

### **The King's pleasure to grant Castle etc. to Fulke Greville, CR 1886/BL/2829**

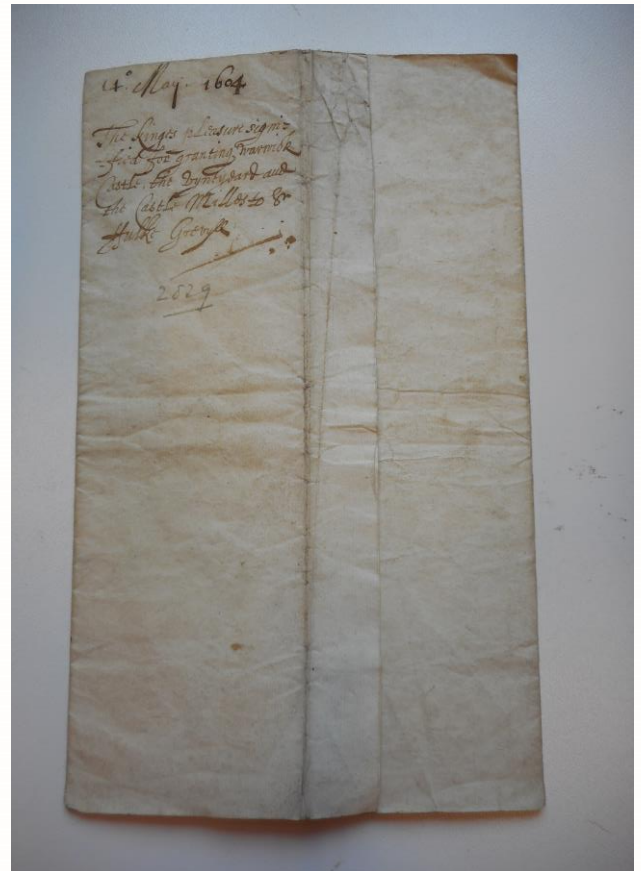
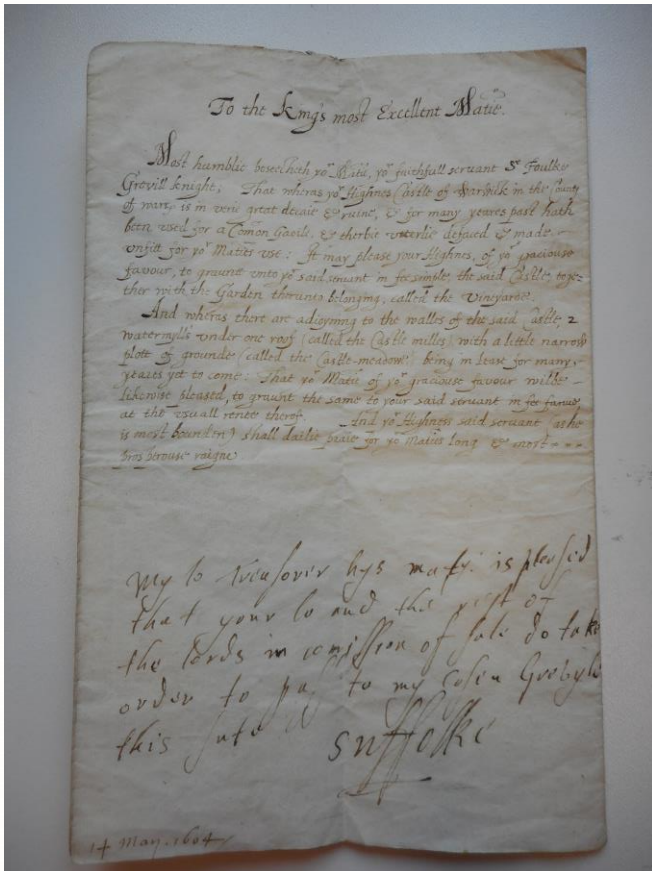
As October is the anniversary of the birth and the death of Sir Fulke Greville, the Document of the Month for this month relates to him and Warwick Castle. This document, dated 1604, talks of the granting of Warwick Castle, the gardens (referred to as the Vineyarde) and two water mills from King James I to Sir Fulke Greville. The document mentions that Warwick Castle at this point in time is in “verie great decaie & ruine”<sup>1</sup> and has been used as a gaol for many years. The castle is described as being “therbie utterlie defaced & made unfit for yo[u]r ma[jes]ties use”<sup>2</sup>. It is then suggested that the Castle be offered to Sir Fulke Greville and in return yo[u]r Highness said servant (as he is most bounden) shall dailie praie for yo[u]r Ma[jes]ties long & most prosperouse raigne”<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The King's pleasure to grant Castle etc. to Fulke Greville, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR 1886/BL/2829.

<sup>2</sup> The King's pleasure to grant Castle etc. to Fulke Greville, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR 1886/BL/2829.

<sup>3</sup> The King's pleasure to grant Castle etc. to Fulke Greville, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR 1886/BL/2829.



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### Sir Fulke Greville

Sir Fulke Greville was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1554, possibly at Beauchamp Court, near Alcester, which was the home of his paternal Grandfather<sup>4</sup>. He was the only son of Sir Fulke Greville, and Anne Neville. The Greville family had ties to the aristocratic families of Beauchamp, Neville, Dudley and Devereux, amongst others.

<sup>4</sup> Gouws, J. (2007, May 24). Greville, Fulke, first Baron Brooke of Beauchamps Court (1554–1628), courtier and author. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. <https://www.oxforddnb.com/view/10.1093/ref:odnb/9780198614128.001.0001/odnb-9780198614128-e-11516> (accessed 12th September 2019).

Greville was a courtier and author, and his works include *Greville's Life of the Renowned Sir Philip Sidney* (of whom he was a lifelong friend) and a collection of sonnets called *Caelica*<sup>5</sup>.

Greville was granted Warwick Castle by King James I in 1605 and he greatly restored it. The Title Earl of Warwick however, remained in the Rich family until 1759

Greville died on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1628, from stab wounds inflicted by his servant Ralph Hayward (who later committed suicide). He is buried in St Mary's Church, Warwick<sup>6</sup>.

### **Warwick Castle**

The first burgh, or earthen rampart, was constructed in 914, when Ethelfleda (daughter of Alfred the Great) ordered its construction to protect the hill top settlement of Warwick. This was replaced by a motte and bailey fort in 1068 by William the Conqueror. By 1260, the castle was rebuilt in stone. The castle was visited by Elizabeth I in 1572, as well as King William III, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II in 1695, 1858 and 1996 respectively. By the time Warwick Castle was granted to Greville in 1605, it had for a number of years been used as a gaol and was in need of restoration. Warwick Castle was purchased by the Tussaud's Group in 1978, and it remains open as a visitor attraction to this day.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, Fulke Greville, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Brooke, Encyclopaedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Fulke-Greville-1st-Baron-Brooke>, (accessed 12th September 2019).

<sup>6</sup> Gouws, J. (2007, May 24). Greville, Fulke, first Baron Brooke of Beauchamps Court (1554–1628), courtier and author. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, <https://www.oxforddnb.com/view/10.1093/ref:odnb/9780198614128.001.0001/odnb-9780198614128-e-11516> (accessed 12th September 2019).

<sup>7</sup> Information gathered from Warwick Castle – History & Restoration, <https://www.warwick-castle.com/explore/history-and-restoration.aspx>, (accessed 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019).