



## The Paston Heritage Society

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Dear History Detective Team

Thank you for letting us know you have discovered a new 'Paston letter'.  
This is very exciting news!

The Paston letters are a large collection of correspondence between members of the Paston family and others connected with them in England between the years 1422 and 1509.

Many of them were written by Margaret Paston (nee. Mautby) to her husband, John and their children, detailing the events of their lives during a very turbulent time in English history.

The letter you have discovered concerns a dispute over a large area of land near the village of Gresham in Norfolk. Lord Moleyns, who was an adversary of John Paston, claimed the land for himself and planned to move in.

At this time, John was spending a great deal of time in London and Margaret was alone with the children. Moleyns' army surrounded the house and threatened to drive her out. Bravely, Margaret stood up to him, even writing a letter (which you seem to have found!) asking John for more weapons to defend the property. But in the end Moleyns' army drove her out and, later, fearing she might be kidnapped, she escaped secretly in the night with her children. Hiding from the soldiers who were trying to hunt her down. Eventually reaching the safety of her mother-in-law's home at Oxnead.

What an adventure!

Rob Knee, Chair of Trustees