

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 21 August 1500, with an annexed schedule dated 24 December 1502, proved 3 April 1503, of Sir George Vere (c.1443-1503), a younger brother of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, and a grandson of Richard de Vere (1385?-1416/7), 11th Earl of Oxford and his wife, Alice Sergeaux (d.1452), from whom Edward de Vere (1550-1604), 17th Earl of Oxford, was also lineally descended.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Testator's parents

The testator was the third son of John de Vere (1408 – 26 February 1462), 12th Earl of Oxford, by Elizabeth Howard (1410-1473), the daughter and heiress of Sir John Howard (1385-1410) by Joan Walton (d.1425). Sir John Howard (1385-1410) was the son of Sir John Howard (d.1437) and Alice Tendring (d.1426), and the grandson of Sir Robert Howard (d.1388) and Margaret Scales, daughter of Robert Scales (d.1369), 3rd Lord Scales. See Ross, James, *John de Vere, Thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1442-1513), 'The Foremost Man of the Kingdom'*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2011), p. 24.

According to several sources, the testator's grandmother, Joan Walton, was the *daughter* and heir of Richard Walton (d.1409). However according to other sources, Joan Walton was the *sister* and heir of Richard Walton, (d.1409) and the daughter of John Walton by Margery Sutton, daughter of Sir Richard Sutton (d.1395). See the inquisition post mortem of Richard Walton, TNA C 137/72/36; Ross, *supra*, p. 24; and Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk*, Vol. 6, (Manchester: Taylor Garnet, Evans & Co. Ltd., 1910), p. 97 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/manorsofsuffolkn06copiuoft#page/96/mode/2up>

After the death of Sir John Howard (1385-1410), Joan Walton (d.1425) married secondly Sir Thomas Erpingham (d.1427-8), whom Shakespeare mentions by name in *Henry V*:

*Good morrow, old Sir Thomas Erpingham:
A good soft pillow for that good white head
Were better than a churlish turf of France.*

The testator's father and eldest brother were beheaded on Tower Hill in February 1462. In 1473 the testator's mother was forced to convey her lands to Richard, Duke of Gloucester, later Richard III. The testator was attainted in 1475. See the *ODNB* entry for John de Vere, 12th Earl of Oxford; and Ross, *supra*, p. 77.

Testator's siblings

The testator had four brothers and three sisters:

-Aubrey de Vere (beheaded 20 February 1462), who married Anne Stafford (d. April 1472), daughter of Humphrey Stafford (15 August 1402 – 10 July 1460), 1st Duke of Buckingham. After his death, she married Sir Thomas Cobham (d.1471) of Sterborough Castle, Surrey, by whom she had one child, a daughter, Anne Cobham (d. 26 June 1526), who married firstly, while very young, Edward Blount (buried 1 December 1475), 2nd Baron Mountjoy, and secondly Edward Burgh (d. 20 August 1528), Lord Burgh. See Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, (London: The St Catherine Press, 1913), Vol. III, p. 355 (where Sir Thomas is erroneously identified as ‘Sir Reynold’):

<https://archive.org/stream/completepeerageo03coka#page/354/mode/2up>

See also the will of Sir Thomas Cobham, proved 10 July 1471, TNA PROB 11/6/36, and the *ODNB* entry for the Cobham family:

After his father's death the inheritance of Sir Reynold [iv] Cobham (1381–1446) was seised by the king on the grounds that he was illegitimate, and in 1417/18 Reynold had to assert his right to inherit in the exchequer. Never summoned to parliament, he was knighted in 1426, and ten years later he received the custody of Charles, duke of Orléans, who had been captured at Agincourt. He married twice. His first wife was Eleanor (d. 1422), daughter of Sir Thomas Culpeper (d. 1429). With his second wife, Anne (1389–1453), daughter of Thomas Bardolf, Lord Bardolf, and Amice, daughter of Ralph, Lord Cromwell, he founded Lingfield collegiate church in 1431. Sir Reynold [iv] and both his wives were buried at Lingfield. Sir Reynold [iv] Cobham (1381–1446) and Eleanor had four children. Sir Reynold [iv] was predeceased by his eldest son, Sir Reynold [v] Cobham, who died in 1441 or 1442. Sir Reynold [v] married twice. His only surviving child, Margaret (d. c.1460), born to his first wife, Thomasine, daughter of Sir Thomas Chideocke, married Ralph Neville, second earl of Westmorland. At the time of Margaret's marriage, between 1441 and 1442, her grandfather settled the Sterborough inheritance on her and her children, with remainder to his second son, Sir Thomas Cobham (d. 1471). She died without surviving children, and was buried at Doncaster, and consequently Sir Thomas succeeded to the Sterborough inheritance. He married Anne (d. 1472), widow of Aubrey de Vere, son of the earl of Oxford, and daughter of Humphrey Stafford, first duke of Buckingham, and his wife, Anne, daughter of Ralph Neville, first earl of Westmorland. He had close links with Archbishop Thomas Bourchier, and was constable of Rochester Castle from 1415. He left an illegitimate son, Reynold [vi] Cobham, probably the child of a liaison with a sister of his friend Gervase Clifton, and a legitimate daughter, Anne (d. 1526), who as a child married Edward Blount, second Baron Mountjoy. Blount died aged only eight in 1475, and Anne then married Edward Burgh, Baron Burgh, who suffered from mental illness and died in 1528.

