

**THE WORKS OF THOMAS
SACKVILLE, LORD BUCKHURST,
AFTERWARDS LORD TREASURER
TO QUEEN ELIZABETH AND EARL
OF DORSET**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649122608

The works of Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst, Afterwards Lord treasurer to queen Elizabeth and Earl of Dorset by Thomas Sackville & Reginald W. Sackville-West

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

THOMAS SACKVILLE & REGINALD W. SACKVILLE-WEST

**THE WORKS OF THOMAS
SACKVILLE, LORD BUCKHURST,
AFTERWARDS LORD TREASURER
TO QUEEN ELIZABETH AND EARL
OF DORSET**

718

THE
WORKS OF THOMAS SACKVILLE,
LORD BUCKHURST,
AFTERWARDS LORD TREASURER TO QUEEN
ELIZABETH AND EARL OF
DORSET.

EDITED BY THE HON. AND REV.
REGINALD W. SACKVILLE-WEST, M.A.



LONDON:
JOHN RUSSELL SMITH,
SOHO SQUARE.
1859.



BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR OF
THOMAS SACKVILLE, LORD BUCKHURST.

IN offering to the reader of our early literature a new and complete edition of the works of the Author of the first Tragedy¹ in the English language, a few brief historical references to his life and character will not be without interest.

The family of Thomas Sackville settled in England soon after the Conquest. They were lords of Sauqueville, a small town in Normandy, about five miles south of Dieppe, and Herbrand, their chief in those days, was

¹ In speaking of this, Dodsley, in the preface to his *Old Plays*, says:—"The first dramatic piece of any consideration in the English language." Mention is made of some tragedies written in the reign of Henry VIII. by Henry Parker, son of Sir William Parker; and one John Hoker wrote a comedy, in 1535, called *Piscator*. Richard Edwards, in the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, wrote two comedies, *Palamon and Arcite*, and *Damon and Pithias*; and though Nicolas Udall be considered as having done much for English comedy, his style is coarse, and will not bear comparison with that of Lord Buckhurst.

one of the brave knights who accompanied the Norman Conqueror when he gained possession of the English throne. Though there are many names among succeeding generations which added lustre to this house, we must place among the foremost that of Thomas, Lord Buckhurst, both as a distinguished statesman, and as a poet of very high merit. This double claim to our notice was fully admitted by his own contemporaries as well as by those who followed him; among the former of whom we might mention his friend and successor in literary honours, Edmund Spenser, who, when presenting to him a copy of his own imperishable work, *The Fairy Queen*, forgets not that the now active statesman was once the poet,—

“ Whose learned muse, hath writ her own record
In golden verse, worthy immortal fame.”¹

¹ The following lines were sent to Lord Buckhurst by the author of *The Fairy Queen*, with a copy of the first edition, in 1590 :—

“ In vaine I thinke, right honourable lord,
By this rude rime to memorize thy name;
Whose learned muse hath writ her owne record
In golden verse, worthy immortal fame:
Thou much more fit (were leisure to the same)
Thy gracions soveraignes praises to compile,
And her imperial Majestie to frame
In loftie numbers and heroick style,
But sith thou maist not so, give leave awhile
To baser wit, his power therein to spend,
Whose grosse defaults thy daintie pen may file,
And unadvised oversights amend.

And if we must date the dawn of English poetry in the time of Chaucer, we may trace to Sackville the style and character which it afterwards assumed in Spenser and Shakespeare.

But evermore vouchsafe it to maintaine
Against vile Zöylus' backbitings vaine."

The testimony of another contemporary, Joshua Sylvester, ought not to be omitted. It occurs in a dedicatory sonnet prefixed to one of the parts of his translation of *Du Bartas*, and is as follows:—

To the right Honorable, the
Earl of Dorset (late) Lord High
Treasurer of England.

Anagr. { *Sacvillus* } Comes Dorsetius }
 { *Vas Lucis* } *Esto decor Musis* }
 { *Sacris Musis celo devotus* }

THE SCHISME.^a

Not with-out Error, and apparent wrong
To Thee, the Muses, and my self (the most)
Could I omit, amid this Noble Hoast^b
Of learned Friends to Learning, and our Song,
To muster Thee: Thee, that hast lov'd so long
The sacred Sisters, and (said sweetly-most)
Thy self have sung (under a fayned Ghost)
The tragik Falls of our Ambitious Throng.
Therefore, in honour of Thy younger Art,
And of the Muses, honour'd by the same,
And to express my Thankfull thoughts (in part)
This Tract I sacre unto SACKVIL'S Name,
No less renown'd for Numbers of Thine Owne,
Than for thy love to Others' Labours shew'n.

^a This is the title of the 3rd book of the 4th day of the 2nd week.

^b Alluding to other eminent persons to whom other books were inscribed.

Thomas Sackville was born in the year 1536,¹ at

¹ The Inquisition taken at Southwark on the death of his father is as follows:—Inq. c. ap. Southwark 10 Maij 9 Eliz. . . . Rici Sackvill mil. Wenefrida

vol. 22 M^oci 8 EL. superstes
ob. 21 Apr. 8 EL.

