Mr Gouldsmith's opinion was sound concerning Mr Lawton's heriots, but could by no means approve his advice to file a general bill in equity against the long lease purchasers, for reasons given. Adds a postscript that his son humbly thanked him for his retaining fee, and would be ready to serve him in that or any other concern he was capable of performing.

38. 21 Sept.  
1694

John Gouldsmyth to the same.

In answer to his of the 12th instant (for not answering which he begged his pardon, having been at 'Cholmeley' [recte Cholmondeley], he had received his opinion and found no occasion for the retracting of anything therein, further than that the facts and circumstances were different from the apprehensions he had of them. Gives his opinion on the question of there being a heriot due to Sneyd on the estate in 'Oulde Coate', on the death of Mr Lawton; and on the question of copyholding.

39. 1 Oct.  
1694

The same to the same.

In answer to his that day, he would not have an opportunity to do anything as to Mr Mainwaring's deed until he went to Chester, which would be at the assizes. But as to the deed of enfranchisement to Mr Lawton, had returned it, being the same he had perused before, relating to the same lands, which old Mr Lawton swore were settled, so was of the opinion that no heriot became due in respect of them on Mr Lawton's death, and thought it adviseable for him not to begin any suit in respect of the heriots until some case fell out in which he should think himself injured by the denial of them.

40. 'Amarton'  
[recte Amerton].  
22 Jan.  
[2nd half of  
17th cent.]

John Norman to the same.

[About a young mare 'great in foole', which Norman has sent him].

41. 'Clipston[,]  
this 8 of  
april' [.]  
[2nd half of  
17th cent.]

Dorothy Wyrley to the same.

Begged his pardon in that she troubled him, but understood Mr Pigot was dead, for which she was very sorry. He might please to remember that William Willmer had made Sir Charles Compton and himself [Sneyd] and Mr Pigot trustees for his estate. Now they were both dead she heard that Mr Beaumont intended to try if he could get him [Sneyd] to relinquish ['relinckues'] the trust, which she besought him not to, 'for the poore boys['] sake'. Heard that if he got that settlement he would cut down his woods and plough up all his grounds. Pigot had written to her the previous Whitsuntide, that there should be a meeting of Sneyd and Beaumont [sic] and himself, 'and that ther should be 300li a year set out for raising portions for the 2 Daughters[,]' but I Canot heare of anything that is down[,]. I have bin in harforsheer all this winter and now I heare m<sup>r</sup> Beaumont and his Lady are goon to London[.] I have not bin at Siwell above this 2 years[,]. nether have I ani hart to goo there'. Heard that Mr Beaumont intended to give up housekeeping and to take his lady and the poor children to Lincolnshire, 'which I feer will not bee well for the chilldern...' Adds a postscript that the children were all well, although she herself went not to Sywell, yet she sent to see her lady and them.

Subscribed, copy letter, William Sneyd to Dorothy Wyrley, undated.

Had often been a remembrancer to his brother Pigot, 'acquainting him hee was nearer related to the children than he was, & wondred he would not Act according to the trust, & that I would joyne with him,...' Had given order to Mr Leete to prefer a bill against Mr Beaumont, knew not how the suit was stayed, 'but since my brother Pigot[']s decease I writ to m<sup>r</sup> Leete to wayte on you & to receive yo<sup>r</sup> directions, what you would have done in it, & to acquaint you that being [sic] there is noe Trustee left but my selfe[,]. I should Act according to yo<sup>r</sup> directions for the best advantage for the children.'

42. Chesterton.  
18 June,  
[2nd half of  
17th cent.]

J. Driden to William Sneyd, at Keele.

Questioned not but that 'ere that he understood the misfortune his drainers had met with on the way, 'being informed by retorne of one of them, that y<sup>e</sup> other 12 designed to goe forwards,...' Was very fearful, unless they had a guide, there would be nothing effected. Had he received the least intimation of that disturbance in the west, he would not have sent them down, 'but man

proposes, god disposes. I wrott by the men a few lines in hast, wch I perceiue were broke ope at Leicestr. and I should have thought, y<sup>e</sup> particulars of that letter should have evidenc<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> designe to be no wayes dangerous, y<sup>e</sup> name of Sneyd, carries that loyalty wth it, nothing dishonourable can be imagin<sup>d</sup> by any of the family.'

43. Clipston.  
7 Aug.  
[2nd half of  
17th cent.]

Dorothy Wyrley to the same.

Had been at Sywell and had spoken with Mr Beaumont [sic] about the children, 'who seems to bee veri willing to Consent to ani thing that shall bee resonabell [. ] I Canont [sic] exques m<sup>r</sup> Beument in all things but that hee may bee faulty[,] but I belive ther is a great deall more charged upon him then is true'. Desires Sneyd to go to Sywell at the time of the assizes, that 'if ther bee ani thing that m<sup>r</sup> Beaumont and you to dought of ther will bee Counckell that will deside it'. Urges him to persuade Pigot, 'my Lady[']s Brother[,] to Com with you'. Found her lady very passionate against her husband but not at all willing to leave him.

44. London.  
24 Nov.  
[2nd half of  
17th cent.]

R[obert] Milward to the same.

Mr Ellis was of opinion that the decree, as the writer had drawn it, would be binding. Certainly the Scots were up in Galloway, 'and headed by a prespyterian, and truly I looked for noe lesse when I heard such reports of y<sup>e</sup> papists as was in 1641 [struck through] 1641. I hope the King's forces in Scotland will be able to suppresse them. them...' In the decree (or rather, intended decree), it was most chiefly on the prerogative, and it seemed that Mr Ellis had never perused it before.

45. 'Lond[on;]  
cet 14th'.  
[2nd half of  
17th cent.]

Ka[therine] Sneyd to the same.

Had shown Mr Checkly his letter, who had told her he had given Sneyd an account 'when he was content to receive the hundred pound'. Hoped he pleased to pay him £109, so much she owed him, hoped he remembered there was so much due to her. Was sorry it would not be her good fortune to see him when he came to town, but intended on Monday following beginning her journey towards Shropshire. Begged her service to her aunt and adds a postscript, that she had forgotten to write him word that Mr Checkly would furnish her with the £40, and that he was to receive the whole £109.

46. [2nd half of  
17th cent.]

Rob[er]t Audeley to the same.

Presents his respects and gives thanks for his kindness to him at his last visit, respects to the Captain and his lady, his cousin William and his lady. Was 'Necessyted to Make known to you y<sup>t</sup> my Curcumstances are Reduced to such an Ebb y<sup>t</sup> I am Forced to Give Over my Dealings y<sup>t</sup> I was

In by y<sup>e</sup> reason of Debts which I was Involved in & Lay so heavy upon me:....' Was out of employment and begs the favourable assistance of himself or the Captain. Entreats his advice as to what business he might be fitt for, 'in y<sup>e</sup> Mean[time,] Sr[,] Lette me Desire you to send by my Brother Lewis[,] who is the Barer of this: a Letter of Recomendation on My Behalf unto Esquire Dreyden[,] who is an Eminent person here in Huntington sheire[,] who May be very Likely to Imploy me himself or att Least to helpe me to an Imployment in this Countrey where I am acquainted already with the Countrey Fashion:....'

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