A startling comparison with the quiet lives of the other fifteenth-century Cobhams of Sterborough is provided by the spectacular rise and fall of the fourth child of Sir Reynold [iv], Eleanor Cobham (c.1400–1452), who married Humphrey, duke of Gloucester, in 1428. She had been a lady-in-waiting to his former wife, Jacqueline of Hainault, and had

probably begun an affair with the duke in 1424. In 1441 she was convicted of trying to predict the date of Henry VI's death through sorcery, and died a prisoner at Beaumaris Castle on 7 July 1452.

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 253-4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA2-PA254>

-John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, who married firstly Margaret Neville (d.1506), sister of Richard Neville (22 November 1428 – 14 April 1471), 16th Earl of Warwick, ‘the Kingmaker’, and secondly Elizabeth Scrope (d.1537), but died without legitimate issue. See Ross, *supra*, p. 50; the will of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, TNA PROB 11/17/379; and the will of Elizabeth Scrope Beaumont de Vere, Countess of Oxford, TNA PROB 11/27/144.

-Sir Thomas Vere (d.1478), attainted in 1475. See Ross, *supra*, pp. 78.

-Richard Vere (d.1480), a priest. See Ross, *supra*, p. 77.

-Elizabeth Vere (d.1499), who married William Bouchier. See Ross, *supra*, p. 18. William Bouchier is unidentified. Benton suggests he was William Bouchier (d.1483), son and heir of Henry Bouchier (c.1408-1483), 1st Earl of Essex. See Benton, Montagu, ‘Graffiti in Essex: Some Further Examples’, *The Essex Naturalist*, Vol. 29, 1952-1956, p. 102 at:

<http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal?p=Archive&s=030&o=0102&searchText=bouchier&keyWords=bouchier"ed=0>

A Bouchier-Vere badge cut on one of the piers in Stebbing church is noteworthy. It shows the Bouchier knot with the Vere molet in the centre, and possibly commemorates the marriage of William Bouchier, son and heir of Henry, Earl of Essex, to Elizabeth, one of the daughters of John de Vere, twelfth Earl of Oxford. Sir John Bouchier bequeathed books, etc., to Stebbing church in 1495.

See also:

<https://rakinglight.co.uk/uk/st-marys-stebbing-essex-1-2/>

Benton’s identification seems unlikely since Ross states that Elizabeth Vere lived until 1499, and between 1464 and 1467 the William Bouchier who was the heir of the 1st Earl of Essex married Edward IV’s sister-in-law, Anne Woodville (d.1498). He predeceased his father, leaving by Anne Woodville, a son, Henry Bouchier, 2nd Earl of Essex.

Another possibility is that Elizabeth Vere’s husband was a younger son of William Bouchier (d. before 12 December 1469), 9th Baron Fitzwarin, by his first wife, Thomasine Hankford (d. 3 July 1453). If so, he was a nephew of Thomas Bouchier

(c.1411-1486), Archbishop of Canterbury. See *Plantagenet Ancestry, supra*, Vol. I, p. 356.

-Joan Vere, who married Sir William Norreys (d. before 10 January 1507) of Yattendon, Berkshire. After her death, Sir William Norreys married secondly Isabel Ingaldesthorpe, by whom he had four sons, Sir Edward Norreys, Richard Norreys, William Norreys and George Norreys, and two daughters: Margaret Norreys, who married Gilbert Bullock, esquire; and Elizabeth Norreys, who married firstly Thomas Rogers and secondly Thomas Fettiplace. Sir William Norreys married thirdly Anne Horne, daughter of the London alderman, Robert Horne, and widow successively of Sir William Harcourt (living 25 July 1471) and Sir John Stanley (d. 29 June 1476). By his third wife, Sir William Norreys had two sons, Richard Norreys and Lionel Norreys, and four daughters: Katherine Norreys, who married Sir John Langford; Anne Norreys, who married William Wroughton and Sir John Baldwin; Elizabeth Norreys, who married William Fermor, esquire; and Jane Norreys, who married John Cheney. See Richardson, *supra*, Vol. I, pp. 421-2. See also the will of Sir John Baldwin (d.1545), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, TNA PROB 11/30/580.

-Mary Vere, a nun at Barking.

For the foregoing see the pedigrees in Ross, *supra*, pp. 18, 24; Richardson, *supra*, pp. 411-12; and the pedigree in Crawford, Anne, 'The Career of John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, 1420-1485', Bedford College, University of London, available online.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

Testator's first marriage

The testator married firstly Margaret Talbot (d.1472), sister and co-heir of Thomas Talbot (d. March 1470), 2nd Viscount Lisle, by whom he had no issue. See Ross, *supra*, pp. 18, 77, 204.

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly, Margaret Stafford, whose family background was as follows:

-John Stafford (d.1420) of Longridge (in Penkridge, Staffordshire) married Elizabeth Cheyne (d. before 1426), daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Cheyne of Bishop's Frome, Herefordshire, by Margaret Devereux, daughter of John Devereux (c.1340-c.1392) of Frome and Lower Hayton, the son of William Devereux of Frome (1314-1384) and Elizabeth de la Bere. See 'Devereux of Frome (Hereford) and Lower Hayton (Salop)' at:

http://devereaux.50megs.com/rich_text_19.html

See also the Wikipedia article on William Devereux (1314-1384) of Frome at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Devereux_of_Frome_\(1314-1384\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Devereux_of_Frome_(1314-1384)).

