

SUMMARY: The document below is the nuncupative last will and testament, dated 3 April 1572, of Oxford's paternal uncle, Geoffrey de Vere. The testator was the fourth son of John de Vere (1482-1540), 15th Earl of Oxford, and Elizabeth Trussell (b. 1496, d. in or before 1527).

The testator married Elizabeth Hardekyn (d.1615), the daughter of Richard Hardekyn of Odewell and Wotton, in Gestingthorpe in 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, ff. 84-6.

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

By Elizabeth Hardekyn the testator had four sons, John Vere (d.1624) of Kirby Hall, Sir Francis Vere (1560/61–1609), Robert Vere, and Horace Vere (1565-1635), Baron Vere of Tilbury, and a daughter, Frances, who married Robert Harcourt of Stanton Harcourt. For the will of the testator's eldest son and heir, John Vere (d.1624) of Kirby Hall, see TNA PROB 11/143, ff. 510-15. For the will of the testator's youngest son, Horace Vere (1565-1635), Baron Vere of Tilbury, see TNA PROB 11/168, ff. 7-8.

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.