Thomas Sackvill fil et heres
est etat 29 Ann &c.

a dau—dñā daces
The Lady Dacre.
Harl. MS. 757, fol. 127.

PEDIGREE OF SIR THOMAS SACKVILLE,
LORD BUCKHURST.

Herbrand de Sackville, *temp.* William the Conqueror.

Sir Robert = Lettie Woodvills.

Jordan = Ela de Dene.

Sir Geoffrey = Constance Brook.

Sir Jordan = Maud de Normandie.

Sir William = Clara Hastings.

Sir Jordan = Margery Aguilon.

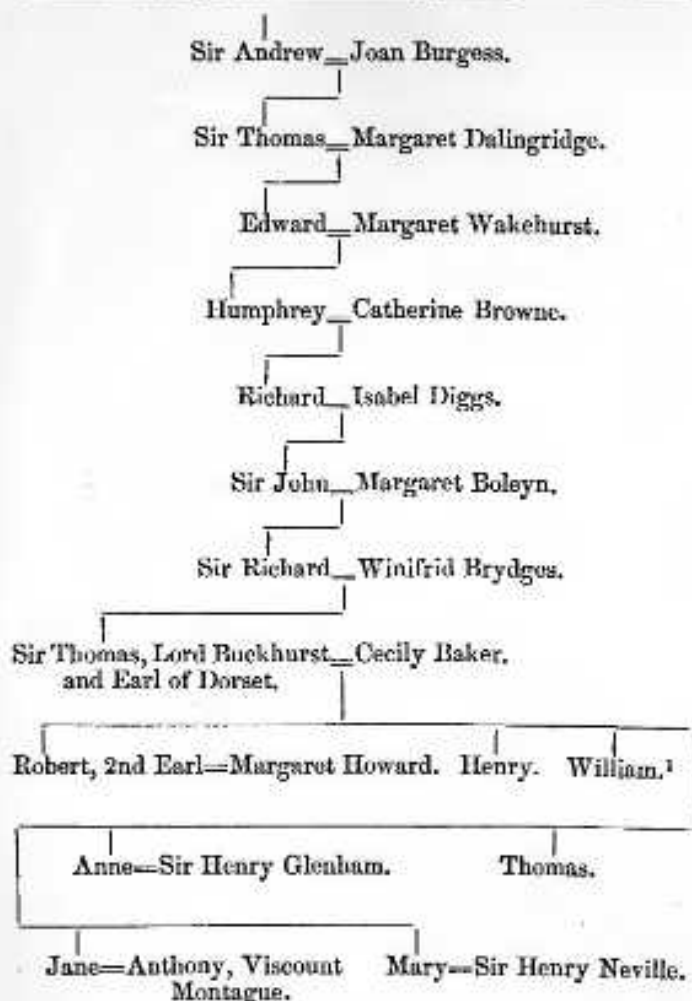
Sir Andrew = Ermyntrude Malyns.

Andrew = Joan Mortimer.

LORD BUCKHURST.

v

Buckhurst, in the parish of Withyham in Sussex, which



¹ This William Sackville was knighted in France in 1580, at the age of nineteen years, and lost his life in the wars in that country in 1592. There is a poem on his death among Douce's MSS. in the Bodleian, No. 271, supposed to be by Rosse of the Inner Temple. See mention of his brothers Henry and Thomas in Append. No. VII.

from the time of Henry II. had been the residence of his ancestors.¹ His father, Sir Richard Sackville,² held several important offices in the successive reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Queen Mary, and Elizabeth. His mother was Winifrede,³ the daughter of Sir John Bruges, or Brydges, of London, and Lord Mayor in the year 1520, of another branch of which family were the Barons of Chandos. His grandmother Margaret was the daughter of Sir William Boleyn, and aunt to Anne Boleyn, the mother of Queen Elizabeth. From his childhood he showed signs of genius and future greatness; and although we have no distinct mention of his early education, there is good reason to assume that care was taken with it. His father's conversation with Mr. Ascham,⁴

¹ Jordan de Sackville, the grandson of Herbrand de Sackville, who accompanied William the Conqueror into England, married the Lady Ela de Dene, the heiress of Buckhurst, in the reign of Henry II.

² Mr. Ascham, who was preceptor to Queen Elizabeth, gives this eulogium of Sir Richard Sackville:—"That worthy gentleman, that earnest favourer and furtherer of God's true religion; that faithful servitor to his prince and country; a lover of learning and all learned men; wise in all doings; courteous to all persons, showing spite to none, doing good to many; and as I well found to me so fast a friend, as I never lost the like before."—Preface to *The Schoolmaster*, p. x.

³ After the death of Sir Richard Sackville, she married the Marquis of Winchester, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, where a monument is erected to her memory.

⁴ In the year 1563, after dining with Sir W. Cecil, then Secretary of State, at Windsor, a conversation took place be-