-Humphrey Stafford (d. before 1487), esquire, eldest son of John Stafford (d.1420) and Elizabeth Cheyne (d. before 1426), was co-heir after 1426 to his great-uncle, Thomas Devereux, esquire, of the Hill (Wotton), Herefordshire. Humphrey Stafford (d. before 1487) married, before 1446, Margaret Lichfield (born c.1425, died c.1487), daughter and heiress of Sir William Lichfield (d.1446) of Eastham, Worcestershire, by his unknown second wife. Humphrey Stafford was attainted 7 November 1485, and died before 1487.

-Sir William Stafford (d. before 1487), only child of Humphrey Stafford (d. before 1487) and Margaret Lichfield (born c.1425, died c.1487), married Elizabeth Wrottesley, the daughter of Hugh Wrottesley (d.1463x4), esquire, of Wrottesley, Staffordshire, by Thomasine Gresley, the daughter of Sir John Gresley of Drakelow.

-Their only child, Margaret Stafford, married the testator as his second wife.

For Margaret Stafford as the heir of Elizabeth Huddleston, wife of Sir Thomas Cheney, see TNA C 1/1516/8 and TNA C 1/587/39.

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 271-3, Vol. III, p. 413.

See also the pedigree of Yong in Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), pp. 152-3 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount02mundgoog#page/n167/mode/2up>

See also Wrottesley, George, *History of the Family of Wrottesley of Wrottesley, co. Stafford*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1903), p. 207 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historyoffamilyo00wrot#page/206/mode/2up>.

See also the entry for Elizabeth Wrottesley's brother, Sir Walter Wrottesley (c.1430-1473) in the *ODNB*.

By Margaret Stafford, the testator had two sons and four daughters:

* **George Vere** (d.1498), who predeceased the testator (see Ross, *supra*, p. 18).

* **John de Vere** (1499-1527), 14th Earl of Oxford, who married Anne Howard (d.1559), daughter of Thomas Howard (1443 – 21 May 1524), 2nd Duke of Norfolk, by his second wife, Agnes Tilney. He inherited the earldom after his uncle, John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, died without legitimate issue.

* **Elizabeth Vere**, who married the soldier and administrator, Sir Anthony Wingfield (d. 15 August 1552) of Letheringham, Suffolk. For the will of Elizabeth Vere, dated 28 July 1557 and proved 13 November 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42B/640. For the will of Sir Anthony Wingfield, see TNA PROB 11/36/112. See also the Wingfield pedigree at:

<http://www.letheringhamlodge.com/wingfield-of-wingfield-and-letheringham/>

* **Margaret Vere**, who is mentioned in the will below, but about whom nothing further is known.

* **Dorothy Vere** (d. 7 February 1527), who married John Neville (17 November 1493 – 2 March 1543), 3rd Baron Latimer, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/29/303.

* **Ursula Vere** (d.1558), not mentioned in the will below, who married firstly, George Windsor (d. before 1520), eldest son and heir of Andrew Windsor (d.1543), 1st Baron Windsor, and secondly Sir Edmund Knightley (d.1542). For her will, see TNA PROB 11/42A/10.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testator's second cousin, Sir Richard Fitz Lewes (born c.1446, d. 12 July 1528), was the son and heir of Lewes Fitz Lewes, eldest son of Sir Lewes John (d. 27 October 1442) of West Horndon, Essex, citizen and vintner of London, and Alice de Vere (d.1433), daughter of Aubrey de Vere (c.1338 – 15 February 1400), 10th Earl of Oxford. Lewes Fitz Lewes was attainted, and died between 1477 and 1480. See the will, dated 14 July 1497 and proved 22 December 1500, of Elizabeth Fitz Lewes Wingfield (c.1436-1500), Norfolk Record Office NCC Will Register CAGE 135 on this website. Ross describes Sir Richard Fitz Lewes and Sir Thomas Tyrrell (c.1453-1510?) of Heron in East Horndon, Essex, as the 13th Earl of Oxford's most important retainers. See Ross, *supra*, pp. 18, 185, 232, 262, and the will of Sir Thomas Tyrrell, TNA PROB 11/17/263.

MANORS IN WHICH TESTATOR'S WIFE HELD AN INTEREST

On the attainder of Sir Humphrey Stafford in 1485, the manor of Eastham was forfeited. However, the testator's wife, Margaret Stafford, as granddaughter and heiress of Margaret Lichfield, was able to recover Eastham on the ground that it had belonged to her grandmother, and was therefore not liable to forfeiture on her grandfather's attainder. In 1490, 'a grant in survivorship' of the manor of Eastham was made by the Crown to the testator and Ralph Hakluyt, esquire. The reason for the inclusion of Ralph Hakluyt (d.1526) in the grant is unclear. See the will of Ralph Hakluyt's son, Thomas Hakluyt (d.1544), TNA PROB 11/30/104; Richardson, *supra*, Vol. III, pp. 413-14; and Lea, E.E., *The Registers of Eastham (with Hanley Child and Orleton) and Hanley William, in the*

Deanery of Burford, 1572 to 1812, (Worcestershire Parish Register Society, 1915), pp. xi-xii at:

<https://archive.org/stream/registersofeasth00east#page/n13/mode/2up>.

