

SUMMARY: The document below is the nuncupative last will and testament, dated 3 April 1572, of Oxford's paternal uncle, Geoffrey Vere, gentleman, of St Giles, Colchester.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the fourth son of John de Vere (1482-1540), 15th Earl of Oxford, and Elizabeth Trussell (1496-c.1527).

The testator is mentioned several times in the 1552 will of his eldest brother, John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, and in the Earl's indenture dated 2 June 1562 (see TNA C 54/626). For the surviving wills of the testator's eldest brother, John de Vere, 16th Earl of Oxford, see BL Stowe Charter 633/4 and TNA PROB 11/46/247.

For the will of the testator's brother, Aubrey Vere (d.1580?), see ERO D/AMR 3/281/1.

For the will of the testator's brother, Robert Vere (d.1598), see TNA PROB 11/91/503.

For the will of the testator's sister, Elizabeth Vere, wife of Thomas Darcy (1506-1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, see TNA PROB 11/48/328.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Elizabeth Hardekyn (d. December 1615), the daughter of Richard Hardekyn of Odewell and Wotton in Gestingthorpe, Essex. The testator's father-in-law, Richard Hardekyn, may be the Richard Hardekyn, 'yeoman usher of my chamber', who is left a bequest in the will of Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/27/144.

By Elizabeth Hardekyn the testator had four sons and a daughter:

* **John Vere** (d.1624) of Kirby Hall, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/143/706.

* **Sir Francis Vere** (c.1560-1609), for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/vere-sir-francis-1560-1609>

* **Robert Vere**.

* **Horatio Vere** (1565-1635), Baron Vere of Tilbury, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/168/39.

* **Frances Vere**, who married, as his second wife, Robert Harcourt (1574/5-1631) of Stanton Harcourt, eldest son of Sir Walter Harcourt (c.1553–1639) of Ellenhall and of Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire, knighted at Rouen in 1591. He was a considerable adventurer with Sir Walter Raleigh, having obtained a patent from King James for planting Guyana. See the *ODNB* entry.

See also Markham, Clements R., *The Fighting Veres*, (London: Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington, 1888), pp. 21, 23, 381 at:

<https://archive.org/details/thefightingveres00markiala/page/n6>

In the name of God. The third day of April in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and twelve, Geoffrey Vere of the parish of St Giles in Colchester within the county of Essex, gentleman, being of good and perfect remembrance, made and ordained his last will and testament nuncupative in manner and form following, that is to say:

First he commended his soul unto God, and his body to the earth;

And he gave, willed and bequeathed unto Elizabeth, his wife, all and singular his goods, cattles, debts, chattels, stuff of household and things whatsoever moveable and immovable except one salt with a cover gilt, the which he gave and bequeathed to John Vere, his eldest son;

And of the same his testament nuncupative and last will he made the said Elizabeth, his wife, his executrix and disposer. Witnesses to the same: John Fludd and John Lowthe, with others.