For the manor of Eastham, see also:

'Parishes: Eastham', in *A History of the County of Worcester: Volume 4*, ed. William Page and J W Willis-Bund (London, 1924), pp. 265-272. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/worces/vol4/pp265-272> [accessed 8 July 2017].

After the testator's death, the testator's widow, Margaret, was involved in several lawsuits:

-Between 1504 and 1515, she was named in a suit by James Lawrence against the Sheriffs of London regarding an action of trespass. See TNA C 1/333/17.

-During the same period, she sued Sir William Clopton, 'son and heir of William Clopton, esquire', concerning a messuage in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. See TNA C 1/368/71. It seems likely that the defendant in this lawsuit was Sir William Clopton (d. 20 February 1531) of Kentwell Hall, who married Joan Marowe, the daughter of the London alderman Sir William Marowe, although in most pedigrees he is said to have been the son of John Clopton (c.1422-1497), esquire, rather than the son of 'William Clopton, esquire'. See the will of John Clopton, TNA PROB 11/11/266. See also the will of Sir William Marowe, dated 8 October 1464 and proved 15 May 1465, TNA PROB 11/4/139; the will of Thomas Marowe (d.1505), TNA PROB 11/14/514; and Tymms, Samuel, 'Kentwell Hall, Melford', *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History*, Vol. II, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1859), pp. 59-72 at pp. 60-2:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=TwIVAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA61>

See also Gage, John, *The Histories and Antiquities of Suffolk: Thingoe Hundred*, (London: Samuel Bentley, 1838), at p. 423:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=knVPAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA423>

See also the Clopton pedigrees in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 16 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=EycAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA16>

-Between 1518 and 1529, she sued John Huddleston, esquire, son and heir of Sir John Huddleston, for refusal to convey the manor of Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire. See TNA C 1/587/39. For the descent of the manor of Irthlingborough, see:

'Parishes: Irthlingborough', in *A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1930), pp. 207-214. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/northants/vol3/pp207-214> [accessed 13 July 2017].

Henry de Drayton conveyed a manor of Irthlingborough to Simon de Drayton probably in settlement. (fn. 32) . . . In 1353 [Simon] conveyed the manor to John Pyel, citizen and mercer of London, (fn. 35) whose widow Joan, at his desire, founded the college of Irthlingborough in 1388. (fn. 36) The manor passed to Nicholas Pyel, who did homage to the abbot of Peterborough in 1399. (fn. 37) He married Elizabeth Gorge and died in 1402–3. He is said to have had a son John, who was succeeded by Elizabeth, probably his daughter. Elizabeth married Sir William Huddleston and on her death the manor passed to her son, Henry Huddleston, who at his death in 1488 bequeathed it to his daughter Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Cheyney, but failing heirs of her body it was to be devoted to the salvation of his soul and the souls of his parents and ancestors. (fn. 38) Sir Thomas Cheyney and others, in 1511, obtained licence to grant to the dean and chapter of the collegiate church of Irthlingborough lands of the annual value of £21. (fn. 39) These lands probably went towards the endowment of the two additional prebends of the foundation of Lady Cheyney to which reference is found in 1530. (fn. 40) At the dissolution of the college in 1547, it seems to have been possessed of manorial rights in Irthlingborough. (fn. 41)

A manor in Irthlingborough was settled by Sir Thomas Cheyney, by his will dated 1512, on his wife Anne for life with remainder in fee-tail on Elizabeth, his daughter by his first wife, (fn. 42) Elizabeth Huddleston. Sir Thomas died seised in 1514 and was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth, then aged 9 years, and affianced to Thomas, son and heir of Sir Nicholas Vaux, (fn. 43) who became second Lord Vaux of Harrowden. Elizabeth died in 1556 and was succeeded by her son William, third Lord Vaux, (fn. 44) who settled the manor in 1564. (fn. 45) He held lands inherited from his mother in Irthlingborough and those of the late College. (fn. 46) In 1574 he mortgaged the glebe lands of the rectory and parsonage. He married Mary, sister of Sir Thomas Tresham, and was imprisoned as a recusant in 1583. (fn. 47)

-During the same period, 1581-1529, as 'cousin and heir of Elizabeth Pyhyll' [=Pyel], she sued Anne Cheyne, widow of Sir Thomas Cheyne, for detention of deeds relating to the manors of Wellingborough, Cranford, Irthlingborough, Woodford, and Great Addington, Northamptonshire. See TNA C 1/587/40. For Elizabeth Pyel, who may have been the granddaughter of Joan Pyel, whose husband, John Pyel, was from Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire, see O'Connor, Stephen, 'Joan Pyel (d.1412)', in Barron, Caroline and Anne F. Sutton, eds., *Medieval London Widows 1300-1500*, (London: The Hambledon Press, 1994), pp. 71-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=uc3RLXFANoMC&pg=PA74>

-In 1527, she was evicted from the manor of Eastham, and in 1529 sued Sir Thomas Cornwall and his son, Richard Cornwall, for possession. See Richardson, *supra*, Vol. III, p. 414.

-She was also involved in an undated lawsuit involving John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, and other members of the de Vere family. See TNA E 41/220.

-In 1531 she was mentioned in 'An Act for Assurance of the jointures of the Lady Anne and the Lady Elizabeth, Countesses of Oxford, Margaret Veere, and others'. See 23 Henry VIII, c.33 at:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/ac40ffb4-49ac-4b4f-93b9-11a34d8b5194>

See also 23 Henry 8, chapter 13 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=UIMDAAAQAAJ&pg=PP24>

-Between 1529 and 1532, she was mentioned in a suit by Sir Richard Cornwall and John Leighton, esquire, regarding the detention of deeds relating to the manor of Eastham, 'claimed by defendants as feoffees to the use of Dame Margaret Vere, widow'. See TNA C 1/623/8.

-Between 1544-1551 John Neville (d. 22 April 1577), 4th Baron Latimer, (son of the testator's daughter, Dorothy de Vere (d. 7 February 1527), by John Neville (17 November 1493 – 2 March 1543), 3rd Baron Latimer), sued Sir Anthony Wingfield (d. 15 August 1552) concerning rent charged by Margaret, late the wife of George Vere, knight, and mother-in-law of defendant, on the manors of Grendon, Halmonds Frome (in Bishop's Frome), and other properties in Warwickshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire. See TNA C 1/1182/5.

-At some time prior to 1557, Sir Anthony Wingfield (d. 15 August 1552) and Elizabeth, his wife, sued John Fitzsours [=FitzEustace?] for the manor of Halmond's Frome and lands in Bishop's Frome, 'late of Dame Margaret Vere'. See TNA C 1/1516/16-19.

In the name of God, Amen. I, George Vere, knight, being of sound mind and good memory, on the 21st day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundredth do make my testament containing my last will in this manner, viz.;

First, I commend my soul to Almighty God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, and my body to be buried in the conventual church of the priory of Earl's Colne before the altar there called Earl Richard's altar;

Item, I will to have one trental to be celebrated in the foresaid church for 30 continuous days immediately after the burial of my body, with exequies and Masses solemnly celebrated by the prior and convent of the same priory;

Item, I will to have 12 poor men at the said exequies and Masses praying in honour of the 12 apostles;

Item, I will that the same 12 poor men withdraw(?) before the sacrament of the altar, and one of them say the Lord's Prayer in honour of the Holy Trinity and the Hail Mary in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Apostles' Creed in honour of the 12 apostles, and one of the same poor men, departing, say in English words three times, Lord have mercy on the soul of George Vere and on the souls of all the faithful departed;

Item, I will that my executors, immediately after those 30 days, provide a suitable secular priest to celebrate the trental of Saint Gregory for a whole entire year on condition that the same priest begin the exequies each day about the second hour after nones with lauds & commendations, as appears in the rubric of the same trental;

Item, I will, as is said, the priest should dispose himself to celebrate Mass every day about the ninth hour before midday;

Item, I will that the same priest [=fast?] completely every Friday for an entire year without fish or milk;

Item, I will to have every day for that entire year one poor man at the exequies and Mass, and he to say one psalterum of Blessed Mary [=rosary of 150 Ave Marias] at the exequies and another at Mass daily for that year, and I will that a poor woman perform [+the same] instead of a poor man every Saturday in the foresaid year for reverence of the most glorious Virgin Mary;

Item, I will that my executors deliver and pay to the aforesaid prior for his interest in the exequies and Masses 13s 4d, and pay to the foresaid prior £6 of lawful money of England to be distributed to his brethren for the same offices;

Item, I will that my executors pay to the forenamed prior £3 15s to be distributed among the afore-named poor men for the aforesaid 30 days, and also I will that my executors pay to the foresaid priest celebrant(/) for the trental of Saint Gregory £13 6s 8d for his office that year;

Item, I bequeath to the same priest one gown of the value of 20s;

Item, I will that my executors deliver and pay to the afore-named priest £3 15s to be distributed every day for a year to the poor men interested in the foresaid exequies and Masses for their office 2d and an offering of bread;

Item, I will that every Saturday in the abovesaid 30 days there be 12 poor women performing in place of the 12 poor men, praying and saying as above;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the church of Castle Hedingham 10s for tithes and oblations not(?) paid;

Item, I bequeath to the nunnery of Hedingham aforesaid for the maintenance of the same house 100 mature sheep, on condition that they in no way be sold, but kept for the maintenance and profit of the same nunnery;

Item, I bequeath to the brothers of the order of Saint Francis at Colchester 13s 4d for exequies and Requiem Masses to be had;

Item, I bequeath to the brothers of the order of Carmelites at Maldon 13s 4d for exequies and Mass of Requiem to be had;

Item, I bequeath to the brothers of the order of Dominicans at Chelmsford for the same office to be had, 13s 4d;

Item, in similar manner I bequeath to the Augustinian brothers at Clare 13s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to my executors £40 to be distributed about my funerals on the day of my burial;

Item, I bequeath to Margaret, my wife, £40, and all my silver vessel called 'le plate', with all utensils of my household;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Elizabeth, one chain of gold weighing 26 pounds when the same Elizabeth shall have accomplished the full age of 14 years, and if she shall have died before the said age then I will that the foresaid chain be sold, and the price coming thereof be disposed by my executors;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Margaret, one chain of gold weighing 26 lbs. when the same Margaret shall have come to the full age of 14 years, and if she shall have died before the said age, I will that the foresaid chain be sold, & the price coming thereof be disposed by my executors;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Dorothy, other chain of gold weighing 26 lbs. when she shall have accomplished the foresaid age, but otherwise to be disposed as above;

Item, I will that a missal of paper and a chalice of silver be bought by my executors, and that my priest aforesaid, so long as he shall celebrate for the salvation of my soul, shall have the use of the said book and chalice, and afterwards I will that the foresaid book and chalice remain at the altar where Lord Robert de Vere, formerly Earl of Oxford, is buried;

Item, I will that all my tenements with their appurtenances as lie in Colchester be sold by my executors, and that the money arising be disposed in the execution and performance of my testament and last will by my foresaid executors;

Item, I will that one vestment of black with seemly appurtenances for the celebrant priest be bought by my executors, and that the said priest, so long as he shall celebrate for the

salvation of my soul, shall have the use of the same, and afterwards they to remain at the foresaid altar with the book and chalice where the foresaid Robert is buried;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the priory of Colne £7 in old groats to make a chalice;

Item, I will that my wife deliver, for the gilding of the same chalice, £3;

Item, I bequeath to convent of the Dominican brothers of Cambridge 40s for exequies and Mass to be celebrated by them;

Item, I bequeath to the abbess and convent of Saint Osyth £5 that they celebrate exequies and Mass for my soul;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the foresaid priory one corporal and one case for the same, with one part to made with my arms, the other part of purple velvet;

Item I will that all my money unbequeathed be distributed between my wife and my children according to the discretion of the prepotent Lord John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, my most well beloved brother, whom I ordain, make and constitute supervisor of my present testament and last will;

The residue indeed of all my goods unbequeathed, I give and bequeath to Margaret, my wife, Richard Fitz Lewes, knight, Lord John Eyer [=Eyre?], prior of the priory of Earls Colne, and William Cooke, Doctor of the Decrees(?), whom I ordain, make and constitute my true executors, they to dispose for the salvation of my soul as to them it shall seem best to do;

These witnesses: Master John Osplett and Master Thomas Goodknap, Masters of Arts, and William Okeley, with others;

Given on the day and year above-written.

This schedule made on the 24th day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred second, and annexed to this testament and my last will is attested by me, George Vere, knight, to have given and bequeathed certain legacies above and beyond those which in my said testament are specified, videlicet:

Firstly, I leave to John Vere, my son and heir, one seal of the best gold called 'le signet';

Item, I leave to my same son one ring of similar gold with one 'le ruby' in the same;

Item, I leave to Richard Fitz Lewes, knight, my cousin, one long gown of black velvet furred with 'le foins';

Item, I leave to every of my servants, videlicet, Mary Lee, Edith Berners, James Popley, Yoni [sic?] Aleyn, John Codwell and John Jegon, one of my gowns according to the discretion of Margaret, my wife;

In witness of which thing I have ordered my seal to be affixed to these presents on the day and year aforesaid.

The above-written testament, together with the schedule annexed to the same, was proved before the worshipful Master Roger Church, Doctor of the Decrees(?), Commissary of the Prerogative Church of Christ of Canterbury, at the archiepiscopal seat there vacant, on the third day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred third by the oath of Margaret, relict, and Lord John Eyer, Prior of Colne, executors appointed in the same testament, and probated and registered, and administration was grant of all the goods and debts of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully and with unanimous consent and assent administer [+the same], and to exhibit a full and true inventory before the feast of Easter next to come, and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to the other executors also appointed in the same testament when they shall have come etc.]

RM: Tes{tamen}t{um} Georgii Veer milit{is}

1 In dei nomine amen Ego Georgius Veer miles Compos mentis et bone memorie

2 existens xxjo die mens{is} Augusti Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quinge{n}tesimo Condo testamentu{m} meu{m} vltima{m} voluntate{m} meam

3 continens in hunc modum viz In p{ri}mis com{m}endo a{n}i{m}am mea{m} deo om{n}ipotentis beate Marie virgini et om{n}ib{us} sanctis

4 Corpus q{ue} meu{m} sepeliend{um} in eccl{es}ia Conue{n}tuali prioratus de Colne Comit{is} ante altar{i}um ib{ide}m vocat{um} Erle Richard{es}

5 aulter It{em} volo h{ab}ere vnu{m} tricennale celebrand{um} in eccl{es}ia p{re}dict{a} p{er} xxx dies continuos Imme{dia}te post sepulturam

6 corp{or}is mei cum exequijs et missis solemn{i}t{er} celebrat{is} p{er} priore et Conuentu{m} eiusd{em} prioratus It{em} volo habere xijcim

7 paup{er}es ad d{i}c{t}as exequias et missas orantes in honore xij ap{os}{t}{ol}or{um} It{em} volo q{uod} ip{s}i xij paup{er}es in recessu p{er}gant

8 coram sacrame{n}to altaris et dicat quili{be}t eor{um} or{ati}onem d{omi}nicam in honore s{an}c{t}e Trinitat{is} ac salutac{i}o{n}em angelicam in

9 honore beatissime Virg{in}is marie et simbalum ap{os}t{ol}or{um} in honore xij ap{os}t{ol}or{um} Ac dicat quili{be}t ip{s}or{um} paup{er}um recedendo

10 in Anglicis verbis trina vice Deus misereat{ur} anime Georgij Veer et animab{us} om{n}i{um} fideliu{m} defunctor{um} It{em} volo q{uo}d

11 executores mei incontinen{ter} post istos xxx dies p{ro}uiderint de idoneo presb{ite}ro seculari ad celebrand{um} trigintale s{an}c{t}i Gregorij

12 p{er} totu{m} Annu{m} integru{m} Ita q{uo}d ip{s}e presbit{er} incipiat om{n}i die exequias circa horam s{e}c{un}dam post nona{m} cum laudib{us} & com{m}end{ationibus}

13 p{ro}ut patet in Rubrica eiusdem trigintalis It{em} volo vt dic{i}t{ur} presbit{erus} disponat se celebrare missam om{n}i die circa hora{m}

14 nouena{m} ante meridiem It{em} volo q{uo}d idem presbit{erus} ienuitt(?) p{er}fecte om{n}ib{us} dieb{us} ven{er}is p{er} Annu{m} integru{m} sine piscibus et

15 lacticinijs It{em} volo habere omni die p{er} istum Annu{m} integru{m} vnu{m} paup{er}em ad exequias et missam et dicat vnu{m} psalt{eru}m

16 beate Marie ad exequias et aliud ad missam cotidie p{ro} ip{s}u{m} Annu{m} Et volo q{uo}d paup{er}cula mulier fungat vice paup{er}is

17 viri omni die Sabbato in p{re}dict{o} Anno ob reu{er}enciam gloriosissime Virginis Marie It{em} volo q{uo}d execut{ores} mei deliberent

18 et soluent antedicto Priori pro sui interesse exequijs et missis xiijs iiijd et soluent p{re}dicto priori vj libras legalis

19 monete Anglie distributur confratrib{us} suis pro eijsdem officijs It{em} volo q{uo}d execut{ores} mei soluent p{re}fato p{ri}ori iijli xvs

20 distributur int{er} p{re}nomi{n}atos paup{er}es p{er} anted{i}c{t}os xxx dies Etiam volo q{uo}d execut{ores} mei solua{n}t p{re}d{i}c{t}o presb{ite}ro celebrator{i}

21 trigintale s{an}c{t}i Gregorij xiiijli vjs viijd pro officio suo illo Anno It{em} lego eidem presb{ite}ro vna{m} togam valoris xxs

22 It{e}m Volo q{uo}d execut{ores} mei deliberent ac solua{n}t p{re}nomi{n}ato presb{ite}ro iijli xvs distributur omni die p{er} Annu{m} pauper{ibus}(?)

23 int{er}essenti{bus}(?) pred{i}c{t}is exequijs et missis p{ro} officio suo ijd et oblat{ionem} panis It{em} volo q{uod} om{n}i die Sabbati in sup{ra}dict{is} xxx dieb{us}

24 sint xij paup{er}cule mulieres fungentes vice xij viror{um} orantes et dicentes vtsup{er} It{em} lego sum{m}o altari eccl{es}ie de

25 hethingh{a}m ad castru{m} xs p{ro} decimis et oblac{i}o{n}ib{us} n{o}n{o}e(?) compensat{is}(?) It{em} lego domui monialiu{m} de hethingh{a}m predict{o} ad

26 sustentac{i}o{n}em eiusdem domus C oues matures Ita q{uod} nullo modo vendant{ur} sed cons{er}uent{ur} ad sustentac{i}o{n}em et proficuu{m}

27 ip{s}ius domus monialiu{m} It{em} lego fratrib{us} ordinis sancti ffrancisci apud Colcestriam xiijs iiijd pro exequijs et missis de

28 Requiem h{ab}end{um} It{em} lego fr{atr}ib{us} ordinis Carmelit{orum} apud Maldon xiijs iiijd pro exequijs et missa de Requiem habend{um}

29 It{em} lego fr{atr}ib{us} ordinis predicator{um} apud Chelmesford pro eod{em} officio h{ab}end{um} xiijs iiijd It{em} simili modo lego fratribus

30 Augustin{i}en{sis} apud Clare xiijs iiijd It{em} lego execut{oribus} meis xlli distributur circa fun{er}alia mea in die sepulture mee

31 It{em} lego Margarete vx{or}i mee xlli ac om{n}ia vasa mea argentea voc{ata} le plate cum om{n}ib{us} vtensilib{us} domus mee It{e}m

32 lego filie mee Elizabeth{e} vna{m} cathena{m} de auro ponderan{tem} xxvj libras cum ip{s}a Elisabeth{a} p{er}uen{er}it ad etate xiiiicem

33 Annor{um} co{m}pletor{um} Et si migrau{er}it ab hac luce ante dicta{m} etatem tu{n}c volo q{uod} p{re}d{i}c{t}a Cathena vendat{ur} et p{re}ciu{m} inde p{ro}uenie{n}s

34 p{er} executores meos disponat{ur} It{em} lego filie mee Margarete vna{m} cathena{m} de auro ponderan{tem} xxvjli cum ip{s}a Margareta ven{er}it

35 ad etate{m} xiiiino(?) annor{um} co{m}pletor{um} Et si ab hac luce migrau{er}it ante d{i}c{t}am etatem volo q{uod} pred{i}c{t}a cathena vendat{ur} & dispo

36 nat{ur} p{er} executores meos preciu{m} inde p{ro}ueniens It{em} lego filie mee Dorothee aliam cathena{m} de auro ponderan{tem} xxvjli cum ad

37 predict{am} etate{m} p{er}uen{er}it sinantem disponat{ur} vtsup{ra} It{em} volo

q{uod} vnu{m} Missale de paupiro et vnu{m} calice{m} de argento

38 ement{ur} p{er} execut{ores} meos et q{uod} presbit{er} meus pred{i}c{t}us q{ua}mdiu celebrabit pro salute a{n}i{m}e mee habebit vsum dict{i} libri

39 et calic{is} Et postea volo q{uod} predict{i} liber et calix remanea{n}t ad altar{em} vbi d{omin}us Robertus de Veer quond{am} Comes

40 Oxonie est sepultus It{em} volo q{uod} om{n}ia ten{amen}ta mea cum suis p{er}tin{entijs} p{ro}ut iacent in Colcestria p{er} exec{utores} meos vendant{ur} Et q{uod}

41 pecunie p{ro}uenie{n}tes disponat{ur} in execuc{i}o{n}e et p{er}formac{i}o{n}e mei tes{tamen}ti et vltime volun{ta}t{is} mee p{er} exec{utores} meos pred{i}c{t}os It{em}

42 volo q{uod} vnu{m} vestimentu{m} de nigro cum p{er}tin{entijs} decent{is} presb{ite}ro celebranti p{er} executores meos emat{ur} et q{uod} d{i}c{t}us presbit{erus}

43 q{ua}mdiu celebrabit p{ro} salute a{n}i{m}e mee h{ab}eat vsum eor{un}dem et postea remanea{n}t ad p{re}d{i}c{ta}m altar{em} cum libro et calice vbi p{re}d{i}c{t}us Robertus est sepultus It{em} lego sum{m}o altari prioratus de Colne vijli in antiquis grossis ad fabricand{um} calicem

44 It{em} volo q{uod} vxor mea deliberet pro deaurac{i}o{n}e eiusdem calic{is} iijli It{em} lego Conue{n}t{u}m fr{atru}m predicator{um} Cantabrig{iensis}

45 xls pro exequijs et missa p{er} eos celebrand{um} It{em} lego Abbat{issam} et Conue{n}t{u}m s{an}c{t}i Osithe vli vt exequias et missam

46 celebrent pro anima mea It{em} lego sum{m}o altari pred{i}c{t}i prioratus vnu{m} corp{or}ale et vna{m} tecam pro eod{em} cum vna

47 pars erit fabricat{ur} armis meis alt{er}a pars de velueto purpureo It{em} volo q{uod} om{n}es pecunie mee non legat{e}

48 distribuant{ur} int{er} vxore{m} meam et pueros meos secundum discretionem prepotentis viri domini Iohannes de

49 Veer Comit{is} Oxonie predilectissimi fratris mei quem ordino facio et constituo sup{er}uisorem mei testame{n}ti

50 et vltime voluntat{is} presencium Residuu{m} vero om{n}i bonor{um} meor{um} non legator{um} do et lego Margarete vx{or}i mee

51 Ricardo ffitzlews militi Dompno Iohanni Eyer priori priorat{us} de Colne comit{is} et Will{el}mo Cooke de

52 cretor{um} doctori quos ordino facio et constituo meos veros executores vt illi disponant pro salute anime mee

53 p{ro}ut eis melius videbit{ur} expedire Hijs testibus mag{ist}ro Iohanne Osplett et mag{ist}ro Thoma Goodknapp

54 in artib{us} mag{ist}ras ac Will{el}mo Okley cum alijs Dat{um} die et Anno suprascript{is}

1 Hec scedula facta xxiiij die mens{is} Decembris Anno domini Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo secundo et

2 annexa hunc testamento et vltime voluntati mee testatur me Georgium Veer militem dedisse ac

3 legasse certa legata preter et vltra ip{s}a que in dicto testamento meo sunt specificata videli{ce}t In primis

4 lego Iohanni Veer filio meo et heredi vnu{m} sigillum de auro optim{u}m vocat{um} le signett It{e}m lego eidem filio

5 meo vnu{m} annullum de simili auro cum vno le Ruby in eodem It{e}m lego Ric{ard}o ffitzlews militi consanguineo

6 meo vnu{m} togam talarem de velueto nigro penulat{am} cum le foynes It{e}m lego cuili{be}t famulor{um} meor{um}

7 videli{ce}t Marie Lee Edithe Barners Iacobo Popley Yoni Aleyn Iohanni Codwell et Iohannj

8 Jegon vnam de togis meis s{e}c{un}d{u}m dicretione Margarete vxoris mee In Cuius Rei testimoniu{m} sigillu{m}

10 meum p{rese}ntib{us} apponi mandauit Die et Anno predict{is}

1 Probatum fuit sup{ra}scriptum testamentu{m} vna cu{m} scedula eidem annex{a} coram venerabili

2 viro Mag{ist}ro Rogero Church decretor{um} doctore prerogatiue eccl{es}ie Xpi

Cantuariensis sede Archiepiscopi vacante

3 comissario tercio die mensis Aprilis Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo tercio Iuramento Margarete Relicte

4 et Domini Iohannis Eyer prioris de Colne executor in huiusmodi testamento nominatum Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et

5 comissa fuit administratio omnium bonorum et debitorum dicti defuncti prefatis executoribus De bene et fideliter ac

6 sub unanimi consensu et assensu administrando Ac de pleno et fidei Inuentario citra festum Pasche proximum futurum

7 exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo Ad sancta dei euangelia iuratum Reseruata potestate similem

8 comissionem faciendi alijs executoribus in huiusmodi testamentorum nominatum etiam cum venient etc.